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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

Welcome to this issue of Infowetland, we take this opportunity to introduce the new board of this organization. We are extremely pleased to take the necessary actions for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Hemisphere.

This issue reflects the efforts made by renowned specialists who were eager to join the task of providing their expertise to expand training opportunities for our country, the best tools are applied, with an innovative and creative character service to strength parties supporting the conservation of wetlands and contribute in making the best decisions for their sustainability. This is essential to maintain healthy ecosystems that provide health care to people, promoting sustainable projects that ensure a better life and safeguard this natural heritage for future generations.

The CREHO will continue to support all efforts to promote awareness about the importance of wetlands to ensure the basis of our nutrition, the safety of our homes and the preservation of the infrastructure of our peoples, to the ongoing climate change. We renew our commitment to promote the competitive advantages that we have to have these incredibly valuable ecosystems in the development of their potential to sustainable tourism, maintaining natural fresh water reservoirs, and help create the necessary awareness of the interdependence between watersheds and coastal areas. We work to make the great value of wetlands in carbon sequestration and many environmental goods and services is known yet poorly understood.

We invite all parties to this effort which will result in better vision of a future in which economic development is sustained in the proper management of these resources.

Arturo Dominici Arosemena Executive Director CREHO



<u>NEWS</u>

New Staff of CREHO

From 2013, CREHO is composed of a new Directory. Here the profiles of each one of the members

ARTURO DOMINICI AROSEMENA

Executive Director of the Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetland in the Western Hemisphere. – CREHO



Dr. Dominici Arosemena assumes his new role from 2013. He holds a Bachelor and Master Degree in Biology and a Ph.D. in Natural Sciences with specialization in marine ecosystems of coastal wetlands and molecular phylogeny in reef fishes.

Among his areas of expertise are the Financial Management and Environmental Projects, Institutional Management and Public Administration, Science and Research, Teaching and Scientific Communication.

Within his extensive professional experience, Arturo worked as Biologist Marine Office of Education Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), was Deputy Director of Ordination and Integrated Management and Head of the Environmental Unit in the Aquatic Authority Resources of Panama (ARAP), Senior Coordinator of the Marine Conservation Program at the International Foundation for Sustainable Development of Panama (FUNDESPA), Professor of Environmental Sciences, Marine Ecosystems, Conservation and Sustainable Development at the University of Panama and the International Maritime University Panama.

Since 2008 he is the National Focal Point of Panama for the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Conservation.

Arturo has written and participated in several scientific publications related to the ecology and structure of reef communities, biogeography of fish, zooplankton ecology, and ecology of marine benthos among others. He has been part of important conferences, meetings and conferences and has several certifications, courses and complementary experiences.

REBECA MAGAÑA

Technical Officer CREHO

She has ten years of experience in the environmental field with emphasis on the implementation of International Environmental Conventions at national and regional level. She has studied Engineering and Natural Resources with a specialization in the area of energy policy and sustainable development, with emphasis on project financing.

She has worked with the Ramsar Convention in the Ministry of Environment of El Salvador, on issues related to coastal - marine resources. She has also served as the focal point of the Kyoto Protocol, the Convention tion on Climatic Change in the same institution, such as an assi tant of focal point of the Montreal Protocol in the Ministry of Health of Panama.





She has also worked as project analyst at German companies such as WPD Wind Project Development GmbH and Bremer Landesbank Bank.

In recent years, she has worked with international organizations such as IUCN (Regional Office in Costa Rica) and UNEP (Regional Office in Panama), as an independent consultant on climate change in the Montreal Protocol, the Basel Convention, among others.

She has represented different countries and organizations in international negotiations on environmental issues of high-level meetings and discussions with multiple parties.

2013-2015 BOARD CREHO

The Board is established by CREHO, the National Environmental Authority (ANAM-Panama), who is responsible for the Chair of the Board, the Ramsar Secretariat, the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), Wetlands International ONG and the representatives of the Standing Committee, the Conference of the Contracting Parties of North America and the Neotropics, namely:

Neotropics: Chile, Cuba, Guatemala (Alternate Members: Argentina, Costa Rica, Jamaica) North America: Canada, (Alternate member: Mexico).

Current Members of the Board: **Panama, Cuba, Secretary of Ramsar, Wetlands International, Chile, Mex***ico, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) and Guatemala.*





CREHO CARRY OUT TRAINING COURSE FOR TRAINERS AND BUILD AN INTER-NATIONAL NETWORK.



The objective of this course is to contribute to strengthening the capacities of wetland experts in the Americas through the training of trainers associated CREHO, in order to maintain and develop international training courses offered by the Centre in the Western Hemisphere.

The course was conducted in a virtual manner from November 11 to 29 and in-person attendance from December 2 to 5, 2013. The trained group consisted of people from Chile, Brazil, Panama, United States, Mexico, Honduras and El Salvador

Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor for the Americas; Casallas Sara and Laura Maiz-Tome Assistants Counselors for the Americas

and Europe respectively, came from Switzerland, home to the Ramsar Secretariat.

Rivera was responsible for directing the course. "It is very important for the Secretariat to build capacity in regional centers. Through CREHO course organized by the regional center, there will be instructors who can replicate the guidelines of the Ramsar Convention in their respective country.

The course was also counted with the presence of special guests : Marisol Dimas, by the Directorate of Protected Areas of ANAM, Edwin Vega in representation of the Latin American Center for Competitiveness and Sustainable Development of INCAE Business School, as well as the collaboration of Rosabel Miro, Executive Director of the Panama Audubon Society; Isis Pinto, Manager of MarViva Science Foundation; Eddy Arcia and Marina Gallardo, Technicians of the Directorate of Protected Areas of ANAM

Course topics were divided into five areas around wetlands, according to the technical guidelines of the Ramsar Convention: 1. Conservation and wise use, 2. Management plans, 3. Environmental Impact and Strategic Assessment (EIA), 4. Vulnerability to climatic change and 5. Economic evaluation of environmental goods and services.



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As part of the course, the members visited the wetlands of Panama Viejo, Costa del Este and Juan Diaz within and adjacent to a Wetland of International importance Bahia of Panama, to observe and learn about the pressures that exist in wetland areas and meet the best known wetlands as Ramsar sites.

Arturo Dominici Arosemena, Executive Director of CREHO talked about the training, "the course is the main base for specialists in the field of wetlands throughout the region; with it, we can establish a training program in different step on and build alliances in the region



At the end of the course participants trainers were officially certified as trainers CREHO Associates.

MARIA RIVERA HEADS FOR TRAINERS AT CREHO ASSOCIATED TRAINING COURSE



RIVERA, MARÍA (COLOMBIA) Senior Advisor for the Americas

Maria has contributed to the implementation of the Convention in the Neotropics, in her position as a technical officer in CREHO, the office of Ramsar regional initiative in Panama, and before that in her work at the Ministry of Environment in Colombia.

She holds a Bachelor Degree in Biology and Chemistry from the Universidad Libre de Colombia and a Master Degree in Natural Resource Management from the Uni-

versidad Nacional Ezequiel Zamora, Venezuela. She has organized and participated in courses on wetland management, particularly in the RIZA Institute for inland water management in the Netherlands, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and Ducks Unlimited.

Maria has served as member of the Wetlands Synthesis Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and since 2006 has been the member for Neotropico of Ramsar GECT.

She was incorporated to the Ramsar Secretariat in 2007.





AYALA BOCOS, ARTURO (México):

Marine biologist graduated from the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California Sur (UABCS) in Mexico. Instructor of technical and scientific diving, professor Coral Reef Ecology at UABCS and President of Oceans and Coasts SC since 2011.

His main line of research is Reef Ecology Systems. He has participated and led projects in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (from Mexico to Panama), the Gulf of Mexico and the Mexican Caribbean, for government and non-governmental organizations, whose interest is to detect reef ecosystem vulnerability to climate change and anthropogenic factors to provide tools for the management and sustainable use of marine resources, also the evaluation and choice of priority sites for conservation.



CONTRERAS, MANUEL (Chile):

He has studied Biological Sciences with mention in Ecology.

His areas of specialization are ecology and aquatic ecosystems, limnology and aquatic ecosystem modeling. Environmental Assessment and restoration of aquatic ecosystems.

He is an Academic of the Department of Ecological Sciences, Faculty of Science at the University of Chile and Executive Director, Center for Applied Ecology (CEA).

In 2006, Contreras and A. de la Fuente published the book "Concepts and criteria for environmental assessment of wetlands". In addition to numerous scientific publications and presentations at conferences, he has visited more than a dozen countries worldwide giving conferences about conservation and management of wetlands.

Since 1993, he has directed and developed more than 500 environmental studies related to applied research, monitoring and management of aquatic ecosystems, to government and private agencies and private companies in various economic sectors and NGOs.





DANIEL SUMAN (USA-Panamá):

He is a professor of Marine Policy at the Rosenstiel School of Marine Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Miami.

His area of research and project focuses on coastal management, marine resource governance and spaces, management of mangroves and coastal wetlands, marine protection areas

and especially in Latin America.

He earned a Ph.D. in oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography - University of California, San Diego and a law degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Obtuvo un Doctorado en oceanografía en el Instituto Scripps de Oceanografía- Universidad de California, San Diego y una Licenciatura en Derecho de la Universidad de California, Berkeley.

En la Universidad de Miami, ha dictado cursos de Ley Ambiental, Planificación Ambiental, Manejo Costero,



FUNES, CÉSAR (El Salvador):

Graduated in Biological Science in Fishery at Auburn University, Alabama, USA, and a Post Graduate in Fisheries Biology and Management of Fisheries in the Fisheries Institute, University of Bergen, Norway.

He has conducted trainings on fishing, aquaculture, management of mangroves, estuaries, beaches, dams, policy-making, marine and oceans coastal strategies, economic valuation of

ecosystems, formulating environmental and productive projects, and wetland management, among others; in the University of Miami, Oklahoma State University, University of Costa Rica, National Institute of Environmental Training Taiwan, Government of El Salvador, OES, Ecuador Oceanographic Institute, Naval Force of El Salvador. He has developed training to communities of reservoirs, coastal zone on the ecology of mangroves and estuaries, biology of mangrove species and fisheries legislation to remove and protect natural resources. In addition, he has given the chair of Environmental Sciences and Methods of EIA for private and state projects. He has recently been assigned to CREHO / RAMSAR.

He has conducted and diagnostic studies of mangroves, estuaries and lakes as well as the formulation of sustainable development projects for communities and conservation that extract natural resources in these ecosystems.





PINZÓN, ZULEIKA (Panama):

She is a Fisheries Engineer, and obtained with honors a degree at the Universidad Federal Rural de Pernambuco, Brazil, with a Master of Science in University of Florida, USA and Diploma in Management of NGOs and Governance and Policy Management.

She has an extensive experience in the marine coastal scientific area, especially in mangrove ecosystem in Panama, Brazil, United States and Micronesia and more than a dozen publications.

With nearly 15 years of experience leading NGOs in Panama, she is currently Executive Director of the PROMAR Foundation and previously MarViva Foundation and Natura Foundation, the latter recognized by the management of funds to finance conservation and sustainable development.

Engineer Pinzon has an active presence in environmental civil society, both locally and regionally, holding various positions as Regional Councilors for Central and South America from the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Vice President of Network Environmental Funds Latin America and the Caribbean (RedLac), member of the Technical Advisory Committee of IUCN- ORMA Wetlands, among others.



MENEZES, MOIRAH (Brazil):

Biologist. She holds a Ph.D. in Natural Sciences at the University of Bremen - Germany.

Professor at the Universidad de Para-Brazil where she teaches Ecology and Botanic. Develop research projects on the vegetation and the use of natural resources in the Brazilian Amazon mangrove coast.





MATÉ, JUAN (Panama):

He is a marine biologist with degrees obtained at the University of Panama and the Rosenstiel School of Marine Atmospheric Sciences and the University of Miami.

He currently serves as Director of Scientific Affairs and Operations at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI). He belongs to the International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS) and the Panamanian Association for the Advancement of Science (APANAC).

His line of research focuses on Ecology of coral reefs; genetic connectivity of coral reefs, coral reproductive strategies. El Niño and the effects of ocean warming on marine life, conservation biology, ecological aspects of marine natural products, marine and coastal fishery.



MÉNDEZ CASTILLO, SOFÍA (Honduras):

She has a Master Degree in Biology with planning and environmental management. She served as regional assistant for the Americas in the Ramsar Secretariat in 2010-2012. She has been an assistant for a research program, rural development and environment of the Ca-

nadian Cooperation in Honduras during 2004-2007.

Recently she provides advice to the Directorate of Biodiversity of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment - SERNA, on wetlands and has coordinated the process of the formulation of the National Strategy for the Conservation of Sea Turtles in Honduras.

Her interests include dealing with eco-systemic approach to marine and coastal wetlands as critical for sustaining biodiversity areas.

Dr. Arturo Dominici Arosemena and Engineer Rebecca Magaña, were also certified trainers CREHO Associates. At the beginning of the INFOWETLAND you can find their profiles.

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INTERNATIONAL FORUM IN THE CITY OF KNOWLEDGE



"Relevance of the planning and evaluation of environmental impact on the conservation and wise use of wetlands"

On Friday, December 6, 2013, was held at the City of Knowledge the International Forum "Relevance of the planning and evaluation of environmental impact on the conservation and wise use of wetlands."

It was discussed with specialists from the region, case studies on

planning and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as well as the exchange of experiences, inclusion of processes, standards of planning and participation of parties in decision -making throughout the American continent.

Dr. Guillermo Castro, Academic Director of the City of Knowledge Foundation, made his lecture "territory in three days", where he gave an overview of Panamanian history and importance of mangroves as a resource.

Besides, Dr. Arturo Dominici Arosemena, Executive Director CREHO, presented the keynote address " CRE-HO: progress, achievements and upcoming action on capacity building at the regional level." Throughout his lecture, he presented some examples of wetlands, how they work and why it is important to promote the conservation and wise use.



Subsequently, a panel discussion moderated by Juan Mate, Director of Scientific Affairs and Operations Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) was performed.

The panel was composed by Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor for the Americas of the Ramsar Secretariat, Manuel Contreras, Executive Director of the Center for Ecology Applied from Chile, Arturo Ayala Bocos, Professor of Ecology on Coral Reefs of the Autonomous University of Baja California South; Moirah Menezes, Professor of Ecology and Botany at the Federal University in Para (Brazil), Julio Montes de Oca, Chief of the Office of Wetlands International Panama and finally, Daniel Suman, Professor of Marine Policy at the Rosenstiel School of Marine Science and atmospheric at the University of Miami.





CASE STUDIES

Below are some case studies presented at the International Conference:

Case study on planning: Marine Extractive Reserves in the Brazilian Amazon coast Author: Moirah Menezes

The Brazilian Amazon has a coast mangrove belt between the provinces of Para and Maranhao 640 km of extension.



 Here are 700,000 hectares of mangroves, representing 85% of the mangroves of Brazil.

3°s Due to the presence of these mangroves, the region has a high diversity of fish species. Artisanal fishing dominates the region.



To ensure continuity of the traditional coastal and marine use, the Brazilian government created a series of nine (9) Marine Extractive Reserves (RESEX for its initials in Spanish) in the Amazon Coast seeking to protect livelihoods, culture of traditional populations and assure the sustainable use of natural resources.

For proper operation, the RESEX has a person in charge of Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity (ICMBio for its initials in Spanish), which is a government institution responsible for the conservation units; and a deliberative council made by the community and institutions.

To improve the quality of life and work at the RESEX communities, the government funded fishing nets, boat engines, refrigerators for storing fish, new homes and potable water for the community. Also we think the "green grant" which encourages communities to use resources conservation units protect the natural resources of the area.

The proposal is very interesting, but these benefits from the government will start without guidance and community knowledge; as a result, the community does not understand its social and environmental commitment to preserve its natural resources.

Predatory practices such as deforestation of mangroves for rice and cassava nurturing, fishing in breeding time, fishing of threatening fishes, illegal building, stockbreeding, use of fire and hunting wild animals are common in RESEX.

The community perceives RESEX as sources of government funding and does not assume its commitment for the preservation of natural resources.

With an advance planning; the education and enlightenment of the population, the government funded programs have guaranteed success and the environmental issues could be practiced in RESEX.

Currently the challenges of managing and the deliberative council are to preserve the natural environments, curb squatting natural areas and sensitize members of RESEX on the need to conserve the environment to ensure the use and maintenance of natural resources.





The Cabo Pulmo Reef, BCS, Mexico

Author: Arturo Ayala Bocos

The National Park of Cabo Pulmo is located in the municipality of Los Cabos, 50 miles northeast of San Jose, near the so-called "Los Cabos Corridor" region devoted entirely to mass tourism (large hotels, golf courses, etc.). The area of Cabo Pulmo was declared a National Park in 1995, but in 2007 its management program was officially established.



Currently the park is managed by a group of less than 10 people, those carrying out education, monitoring, patrolling, etc. Its reef is RAMSAR site (2008) and was declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO (2005).

Success in establishing management strategies is evident in Pulmo and similar protected areas, because studies have shown an increase in the size and abundance of organisms (evidenced between three and five years after the establishment of the Park), increased diversity and specific functional groups (observed from five years) and finally changes in community structure (expected after 15 years of operation). Eventually these people leave the site restarted as adults or larvae and help the restoration of conditions outside the protected area.

Environmental services offered by Cabo Pulmo (tourism, fisheries, conservation, scenic beauty, etc.) are invaluable and have encouraged the initiative to different studies, such as the estimation of the carrying capacity of divers in the park, it was determined that the number of dives should not exceed 2,500 per year to avoid damage to reef communities.

The current state of conservation of the area has been possible thanks to the joint work of government, researchers and non-governmental organizations and especially the commitment and interest of residents with conservation, which could be as an example to national and even global level. The locals have a clear need to maintain the good condition of the reef to maintain or improve their quality of life.



Unfortunately, this happy situation is perhaps only possible on sites with the characteristics of Cabo Pulmo. This is a unique place in Baja California, not only for its social ecological characteristics, but, for example, levels of drug addiction and alcoholism are extremely low. Preferred service providers change their life style typical of a small-scale fisherman in order to improve their standard of living. The question is: In how many places it can be reached this level?



Changes to the Tamiami Highway to improve water flow to Everglades National Park (Ramsar Site): Application of EIA

Author: Daniel Suman



The Everglades is the largest subtropical wetland in North America, it has 3.24 million hectares.

In this ecosystem with its variety of habitats reside 67 threaten or endangered species. Furthermore, it is of great importance because it provides drinking water for 7 million people.

The Everglades National Park ecosystem encompassing southern sector. Created in 1947, has an extension which represents 20 % of the original extension of the wetland.

The National Park has been designated Ramsar Site (HII) since 1987.

Despite of the enjoyable protection, this ecosystem is threatened. The construction of an extensive system of channels and levels to lower the risk of flooding has reduced the amount of water flowing south of the system; the channels take water from the system and downloaded to the shores of the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico.

Because of this, the place is stressed vegetation, salinity of Florida Bay has increased and much exotic vegetation has invaded the park. In addition, the urbanity development on both coasts has reduced its habitat by 50% of the original wetland. Besides, the National Park entered the Montreux Record of the Ramsar Convention in 1993.



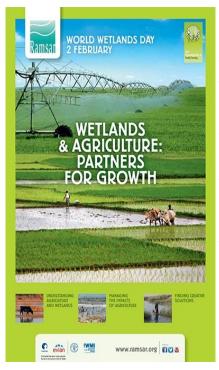
Several government institutions have developed a program of ecological restoration, known as CERP and approved by Congress in 2000. It is estimated that over 30 CERP projects consist of \$ 7.8 billion over a period of 30 years. A CERP project has to do with the Tamiami Highway, which impedes the natural flow of water to the Everglades National Park to the south.

In 1989, a project for the construction of a 1.6 km bridge so that more water is entering the National Park was approved. This work was completed in March 2013.

In 2009, the Congress passed legislation for the National Park Service will assess the feasibility of building additional bridges in complementing the Tamiami Highway Bridge. The objectives were partially restoring the natural flow of water to the National Park and Florida Bay to restore habitat and increase ecological connectivity between the Park and the Water Conservation Area to the north.

SPECIAL TOPIC

PANAMA CELEBRATES WORLD WETLANDS DAY



On the occasion of the celebration of World Wetlands Day this year was designated as the central topic "Wetlands and agriculture: Together for the Growth", calling the sectors that use wetlands for care and protection.

On the morning of Sunday, February 2, at the Visitor Center in Panama Viejo, the Training was conducted in resighting of migratory shorebirds. Experts from The College of William & Mary in Virginia, USA, trained the general public in methods for resighting data collection and migratory shorebirds marked with flags and unique color coded.

With this training, it may make a greater collection of data that allow scientists may have greater understanding of migratory movements and habitat requirements and feeding of migratory species.



Rosabel Miro, Executive Director of the Panama Audubon Society, spoke about this activity; "it is important for people to participate and discuss whether we have seen birds with gray coded flags, this will help us to know about the behavior of birds, which are the particular sites that use here in Panama, birds of Bahia de Panama, have a unique color flag for being the first effort made in Central America to band birds, this will give a lot of visibility and importance to Panama when the U.S., Canada, Mexico and even Nicaragua, see the birds with our flags".

In the afternoon, at the Biodiveristy museum in the Causeway was the scene for the discussion group "Wetlands, biodiversity and conservation" enabling disclosure of the importance of wetlands in our country. Roberto Eisenmann, a member of the Board of Biodiversity museum, gave a few words to begin the event. "We are starting the dream of truth", in reference to this institution dedicated to exposing the development of human beings and relationship with the environment.

During the roundtable discussion, members of the National Wetlands Committee noted the importance of these ecosystems, and to protect the coastal environment and the population.

The second lecture "Biodiversity in wetlands Panamanians: shorebird migration" presented by George Angehr, curator of exhibits from Biodiversity museum, which did extensive exhibition on the most common species in wetland ecosystems, especially birds. I mention that in this ecosystem there are about 120 species of aquatic birds in Panama.

Later the video "The wetland on your plate" where it was visualized the relationship between the sea products and wetland ecosystems.

Then the discussion group with the question: "What can we do to preserve wetlands? Marisol Dimas from ANAM was the moderator.

The discussion was present George Angehr, Rosabel Miro, Executive Director of the Audubon Society of Panama, Rosa Montañez, Executive Director of Natura Foundation, Zuleika Pinzon, Executive Director of the PROMAR Foundation, Arturo Dominici Arosemena, CREHO Executive Director and Charlotte Elton.

On 2 February has been designated as World Wetlands Day, since that day in 1972 in the city of Ramsar - Iran was approved by the United Nations Convention the protection of wetlands.



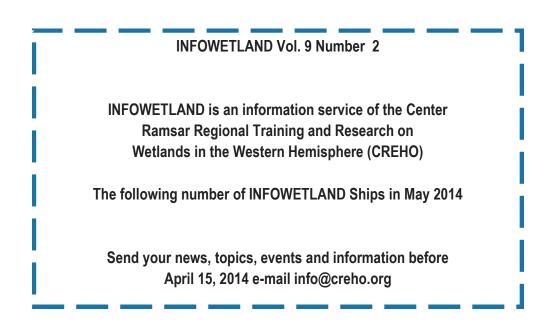
NEXT COURSE

For information on upcoming courses and activities, please visit the website www.creho.org.

Call for Articles, Work with us!

Send us information about the activities, outputs and processes that take place in the Americas aimed at the implementation of the Ramsar Convention or directly with shares in wetlands. We are also interested in publishing information about training and events.

Send us your activities, events, processes, results and projects or other positive news to info@creho.org. Remember that each article should have an average of 500 words. Pictures to illustrate your article should have a higher resolution to 96 dpi, be accompanied by the name of the photographer and copyright permission to reproduce the INFOWETLAND.



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