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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.

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EDITORIAL

On this issue of INFOWETLAND, we stop to dedicate it to the migratory species and their relationship to the wetlands as a special topic. Having in mind that these species use different types of wetlands, in the American Continent, as resting, sheltering, feeding, mating, and nesting areas.

For this reason, we travel around the hemisphere, through different initiatives, which set a precedent in terms of legal, scientific and management of migratory species.



We highlight in-progress propostive, inclusive and participative experiences which constitute an expression of commitment to environmental conservation, like the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), the Waterbird Conservation Council, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, also intergovernmental agreements as the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species. These experiences are evidence that persons with a common vision can mobilize actions, share agendas, and join efforts in the framework of international collaboration, generating local impacts that benefit, in a regional scale, the species that are shared.

On this issue, we include other positive actions for migratory species: the Neotropical Waterbird Census, being led by Wetlands International, where a monitoring job that provides information on waterbird in wetlands is being developed. Other positive examples are the actions taken by Costa Rica with the announcement of its waters as whaling sanctuary, and the initiative to protect the monarch butterfly in North America.

With these good news, we suggest our readers to join the promotion, in their respective areas of action, to recognize the importance of the interrelationship between biodiversity and the wetland ecosystems. We also make a call to the leading role that we all have to guarantee the present and future existence of our natural resources. In this sense, the decision-makers, the private sector, the civil society and the community, are all key players to lead actions aimed to create awareness about the need to preserve our wetlands, to guarantee their wise use and to ensure the life cycle of migratory species.

Rosa Montañez
Executive Director
CREHO



NEWS

NEW TECHNICAL OFFICER IN CREHO

Eric Flores De Gracia is joining the CREHO Team as our new Technical Officer. Eric is an Agricultural Engineer (Technological University of Panama), besides he has a Masters Degree in Biodiversity Management in the Tropics (San Pablo University CEU-Spain) and he is M. Sc in Aquatic Science and Marine Resources Management (National Taiwan Ocean University).

Mr. Flores, before joining the CREHO Team, worked as Chief of Investigation and Coordinator of the Experimental Stations of the Panamanian Authority for the Aquatic Resources (ARAP). He has research experience on pigmentation strategies in aquatic animals, color expression and ecological relationships; alternative uses of biodiversity (i.e.: ecotourism, rearing in captivity of aquatic species); management of natural resources in hydrographic river basins, specially the water-vegetation-soil use relationship in mountain forests; as well as environmental education for conservation and ecotourism.



Mr. Flores is an experienced coordinator consultant for the international investigative project "Importance of the Vegetation and the Organic Layer in Eco-hydrological Processes in Mountainous Forests in Panama" (CATHALAC/ Institute of Tropical Silviculture of the University of Goettingen in Germany), and was also a consultant for the National Capacity Self-assessment for Management of Global Environment (NCSA), ANAM-PNUMA-GEF, among others.

WINNERS OF THE RAMSAR WETLAND CONSERVATION AWARDS

Source: Ramsar Secretariat

Established in 1996 and presented for the first time in 1999, the Awards recognize and honor, every three years, individuals, organizations and government agencies that have made significant contribution to wetland and water resources conservation and wise use in any part of the world.

The Ramsar Standing Committee announced the winners of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards for 2008. In the science category, the award goes to Dave Pritchard; in the management category, to Denis Landenbergue, WWF International; and in the education category, to Dr Sansanee Choowaew of Mahidol University, Thailand. In addition, the Recognition of Excellence was awarded to Dr Jan Květ of the Czech Republic.

Reasons for these choices can be found in the link below: http://www.ramsar.org/award/key_awards2008_report_e.htm

The Ramsar Awards, with the Evian Special Prize of USD 10,000 for each, will be conferred at the opening of the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in the Republic of Korea in October 2008.



WHMSI ON THE NET

On the Second WHMSI Conference (Costa Rica, 2006), the participants requested the creation of an independent web page for WHMSI. Currently, WHMSI counts with a "mini website" in the webpage hosted by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere, with headquarters in Panama, has offered itself for the developing of this website with an independent domain.

We invite you to collaborate with us and the construction of <http://www.whmsi.net>. In the FORUM section you can send your comments and opinions about the webpage; besides, if you have information and/or images about migratory species that you wish to share with the users of WHMSI, you can send them to webmaster@whmsi.net.

<http://www.whmsi.net> has proposed itself to work as a link and point of encounter for the communication of the promotion and diffusion of information about migratory species throughout the hemisphere.



THIRD WHMSI CONFERENCE

The Third Conference on Migratory Species of the Western Hemisphere will take place in Asunción City, from the 22nd to the 25th of July, 2008. It will gather governmental officers of the wild life, representatives of non-governmental organizations, and conventions interested in the dialogue and cooperation on migratory species. The hosts for this event will be the Ministry of Tourism and Environment of Paraguay and Guyra Paraguay.

The purposes of the event are:

- Update the activities since the 2006 Conference in Costa Rica.
- Advance in the establishment of a permanent forum for the conservation of the migratory wildlife.
- Carry out thematic sessions such as: adaptation to the climatic change, conservation of sea turtles, and conservation of migratory birds.

INVENTORY OF WETLANDS IN PANAMA

A preliminary inventory of the wetlands located in Panama is being developed with the purpose of building a database that contains all the wetlands present in the territory, to facilitate the establishment of priorities for the management and the conservation of the natural wealth.

There is no inventory of the wetlands in Panama other than the one that is currently taking place. There is only an Inventory of the Continental Water Bodies of the Republic of Panama (1999) elaborated by the former National Directorate of Aquiculture of the MIDA and, unlike a wetland inventory, its purpose was to identify the potential of the water bodies to raise and repopulate with different aquatic species. Never the less, it has been very important for the identification phase, being the focus used for the ecosystemic inventory .

This very important project, which is a commitment of the country with the Ramsar Convention, has been stimulated since 2006 thanks to the work done by CREHO and the support of the National Authority for the Environment (ANAM), and the National Authority for the Aquatic Resources (ARAP), the Wetlands Committee of Panama, and the funding provided by AVINA Foundation.

The first draft of the inventory should be ready by august.

THE CHILEAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF WETLANDS APPROVES A CLASIFICATION SYSTEM BASED ON THE DESCRIPTION OF ECOTYPES

Source: Alejandra Figueroa Fernández

The National Commission for the Environment (CONAMA, Chile), decided to develop, during 2006-2007, a study that proposes a *Classification System for the Chilean Wetlands*, according to their functional and structural characteristics, as a way to define different wetland ecotypes. To determine the priorities of conservation of wetlands based on the hydrographic river basin, functions and threatens are associated to each type of ecotype.

On this job, executed by the Applied Ecology Centre (CEA), a methodology for the conservation of the wetlands integrated to a river basin, included in the regional and national priorities, was elaborated and is intended to be applied to other wetlands. The study proposes, as an analysis unit, the ecotype that corresponds to a family of wetlands that share properties, attributes and even similar threatens.

The classification system allowed to identify three main families of wetlands (marine, coastal and continental) and different classes. The proposed focus for this study is absolutely complimentary with the current available information, because it allows setting into context and integrating specific studies with a global vision of wetlands.

The complete report can be found in the following address: <http://www.sinia.cl/1292/article-41115.html>

The classification system was integrated to a Geographical Information System, in order to have a useful tool for the evaluation of the environmental condition of the wetlands; system that was calibrated and validated according to visitations to different wetlands countrywide, between the Regions of Atacama and Aysén.

CONSERVATION INITIATIVE IN NORTH AMERICA TO PROTECT MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Source: Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) <http://www.cec.org>

Canada, Mexico and the United States are joining effort to protect the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), which has become a symbol of North America's shared environment. Thus, these countries have agreed on a plan to conserve the monarch butterfly.

The monarch conservation plan, in addition to the actions it outlines, provides a detailed overview of the monarch's migratory patterns, lifecycle and its current status. The plan also identifies the main threats to the monarch set in the context of current management actions taken in each country, as well as public perception of the species.



You can find the North American Monarch Conservation Plan in the link below: http://www.cec.org/pubs_docs/documents/index.cfm?varlan=english&ID=2300

The annual migration of millions of orange and black monarchs is among the continent's most spectacular natural events.



COSTA RICA DECREES THAT ITS WATERS ARE SANCTUARIES FOR WHALES

Source: <http://www.casapres.go.cr>

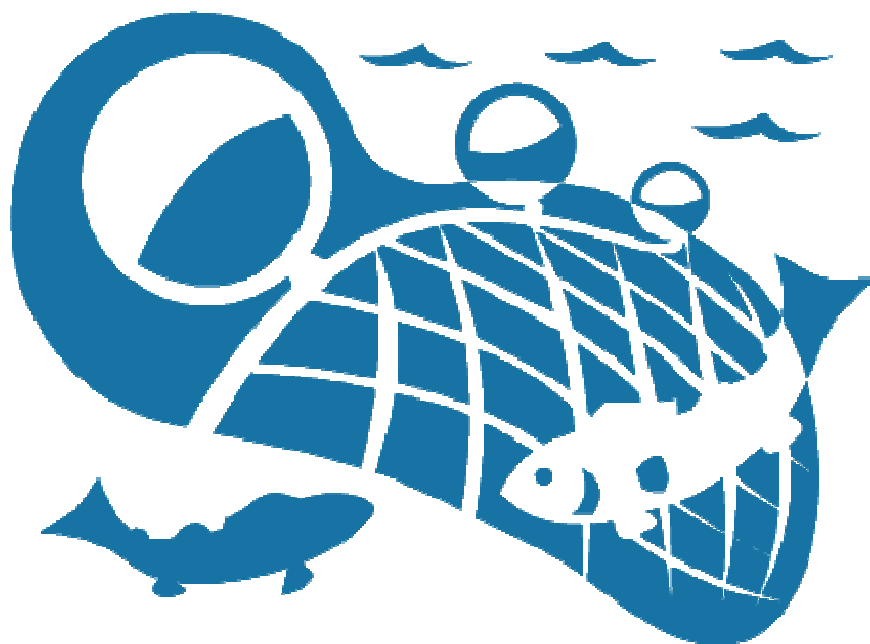
The President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias, and the Minister of Environment, Roberto Dobles, subscribed a decree where they declare the territorial and the exclusive economic zone waters of the country as protected areas for cetaceans, establishing a sanctuary for whales and dolphins.

The signing of the document took place on January 18th of this year, during a tour that President Arias and his Minister of Environment and Energy made to the Osa Peninsula, in the South Pacific, where one of the country's more important biodiversity spot is located.

"It is of the outmost interest of the Costa Rican State to make sure that the whale and dolphin population that visit the territorial waters of the country - interior waters, territorial waters, and exclusive economic zone waters – is kept constant, because of their inherent value as well as their biological value", states the executive decree.

According to President Arias, the creation of a marine sanctuary for these two species comes from the efforts that the country is making through the Peace with Nature Initiative for the conservation of the biodiversity and the existing resources.

It is estimated that the territorial waters of the country are equivalent to an area of almost 580.000 square kilometers.



"All human activities dedicated to the persecution, capturing, hurting, killing, upsetting or commercializing of these species, within the sanctuary, in the territorial waters of Costa Rica are banned except for what has been established in the International Agreements that have been properly ratified".

With this initiative, Costa Rica joins countries like Mexico, Panama, and Dominican Republic, which have decided to create their own whale sanctuaries. The goal is to consolidate a unique sanctuary that includes the whole continent.

AN INITIATIVE FOR ADDED VALUE ON ARTISAN FISHING IS LAUNCHED

Source: Prensa PROTEGER

The Municipality of Reconquista, Argentina, and the PROTEGER Foundation signed a collaboration agreement to work on the conservation and sustainable use of the wetlands and the fishing activity with the participation of riverbank communities.

The Agreement, signed by the in-charge intendant Hector Gregoret, favors the management and the sustainable administration of the river resources, mainly the fishing rivers, which is a job and food source for more than 250 families in the Municipality of Reconquista.

PROTEGER has been developing, since 2004, qualification workshops with the purpose of improving the social, environmental, and economic conditions of the riverbank populations in the fluvial coast line, generating less pressure over the marine resources and an improve in the incomes and the quality of life.

Original note: <http://www.proteger.org.ar/doc773.html>



WORKSHOP ON ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PARAMO

Source: María Ruggiero — Proyecto Páramo Andino

In a first joint experience the Andean Paramo Project (PPA), INWENT, through their MIC and FONAG (Water Protection Fund) Programs, carried out the Workshop on Ecology and Management of the paramo.

The event took place between May 11th and May 16th of 2008, in Conocoto, Ecuador, with the participation of 21 technicians, from Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru that work in the PPA sites and in other entities directly related to the ecosystem.

The workshop was focused on the ecology of the paramos, considering that to give management alternatives, it is necessary to understand and know the functioning of this ecosystem. The module, Ecology and Management of the Paramo, is part of the Update and Improving Course for the technical personnel working in the andean paramo that is being designed by the PPA.

The paramo is a unique ecosystem located in the high tropical mountains of the Venezuelan, Colombian, Ecuadorian, and the North Peruvian Andes, with a small extension in Central America (Costa Rica), and in some African and Asian regions, with a high value and importance as hydric resources, biodiversity, landscaping and other services that contribute to the well-being of the people. The paramo is located above the high-Andean bordering in the upper glacier line.



WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF JOURNALISM

Source: Nardyn Pizarro — WWF Bolivia

The Pantanal Ecoregional Action Plan, implemented by WWF Bolivia and WWF Brazil, aims to articulate communications and information exchange at ecoregional level among partner organizations, WWF Bolivia, WWF Brazil and the WWF Network.

Thus, the Bolivian Pantanal and communications teams organized the workshop entitled “Towards the Construction of a Sustainable Development in Southeastern Bolivia”, with the active participation of the Brazilian communicator.

The objective of the workshop was stimulating the media and their operators in forming public opinion as so as the key role of the media and citizens in general.

The workshop was held in Puerto Quijarro for two days and included the participation of regional authorities, the Major, City Council Members and the Sub-Prefect from the German Busch Province, as well as special guests from Brazil and Bolivia: representatives from the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), Jindal Steel Bolivia, the Bolivian Society for Environmental Law (SBDA) and Ecoa/Ríos Vivos.

Upon concluding the event a series of lessons learned were drafted in terms of the role of the local media in the development process and generating citizenship with sensitivity towards the environment. “Awareness and personal commitment on behalf of the local population and other actors involved in sustainable development in the Pantanal should be promoted starting with the media”, was one of the proposed conclusions.



PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD ON THE WEB

On the web, you find interesting documents that talk about conservation, which are available for downloads for free. We invite you to send any publication you would like to share, to the following e-mail info@creho.org

Waterfowl of the Neotropical Region

It is a 64 page work, very well illustrated, with English and Spanish editions.

In this book you can find useful notes on different matter like identification and waterfowl counting, monitoring and nesting, among others.

The publication is available for download on PDF format. You can have access to it through the following link: <http://www.ducks.org/anatneotrop>

Encyclopedia of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species

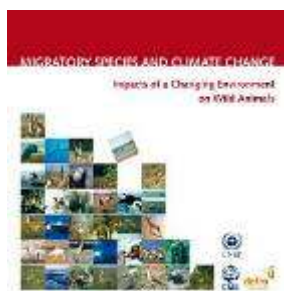
On it you will find a summary of the history of the Convention, its structure, agreements and memorandum of understanding (MoUs).

Additional sections cover themes like the threatens and challenges for the migratory species; the activities of the CMS related to other environmental agreements, that includes, among others, the Ramsar Convention.

For hard copies, please write to secretariat@cms.int. The guide is available in PDF format and can be downloaded in eight sections at this address: http://www.cms.int/publications/family_guide.htm

Currently, the CMS Secretariat is collecting funds for the translations to Spanish and French.

Migratory Species and Climate Change



Our climate is changing. Animals, ecosystems, economic systems and people are affected and nature conservation has to cope with new challenges, which add to other well-known pressures. This book containing contributions from experts around the world, explores the current state of knowledge and identifies ways forward that allow migratory species to continue fulfilling their unique role in the global web of life.

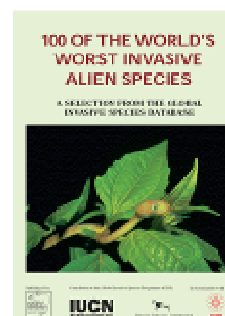
Available for download:
http://www.cms.int/publications/pdf/CMS_CimateChange.pdf



100 of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species: A Selection from the Global Invasive Species Database

The list of the 100 World's Worst Invasive Alien Species presented here is conceived to raise the sensitivity about the extraordinary complexity, and also about the terrible consequences, of the invasive exotic species.

This publication is available for download in PDF format here: <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2000-126.pdf>



SPECIAL ISSUE

MIGRATORY SPECIES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WETLANDS

Nowadays, a lot of importance is given to the conservation of the wetlands, but during centuries they were considered marginal lands that had to be drained or “recovered” to improve the sanitary conditions or for the expansion of the agricultural or urban area.

Currently it is acknowledged that the wetlands are high-productivity ecosystems due to the biological diversity that they nurture, and in many cases they constitute a critical habitat for migratory, endangered and threatened species. They also have the function of being nesting and feeding areas where a vast amount of migratory species stop to rest from their long journey.

Due to the dynamic characteristic of these ecosystems, the events that happen on their surroundings can have ominous repercussions in the cycles that take place in the wetland. Within the ones that suffer the most from these impacts we have the migratory species, because the wetlands are subject to deterioration caused by the projects being developed, which cause modifications to the environment. Agriculture, deforestation, mining, pasturing and industrial and urban development also affect the wetlands in zones close to where they are located.

This is why migratory species have a special need for international cooperation. Because they are particularly vulnerable to the effects produced by the deterioration of the wetlands, effects that go beyond the territory of the country where they are originated.

COUNTING WITH A PURPOSE

Authors: Arne Lesterhuis & Daniel Blanco. *Wetlands International's South American Program*

Every year millions of waterbirds leave their breeding grounds to spend their non-breeding season at sites far away.

A slight alteration on a wetland caused by, for example, change in water level, pollution or human interference can affect the relationship, most commonly in a negative way, and result in a negative trend in visiting numbers. A good example is Delaware Bay in the United States, where throughout time hundreds of thousands of Red Knots (*Calidris canutus*) gather to increase their fat reserves in order to be able to undertake their long journey to the south (Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, Argentina).





Monitoring here on its non-breeding grounds showed that during the nineties numbers have dropped two thirds (*pers. comm.* Patricia Gonzalez), caused by a shared interest far north in horseshoe-crab eggs, the primary food resource of the Red Knot at Delaware Bay.

The given example shows that *numbers* (in the sense of species' abundance) are one of the key factors that tell us a great deal about the state of a wetland. Reduction in the offer of a food resource is causing reduction of numbers of the species. However, some birds are more tolerant to change than others or simply occupy slightly different niches, so not just numbers but also the *diversity* of species at a particular wetland is by no means unimportant to take into account.

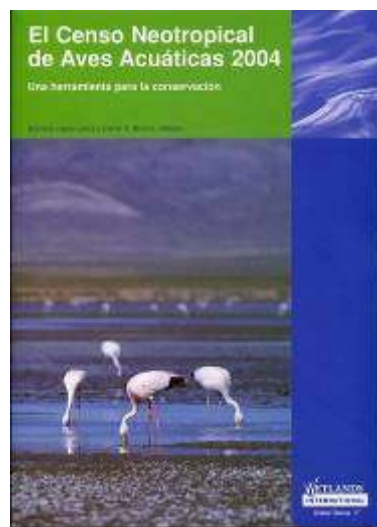
To keep track of the state of a wetland it is important to gather knowledge regarding changes in species and numbers of migratory waterbirds in order to be able to act when necessary and investigate possible causes of these changes. Therefore, migratory waterbird monitoring at wetlands is one of the keys to gaining information regarding the state of a wetland.

NEOTROPICAL WATERBIRD CENSUS

The unique regional bird monitoring program in South America is the Neotropical Waterbird Census (NWC), which was started in 1990 in southern South America as a regional extension of the International Waterbird Census (IWC), globally coordinated by IWRB (now Wetlands International, WI).

The NWC was initiated in Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, with an increasing coverage to the north of the region. In the year 1991 also Brazil and Paraguay joined the program, followed by Colombia and Peru in 1992 and by Bolivia and Ecuador in 1995. Currently the WI office in Buenos Aires is working on the inclusion of also the last four countries, Suriname, Guyana, French Guiana and Trinidad & Tobago, in order to cover the whole South American continent by 2009.

The NWC was established to provide baseline information on the distribution and abundance of waterbirds at wetland habitats within the Neotropics. Ever since the start of the NWC in 1990, more than 2000 sites have been monitored, and currently the database contains more than 65.000 waterbird records, including data of no less than 107 migratory waterbirds from North America. The census is carried out by more than 700 volunteers twice a year, covering the austral summer and the austral winter (February and July). On an annual basis approximately 500 sites are being monitored and total number of waterbirds counted each year reaches one million individuals. These nearly twenty years of monitoring have been made possible through continuous funding by the Canadian Wildlife Service.



Wetlands International is a Global organization for conservation that operates on a scientific basis and produces tools and information instruments to give assistance destined to the development and application of policies, agreements and treaties of governments that are necessary to achieve the conservation of wetlands.

The gathered count data is widely used for the designation of critical wetlands as Ramsar sites, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites (WHSRN) and Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Examples of sites that were designated as Ramsar sites based on count data from the NWC are Lago Poopó (Oruro, Bolivia) and Bahía Lomas (Region XII, Chile), among others. Further, data from the database showed to be of valuable use for already a number of species conservation plans, including conservation plans for the American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*), Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*) and Buff-breasted Sandpiper (*Tryngites subruficollis*), all in preparation. Also, the NWC contributes information to the Global Avian Influenza Network for Surveillance (GAINS), identifying sites of high priority.

Based on the results and out puts that the NWC has reached to date, it is clear that all those 2000 volunteers that have been participating ever since the start were counting for a very valuable purpose. Each one of them has contributed to the conservation of numerous wetlands and waterbird species, helping to protect relationships that have existed for ages, but that now face serous threats due to human activities. Together we can make a difference; it's just a matter of time, effort and enthusiasm.

MIGRATORY FAUNA OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE WETLANDS Green Turtle – *Chelonia mydas*

It is a lonely turtle that occasionally gathers in feeding groups on coastal waters with abundant sea pasture and sea weed. It can be found in tepid, tropical and subtropical waters; in the Atlantic Ocean, from Canada down to Argentina and in the Pacific, from the United States down to Chile.

The grown-up females and males arrive in 2-year intervals to nest on the same beaches in which they were born 15 years behind. They nest and lay eggs up to five times, every other week, ranging from 80 to 145 eggs every time they nest.

The most significant threaten the green sea turtle faces is the intentional grown-up hunting and the recollection of their eggs in nesting beaches and forage waters, the degradation and lost of their habitats, the incidental hunting, among others. It is an endangered species included in the CITES Appendix I.

They are migratory animals and they use several habitats through their whole lives. The reality is that there is an empty space in the knowledge of the migratory route they use; this empty space is being investigated using satellite transmitters.

For more information:

<http://www.iacseaturtle.org/iacseaturtle/chelonia.htm>, <http://www.seaturtle.org>, <http://www.iucn-mts.org/publications>



KARUMBE ©

Events and Courses

II International Course on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Strategic Assessment (ESA) for Wetlands Management

**From the 24th of november to
the 5th of december 2008**

This course will have a length of 12 days, from the 24th of november to the 5th of december 2008, in Panama City, Panama. The course is being organized by Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands on the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) and the Ramsar Convention.

Option A: USD\$ 3,500.00

Includes: Enrolling, working material, field trips, lodging and food (breakfast, lunch, supper and snacks), Hotel/airport shuttle and insurance. **It does not includes:** plane ticket, visas and taxes, tourism activities, phone calls, internet, laundry, health insurance nor any other expense that has not been previously agreed on.

Option B: USD\$ 2,300.00

Includes: Enrolling, materials, field trips, insurance, food (lunch and snacks, only). **It does not includes:** lodging, food (breakfast and supper), hotel/airport shuttle, plane ticket, visas and taxes, tourism activities, laundry, phone calls, internet, health insurance nor any other expense that has not been previously agreed on.

Please hold for more information regarding the agenda and details about the course in the coming weeks.

Latin-American and the Caribbean Water Awards (PLACA)

August 31st is the due date for the presentation of the nominations to the PLACA Awards 2008.

The PLACA Awards are a regional initiative promoted by the International Decade for Action 'Water for Life' 2005-2015, proclaimed by the United Nations.

The PLACA Awards honors outstanding efforts and best local, national and regional practices of communities, community –based organizations, non-governmental organizations, businesses, schools, youth movements, journalists, and individuals that work as examples to reduce by half, by 2015, the percentage of people in the world that lack sustainable potable water access and basic sanitary services.

To read the guide and see the nomination form for the PLACA 2008, please visit: www.cathalac.org/placa. Any questions or concerns: placa@cathalac.org





World Non-Governmental Organization Conference on Wetlands

The World Non-Governmental Organization Conference on Wetlands will take place in the Republic of Korea on the 26th and 27th of October, 2008, immediately before the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

It is an opportunity for the non-governmental organizations around the world to examine matters regarding the conservation and the rational use of the wetlands and to formulate proposals according to the policies that reflect the perspectives of the non-governmental organizations.

The World Non-Governmental Organization Conference on Wetlands is being organized by the Korean Net of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Ramsar COP10 (KNNRC10) with the collaboration of the Japanese Non-Governmental Organizations Net for the Ramsar COP10 (JNNRC10).

Application forms will be received until the August 31st, 2008. For more information koreawetlands@gmail.com / ecoguide@hanmail.net

Europeaid Awards to Innovation Third Edition



The City of Knowledge and the European Union, through the project "Support to the International Techno-Park in the City of Knowledge in Panama", are launching the "Europeaid Awards to Innovation" in Panama 2008, to recognize and stimulate the innovative and promotional capacity, in the science and technology fields.

The Europeaid Awards to Innovation, Panama 2008 on its third version is divided into three categories:

- Scientific and Technological Promotion (Press, Television and Radio)
- New Projects on Information and Communication Technologies
- New Projects on the Energetic Field

Admission will be open until September 30th, 2008, at 3:00pm. For more information please go to: <http://www.cdspanama.org/concurso> or write to concurso@cdspanama.org

XII Congress of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation

The XII Congress will take place in San Salvador, El Salvador, from november 10th-14th, 2008, and will be jointly organized by the SMBC, SalvaNATURA (the Ecologic Foundation of El Salvador), the Biology School of the University of El Salvador, and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

For more information: <http://www.smbcelsalvador2008.com/>

Call for Photography and Digital Art 2008: "The City and Its People"

Due date for the submitting of photography: September 30th, 2008.

It is an open call to all that are passionate photographers and wish to contribute in a positive way to the awareness regarding environmental matters that are of the outmost importance, like: the rational and prudent use of energy and water; as well as taking care of the environment, which belongs to all of us, composed, among others, by rivers, streets, parks.

Contact: ecoloquia@gmail.com – <http://www.ecoloquia.com>





A call for articles ¡Collaborate with us!

Send us information about the activities, results and processes taking place in the Americas towards the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, or about actions in the wetlands. We are also interested in publishing information regarding training courses and events.

Send us your activities, events, processes, project outcomes or other positive news to info@creho.org. Remember that each article must have a maximum size of 1,300 characters, including the spacing. The images to illustrate your article must have a resolution higher than 72 dpi and must be accompanied by the name of the photographer and the copyright authorization in order to be reproduced in INFOWETLAND



Special issue: "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People"



For the special issue featured in our next publication, we invite you to send us specialized information regarding the processes, techniques, experiences and outcomes related to the benefits that wetlands provide to human health. You can send chronicles, essays or technical analysis.

Format for the special issue: Send us your chronicle, essay or technical analysis to info@creho.org.

Remember that each article must have a maximum size of 3,000 characters, including spacing. The images to illustrate your contribution must have a resolution higher than 72 dpi and must be accompanied by the name of the photographer and the copyright authorization in order to be reproduced in INFOWETLAND.

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Infowetland is an information service provided by the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO)

**Next INFOWETLAND will be out in October 2008.
The special issue will deal with human health and wetlands.**

**Send your news, topics, events and information before September 30th, 2008
to the e-mail info@creho.org**

The Editorial Committee approves the content of each issue of the INFOWETLAND bulletin; thus, receiving an article does not guarantee its publication. Modifications made to the material received will be notified via e-mail to the author or information source, and if he/she does not object to the modifications, the committee will take it as the approval to publish the article with the proposed changes.