

Review Paper

Wetland Link International – A Global Network for Wetland Educators

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Wetland Link International (WLI) was set up in 1991, in order to strengthen wetland education networks through wetland education centres, and has a Memorandum of Co-operation with Ramsar to deliver CEPA support internationally. The definition of a 'wetland education centre' is broad, encompassing large built centres with interactive exhibits and thousands of visitors, to small community-run projects with little infrastructure. Anywhere that people are working to deliver messages about wetland conservation could be included. The network now has 350 members across the globe, and works with regional networks including WLI Asia and NorBalWet.

WLI works to support local partners and is structured to work in four areas which are:

- Communication. Developing regional leads and networks, e-mail groups and regular contact; website development.
- Supporting existing centres. Sharing resources and best practice; regional networks; training and skills development.
- Developing new centres. Identifying opportunities; supporting developing projects where partners are already active.
- Raising profile of wetland CEPA. Lobbying; developing resources

As an international support network, WLI relies heavily on its website, which is accessible to all. The website contains useful documents, pictures and resources; a discussion forum for members; a searchable map to show profiles of members; and more support for the priority themes to help you get messages across to your visitors.

The activities and work areas will be focused on five priority themes which are: wise use of wetlands; flyways (migratory bird routes); climate change (mitigation effects of wetlands and impacts of a changing climate on them); impacts of invasive species; and endangered species. We will develop materials and support for members to carry out targeted work on these themes, to be delivered at particular times of the year.

We welcome new members to the network – please see our website for joining instructions and to find out more about the project. If you think that your wetland centre could benefit from joining, please contact Chris Rostron, head of WLI on the contact details above.