



Dear WLI Colleague,

Welcome again to the WLI bulletin, an opportunity to tell you about what the WLI team is up to, and news from our members across the globe. As you'll see, we are about to say goodbye to our current intern, Pato, and have

started to advertise for the next one. If you, or anyone you know, are interested, see the article below or our website, we have started receiving applications already and the deadline is mid-April.

I recently attended the Ramsar Culture Network workshop in Germany, a great opportunity to get a different perspective of why wetlands are important to people. Good examples of how people value wetlands for their spiritual qualities, as well as for mythology, food, arts and music and much more. It

made me think that we could use a lot of these ideas to engage with a wider audience at our wetlands centres (in the UK particularly!) We also looked at work leading up to the Ramsar COP13 which is taking place in Dubai in October – time to start thinking about how we can promote CEPA and wetland centres as part of the Ramsar convention.

We are also working up towards World Migratory Bird Day, organising another 'birds and schools' project, in which we link up sites with their local schools, and then invite them all to take part in a joint video conference. Last year worked well in the East Atlantic Flyway (as part of MBP) and this year we are working to include participants from the Americas flyway as well. It's a great opportunity for local site to involve school children, and to raise awareness of the importance of their sites for migratory birds.

Finally, we have the results of our global citizen science survey on the status and pressures on wetlands. We had a good response, with 540 usable responses, showing that local people are prepared to spend time reporting on their local wetlands, see below for more details.

As always, if you have any updates you'd like to share with the network, please let us know, and we will include them in the next bulletin or on our website.

Best,

Chris Rostron
Head of WLI

In this issue...

- WLI intern, Pato Guerrero
- World Wetland Survey
- Culture and Wetlands
- Putú wetland sanctuary
- Anlung Pring, Cambodia
- Future plans

WLI Intern 2017-18, Patricio Guerrero



I am Patricio Guerrero, Chilean, who is doing an internship in the Wetlands International Network (WLI) program of the Wildfowl Wetland Trust (WWT) in Slimbridge, England. During the second half of 2017 and the first months of 2018, I have been participating in the WLI internship, focused on supporting and strengthening ties with

partners and new organizations in the Americas and the rest of the world.

Together with the working group of the Americas, we held the 5th webinar: "Evaluation of environmental awareness activities in wetland sites.", Which I consider exhibitions in the US, Canada and Chile. Today we are preparing activities for the World Migratory Bird Day 2018, which this year will focus on the biodiversity of birds, and in which we are preparing to bring to the Americas the initiative "Birds and schools" which aims to connect schools that work with themes of wetlands through the realization of field work in the sites and subsequent digital meeting through a conference where schoolchildren share their experience and knowledge about birds and their migration.

While at WWT Slimbridge, I have had the opportunity to get to know the different departments, and I have been involved in conservation activities such as the annual swan and geese catch (in addition to ducks) that each winter



takes place in Slimbridge, as well as getting to know the project "Spoon-billed sandpiper"

(*Calidris pygmaea*) and "Black-tailed godwit" (*Limosa limosa*). I have also had the opportunity to meet other WWT centers (such as the one in London and Steart) and visit the Enfield project, where they are redefining a park, creating wetland areas and instances of citizen involvement.

I also had the opportunity to participate in the annual meeting of the Migratory Birds for People group, at the Biodiversum Center in Remerschen, Luxembourg, where different organizations working in wetlands meet and agree on joint actions to connect communities through the migratory route between Europe and West Africa.

Undoubtedly one of the great objects of work in WWT is environmental education, for which they have a great team, where diverse materials are



generated to cover all ages in the delivery of the message of awareness and protection of wetlands. With this, something very relevant, along with conservation projects has been technology as a means of knowledge and approach of science to the public. Thus, I have been able to know different materials and technological devices that serve to track and trace the birds as it has been in the last case with the threatened Madagascar Duck.

Today, I am in a final period, seeing how my return to Chile can bring new ideas and projects to connect organizations and society in general around the hemispheric migratory routes of the Americas.

For more information on the WLI intern programme, contact the [Head of WLI](#).

Worlds Wetlands State Survey: pre-COP Ramsar.

Together with the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) and the World Wetland Network (WWN), we present the first part of the Global Wetland Survey where we identify key problems for wetlands.



We had the opportunity to show the first analysis of the survey in the different continental preparatory meetings of the 13th

Parties of Ramsar that will take place in October in the United Arab Emirates, where the topics will be discussed and discussed. Resolutions for the next period.

Between February 26 and March 2, the respective meetings in Africa and Asia preparatory to the Convention of the Ramsar Parties were held in Dakar, Senegal, and Chilaw, Sri Lanka. Between March 12 and 16, the version for the Americas was developed in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the preparatory meeting for Oceania was held in Wellington, New Zealand. Finally between March 19 and 23, in Olomouc, Czech Republic, the European version of these preparatory meetings for the Ramsar Convention was developed in October 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

In these meetings first impressions about global survey of the state of wetlands could be given, from where civil society organizations and NGOs can provide valuable information about conditions and state of the wetlands.

We received a total of 541 usable responses from 92 countries to include in analyses. Over 50 responses were received for each of the six Ramsar Regions:

Asia 92, Africa 99, Europe 132, Latin America & Caribbean 81, North America 89, and Oceania 58.

Survey responses came from non-governmental organisations (NGOs, 33.1%) and academia (researchers, 21.6%). National and local government were 20.4% of the total, with relatively few responses (7.1%) received from local people "on the ground" at a wetland.

30% of responses reported wetland as being in currently "good" state versus 24% as in "poor" state and 46% as fair. Most widespread reports of "poor" state were from Africa, Latin America & the Caribbean, and Europe. However, more wetlands were reported to be deteriorating in state (36% of responses) than improving (21% of responses). Reported deterioration in state was particularly widespread from Latin America & the Caribbean and Africa. Of the 23 drivers reported on, three were widely considered to be positive – local community awareness, implementation of conservation management measures, and tourism.



Full results are being analysed by the core team and prepared for scientific journal publication in 2018, with more details of the drivers influencing wetlands globally. We aim to showcase the full results at a side event at Ramsar COP13, October 2018 in Dubai, as well as to prepare printed information for distribution.

Visit [survey page](#) for more details.

RAMSAR WORKSHOP ON CULTURE & WETLANDS. GERMANY.

The Head of WLI, Chris Rostron, attended a Ramsar Workshop on Culture and Wetlands, on the island of Vilm on the Baltic coast of Germany. The workshop addressed the role of culture in delivery of effective wetland conservation, and brought together representatives from the Ramsar Secretariat, UNESCO, IUCN World Heritage Centre (and several other organisations with impressive acronyms!). The workshop presented examples of how culture (whether agricultural, religious, mythological, spiritual or in many other forms) can help in the delivery of conservation outcomes.

Understanding how local and indigenous groups view wetlands is essential in involving them and making wetland conservation relevant, sustainable and deliverable. Although we have lost some aspects of



culture and tradition in wetlands in the UK, in many countries people still live in and depend on wetlands more directly, and continue to celebrate their cultural value in many different ways.

For more information on the Ramsar Culture Network, see the [Ramsar website](#).

Putú dunes & wetlands Natural Sanctuary, Chile.

On February 27, 2018, with the signature of the President of the Republic of Chile, the Supreme Decree officializing the new Nature Sanctuary was published in the Official Gazette: Dunas and wetlands of Putú. Given this, the Maule Mataquito Defense and Conservation Association considers that this step is a triumph for the organized community. This Sanctuary is the result of the work carried out by the community together with the support of ADEMA and the diverse and numerous organizations that have supported us, with whom we have constantly developed an arduous work of information and dissemination. With the greatest humility and sincere happiness we received this news, which gives us so much satisfaction and we hope it will be a new energy for the sustainable development of our town.

Thanks to all those who have endured the actions of the organization during the last years ... And, today with enthusiasm we can affirm that ... THE DUNES AND WETLANDS OF PUTÚ ARE SANCTUARY OF THE NATURE !!!

To learn more about the celebration of the new Natural Sanctuary, visit [here](#).



ANLUNG PRING - WWT CAMBODIA PROJECT

Anlung Pring Protected Landscape is one of the last remaining seasonally-inundated grasslands in the Cambodian Lower Mekong Delta. The site supports vital ecosystem services for over 1500 people and provides habitat for globally threatened biodiversity, including the World's tallest flying bird, the Sarus Crane.



WWT and project partners have been working alongside local communities to identify ways to promote the importance of the site amongst local people, and enhance the tangible benefits that the wetland can provide for

communities.

In response to this, the Anlung Pring Community-led Ecotourism site was created. Providing direct employment for villagers, and generating income for community benefit projects, such as road repairs and pagoda decoration, the project has been a great way to showcase the link between healthy wetlands and healthy people.

WLI future plans

Over the next six months we will be preparing for the World Migratory Birds Day, getting partners along the East Atlantic Flyway and the Americas flyways to work together to arrange school visits, and then take part in a final skype webinar together to report what they have done. Our plan is to do them in English, Spanish and French to allow participation from many countries across the flyways.

We are also planning our next Americas webinar, to take place in October, likely around a theme of

As well as viewing the spectacular sarus crane from our viewing platform and learning about biodiversity at



the site, tourists can also fully immerse themselves in village life. After weaving grass mats, attempting to

catch fish with traditional techniques, and making rice noodles by hand, visitors can stay at local homestays,



learning about wetland life from their hosts.

If you'd like to visit Anlung Pring, please visit <http://mekongcrane.com/> for more information.

WWT's project at Anlung Pring also supports environmental education and awareness events, sustainable farming partnerships and community wetland restoration projects. For more information on WWT and our work in Cambodia, please [visit](#).

twinned sites. We hope to link sites and then ask them to present what common issues they share, and what they have learnt from each other.

Ramsar COP13 (Conference of the Parties) is coming up, to be held in Dubai. We will represent WLI at the Ramsar Standing Committee in April this year, a meeting at the Ramsar offices in Switzerland in April, which aims to review and plan activities and structure of COP13. We want to positively influence the CEPA programme and try to get more actions identified for

the next three year period. Wetland Centres and WLI are one of the key area for delivery of the CEPA programme on the ground, allowing Ramsar messages and actions to be delivered.

We hope also to hold activities at the COP13 itself, and will update you with our progress.

Contact

Head of WLI

Chris Rostron

WWT, Slimbridge, Gloucestershire GL2 7BT, UK

T +44 (0)1453 891214

E chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk

W wli.org.uk