

Wetland Link International Americas Steering and Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Remit

Wetland Link International Americas (WLI Americas) is a support network for those working in wetland education / visitor centres delivering CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) activities anywhere in North, Central or South America. It is part of a global WLI initiative which has running since 1991, and forms part of Ramsar's CEPA programme, supported by WWT UK (Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust).

The WLI Americas steering group exists to guide and develop the WLI initiative in North, Central and south America, and is made up of wetland education professionals and related colleagues. The group meets between six and nine times per year by skype to review WLI actions, plan for future delivery, and advise the Head of WLI. Members will also be asked for advice and support by e-mail on specific areas of WLI delivery, as and when they arise. Input will be required for:

- Core resources such as the website, involvement in international environment-related campaigns (e.g. World Wetlands Day), and links to other Multi-Lateral Environmental Agreements.
- Fund-raising and resource identification for support of central and regional WLI activities.
- Development of the network to create a more active regional structure, and to seek new members.
- Increasing the link with other flyway or wetland networks delivering CEPA projects.

Responsibilities

Members of the steering group will also advise and support the WLI global manager. We recognise that all steering group members are already very busy, and so the amount of time dedicated to this should not amount to more than 12 hours a year, unless specifically agreed with the members beforehand. Membership will be reviewed annually, but there is no fixed term to stay involved. The working language will be English, although notes and action from meetings may be distributed in Spanish as well.

The Steering Group is for advice and guidance only and does not have a direct management role for the post of WLI coordinator, nor does it have any financial responsibility or liability.

Logistics

The Steering group will meet at least 6 times per year, but extra meetings / working groups may be convened if the group agrees that there is a need. The meetings will take place by Skype or similar virtual networking tools. Additional face to face meetings may take place if this coincides with other meetings such as Ramsar COPs or similar, where sufficient members of the group are already present.

The meeting will be chaired by the WLI Manager, who will ensure that the meetings are schedules and reported on correctly.

Membership

The membership will reflect different aspects of the WLI initiative including the host organisation (WWT), WLI regional members, and other organisations involved in similar wetland awareness-raising activities. Membership is by organisation, and although a named individual has been identified, each organisation may divide the task of attending depending on their availability.

Name	Organisation	Date joined
Chris Rostron	WWT, Head of WLI Global, UK	January 2016
Jeanne Christie	Association of State Wetland Managers, US	January 2016
Lenore Tedesco	CEO, The Wetlands Institute, US	January 2016
Dean Smith	Association of Fish and Wildlife Services/NAWMP, US	January 2016
Suzanne Pittenger-Slear	Environmental Concern, US	January 2016
Rob Clay / Diego Luna	WHSRN / Manomet, Chile	January 2016
Peter Kennedy / Francisca Bardi	Fundación Kennedy, Chile	January 2016
Kim Diana Connolly	Buffalo Law University, US	January 2016
Nathalie Bays	Oak Hammock Marsh Wetland Centre, Canada	January 2016
Jeff Polakoff	Nature Conservancy Canada	January 2016
Carla Ahern	Creston Valley, Canada	January 2016
Kathleen Kutschenreuter	Environmental Protection Agency, US	January 2016
Barb Hanbidge	Ducks Unlimited, Canada	January 2016
Patricio Guerrero	REDALES (Latin America and the Caribbean Wetland Centre Network) representative, Chile	January 2016
Arturo Domenici / José Guillermo Sanchez	CREHO (Ramsar Regional Centre for the Americas), Panama	January 2016
Maria Rivera	Ramsar Senior Regional Advisor for the Americas	January 2016

Chris Rostron, Head of WLI

May 2016