

World Wetland Network

Regional and Sub-Regional Representatives



EXECUTIVE



Louise Duff

Chair, WWN and Regional Representative - Oceania

Contact: lduff@cva.org.au; +61 432 688775

Secretary Australian Wetland Network

Program Manager – Wetlands Catchments Coasts, Conservation Volunteers

Bachelor of Applied Science – parks recreation and heritage (csu)

Master Public Administration (New England University)

Louise Duff has been working to engage communities in nature conservation since 1988. She has a focus on wetland and shorebird conservation under the framework of the Ramsar Convention. Her professional role involves engaging communities in practical conservation of wetland, catchments and coasts, managing Conservation Volunteers Australia's Revive Our Wetlands program. Her previous roles include Regional Manager for Wetlandcare Australia and Chief Executive Officer for Hunter Wetlands Centre. Louise was appointed the Oceania Representative to the World Wetland Network in 2011 and became the Chair in 2016. She attended Ramsar COP 11 and 12, working with the WWN committee to facilitate the effective participation of NGOs.



Chris Rostron

Deputy Chair for WWN, and Regional Representative - Europe

Contact: chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk, +44 1453 891214 *Head of Wetland Link International, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, UK*

Chris has been working in environmental engagement and education for over 25 years, and in wetland conservation specifically for the past 13 years. For the past 9 years he has worked on Wetland Link International, based at the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, which is a global support network for those delivering CEPA activities at wetland centres. He was instrumental in setting up the World Wetland Network along with many others at Ramsar COP10 in Changwon, South Korea, and was chair until COP12 in Uruguay.

AFRICA



Maximin Djondo

Regional Representative – Africa

Contact: bees@hotmail.fr

Director, Benin Environment and Education Society (BEES NGO)

Along with being a Director of BEES, Maximin is the National Coordinator for ProEnvironment, the Benin national platform of NGOs working for environmental conservation and biodiversity protection. He spent the past 15 years promoting economic viability, social equity, and environmental health in the West Africa region with a particular focus on forestry. He also has expertise on ecosystem services valuation and natural resources management. As BEES's director, he conducts and promotes research and provides policy support on issues related to forests. He also builds capacity, raise awareness, strengthen networks and promote good governance to protect critical ecosystems and vulnerable people. BEES is an IUCN member, WWN member, observer for the Green Climate Funds and have a special consultative status with ECOSOC, The Economic and Social Council of the UN.



Josué ARUNA

Sub-regional Representative – Central Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo)

Contact: josuearuna@gmail.com

Area Coordinator, AASF & SOCEARUCO NETWORK

Josué is the DRC RAMSAR CEPA focal point from civil society. He is a Master's Student in the Agronomic Sciences and Environment Faculty, Water and Forest Management Programme at UEA (Evangelical University of Africa) at BUKAVU DRC. Josué is the Provincial Coordinator of SOCEARUCO Network (Environmental Civil Society network) and of AASF NGO (Association of Farmers without Borders).

He is a member of the Wetland Forum and GWP in the DRC and the Lake Kivu and Tanganyika Authority Convention partner within civil society in the DRC in charge of awareness. Josué is also an assistant in charge of environment courses at Lutheran University of Bukavu.

UWAGBAE, MICHAEL AIGBE

Sub-Regional Representative, West Africa

Contact: mikeuwagbae@gmail.com

Project Manager and Head of Country Operations, Wetlands International-Africa

Ph.D - Animal and Environmental Biology, University of Benin, Benin City, Edo State, Nigeria (2017)

Michael's previous roles include:

- Project Manager (biodiversity action plan) with the Nigerian Conservation Foundation, 2011 – 2013;
- Project Manager- biodiversity project, Niger Delta Wetlands Centre, Ekeki, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State (2007 – 2011)
- Program Officer (sustainable development) at the Centre For Population and Environmental Development, Benin City (2005 – 2006)

David Musingo

Sub-regional representative – East Africa

Contact: dmusingo@yahoo.com

Manager Education and Information Department, Uganda Wildlife Education Centre
MSc Botany (Wetlands-Ecology) and BSc in Ethnobotany of Makerere University, Kampala

- Africa Representative - International Zoo Educators Association (IZE)
- Chairperson - Governing council of Wildlife Clubs of Uganda
- Founding member -World Wetland Network (WWN),
- Founding Chair - Joint Ethnobotanical Research and Advocacy (JERA)
- Chairperson of UWEC Research Committee



Hèssouwè BAKENOU

Sub-Regional Representative, Togo

Contact: bakenou@sdatogo.org

Executive Director of the NGO Synergy of Competences for Development in Africa

M2, Master International Environnement Eau et Santé (MI2ES) ; Domaines des Sciences et Technologies : Faculté des Sciences (FDS), Chaire UNESCO/Université de Lomé.

In addition to his current position Hèssouwè's professional experience includes:

- October 2015-August 2017: Director of Public Health Research at the Alliance for Tobacco Control in Africa (ATCA), a network of more than 120 Civil Society Organizations from various African countries. ATCA was responsible for the conduct of data collection and processing, as well as monitoring and evaluation of ongoing activities with missions to 15 countries in collaboration with WHO.
- Adviser on coordination for the implementation of the EAGLE project in Togo
- 2011: Master International Environment Water and Health (MI2ES); Fields of Science and Technology: Faculty of Science (FDS), UNESCO Chair / University of Lomé

Georges Codjo HEDEGBETAN

Sub-Regional Representative – Nigeria

Contact: hgeorgesc21@gmail.com

Charge du Suivi de la Biodiversité, Centre Régional de Recherches et d'Education pour un Développement Intégré (CREDI-ONG)

Activités:

- Activités d'inventaires (faune et flore), de dénombrement et du suivi de la biodiversité dans le Parc Naturel Communautaire de la Vallée du Sitatunga ; Constitution et actualisation de la base de données des espèces animales et végétales. Conception des outils (carte d'habitats, de répartition) de monitoring de la biodiversité ;
- Animation des activités de restauration écologique du Parc : séance de sensibilisation, de visite de terrain, d'animation avec les associations de chasseurs ;

Chi Napoleon Forpah

Sub-Regional Representative – Cameroon

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Mohamed Benata

Sub-Regional Representative – Morocco

Contact: oujdaesco@yahoo.fr

Herizo Andrianandrasana and Luciano ANDRIAMARO

Sub-Regional Representatives - Madagascar

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ASIA



KASHIWAGI Minoru

Regional Representative - Asia

Contact: minoru.kash@gmail.com, +81 80 1199 5909

Joint Representative, Ramsar Network Japan, Japan

After working for 20 years as a natural science teacher in Tokyo, Minoru started to work for migratory waterbirds and wetlands in 1994. His focus is shorebirds, especially Spoon-billed Sandpiper and Dunlin, as well as wetland conservation activities in Japan and internationally as a grassroots non-governmental organization. He has participated in Ramsar COPs since 1996 working together with local NGOs including in the Republic of Korea and worked together with colleagues from RoK and the world to launch World Wetland Network in 2008. Minoru has been Regional Representative-Asia since the launch of WWN.



Mitsuhiro NAGAI

Sub-Regional Representative – Asia

Contact: ny42nagai@gmail.com

Board of Directors of Ramsar Network Japan; Attorney-at-law since 1995

Graduate of Law, Chuo-University

Other roles; Environmental committee (water section) at Japan Federation of Bar Associations (2001-2008); Visiting Scholar of New York University (2003-2004); Visiting Professor of Kobe-Gakuin University (consumer law, 2006-2008); Environmental Dispute Coordination Commission of Hyogo district (2015).



Pyae Phyo Aung

Sub-Regional Representative, Myanmar

Contact: pyaephyo.banca.org@gmail.com

Program manager, Operations - Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)

Pyae Phyo Aung coordinates conservation of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper in Myanmar as a national representative on the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Task Force and enhances coordinate and conservation efforts within the East Asia Australasian Flyway. Pyae Phyo Aung is also on the Ramsar Convention Panel as National NGO Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness, based upon his working raising awareness of the need to protect the Spoon-billed Sandpiper and other shorebirds in Myanmar. He helped with Ramsar-listing of the Gulf of Mottama.



Jacky Judas

Sub-Regional Representative, Western Asia

Contact: jjudas@ewswwf.ae

Manager & Scientific Advisor – Terrestrial Biodiversity

Emirates Wildlife Society in association with World Wide Fund for Nature (EWS-WWF)

Jacky Judas, French, joined EWS-WWF in December 2012 as wildlife consultant, and from July 2013 to December 2015 occupied the position of Research Manager in Wadi Wurayah National Park, the first Mountain

Protected Area of the United Arab Emirates. His current main duties, as Manager & Scientific Advisor – Terrestrial Biodiversity, since January 2016, are to implement the EWS-WWF 5 years terrestrial conservation strategy, focusing on conducting biodiversity surveys in the Hajar Mountains (UAE-Oman) and advocating for the creation of a network of Protected Areas and ecological corridors.



Kamal Kumar Rai

Sub-Regional Representative, Nepal

Contact: biodiv_rai@gmail.com

Society for Wetland Conservation, Nepal

B. Sc. Agriculture; M. Sc. Biodiversity

Kamal is the Research and Conservation Advocacy Officer, Traditional Knowledge & Biodiversity Volunteer focal person for the Indigenous Knowledge and Peoples Network, Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation Nepal. He has extensive experience working with MEAs, and attended Ramsar COP 10 and 11, as well as CBD Cops 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Ahmad Mahdavi

Sub-Regional Representative – Iran

Contact: biomahda@gmail.com

Professor emeritus at University of Tehran; Founder and Director of Sustainable Agriculture and Environment (NGO)

- PhD, insect/ pesticides/ chemicals/ biocides environmental regulatory toxicologist
- UNEP-CMS preventing poisoning group
- UNEP focal point for Environmental Education in the University of Tehran.

Yong-un Ma

Sub-Regional Representative, South Korea

Contact: ecolia@hotmail.com

Farmer

Yong-un Ma is a farmer and leader and founding member of Good Earth, a small local environmentalist group. He is an honorary reporter for Animal People, online news media specialized on animal news. Prior to taking up his farm, Yong-un was a full-time staff member of Korea Federation for Environmental Movements/Friends of the Earth Korea (KFEM/FoE Korea) in charge of wetlands and wildlife conservation and international cooperation, from April 1998 to Dec. 2010.

AMERICAS

LATIN AMERICA

Patricio Guerrero Araya

Regional Representative, Latin America

Contact: Patricio.Guerrero@wwt.org.uk

Linked to NGOs for 8 years, mainly in projects related to natural resources, biodiversity and communities in general in Chile, with a transversal line of work on awareness raising and environmental education. Part of the Directive and partner of local organization that protects and promotes the wetland of Putú, so that it is declared as a Nature Sanctuary and demonstration site promoting wetlands as an opportunity of sustainable development for rural localities. Participates in the founding group of REDALES, a network of civil society organizations that develop initiatives around wetlands in Latin America, with whom we participated in the last Ramsar COP 12 (2015) with the side event: "Involving communities in wetland conservation through local actions".



Felipe Velasco

Sub-Regional Representative - Colombia

Contact: montecitocolombia@gmail.com

Director, Fundación Montecito

Felipe graduated as Civil Engineer, however he introduces himself as just an "apprentice of a good citizen". With his wife Juanita he founded NGO Fundación Montecito in 2010, and it's been their field of endeavour since, mainly on Lake Tota (largest high-Andean lake in Colombia). Their mission is to work on benefit of Andean mounts and wetlands, it's been mostly at Lake Tota and highland páramos. They take a governance and an integrated approach, highlighting a variety of CEPA activities, considering this work mainly as a long-term and complex process. A recent achievement was to lead and an international award on sustainable tourism as part of the Top-100 Global 2017 Green Destinations for Lake Tota.

Rafaela Nicola

Sub-Regional Representative – Brazil

Contact: rafaela.nicola.eco@gmail.com

AMERICA - North

Tim Grunewald

Regional Representative – North America

Contact: tgrunewald@savingcranes.org

Director of North America programs, International Crane Foundation

Masters Degree in Natural Resources (Wildlife Management and Biology emphases)

Tim guides programs involving the protection and restoration of whooping crane and sandhill crane populations and their habitats. Prior to his current role he was a Regional Director for Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for 11 years and before that was employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for 20 years with responsibilities for a statewide wetland program. A highlight of his career was being selected to serve on the North America Wetlands Council staff for 6 years evaluating large federal grants provided to partnerships for the purposes of protection, restoration, and management of wetlands across all three North American countries. Tim has extensive experience with wetlands, waterfowl, and other wetland dependent wildlife species.

EUROPE

Chris Rostron

Deputy Chair for WWN, and Regional Representative - Europe

Contact: chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk, +44 1453 891214 Head of Wetland Link International, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, UK

Manolia Vougioukalou

Nominating for Sub-Regional Representative – South-East Europe (Greece)

Contact: mvougioukalou@ornithologiki.gr

Project manager, Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS) / [BirdLife Greece](#)

BSc in Biological Sciences and an MRes in Developmental Genetics from the University of Edinburgh

Manolia has been working on wetland conservation issues for almost a decade. Not long after completing my studies she was soon drawn out of the lab and into the wetlands of Greece and the UK. Following an additional MSc in Environmental and Ecological Engineering she has worked in wetland conservation for the Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust and now for the Hellenic Ornithological Society (HOS) / [BirdLife Greece](#). For the past six years Manolia has been managing a large, multi-stakeholder LIFE project on the conservation of the [Lesser White-fronted Goose](#), the rarest European waterbird. She also actively contributes to HOS' advocacy work on hunting and waterbird conservation programme development. Manolia likes to participate at the annual midwinter waterfowl counts in wetlands in Greece and join waterfowl ringing missions. Her favourite Ramsar wetland so far is the Evros Delta at the Greek and Turkish border.

Evgeny Genelt-Yanovskiy

Sub-Regional Representative – Russia

Contact: eugene_genelt-ya@mail.ru

Manager, nature conservation and CEPA (communication, education, participation and awareness) projects, Baltic Fund for Nature

PhD in zoology and ecology, St. Petersburg State University

Evgeny completed his PhD studying the population biology of intertidal bivalves and biogeography at St. Petersburg State University. He is currently working as manager of nature conservation and CEPA (communication, education, participation and awareness) projects at Baltic Fund for Nature, a charity based in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Evgeny is a research fellow at the Laboratory of Molecular Systematics, Zoological Institute. He has a passion for wildlife photography and his documentaries, pictures and short movies are frequently used in publications of Baltic Fund for Nature and partner organisations.

Eva Hernandez

Sub-Regional Representative – South-West Europe (Spain)

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WWF Spain

Pawel Sidlo and Jacek Karczewski

Shared Sub-Regional Representatives – Poland

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Organisation: *Ptaki Polski*

OCEANIA

Louise Duff

Chair, WWN and Regional Representative - Oceania

Secretary Australian Wetland Network

Program Manager – Wetlands Catchments Coasts, Conservation Volunteers

Bachelor of Applied Science – parks recreation and heritage (Charles Sturt University)

Master Public Administration (New England University)

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Karen Denyer

Sub-Regional Representative – New Zealand

Contact: Karen.denyer@wetlandtrust.org.nz T: +64 21 031 2716

Karen has been the Executive Officer of the National Wetland Trust since 2008 and also runs a small ecological consultancy company. She has over 20 years' experience as a conservation ecologist and environmental educator and is passionate about wetlands. She organises national wetland restoration symposia, World Wetland Day events, and is overseeing the development of the New Zealand National Wetland Centre at a peat lake/swamp forest complex in the North Island. A recent feature at the site is an outdoor interactive education trail for visitors. Karen is the CEPA NGO representative for Ramsar on behalf of the National Wetland Trust and attended COP 11 in Romania as part of the New Zealand government delegation.

Nunia Thomas

Sub-Regional Representative – Fiji

Contact: nuniat@naturefiji.org

Director, Nature Fiji