



## Workshop under the Wetlands International–Russia Project

### *Establishing a network of educational wetland centres in European Russia to promote wetland conservation through the development and implementation of a CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) Action Plan*

14–15 May 2013, Park of Birds, Kaluga Region, Russia

## MINUTES AND RESOLUTION

The Workshop on wetland CEPA planning for the network of wetland centres took place at the Vorobyi Bird Park, Kaluga Region on 14–15 May 2013. It was organized by Wetlands International – Russia Programme in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation. The Workshop was prepared and held in the framework of the project on *Establishing a network of educational wetland centres in European Russia to promote wetland conservation through the development and implementation of a CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) Action Plan* that is being implemented with financial support from the Matra Programme of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in the Russian Federation.

The Workshop had the following objectives:

1. Inform the participants on the results and activities taken under of the CEPA Programme of the Ramsar Convention and Wetland Link International network of wetland centers.
2. Exchange experiences on the implementation of pilot activities under the Project.
3. Discuss the Draft Programme of Wetland CEPA Activities for the Network of Wetland Centres in European Russia, in particular filing a package of project proposals to be submitted to Russian and international donors.
4. Develop recommendations on developing a CEPA Action Plan in support of wetland conservation and sustainable use in Russia in accordance with the Ramsar guidelines.

The Workshop was attended by 45 participants, including representatives of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat; the Leningrad Oblast Committee for Natural Resources; the Directorate of Specially Protected Nature Areas of St. Petersburg; the national parks of Losiny Ostrov, Sebezhsy, Smolensk Lakeland and Meshchera; the Khakassky Strict Nature Reserve; Moscow, Tver, Tomsk and Tula State Universities; the Institute of Forest Science, Russian Academy of Sciences; the “Zapovedniki” EcoCentre; the UNDP/GEF/MNR-Russia Project on Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga Region; the Muraviovka Park of sustainable nature management; World Wide Fund for Nature; the Russian Bird Conservation Union; the Baltic Fund for Nature; the Wetland Link International Programme under the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, UK; the Michael Succow Foundation (Germany); Wetlands International – Russia Programme (see Annex 1 for the List of Participants).

During the Workshop, a total of 19 presentations were given on the following topics: the CEPA Programme of the Ramsar Convention and Wetland Link International network of wetland centres; the pilot educational and awareness-raising activities being implemented under the Project in the National Parks of Sebezhsy, Smolensk Lakeland, and Meshchera; the Training of Trainers Course on Flyway Approach to conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands (Sebezhsy National Park, 17-21 September 2012) and the Workshop on Educational Wetland Centre (Olonets, 10-12 May 2013); and

other experiences in awareness raising and cooperation in wetland conservation. A special session was devoted to the creation of wetland museum expositions, visitor centres and nature trails (see Annex 2 for the Workshop Programme).

The participants discussed the Draft Regional Programme of Wetland CEPA Activities for the Network of Wetland Centres in European Russia prepared by Natalia Butorina, as well as the Draft Action Plan and proposals on the finalization of these documents. They made some proposals with regard to changing wording and structure of the Programme; solving implementation issues through cooperation with other environmental initiatives, plans, and programmes implemented in the region and beyond; and on the coordination of Programme implementation activities. It was mentioned in the discussion that the Programme geographical scope should be enlarged to cover the entire country.

The Workshop participants agreed that, for further development and greater efficiency of cooperation between wetland centres, an online mechanism should be established in order to facilitate exchange of information and materials to be used in awareness-raising work. As a first step, they proposed to establish an online library with relevant publications in the PDF format; to obtain full versions and permissions to use them, contact info will be provided.

**In order to finalize work over the Programme of Wetland CEPA Activities for the Network of Wetland Centres and coordinate the implementation, the Workshop participants DECIDED to:**

1. Approve the results of work on the development of a Draft Wetland CEPA Programme and Action Plan.
2. Establish a task force for finalization of the Programme and Action Plan to incorporate amendments and proposals of the Workshop participants, consisting of:
  - Natalia Butorina, Deputy Director of “Zapovedniki” Centre for Environmental Education,
  - Nadezhda Alekseeva, Leading Expert of Protected Areas Department at the Leningrad Oblast Committee for Natural Resources,
  - Svetlana Dadonkina, Environmental Education and Awareness Consultant of the UNDP/GEF/MNR Project on Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga Region,
  - Julia Danilova, Project Coordinator of the Baltic Fund for Nature (St.Petersburg Charitable Public Organization “Biologists for Nature Conservation”),
  - Sandra Hails, CEPA Programme Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat,
  - Irina Kamennova, Project Coordinator, Wetlands International – Russia Programme,
  - Alexander Kochergin, Director of the Smolensk Lakeland National Park,
  - Chris Rostron, Head of Wetland Link International, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, UK.
3. Request the Task Force to finalize the draft Programme and Action Plan by 1 September 2013, involving other experts whenever necessary.
4. Establish the Coordination Board of the WLI–Russia network, consisting of:
  - Wetland Link International (WWT, UK): overall coordination of the international network of wetland centres and global level communication;
  - Wetlands International Russia Programme: communication with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat on issues of the CEPA Programme implementation at the national level;
  - Baltic Fund for Nature (“Biologists for Nature Conservation”): agency responsible for communication between Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Wetlands Link International, and Russia’s WLI network, as well as providing methodological support of educational and awareness-raising activities of nature centres;

- Northwest Russian Association of Nature Reserves and National Parks: an effectively operating network of specially protected nature areas that have educational centres and environmental education and awareness departments.
5. Entrust the Coordination Board to develop an effective mechanism of sharing information and materials within Russia's network of wetland centres.
  6. With a view to ensure funding of activities under the Programme and Action Plan, request the Coordination Board to identify possibilities for and consider ways of integrating major activity alleys of the network of wetland centres into existing international and national cooperation processes in the field of environment conservation, tourism development, scientific and cultural cooperation.
  7. Intensify work on developing a package of project proposals aimed at the implementation of agreed activities for funding by potential donors. The staff of Wetlands International Russia Programme will prepare the project proposal format by 15 July 2013, and submit it to the Coordination Board; the Coordination Board will organize the development of project proposals.
  8. Invite Wetlands International Russia Programme to publish implementation progress reports on the Programme website (<http://www.russia.wetlands.org/>).
  9. The Workshop participants expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to the Director and Staff of Vorobyi Bird Park for their hospitality and excellent organization of the Workshop.

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## **PROGRAMME**

- 13 May 2013** Arrival of participants
- 16.30 Bus departure to the Birds Park from the WWF Russia Office (Nikoloyamskaya Str.19, building 3)
- 14 May**
- 07.45 Bus departure to the Birds Park from the Metro Station of Teply Stan
- 09.45 – 10.30 Registration of participants (*Exotarium* Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor); coffee
- 10.30 – 18.00 **Opening, Session I: Wetland CEPA Planning and Experience Sharing**  
Welcome addresses: *Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, Wetlands International*  
Information and structure of the workshop ...by *Irina Kamennova*  
  
The Ramsar CEPA Programme and action planning  
*Sandra Hails, Ramsar Convention Secretariat*  
  
Wetland Link International – how wetland centres deliver CEPA across the globe  
*Chris Rostron, Wetland Link International*  
  
A Draft Programme of Wetland CEPA Activities for the Network of Wetland Centres in European Russia  
*Natalia Butorina, 'Zapovedniki' Center for Environmental Education*
- 12.00 – 12.15 Break
- A Strategy and Action Plan for raising the awareness of various stakeholder groups of the values and benefits of Lower Volga wetlands  
*Svetlana Dadonkina & Natalia Lopantseva, UNDP/GEF Project on Conservation of Wetland Biodiversity in the Lower Volga Region*  
  
Formats, results and plans for cooperation in wetland research and conservation activities in the Muraviovka Park  
*Sergei Smirensky, Elena Smirenskaya, Natalia Gromova & Svetlana Yakovenko, Muraviovka Park*  
  
Educational Wetland Centre: ideas and decisions (Wetland Awareness Kit)  
*Julia Danilova, Baltic Fund for Nature*  
  
Results of the training workshop on 'Educational Wetland Centre' held in Olonets from 9 to 11 May 2013  
*Eugene Genelt-Yanovsky, Baltic Fund for Nature*
- 13.30 – 14.30 Lunch
- Results of the 2012 Training of Trainers Workshop on Flyway Approach to the conservation and wise use of waterbirds and wetlands  
*Alexander Solokha & Pavel Kvartalnov, Wetlands International Russia Programme*  
  
A Programme for wetland education and awareness aimed at the conservation of wetlands and their biodiversity in the Sebez Lake Country  
*Irina Tsvetkova, Sebezhsy National Park*  
  
Some results of education and awareness activities taken under the Project in the Meshchera National Park  
*Zoya Drozdova & Anna Vozbrannaya, Meshchera National Park*

A Wetland Campaign to raise awareness and promote stewardship approaches toward wetlands in the Tver Region organized by the Tver EcoCentre  
*Taisia Kirillova & Alexander Sorokin, EcoCentre of Tver University*

16.00 – 16.20 Coffee break

Strengthening collaboration in Wetland CEPA with the UNESCO MAB network of biosphere reserves in Russia, Belarus and Ukraine through a newly-established wetland centre in the Smolensk Lakeland National Park  
*Gennady Kosenkov, Smolensk Lakeland National Park & Biosphere Reserve*

Peatland rewetting for people and nature – Commitment of Michael Succow Foundation for restoration and environmental education in Russia and beyond  
*Jan Peters, Michael Succow Foundation*

Priority lines of education and awareness activities to study and protect peatland ecosystems in the Tula Region  
*Elena Volkova, Tula State University*

Development of awareness programmes for conservation of Saint Petersburg's wetlands  
*Nadezhda Krylova, Directorate of Specially Protected Nature Areas of St.Petersburg*

Application of up-to-date scientific information on wetland biodiversity to the actual teaching practice  
*Lyudmila Chirinskaite, Gatchina Municipal Institution of Supplementary Education for Children*

18.00 – 18.30 Free time

18.30 – Reception, *Pelican* café

### **15 May**

09.00 – 10.00 Breakfast

### **10.00 – 13.30 Session II: Wetland Expositions in Museums and Visitor Centres**

Development of a modern wetland centre in the Khakassky Strict Nature Reserve  
*Igor Yegorov, Khakassky Strict Nature Reserve*

Our experience in designing a moving exhibition on peatlands  
*Dina Zatsarinnaya, Tula Museum of Local History*

Some experiences in developing concepts of visitor centres and nature trails in protected areas  
*Yelizaveta Pylenkova, Designer*

13.30 – 14.30 Lunch

14.30 – 16.00 Discussion on Draft Wetland CEPA Programme and Action Plan for European Russia  
Proposals for amendments and further development

16.00 – 16.20 Coffee-break

### **16.20 – 17.30 Summing up and Closing of the Workshop**

18.00 Bus departure to Moscow

18.30 Dinner for participants staying in the hotel

### **16 May**

09.00 – 10.00 Breakfast

10.30 Departure