



WLI - supporting wetland centres across the world since 1991

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WLI has a dedicated website www.wli.org.uk with resources, information on key wetland areas, details of partners, and useful links. We also maintain regular contact via our newsletter and monthly updates and hold regional conferences to bring partners together. It's **free to join**, simply contact the Head of WLI at wli@wwt.org.uk – we look forward to hearing from you.

With over 300 members, there are plenty of examples of centres that might be doing similar things to you - from running new and exciting projects, to sharing advice and help with wetland related issues. Working through regional networks, it is also possible to target themes and work according to your geographical area, or find new partners to work with.

WLI is a support network for those working in wetland centres across the world. We work closely with the Ramsar Secretariat to support delivery of their CEPA work (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) and we recognise that helping people understand the importance of wetlands is vital for their long-term protection. Wetland centres play a key role in achieving this.

What is WLI?



Creston Valley

This major wetland complex is managed for more than 400 wetland species, including one of only 2 populations of northern leopard frog in the whole of British Columbia. Once widespread, its populations were wiped out in the province by non-native species, changes in habitat, disease and pollution. Situated at a remote location with some pristine habitat, the site attracts around 7,000 visitors each year, with a varied programme of activities ranging from family canoeing days and a live osprey cam, to overnight wildlife safaris and cross country skiing.



London Wetland Centre

Created from four disused drinking water reservoirs in central London and opened in 2000, the centre covers 45ha, including habitats as diverse as reedbeds, lakes, shallow ponds, seasonally flooded water meadows and wet woodland – an amazing transformation from engineered water bodies to wildlife haven. The site provides a great asset for the population of London, welcoming 230,000 visitors per year, including an active schools programme.



What is a wetland centre?

Any place where wetland education and engagement activities take place with the public. This includes:

- Discover wetlands** - go for walks, do pond-dipping, enjoy nature, play games, look for wetland animals, wetland surveys.
- Learn about wetlands** - learn about food webs, how to classify animals, the benefits of wetlands, wetland chemistry and physics, cultural benefits, different uses of wetlands.
- Protect wetlands** - help create and maintain habitat, survey and protect birds and other animals, campaign for wetlands, tell everyone why they're important.



Mai Po

Formerly made up of traditional gei wai, or shrimp ponds, the site has kept the old ponds and created a wetland reserve attracting huge numbers of birds, including the endangered black-faced spoonbill, which arrives every year in impressive numbers. Managed by WWF Hong Kong, the site limits the number of visitors to minimize impacts on wildlife, but allows school groups from the densely populated city of Hong Kong the opportunity to experience nature and wildlife at first hand.



Hunter Wetland Centre

The first wetland centre in Australia, Hunter was converted from a former sports field and rubbish dump, based on active local community support, with over 150 volunteers still giving around 23,000 hours of their time every year. Hunter acts as the lead for WLI Australia, maintaining the network across the country through its active links with other wetlands. Recently, a new education building has been built, offering a new facility to accommodate up to 40,000 students every year during their visit to the wetland.



communication • education • participation • awareness



Wetland Link International
Wetland centres - where people meet wetlands



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