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The Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) is a not-for-profit international organization that promotes management and wise use of wetlands in the Americas.

EDITORIAL

This third issue of INFOWETLAND is dedicated to the World Wetlands Day, which will take place on February 2nd. This date has become a milestone in environmental conservation because it marks the anniversary of the 1971 Ramsar Convention was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar. Since 1997, the celebration of World Wetlands Day has become an important moment for the environmental community as governments, organizations, communities and local groups are able to increase awareness about the meaning of wetlands, thus lead action for their conservation and rational use.

This year's theme, "Wetlands and Fishing," aims to draw attention to the relation between wetlands and the goods and services that they provide. Important sectors in the Americas, such as fishing and tourism, depend on the healthy existence of these ecosystems. However, the general lack of knowledge about the economic benefits of a healthy wetland has contributed to the loss of numerous wetlands areas, particularly in coastal zones, that are currently confronting various challenges posed by development.

The lack of valuation for wetlands goods and services has not allowed for the determination of precise data, in economic terms, relating to fishing, to which the effects in social and cultural terms regarding the populations that keep links with them and maintain traditional and ancestral practices must be added. The cultivation of an efficient management of fishing resources linked to an integrated management of the wetlands ecosystem should be a central concern; such responsible practices are essential to guarantee the sustainability of the fishing resources and other associated species, endemic and migratory, such as sea birds, turtles and dolphins, among others.

At the end of 2006 as part of the celebration of World Wetlands Day, CREHO held a forum with the Panamanian fishing sector. This forum initiated a dialogue regarding the relationship between ecosystem and biodiversity, presenting a variety of tools such as the certification of fishing products and cleaner production techniques for the adequate management of resources linked to wetlands. It was concluded that, for the maintenance of such ecological resources, it is necessary to gain access to specialized information and training and to raise awareness.

This issue includes some of the experiences taking place to strengthen the link between wetlands and general society in the Americas. We hope you'll enjoy reading it and will find here the inspiration to motivate others about wetlands conservation. Happy World Wetlands Day!

Rosa Montañez
Executive Director
CREHO





NEWS

HOLD THE ANCHOVIES! MAGELLANIC PENGUINS NEED THEM



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Rapid expansion of Argentina's new anchovy fishery may threaten the world's largest colony of Near Threatened Magellanic Penguins (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) at Punta Tombo, Patagonia. Anchovies make up more than fifty percent of the Magellanic Penguin's diet.

An article in *Science** reveals that the country's plan to develop a small-scale trawler fishery for the "under-

exploited" anchovy includes no mechanism to quantify the impact on wildlife.

The anchovies are turned into fish meal, much of which goes to fish farms in China and Europe. Ten pounds of anchovy may be required to produce one pound of farmed fish. The value of the fishery is a fraction of the ecotourism revenues generated by the penguins and other "charismatic megafauna" which depend on the anchovies and the larger fish that feed on them.

"Before any further expansion and investment takes place, the costs to other fisheries, risks to wildlife and ecotourism, and food

web interactions need to be determined," Skewgar, Boersma, Harris and Caille, the authors of the *Science* paper, conclude. They elaborate that informed decisions about future management of the fishery requires research into ecosystems and indicator species like penguins.

Source: BirdLife International, *Science*

*Article in *Science*:

Anchovy Fishery Threat to Patagonian Ecosystem.

**Authors: Elizabeth Skewgar, P. Dee Boersma, Graham Harris, Guillermo Caille

FOURTH EDITION OF THE RAMSAR MANUAL

The 4th edition, now available in English describes the history of the Ramsar Convention and explains its structures, its services, the workings of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Standing Committee, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, the Secretariat, and relations with other environmental institutions. This document also contains brief descriptions of the guidelines that were adopted by the Parties through COP9 in 2005, and a list of all the Resolutions and Recommendations of the COP.

You can download the document in:

http://www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_manual2006e.pdf

MAP ABOUT IIRSA

A joint effort between organizations from several countries and the IUCN's Regional Office for South America, IUCN-Sur, has produced a map with the detailed interaction among the different axes of the Initiative for Regional Infrastructure Integration in South America (IIRSA), protected areas and critical ecosystems for South America's sustainable development.

The map shows IIRSA's main axes. The axes cross and affect direct and indirectly areas of important biological and cultural diversity. It presents detailed information about the projects with more potential conflict because of its potential to impact communities, ecosystems health and their capacity to provide key environmental services for the human development. South America, a region of 18 million of Km², where 350 million people live in 12 countries, has the biggest biological diversity and freshwater supply on the planet.

The map will be offered in printed format and in electronic format. You can download the digital version from the following website: <http://www.sur.iucn.org/iirsa/>





PREVENTION AND TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFLICTS IN LATIN AMERICA

In November 2006, experts from all over Latin America met during the Second Regional Forum for Transformation of Social-Environmental Conflicts. The forum was held in Quito, Ecuador, and was structured around the discussion of two case studies: the conflict of Yanacocha Mine in Peru and the bi-national conflict between Argentina and Uruguay as a result of the construction of cellulose plants by the Uruguay River

Also, the participants had the opportunity to receive information about several other experiences in conflict prevention such as: models of constructive participation, governmental approaches, initiatives with emphasis in cooperation and experiences like the Fondo Respuesta para América Latina, currently underway.

The organizers expressed their commitment with the process and it was announced the Third Forum, which will be held in 2007. The Transformation of Social-Environmental Conflicts is without a doubt an important topic with a regional action scope.

For more information contact: Diego Luna Quevedo. Email: consultor@fla.net

News from Guatemala

WETLANDS NATIONAL POLICY ACTION PLAN 2006-2010

The Guatemalan Wetlands National Policy was approved by the government in 2005 as an instrument in the national level to promote conservation, protection, wise use and restoration of wetlands in the country. In order to implement the policy, a project is underway to formulate the Wetlands' National Policy Action Plan 2006-2010.

To develop the plan, the Wetlands National Committee identified the country's north-west region as a pilot area. During 2006, an assessment related to the current conditions of the wetlands was carried out in the selected area and a series of workshops will take place in 2007. These workshops will have a wide participation from key stakeholders working in wetlands, representatives of governmental organizations, NGO and civil society.

Its results will be presented to the National Wetlands Committee during 2007 to validate the plan's initiative, complying with the requirements of the Ramsar Convention's resolutions and others related to wetlands management. It is expected that the plan will

be the work agenda for the committee and it will be presented as part of the celebration of World Wetlands Day 2007.

For more information: Cecilia Cleaves y Miriam Castillo (miriam@conap.gob.gt)
National Council of Protected Areas, CONAP, Guatemala.



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PARTICIPATION AND DIALOGUE FOR CONSERVATION IN COLOMBIA

In 2003, more than 600 Afro-descendant indigenous families who live in the larger extension of mangroves in the Colombian Pacific Ocean drew the attention of the state authorities and the media to their social and environmental needs. As a result, they received answers and commitments. In 2006, the communities living by the Guiza River basin, in the mist forest in Nariño, Southern Colombia, challenged the authorities, the non-governmental organizations (NGO) and academia to agree upon a solution to the problems related to their living conditions and the state of natural resources surrounding their villages. It is expected that in 2007, more than 2 million persons living by the Coello River basin (Colombian Central Andes) will benefit from the results of a dialogue with the objective of finding integral and sustainable solutions for their natural resources management and the improvement of quality of life.

Water as a vital resource at stake -three different scenarios and one participation mechanism in common: the Citizen Action Dialogue (Conversatorio de Acción Ciudadana), acts as a generator of shared responsibilities in search for solutions to social problems that flow into, directly or indirectly, a greater pressure on the natural resources of these territories.

The piangua leaves the mangroves

The poverty conditions in the communities around the mangrove zone in Nariño, added to the bad management of practices



of natural resources, has resulted in the reduction of the piangua

(*Anadara tuberculosa*), a bivalve mollusc extracted from the mangroves. Its harvesting represents the main economic activity in the area. This

situation has motivated communities and organizations to find alternatives to spark change in the conditions that directly affect the quality of life of the communities.

In 1999, with the support of WWF Colombia, seven communities from southern Colombia Pacific coast initiated a process to strengthening capacities in land planning, solid waste management, access to health services, product marketing, and reforestation, among others.

As a result, in 2003 a Citizen Action Dialogue was held with the following achievements: public commitment from the authorities; resource mobilization towards the de-



velopment of integral projects; a proposal for ethno education that covers 10 municipalities in the area; and a notable increase in health service systems, among others.

From the mangroves to the mystery of clouded forests

In the municipalities of Mallama, Altaquer and Ricaurte, in southwest Colombia, 30 thousand persons (grass roots and Inkal Awa indigenous communities) live surrounded by the mysteries of 116 hectares of clouded forest covering the high-and-mid basin of the Guiza River. The river supports the communities' livelihood and supports the biodiversity in the area.

Nevertheless, the deforestation, watershed contamination, the risk of landslides, the infrastructure projects such as the trans-Andean pipeline, and the vulnerability of the communities living in the surroundings of active volcanoes (Cumbal and Azufral), are

realities that motivated these communities to begin dialogue with the authorities to find solutions towards an improvement of their quality of life.



In 2006, a meeting with authorities (environmental, health, education, and planning) and the communities was held, and resulted in 37 agreements. Such agreements include: the construction of aqueducts and sewer systems; mobilization of resources for solid and hospital waste; prioritization of the watershed land planning; and the development of an environmental and sustainable production program.

A new opportunity in 2007

In 2007, the Coello River Basin in Tolima (Colombian Central Andes), will be the main character in a new dialogue to analyze threats and propose new alternatives to improve the quality of life of communities living in the area. This basin has 190 thousand hectares approximately, and it is located strategically in the triangle of three major cities- Bogotá, Cali and Medellín- which supports the production of 30% of the vegetables and fruits in Colombia. This region contributed to 7% of the national GDP.

For more information:
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Capacities Program, WWF Colombia
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WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2007

Annually, 2 February is World Wetlands Day. It marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.

WWD was celebrated for the first time in 1997 and made an encouraging beginning. Each year, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens at all levels of the community have taken advantage of the opportunity to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general and the Ramsar Convention in particular.

Our focus for February 2nd 2007 is on wetlands and fisheries in recognition of:



© Nuno Silva

-The needs of the one billion people who rely on fish as their primary source of animal protein;

-The state of the world's fisheries where 75% of commercially important

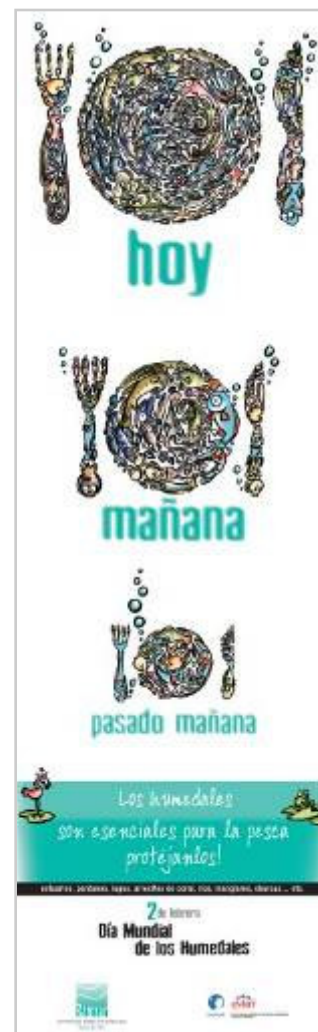
marine and most inland water fish stocks are either currently overfished or being fished at their biological limit, and where the effects of unsustainable aquaculture practices on wetland ecosystems are of growing concern;

-The important role that inland and coastal wetlands play in supporting fish and fisheries at all levels, from large-scale, commercial fisheries to subsistence fishers, and from wild, capture fisheries to farmed fish; the critical role that coastal wetlands play as spawning and nursery areas for many marine species; and the urgent need for effective management of fisheries and the wetland ecosystems that support them;

-The adoption in November 2005 by the Ramsar Convention of a resolution and annexed guidelines on the conservation, production and sustainable use of fisheries which commits the 152 Contracting Parties to the Convention to playing their role in establishing and maintaining sustainable fisheries in wetlands.

For more information visit:

http://www.ramsar.org/wwd/7/wwd2007_index.htm



RAMSAR AND FISHERIES

Technically, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an intergovernmental treaty with more than 150 member countries, or "Parties", is directly concerned with inland waters and the near-shore coastal areas, but not deeper marine areas. Near-shore coastal areas are the nursery grounds of deeper ocean fish species and most of the coastal species that make up fish catches. So Ramsar rightly emphasizes that safeguarding the health of coastal ecosystems – such as estuaries, mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs – is critical for the maintenance of both coastal and offshore fishing stocks (quite apart from the many other services these wetlands provide). The Parties to the Convention are committed to ensuring the sustainable use in their countries of fisheries resources in both inland and coastal waters, and for both capture fisheries and aquaculture, through the fisheries Resolution adopted in November 2005 (read the details here: http://www.ramsar.org/res/key_res_ix_04_e.htm).

The importance of fisheries to the Convention is also reflected in the criteria used for the designation of Ramsar sites (Wetlands of International Importance): one of the nine criteria for designations states "A wetland should be considered internationally important if it is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks, either within the wetland or elsewhere, depend."



© Marco Crisari



GETTING TO KNOW THE MARINE-COASTAL WETLANDS

The marine-coastal wetlands are a very important part of the marine habitat because it provides nutrients and food for organisms, juvenile fish and marine invertebrates. In this category of wetlands you will find coral reefs, sea grass, and mangroves.

Mangroves, located in estuarine water (mix of freshwater and salt water), have a special structure that allows different species to use from leaves to roots. For example, the stem and leaves are used for bird nesting and provide food for monkeys and other wildlife species. The roots are used as habitat for snails, oysters and other species such as crabs.

But mangroves are not alone. Their ecosystem is associated with other ecosystems such as coral reefs and sea grass. All of them interact through its components supporting a complex biodiversity that uses these ecosystems in the different phases of their biological cycle.

For example, the mangroves are used as breeding areas important for commercial species like shrimps. The residues (fallen leaves) are decomposed by bacteria, fungus and herbivores, and the resulted detritus (organic material) sustains the trophic chain, including fish and invertebrates population.

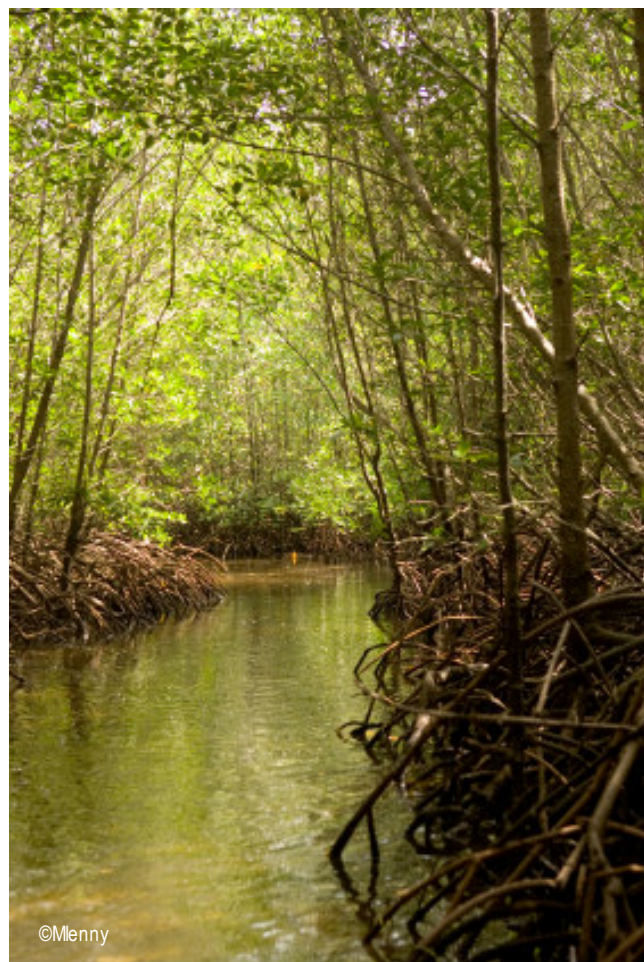
Loss and Degradation

If the benefits of these ecosystems are well know, why are degradation and loss still on? The answer to this question could come from different angles.

Coastal wetlands vulnerability: These are among the most threaten ecosystems in the world. 35% of mangroves have been lost in the past two decades due to inadequate development activities such as aquaculture, deforestation, housing development and pollution. 20% of coral reefs have been degraded in the last decades of the twentieth century due to overexploitation, destructive fishing practices, pollution and sedimentation.

Planning: The change of land use from conservation to unplanned development of economic activities has been a main factor. In addition, we can mention the growth of human population taking into account that the main cities in the world are located in and around 50 km from the coast and are 2.6 times bigger than cities in continental areas.

Policy: Many levels of the decision makers and other key stakeholders are unaware about the performance of the ecosystems and their connection with the generation of environmental goods and services especially for human populations. Moreover, besides their importance in providing for example fish resources, it is important to mention other non-commercial services such as flood mitigation, weather regulation and erosion prevention.





FISHING RESOURCES IN LATINAMERICA

By María Rivera, Ramsar CREHO

There is a clear interdependency between humans and the environment. The activities we carry out have an impact, direct or indirect, upon diverse ecosystems, including wetlands. These interactions between humans and wetlands are not recognized by many groups because of a lack of comprehension or interest in the dynamics of the ecosystems, structure and goods and services generated.



In the environmental scene it is well-known that in terms of good and services, wetlands, especially the marine-coastal like coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass, provide benefits for communities and contribute to poverty alleviation. Fish resources are part of these benefits.

In the Americas, countries like Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Chile and Colombia led the production of fish resources generating employment, driving the economy and competing in international markets. In the Panamanian Pacific the capture of white shrimp (*Penaeus vannamei*) represented 993 tons between 1999 and 2003. Such a capture is equivalent to US\$16,243.

The exports of molluscs (pota and calamari) in Peru reached over US\$71 million in the first semester of 2006, representing an increment of 14% in relation to the same period of 2005. The tuna sector in Ecuador reported exports for US\$320 million in 2006 and it is estimated that 1,000 metric tons of tuna generates between 450 and 600 jobs.

Now having in mind this perspective, how do we secure a sustainable future for the fishing activity?

Fortunately there some instruments and tools that are applied in

the fishing industry (but area also used in other economic sectors) as part of their sustainable practices. We will mention two in this article:

1. Clean Production: This mechanism is oriented to achieve a continuous application of a preventive and integrated environmental strategy for the processes, products and services with the objective of improving efficiency and reduce risks.

In the Americas the experiences are successful with centers of clean production of over 14 countries. In Chile for example, agreements have been established between salmon companies and hake producers for the reduction of pollutants in the management of productive chains.

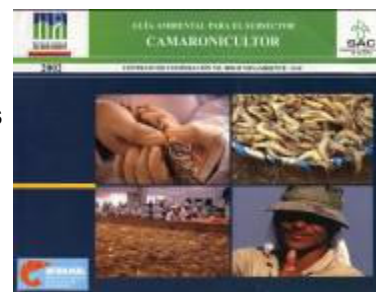
This strategy has been implemented in other countries such as Peru through projects oriented to reduce the negative effects of pollution. In Ecuador the mechanism has been implemented through programs to improve the extractive and processing chain of the fishing sector in Manta.

2. Environmental Guidelines: This technical instrument of environmental management has the purpose of guiding productive activities under a sustainable development framework.

In the Americas there are examples of this instrument such as the Environmental Guidelines for the Shrimp Sector in Colombia, formulated by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Shrimp Industry and the Guide for Clean Production in Peru with voluntary technical support for companies (environmental adaptation, process optimization)

Now, going back to the main point, the importance of wetlands in the Americas and the generation of fishing resources we leave you with a final thought:

“Wetlands and their services for human populations only will continue to exist if the current management approaches change and the trends in habitat loss and degradation are stopped or reverted”



What are we waiting for?



CONSERVATION IN MAN MADE WETLANDS OF ECUADOR: THE CASE OF CONGAL BIOMARINE RESERVE

By Andres Ledergerber,
edited Tania L. de Quiroga,
Congal Biomarine Reserve

Aquaculture sites provide a unique opportunity for conservation initiatives since these can be incredibly productive for people and for wildlife at the same time. However, most cases of intensive aquaculture practices around the world fail to even meet basic environmental criteria. One such example is that of intensive shrimp farming in tropical regions of the world. In Ecuador, as occurred elsewhere, the impacts of shrimp farming due to habitat loss and pollution were, during the boom years of the 1990s, quite severe in some regions. Jatun Sacha Foundation's Congal Biomarine Reserve provides one of the few examples of environmentally friendly and sustainable aquaculture in the country.

Congal was created in the year 2000 and

is located in the central coastline of Ecuador. It is the only conservation area in the region covering all successional habitats between mangroves and humid tropical forests. The "upland" part of the reserve covers approximately 200 hectares while the lower part includes 250 hectares of mangroves of public domain. It is part of the Western Ecuador Chocó-Darién biogeographical region, which is the world's fourth "Biodiversity Hotspot" where less than 24.2% of original primary forest cover remains. These Chocó-Darién intact mangrove habitats are also considered among the most important in the world providing multiple environmental and social benefits. Additionally, Congal is part of the Mangrove Wild Life Refugee of Muisne and is in the buffer zone of the Mache Chindul National Ecology Reserve.

One of the main objectives of Congal is to integrate wise coastal ecosystem management practices that promote biodiversity while at the same time producing food and other products in an environmentally friendly and responsible way. One of the key principles for farmers is to diversify the use of the land by zoning it into protected vs. productive areas. As an example, in the upland aquaculture ponds the sides of the dikes are the protected areas covered with its native vegetation, while the flat areas are the productive ones, maintained either as grazing areas or as orchards to grow a variety of fruit trees. The protected areas provide excellent wetlands habitat for a variety of birdlife, mammals such as the

rarely seen crab eating raccoon (*Procyon cancrivorus*), reptiles and also land crabs (*Cardisoma crassus*), a national delicacy. Aquatic life provides food for several birds including cormorants (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*), grebes and 3 species of ducks (*Anas discors*, *Anas bahamensis*, *Nomonyx dominicus*) all severely hunted by shrimp farmers.

To produce food for self consumption and the local market the ponds are managed in 3 ways: 1. Tidal ponds filled naturally during high spring tides bringing in fish fry and shrimp larvae which are grown out naturally and harvested after 6 months. 2. Shrimp ponds stocked with larvae at low densities and grown out organically, income generated used to partly run our conservation area. 3. Natural freshwater ponds, filled with runoff from local hills during the rainy season, where stocked fish and shrimp are grown. These ponds are freshwater wetlands and become critical "waterholes" for wildlife during the dry periods of the year.

In this way, the activities are aimed to be practical solutions to an integrated art of land and water management that is sustainable for all.

Volunteers, students, researchers or study groups are always welcome and for more information look at the web site at: www.jatunsacha.org/ingles/estacion_congal.htm or email to congal@jatunsacha.org



©Tania L. de Quiroga



FIRST MSC ECO-LABEL FOR SCALLOP FISHERY GOES TO ARGENTINA

The Patagonian scallop fishery is the first scallop fishery in the world to be rewarded with certification to the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) environmental standard for well-managed and sustainable fisheries. The fishery passed an independent evaluation led by certifier Organización Internacional Agropecuaria (OIA). To date, 22 fisheries worldwide are entitled to tag their catch with the blue MSC eco-label.

MSC's Chief Executive Rupert Howes welcomed this first: 'This is tremendous and very exciting news. The MSC's blue eco-label is recognised as an international hallmark for sustainably managed fisheries around the world. Consumers in France, Canada and the United States amongst other key markets supplied by the Patago-

nian scallop fishery will now be able to purchase MSC-certified and labelled scallops for the first time, knowing that they are indeed making the best environmental choice. We very much hope that other Argentine fisheries will also move forward into the assessment process.'

The Patagonian scallop fishery operates in waters between the Argentine border with Uruguay and Tierra del Fuego in southern Argentina.

The fishery is wholly located within Argentina's Economic Exclusive Zone and uses otter trawls to catch scallops. The MSC certificate applies to Glaciar Pesquera, which is owned by an Argentine entrepreneur and Clearwater Seafoods of Canada. Glaciar Pesquera is one of the two companies that are authorised to fish scallops in this region.

In total, over 50 fisheries with annual catches of more than 3.5 million tonnes of seafood are engaged in the MSC programme. They represent 42 percent of the world's wild salmon catch, 32 percent of the prime whitefish catch, and 18 percent of the lobster catches for human consumption. Over 450 seafood products carry the blue MSC eco-label in 25 countries.

Further information

Marnie Bammert, Communications Officer, tel. +44 20 7811 3314 or +44 7917 821 207, email: marnie.bammert@msc.org.

MSC Data

Founded in 1997

Office Headquarters in London

3 regional offices in North America, Asia Pacific and Japan

4 accredited certification bodies

22 fisheries MSC certified

500 products with the MSC label in 26 countries

MSC

In 1997, WWF and Unilever co-founded the **Marine Stewardship Council (MSC)**. This international NGO, independent since 1999, works with retailers, governments, NGOs, conservationists, the fishing industry and other stakeholders to promote sustainable fisheries. Products from fisheries meeting its rigorous environmental standard, can carry the MSC eco-label – giving consumers the opportunity to make an informed choice in the supermarket.

To date, over 20 fisheries, both small- and large-scale, and including two inland fisheries in Sweden, have been certified and a further 18 are undergoing the rigorous assessment to determine if they meet the MSC standard. Over 100 major seafood buyers have pledged to purchase MSC-certified products and more than 400 MSC-certified seafood products are in the global marketplace today.

<http://www.msc.org/>



EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) FOR WETLANDS MANAGEMENT

Panama City, October 1-17, 2007

Aim:

The International Course on EIA and SEA for Wetlands Management aims to provide participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to use and apply impact assessment tools in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

The curriculum was designed based on guidelines and legislation for EIA and SEA for land use planning and decision making process under Ramsar Convention.

Who can participate:

Any policy maker, decision maker, private sector or NGO staff, working or interested in wetlands management in the Americas.

Language: The course will be conducted in Spanish

Date: October 1, 2007 to October 17, 2007 (17 days)

Location: Panama City, Republic of Panama

Cost:

OPTION A: US\$3,500.00

Option A includes:

Registration, materials, field trips, medical insurance, lodging and full board, transport airport-hotel-airport, translations.

Not covered:

Airfare, visa cost and taxes, tourism, phone calls, Internet, laundry

OPTION B: US\$2,300.00

Option B includes:

Registration, materials, field trips, translations.

Not covered:

Airfare, visa cost and taxes, tourism, phone calls, Internet, laundry, medical insurance, lodging and food, transport airport-hotel-airport.

Organizers:

The International Course on EIA and SEA for Wetlands is organized by the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) and the Ramsar Convention.



RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW

Write to mriviera@creho.org
Or send a fax to +507 317 0876

The program and more information will be published in our website www.creho.org in the coming weeks.



35TH MEETING OF THE RAMSAR STANDING COMMITTEE

The Ramsar Secretariat is pleased to inform that the 35th Meeting of the Standing Committee will be held at the Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland, from 14 to 16 February 2007, with meetings of the Subgroups on COP10, Finance and the Strategic Plan, and of the Management Working Group scheduled on 12 and 13 February 2007.

For more information: http://www.ramsar.org/sc/key_sc_index.htm

SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION

SANTA CLARA, CUBA

16-ABRIL-2007 / 22-ABRIL-2007

The ecological restoration constitutes a growing discipline that gains more space in the conservation of natural resources, as a remaining for man to recover for future generations, natural representative areas of the biodiversity.

The Second Symposium on Ecological Restoration to be held from April 16 to 22, 2007 in Santa Clara, Cuba organized by the Cuban Group of Ecological Restoration and the National Enterprise for Flora and Fauna Protection will include workshops, oral presentations, conferences and posters about the results obtained in the application of ecological restoration technique, thus a great diversity of papers will be appreciated.

It will also include three field trips to sites where the ecological restoration technique is applied. The intending sites to visit are: "Cayo Conuwo" and the protected natural landscape "Hanabanilla".

For more information visit: http://www.villaclara.cu/events/simposio_ecologia o envíe un email a: universit@uclv.edu.cu or raulglez@uclv.edu.cu

THE 2007 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ECOLOGY & TRANSPORTATION

"BRIDGING THE GAPS, NATURALLY"

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

MAY 20-25, 2007

The mission of the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation is to identify and share quality research applications and best management practices that address wildlife, habitat, and ecosystem issues related to the delivery of surface transportation systems. ICOET is the primary forum for an international gathering of the foremost experts in the field of transportation development, related scientific study, and administrative processes that can enhance both the project development process and the ecological sustainability of transportation systems.

For more information visit <http://www.icoet.net/ICOET2007.asp> or write to Katie McDermott kpm@unity.ncsu.edu or call her (919) 515-8034

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INFOWETLAND Vol.2 Issue 2

The next issue of INFOWETLAND will be published on May 25, 2007. The special topic for Vol2. Issue 2. will be **migratory species**. We will provide more information in the coming months.