

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

47th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 24-28 March 2014

DOC. SC47-10

**Application for International Organization Partner status:
the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust**

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to consider the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust's application for International Organization Partner status and make a recommendation to COP12.

Note by the Ramsar Secretariat

1. The Chair of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat received a request in October 2013 from the Chief Executive of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT), which is seeking formal recognition under the Convention as an International Organization Partner (IOP).
2. Contracting Parties decided through Resolution VII.3 on *Partnerships with international organizations* that “international organizations interested in formal recognition as Partners to the Convention should present an application to the Convention’s Bureau for its inclusion in the agenda of the next meeting of the Standing Committee, which in turn shall make a recommendation to the Conference of the Contracting Parties for final decision”.
3. The Annex to Resolution VII.3 established ‘Rules for conferring the status of International Organization Partner of the Convention on Wetlands’. In the Annex to this note, WWT has provided supporting information, including a summary of its activities and working methods against each of these ‘rules’. It has also provided information on selected wetland projects which it has undertaken with partners, on selected publications, and on the M.Sc. and Ph.D. theses prepared by its staff.
5. In considering this request, the Standing Committee may wish to note that WWT has already collaborated closely with the Convention through two Memoranda of Cooperation with the Secretariat: the first, signed in 2005, focused on CEPA activities; the second, signed in 2011, covered a wider range of cooperative activities. WWT contributed very significantly to the preparation of the draft resolution on highly pathogenic avian influenza, through its substantive annex of guidance to Contracting Parties. It also co-organized side events on Wetland Link International (WLI) and avian influenza and developed the World Wetland Network (WWN).
6. It is also useful to remember that the conception and early development of the Ramsar Convention closely involved WWT staff and the International Wildfowl Research Bureau (IWRB), which WWT hosted at the time at Slimbridge. IWRB eventually became Wetlands International, and has been a Ramsar IOP since 1999.
7. After reviewing the information provided, the Secretariat considers that WWT fulfils the role and expectations of an IOP as set out in Resolution VII.3.

Annex

Background information provided by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust in its application for International Organization Partner (IOP) status

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Information on current WWT objectives and activities in relation to the “Rules for conferring the status of International Organization Partner of the Convention on Wetlands” (Annex to Ramsar COP7 Resolution VII.3)

Ramsar IOP required characteristics	WWT status and activities
1. International organizations, both intergovernmental and non-governmental, formally recognized as Partners of the Convention on Wetlands by its Conference of the Contracting Parties will be expected to contribute on a regular basis and to the best of their abilities to the further development of the policies and technical and scientific tools of the Convention and to their application.	<p>WWT is a non-profit non-governmental wetland conservation organization registered in the UK and operating in the UK and internationally. Its mission is to conserve wetlands for wildlife and people. It was founded in 1946 by the late Sir Peter Scott and has >60 years of national and international experience in education and engagement, research and monitoring, policy development and practical action for the conservation of wetlands and their associated species.</p> <p>WWT has been involved with and a key advocate of the convention since its inception. WWT also played a role in the development of the original convention text when the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB - now Wetlands International) was based at WWT's UK HQ in Slimbridge.</p> <p>WWT runs nine Wetland Centres focused on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) across the UK and co-ordinates Wetland Link International, a global network of >300 Wetland Centres for the promotion of best practice in CEPA for wetland conservation. WWT also hosts the World Wetland Network which supports the advocacy work of small NGOs and individuals working on wetland issues.</p> <p>WWT directly manages nine wetland nature reserves across the UK, 6 of which are Ramsar sites, and also works beyond its reserves, at landscape-scale and at a national scale, to ensure</p>

	<p>sustainable management of UK wetlands. WWT's international conservation activities take place across most global regions and there are currently active projects in Europe, Asia and Africa (with recent projects in the Americas). Projects encompass local capacity building and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the monitoring of waterbirds, of diseases such as avian influenza, and of wetland quality • scientific research into the threats to wetlands and their wildlife • the identification and implementation of conservation solutions at a site level, from conservation breeding and reintroduction of Critically Endangered species, to hydrological management and the development of sustainable livelihoods options <p>WWT has conducted conservation projects on 20 Globally Threatened or Near Threatened waterbirds and produced and implemented 13 single species action plans for eight species: Brazilian Merganser, Ferruginous Duck, Lesser Flamingo, Marbled Teal, Red-breasted Goose, Scaly-sided Merganser, White-headed Duck, and White-winged Wood Duck.</p> <p>WWT chairs three IUCN-SSC / Wetlands International Specialist Groups (SGs), the Flamingo SG, the Duck SG and the Threatened Waterfowl SG (with plans to also chair the Swan SG from 2014 onwards) as well as hosting the Freshwater Plant SG, which support the work of conservationists globally. WWT also plays a role in numerous other wetland-related SGs.</p> <p>WWT is a founding member of the Wetlands International - European Association, initiated to influence the development of EU water and wetlands Policy and its implementation across Europe.</p> <p>WWT also works actively with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Ramsar, CMS, AEWA, CBD, EAAFP), the UN and other international partners to develop and advocate wetland conservation policies, particularly specializing in conservation planning and wildlife diseases of importance to wetlands. WWT, with Ramsar and UN partners, established and currently coordinates the UN-funded Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and is a core member of (and represents Ramsar on) the Wildlife Disease Task Force which was recommended by the CMS Scientific Council after a presentation by WWT.</p> <p>A summary of selected WWT projects is provided in Annex I.</p> <p>WWT has >350 staff and >1000 volunteers and has active</p>
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	<p>partnerships with governmental organizations, NGOs, universities and other institutions across the world.</p> <p>WWT also has a consultancy arm, WWT Consulting. WWT Consulting is the UK's leading specialist wetland consultancy in wetland creation, restoration, management, and visitor centre design. It was established in response to the demand from governments, civil society organisations, private companies and individuals for advice on how to conserve, improve and manage wetland habitats for wildlife and people. The mission of WWT Consulting is to provide a high quality, professional, specialist consultancy service on all aspects of wetlands, their wildlife and the benefits and enjoyment that wetlands can bring to people whilst also generating income for, and positively raising the profile of, WWT.</p>
<p>2. Partners shall be invited to participate in an observer capacity and as advisors in all activities of the Convention, including the meetings of the Conference of Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, as well as regional and subregional meetings.</p>	<p>In recent years WWT has participated in Ramsar COP 9 in Uganda (where a WLI workshop was run), COP 10 in Changwon and COP 11 in Bucharest. For COP 10, WWT helped develop the Draft Resolution on highly pathogenic avian influenza with its substantive annex of guidance to contracting parties, co-organised side events on Wetland Link International (WLI) and avian influenza and developed the World Wetland Network (WWN). At COP 11 side events were run to present the 'Wetland Globe Awards' which are organized by the WWN to bring international attention to good and bad practice in wetland management, and on Wetland Centre Networks, CEPA and Flyways as part of WLI. In addition, at COP 11 the <i>Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual: Guidelines for assessment, monitoring and management of animal disease in wetlands</i> (Ramsar Technical Report no. 7, 2012), prepared by WWT and others on behalf of the STRP, was presented, welcomed, and contracting parties were urged to communicate and disseminate this further under Resolution XI.12 Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach (that WWT also helped develop). WWT was also an active member of the Wetlands and Poverty Eradication Task Force which worked towards Resolution XI.13 An Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication.</p> <p>WWT has held a seat as an invited observer organization on the STRP since 2008. During this time, WWT has regularly attended STRP meetings.</p> <p>WWT staff have also participate as invited experts on STRP. WWT became involved in STRP's work on health, originally on avian influenza, in 2007, attending a workshop in Changwon in that year, the 14th and 16th STRP meetings in 2008 and 2011</p>

	<p>(plus interim workshop in 2010 and smaller meeting of STRP in 2011) and COPs10 and 11.</p> <p>The Head of WLI is now a member of the Ramsar CEPA oversight panel.</p>
3. Partners may also be invited, if required, to contribute to the evaluation of project proposals, project implementation, and the evaluation of project results, as well as to participate in the development of policy and technical and/or scientific instruments for the application of the Convention.	<p>WWF already contributes to the development of policy and technical and/or scientific instruments through its work with the STRP, and would be happy to contribute to project-related activities.</p> <p>As an example, WWF assisted with the drafting of Ramsar Resolution X.21, <i>Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza</i>, which called on Contracting Parties to adopt non-lethal responses to HPAI in wild birds and provided a number of guidance materials, including guidelines for reducing avian influenza risks at Ramsar sites and other wetlands of importance to waterbirds. These were subsequently turned into the Ramsar Handbook on avian influenza and wetlands.</p> <p>WWF, with others, worked with Ramsar's STRP to produce practical guidance for wetland managers and policy makers for diseases of importance to wetlands. At COP 11 the <i>Ramsar wetland disease manual: Guidelines for assessment, monitoring and management of animal disease in wetlands</i> (Ramsar Technical Report no. 7, 2012) was presented. This was the culmination of several years of work by WWF, representing significant resource commitment.</p> <p>WWF has been part of the writing team for the Wetlands and Poverty Alleviation Working Group, which is currently drafting guidance for the contracting parties.</p> <p>WWF is developing a civil society monitoring tool for wetlands, which will act in addition to national reports from contracting parties, increasing the data available about wetlands from local people.</p> <p>WWF contributes, through its individual STRP membership, to the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic, Emerging and Ongoing Issues Theme • Wetlands and Health Sub-Theme • Wetlands and Water Resource Management Sub-Theme • Wetlands and Poverty Eradication Sub-Theme • Wetlands and Ecosystem Benefits/Services Theme

	<p>WWT is also a member of the CEPA Oversight Panel</p> <p>A list of publications (2010-2011) is given in Annex III.</p>
4. The status of Partner shall be conferred to international intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations taking into account the following characteristics:	
4.1 Have a programme of activities that is global or at least covers many countries in one or more regions of the world.	<p>WWT has worked in a wide range of countries globally (please see Annex I for recent examples of projects). WWT currently focuses its international activities primarily but not exclusively on developing countries in Europe, Africa and Asia. Current project countries include China, Russia, Nepal, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Madagascar, Bulgaria, Iceland, and Greenland.</p> <p>Wetland monitoring capacity building courses take place both strategically and opportunistically in different global regions as needs are identified. Wetland Link International and WWN networks are global. At present WLI has over 300 members in 70 countries. WLI CEPA materials are publicly available and not restricted to member organizations. WWN has over 500 members, and an active committee comprising representatives from all continents. The Wetland Globes is an international awards scheme for wetlands, highlighting best practice in wetland management, but also drawing attention to those wetlands under threat. The IUCN-SSC and Wetlands International Specialist Groups chaired by WWT are also global. The Wetlands International – European Association of which WWT is a founder member will work across Europe, and on influencing EU policies that have a broader global reach.</p>
4.2 Have a statement of purpose that explicitly, or by clear implication, includes the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.	<p>WWT's vision is to see "Healthy wetlands across the world to benefit wildlife and people" and high level objectives within WWT's conservation strategy include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve threatened wetland species • Reduce threats to wetlands, their wildlife, and associated people • Enhance and promote wetland wildlife and wetland benefits • Enhance communication, education and public awareness for wetland conservation globally <p>Sustainable use of wetlands is a prerequisite for wetland conservation to benefit both wildlife and people and our work is illustrated in 4.3 and 4.4 below.</p>

4.3 Have a track record of experience in providing support to and/or implementing on-the-ground projects that contribute to wetland conservation and sustainable use.	<p>WWF has decades of experience of implementing conservation projects, building research and conservation capacity overseas and providing support to 'on-the-ground' wetland conservation and sustainable use projects.</p> <p>WWF's species conservation programme focuses on the most endangered wildfowl, including the Critically Endangered Madagascar Pochard (the world's most threatened duck), and the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (the world's most threatened wader). Unsustainable use of wetlands and their resources has played a major role in the declines of these species, whether through trapping or hunting, wetland reclamation, or unsustainable agriculture resulting in excessive sedimentation. The development of sustainable wetland use and management techniques, sometimes at a watershed scale, is fundamental to the future survival of these and other species, and plays an integral part in our species recovery programmes.</p> <p>WWF takes a flyway approach to species conservation, working on breeding and wintering grounds and stopover sites of a range of species including Greenland White-fronted Geese, Red-breasted Geese, Bewick's Swans etc. WWF promotes and contributes to flyway-wide monitoring programmes and actively links Wetland Centres along flyways through Wetland Link International.</p> <p>WWF's wetland conservation programme focuses on the benefits (ecosystem services) that wetlands provide to both people and wildlife, and on ways of maintaining and where possible enhancing these benefits for both wildlife and people. Recent examples include a project at the Koshi Tappu Ramsar site in Nepal where the development of alternative and supplementary livelihoods has benefited local communities while reducing pressure on the wildlife in the Ramsar site (http://www.wwt.org.uk/conservation/interactive-map/managing-wetlands-for-sustainable-livelihoods-nepal/), a joint project with WWF in Laos where pilot constructed wetlands outside the capital city Vientiane are helping to provide clean water for people and wildlife http://www.wwt.org.uk/conservation/interactive-map/clean-water-in-laos/) and an ongoing project in Cambodia to conserve two critically important wetland sites in the Mekong floodplain (http://www.wwt.org.uk/what-we-do/interactive-</p>

	<p>map/cambodian-lower-mekong-wetlands/).</p> <p>Annex I gives more detail of some current or recent project examples. Please see also 4.4 for examples of support and capacity building work.</p>
4.4 Have demonstrated experience in implementing partnership ventures such as training and education, technical and/or scientific expertise, policy development, and/or evaluation and assessment, particularly where such ventures would bring new and additional benefits to the functioning of the Ramsar partnership.	<p>The majority of WWT's conservation work is undertaken in partnership with others (Annexes I & II)</p> <p>Training and Education</p> <p>Capacity-building activities for project work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-the-job training through working directly with local counterparts. • Specialised intensive training courses overseas and in the UK (e.g. our partnership with WWF building capacity in waterbird monitoring in the Yangtze in China). • Mentoring. • The supervision of degree, M.Sc. and PhD. students. <p>Technical and Scientific Expertise</p> <p>WWT is a science-based organization and our main areas of scientific expertise include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and implementation of wetland monitoring systems, especially wetland wildlife, wetland associated diseases, and water quality • Applied research, especially including: marking techniques including satellite telemetry; population viability assessment; causes of wetland species declines; wetland diseases including avian influenza and lead poisoning – transmission and management; sustainable livelihoods development; constructed wetlands <p>Other areas of technical expertise include wetland creation and restoration, visitor centre design, engagement and interpretation, CEPA etc.</p> <p>Policy Development</p> <p>WWT has already been involved in policy development with the Ramsar partnership, e.g. through helping draft Ramsar Resolution IX.23 <i>Highly pathogenic avian influenza and its consequences for wetland and waterbird conservation and wise use</i>; Resolution X.21, <i>Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)</i>; and Resolution XI.12 <i>Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach</i>. WWT has also worked with Ramsar's STRP to produce guidance, similar to that produced for HPAI, for other diseases of importance to wetlands.</p>

	<p>WWT is also a founder member of the Wetlands International - European Association, aimed at influencing the development of policy relating to water and wetlands in the EU, and its implementation both in the EU and more broadly.</p> <p>Evaluation and Assessment</p> <p>Evaluation and assessment exercises form an integral part of project work. WWT recently reviewed waterbird reintroductions within the AEWA region against IUCN guidelines (Annex I) and has produced guidelines for waterbird translocation projects which have been adopted by the 62 countries that are signatories to AEWA. Many staff are experienced at evaluating scientific research proposals for donor organizations and grant-making bodies including recent representation on the UK Natural Environment Council's Peer Review Panel.</p> <p>The WWN wetland globes initiative identifies, from the civil society viewpoint, examples of good practice in the management of important wetlands along with wetlands that are in poor condition and/or under threat and requiring active intervention.</p>
4.5 Have a positive reputation for being willing and able to cooperate with national and international bodies, including both governmental and non-governmental ones.	<p>WWT has always been a strongly collaborative and cooperative organization and all international projects are partnership projects, frequently involving both governmental and non-governmental partners.</p> <p>In March 2010, WWT became the 21st member of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP). WWT is also a member of IUCN, and of many UK partnerships, e.g. Wildlife and Countryside Link (Link). WWT currently chairs Link's successful campaign for sustainable water management in England 'Blueprint for Water'.</p> <p>WWT already works with a suite of MEAs (e.g. Ramsar, CMS, AEWA, CBD), and works closely with a wide range of national and international bodies, governmental and non-governmental, as illustrated by Annex II.</p> <p>WWT staff sit on the AEWA Technical Committee and the board of the Constructed Wetlands Association, and have recently sat on the Supervisory Council of Wetlands International.</p> <p>WWT sits on the UK SPA/Ramsar scientific working group.</p> <p>WLI works through partners in many organizations, from private, public and voluntary sector, and at local, national and</p>

	<p>global levels, to develop initiatives, seek funding and deliver events, resources and projects.</p> <p>WWN plays a role in organizing International NGO meetings, and facilitates communication between Ramsar meetings, offering an additional platform for Ramsar to communicate with civil society.</p>
4.6 Have stated their readiness to actively contribute on a regular basis to the further development of the policies and tools of the Convention on Wetlands and their application on the ground, particularly by assisting Contracting Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention.	<p>WWT's readiness to actively and regularly contribute to the further development of Ramsar policies and tools and to helping Contracting Parties to meet their obligations has been demonstrated in the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WWT played a key role in developing the original text of the convention. 2. The involvement of two staff members with STRP since 2007 as invited experts on avian influenza. They contributed to Resolution IX.23 and helped produce Resolution X.21 and the accompanying substantial guidance annex. Attendance at COP10 and at various STRP meetings. Given the importance of the emergence of wildlife diseases affecting human and livestock health as well as conservation at a global scale, WWT subsequently produced at STRP's request guidance, similar to that produced for HPAI, for other diseases of importance to wetlands. 3. Appointment as an observer organization to STRP in 2008 and member of the writing team for the Wetlands and Poverty Alleviation Working Group (2009-11). 4. WWT staff member appointed in previous triennium as individual member of STRP as Regional Networker for Europe, participating in Regional Networking Theme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a new STRP website (www.ramsarstrp.org) Wetlands and Human Health Theme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoonotic disease factsheets • Disease and trade factsheet Strategic, Emerging and Ongoing Issues Theme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redevelopment of the Support Service Document archiving and control • Avian Influenza • Developing guidance on prevention and control of animal disease in wetlands, key to

	<p>which was production of the <i>Ramsar wetland disease manual: Guidelines for assessment, monitoring and management of animal disease in wetlands</i> (Ramsar Technical Report no. 7, 2012)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEPA Theme • Compiling CEPA material for the new website <p>5. Signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation with Ramsar regarding the CEPA function of Wetland Link International, which WWT coordinates. WLI also fulfils many of the aspirations of Ramsar's CEPA programme. Close working relations with Ramsar staff have been established, and WLI is mentioned in the Ramsar Convention's Resolutions on CEPA as a prime delivery agent for wetland CEPA internationally.</p> <p>Joint Ramsar/WLI activities undertaken have included production in 2009 of a book on Ramsar Sites of the World, published by the Korean Wetland Project (edited by the WLI coordinator) and coordination of regional WLI meetings (Europe, Oceania, Russia, Asia) which were attended by the Ramsar CEPA manager. The chair of WLI has recently been appointed a member of the Ramsar CEPA Oversight Panel.</p> <p>WLI has developed a Wetland Centre Manual, and a Virtual Wetland Centre Visits tool, both of which offer support to maximize CEPA effectiveness for those creating or running wetlands centres. WLI also contributed to the development of a site-based educators distance learning course, accessible internationally, and has provided vocational training at Masters' level for a wide range of partners working at wetland sites.</p> <p>6. Recognition by the Ramsar Secretariat of the World Wetland Network, which WWT coordinates. WWN runs the international Wetland Awards to highlight best practice in wetland management and to reflect concerns globally about wetlands in crisis.</p> <p>7. Signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation with Ramsar on 1 November 2011 specifically regarding : (a) Promotion of best practice in Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) for wetland conservation through Wetland Link International and other means, (b) Aiding in the</p>
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	<p>harmonisation of wetland conservation policies across Multilateral Environmental Agreements (Ramsar, CMS, AEWA, CBD, EAAFP), the UN and other international partners, especially those relating to disease threats to wetlands and (c) Aiding in the development of policy and technical/scientific instruments largely through the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) process.</p>
4.7 Are prepared to sign a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Bureau of the Convention, where the partnership agreement should be spelt out fully.	<p>A Memorandum of Cooperation between WWT and the Ramsar Bureau was signed at COP9 in Uganda concerning cooperation on CEPA for wetland conservation through Wetland Link International. A broader MOC was signed in November 2011 covering a wide range of cooperative work. WWT would be happy to sign an additional MoC partnership agreement should this be required.</p>

Annex I. A selection of relevant recent or ongoing international projects and work areas

Capacity Building for Monitoring Overseas	
<p>Global biodiversity loss continues, yet lack of monitoring capacity in many parts of the world makes it impossible to measure its extent or determine conservation priorities. WWT's capacity building programme is twofold. We aim to develop and enhance monitoring of priority sites and species, and improve generic monitoring of wetland biodiversity and key threats to it.</p>	<p>WWF has developed a programme of work to help address the lack of monitoring capacity in many countries by the strategic transfer of key wetland biodiversity monitoring skills. Training and tools have been provided to enhance capacity in a variety of areas including waterbird counting, capture and marking, disease surveillance, invertebrate and water quality monitoring, data management and analysis.</p> <p>Capacity building projects within our focal countries include Koshi Tappu, Nepal, where local communities have been trained in the monitoring of locally important species, such as problem species or those of economic value (as described later in this report); species-based monitoring has included globally threatened wildfowl such as Brazilian Merganser <i>Mergus octosetaceus</i>. A current focus is the Yangtze floodplain in China, where a wide ranging training programme is being developed in partnership with WWF-China and the Chinese State Forest Administration. The Yangtze floodplain is the most important wintering area for migrant waterbirds in Asia, supporting more than 1,000,000 waterbirds, including significant populations of threatened species such as Lesser White-fronted Goose <i>Anser erythropus</i>, Swan Goose <i>Anser cygnoides</i>, Siberian Crane <i>Grus leucogeranus</i> and Oriental Stork <i>Ciconia boyciana</i>. An ongoing training programme at the Dongting Hu wetland aims to build a comprehensive, coordinated and centrally managed wetland biodiversity monitoring scheme.</p> <p>We also build capacity in the monitoring of key threats such as avian influenza (AI). From 2007-2009 we helped build AI surveillance networks throughout the African-Eurasian flyway, training participants from countries along the flyway at workshops held in Slimbridge (UK), Tunisia, Kenya, Turkey and Nigeria. The programme was a partnership between WWT, Wetlands International, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN-FAO), and the South African Bird Ringing Scheme (AFRING), and the training in waterbird capture and marking skills has resulted in trained personnel able to deliver wild bird avian influenza surveillance programmes that help to underpin the broader aims of AFRING.</p> <p>Partners: WWF-China, FAO, European Union FP6 project New Flubird (SSP/8.1 no 044490), British Airways Communities & Conservation.</p>

Assessing the Benefits of IUCN Guidelines for Waterbird Re-introduction Projects

<p>Re-introduction is an important conservation tool, especially for species threatened with extinction. We reviewed waterbird re-introductions within the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) region, and found the success of projects to be closely correlated with adherence to the IUCN Guidelines for Re-introductions.</p> <p>Recommendations for the future implementation of re-introduction projects were produced and adopted by the 62 countries which are Contracting Parties to AEWA.</p>	<p>While re-introduction has proven useful and even key to the conservation of a number of species, most projects have not resulted in self-sustaining populations. In an attempt to improve success, the IUCN <i>Guidelines for Re-introductions</i> were published in 1998 providing specific policy guidelines for each phase of a re-introduction project. As part of a review for AEWA, WWT assessed the relationship between re-introduction success and adherence to the guidelines, and assessed which activities were most closely associated with success.</p> <p>Project implementation and outcomes were assessed by a questionnaire survey and responses scored for success and compliance with IUCN guidelines. Compliance with IUCN guidelines varied from 23% for a White-headed Duck <i>Oxyura leucocephala</i> re-introduction in Hungary to 88% for a Corn Crake <i>Crex crex</i> re-introduction in the United Kingdom. Regression analysis showed a significant positive relationship between the IUCN compliance scores and the success ratings ($F=6.86$, $r^2=0.432$, $p<0.05$, $n=11$), indicating that projects showing greater compliance with IUCN guidelines were more likely to be successful. While this is perhaps an obvious result, it clearly demonstrates that broad policy guidelines can make a measurable difference to specific, on-the-ground conservation projects. Similar links between policy and actual benefit have rarely been made.</p> <p>As well as overall compliance with the guidelines, a number of activities were found to be closely associated with success. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing a comprehensive feasibility study. • Securing long-term financial and political support. • Eliminating or reducing to a sufficient level the original causes of decline. • Identifying short and long-term success indicators. • Allowing birds time to acclimatise to their release areas and gain survival skills. <p>The results emphasised the importance of addressing the socio-economic aspects of re-introductions as well as the ecological aspects, in particular securing long-term financial and political support, both of which appear to be vital to re-introduction success.</p>
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	<p>WWT produced 11 recommendations for the future implementation of re-introduction projects, which were adopted by all 62 member countries of AEWA at its Fourth Meeting of the Parties in Madagascar in September 2008. WWT has also assisted AEWA in addressing these recommendations in 2012 by developing waterbird-specific guidelines, standard evaluation criteria for re-introductions and guidelines for completing feasibility studies.</p> <p>Further information:</p> <p>Full report: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/meeting_docs_pdf/mop4_11_re_establishment_review.pdf.</p> <p>AEWA Resolution 4.4 (Developing international best practice for the conservation of threatened waterbirds through action planning and re-establishment): http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/final_res_pdf/res4_4_ssap_re-establishments_final.pdf.</p> <p>AEWA guidelines for the translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes: complementing the IUCN guidelines tworkspace.aewa.info/.../draft_aewa_waterbird_reintroduction_guidelines_final.pdf</p> <p>Partners: African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement.</p>
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Conservation of the Scaly-sided Merganser in Far-East Russia

<p>The globally-threatened Scaly-sided Merganser is one of the rarest seaducks in the Old World, found in remote parts of far-east Russia and China. WWT is supporting Russian scientists to undertake research and promote</p>	<p>Classed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List owing to its small and declining population, the Scaly-sided Merganser <i>Mergus squamatus</i> breeds in a restricted area in southeast Russia and northeast China, primarily in the Primorye region of far-east Russia. It winters in China and North and South Korea, although its distribution is poorly known. Information about the species' breeding status and ecology is also lacking. Drowning in gill nets and habitat loss, particularly the loss of nest-sites (holes in trees in broad-leaved riverine forest) due to logging, are considered the primary threats and the population decline is predicted to continue in the near future.</p> <p>For the past 14 years, WWT has been supporting Russian scientists, particularly Diana Solovieva and her team from St Petersburg, to undertake research and conservation in the Primorye. A major activity has been the provision of artificial nest boxes to compensate for the loss of natural cavities, with 180 erected to date.</p>
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<p>conservation in the core breeding range. In a relatively short period, this has already provided much new and valuable information, and conservation efforts are already reaping benefits.</p>	<p>Spring surveys have determined breeding densities on stretches of more than 20 rivers, and the population in the Primorye was estimated at 1,100 pairs in 2008. Occupation of artificial nests was found to be significantly higher on logged than on un-logged rivers. The results of this experimental management suggest that nest-site availability may be limiting the population and that the erection of more nest boxes could lead to further population increases.</p> <p>The birds' use of artificial nest sites has enabled females to be caught and fitted with geolocators and wintering and staging sites to be identified in central and southern China, and in North and South Korea, respectively. This study, undertaken in collaboration with the National Environmental Research Institute, Denmark, has also revealed that both spring and autumn migrations occur over just a few days.</p> <p>Increased public awareness in the region has already had a positive influence. Drowning in gill nets during the brood-rearing period is a major cause of mortality, but local people changed their fishing practices following an education campaign. School children have also been enlisted to help erect nest boxes. An action plan is scheduled for development in 2013.</p> <p>Partners: Diana Solovieva, Forestry Bureau - Taiwan Government, Seaworld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund.</p>
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Saving the Madagascar Pochard – the World's Most Endangered Duck

<p>The Madagascar Pochard is Critically Endangered and now only known from one site. The species' status is highly unlikely to improve without conservation intervention and WWT and partners have initiated a project to</p>	<p>Until recently, the Madagascar Pochard <i>Aythya innotata</i> was believed extinct, the last sighting having been in 1991. In November 2006, however, staff from the Peregrine Fund (TPF), rediscovered the species on a small lake 'the Red Lake' near Bemanevika, 300 km north of the last known site, with 20 mature birds and possibly nine ducklings were reported at the end of 2006. Surveys in the region have so far failed to locate birds at other sites, and it appears that the entire world population is restricted to a single site. Monitoring at the site in 2008 revealed that although clutches and ducklings were produced, none survived beyond a couple of weeks. There is an urgent need for emergency measures to save this species.</p> <p>In 2009, WWT, the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, TPF and the Madagascar Government initiated a project to save this species, with the long-term aim of securing the existing population and establishing an additional viable population in the wild. The project partners planned to establish an <i>ex situ</i> population in Madagascar in 2010, to act as a 'safety net', greatly reducing the risk of extinction. Birds held <i>ex situ</i> will form part of a conservation-breeding programme to provide</p>
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avert its extinction.	<p>birds for release into the wild at new sites. However, when project staff visited the red lake in July 2009, less than 20 birds with only six females were observed, and a decision was taken to advance the project, and launch an emergency rescue plan in autumn 2009. Despite numerous logistical difficulties this proved successful, and at the end of 2009 three clutches had been successfully hatched with over 20 ducklings reared and held in temporary accommodation in advance of the construction of a conservation breeding centre from 2011 to 2013. A rearing facility was built in a local town in 2011 and the conservation breeding centre is nearing completion. Birds have bred successfully in captivity from the initial clutches taken; >50 birds are held in captivity with the potential to produce large numbers.</p> <p>Project staff maintain a constant presence at the Red Lake to ensure protection of the birds and the lakes and surrounding forest have been submitted for designation as a protected area. A post-doctoral researcher employed by WWT worked with local scientists to collect ecological information on the birds and their habitats at Red Lake and to identify suitable sites for captive-bred birds to be released into the wild. A potential site has been identified but due to wide scale wetland degradation, site restoration and the development with local communities of a management plan will be necessary to ensure the long-term viability of birds re-introduced. This will bring benefits for a wide range of other wildlife, much of which is also threatened or endemic, and for the local human communities. It is envisaged that, if successful, this can act as a new model for sustainable wetland management in Madagascar, particularly for its plateau wetlands, and leverage even greater benefits.</p> <p>Partners: Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, The Peregrine Fund, Madagascar Government. Donors have included the Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe & Africa, US Fish & Wildlife Service Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Fund, UK Darwin Initiative, Fota Wildlife Park and others.</p>
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Clean Water for People and Wildlife in Laos

Wastewater treatment through effective restoration of That Luang Marsh demonstrates how natural wetland technology can be used	<p>That Luang Marsh is a 2000 Ha wetland on the outskirts of Vientiane, the capital city of Laos. The marsh has historically recycled nutrients from the city's wastewater, played a key role in flood storage, and supported livelihoods based on agriculture or fish. However, as the population and industrialisation of Vientiane has increased, the capacity for the marsh to continue to provide these services has declined due to land reclamation, increased pollution and loss of biodiversity.</p> <p>WWT, WWT Consulting, WWF and local Governmental partners collaborated on an EU ASIA Pro Eco II funded project to address some of these issues. The project focused particularly on the use of wetland treatment systems for</p>
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as a sustainable, multiple benefit option for treating wastewater generated from houses and industry.	<p>wastewater treatment. These systems can offer a long-term, low cost, sustainable option to water treatment and, with careful design, can bring a wealth of further benefits including wildlife habitat, flood retention and livelihood options.</p> <p>Four treatment wetlands were constructed; one for a primary school; two for small cottage industries and a system for a single house. These systems are being used to demonstrate that treatment wetlands can be relatively easy to create and manage, low cost, effective, fit well within the landscape, and be adapted to a variety of situations. To meet the needs of stakeholders we incorporated specific features into the systems such as the ability to re-use water, plant harvesting areas and a frog rearing pond. Plans were produced for two large scale central wetlands which would target the majority of the city's wastewater which flows into two main drainage canals - Hong Xeng and Hong Ke.</p> <p>The wetland treatment systems form part of a management plan for That Luang Marsh, which integrates urban development plans, current physical and ecological functioning of the marsh and livelihood use to balance the needs of all stakeholders. Training seminars and workshops led by WWT demonstrated assessment techniques for water quality improvement to the local project team who use these skills to collect baseline data to feed into the plan. Effective implementation of the management plan should help restore the ecosystem services that That Luang Marsh delivers. Being so close to the capital city, the project also plays an important role in demonstrating to key government decision makers the benefits that wetland ecosystems can provide and the approaches needed to sustainably manage them.</p> <p>Partners: WWF, Department of Science and Technology, Vientiane Capital (STEO), EU ASIA PRO Eco II.</p>
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Managing Wetlands for Sustainable Livelihoods at Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, Nepal

The wetlands at Koshi Tappu in eastern Nepal are vitally important, not just for Nepal's last wild Water Buffalos and the tens of thousands of waterbirds they support, but also for the people who live there	<p>Koshi Tappu is a designated Wildlife Reserve and was Nepal's first Ramsar site. Communities around the reserve are financially constrained and many people perceived that conservation of the site resulted in reduced access to resources as well as increased risk from human-wildlife conflict. Consequently, the reserve was viewed negatively by many and reserve regulations were not adhered to. The Koshi Tappu Management Plan recognises that this has resulted in unsustainable exploitation of resources within the reserve and associated disturbance.</p> <p>For its long term viability, people living adjacent to the reserve must be able to obtain a sustainable livelihood – i.e. one which is resistant to environmental shocks and does not result in the unsustainable exploitation of the resources necessary for the ecological functioning of the reserve and the long-term conservation of its wildlife.</p>
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<p>and depend on wetlands for their livelihoods. This dependence results in pressure on wetland resources in and around the reserve, so WWT have helped alleviate these by providing sustainable alternatives that support local livelihoods.</p>	<p>In collaboration with Bird Conservation Nepal we investigated wetland resource use at Koshi, and identified barriers to sustainable livelihoods. We found several livelihood options that offer sustainable alternatives to current resource use, and provided investment and training to enable the poorest most wetland-dependent people to benefit from them. For example, fish farming in ponds dug from agricultural land in the reserve buffer zone provides a good alternative to the capture of wild fish. Weaving mats using <i>Typha</i> offers an alternative to fishing as a livelihood, enabling women in particular to generate an income.</p> <p>We also found two good uses for invasive non-native plants. These both support local livelihoods and provide an incentive for people to remove them from waterbodies. Using Water Hyacinth <i>Eichhornia crassipes</i> to make compost reduces the need to purchase chemical fertilisers. Charcoal made from invasive <i>Ipomoea</i> and <i>Lantana</i> is made into briquettes. These provide a smokeless fuel which is more efficient and cheaper than firewood, and reduces demand for animal manure for fuel (thus increasing the amount available as fertiliser on farmland).</p> <p>A cost-benefit analysis of the livelihood alternatives that provide an income showed that fish farming and mat weaving give excellent returns per unit area of land used compared to conventional crop-growing. Although returns are poorer in terms of labour input required, most of the poorest people have only limited access to land, whilst labour is not such a limiting factor. For these people, the profit margins demonstrated from alternatives to crops encourage a greater diversity of income sources, so that they are not solely dependent on fish or labouring for income, both of which are highly unpredictable. As a result, local people are less often forced to engage in environmentally damaging activities (such as encroaching into the reserve illegally to fish or gather other resources).</p> <p>We produced Wetland Management Guidelines to encourage the uptake of these livelihoods and to inform the revision of the site management plan. Monitoring is essential to measure the benefits that uptake of livelihood options bring to both people and biodiversity, and to determine whether further conservation and development work is necessary, and with this in mind we have part-funded a post-project staff position working at Koshi Tappu.</p> <p>Partners: Bird Conservation Nepal, CAB International, Koshi Camp, Stirling University, Institute of Aquaculture Tribhuvan University, UK Government's Darwin Initiative.</p>
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Avian Influenza and Wider Wildlife Health Issues: an International Policy Approach

<p>Broad environmental changes are resulting in the emergence of wildlife diseases which are having an increasing impact on global biodiversity, wildlife conservation, human health, domestic animal health and economies worldwide. WWT has played a significant role in ensuring wildlife health is addressed in an appropriate way by the major international conservation conventions.</p>	<p>Late spring 2005 saw an unprecedented development in the epidemiology of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 as it moved from domestic poultry into the wild bird population causing mass mortality of several species including 10% of the world population of Bar-headed Geese <i>Anser indicus</i> in an outbreak at Lake Qinghai, China. Over the next three years the virus spread across Asia, Europe and Africa affecting public and poultry health, and killing wild birds. In addition to the direct effects of mortality of wild birds, particularly worrying responses to this strain of avian influenza have been the development of public fear about waterbirds and misguided attempts to control the disease by disturbing or destroying wild birds and their habitats. Such actions would be not only damaging, but ineffective. These conservation implications and the high profile nature of this issue ensured that the subject was high on the agenda of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) when they met in 2005 and 2008. In response to these concerns, WWT and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), were instrumental in drafting a number of resolutions, which were adopted by the Contracting Parties to each convention:</p> <p>AEWA Resolution 4.15, <i>Responding to the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1</i>, urged Contracting Parties to use and further disseminate the 'Practical Lessons Learned' guidance compiled by the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, a United Nations (UN) -funded Task Force co-ordinated by WWT which brought together many of the practical issues involved in responding to this disease including contingency planning, surveillance and communications (Available from: http://www.unep-aewa.org/meetings/en/mop/mop4_docs/final_res_pdf/res4_15_responding_threat_ai_final.pdf).</p> <p>Ramsar Resolution X.21, <i>Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza</i>, called on Contracting Parties to adopt non-lethal responses to HPAI in wild birds and provided a number of guidance materials, including guidelines for reducing avian influenza risks at Ramsar sites and other wetlands of importance to waterbirds. (Available from: http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_x_21_e.pdf).</p> <p>CMS Resolution 9.08, <i>Responding to the challenge of emerging and re-emerging diseases in migratory species including highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1</i>, called on Contracting Parties to address the broader issues of</p>
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	<p>wildlife disease and called for the creation of a UN-funded Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Disease (based on the success of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds), which WWT is developing with UN partners and Ramsar. (Available from: http://www.cms.int/bodies/COP/cop9/documents/meeting_docs/Res%20and%20Rec/Post_session_Pre_final/Res_9_08_Wildlife_Disease_E.pdf).</p> <p>The adoption of these Resolutions was a major step forward in ensuring that avian influenza and other wildlife diseases are addressed in a consistent and appropriate way at the international level.</p> <p>The importance of the emergence of wildlife diseases affecting human and livestock health as well as conservation has become apparent at a global scale. WWT has worked with Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel to produce practical guidance for other diseases of importance to wetlands. This, together with the work of the two UN-funded Task Forces, and WWT's wider wildlife health work, will go some way to ensuring site managers, Governments and other decision makers have the appropriate information, tools and structures to help deal with these complex cross-cutting problems</p> <p>Partners: The 14 member organisations of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, also and including FAO, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, CMS, Ramsar and JNCC.</p>
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Brazilian merganser conservation

With fewer than 250 individuals remaining, the Critically Endangered Brazilian Merganser is one of the most threatened waterbirds in the world. While basic studies of Brazilian Merganser ecology and behaviour	<p>The primary threat to the Brazilian Merganser <i>Mergus octosetaceus</i> is believed to be degradation of watercourses, in particular an increase in sediment input, which results in increased turbidity, sedimentation, and nutrient loads. Dam building, forest fires and ecological tourism, especially rafting, are also thought to threaten the species.</p> <p>An international working group was established in 2000 and a Species Action Plan (SAP) produced in 2006. WWT played an important role in establishing and supporting this group, along with Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio, formerly IBAMA), who lead the Working Group on behalf of the Brazilian Government.</p> <p>The Brazilian Merganser SAP has stimulated a number of important activities and, as a result, substantial effort has been expended on Brazilian Merganser conservation in recent years, mostly notably by the NGO Instituto Terra Brasilis (ITB).</p>
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<p>have been conducted, much remains unknown. WWT produced a research and monitoring strategy for the species.</p>	<p>ITB have conducted extensive surveys of Serra da Canastra National Park, Minas Gerais province, the most important site for the species, and have located more than 50 pairs. Elsewhere, an important population has been discovered at Jalapão State Park, Tocantins province, where a total of 29 individuals were located in an area with numerous other unsurveyed rivers that could also support mergansers.</p> <p>At Serra da Canastra, WWT has supported and worked with ITB to conduct baseline surveys, ecological research, and a marking programme along the upper Rio São Francisco. This included the capture of 20 mergansers during 2008, the first to be caught for conservation, which were colour-ringed and some also fitted with radio transmitters. Only through capturing and marking birds will it be possible to more precisely determine relevant biological aspects of this species fundamental for identifying appropriate conservation actions. These aspects include territory size and habitat use, breeding success, young bird dispersion patterns, colonization of new territories, daily energy needs, the effect of disturbance on movements and habitat use, and more accurate estimates of the population size. This work also helped develop skills such as capture, marking and telemetry skills among the ITB biologists that can be used to further the conservation of this and other species.</p> <p>In order to determine future priorities for Brazilian Merganser conservation, WWT produced a research and monitoring strategy for the species, focusing on a) understanding the current status, (b) understanding the species' ecology and demography, (c) diagnosing and prioritising threats and limiting factors, and (d) identifying and evaluating conservation management solutions.</p> <p>Partners: Instituto Terra Brasilis, Chico Mendes Institute of Biodiversity Conservation (ICMBio, formerly IBAMA), Oregon State University, British Airways Communities & Conservation</p>
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Saving the Spoon-billed Sandpiper *Eurynorhynchus pygmeus*

<p>This Critically Endangered long-distance migrant uses the East Asian Australasian Flyway</p>	<p>We are working with a wide range of international partner organizations to advocate conservation of intertidal habitats along the East Asian - Australasian Flyway. These are critical staging posts for the millions of waterbirds that use the flyway, and their loss is thought to have played a key part in many species declines, including that of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. We are also working with others to plan and implement action to reduce hunting pressure in the Spoon-billed Sandpiper's non-breeding grounds, which is currently believed to be the main driver of the recent dramatic population</p>
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<p>and with less than a hundred pairs is one of the world's most threatened birds. The population is declining at 26% per year and could cease to be viable by 2015. There are none in captivity, so there is no safety net against extinction in the wild.</p>	<p>decline. As action can be taken locally to reduce this threat, there is some hope that the wild population of Spoon-billed Sandpiper can be saved. However, the rate of decline is extreme, we do not know where all Spoon-billed Sandpipers winter, and it will take some time to implement effective conservation actions. Consequently the population will remain highly vulnerable to extinction for a protracted period, even if the cause of decline has been correctly identified and conservation action counters this swiftly and effectively.</p> <p>Conservation breeding is therefore an urgently needed second strand of work. This could contribute to saving the species in two major ways. Firstly, if it is instigated quickly enough, it may be possible to augment the wild population with captive-reared juveniles. Increasing the population in this way would 'buy time' for conservation action to take effect before the wild population is lost. Secondly, if the worst happens and the wild population is lost, a captive population will provide the ultimate safety net. In 2011 and 2012, WWT and Bird Russia, working with a range of individuals and organisations (including the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force) established a conservation breeding programme. A total of 27 birds are now held at Slimbridge following the rescue missions to far east Russia. A 'head-starting' programme has also been initiated. This involved taking eggs, hatching them, rearing and releasing a total of 25 young birds on the Russian tundra in 2012 and 2013. In this way we have been able to significantly increase the number of birds fledging, by eliminating the risk of predation of eggs and chicks.</p> <p>Partners: Birds Russia, Moscow Zoo, RSPB, BTO, BirdLife International, ArcCona, EAAFP Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force, UK Government's Darwin Initiative, SOS – Save our Species, East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership, Convention on Migratory Species, Heritage Expeditions, Australasian Wader Study Group of Birds Australia, BBC Wildlife Fund, Avios, Olive Herbert Charitable Trust, Oriental Bird Club, British Airways Communities & Conservation Scheme, New Zealand Department of Conservation, Queensland Wader Study Group, New South Wales Wader Study Group, Chester Zoo.</p>
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Building a partnership for establishing sustainable management at key wetlands for Sarus Crane in the Cambodian Lower Mekong

<p>This multi-partner project co-ordinated by WWT aims to deliver a programme of work that fully establishes</p>	<p>The Sarus Crane is a globally threatened (Vulnerable VU), 'landscape species' which requires species-focused interventions at the landscape scale. The two sites that are the focus of this project support significant (over 300 birds, >20% of the regional population collectively) numbers of Sarus Cranes during the dry season. They form the Cambodian parts of a small, connected network of transboundary sites for the species in the Lower Mekong.</p>
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<p>long term sustainable management of two protected areas representative of lower Mekong floodplain wetlands, thus securing a priority non-breeding population of Sarus Cranes.</p>	<p>The two sites also support important representative areas of Lower Mekong seasonally inundated grassland – a habitat which has suffered massive conversion to agriculture - and several other bird species of global concern, including Bengal Florican <i>Houbarops bengalensis</i> (Critical, CR; with very recent sightings at BPL), Lesser Adjutant <i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i> (Vulnerable VU), Greater Adjutant <i>L. dubius</i> (Endangered EN), Black-headed Ibis <i>Threskiornis melanocephalus</i> (Near-threatened NT), Spot-billed Pelican <i>Pelecanus philippensis</i> (NT), Painted Stork <i>Mycteria leucocephala</i> (NT) Oriental Darter <i>Anhinga melanogaster</i> (NT), and Asian Golden Weaver <i>Ploceus hypoxanthus</i> (NT).</p> <p>Both sites suffer acute human pressure that threatens the cranes and other biodiversity, primarily exploitation of wildlife, agricultural encroachment, agro-chemicals pollution, inappropriate fishing methods, hydrological changes and consequent vegetation changes, use of fire, and invasive alien plants.</p> <p>Since the project started, Anlung Pring (AP, also known as Kampong Trach) has joined Boeung Prek Lapouv (BPL) in being designated as a Protected Area. Extensive baseline data collection efforts have been undertaken, including hydrological assessments, ecosystem service assessments and the development of an expanded monitoring programme. Based on this information, new management plans have been drafted in consultation with local communities at both sites and are awaiting official government endorsement. The next phase of the project will be to work with both government and local community stakeholders to implement these new plans.</p> <p>The project has also been working with local NGOs at both sites (Mlup Baitong, Chamroien Chiet Khmer and the Cambodian Institute for Rural Development) to lay the foundations for enhancing local livelihood options and create a more environmentally supportive landscape surrounding the reserves. Structures including Community Based Ecotourism (CBET) groups and Voluntary Village Committees (VVCs) have been established and feasibility studies have been undertaken into ecotourism development options and sustainable agricultural practices which will be piloted in the next phase of work along with the continued development of a community-managed fishery at BPL.</p> <p>Partners: BirdLife International Cambodia Programme, Mlup Baitong, Chamroien Chiet Khmer and other NGOs, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund</p>
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Tackling poisoning from the use of lead gunshot in wetlands

WWT has been working	Lead poisoning of wildfowl, through the ingestion of lead gunshot, continues to be a problem in the UK and many other
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<p>to reduce the threat to wetlands and wildfowl from spent lead ammunition and to promote the principles of wise and sustainable use for over half a century.</p>	<p>countries. WWT has an active programme working on the issues that contamination through use of lead gunshot poses to wetlands, their wildlife and the people that use them.</p> <p>We have studied and monitored lead poisoning in wildfowl in the UK, through the ingestion of spent lead gunshot, for more than half a century, and published results in the scientific literature. More recently we have helped evaluate, and published information on, the risks from lead ingestion to people that eat game shot with lead, in the context of advising on wise and sustainable use of wetlands.</p> <p>We recently undertook a study of compliance with the 1999 English regulations, (which ban the use of lead gunshot over the foreshore and certain (wetland) SSSIs and for hunting wildfowl, coot and moorhens in all areas of England). A report of this large-scale study, funded by DEFRA, was published in 2010. This study was undertaken in the 2008/9 and 2009/10 hunting seasons, 9-10 years after introduction of the Regulations, and results showed the 70% of the duck in the study were shot illegally with lead.</p> <p>Our recent research has found that the regulations in England have had no measurable effect on lead-related mortality and also a third of wildfowl tested had elevated lead levels consistent with lead poisoning.</p> <p>We are working at UK and international levels to help find ways of reducing this threat, and to encourage countries to comply with the principles of 'Wise-Use' and the requirements of AEWA to phase out the use of lead shot over wetlands.</p> <p>Additional Resources: http://www.wwt.org.uk/issues/conservation-policy-briefing-on-lead-gunshot/</p> <p>Partners: A wide range of NGOs, government agencies and academics</p>
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Wetland Link International

<p>Wetland Link International (WLI), launched in 1991, is an engagement support</p>	<p>What is a Wetland Centre?</p> <p>Wetland centre means anywhere that people are brought into contact with wetlands for education, involvement and recreation. These range from huge, built complexes with thousands of visitors a week, to small community-based groups that run a few guided walks per year. The emphasis is on giving people a better understanding of why wetlands are</p>
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<p>network for over 300 wetland centres globally. We have a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ramsar Secretariat for WLI's role in delivering wetland CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness-raising) worldwide.</p>	<p>important, the threats they face and positive action that can be taken to protect them.</p> <p>Information and Resources</p> <p>WLI facilitates the sharing of information and resources, and the WLI website makes them accessible across the world. A central store of resources serves to support the set-up and running of new centres, and to help existing wetland centres to deliver CEPA activities and manage visitors in a low impact way. There is an interactive map, showing project locations and linking to detailed descriptions. A web-forum promotes contact and information sharing between members. Current initiatives include the development of a skills audit to allow members to ask each other for support, and a distance learning package to help build the capacity of site-based environmental educators.</p> <p>Co-ordination</p> <p>An e-mail list and regular regional meetings help improve contact and co-ordination between the partners. Active WLI networks exist in Asia, North America Russia, Europe and Oceania, and we are developing regional networks in other continents. Regional network coordinators are in regular contact via telephone / skype conference, and we aim to have a face-to-face meeting once every two years, to provide training, sharing of best practice and study visits. A side event was organized on Wetland Centre Networks, CEPA and Flyways at Ramsar COP 11 in Bucharest in 2012.</p> <p>Priority Themes</p> <p>We also focus on helping our members to be more effective in delivering messages in several areas of importance to wetlands and the wildlife and people that they support globally. These include climate change, migratory birds, invasive species, wise use of wetlands and endangered wetland species. WLI provides draft press releases and generic background information to support members in delivering these messages through their own activities. Information on these themes is often provided to coincide with international campaigns or activities, such as World Wetlands Day, World Migratory Birds Day and World Water Day.</p> <p>Additional Resources: http://wli.wwt.org.uk/</p> <p>Partners: Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.</p>
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<p>WWN was launched after work with NGOs at the Ramsar COP10 in Changwon in 2010. The network aims to support smaller NGOs, raise awareness of their wetland conservation work, and facilitate their engagement in international conventions such as Ramsar</p>	<p>The WWN is hosted by WWT, which supports the network with staff time and resources such as a website and some match funding to attract support for specific projects. The initiative is run by an active committee of NGO representatives from around the world, one per continent, as well as supported by a growing number of sub-regional representatives.</p> <p>International NGO meetings</p> <p>Work with NGO colleagues at the Ramsar COP 10 pre-meeting resulted in the launching of the WWN. WWN coordinated a productive international NGO meeting with Japanese colleagues at Nagoya, CBD COP10, with Ramsar staff participation.</p> <p>Wetland Globes</p> <p>This awards scheme is now in its third round, aiming to draw attention to best and poor practice in the management of internationally important wetlands. Results of the first round were announced at a side event to the CBD COP in Nagoya, and generated great interest and press coverage, particularly useful at national level for those promoting enhanced wetland protection. The results of the second round were announced in a side meeting at Ramsar COP 11 in Romania, and follow up has shown how useful the awards can be in highlighting issues associated with wetland management and developing solutions in collaboration with local stakeholders.</p> <p>Support for enhanced wetland protection</p> <p>WWN has been asked by local partners for support regarding specific wetlands or wetland-threats. WWN has initiated communication with national governments and international convention secretariats about specific wetlands under threat or issues considered likely to result in the damage or destruction of wetlands. WWN also has an active listserve and e-mail distribution list to facilitate communication and update members on WWN activities and other events (such as COP details).</p> <p>Additional Resources: http://worldwetnet.org/</p> <p>Partners: A global NGO network</p>
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Annex II

PARTNERS AND DONORS 2010-2011

WWT is very grateful to its many partners and donors, without which its vital conservation work would not be possible.

Action Renewables	Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, Northern Ireland
African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement	Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)
Anonymous	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal
ArCona Consulting	D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
Australasian Wader Study Group of Birds Australia	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology
Aviornis UK	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Avios	Janet Dwek
Balmain Charitable Trust	East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership
BBC Natural History Unit	The John Ellerman Foundation
BBC Wildlife Fund	English Heritage
Bern Convention	Environment Agency • European Union FP6 project New Flubird (SSP/8.1 no 044490)
Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association of Myanmar	European Union LIFE+
Bird Conservation Nepal	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
BirdLife Indochina in Cambodia	Federation of Associations for Hunting and Conservation of the EU (FACE)
BirdLife International	The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA)
Birds Russia	Fota Wildlife Park
BirdWatch Ireland	Fundación Biodiversidad
Blueprint for Water Coalition	Governments of France, the Netherlands and Spain
Robert Bray Associates	Government Service for Land and Water Management (DLG), The Netherlands
British Airways Communities Investment	Greenland White-fronted Goose Study
British Association for Shooting and Conservation	The Olive Herbert Charitable Trust
British Trust for Ornithology	Heritage Council
Buglife	Heritage Expeditions
Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds	Heritage Lottery Fund
Cambodian Forestry Administration	Icelandic Institute of Natural History
The Cambodian Institute for rural Research and Development (CIRD)	International Crane Foundation
Canadian Wildlife Service	International Flamingo Foundation
Carmarthenshire County Council	International Resources and Recycling
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	Institute - SIGMA For Water
Chamroen Chiet Khmer (CCK)	Irish Brent Goose Research Group
Chinese State Forestry Administration	
Coillte	
Convention on Migratory Species	
Collaborative Offshore Wind Research Into	
the Environment (COWRIE) Ltd.	
The Conservation Volunteers (TCV	

Scotland)	Irish Whooper Swan Study Group
Corus	IUCN-SSC/Wetlands International Duck
Countryside Council for Wales	Specialist Group
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund1	IUCN-SSC/Wetlands International
The Crown Estate	Flamingo Specialist Group
CWM Community & Environmental Fund	IUCN-SSC/Wetlands International Goose
David Milne QC	Specialist Group
IUCN-SSC / Wetlands International Swan	Taiwan Forestry Bureau, Council
Specialist Group	of Agriculture
Richard M. Ivey	Thames Water
Joint Nature Conservation Committee	UK Government's Darwin Initiative
Geraldine Kirkpatrick's Charitable Trust	UN Food and Agriculture Organisation
The Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais
Koshi Camp	University of Aarhus
Madagascar Government	University of Bristol
Manchester Metropolitan University	University College Cork
Marsh Christian Trust	University of Exeter, Centre for Ecology
Mitsubishi Corporation Fund for Europe	& Conservation
& Africa	University of Exeter, School of Geography
Mlup Baitong	University of Leeds
Montague-Panton Animal Welfare Trust	University of Reading
Moscow Zoo	University of Science and Technology,
National Environment Research	Heifi, China
Council (NERC)	US Fish & Wildlife Service
National Parks and Wildlife Service	Veolia Environmental Trust
(Department of Environment, Heritage	Viridor Credits Environmental Company
and	Mo and Ron Warren
Local Government, Eire)	Wetlands International
National Trust for Scotland	Wetlands West
Natural England	Wildlife and Countryside Link
Nenetskiy State Nature Reserve, Russia	Wildlife Research Conservation Unit
Netherlands Institute for Ecology (NIOO)	(WildCRU), University of Oxford
New Zealand Department of Conservation	The Wildlife Trusts
Northern Ireland Environment Agency	WWF-China
Norwegian Directorate for Nature	WWF-Laos
Management	WWT members
Norwegian Institute for Nature Research	The Mohamed bin Zayed Species
Oak Lodge Foundation	Conservation Fund
Office National de la Chasse et de la	
Faune Sauvage	
Oriental Bird Club	
Pensthorpe Conservation Trust	
The Peregrine Fund	
Pond Conservation	
Quarry Products Association	
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	
Keith Roper	
The Royal Bank of Canada Europe Ltd.	
The Royal Government of Cambodia	

Peter Scott Trust for Education and
Research in Conservation
The Royal Society for the Protection
of Birds
Royal Veterinary College
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Government
Scottish Natural Heritage
Seaworld & Busch Gardens
Conservation Fund
Philip Smith's Charitable Trust
Solway Coast Area of Outstanding Natural
Beauty Sustainable Development Fund

Annex III

WWT Conservation PUBLICATIONS 2010-2011

International publications in blue

Papers

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