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## WHAT WAS YOUR BEST CEPA INTERVENTION IN THIS TRIENNIUM?

**Chris ROSTRON**  
CEPA NGO Focal Point, United Kingdom



### Your Position/Role and Country:

Head of WLI / Chair of World Wetland Network, WWT, UK

### Title of your CEPA activity/product

The World Wetland Network

### Other collaborators – please identify other organizations that assisted you or were your partners

Fungap (Costa Rica), Staygreen Foundation (The Gambia), International Crane Foundation (US), Vogelbescherming (NL), RamsarNet Japan (Japan), UNESCO ProNatura (Romania), Wetland Care Australia (Australia)

### Key stakeholder group(s) targeted by your product/activity (e.g. decision-makers, teachers, families, journalists etc.)

Smaller NGOs engaged in wetland conservation activities

### When did this event take place/when was your product launched?

Launched at the Ramsar COP10, South Korea

## What was your key message?

Civil society delivers a lot of wetland conservation work, and should have a stronger voice to engage at international level.

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### **Brief description of your product/ activity / material you used**

The World Wetland Network (WWN) is a global NGO network with over 500 members. It arose from the need for NGOs to maintain contact with each other at and between Ramsar meetings, help with information exchange, share best practice and lobby on specific wetland issues. WWN enables smaller NGOs to arrive at Ramsar COPs well-prepared for the meeting and more able to fully participate in the Ramsar meeting itself.

WWN is run by a small committee of wetland NGO representatives from each continent, with sub-regional representatives active across groups of countries. We have a website, contacts database and a yahoo chat group. The committee meets by skype conference regularly.

Over the last three years the Wetland Globe awards have been run by WWN to offer civil society the opportunity to vote for wetlands that they know, as either well managed or in danger. The results of the first round were released at the CBP CoP in Nagoya, and the next round at Ramsar COP11 in Romania, 2013.

WWN is hosted by WWT, a UK-based wetland conservation organisation that shares many similar aims of WWN.

### **What was your intended outcome from this product/activity? (e.g. change in behaviour of target group; volunteer help with a wetland project; newspaper article)**

Provide a better way to involve smaller NGOs in the Ramsar process, offering a link and activities between Ramsar COPs, raising the profile of civil society's role in wetland conservation.

### **What kind of impact did this activity/product have on the target audience?**

WWN now has over 500 members and regular communication happens between them via our listserve and mail-outs. The WWN wetland globes has offered an accessible opportunity for civil society to raise awareness of good practice in wetland management, as well as wetlands in danger. The results of the first round had a great impact on drawing attention to wetlands, as well as recognising civil society input at the CBD CoP in Nagoya. The WWN committee meets every month, and has fund-raised, developed projects, and supported campaigns for wetlands in danger and continues to work well as a group.

### **Is there a follow-up activity/product planned, if yes briefly describe**

We will present results of the Wetland Globes at the Ramsar COP 11, and hold an international NGO meeting. At that forum we will plan future work and development.

### **Why do you identify this as your best CEPA intervention? What makes it stand out?**

This is an important step forward to engage civil society in international wetland conservation, filling a long-standing gap. This structured, impartial representation gives CSOs an accessible way of getting involved.

### **What was the source of your funding?**

Match funding from WWT; direct funding from the Fundacion Biodiversidad, Spain.



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