

REPORT 2004 - 2009

RAMSAR REGIONAL CENTER FOR TRAINING AND RESEARCH ON WETLANDS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE





CREDITS

CREHO's Report 2004 — 2009

© 2009 Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research
on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere

Cover (from left to right)

Cristina Tzanetatos. Course EIA and ESA, field trip to Costa del Este. Panama 2007.

Eric Flores De Gracia. Palo Verde National Park. Costa Rica 2008.

Rosa Montañez. Caddo Lake Ramsar Site . United State of America 2008.

Credits of photos illustrated in this document:

Carolina Hoyos, Cristina Tzanetatos, Danilo Salas, Eric Flores De Gracia, Eric Núñez,
Francisco Rilla, Lisa Sorenson, Luis Harris, María Rivera, Marino Ábrego, Martin Keeley,
Rosa Montañez, Thor Morales.

All photos used in this document were taken during the different activities where
CREHO participated

Text prepared by
Rosa Montañez
Cristina Tzanetatos T.

Graphics prepared by
Digna González

Design and layout by
Cristina Tzanetatos T.

Translation by
Henry Kinkead, Glenda Bonamico, Marilina Villaman, Catherine Docherty.

English Editing by
Monica Harvin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009 - 2012



JAMAICA

Ainsley A. Henry
Manager
Ecosystems Management
Branch
Integrated Planning and
Environment Division
National Environment and
Planning Agency



MÉXICO

Ernesto Enkerlin
National Commissioner
Natural Protected Areas
National Commission



PARAGUAY

Amado Insfran
Manager
Protection and
Conservation of
Water Resources
Ministry of the Environment



PANAMÁ

Javier Arias
Minister of Environment
Related Affairs
General Administrator
National Environmental
Authority



Smithsonian

**SMITHSONIAN TROPICAL
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
Elena de Lombardo
Advisor for
External Affairs
(2003-2009)



WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL
Jane Madgwick
Chief Executive Officer
(2007-2009)



RAMSAR CONVENTION SECRETARIAT

María Rivera
Senior Advisor for the Americas
(2007-2009)

Margarita Astrálaga
Senior Advisor for the Americas
(2003-2007)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2003 - 2008

PANAMA - HOST COUNTRY OF THE RAMSAR REGIONAL CENTER



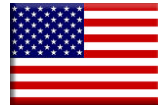
Ligia Castro de Doens
Minister of Environment Related Affairs and
National Environmental Authority
General Administrator
(2005– May 2009)

Aleida Salazar
Protected Areas and Wildlife National Director
National Environmental Authority
(2005– May 2009)

Gonzalo Menéndez
General Administrator
National Environmental Authority
(2004)

Ricardo Anguizola
General Administrator
National Environmental Authority
(2003-2004)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2003 - 2008



ARGENTINA

Oscar Padín
Water Resources
Group of Work, Director
Environment and
Sustainable Development
Secretariat
(2005)

María Teresa Kralikas
Minister
Department of
Environmental Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Trade And Cult
(2004)

BAHAMAS

John Bowleg
Water and Environmental,
Manager
Water and Sewerage
Corporation
(2005-2008)

CANADÁ

Trevor Swerdfager
Environment Canada
General Director
Canadian Wildlife Service
(2004-2005)

CANADÁ

Stephen Virc
National Protected Areas
Coordinator
Environment Canada /
Canadian Wildlife Service
(2004-2005)

ECUADOR

Sergio Lasso
Ramsar Convention
Focal Point
Department of Biodiversity
and Protected Areas
Ministry of Environment
(2005-2008)

EL SALVADOR

César Funes Abrego
Environmental Systems,
Manager
Natural Heritage Division
Ministry of Environment and
Natural Resources
(2005-2008)

Enrique Barraza
Ramsar Convention
Focal Point
Ministry of Environment and
Natural Resources
(2008)

ESTADOS UNIDOS

Herbert A. Raffaele
Division of International
Conservation, Chief
Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service
(2004-2008)

NICARAGUA

Milton Camacho
SINAP Integrated
Management Director
Ministry of Environment and
Natural Resources
(2003 – 2005)

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Eduardo Guerrero
Program Coordinator
UICN-SUR (2003-2006)

Rocío Córdoba
Coordinator of Wetlands,
Water and Coastal
Thematic Area
UICN-ORMA (2003-2007)

Robert Hostfader
Program Coordinator
UICN-SUR (2006-2007)

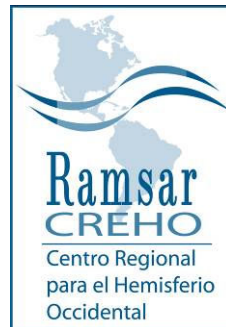




STAFF OF CREHO (2008)

Rosa Montañez
Executive Director

Digna González
Administrative Assistant



Eric Flores De Gracia
Technical Officer

Cristina Tzanetatos
Communications Assistant

PROFESSIONALS THAT HAVE BEEN PART OF CREHO (2006—2007)

Carolina Hoyos
Institutional Development Officer

María Rivera
Technical Officer



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CREHO wishes to thank all those who believed in this initiative inspired by a group of individuals and institutions deeply interested in wetlands conservation, who collaborated to create and develop this organization.

We thank the Panamanian Government representatives between 1997 and 2008: Mirei Endara, Elia Guerra, Tomás Guardia, Ricardo Anguizola, Ricardo Rivera, Cecilia Guerra, Kruskaya Melgarejo (q.e.p.d), Anel Beliz, Gonzalo Menéndez, Luis Barría, Ligia Castro de Doens, Aleida Salazar, Edgar Araúz, Marina Gallardo, Lourdes Lozano, Harley Mitchel, Patricia Pérez, Lisbeth Simonovic, Víctor Guardia, Gabriela Samudio, Zoila Aquino. As well as those who have joined in 2009: Javier Arias, Adrián Benedetti, Yessenia González, Marisol Dimas, Inés Vega, Diego Morales, Anabel Hernández, Natividad Jaramillo, Romelia Sánchez.

We thank the Ramsar Convention Secretariat representatives: Delmar Blasco, Peter Bridgewater, Anada Tiega and Margarita Astrálaga; the IUCN representatives, Eduardo Guerrero and Rocío Córdoba; the Wetlands International representatives, Jane Madgwick and María Stolk; the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, through Ira Rubinoff and Elena Lombardo; the Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), through Emilio Sempris, and the City of Knowledge, through Jorge Arosemena and Rodrigo Tarté, provided institutional support.

Vital to the effort has been the strong support received from Herb Raffaele, Marina Ratchford, Gilberto Cintro, Ethan Taylor and Brian Hayum, from the USFWS; Trevor Swerdfager, Robert Martel (q.e.p.d.) and Stephen Virc, from the Canadian Wildlife Service; the Focal Points who were members of the Board of Directors: Ainsley A. Henry (Jamaica); Ernesto Enkerlin (México); Amado Insfran (Paraguay); Milton Camacho (Nicaragua); Sergio Lasso (Ecuador); John Bowleg (Bahamas); César Funes Abrego (El Salvador); Andrea Repetti, Oscar Padin, Sara Sverlij (Argentina), as well as the general support of all focal points for the Ramsar Convention Center in the Western Hemisphere.

Finally, we thank those professionals and friends that have helped the Center from its inception, Julio Montes de Oca, Daniel Blanco, Glenda Bonamico, Francisco Rilla, Ximena Barrera, María Rivera, Carolina Hoyos, María Carolina Hazin, Rosabel Miró and Ian Davidson. As well as to the Panama's National Wetlands Committee members.



PROLOGUE

To the National Environmental Authority (ANAM), as the focal point for the Ramsar Convention, and to the President of the Board of Directors of the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), it is highly gratifying to submit evidence of CREHO's accomplishments during its first years of existence in this 2004-2009 Report. CREHO's management has been a growth experience for all of us who have played a part in it, but it has especially served as an example of how a sum of efforts can lead to actions of international cooperation with concrete results, thus contributing to one of the strategic pillars of the Ramsar Convention.

CREHO was formed in 1999, at the Ramsar Convention COP7. It is Ramsar's first regional initiative promoted and implemented in the Americas, and through which the Republic of Panama assumed a commitment of service to the Hemisphere that it has honored not only at the national but also at the regional level. Hence, it offered to be the host country for the headquarters of the Center, which would be recognized as an international entity, and provided all the necessary facilities and resources to start operations in 2004.

Today, CREHO has not only opened its doors but also offers its services to the region, while continuing its own institutional process of development. Additionally, CREHO keeps increasing its presence in order to strengthen its capabilities directed at increasing the technical implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Hemisphere, which promotes the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These are vital resources for our countries and a treasure that we will leave to future generations.

We want to thank all of those who have supported CREHO, from the Board of Directors to the Ramsar Convention Contracting Parties and the Secretariat, the donors and all the individuals that have made the difference. We call upon all of them to keep making joint efforts with and through CREHO, in order to augment its hemispheric impact and the noble and laudable task of contributing to making sure that we have healthy wetlands.



Javier Arias
General Administrator
National Environmental Authority
Republic of Panama





PRESENTATION

It is with profound satisfaction that we present to you this 2004-2009 Report, which chronologically describes how we have been building this organization and how our actions show positive results and contribute to the strengthening of a critical mass of capabilities to support the transformation and the garnering of support for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. We have generated and shared tools, ideas and information. We have been the catalyst of exchanges, facilitation and integration of efforts between people and institutions. We provided support when it was needed.

Making inroads, tearing down barriers, providing life, building a dream and leaving a footprint are the main achievements that summarize the first five years at CREHO. It is an unprecedented initiative within the framework of the Ramsar Convention, which was initially proposed back in 1997 and validated at different national, regional and global instances, such as the Contracting Parties Conference. In 2004, the challenge was to build from scratch an organization dedicated to servicing a whole hemisphere, and the big question and expectation then was if it was going to be able to do so. Along the way, we discovered our space, we defined our niche and we found our place.

CREHO is mandated to “promoting the dissemination of knowledge concerning the management and wise use of wetlands in the Americas through training, research, the development of impact evaluation tools and management methodologies, as well as the

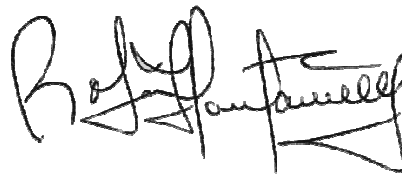
establishment of communication mechanisms". From this mandate are derived four strategic objectives that have guided our actions, which during the first six years have been targeted at capacity-building, and more concretely, the development of our training action line.

Today, people trained by CREHO are making changes and replicating our ideas and messages. They have already surpassed those who have trained them. In the pursuit of spreading our message, they have taken part in the creation of new protected areas for wetlands; they have been involved in policy and legislative formulation; they have identified new internationally important wetlands; they are producing communication and educational materials, and they actively participate and/or lead conservation actions such as management plans and inventories, among others. We have been able to diversify and multiply our impact, thanks to the small but extremely important resources we received when we started this initiative. We are generating a product and qualitative and quantitative results with an impact upon wetlands.

CREHO is the sum of many desires, visions, commitments, vocation, leadership, vitality, generosity, will and fortitude. These qualities summarize those who, in one way or another, have accompanied us in this journey, valuable people that enrich their surroundings, institutions and countries with their dynamism and their conviction that we can have a region with healthy wetlands. Special thanks to our Board of Directors, whose faith and trust allowed us to build CREHO, and to our staff, for their unbreakable dedication, activism and care. Our special recognition to those who were a constant source of advice, motivation, vision and inclusion: Margarita Astrálaga, Herb Raffaele, Sergio Lasso, Elena Lombardo, John Bowleg and Cesar Funes. We want to highlight the leadership role assumed by Panama's National Environmental Authority on behalf of the region by providing the resources needed to establish the Center. Equally important has been the support received from the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and Conference of the Parties, as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Many lessons have been learned during the bi-partisan and differentiated process to establish CREHO's institutionally and technical services offerings, yet many more lessons remain to be learned. We are still at an early stage in our development, but the important thing is that the road has been paved and that there are other Ramsar Regional Centers on their way as well. A new stage is about to begin. We have turned a dream into reality!

As many dear friends in the Americas have told us, we believe in CREHO. That's why we are here and why we will stay here for you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rosa Montañez', written in a cursive style.

Rosa Montañez
Executive Director
CREHO





CONTENTS

VISION, MISSION, AREA OF ACTION AND THE STRATEGIC BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE CREATION OF CREHO	PAGE 19
CREHO IN THE AMERICAS: ADVANCES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS	PAGE 21
HISTORICAL SUMMARY	PAGE 23
RAMSAR REGIONAL CENTER STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK	PAGE 35
FIRST LINE OF ACTION. INVESTIGATION	PAGE 37
SECOND LINE OF ACTION. TRAINING	PAGE 41
THIRD LINE OF ACTION. COOPERATION	PAGE 75
FOURTH LINE OF ACTION. OPERATIVES	PAGE 95
ANNEX 1. BACKGROUND OF CREHO	PAGE 110
ANNEX 2. ACRONYMS UTILIZED	PAGE 113







VISION

“The loss of wetlands has ceased in the Western Hemisphere. Wetlands are conserved and rehabilitated through integral management practices that guarantee its wise use and enjoyment based on the Ramsar Convention's guidelines.”

MISSION

“CREHO contributes to the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Western Hemisphere, sources of life for human populations and biodiversity, through the strengthening of capacities based on the technical implementation of the Ramsar Convention.”



AREA OF ACTION

CREHO must work with the 29 member countries of the Ramsar Convention in the Americas.

STRATEGIC BENEFITS DERIVED FROM THE CREATION OF CREHO

- Positioning of the region in the development of actions related to wetlands via exchanges, capacity building, broadcasting and others.
- Increased visibility of key players at the local, national and international level, particularly in the Western Hemisphere, with global reach through the various networks where CREHO is a participant.
- Incidence of CREHO in matters related to capacity building and research for the 29 countries with which it must work in the Western Hemisphere, with the ensuing visibility and projection of the region as the first Ramsar Regional Center and the promoter of this initiative.
- Fulfillment of the commitment made by Panama at the COP7 of the Ramsar Convention and the Central American Commission of Environment and Development, providing Panama and the region with credibility in terms of their capabilities, seriousness and leadership and demonstrating effectiveness in comparison with other initiatives relating to the environmental sector.
- Facilitate the establishment of strategic alliances with similar initiatives, which will increase the impact of CREHO's actions and the projection of the region in international forums throughout the Americas and other regions of the world.





CREHO IN THE AMERICAS: ADVANCES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since 2004, by fulfilling its goals and implementing its strategic action lines, CREHO has engaged more than a thousand key stakeholders and reached a significant number of people in the community at large, thus building a critical mass in support of the importance of the conservation of wetlands and increasing knowledge about the Ramsar Convention and its technical guidelines for the implementation of conservation and management measures upon wetlands.



Through its actions, CREHO has promoted knowledge and use of some of the main Ramsar resolutions and guidelines, such as wise use, management, inventory, environmental impact evaluation, wetlands committees and policies, and CEPA.

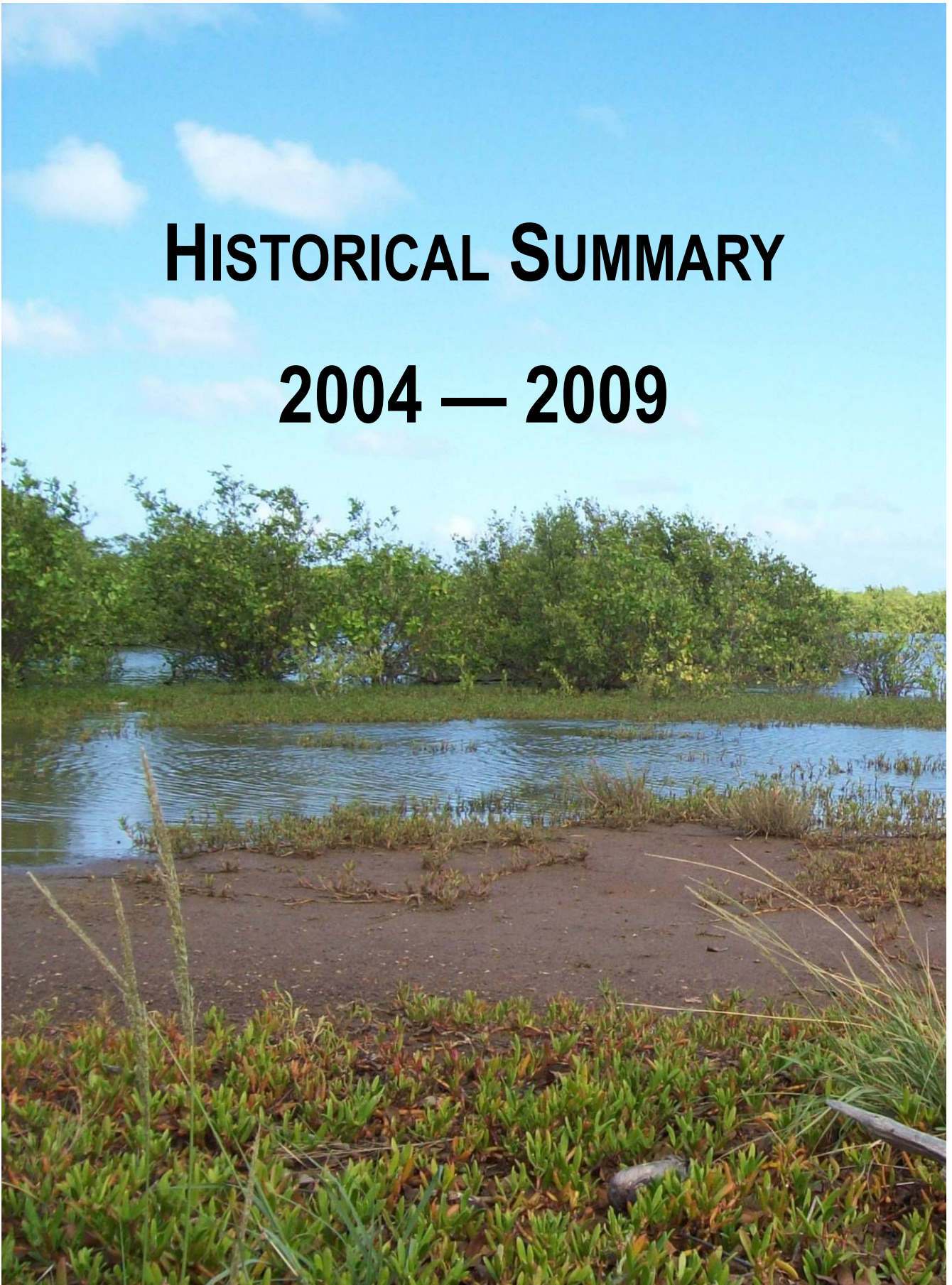


CREHO has diversified the means it uses to increase its presence and to position the wetlands issue in key sectors, taking advantage of existing forums and other instances, thus avoiding duplication of efforts and making the most of its interventions by supporting existing processes, initiatives, players, and resources in the region.



HISTORICAL SUMMARY

2004 — 2009



Strategic Objective 1

Generate knowledge through research and studies on wetlands management and wise use, bearing in mind the biodiversity and benefits to the human populations of the hemisphere.



- In 2006, responding to a request by the USFWS, CREHO carried out an evaluation of the application of Resolution VIII.45 “Functioning of the Conference Contracting Parties and Efficacy of the Ramsar Resolutions and Recommendations” using a small sample group comprised of Panama, Colombia and Costa Rica. The study showed that Panama required support to increase its knowledge of the Ramsar Convention and guidelines. Thus, from 2007 on, CREHO started implementing activities geared towards the development and strengthening of technical capabilities through local training and by supporting the participation of Panamanians in international courses organized by CREHO. It has also collaborated to increase knowledge about the Ramsar Convention guidelines through specific facilitating activities, such as the establishment of the Panama's National Wetlands Committee, the elaboration of the first continental and coastal wetlands inventory and the formulation of wetlands national policy. All this actions implemented by the Center have been in partnership with ANAM.
- Preliminary Inventory of Panama's Continental and Coastal Wetlands. Coordinated with ANAM within the framework of the Panama National Wetlands Committee. Funds provided by the AVINA Foundation (October 2006-March 2009); printing of 1000 copies funded by Movistar-Panama, and 500 digital copies on CD founded by STRI, WI, and CBMAP (December 2009).



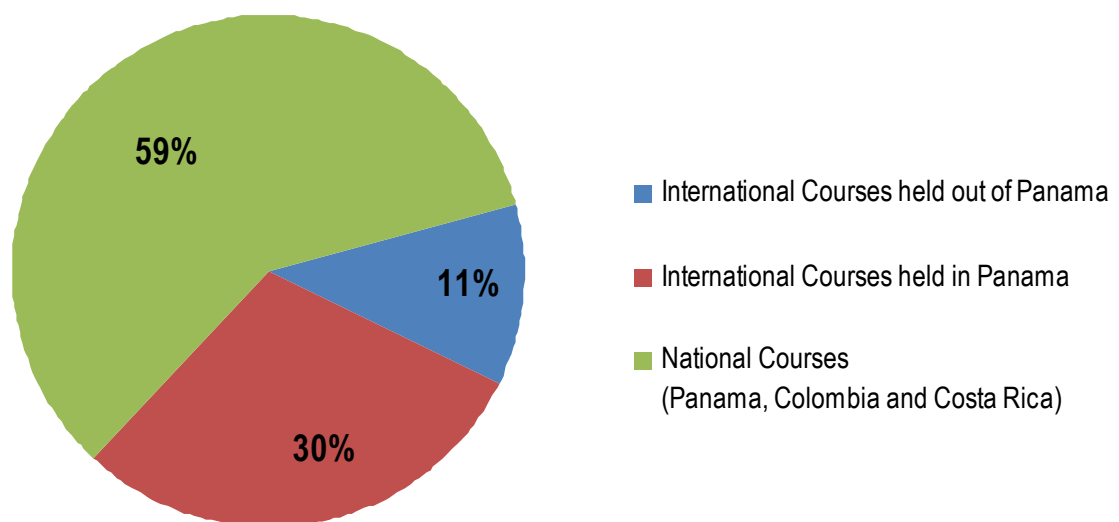
Strategic Objective 2

Prepare human resources through training and educational programs, seeking to expand theoretical and practical knowledge of wetlands.



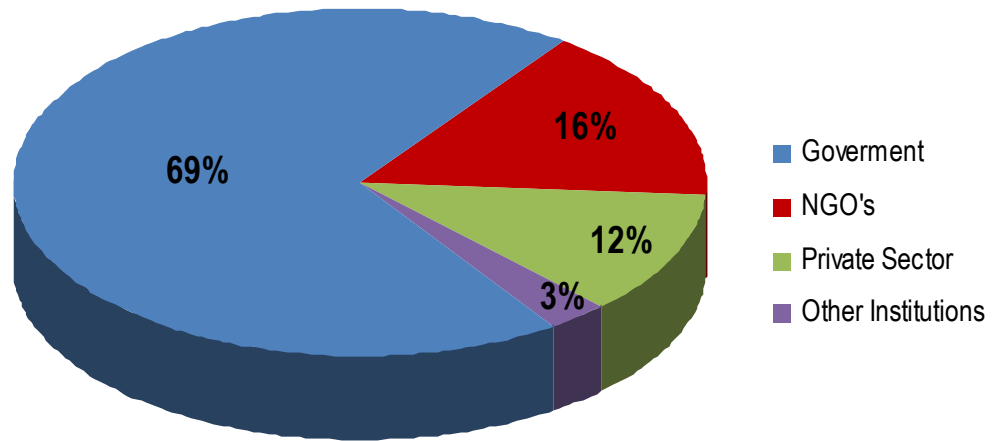
- CREHO has trained 262 professionals and technicians linked to wetlands, both from the governmental sector (including an important percentage of Ramsar focal points, who received full scholarships to attend courses and workshops) and from the civil society, particularly NGOs, academia, and the private sector. Of these participants, 108 attended six international specialized courses (Mexico 2004, Panama 2006, Panama 2007(2), Panama 2008 and Costa Rica 2008); the participants hailed from 28 countries in the Americas, and one from overseas. The remaining 154 attended national courses (Panama and Colombia) and workshops (Costa Rica), which were more general in character and nationally targeted. The instructors came from 12 countries, 8 from America and 4 from Europe (according to the location of their main offices). Lecturers have come from 12 countries, 9 from the Americas and 3 from Europe.

GRAPHIC 1. TOTAL ATTENDANCE BY COURSE TYPE



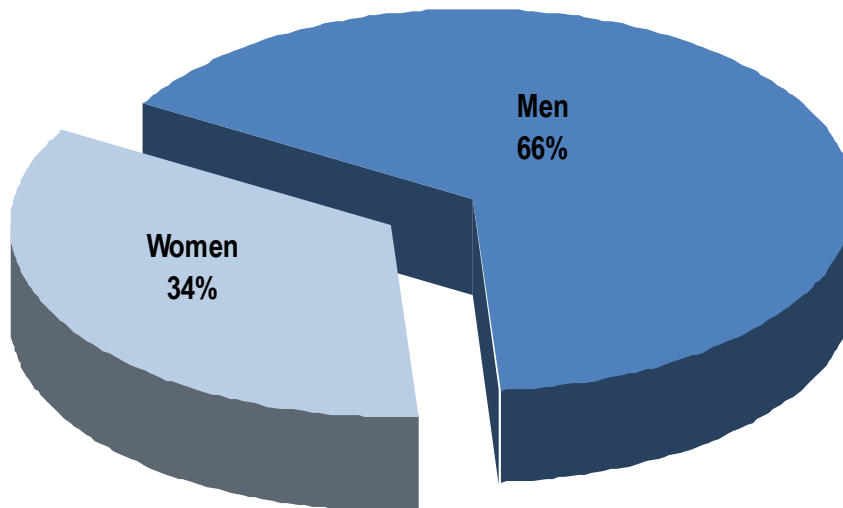
Source: Participants of the CREHO courses database. 2004 - 2009

GRAPHIC 2. PERCENT OF ATTENDANCE BY TYPE OF INSTITUTION



Source: Participants of the CREHO courses database. 2004 - 2009

GRAPHIC 3. PERCENT OF TOTAL ATTENDANCE BY GENDER



Source: Participants of the CREHO courses database. 2004 - 2009

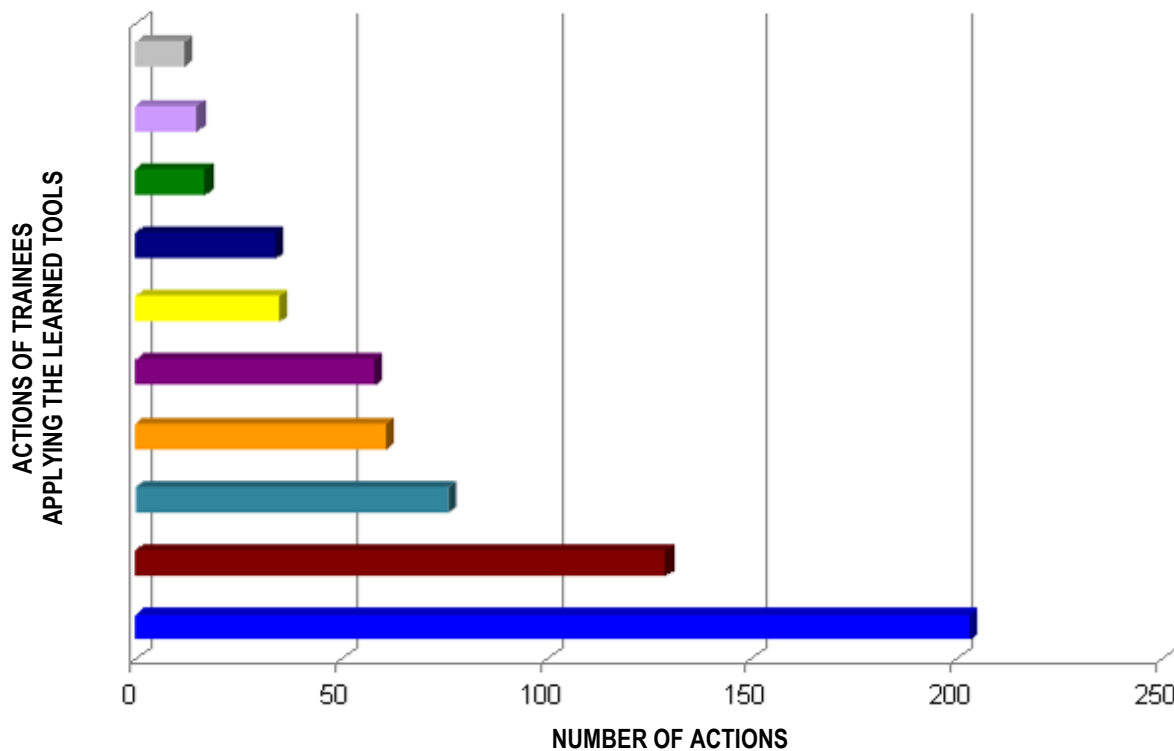
- CREHO has also participated as lecturer in courses organized by other institutions, thus reaching 230 people in four events: one, national (Panama) and three, international within the United Nations framework (New York, Panama and Argentina).
- Through 15 promotional events CREHO reached 1,900 people: four, national (Panama); four, international (organizations with offices in Panama); two, side events at the COP 9 Ramsar; three, national wetlands symposia (United States, Ecuador and Korea, within the framework of the East Asia Regional Center), and two international wetlands symposia (Ecuador and Taiwan).
- CREHO participated in 23 different workshops and meetings on wetlands issues organized by other organizations; eleven, national (Panama, due to the Center's location); five, international (hosted by organizations located in Panama) and seven, international (México-UNDP, Costa Rica-WHMSI, The Netherlands, Ramsar Advisory Committee on Capacity Building, Uganda (2) COP9, Bolivia-OAS/WHMSI, Kenya-CMS). Most national events taking place in Panama were organized by ANAM, STRI and the Global Compact Network, while the international events that took place in Panama were organized by Cathalac and IABIN (Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network).
- CREHO has provided support to four national events celebrating environmental issues. Through environmental education, it supported a local festival dedicated to highlighting the importance of water, the “Blue Gold Festival”. These promotional activities reached hundreds of people, including some 300 children of varying ages, with a positive message.



IMPACTS IN THE REGION FROM CREHO'S INTERVENTIONS TRAINEES APPLYING AND REPLICATING THE KNOWLEDGE ACQUIRED

In 2008, CREHO started following up on the people who had attended the training courses it had coordinated, in order to verify how the knowledge acquired and the tools provided were being applied and/or replicated to issues pertaining to wetlands conservation. Preliminary results attest to the usefulness of the knowledge acquired and show the cascading effect of CREHO's interventions.

GRAPHIC 4. NUMBER OF ACTIONS STARTED AS A RESULT OF THE TRAINING RECEIVED AT CREHO



- People trained by participants
- Questions / Doubts solved
- Knowledge applied in workshops and meetings
- Wetlands areas impacted
- Activities impacted
- Organizations impacted
- Projects, programs impacted
- Informative materials where knowledge obtained was applied
- Contribution for the designation of Ramsar Sites
- Building normatives (laws, policies, etc.)

Source: Data were obtained from surveys conducted upon graduates of the courses organized by CREHO in 2008. This graph is based on a sample group composed by 8% of graduates students between 2004 and 2008.

- With respect to the World Wetlands Day up to now, the majority of efforts have mainly focused on Panama. Before CREHO came into existence, the day was celebrated by a local NGO. In 2004, members of the Board of Directors indicated that CREHO must promote and become directly involved in this celebration; thus, in 2005, CREHO organized its first event, where more than 150 children participated and some 50 people attended the conferences. Other players came into play in the following years as co-organizers, ANAM and the National Wetlands Committee among others, which has contributed to the local promotion of this important date. At the regional level, each year CREHO dedicates an issue of its informative bulletin, Infowetland, to celebrate the date and provides the Ramsar Convention Secretariat support as needed.
- CREHO also produces, and collaborates with the production of, bibliographic material, information and documents geared towards a very diverse public; of special importance is the collaboration with three publications and the participation as a panelist in four television programs (three locally transmitted and one transmitted to eleven countries in Latin America). INFOHUMDEAL, a quarterly electronic bulletin, produced since 2006 both in Spanish and English, currently has over 600 subscribers in different regions of the world, and CREHO's Webpage (www.creho.org) includes interactive tools such as the portal for the Ramsar Convention members from the Americas, as well as spaces for individuals to make their causes and wetlands known.



Strategic Objective 3

Implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, by promoting scientific and technical cooperation and the exchange of experiences in the use and conservation of wetlands in the Western Hemisphere and other regions of the world.



- National and regional networks, other initiatives:
 - ◊ CREHO actively participates in the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI). It has supported the promotion of this initiative at many forums, as well as the creation of its Website as another promotion tool.
 - ◊ Waterbird Conservation Council for the Americas: CREHO joined through an invitation to Rosa Montañez, in order to offer training support. The first workshop aimed at monitoring waterfowls in Central America and Colombia has taken place and other funding sources are being accessed to support training activities to be carried out by CREHO.
 - ◊ Panama's National Wetlands Committee. CREHO provided support for it to be formally recognized by ANAM; since its inception, CREHO has made efforts to empower key players within the committee; the lessons learned through this experience will be systematized in order to be able to replicate the process in other countries.
 - ◊ US National Wetlands Committee. Participation in one meeting and exchange of information and communications. Both the Committee and CREHO have suggested ideas for a closer relationship between them.
 - ◊ International Network for Sustainable Development (CIDES). CREHO is one of the founders organizations since 2004; the network is located at the City of Knowledge and is at an evolutionary stage.
 - ◊ Wetlands Link International, a member since 2005; CREHO has asked for its support to design a wetlands interpretative center.
 - ◊ The Nature Conservancy Learning Center; in 2005 an agreement was signed but is not currently active.
- Wetlands Documentation Center, specialized library for the public; it opened in 2007, with donations from IUCN-ORMA
- Strategic alliances: agreements with City of Knowledge, Cathalac, IUCN-ORMA, United Nations Global Compact (Panama Chapter).

- Ramsar Convention regional initiatives:
 - ◊ High Andean Wetlands Strategy. CREHO is a member of the contact group since 2004. It has participated in all of the meetings, providing concrete support; it has promoted the initiative's strategic objective targeted at training in different forums and has supported it in fundraising efforts for its implementation.
 - ◊ Cuenca del Plata Initiative: CREHO was invited to become a member of the contact group in 2007, during the Ramsar Panamerican meeting.
 - ◊ Mangroves initiative: CREHO was invited to become a member of the contact group.

- Ramsar Convention:
 - ◊ Follow up to the issue of regional initiatives and the financial support they provide CREHO; participation in three meetings of the Ramsar Standing Committee (31, 34, and 36) and two Conferences of the Parties (COP9 Uganda, COP10 Korea), in the latter, CREHO carried out its first side event in a COP).
 - ◊ Member of the Supervisory Group of the Public Communication, Education and Awareness Program (CEPA) 2006-2008, which produced the 2009-2015 CEPA Program, Ramsar Resolution X.8.
 - ◊ Participation in meeting of Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention, Delf, 2007, a workshop that provided inputs as guidelines for the Convention.
 - ◊ Ramsar fundraising projects for Wetlands for the Future; participation in project events approved for other organizations (Guatemala/MAP and Costa Rica/Fungap).

- Other supports:
 - ◊ Additional support has been provided through technical guidance and contacts with key players in the region. Worth mentioning is the support provided to ANAM to identify the threats and priorities concerning wetlands, which was the basis for a proposal elaborated by the Panamanian government to the GEF.



Strategic Objective 4

Achievement of financial self-sufficiency, human resource capability and administrative efficiency.



- The Panamanian Government, by Law #33 of July 7th, 2004, assigned legal status to CREHO under the category of international organization, thus providing the recognition needed to operate as a non-profit entity.
- Board of Directors working and evolving.
- Basic operational personnel: five civil servants, one external auditor and a platform of specialists hired by project according to needs.
- Financial and accounting systems operating, with patrimony, operational and administrative reserves, contingency reserves and provision for seniority primes and compensations.
- Planning systems: strategic plan and operational plans (2004 and annual updates).
- Institutional evaluation system: Institutional Development Framework (IDF) applied in 2004, 2006 and 2009 as the baseline to measure institutional development.
- Administrative systems: Administrative Handbook (2004, with reviews in 2005 and 2006); Board of Directors Internal Regulations (2004, with reviews in 2005 and 2006); Guide for Board of Directors Meetings (2006); Guidelines for Communications and Brand (2006); Guidelines for Infowetland (2006 and 2009).
- Mid-term strategies: fundraising strategy (2006), communications strategy (2006).
- Diversification of income sources, both in cash and in-kind; generation of 1:1 resources to complement those from ANAM and the regional initiatives, which has meant additional activities to reach the goal.

MAIN FINDINGS USED BY CREHO TO JUSTIFY ITS INTERVENTIONS

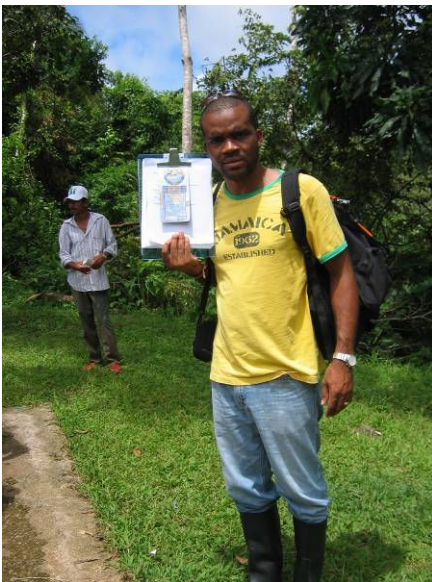
In order to establish the work agenda, CREHO used the main findings regarding the wetlands situation in the region for the period 2004—2006.

- Little knowledge about the Ramsar Convention.
- Limited understanding of concepts such as “wetlands” and “wise use” and generalized lack of knowledge about the usefulness of wetlands.
- Approximately 50% of internationally important wetlands in the Western Hemisphere were without management plans.
- Less than 50% of Ramsar Convention member countries in the Western Hemisphere had Wetlands National Committees.
- Less than 50% of Ramsar Convention member countries in the Western Hemisphere had Wetlands National Policies.
- Legal vulnerability of international important wetlands without management category assigned to them.
- Limited resources to implement conservation activities in wetlands of international importance, in particular, and wetlands, in general.
- Lack of knowledge regarding current situation of wetlands and the economic value of goods and services provided by them.
- Partial information regarding wetlands inventories at regional and local level.
- Accelerated loss of wetlands through infrastructure development, over use of water and biodiversity resources, transformation of soil use for productive activities.

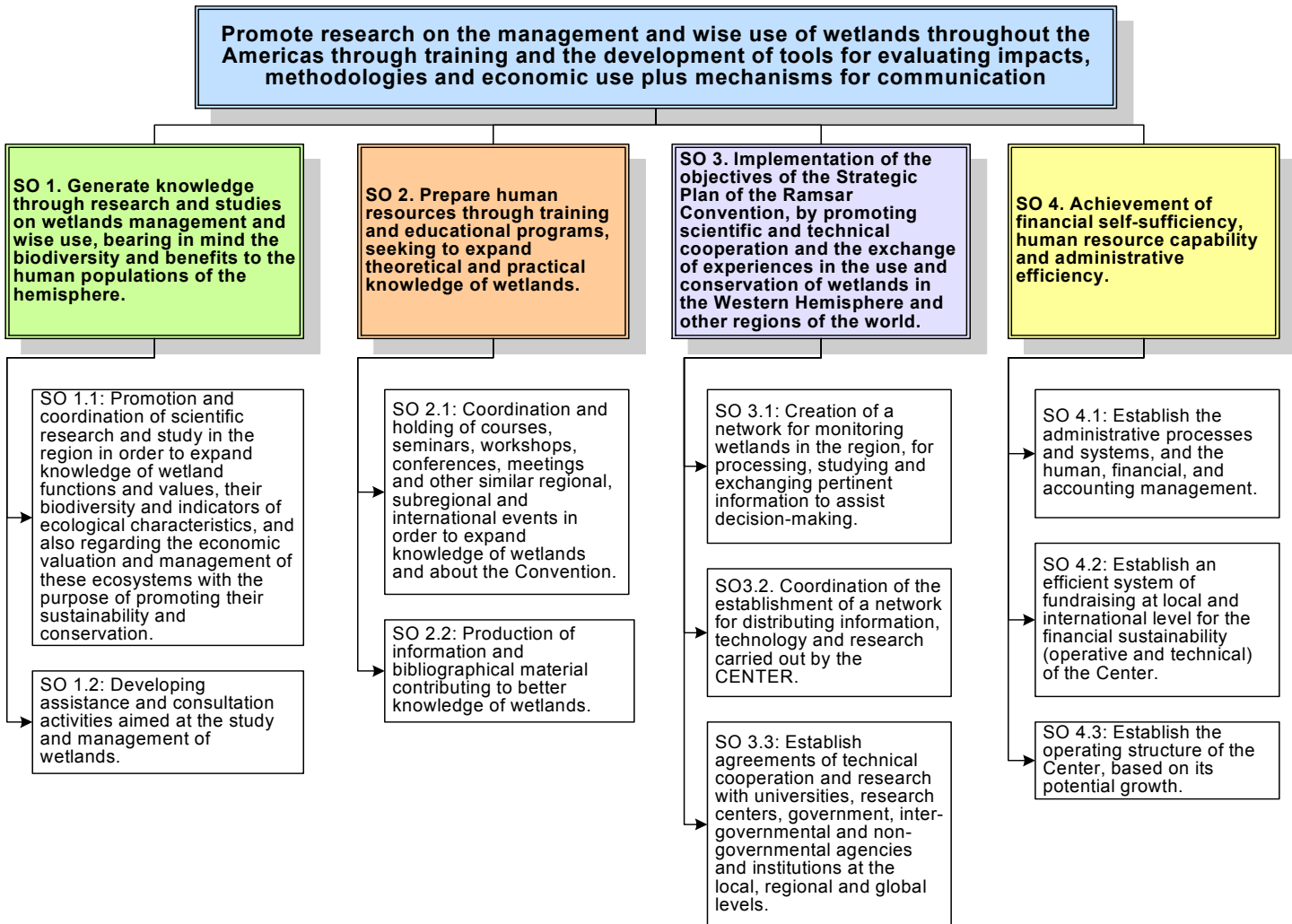
CREHO'S INTERVENTIONS APPROACH

CREHO defined the key elements of its actions on the basis of the findings made:

- Three (3) lines of action: training, research and cooperation. With emphasis in training.
- Eighteen (18) thematic lines for capacity building, grouped into three priority segments directed at key groups. The primary objective has been to provide wetlands management, environmental impact assessment, and environmental strategic assessment.
- Three (3) areas of direct incidence: wetlands national policies, national wetlands committees and wetlands of international importance integrated management.
- Priority geographic areas to develop specific activities in order to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- Support to regional initiatives being developed, with emphasis in capacity building (Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands, Central American Policy for Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands, Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative - WHMSI, Waterbird Conservation Council for the Americas, and the recent regional initiatives in progress: mangroves and Cuenca del Plata).
- Synergies and alliances with key players (Ramsar Convention partner organizations, regional offices of other environmental agreements, other specialized organizations with presence in wetlands in the region).



RAMSAR REGIONAL CENTER STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



The Ramsar Regional Center Strategic Framework is a key tool that shows in organized and easy to understand manner the lines of action that guide the activities in which CREHO is involved. The different actions that CREHO undertakes for wetland conservation are based on their relevance with respect to the objectives that are presented in this framework.

The strategic framework was developed from the functions given to CREHO when it was created by the instrument that legally constitutes it (Law no. 33, 7 July 2004 'In which it's approved the agreement signed between the Government of the Republic of Panama and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat for the for the creation and functioning of the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere, signed in Gland, Switzerland, February 28th, 2003").



FIRST LINE OF ACTION

RESEARCH

Strategic Objective 1

Generate knowledge through research and studies on wetlands management and wise use, bearing in mind the biodiversity and benefits to the human populations of the hemisphere.



SUB-OBJECTIVES

1.1 Promotion and coordination of scientific research and study in the region in order to expand knowledge of wetland functions and values, their biodiversity and indicators of ecological characteristics, and also regarding the economic valuation and management of these ecosystems with the purpose of promoting their sustainability and conservation.

1.2 Developing assistance and consulting activities aimed at the study and management of wetlands.

EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATION OF RESOLUTION VII.45

2006

With the support of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, CREHO carried out an evaluation of the application of Resolution VII.45, "Functioning of the Conference of Contracting Parties and Efficacy of Ramsar Resolutions and Recommendations" in Panama and Colombia. The evaluation evidences a need for additional action in Panama to increase the knowledge about the Ramsar Convention and its guidelines.

2007

Thus in 2007 in conjunction with ANAM, efforts specifically directed at increasing knowledge began to develop and strengthen capacities in Panama through training and precise actions of facilitation.

PRELIMINARY INVENTORY OF PANAMA'S CONTINENTAL AND COASTAL WETLANDS

2008

In October 2007, within the framework of the Panama's National Wetlands Committee, CREHO in cooperation with ANAM started the elaboration of a preliminary inventory of wetlands in Panama. Funds were provided by the AVINA Foundation.

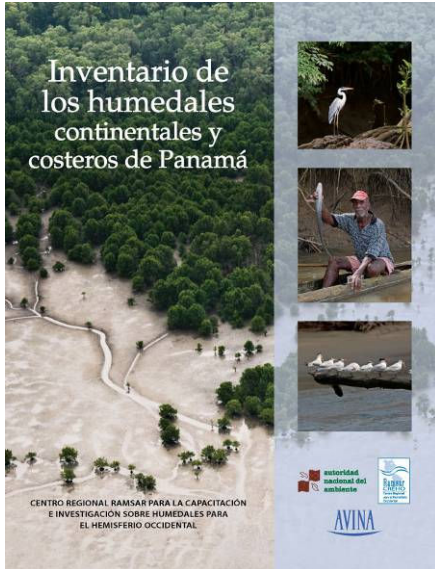
The approach that was used for the elaboration of the inventory of wetlands was classification by ecosystemic type. In 2008, the field work and the systematization of the collected data was initiated.

PUBLICATION OF FIRST INVENTORY OF PANAMA’S CONTINENTAL AND COASTAL WETLANDS

2009

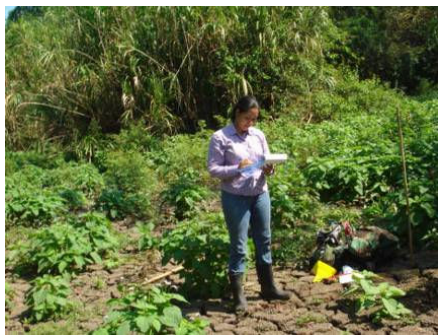
On May 2009, in coordination with the National Environmental Authority and thanks to the financial support of AVINA Foundation, the project came to a fruitful conclusion. The resulting document was consulted and reviewed by members of the Panama National Wetlands Committee and, later, the book entitled “*Inventory of Panama's Continental and Coastal Wetlands*” was edited for publication.

On December 2009, the first 1000 copies were printed thanks to funds provided by Movistar-Panama. The official release of this important publication is programmed to take place in early 2010.



ACADEMIC COOPERATION FOR WETLANDS RESEARCH

During the first half of 2009, CREHO hosted, supported and supervised two students that carried out research on wetlands.



Between March and June 2009, Betzuke Camargo, a student in Engineering Management from the University of Panama, worked on the project “*Characterization of Physical, Biotic and Social Resources of the Clayton Wetlands*”, the area where CREHO has its headquarters.



Thanks to the economic support provided by the German Service for Academic Exchanges, from May to July 2009 CREHO hosted Jessica Gross, a student seeking a “Master of Tropical and International Forestry” at the Göttingen University, Germany, who carried out field studies in collaboration with ANAM and ARAP, together with two students from the University of Panama, Samuel Mojica and Alvaro Espinoza, in an area of the Golfo de Montijo Ramsar Site, Veraguas Province, Panama. The project is called “*Capture of Superficial Carbon from the Mangrove Forests, Golfo de Montijo, Panama*”.



SECOND LINE OF ACTION

TRAINING

Strategic Objective 2

Prepare human resources through training and educational programs, seeking to expand theoretical and practical knowledge of wetlands.



SUB-OBJECTIVE

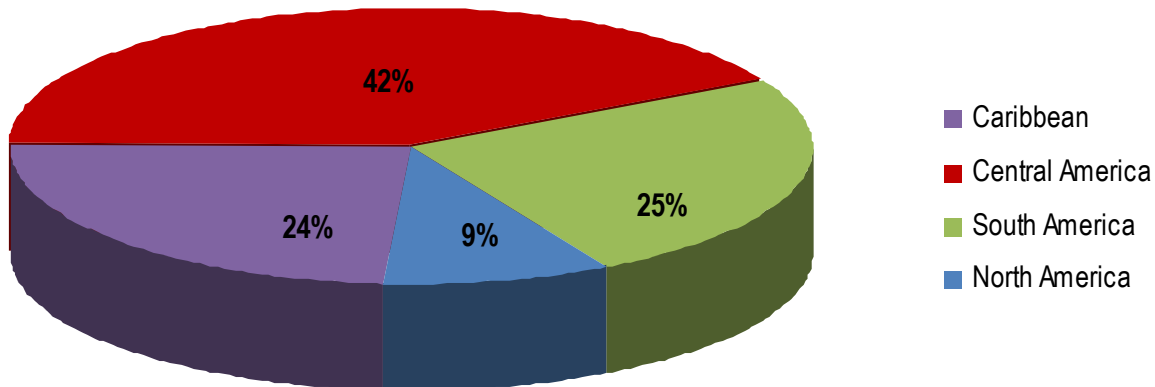
2.1 Coordination and holding of courses, seminars, workshops, conferences, meetings and other similar regional, sub-regional and international events in order to expand knowledge of wetlands and about the Convention.



INTERNATIONAL COURSES ORGANIZED BY CREHO

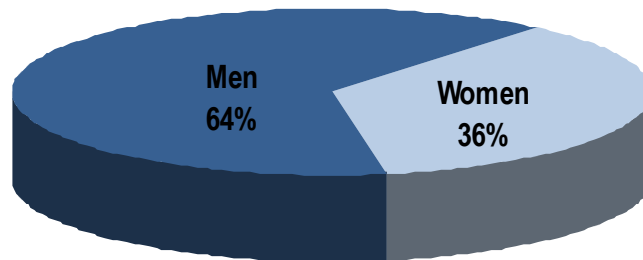
CREHO has successfully carried out a total of six specialized courses of international character with a total participation of 108 professionals tied to wetlands from 28 countries, proceeding from the governmental sector, NGOs, academia, and the private sector.

GRAPHIC 5. ATTENDANCE TO INTERNATIONAL COURSES BY REGION



Source: Participants of the CREHO courses database. 2004 - 2009

GRAPHIC 6. ATTENDANCE TO INTERNATIONAL COURSES BY GENDER



Source: Database assistants by courses CREHO. 2004 - 2009

**I INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON WETLANDS MANAGEMENT:
FORMULATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS**

2004

The course was realized in Merida, Mexico, from November 12 - 24, 2004. A group of 15 professionals participated in this course including Ramsar Focal Points in its respective countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Mexico and Dominican Republic). The course was dictated in Spanish, and the 15 participants were granted a 100% scholarship.



**II INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON WETLANDS MANAGEMENT:
FORMULATION OF MANAGEMENT PLANS**

2006

The course was realized in Río Hato, Panama, from October 8 - 18, 2006. The Focal Points of 10 countries from the Western Hemisphere participated, the majority from the Caribbean Region (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, United States, Jamaica, Santa Lucia, Suriname, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago). The participants elaborated a series of recommendations for the Handling Plan for the Ramsar Site Gulf of Montijo. The course was dictated in English and 18 participants were granted a 100% scholarship.



I INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT FOR WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

2007

Carried out in Panama City, Panama, from November 19 to December 5, 2007, and was attended by 22 participants from 11 countries in the region (the Dutch Antilles, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru). Professionals from governments, the private sector, NGOs, Ramsar Focal Points, and members of National Wetlands Committees participated. Of the participants, twelve (12) received scholarships to the 100%; six received (6), partial scholarships; and four (4) did not receive scholarships of any kind (they paid tuition and covered their personal expenses of transportation, lodging and food). The course was dictated in Spanish.



REGIONAL WORKSHOP FOR POLICY MAKERS OF LATIN AMERICA ABOUT “THE EFFECT OF DECISIONS ON WETLANDS AND THOSE MIGRATORY SPECIES: Managing and Wise Use of Natural Resources”

Carried out in Panama City, Panama, from August 25- 29, 2007. It focused upon representatives from Government, Ramsar Focal Points, CMS Focal Points, and members of National Wetlands Committees. It was attended by 20 participants, all receiving 100% scholarships, representing 18 countries (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, and Venezuela). CREHO co-organized the workshop along with the CMS Secretariat.



II INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT FOR WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

2008

It was carried out in Panama City, Panama, from November 24 to December 5, 2008, and attended by 18 participants representing 7 countries of the region (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Panama, St. Lucia and Venezuela), the 8 participants that were not from Panama received 100% scholarships; whereas, the other 10 participants were part of the ARAP staff, and the institution covered their costs of participation. Professional representatives from the government, NGOs, Ramsar Focal Points, and academia participated. The course was bilingual (Spanish and English).



I CENTRAL AMERICA WORKSHOP OF SWAMP BIRDS MONITORING

It was realized in Costa Rica, in the Palo Verde National Park from December 7- 11, 2008. The workshop was dictated in Spanish and in attendance were 15 professionals from the governmental sector, NGOs, private sector, academia, and National Wetlands Committee, representing 7 countries of the region (Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica, and Colombia). All received 100% scholarships. CREHO co-organized this workshop along with the Waterbird Conservation Council for the Americas, with the support of USFS, the National Museum of Costa Rica, USFWS and PRONATURA Northeast (Mexico).



PREPARATION FOR CREHO'S TRAINING OF TRAINERS COURSE

2009

During the first half of 2009, the proposal for the training of trainers' course was made, with the purpose of forming a group of trainers on wetlands. With that in mind, work was carried out identifying and making contact with a group of specialists about wetlands in the Americas to determine their interest and availability to participate in such a course and, later, to become part of the team of instructors for the permanent courses organized by CREHO.



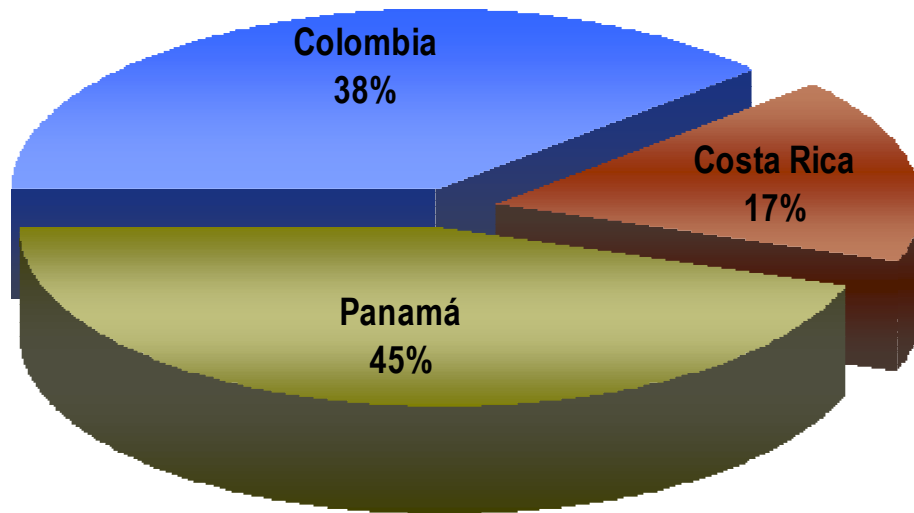
Since the end of 2008, CREHO has been involved in talks with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, to determine the basis of the Terms of Reference prepared and delivered to the Senior Advisor for the Americas, in order to establish a suitable trainer who would be responsible for delivering the training course for future trainers for the courses organized by CREHO.



Courses and National Workshops Organized by CREHO

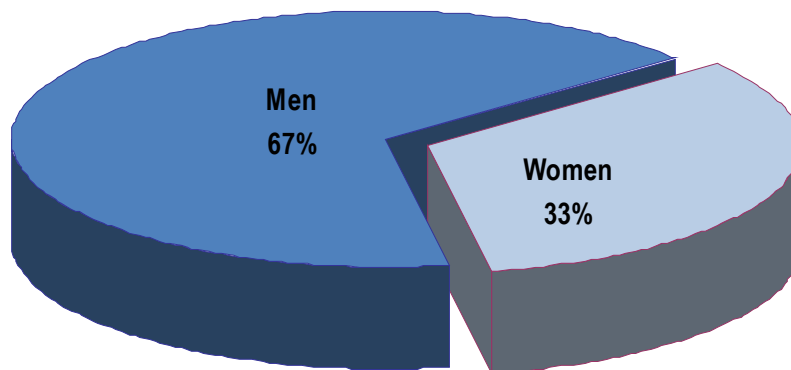
CREHO has carried out national level courses and workshops adapted to the needs of the country. These have been carried in three countries of the region: Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama. In these courses a total of 154 professionals tied to wetlands have participated, coming from the governmental sector, NGOs, academia, and the private sector.

GRAPHIC 7. ATTENDENCE TO COURSES AND NATIONAL WORKSHOPS BY COUNTRY



Source: Participants data base of courses CREHO. 2004 - 2009

GRAPHIC 8. ATTENDENCE TO COURSES AND NATIONAL WORKSHOPS BY GENER



Source: Participants data base of courses CREHO. 2004 - 2009

WORKSHOP OF INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING FOR GITEC

2005

This workshop was carried out in January 2005 at Montijo, Province of Veraguas, Panama. Six members of GITEC participated in the workshop.

WORKSHOP “COASTAL WETLANDS AND EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION AND ITS APPLICATION IN THE HYDROCARBON SPILL”

2006

It was carried out in Panama City, Panama, from September 25- 27, 2006. 32 professionals attended, both civil servants from the government and NGOs. CREHO coordinated and co-financed the workshop along with the Maritime Authority of Panama. The Workshop was dictated in Spanish.



MEETING OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR THE CARIBBEAN-COLOMBIAN REGION: “CONTRIBUTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN THE CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS ECOSYSTEMS AND COASTAL ZONES”

It was carried out in Colombia, Coveñas, Sucre, from October 23- 25, 2006. At this meeting, 59 participants attended, both civil servants from the government and representatives of NGOs. The event’s objective was come to an agreement concerning actions for environmental education and to the implementation of the National Policy for Inner Wetlands of Colombia, articulated with the CEPA Program of the Ramsar Convention. The Environment, Housing and Territorial Development Ministry of Colombia organized the event with the endorsement of the Netherlands Embassy through the Program of Environmental Management Support in Colombia, the Regional Environmental Authorities of Corpomojana, Carsucre and CREHO.



**FORUM “THE FISHING INDUSTRY,
TOOLS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE”**



It was carried out in Panama City, Panama, on November 20, 2006, and focused on the fishing sector. This workshop analyzed approaches and tools to improve the practices of the Panamanian fishing industry. The forum was attended by 12 participants and organized by CREHO with the support of Global-Compact Panama.

**COURSE “INTRODUCTION TO THE WETLANDS MANAGEMENT
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION”**



It was carried out in Panama City, Panama, from December 12- 15, 2006. This course provided a conceptual framework of the Ramsar Convention and its technical guidelines for handling plans, the EIA, and environmental education. 19 participants attended the event, including members of the ANAM staff and members of the Panama National Wetlands Committee, who within the framework of the workshop formulated an annual plan of action. The course was organized by CREHO thanks to the economic support of AVINA Foundation.

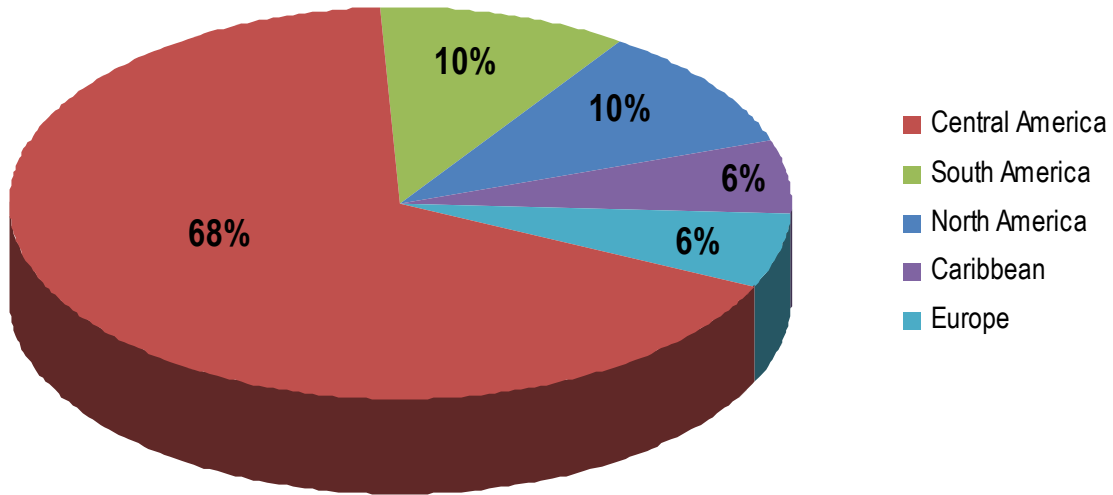


WORKSHOP FOR A WETLANDS STRATEGY

2007

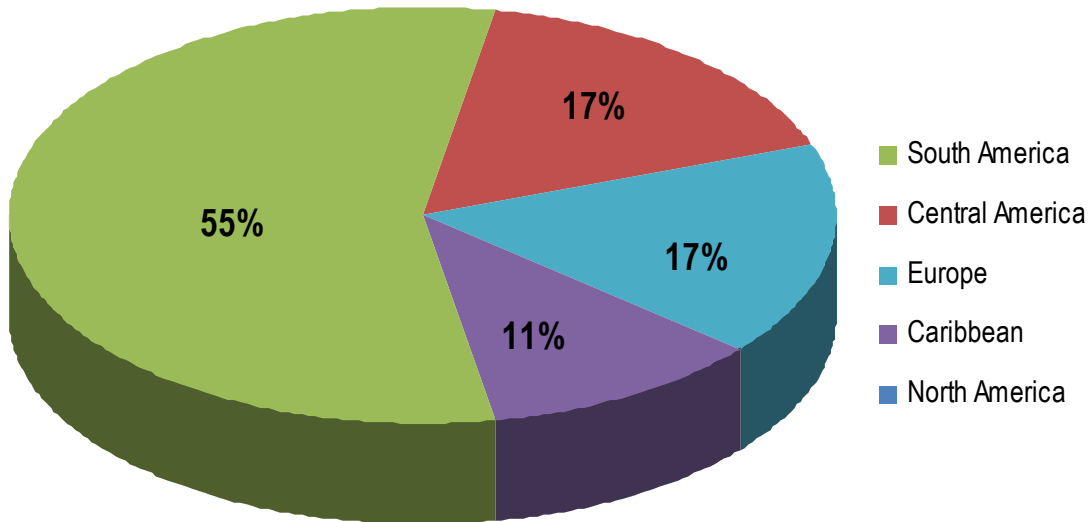
The Workshop was carried out in Costa Rica in 2007. A total of 26 professionals participated, including representatives of the government and NGOs. CREHO coordinated and co-financed the event along with MINAE and IUCN. It was dictated in Spanish.

GRAPHIC 9. SPEAKERS IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COURSES BY REGION



Source: Participants database of courses CREHO. 2004 - 2009

GRAPHIC 10. INSTRUCTORS IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COURSES BY REGION



Source: Participants database of courses CREHO. 2004 - 2009

PARTICIPATION OF CREHO AS SPEAKER IN THIRD PARTIES EVENTS

More than 2000 people have reached through events, such as courses, symposiums, forums, workshops, among others, that were organized by other institutions and in which CREHO has been invited to collaborate as a speaker.



PRESENTATION OF THE BAY OF PANAMA AS A NEW RAMSAR SITE

2004

Taking place on January 26, 2004 with an attendance of approximately 50 people. The event was organized by ANAM and Panama Audubon Society.

WORKSHOP OF INTRODUCTION TO STRATEGIC PLANNING

It was carried out in Panama in February 2005. The workshop was directed at the Solidarity Network of Organizations and 10 participants attended.

2005

COURSE “MANAGING WATER AND WATER RESOURCES THROUGH IMPLEMENTING THE RAMSAR CONVENTION”

A side event of the Summit on Sustainable Development (SSD13). It was carried out on April 18, 2005 in New York, USA and organized by the Ramsar Convention along with the Wetland Training Service of the Dutch Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment. The attendance was approximately 20 individuals coming from participant countries of the SSD 13.



II LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICIES

It was carried out in Panama in July 2005 with more than 60 participants from judicial offices of the Environment Ministries of Latin American countries took part in the training organized by PNUMA-ROLAC.

CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA



It was carried out in February 2005 by the department Architecture of the University of Panama and around 200 people participated, including students, professors, and the general public.

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE STRI

March 2, 2005, carried out by STRI along with Marviva Foundation. The meeting addressed issues of coastal-marine importance was attended by approximately 40 persons.



Regional Workshop of IABIN

Carried out in Panama on June 23, 2005 with the participation of approximately 20 people. Workshop directed at Amazonian countries members of IABIN (Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Venezuela).

SYMPOSIUM OF THE WETLANDS MANAGERS ASSOCIATION



Carried out from October 19 - 22, 2005, in Kansas City, Missouri, USA , with the attendance of more than 300 participants.

COP9 RAMSAR SIDE EVENT

Participation in the side events: “Wetlands knowledge, dates, monitoring and assessment” organized by Wetlands International with an approximated attendance of 100 participants; and in the side event “Wetland Management Training Needs”, organized by RIZA/ WetCap with the attendance of 100 participants. The COP9 Ramsar was carried out in Uganda, from November 8-15, 2008.



WORKSHOP “INTRODUCTION TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS”

2006

Carried out in Panama in June 2006 and directed at civil servants of the ANAM at national level, that work with river basins. CREHO presented the resolutions of the Ramsar Convention related to river basins. 40 participants attended this workshop organized by IUCN.

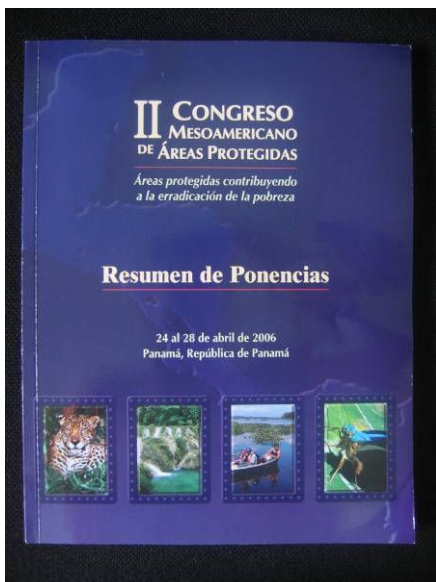


III LATIN AMERICAN REGIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICIES

Carried out in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from June 20- 30, 2006. Approximately 60 participants from the juridical offices of Environment Ministries of Latin American countries took part in the training organized by PNUMA-ROLAC.

II MESOAMERICAN PROTECTED AREAS CONGRESS SYMPOSIUM: REGIONAL STATE POLICIES, REGIONAL INITIATIVES AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

It took place in Panama City, from April 24 - 28, 2006. CREHO presented “Regional Initiatives in Wetlands of International Importance” with emphasis in the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands and the Central American Policy for the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands. The attendance was around 100 participants. CREHO also participated in the workshop “Integration of IBAs into existing initiatives of conservation in Mesoamerica” where CREHO tied this subject to the Ramsar Convention. 30 participants attended this workshop organized by Birdlife International.





XI LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL MEETING OF THE COUNTRIES PARTY TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION

Carried out in Panama City, Panama, from July 17- 21, 2006. CREHO, by allocation of the Convention Secretariat, presented on the Ramsar Convention and the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands with an attendance of more than 100 people.



I SYMPOSIUM OF WETLANDS OF ECUADOR

It was carried out from July 24 - 28, 2006. The proposed objective was the integration of scientific and technical contributions to the conservation of wetlands in Ecuador. CREHO participated within the framework to strengthen the knowledge and use of the guidelines and technical guides of the Ramsar Convention. Participation exceeded 100 attendees.



CONFERENCE ON BUILDING CAPACITIES FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL- MARINE RESOURCES

Took place in Panama on November 13, 2006. The event of international character was conducted within the framework of the meeting of the Committee for the Creation of Capacities for Coastal Management of the Academy of Sciences of the USA. The result of this conference was the publication "Increasing Capacity for Stewardship of Oceans and Coasts" from the National Research Council. The conference totaled approximately 100 participants.

II SYMPOSIUM OF WETLANDS OF ECUADOR AND I INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WETLANDS

2007

The symposium was carried out from August 1- 4, 2007, in Cuenca, Ecuador. For the second consecutive year, CREHO participated as a speaker within the framework of strengthening the use of the technical guidelines of the Ramsar Convention. Approximately 200 participants were in attendance.

2008

FORUM WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CELEBRATION OF MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM DEFENSE DAY

CREHO realized the presentation “What are Mangroves? And what benefits do they offer us?”. This event was organized by several groups of the environmental civil society in Panama on July 23, 2008, in the Tupper Center of the STRI, Panama City, and 60 people attended.



WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT EVALUATION

The workshop was directed at the technicians staff of the Authority of the Aquatic Resources of Panama that at the national level are in charge of evaluating the Environmental Impact Studies. 50 participants attended, and it was carried out in Panama City on August 16, 2008.



FIRST CONVENTION ON WETLANDS OF THE ASIAN CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLANDS SCIENTISTS

It was carried out in the City of Taipei, Taiwan, from October 23 - 26, 2008. During this event, CREHO participated by offering a report, which cited the activities and benefits of CREHO in the Americas. Attendance exceeded 300 participants.



INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR COMMEMORATING THE INAUGURATION OF GYEONGNAM RAMSAR ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION

Carried out on October 28, 2008, in the Changwon National University, Province of Gyeongnam, South Korea and attended by approximately 100 participants.

PARTICIPATION OF CREHO AS A GUEST TO EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THIRD PARTIES

CREHO participates in events related to wetlands issues organized by other institutions. As CREHO's headquarters are located in Panama, most of the events attended were held in this country.



INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF RIVER BASINS WORKSHOP

2004

Realized in Panama on January 29, 2004, and was organized by UICN-ORMA for its partners in this country.

REGIONAL CONSULTATION WORKSHOP OF THE WORLD PROGRAM OF ACTION (WPA) FOR THE WIDER CARIBBEAN

Took place in Panama, in February 2004. Organized by CATHALAC / GPA / UNDP / NOAA / ANAM.



STRI MONTHLY CONFERENCE

The theme of the meeting held on April 23, 2004, was "Sustainable Development - Projects Executed in Panama".

III SYNERGIES OF CCAD TECHNICAL COMMITTEES MEETING

The third meeting of synergies of the Technical Committees on wetlands of the Central American Commission of Environment and Development was carried out in San Salvador, El Salvador, from September 21- 23, 2004. CREHO participated as a guest and undertook a presentation on the state of the centre's progress. The committee members expressed their support for the CREHO management.



WORKSHOP FOR THE ELABORATION OF THE DRAFT FOR THE PANAMA PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM LAW

2005

In March 2005, CREHO participated in consultations conducted by ANAM for the preparation of this document.

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS (MEAs)



Took place in Mexico from March 7-10, 2005. After consulting with the Convention Secretariat, CREHO gave a presentation about the Ramsar Convention. The workshop was part of a process that concluded with a document entitled "Manual of Compliance and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements" UNEP (2006). Approximately 50 participants attended.

WORKSHOP ON "IDENTIFICATION AND COUNTING SHOREBIRDS"



The workshop was held in Panama during October 2005. CREHO participated in a series of events related to the Designation Ceremony of the Ramsar Site Bay of Panama as a Site of Hemispheric Importance for Shorebirds by WHSRN. Organized by Panama Audubon Society and ANAM.

RAMSAR COP9 SIDE EVENTS



CREHO attended two side events of the Ramsar COP9. The event was organized by Wetland Link International "WWT Wetland CEPA in Action" where about 40 people participated. The second event was the Meeting of the Ramsar Regional Center for Central and West Asia with representatives of member countries in Asia, which was attended by around 20 people.



CMS CONTRACTING PARTIES CONVENTION

CREHO participated in the Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Meeting, which took place in Nairobi, on November 22, 2005. CREHO gave a presentation about the organization and the priorities for training. As a result, were co-organized in 2007, the Regional Workshop for Policy Makers of Latin America where 12 high-level participants attended.

2006

2006 WHMSI CONFERENCE

Took place in San Jose, Costa Rica, in January 2006 with the participation of 60 representatives of governments and NGOs. During the meeting, a regional proposal was elaborated and submitted to the GEF. Since this event, CREHO has actively participated in this initiative, in particular through its dissemination. Organized by USFWS and MINAE.

BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP WITH ITS PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS IN CENTRAL AMERICA

Panama, April 2006. Partners of Birdlife International from 7 countries of Central America participated to evaluate the progress of the implementation of IBAs in the region.



CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP FOR THE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM (SGP) NATIONAL STRATEGY

Organized by the UN and held in Panama on August 2, 2006. The workshop focused on the formulation of the National Biodiversity Policy.

COURSE ON “BIODIVERSITY AS A STRATEGIC FACTOR FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Organized by the UN and held in Panama on August 3, 2006.



**CONFERENCE "PROMOTING MARINE CONSERVATION
IN THE TROPICAL EASTERN PACIFIC THROUGH
THE DESIGNATION OF UNESCO SITES"**

Took place in Panama on August 9, 2006, and organized by STRI.



**FIRST MEETING OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES**

Took place in Bolivia from December 4- 5, 2006. It was attended to present WHMSI. At the meeting, three areas were analyzed: integrated water resources management, reducing the risks of natural disasters, and sustainability of agriculture, forestry and tourism. In regards to CREHO, the strategic action area 3.1 of sustainable agriculture in relation to the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources was contemplated. The meeting was organized by the OAS.



**MEETING OF THE RAMSAR STANDING COMMITTEE
FOR CAPACITY BUILDING**

2007

CREHO participated as an observer at the meeting held in Delft, The Netherlands, in June 2007.

**CONSULTATION WORKSHOP
"USES AND THREATS OF WETLANDS IN PANAMA"**

2008

Took place in Panama on August 1, 2008. The results of this workshop were the main input to the wetland proposal submitted to GEF by ANAM. CREHO assisted in the logistical coordination, methodological design and production of the event memory, and made a presentation entitled "The Ramsar Convention and wetlands". The event included 35 participants.



**FORUM "THE FUTURE OF PANAMA AND MINING:
AN ANALYSIS OF MINING ACTIVITY AND OTHER ALTERNATIVES"**

It took place in Panama City, Panama, on January 24 - 25, 2008. Organized by the Environmental Advocacy Center and ANCON.

**FORUM "FIGHTS AGAINST CLIMATIC CHANGE:
SOLIDARITY IN A DIVIDED WORLD"**

Organized by the UNDP, the Environment Strategic Alliance and ANAM. It was carried out in Panama City, Panama, on August 21, 2008.



**PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE REGION
IN REGARDS TO SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

The reporting was in Panama at the City of Knowledge Convention Center on September 25, 2008. Organized by the Status of the Region Project and the City of Knowledge.

I CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT PROJECTS FAIR

Took place in Panama City, Panama, on October 14, 2008. A conference with Felipe Canturias, Regional VP of SABMiller Corporate Affairs, and the presentation of 37 project proposals to the private sector. Organized by Cervecería Nacional and the Global Compact, Chapter Panama.

**REGIONAL TRAINING FOR JOURNALISTS IN THE
MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

2009

Took place in Panama City on March 26- 2, 2009, and organized by the Global Water Partnership, in collaboration with the Panama Canal Authority and ANAM.

**FORUM FOR SUSTAINABILITY “CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO PANAMA IN THE
NEW GREEN ECONOMY”**

CREHO attended this forum that took place on June 8, 2009, which was organized by ANAM, UNEP and CIDES.



PRESENTATION OF THE “SINGLE WINDOW” AND DECREE #123

On September 4, 2009, CREHO attended ANAM's official presentation of the Single Window and Decree #123 (August 14, 2009), which regulates environmental impact studies in Panama.

**PRESENTATION OF CORPORATIVE PROJECTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL
SOCIAL INVESTMENTS – CERVECERIA NACIONAL**

CREHO attended the official presentation of the project which won the support of Cervecería Nacional as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility Program. The event took place in Panama City on September 11, 2009.



WORKSHOP ON LEARNING THROUGH OBJECTS AND COLLECTIONS

On September 10 -11, 2009, CREHO participated in the Workshop on Learning Through Objects and Collections that was organized by the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute.

THE GREEN PATH AT THE PANAMA CANAL

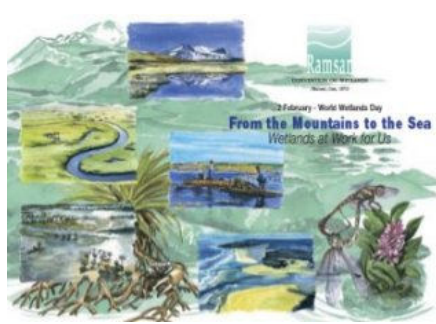
CREHO attended the presentation of “The Green Path at the Panama Canal”, a strategy being developed by the Panama Canal Authority to address the environmental challenges of reducing the effects of the greenhouse gases; the event took place on Saturday, September 12, 2009, in Panama City.

CELEBRATION OF WORLD WETLANDS DAY

PRO - WETLANDS CAMPAIGN

2004

On February 2, 2004, CREHO participated in the closure of the Pro -Wetlands campaign that was held in the Bay of Panama, as part of the World Wetlands Day celebration. CREHO also participated as a speaker. The event was organized by the Panama Audubon Society.



ACTIVITIES IN THE BAY OF PANAMA WETLANDS

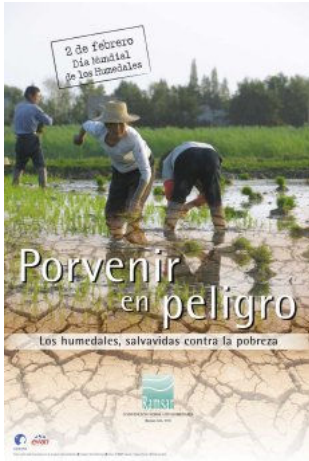
2005

On February 1- 2, 2005, interpretive tours, outdoor educational activities and a talk entitled "Wetlands and their relationship with northern shorebirds", were conducted in the Bay of Panama wetlands, where 150 children participated. CREHO coordinated activities with the support of Panama Audubon Society, CREA, ANAM.

SERIES OF LECTURES ON WETLANDS IN PANAMA



CREHO coordinated with the support of ANAM / ITTO, Panama Audubon Society, CREA, CEASPA, a series of lectures on wetlands which involved 60 representatives from government, NGOs and civil society.



EXHIBITION ABOUT THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

At the Panama Viejo Museum was held the posters exhibition about the Ramsar Convention and other posters alluding to wetlands, its biodiversity and the World Wetlands Day. In addition, a video of Ramsar entitle “Wetlands, water and sustainability” was presented.



2006

PARTICIPATION IN A RADIO PROGRAM

On February 15, 2006, CREHO participated in a National Environmental Authority radio program that was broadcasted on Radio Nacional. In addition, a press release about the celebration was sent to the media for publication on February 2- 3, 2006.

2007

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Tours, puppets shows and a symbolic planting of mangrove seedlings in the Bay of Panama wetland were realized. CREHO organized various activities with the support of ANAM, Panama Audubon Society and the Panama Viejo Patronage. The activities were attended by over 60 children. CREHO also supported the Ramsar Convention Secretariat with the regional distribution of materials for World Wetlands Day.

WORLD WETLANDS DAY PROMOTION

2008

Promotion of World Wetlands Day through the CREHO website. In the publication INFOWETLAND, a section was dedicated to activities realized in different parts of the Western Hemisphere. In addition, a press release on the celebration of this date was sent to the media for publication.

WORLD WETLANDS DAY PROMOTION

2009

The promotion of the Wetlands World Day took place via CREHO's Web Page. In INFOWETLAND, a section was dedicated to highlight activities that took place in many parts of the Western Hemisphere.

ACTIVITIES AT THE BAY OF PANAMA WETLANDS

In the framework of Panama's National Wetlands Committee, CREHO, together with ANAM, Panama Audubon Society and NATURA Foundation, supported the promotion and preparation of an event to raise consciousness and educate about wetlands that included a forum and a field trip to the Juan Diaz mangroves, Panama City. The event took place on February 3, 2009, and was attended by some 50 people.



ADAPTATION OF MATERIALS

CREHO carried out the adaptation, printing and distribution of 2000 copies of the brochure “9 things that we all have to know about watersheds”. This brochure was produced in the framework of the Panama National Wetlands Committee, thanks to the financial support of Wetlands International and the Panama Canal Authority.



CELEBRATION OF OTHER ENVIRONMENT DATES

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

2004

On June 8, 2004, the ACP with the Inter-Institutional Commission for the Canal Watershed conducted the workshop seminar “Reforestation and Protection of Water Resources”.



OCEANS MONTH CELEBRATION

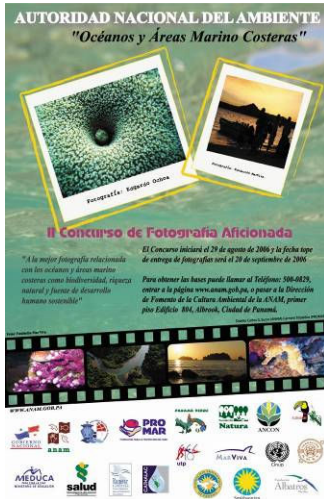
2005

In September 2005, there were a variety of activities within the framework of this celebration. In Panama, CREHO supported the Organizing Committee, composed by ANAM, Mar Viva, Pro Mar, the Ministry of Health and Panama Audubon Society.

2006

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

CREHO supported the organizing committee composed of civil society organizations and government institutions and attended the press conference and planting of seedlings, which took place in June 2006 in the Explora Interactive Museum.



OCEANS MONTH

In September 2006, CREHO offered its support to the organizing committee of the diverse activities that took place that month, mainly via press releases.

BLUE GOLD FESTIVAL

2007

On March 11, 2007, CREHO supported with environmental education speeches about wetlands and outdoor educational games in the Water Festival that took place at the National Park Summit in Panama, where more than 300 children.



CREHO PARTICIPATION IN FIELD TRIPS TO WETLANDS

2004

**TOUR TO CHEPILLO ISLAND,
BAY OF PANAMA RAMSAR SITE**

Held on January 31, 2004. The tour visited the Panama Audubon Society project put forth in the Community.

**TOUR TO THE FOREST RESERVE AND
THE FORTUNA HYDROELECTRIC PLANT**

The tour was held on July 3, 2004, and CREHO attended by invitation from the Panama Audubon Society and participated in a meeting with the Fortuna Hydroelectric personnel, where CREHO talked and explained about what the Ramsar Convention and wetlands are.



2006

VISIT TO THE BAY OF PANAMA WETLAND

In May 2006, the Senior Advisor for the Americas of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the Board of Directors of CREHO visited the environmental project of a local organization located in a community located adjacent to Bay of Panama, a Wetland of International Importance.

TOURS TO THE RAMSAR SITE MONTIJO GULF

CREHO visited the Montijo area in September and October of 2006 to locate areas of field work for the courses it organizes.



TOUR TO THE EASTERN ZONE OF THE PANAMA BAY

2007

On April 3, 2007, a tour to the Panama Bay Eastern Zone was realized to locate field trips areas for the EIA and SEA courses that CREHO organizes, given the rapid urbanization process that was outlined in this area. The tour was coordinated by ANAM with assistance from Panama Audubon Society and CREHO.



TOUR TO THE CHAME MANGROVES

2008

The tour to the Chame mangroves area was conducted in September 2008 and was coordinated within the framework of the Panama National Wetland Committee.



SUB- OBJECTIVE

2.2 To produce informative, bibliographical and documentary material to contribute to the best knowledge of Wetlands.



2005

POSTERS ON WETLANDS

In February 2005, students in the ecology course, Department of Architecture at the University of Panama, developed 12 poster designs on the importance of conserving mangrove ecosystems.

PARTICIPATION IN A RADIO PROGRAM

In 2005, CREHO participated in the radio program of ANAM, broadcasted on Radio Nacional and conducted several interviews with various local media outlets that contacted CREHO by reference of the Office of Public Relations ANAM.



COLLABORATION IN PUBLICATIONS

During 2006, CREHO collaborated with the release of two important publications:

2006

- "Manual on Compliance & Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements," prepared and published by UNEP;
- "WOW The Wonders of Wetlands", edition translated to Spanish, which is a special version developed for Puerto Rico by Environmental Concern.

ELABORATION OF INFORMATIVE MATERIAL

CREHO produced a series of informative materials on wetlands, the Ramsar Convention and CREHO.

LOCAL MEDIA PRESENCE

CREHO collaborated in the publication of press, radio and television releases in local media about wetlands, the Ramsar Convention and CREHO. In addition, CREHO monitored the news related to wetlands in the region, and circulated information to key stakeholders in each country according to their areas of interest.

SUPPORT TO THE CEPA PROGRAM

CREHO supported the Ramsar Convention Secretariat through the CEPA program through monthly dissemination of information in Spanish between the networks related to this issue.



COLLABORATION IN PUBLICATIONS

2007

In June 2007, "Building a Participatory Conservation Experience. Lessons learned from community biomonitoring in the Bay of Panama wetland" was published. CREHO collaborated with Panama Audubon Society and GTZ in the editing of this publication. The Panama Bay Wetland has been named as IBA, a Ramsar Site and WHSRN Site.



Construyendo una Experiencia Participativa de Conservación

Lecciones aprendidas de biomonitoreo comunitario en el humedal Bahía de Panamá



LOCAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROMOTION OF WETLANDS

CREHO supported local efforts to promote wetlands, such as fairs and conferences. It also had the opportunity to be a panelist at two TV shows: "Mangroves: Ephemeral Treasure" of the program "Al Natural" which is produced by the Albatrosmedia Foundation and "Mangrove" of the program "Saving the Planet 3" from FETV Channel 5. Both programs were one hour in duration and were broadcast nation wide.

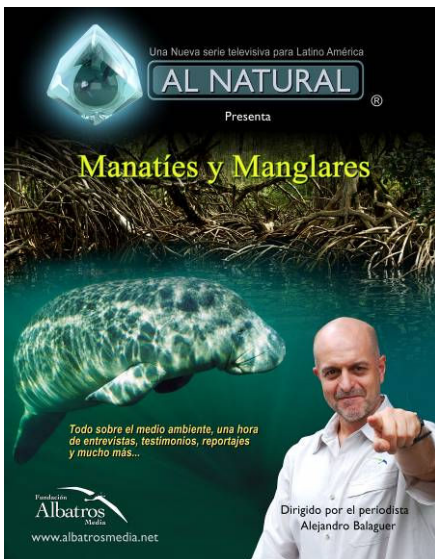
LOCAL MEDIA PRESENCE

2008

In 2008, CREHO had the opportunity to be a panelist at two TV shows: "Mangroves, wetlands and manatees." of "Al Natural" which is produced by the Albatrosmedia Foundation and broadcast in 11 countries of the region and "Mangroves" of the program "Saving the Planet 3" from FETV Channel 5 which was broadcast nationwide. In addition, CREHO provided feedback to the media and press releases, environmental networks, as well as providing and exchanging information via e-mail by request.

ELABORATION OF INFORMATIVE MATERIAL

CREHO produced leaflets and advertisements for the "III International Course on Wetland Management: Formulation of Management Plans" and the III International Course on EIA and SEA for Wetlands Management " with the aim of promoting the courses to those potentially interested in participating.



PREPARATION OF INFORMATIVE MATERIAL

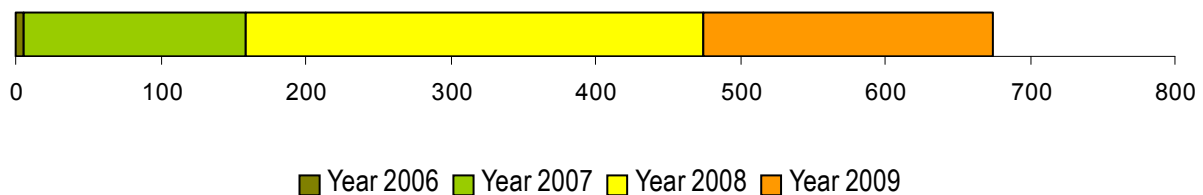
2009

CREHO prepared a leaflet for the ‘Economic cooperation program for technical training of professionals in the Americas’ with the objective of sharing knowledge with potential donors on the importance of technical training on wetlands issues in order to promote an interest in support through complete scholarships for participation of professionals in the region; hence, they have the opportunity to be trained with CREHO.

INFORMATIVE BULLETIN INFOWETLAND

With nearly 700 subscribers, including individuals and organizations, INFOWETLAND positions CREHO as an informative reference in regards to the wetlands topic. It is a quarterly electronic publication with English and Spanish versions. It works like a channel of information where people interested in the topic of wetlands are informed of the successes taking place in the Western Hemisphere. To subscribe send your request via email info@creho.org. Bulletins published to date are available at www.creho.org.

**GRAPHIC 11. SUSCRIBERS TO THE INFORMATIVE BULLETIN INFOWETLAND
DECEMBER 2006 — DECEMBER 2009**



Source: Subscribers registry CREHO. 2004 - 2009

LAUNCH OF INFOWETLAND

2006

CREHO launched INFOWETLAND as an information service aimed at organizations, networks and the general public interested in the issue of wetlands. Two editions of the bulletin were published: "Wetlands as a Tool for Poverty Alleviation" (July 2006), theme of the celebration of WWD 2006 and "High Andean Wetlands (October 2006).

PUBLICATION OF INFOWETLAND

2007

The third edition of INFOWETLAND was launched with the theme "Wetlands and Fisheries" (February 2007), theme of the celebration of WWD 2007.

2008

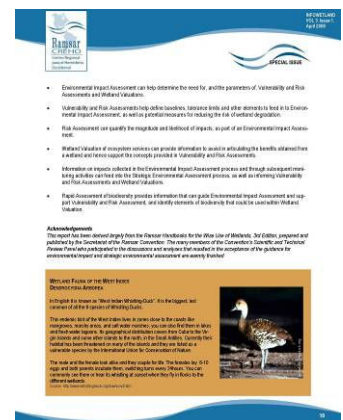
The 2008 edition focused on "The Evaluation of Impact and Wetlands" (April 2008), "Wetlands and their Relationship with Migratory Species." (July 2008) and "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People" (October 2008), theme of the celebration of WWD 2008.

PUBLICATION OF INFOWETLAND

MORE THAN 600 SUBSCRIBED TO INFOWETLAND

By 2009, INFOWETLAND positions itself as an informative reference on wetlands issues. It is delivered to more than 600 subscribers, including individuals, organizations and distribution networks in both its English and Spanish versions. The 2008 edition focused on "Wetlands and River Basin Management " (April 2009), theme of the celebration of WWD 2009; "Wetlands: Cradles of Biodiversity" (August 2009) and "Invasive Species on Wetlands" (December 2009).

2009



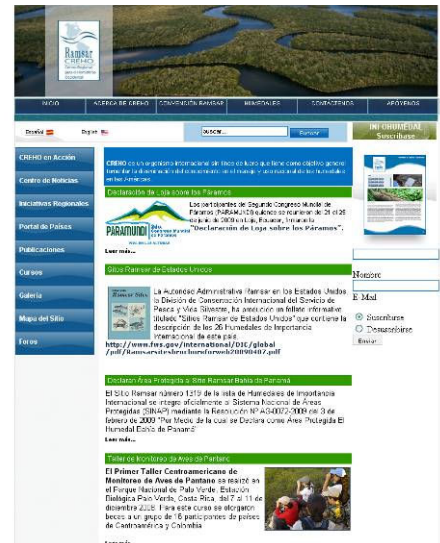
**WEB PAGE
WWW.CREHO.ORG**

Internet is a useful tool, versatile and used by an increasing number of individuals. It provides opportunities for information and both short and long term knowledge as well as access to a network of contacts that is expanding daily “on-line”. So, CREHO takes advantage of this powerful tool to make themselves known, to encourage integration of the countries in the Western Hemisphere, the exchange of experiences and to diffuse its activities. The link www.creho.org turns CREHO into a more accessible institution to its very diverse range of users.

**LAUNCH OF
WWW.CREHO.ORG**

2006

In October 2006, CREHO launched its Web Site: <http://www.creho.org> in Spanish and English.



**UPDATES TO
WWW.CREHO.ORG**

2007

CREHO's website is updated monthly with information, news and current documents on wetlands and related issues.

UPDATES TO WWW.CREHO.ORG

2008—2009

Besides the periodic updates that CREHO realizes every month with information, news and documents, a section on the homepage was devoted to courses organized by CREHO and features links to the webpages of the American countries that are members of the Ramsar Convention.

THIRD LINE OF ACTION

COOPERATION

Strategic Objective 3

Implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, by promoting scientific and technical cooperation and the exchange of experiences in the use and conservation of wetlands in the Western Hemisphere and other regions of the world.



SUB-OBJECTIVE

3.1 Creation of a network for monitoring wetlands in the region, for processing, studying and exchanging pertinent information to assist decision-making.



REGIONAL INITIATIVES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

CREHO participated actively in the Ramsar Convention regional initiatives for the Americas with the objective of adding to, rather than duplicating efforts and combining efforts, beginning with high-priority processes for the region and taking advantage of existing capabilities.



CREHO JOINS THE REGIONAL STRATEGY OF HIGH ANDEAN WETLANDS (EHAA) CONTACT GROUP

2004

CREHO participated in the Contact Group "Guidelines for Defining EHAA" First Workshop, which took place in Quito, Ecuador, on March 29- 30, 2004. As a result of the meeting, a draft of the EHAA was worked which included aspects of training.



WORKSHOP OF FORMULATION OF THE EHAA

2005

In this workshop, held in Salta, Argentina, from February 12- 17, 2005, CREHO participated as part of the EHAA Contact Group. In the Plan of Action, training was included as an objective and CREHO’s role was defined. In addition, CREHO became a member of the Monitoring Committee of financial issues associated with the strategy formulation.

WORKSHOP FOR THE FORMULATION OF THE FINANCIAL STRATEGY OF THE EHAA

2006

Took place in Iquique, Chile, in May 2006. CREHO supported with the formulation and edition of the final documents, with which a regional proposal for the High Andean Wetlands was developed to be presented to potential funding sources. Representatives from 8 countries (Argentina, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Costa Rica) participated in the workshop, as well as the Paramo Group, the High Andean Flamingos Group and Ramsar partner organizations (IUCN and WWF).

COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE EHAA

2007

Within the Objectives 2 and 4 of the EHAA, in reference to the subject of capacity strengthening, CREHO presented an analysis of the need for strengthening, to thereby increase the base of information, in order to design a capacity strengthening plan specific to High Andean wetlands. The first results of the systematization of the information were presented to the EHAA Contact Group at the meeting that was held in Merida, Mexico in September 2007.

CREHO JOINS THE REGIONAL INITIATIVE OF THE PLATA RIVER BASIN CONTACT GROUP

In 2007, CREHO joined the Regional Initiative of the Plata Basin Contact Group by invitation from the group’s member countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay).



SUPPORT OF BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONAL PROPOSAL



CREHO supported Birdlife International’s proposal draft, prepared within the framework of EHAA, supported as well by the Waterbird Conservation Council for the Americas and the Government of Ecuador. The proposal was presented to the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act in November 2007.



WORKSHOP FOR DONORS OF THE EHAA

2008

CREHO, as part of the EHAA Contact Group, participated in a workshop for donors held in June 2008 in Colombia. Prior to the workshop, CREHO submitted a project concept for the High Andean wetlands to receive feedback from the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

WORKSHOP OF THE REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF HIGH ANDEAN WETLANDS

2009

From September 21- 25, 2009, in La Paz, Bolivia, the Sixth Workshop of the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands took place. CREHO participated as part of the contact group and became a member of the task group developing a proposal to improve the communication among members of the High Andean Wetlands Strategy contact group.

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL NETWORKS AND OTHER REGIONAL INITIATIVES

**INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(CIDES)**

2004

CREHO subscribes to CIDES and participated in the workshop where this network was created, held in Panama City, Panama from July 21- 23, 2004.

**WETLANDS LINK INTERNATIONAL AND
THE TNC LEARNING CENTER**

2005

CREHO established contact with international environmental networks, with the aim of identifying opportunities for implementation of joint actions, it subscribes to two regional networks with a focus on training issues and the environment. These networks are: Wetlands Link International and TNC Learning Center.

PANAMA'S NATIONAL WETLANDS COMMITTEE

2006

The ANAM, with support from CREHO, facilitated the process for establishing the Panama National Wetlands Committee. Similarly, CREHO organized in May 2006, an advising meeting and exchange of experiences between members of the Panama National Wetlands Committee, representatives and focal points from the Governments of Ecuador and El Salvador, and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.



**PARTICIPATION IN THE UNITED STATES
NATIONAL RAMSAR COMMITTEE**

2007

At the workshop held in Uncertain, Texas, in November 2007, CREHO proposed the development of a simple induction guide for personnel working in wetlands declared as Ramsar sites. The preparation of the guide began in 2009.

WATERBIRD CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR THE AMERICAS



CREHO participated as a member at the meeting that took place in Quito, Ecuador, from January 15 - 19, 2007. At this meeting, CREHO was offered to support in the area of training.

PANAMA'S NATIONAL WETLANDS COMMITTEE

During 2007, CREHO supported the Panama's National Wetlands Committee with the convocation of monthly meetings and by providing facilities for such meetings. Also it collaborated with the procurement of information, contacts and follow-up on key issues. Importantly, thanks to the Panamanian National Wetlands Committee the identification of potential new Ramsar sites was facilitated as well as the declaration of protected area of other areas with significant wetlands within Panamanian territory. In addition, Panama's National Wetlands Committee provided technical advice during consultations on the impact of development projects in wetlands.

**WESTERN HEMISPHERE MIGRATORY
SPECIES INITIATIVE (WHMSI)**

2008

CREHO designed the website for the initiative. The presentation of www.whmsi.net was made at the Third WHMSI Conference, held in Paraguay from July 22- 25, 2008.



WATERBIRD CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR THE AMERICAS

CREHO participated in the meeting that carried out in Nayarit, Mexico from January 14 -18, 2008. The meeting approved the implementation of the First Central American Workshop on the Monitoring of Swamp Birds, which was co-coordinated by CREHO along with other Council members.

2009

WATERBIRD CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR THE AMERICAS

At the beginning of January 2009, CREHO participated in the annual meeting of Waterbird Conservation Council for the Americas that took place on the Caribbean island of Anguilla. The 2010 meeting will take place in Panama, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Hemispheric Council of the WHSRN.

PANAMA’S NATIONAL WETLANDS COMMITTEE



During 2009, CREHO supported the Panama National Wetlands Committee by convening its monthly meetings and preparing its 2006-2008 report. It also provided advice with respect to the inventory of and policy for wetlands in Panama.

CREHO BECOMES A MEMBER OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE FORMULATION OF PANAMA’S WETLANDS NATIONAL POLICY



In 2009, CREHO was invited to become a member of the Technical Advisory Committee in charge of establishing the guidelines for the formulation of a proposal for Panama.

SUB-OBJECTIVE

3.2 Coordination of the establishment of a network for distributing information, technology and research carried out by CREHO.



WETLANDS DOCUMENTATION CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS

DONATION OF MATERIAL BY IUCN-ORMA

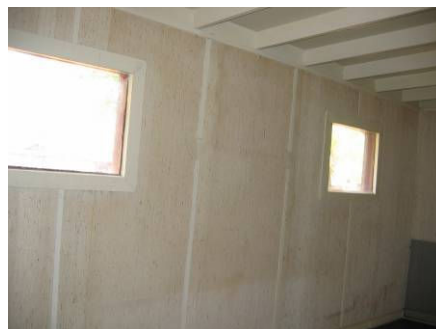
2005

In March 2005, IUCN-ORMA donated material to CREHO from the Documentation Center of the Conservation Area of Wetlands and Coastal Zones for Mesoamerica. This donation was made under the framework of the Cooperation Agreement and Letter of Understanding signed with IUCN.

INFRASTRUCTURE ADJUSTMENT

2006

In January 2006, CREHO began the task of adapting a space within its facilities to house the Documentation Center on Wetlands for the Americas. Work was completed in September 2006.



THE DOCUMENTATION CENTER OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

2007

On January 2007, the Documentation Center on Wetlands, a specialized library on the subject of wetlands, opens to the public.

CREHO MAKES CONTACT WITH THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF PANAMA

2008

The Documentation Center on Wetlands provided attention to those who approached it to consult bibliographical references. In 2008, CREHO contacted the National Library of Panama, for advice on different options for the systematization of the information contained in this documentation center, which continues to grow every day thanks to the various publications that CREHO has received through donations from the public and private entities around the world.



MAINTENANCE AND UPDATE OF THE DOCUMENTATION CENTER

2009

During 2009, the Wetlands Documentation Center provided assistance to those who came to consult its bibliographic references. CREHO is currently developing a proposal to digitize the information available in order to facilitate its access, thus benefitting a larger number of people throughout the region.

SUB-OBJECTIVE

3.3 Establish technical cooperation agreements with universities and research institutions, governmental organizations and intergovernmental and nongovernmental institutions locally, regionally and globally.



STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

2005

SIGNING OF A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF KNOWLEDGE AND CREHO

City of Knowledge and CREHO signed a Cooperation Agreement on February 2005.

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN CATHALAC AND CREHO

On February 2005, CATHALAC and CREHO signed the Framework agreement .



COOPERATION AGREEMENT AND A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UICN-ORMA AND CREHO

CREHO and UICN-ORNA signed on February 2, 2005, a framework agreement for cooperation between institutions.

VISIT TO THE USFWS OFFICES IN WASHINGTON

USFWS financed the visit with the objective of establishing future partnerships with key organizations and identifying potential partners or donors. The visit took place from May 9- 13, 2005. USFWS has been a strategic ally of CREHO in fulfilling our training goal through the aid of its international program "Wildlife without Borders" for Latin America and the Caribbean.



ESTABLISHMENT OF CONTACT WITH WETLANDS INTERNATIONAL

2007

WI contacted CREHO in order to develop a joint proposal and make a visit to the Canadian Cooperation Agency. In 2007, conversations to create an alliance began. In December, CREHO attended the sixth meeting of the Association of Members and Symposium Healthy Wetlands Healthy People. Events were organized by WI and held in China. In late 2008, the Program Office for Latin America of WI was established within CREHO’s facilities in the City of Knowledge, Panama.



SUBSCRIPTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

On February 1, 2007, CREHO subscribed to the UN Global Compact. Since then, it participates in the activities developed by the Global Compact Network, Panama Chapter.



Red Pacto Global
Panama

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH WHMSI

2008

On July 22, 2008 during the Third WHMSI Conference Which was held in Paraguay, CREHO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WHMSI based upon the premise that both initiatives will identify ways of working together using their strengths



WHMSI

FOLLOW-UP TO OTHER POTENTIAL AGREEMENTS

CREHO started preliminary conversations with IMWEN and Cooperative Institutes of Taiwan. Similarly, drafts of the agreement with the Ramsar Regional Center of Korea and the other with CONANP were prepared. Also, it engaged in conversations with the Panama Audubon Society for a possible agreement. CREHO established contacts with specialists in subjects regarding Wetlands for future collaboration.

CHANGWON DECLARATION NETWORK MEETING

2009

On November 18 - 19, 2009, CREHO attended the first meeting of the Changwon Declaration Network that took place in Chagwon, Korea. The Changwon Declaration is a manifest characterized by its acknowledgement of the importance of wetlands as an important natural infrastructure in the water cycle, as well as a determining factor for the development of pertaining national strategies and plans to address issues related to climate change. The meeting was organized by the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia, with the support of the Korean Environmental Ministry. During the meeting, advances made in the implementation of the Declaration were presented, and mechanisms to promote the Declaration were proposed.



MEETINGS OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

31ST MEETING OF THE RAMSAR STANDING COMMITTEE

2005

At this meeting held in Gland, Switzerland, from June 6- 10, 2005. CREHO followed up its request for financial support from the budget of the Ramsar Convention for the triennium 2006-2008. The submission of this proposal was approved at the COP9 Ramsar.



**CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES
TO THE RAMSAR CONVENTION — COP9**

CREHO attended RAMSAR COP9 sessions and regional meetings of the Americas as part of the support team for the Americas of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. Similarly at the regional meeting of the Americas, CREHO talked about issues related to training needs and existing mechanisms to develop a training program in the Americas. At this meeting, CREHO distributed digital and printed material to all participants (about 50). In addition, CREHO followed up the approval of the budget allocation of regional initiatives for the triennium 2006-2008.



36 MEETING OF THE RAMSAR STANDING COMMITTEE

2006

CREHO participated in the Ramsar Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention Meeting, carried out in Gland, Switzerland, from April 10- 13, 2006, providing follow-up for the regional initiatives.

MEETING OF CEPA OVERSIGHT PANEL

2007

Conducted in the Netherlands from June 20- 21, 2007. CREHO contributed in the process of formulation of the CEPA program for 2009 - 2015. The same was adopted by Ramsar COP10 Resolution by means of the Resolution X.8. CREHO attended this meeting representing the Ramsar Regional Centers.



4TH. MEETING OF THE ADVISORY BOARD ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

Took place in Delft, the Netherlands, in June 2007. CREHO attended as an observer.

WORKSHOP “BUILDING CAPACITIES REGARDING WETLANDS”



Took place in Delft, the Netherlands, on June 19, 2007. It was a joint Workshop of the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention and the CEPA Oversight Panel. At the workshop, technical concepts relating to building capacities were defined and granted approval and the roles between different actors in the topic were discussed.

XXXVI MEETING OF THE RAMSAR STANDING COMMITTEE

2008

The meeting was held in Gland, Switzerland from February 25- 29, 2008. CREHO followed up the request for financial support from the budget of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat for the triennium 2009-2012. The application was submitted for presentation at the COP10 Ramsar.



CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE RAMSAR CONVENTION — COP10

CREHO participated in the Ramsar COP10 held in Changwon, South Korea, from October 28 to November 4, 2008. Follow-up was conducted concerning the approval of the 2009-2012 budget. In addition, CREHO organized a side event where it presented the progress made and awards were given to past and outgoing members of the Board of Directors of CREHO. Also, informative materials about the courses that CREHO has organized were distributed. CREHO participated in its last meeting as a member of the CEPA Oversight Panel.



PROJECTS FUNDED BY THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

2005

**PROJECT OF CURRICULAR ADAPTATION FOR TEACHERS
“THE WONDERFUL MANGROVES OF GUATEMALA”**

CREHO participated in a workshop with teachers and community members of Tilapa, a Ramsar Site in Guatemala, with the objective of developing the adaptation of the environmental education on wetlands manual. The workshop was held on March 29 - 30, 2005 and involved 5 people. It was coordinated by Mangrove Action Project and Friends of the Forest (Coatepeque branch).



**LATIN AMERICAN SEMINAR "PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT:
LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE EXPERIENCE"**

CREHO was a speaker. The seminar was held in Sarapiquí, Costa Rica, from September 23- 28, 2005. At this seminar a framework draft for action on Participatory Management was produced, included as additional support to Resolution VIII.36 for Ramsar COP9. It was coordinated by FUNGAP and approximately 20 participants attended from Latin American countries.

2006

**PROJECT OF CURRICULAR ADAPTATION FOR TEACHERS
“THE WONDERFUL MANGROVES OF GUATEMALA”**

CREHO participated in the workshop that was held in Ramsar Site Manchon de Guamuchal , Guatemala, from April 14 - 23, 2006. About 30 people attended this workshop, held especially for teachers and community members, where training was conducted in the use of the manual "The Marvelous Mangroves" with the objective that these activities would be included as part of the school curriculum. It was coordinated by Mangrove Action Project in conjunction with Friends of the Forest (Coatepeque branch)



SUPPORT TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Additionally, CREHO has supported with technical guidance, information exchange and networking for various key stakeholders in the issue of wetlands both in the Western Hemisphere as well as the rest of the world.



“EVALUATING AND REVIEWING THE CRITERIA OF REPRESENTATIVENESS OF CIVIC NGO’S”

2004

For the preparation of this document, CREHO provided support to the Network of Active Citizen Participation and New Synergies in Development, providing precise information about Panama.

COLLABORATION WITH ANAM

2005

CREHO participated in various meetings and consultation activities carried out in projects on issues and legislation (draft for system of protected wilderness areas law, among others). Besides, CREHO provided information on wetlands to the Promotion of Environmental Culture Department and the Regional office of the ANAM in the province of Veraguas.

BINATIONAL WETLANDS

2006

Hugo Hidalgo, project coordinator of FUNDAECO for Coastal Marine, an NGO in Guatemala, made several consultations to CREHO concerning the guidelines established by the Ramsar Convention on binational wetland management.



INFORMATION SUPPLY ON WETLANDS

During the first half of 2006, CREHO provided a range of information on wetlands to ANAM officials, AMP, NGOs and students.

CONSULTATION ON GOODS AND SERVICES OF WETLANDS

CREHO collaborated on a query about goods and services of wetlands made by Royal C. Gardner, Professor of Law and Director of the Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida, United States.



CONSULTATION ON EFFECTS TO WETLANDS

The Parks Unit of the Ministry of Environment of Colombia consulted CREHO about the effects to which the Flamenco Park wetlands are prone.

WORKSHOP ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ON WETLANDS

CREHO provided support in the preparation of the workshop on environmental education issues in wetlands. The workshop was conducted by the Ecosystem Directorate, Office of Education.



TECHNICAL SUPPORT

In September 2006, CREHO provided technical support to the AMP on a visit made to the coastal area of Vacamonte, Panama. It also provided technical support to a community group in the area of Montijo, Panama.

ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSTIC

In September 2006, CREHO assessed the threats facing the Montijo Gulf Wetland of International Importance and provided a diagnosis in this regard.



WORKSHOP FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL WETLANDS CENTER IN EAST ASIA

2007

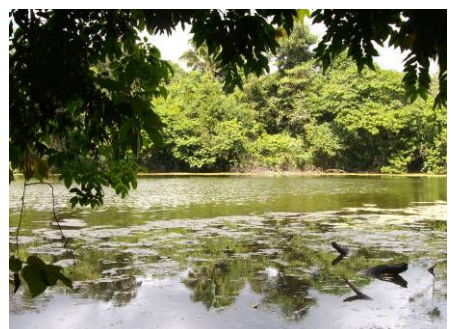
CREHO participated in the "Workshop for the Establishment of a Regional Wetlands Center in East Asia" which aimed to lay the groundwork for the establishment of the Ramsar Regional Center of East Asia. In addition, it provided information and shared experiences concerning the formation and growth of this rising regional center. The workshop took place in Changwon, Gyeongnam Province, South Korea, July 9 - 10, 2007.



PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT OF PROPOSAL ON WETLANDS

2008

CREHO supported the ANAM in the planning and review of the ANAM concept proposal to the GEF in relation to the component of wetlands. For it, it organized a workshop to identify priorities and threats to Panama's wetlands. 30 people participated, including representatives from the government and civil society. This workshop was funded by the kind support of NATURA Foundation and STRI. The report elaborated in this workshop is the basis for the proposal to be submitted to the GEF.





FOURTH LINE OF ACTION

OPERATIVE

Strategic Objective 4

Achievement of financial self-sufficiency, human resource capability and administrative efficiency.



SUB-OBJECTIVE

4.1 Establish the processes and systems of administration of human resources, finances, and accounting practices.



INSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS FOR ITS STRATEGIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL PROCESSES FOLLOW-UPS

Progressively, the necessary administrative tools and manuals for initial operations have been developed and established, allowing for proper accountability and providing transparency of the organization’s management.

DOCUMENTS ELABORATED

2004

- 2004 CREHO Profile
- Strategic Plan, composed of the following documents:
 1. Idea and Impact
 2. Analysis and field scope
 3. Subjects to consider
 4. Strategic Scheme
 5. Logical frame
 6. Basis for strategic planning. Program strategies
 7. Scoreboard and activities
- Board of Directors Internal Regulations
- Administrative Manual
- Financial Manual
- 2004 Semiannual Report
- 2004 Work Manual
- Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
- Board of Directors Act 2004





LOGO SELECTION

Of the 29 models that were presented as proposals for the CREHO logo, the one chosen and used to date is characterized by the CREHO acronym below the word RAMSAR, referring to the Convention, and a map of the Western Hemisphere in the background crossed by two curved lines simulating water.

REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS

2005

This document was prepared in April 2005. It includes the systematization of 79 of 145 forms sent to key stakeholders in the region. The result was the prioritization of thematic areas by region and sub-regional level. From the data obtained from these forms and their systematization, the following documents were also developed in October 2005:

- The Strategic Plan for Capacity Strengthening for Integrated Management of Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere.
- Regional Training Program on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere - CREHO.



OTHER ELABORATED DOCUMENTS

- Project Profiles for 2005
- Board of Directors Minutes 2005

LIST OF INSTITUCIONAL DOCUMENTS ELABORATED

2006

- CREHO Profile 2006
- Minute of the Internal Planning Workshop - 2006
- Regional Situation Analysis for Prioritizing Actions - 2006
- Methodological guide for training events - 2006



- Administrative Manual Update
- Financial Manual Update 2006
- Board of Directors Internal Regulations 2006
- Board of Directors Minutes 2006
- Board of Directors Act 2006

LIST OF INSTITUCIONAL DOCUMENTS ELABORATED

2007

- CREHO Profile 2007
- Annual Implementation Report 2007
- Program of conservation and wise use of wetlands - Programmatic guidelines - 2007
- Terms of reference for the establishment of the Scientific Advisory Committee (draft)
- Communications Strategy - 2007
- Communications and Branding Guide - 2007
- Guidelines for preparation of INFOWETLAND
- Fundraising Strategy - 2007
- Macro Proposals (Training Program - 2006)
- Board of Directors Minutes 2007

LIST OF INSTITUCIONAL DOCUMENTS ELABORATED

2008

- Program of Professional Practices, Internship Program & Volunteering - 2008
- Macro Communications Proposal - 2008
- Accounts Catalog –2008
- 2008 Board of Directors Minutes

In addition during 2008, CREHO began collecting data for the preparation of the following documents:

- Database of Course Alumni
- Database of Specialists and Instructors in Wetlands



LIST OF INSTITUTIONAL DOCUMENTS ELABORATED

2009



- Board of Directors Minutes 2009
- Accounts Catalog – 2009
- Economic cooperation program for technical training of professionals in the Americas
- Preliminary version of the CREHO Case Statement
- Digital Library Project for the Documentation Center on Wetlands for the Americas
- Updated Guidelines for preparation of INFOWETLAND

As well during 2009, CREHO continued collecting data for the update of the following documents:

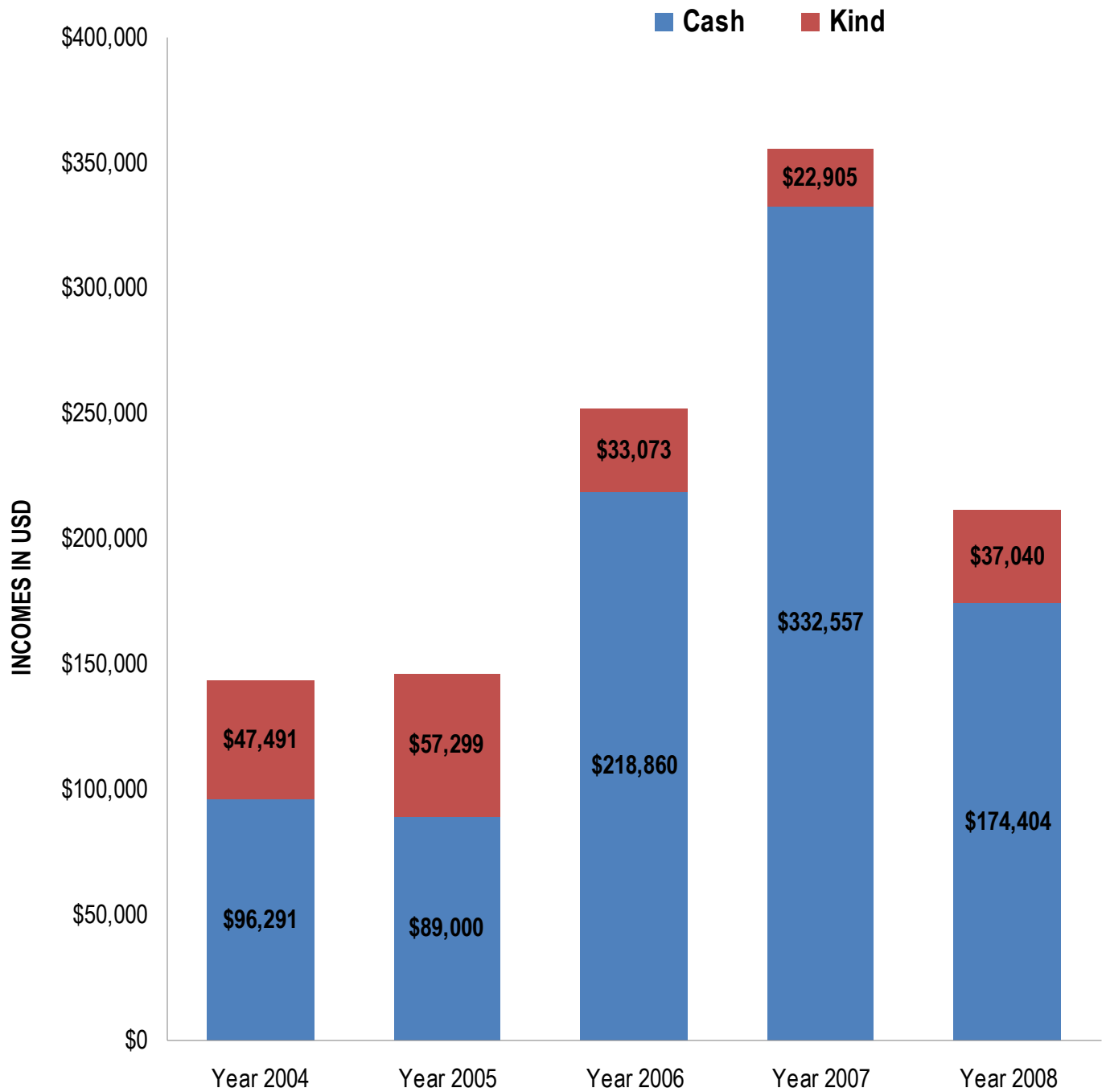
- Database of Course Alumni
- Database of Specialists and Instructors in Wetlands



ACCOUNTING

Since the establishment of CREHO in 2004, there has been an annual external audit with positive results each year.

GRAPHIC 12. CREHO'S INCOMES IN CASH AND KIND 2004 - 2008



Source: Bookkeeping of CREHO

SUB-OBJECTIVE

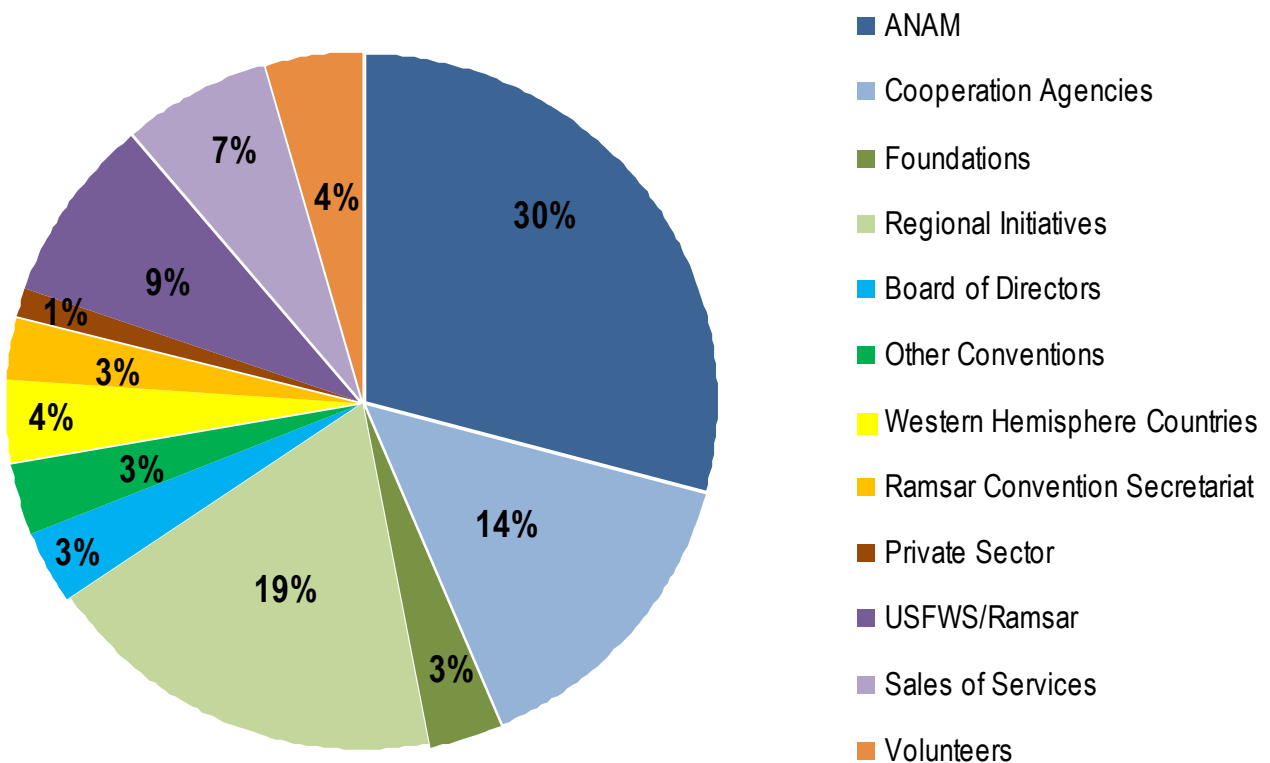
4.2 *Establish an efficient system of fundraising at the local and international level to achieve financial sustainability (operative and technical) of CREHO.*



FINANCIAL SUFFICIENCY

Since 2004, CREHO has made efforts to diversify the sources of their resources. Note that the seed money granted by ANAM during the creation of CREHO was key to initiating operations, therefore ANAM served as the main source of income in the beginning. In 2008, steps were taken toward self-management, still incipient but holding potential, via the courses offered by CREHO.

GRAPHIC 13. PERCENT OF TOTAL INCOME (CASH AND KIND) ACCORDING TO SOURCE 2004 - 2008



Source: Bookkeeping of CREHO

SUB-OBJECTIVE

4.3 *Establish the operating structure of CREHO, based upon its potential growth.*



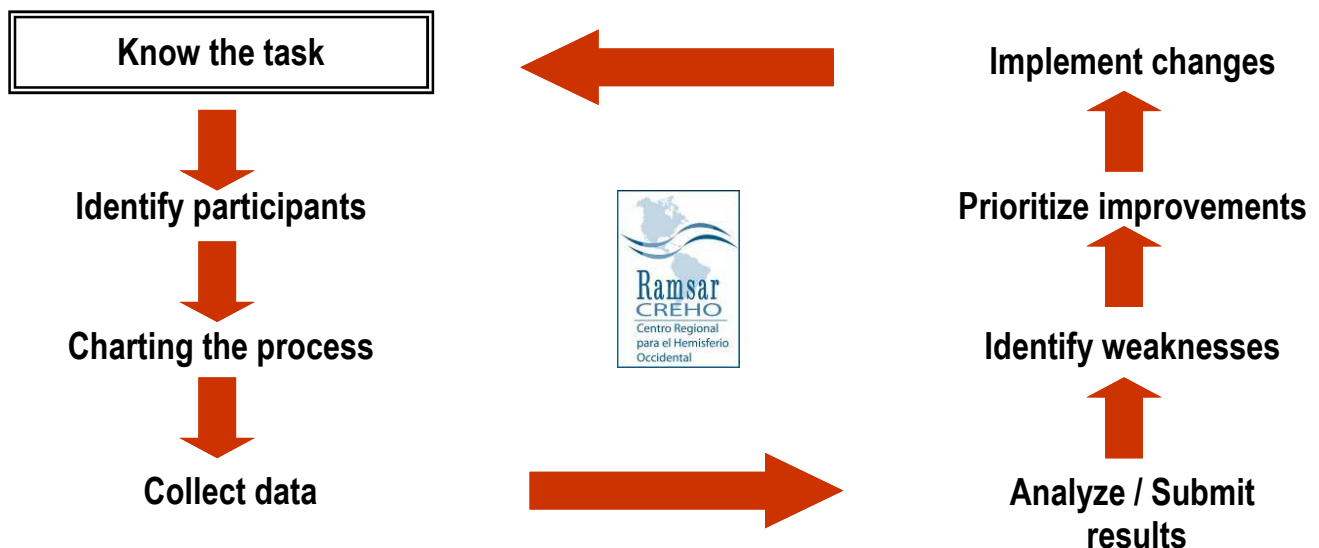
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

CREHO has been concerned with self-assessment during its development and has used a tool known as the Institutional Development Framework (IDF). The IDF is a tool that in general aids an organization to:

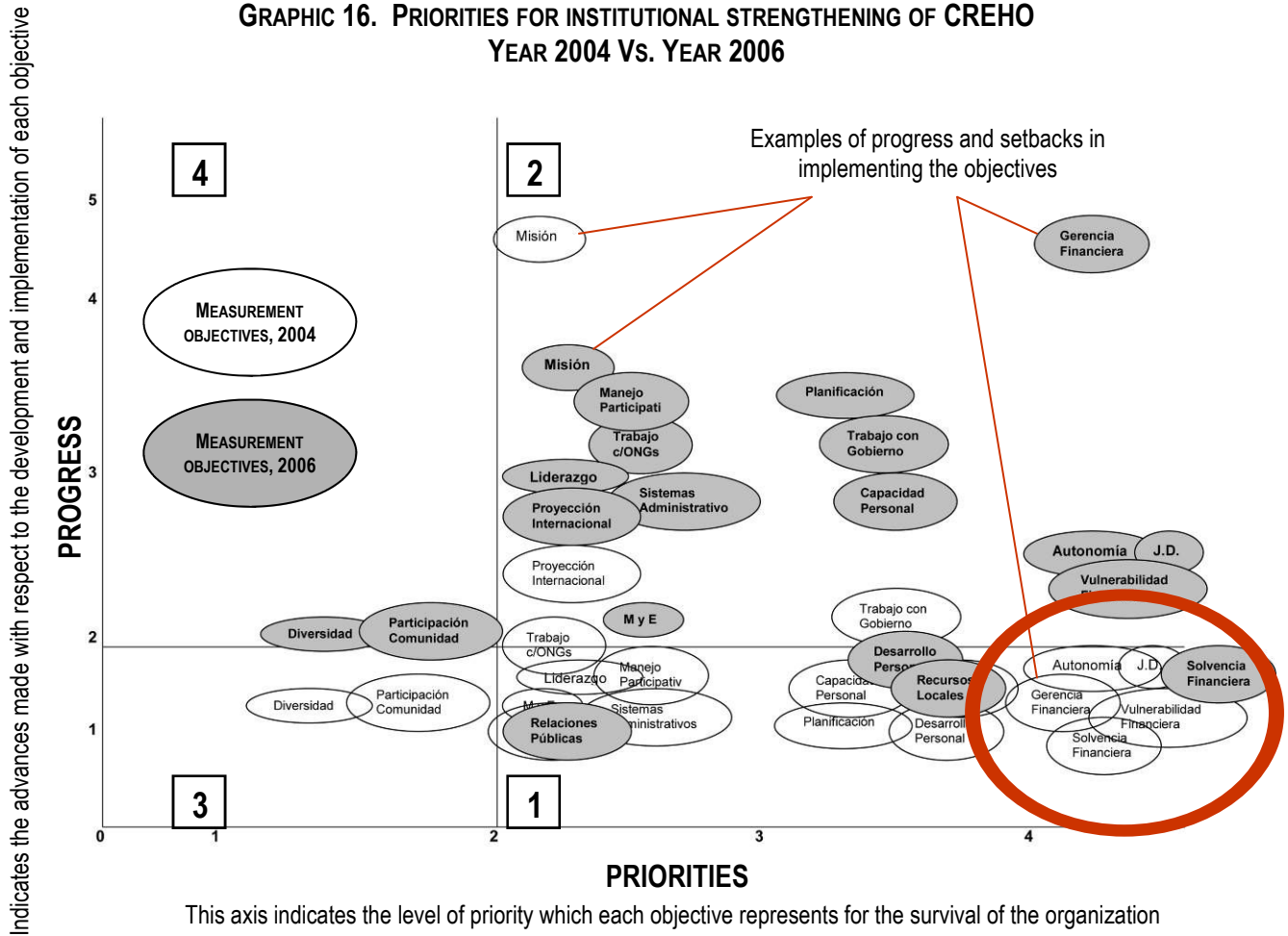
- Consider what makes organizations successful
- Evaluate strengths and weaknesses in light of these factors
- Formulate a plan of priorities to sustain strengths and address weaknesses
- Measure progress against the objectives set by the organization itself
- Effectively convey a message for potential donors

Development, which started from zero in year one of operation (2004) and on which progress has been progressively and steadily made between 2004 and 2009.

GRAPHIC 15. PROCESS MEASUREMENT THAT UNDERLIES IDF



**GRAPHIC 16. PRIORITIES FOR INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF CREHO
YEAR 2004 VS. YEAR 2006**



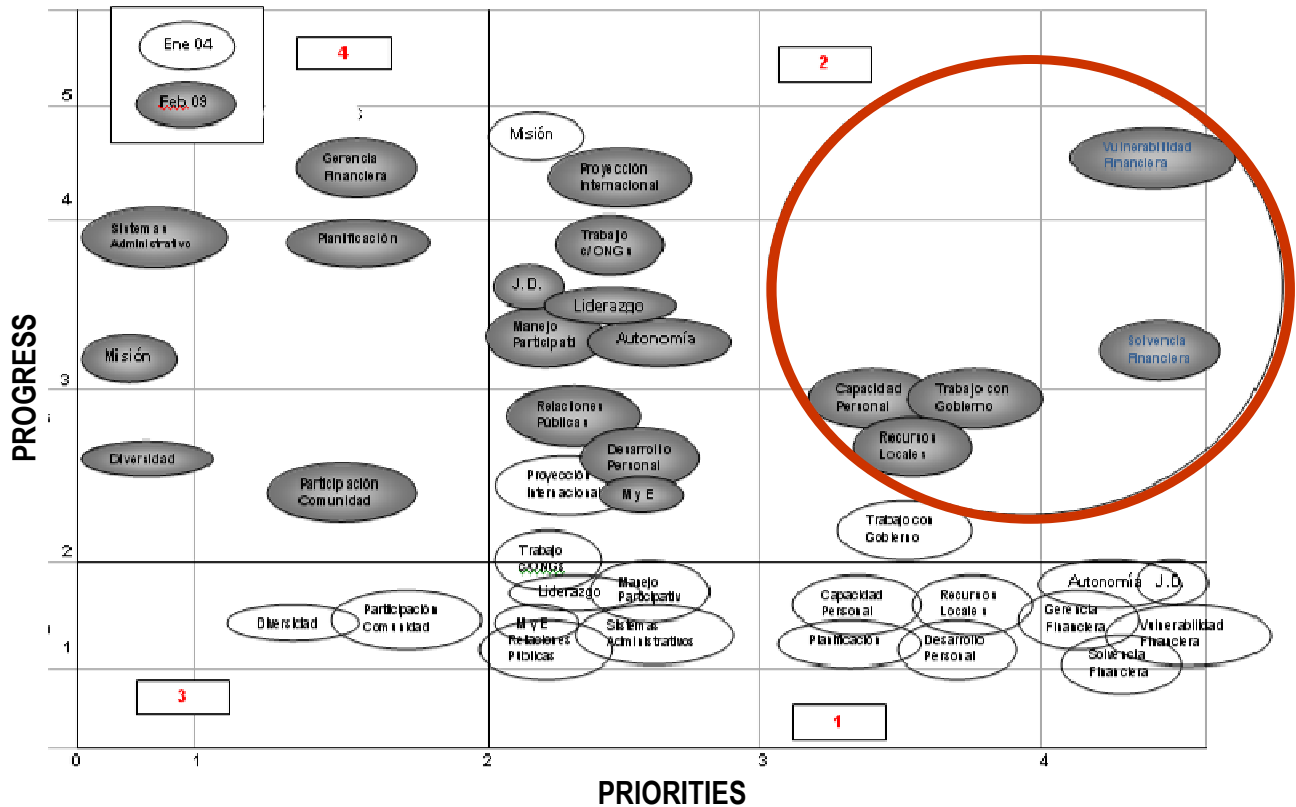
Source: Results of institutional evaluations conducted in 2004 and 2006 using MDI

The first evaluation with this method was conducted in January 2004, the second in November 2004, a third in March 2006 and a fourth in February 2009.

The priorities graphic, presents the priority of each aspect at any given time. The above mentioned is read from bottom to top and from left to right. We put a number in each quadrant to facilitate identification of priorities in each quadrant. Thus, we see that quadrant 1 is the highest priority and quadrant 4, the least priority.

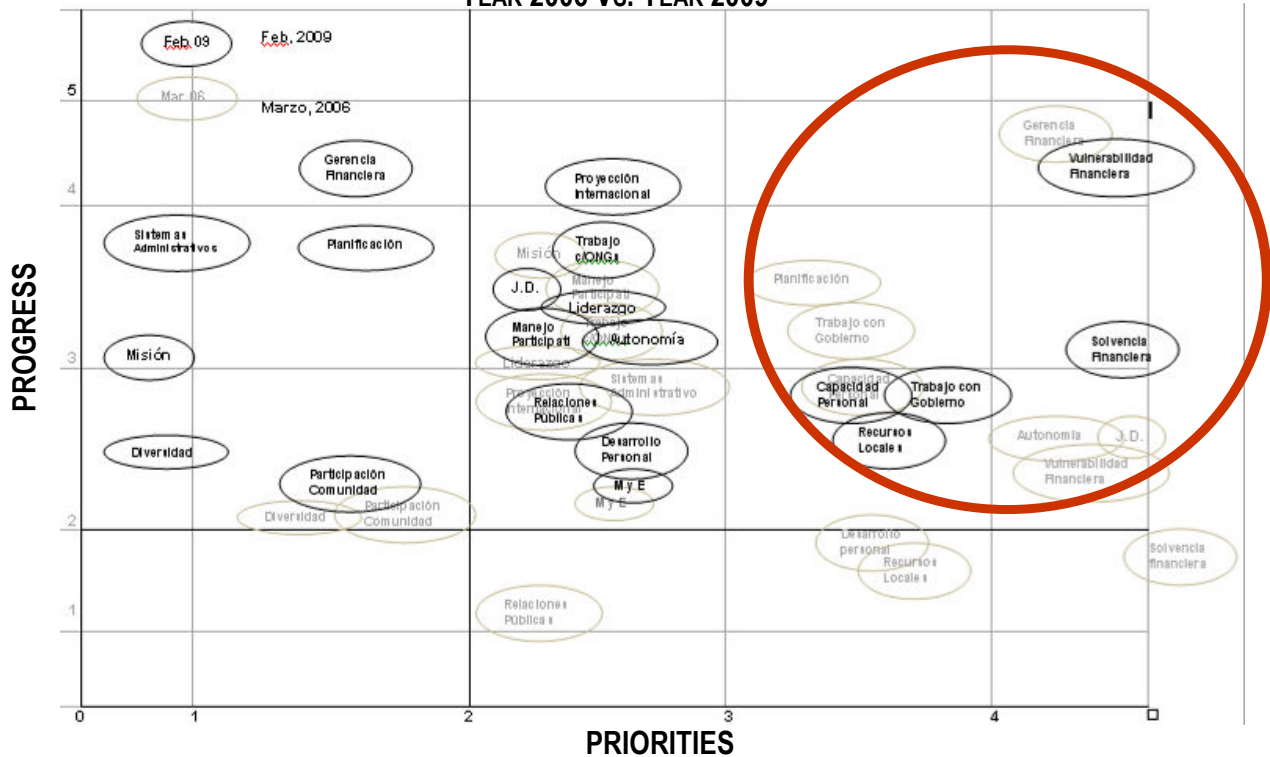
In this sense, for example the appearance of higher priority would be "financial soundness" because the goal is further to the right in quadrant 1 (marked with a red circle in the graphic). In 2004, we see that most of the goals are a priority and this is understandable since it was a fledgling organization. By comparing the measurements, progress is evident since many of the targets in 2004 in quadrant 1, are now located in quadrant 2 on the assessment made in 2006.

**GRAPHIC 17. PRIORITIES FOR INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF CREHO
YEAR 2004 VS. YEAR 2009**



Source: Results of institutional evaluations conducted in 2004 and 2009 using MDI

**GRAPHIC 18. PRIORITIES FOR INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF CREHO
YEAR 2006 VS. YEAR 2009**



Source: Results of institutional evaluations conducted in 2006 and 2009 using MDI

CREHO'S STAFF TRAINING**2004**

From March 3 – 11, 2004, the Executive Director, Rosa Montañez, visited the Convention Secretariat headquarters, in Gland, Switzerland, for induction sessions on the Ramsar Convention. This training was funded by USFWS.

2005

From April 4 – 22, 2005, Maria Rivera, Ramsar Focal Point in Colombia and later CREHO Technical Officer (June 2006 - April 2007), assisted with funding from CREHO and the Ramsar Secretariat, to the International Training of Trainers course on wetland management. The workshop focused on training in facilitating processes that involve stakeholders and curriculum development. The knowledge gained laid the basis for the development of the permanent courses currently offered by CREHO. The course was dictated by ICWM-TOT, the Netherlands.



2007

In May 2007, the Administrative Assistant, Digna Gonzalez, received training in the use of the Peach Tree Software, which is used to make records. This service was given by the external accountant of CREHO.

2008

From November 15 – 22, 2008, the Communications Assistant, Cristina Tzanetatos, by invitation from the organizers participated in Environmental Education Training Workshop on the Use of the "Wondrous West Indian Wetlands: Teachers' Resource Book". The workshop was held in St. Croix, Virgin Islands, and was organized by the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds and the Wetlands Conservation Project. This invitation was received under the framework of the Waterbird Conservation Council for the Americas.

2009

On March 31, 2009, the Communications Assistant, Cristina Tzanetatos, attended the Project Development Workshop on using the Logical Framework approach. The workshop was held in Panama City and was organized by the Global Compact Network. Facilitator Inola Mapp, Associate Consultant to the Network.



From June 15- 22, 2009, the Administrative Assistant, Digna Gonzalez, was trained by staff from the National Library of Panama in the use of ISIS software for cataloging publications, and in El Dorado, for creating digital libraries. Both were developed by UNESCO for free use in public libraries. With this tool, the digitization of a select group of publications of CREHO's Wetland Documentation Center was initiated.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors is the highest governing body of CREHO's hierarchy. It is composed of representatives of the signatories countries to the Ramsar Convention in the Western Hemisphere, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Ramsar partner organizations, scientific institutions, and the National Environmental Authority of Panama on behalf of the host country.



2004

On November 7, 2004, the Second Board meeting was held in Merida, Mexico.

2005

The Third Board meeting was held in Gland, Switzerland, June 6, 2005.



2006

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Board was held in Panama City, Panama, on May 2 - 3, 2006.



2007

The Fifth Annual Meeting of the Board of CREHO, was held in Panama City, Panama, from April 16 - 17, 2007. Following this meeting, members of the Board held a teleconference on August 8, 2007, a workshop on September 17, 2007 and a second meeting held from September 19 - 21, 2007.

2008

In Switzerland, in February 25, taking advantage of another meeting where almost all the members were present, the Board met informally. Its Sixth Annual Meeting was held in Panama City, Panama, on April 14 - 15, 2008. From these meetings, working groups were established for technical, financial, fundraising, and governance issues.



2009

The Seventh Annual Meeting of CREHO's Board of Directors was carried out in Panama City, Panama, on April 14 - 15, 2009. In continuation of this meeting, the members of the Board of Directors met again in Gland, Switzerland on May 14, and in Mexico City, Mexico, on June 29, 2009.

ANNEXES



ANNEX 1. CREHO's BACKGROUND**Chronology of Important Events****1997**

The Government of Panama in the 20th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, held in Gland, Switzerland, in 1997, presented the initiative to establish the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere, taking advantage of the benefits and facilities of the country in the City of Knowledge.

1998

The Central American Commission for Environment and Development, comprising the Ministers of Environment of Central America in its XXIV Regular Session, held in Belize in 1998, endorsed the establishment of the Center.

The First Pan American Meeting of the Ramsar Convention, held in Costa Rica in June 1998, issued a decision supporting this initiative by the Government of Panama.

1999

The seventh Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from May 10 - 18, 1999, adopted by Resolution VII.26 "Establishment of the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere" because of its importance for the implementation of the principles of the Convention and the contribution to the development of actions envisaged in its Strategic Plan.

2002

During COP8, held in Valencia, Spain, in 2002, consolidated the installation of the Center for consensus on the signing of an agreement between the Ramsar Secretariat and Panama, to assist efforts in the management of resources and development of the Center. Making the Center a commitment to the region, whose operations fill an important need for training and research of the countries.

2003

On January 31, 2003, ANAM and CATHALAC signed an agreement for the provisional establishment of CREHO within its facilities.

On February 28, 2003, the Convention between the Government of the Republic of Panama and the Office of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat was signed, for the creation of and operation in Panama the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere.

2004

On January 5, 2004, the Ramsar Regional Center began operations, after a process of several months during which the Government of Panama facilitated the process of selecting the Executive Director and allocated the budget as seed money for the operation of the Center for the first year in the amount of U.S. \$ 82,600, from a total of \$510,000 over 10 years, which had been established as an approximate total commitment of the Convention Framework.



On July 20, 2004, the July 7, 2004 Official Gazette No.25, 097 of Law No.33 was published, whereby the Government of Panama ratified the agreement signed with the Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.

In 2004 with the aid of AED, the logo and CREHO acronym were designed. Technical actions were begun.

2005

During 2005 the action areas through a Regional Assessment and Strategic Plan were defined.

2006

CREHO established its permanent headquarters in the City Of Knowledge, Panama and opened the doors of its new office in February 2006, establishing its personnel platform: Executive Director, Technical Officer and Institutional Development Officer.

In 2006, CREHO launched its website, newsletter, and started the positioning of its technical proposal.

2007—2008

Between 2007 and 2008 two permanent international courses for marketing to the public were established:

- 1) Environmental impact evaluation and strategic environmental assessment for wetland management,
 - 2) Managing Wetlands: formulating management plans.
- The facilitation of concrete processes and on-site capacity building commences, in the form of models to generate lessons learned to be replicated. Growth begins as well as the monitoring of the impact of their interventions.

2009

The members representing the sub-regions that constitute the Board of Directors are changed.

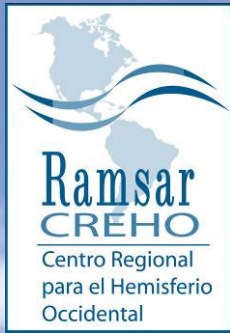


ANNEX 2. ACRONYMS

ACP	Panama Canal Authority
AED	Educational Development Academy
AMP	Maritime Authority of Panama
ANAM	National Environmental Authority
ANCON	National Association for the Conservation of Nature
ARAP	Authority of the Aquatic Resources of Panama
CATHALAC	Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean
CEASPA	Association Center for Studies and Social Action in Panama
CEPA	Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Program
CIDES	International Center for Sustainable Development
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CONANP	National Commission of Protected Natural Areas
COP	Conference of the Contracting Parties
CREA	Conservation through Research, Education, and Action
CREHO	Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere
EHAA	Regional Strategy of High Andean Wetlands
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EAE	Environmental Strategic Assessment
FUNDAECO	Foundation for Ecodevelopment and Conservation
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GITEC	Technoecological Research Group
GPA	Global Programme of Action
GTZ	International cooperation enterprise for sustainable development
IABIN	Inter American Biodiversity Information Network
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IBAs	Important Bird Areas
MAP	Mangroves Project
MINAE	Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OAS	Organization of American States

PNUMA-ROLAC	Regional Program Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environmental Programme
SAP	Panama Audubon Society
STRI	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UICN-ORMA	International Union for Conservation of Nature—Regional Office for Mesoamerica
UP	University of Panama
USFS	U.S. Forest Services
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
WetCap	Wetland Capacity Building Partnership
WI	Wetlands International
WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
WHSRN	Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
WWF	World Wildlife Fund





Ramsar Regional Center
for Training and Research on
Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere
CREHO

Address:
City of Knowledge, House 131 A
Clayton, Panama

Phone: (507) 317 12 42
Fax: (507) 317 08 76

Zip Code:
08 16 - 03 847
Zone 3, Panama

www.creho.org
info@creho.org

