



World Wetland Network (WWN) NGO International Wetland Awards



Introduction:

The World Wetland Network (WWN) is an international group of wetland NGOs formed at the Ramsar COP10 in South Korea, in 2008. WWN aims to support wetland NGO's to engage more fully in international wetland conservation efforts, to recognise and support their role, and to raise awareness of international wetland threats.

The NGO International Wetland Awards scheme is designed to recognise the best and worst cases of management, or mismanagement, of internationally important wetlands, from the view point of civil society groups. WWN is made up of grassroots wetland organisations, and has no allegiance to either country or international bodies. The scheme provide the means to both share and recognise best practice, as well as highlight wetlands and related issues of concern.

How will it work?

The management of WWN takes place through an active set of volunteers who give their time to promote, coordinate and take part in regular meetings. The core WWN committee will act as the lead partners for the WWN Wetland Awards, promoting the project, feeding back on results and verifying information received.

The chair and regional representatives meet monthly via skype conference call and will hold an additional two face-to-face meetings: planning and launch in early 2010; and reporting first results and awards at CBD COP10 in Japan, October 2010. Ultimately we aim to carry out another award ceremony at the Ramsar COP11, in June 2012.

Links already exist with the Ramsar and CBD secretariats and will continue, to ensure that our approach can feed into the process of working with their signatory partners, as well as those who may not have signed up to them. We will stage the award ceremony at COP meetings, either as part of the main conference, or as a side-event.

Award categories

Blue Globe: Best practice in wetland management.

The categories will cover a range of wetland conservation issues including: wildlife conservation; community involvement; eco-system services; harnessing wetland benefits; wise use of wetlands.

Green Globe: Best wetland restoration projects

This award will follow similar categories to those above, and aims to encourage and recognise efforts to improve degraded / damaged wetlands.

Grey Globe: This award singles out wetlands of international importance that are under threat or being mismanaged. The categories here include: degradation of wetland due to development; loss of wetland due to pollution; degradation due to agriculture / abstraction; active exclusion of local communities from wetland protection.

Website

The website will be the key point of interaction between local NGO's and the project. It will consist of several parts, to include:

- Introduction and instructions on taking part.
- Registration of your organisation (to WWN and the website) and description of the wetland site and its attributes (positive or negative).
- The Wetland List page, showing the voting and updated on a regular basis. Map of wetlands by region – graphic showing the scores allocated by criterion for each wetland site. This will help to publicise the results as well.

Funding

The Spanish Fundación Biodiversidad has generously agreed to fund the project with match funding provided by WWN partner organisations. Support will be for the year 2010 to start with and we hope to continue working with the Fundación Biodiversidad until the Ramsar COP in 2012.

Outputs and outcomes:

Results to be returned from at least 100 wetlands of international importance.

Awards ceremony to be held at the CBD CoP (and in future at the Ramsar CoP).

WWD website will more highly developed and fit for purpose.

5 Blue Globe awards for best practice, 5 Green Globe awards for best restoration projects, and 5 Grey Globe awards for poor practice.

Recognition of best practice projects, to act as encouragement and exemplars.

Identification of poor practice, to encourage those countries to make improvements, and support local groups to fight harmful practice.

'Softer' outcomes will consist of support for local groups and developing their capacity.

Longer term outcomes will include political influence and raising awareness of the importance of wetlands.

WWN will have a more active and broader membership base, and build its recognition amongst other national and international partners.

Timescales

We have started the project in January 2010, with a website and some publicity to be in place by March / April 2010. The first round of interim awards would take place at the CDB COP10 in October 2010. The awards system will then continue to be active until early 2012, in time for results to be collated for the Ramsar COP11 in June 2012.

The Wetland Globes awards are generously supported by the Fundación Biodiversidad.

Chris Rostron
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Contact: Chris.rostron@wwt.org.uk

Website : www.worldwetnet.org