



Wetland Link International



An introduction to the network.



Wetland Link International



Set up in 1991, by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)
UK

Specific focus on CEPA at wetland centres

300 members worldwide – free to join for wetland centres

MoC with Ramsar, also part of Ramsar Resolution X.8 on
CEPA (communication, education, participation and
awareness)

Website, resources, e-mail updates and conferences

Functions through regional networks, at continental scale





What is a wetland centre?



A wetland site (normally with a built structure) where people find out about wetlands

Can be government, private, NGO or community run

Open to visitors – ranging from 10's to 1,000's per year

Urban, suburban, rural, wilderness – as long as it's got a wetland

Themed – birds/animals, habitats, recreation, tourism etc



Key aims of WLI



Goal: To improve wetland CEPA through wetland centres globally

Aims:

Provide resources accessible to wetland centre staff

Offer a coordination role at international, regional and local levels

Work with Ramsar to deliver support to centres actively involved in CEPA

Share best practice between centres

Provide identity and branding

Improve access to funding and resources





What is Ramsar?



International convention on wetlands

Signed in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran

164 member countries

Over 2000 Ramsar sites

Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland

Regular Conference of the Parties (COPs), next one
in Uruguay, 2015

www.ramsar.org





Case study 1: Hong Kong Wetland Park



Opened in 2006

1m visitors in 1st year

Close work with WWT

Complement to Mai Po





Case study 2: Lake Naivasha, Kenya



Lake Naivasha Riparian Association, 3 staff and numerous volunteers
Freshwater lake in semi-arid Rift Valley, Ramsar site
Iconic species – hippo, fish eagle, pelican
Work with local farmers, fishers and landowners to raise awareness
Education and conservation work on site, developing a centre





Case study 3: Creston Valley WMA



7,000ha over 20km valley
Seasonal visitor centre
3,500 visitors per year
6 f/t staff, plus seasonal
workers





Priority themes



Key areas for WLI members to use in their work, with support from WLI global.

- Invasive species
- Migratory birds
- Wise use of Wetlands (WWD)
- Climate Change
- Endangered species





Communication network



- Web site
- E-mail lists by region / core group
- Skype meetings
- Web forum
- Monthly / six monthly newsletter
- Core groups
(Europe/Oceania/Asia/North America)
- Regional meetings (biennial)

Wetland Link International

© Copyright 2008 WLI

All rights reserved. The copyright of WLI or the photographs and text that are reproduced without prior permission.



Web-resources



Image library

Education and learning

Centre-based support

Community and
involvement

Biodiversity and wetlands





Virtual visits



“The best way to learn new approaches is to visit a centre and talk to the staff”

But . . . Expensive in terms of carbon, money and time.

Virtual visits allow tours of centres from your desk, including:

- Panorama footage of different areas of each centre
- Interviews with staff
- Film footage of activities and moving exhibits
- Downloadable documentation (management plans, lesson plans, design briefs, funding bids etc)

www.wlbsitevisit.org for more





Hong Kong Wetland Park

Hong Kong Wetland Park

A world-class conservation, education and tourism facility.

The Hong Kong Wetland Park comprises a 10,000 square meters visitor centre, Wetland Interactive World, and a 60-hectare Wetland Reserve. The Wetland Interactive World has themed exhibition galleries, a theatre, a souvenir shop, an indoor play area (swamp adventure) and a resource centre. The themed exhibition galleries with gross floor area ranging from 250 square meters to 1,200 square meters showcases the importance of wetland on biodiversity, civilization





Want to know more or join?



Please contact the Head of WLI at wli@wwt.org.uk, or see our website at www.wli.org.uk

Thank you!

