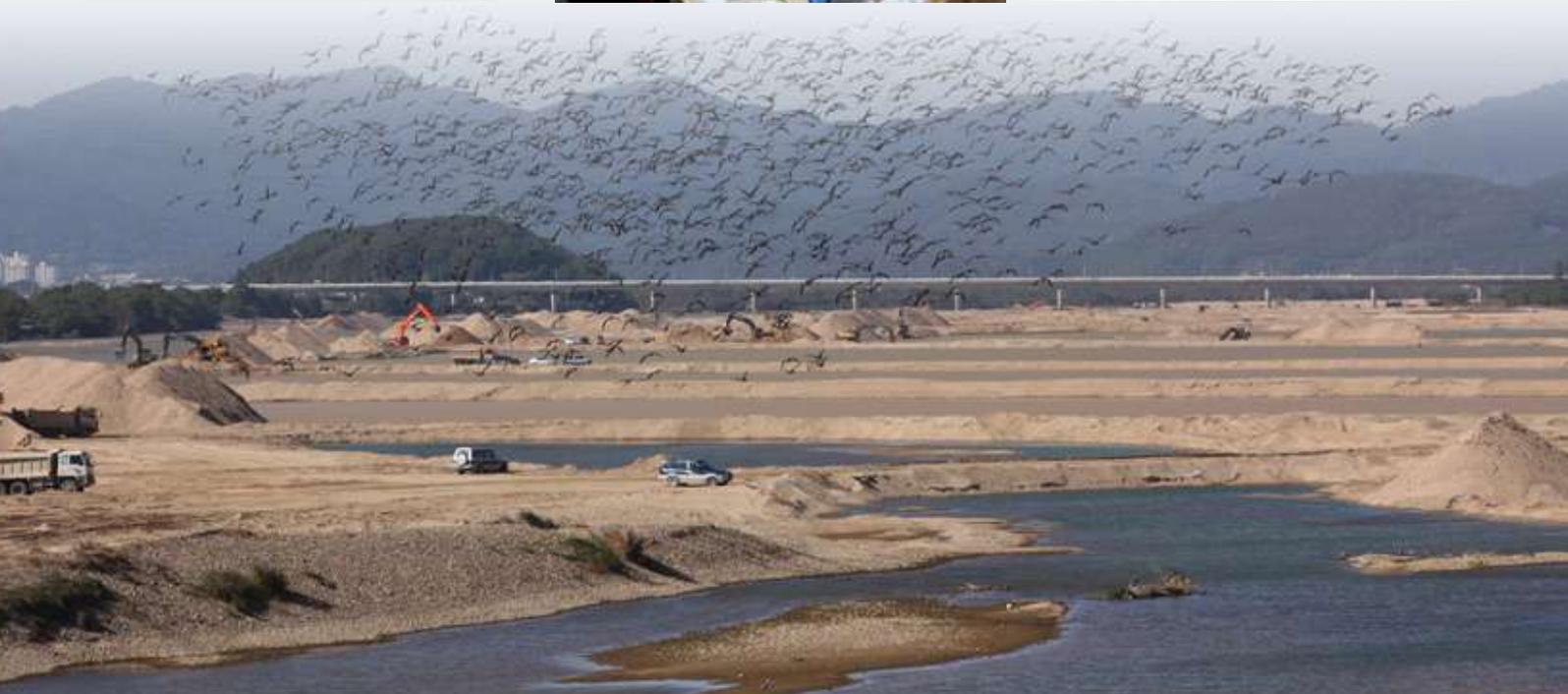




WWN Annual Report 2012





Introduction

The World Wetland Network (WWN) is now in its 4th year, and 2012 was largely spent preparing for and delivering at the Ramsar COP11 and the 2nd round of the Wetland Globe Awards, which are shown in more detail in this report. We saw our membership jump to around 2,000 this year, which is a huge increase largely due to members signing up to vote for the globe awards. We have maintained our WWN committee largely unchanged, and have continued to work well together. Unusually, we have had two face-to-face meetings this year which was most welcome, in Spain and at the Ramsar COP in Romania.

The Ramsar COP11 was a great opportunity to really help promote the role of civil society in an international wetland agreement. WWN helped not only to prepare CSO's to take part, but also saw its impact on the resolutions and process of the COP itself. The second round of the Wetland Globe Awards also worked well to give an idea of how civil society delivers wetland conservation, and to provide direct support to those that are actively trying to protect wetland sites.

2012 was a great year for WWN, and has placed us in a good position for future work. We hope you find this report useful, but if you require more information then please visit our website at www.worldwetnet.org

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Rostron'.

Chris Rostron and The WWN Committee





Ramsar COP

The big event in 2012 for the wetland community was the Ramsar COP11 (11th conference of the parties), which took place in early July in Romania. (for the full WWN report on Ramsar, see our [website](#)). We had started preparing for the COP in 2011, updating our members about the content and process of the event, and getting ready to play a coordinating role to represent the civil society sector both before and at the event.



WWN committee and partners in Segovia

Working with SEO Birdlife (Spain) and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and held a preparatory meeting in northern Spain for the WWN committee and the Ramsar IOPs. The meeting enabled us to explore in more detail the Draft Resolutions to be discussed at the COP, to learn from the other IOPs about how best to engage with the process, and to select the shortlist of WWN Wetland Globe winning entries.

At Ramsar's Standing Committee 43 (SC43), the draft resolutions were produced, and we spent some time producing a guide to these, and asking for input from partners. One output of the Spanish meeting was a guidance note on the content and implications of the resolutions, and information on those that WWN prioritised, with an outline of our intended response.

At the CO itself we had an NGO room allocated at the meeting venue, and an information booth to display the results of the Globes and information on WWN generally, which also acted as a meeting point. WWN chaired an international NGO meeting of over 30 NGOs present at COP, including reps from IUCN, Wetlands International and WWF. A morning session served to set the scene, introducing the NGOs to each other and outlining their role at COP. Nick Davidson (Deputy Director General of the Ramsar Secretariat) and Christine Prietto from the Secretariat's CEPA Panel attended to welcome the

NGO's and give us advice on protocols and how to work effectively during the COP. It was great to hear from all the NGOs about their work, and to see the level of organisation of NGOs at COP11 (vastly different from COP10). The Romanian hosts held an opening ceremony including general opening speeches, presentation of the Ramsar Awards, and celebration of wetlands in Romania. Julia Marton-Lefevre (head of IUCN) mentioned the WWN in her opening speech for the IOPs, demonstrating the awareness of how active we have been. As part of the opening proceedings, our Romanian NGO colleague, **Petruta Moisi** gave the opening NGO statement.



Petruta Moisi reads the opening NGO statement



The most important (and time-consuming) resolution, *DR1*, was about institutional hosting arrangements – whether Ramsar should stay with IUCN or move to UNEP. Eventually it was agreed that if Ramsar made plans to work more closely with other MEAs (multi-lateral environmental agreements) and do more to include a broader audience, then all delegations agreed to remain with IUCN – a great result!



Nosivolo blue globe award

Partnerships and synergies, DR6 covered who the Ramsar convention works with. Although it mentioned NGOs, we worked with the UK delegation to get specific mention of WWN in the text. Sustainable Tourism, *DR07*, looked at how we can minimise the negative effect of tourism and bring positive benefits to wetlands, wildlife and local people. We supported the aim to strengthen the role of indigenous and local people, as well as bring benefits to these communities.

Climate change and wetlands, DR14, looking at strengthening work to show how wetlands mitigate for and adapt to climate change. WWN

members worked with the other IOPs to write a letter to the Brazilian minister of Environment, as they were the only delegation opposing the resolution. In the end the resolution passed with minor amendments, but at the last minute.

Rice paddies and pesticides, DR15, aiming to reduce the impact of pesticide use on biodiversity in rice paddies. Initial changes in the wording of the resolution included ‘pest resistant’ strains of rice, leaving the door open for GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) usage. Martin Frid from the Consumers Union of Japan worked very hard with NGO partners and party delegates including Japan, EU, china and many others to get this changed to include wording that precludes GMO usage, mentioning ‘traditional breeding and varieties’, which we were very happy with.



Chris Rostron, WWN Chair, reads the closing NGO statement

The Ramsar Conference offered us the chance to make a closing NGO statement for the final plenary session, which we prepared in consultation with the other IOPs. The Statement included criticism of the convention for silencing NGOs and IOPs at certain points of the COP when they were running out of time, despite us working through official pathways. However, our final call was more positive, asking governments to recognise and support NGOs to help deliver the Ramsar convention’s goals, and that we stood ready to deliver on Ramsar’s objectives.



WWN Wetland Globe Awards

This is the second round of the Globe Awards; the first was delivered in 2010, and announced at the CBD COP11 in Nagoya, Japan. We were successful in our funding bid to the Fundación Biodiversidad to support the second round of the WWN wetland globe awards. The bid covered upgrades to the website, supported some colleagues to attend the Ramsar COP and covered some of WWT's staff time in hosting the project.

We had launched the globes in mid-2011, to allow plenty of time to publicise the awards, and to give local groups the chance to vote for their wetlands. The WWN Committee selected the award winners on the basis of numbers of votes, and the amount of feedback that local people gave about their wetlands. The WWN globe awards 2012 were announced on the 7th of July at the Ramsar CoP11, and delivered by the WWN committee. We gave six blue globe awards for well-managed wetlands, and five globe awards for wetlands under threat. See annex II for the details.



Grey globe award for Korea 4 rivers project

Some notable campaigns were run around wetlands, for example at Lake Tota which developed a facebook and website, and held public events to raise the profile of the project, and a network campaign for the Nosivolo River in Madagascar. However, Africa is still under-represented in the voting process, and this is likely to be due to poor internet access.

Overall, this second round of awards was a big improvement on the first. We had learnt lessons from the first one, and made it easier to vote, given voters the opportunity to make comments, and we used our network of representatives more effectively to promote the awards. We received 1850 votes in 2012, compared to 400 in 2010, showing that we have improved the process vastly. We plan to launch the third round in 2014 in time for the next Ramsar COP12 in 2015, Uruguay.

WWN network capacity

The WWN committee continued to function well, with regular skype meetings in addition to the face-to-face meetings held this year. We lost one of our members, Luc Hoogenstein from Vogelbescherming, The Netherlands due to a change in job, but we still have active representation from all continents.

In addition, we have developed the network of sub-regional representatives (SRR), who have been helpful in communicating WWN activities (see annex II). We now have 16 SRRs signed up, and this allows us to have a much better understanding of what is happening across the globe. We hope to extend the network further, and to involve the SRRs as actively as possible.



Voting for the globe awards has also resulted in us reaching nearly 2000 members. The network is free to join, and can be done through our website.

As well as our growing e-mail distribution list, we also started to use facebook. Social media is a fast growing method of communication in many countries, and this has been used to great effect in some of the local campaigns for the Wetland Globe Awards.

Thanks

The WWN committee would like thank the Fundación Biodiversidad and WWT for providing funding and support for our activities. We also thank the Ramsar Convention for welcoming our input, and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SEO birdlife (David Howell and Roberto Gonzalez) and the IOPs for input to the preparatory meeting in Spain. Finally, thanks to the UK and Japanese delegations at Ramsar for helping with input to the draft resolution discussions.





Annex I – Wetland Globe Winners

Africa - Nosivolo River wetlands, Madagascar (Blue Globe) has benefited from community decision-making and action to conserve and protect the wetlands. Lac Nakoué, Benin (Grey Globe) suffers from a combination of agricultural damage, invasive species and over-exploitation.

Asia - Maruyama Gawa, Japan (Blue Globe) has seen a lot of conservation work delivered, including ‘wildlife-friendly’ rice cultivation, which has seen the return of the Oriental white stork. The 4 Major Rivers Project (Grey Globe) in the Republic of Korea resulted in major damage to riverine wetlands from river engineering activities.

Europe - Pomorie Lake (Blue Globe) has had much work done by the Green Balkans NGO, resulting in community engagement and practical habitat and species improvement. Kopacki Rit, Croatia (Grey Globe) is threatened by proposed river engineering projects.

Neotropics - Pantanos de Villa, Peru (Blue Globe) is a good example of local involvement of partners from community, business and local government groups, resulting in an accessible and popular urban wetland site. The Lago de Tota, Colombia (Grey Globe) has not been recognised as a protected area yet, and suffers from agricultural pollution and over-use.

North America - Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs, USA (Blue Globe) is a good example of involving indigenous communities in the sustainable management of wetlands.

Oceania - Whangamarino wetland, New Zealand (Blue Globe) has seen much work done to include local people in the management of the site, with resources to remove invasive species and manage water levels. Towra Point, Australia (Grey Globe) suffers from many issues common to other urban sites such as multiple ownership, pollution, and encroachment from invasive species.

Annex II – list of WWN regional and sub-regional representatives

Position	Name	Organisation
Chair	Chris Rostron	Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
Tech expert / Co-chair	Peter Lengyel	UNESCO Pronatura
Neotropics	Melissa Marin	FUNGAP
Centro-America	Catalina Molina Bustamente	Keto Costa Rica
South America	Jorge Cappato	Fundacion Proteger
South America	Elier Tabilo Valdevieso	Centro Neotropico pour l'Entranamiento sobre los Humedales



Brazil	Rafaela Danielli Nicola	Red Pantanal
Caribbean	Unfilled	
Asia	Minoru Kashiwagi	RamsarNet Japan
West Asia	Munqeth Mehyar	Friends of the Earth Middle East
Central Asia	Rustam Murzakhanov	CAYEN (Central Asia Youth Environment Network)
Indian sub- continent	Sushmita Sengupta, Dr Suresh Kumar Rohill	Centre for Science and the Environment
South East Asia	To be filled	
East Asia	LEE, Insik	KWNN
East Asia, sub	Sunny Harrison	KWNN
Oceania	Cassie Price	Wetland Care Australia
New Zealand	Karen Denyer	National Wetland Trust, NZ
Australia	Cassie Price	Wetland Care
Pacific Islands	Nunia Thomas	Wetland Fiji
Africa	Baboucarr Mbye	Stay Green Foundation
North Africa	Mohamed Benata	ESCO, Morocco
East Africa	David Musingo	Uganda Wildlife Education Centre
West Africa	Maximin Djondo	BEES
West Africa	Edem Edem	Green Concern for Development (GREENCODE)
West/Central Africa	Anicet Burunga	Conseil Promotionnel pour l'Action des Jeunes en Afrique
Madagascar	Luciano Anandriamaro	Conservation International
Madagascar	Herizo Andrianandrasana	Durrell Foundation
Southern Africa	Karen Ross	Wildreness Foundation
North America	Julie Langenberg	International Crane Foundation
Canada	Pat Kehoe	Ducks Unlimited Canada
US	Julie Langenberg	International Crane Foundation
Europe	Chris Rostron	WWT
Western Europe	Eva Hernandez	WWF Spain
Eastern Europe	Peter Lengyel	UNESCO Pronatura