

Global Newsletter - April 2007

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Ministers receiving the book



Book Waterbirds around the World launched

Global actions for the protection of migratory waterbirds are losing the race with economic development. As a result, many species are rapidly declining. But in areas where governments are working to protect sites along important migratory routes, the results are promising. This is the conclusion of a meeting in the Hague of the ministers for nature in the UK and the Netherlands together with the Secretary Generals of global conventions, supported by experts from around the world. [Link](#)

Track ducks through satellite!

Recently four species of wild ducks have been fitted with satellite transmitters in Mali, Malawi and Nigeria. You can now follow the movements of the ducks on a special website. The birds have been given satellite transmitters under the Avian Influenza wild bird programme of Wetlands International, the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD). [Link](#)



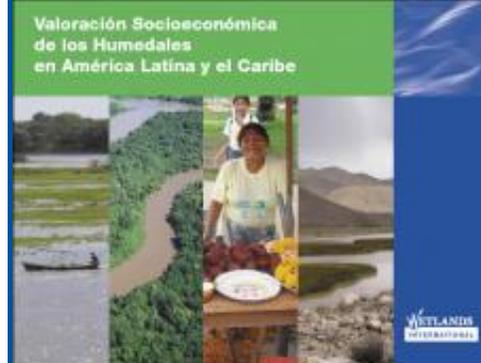
White-faced whistling ducks, one of the species with satellite transmitters

Socio-economics of Wetlands booklet in Spanish

Wetlands International recently published a Spanish version of the booklet *'The Socio-economics of Wetlands Valuation in Latin America and the Caribbean'*. Using case studies from Peru, Venezuela, Cuba, Brazil, Argentina and Guatemala, this publication clearly explains the fundamentals of wetland socioeconomic valuation and its role in the decision-making processes. Copies can be downloaded by clicking this [Link](#)

Women and cockles in Ecuador

Recently several organisations in Ecuador, Argentina, Uganda and China received a total of 90,000 from the Seed Funding Facility (see also on the right) of our Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project. One of the projects that is being developed with the support of this Facility concerns women cockle gatherers in Ecuador. To a lot of women in the mangrove areas of Ecuador cockle gathering is the most important source of income, but their grounds were partially destroyed by the rise of shrimp farms. As a first step a local cockle fisheries database was set up to help in the planning of rehabilitation activities. For more information or for downloading project proposals of the grantees click this [Link](#)



Cover of the booklet

Directory of wetlands in the North Caucasus now available

The Russian office of Wetlands International published a directory of important wetlands in the North Caucasus (Volume 6 of the Wetlands in Russia series). The volume contains descriptions of 53 wetland sites. These sites contain unique wetland complexes of special biodiversity value, and are recommended for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. For more information about the important work of our Russian office, please visit their website (in Russian!) [Link](#)

Second call for project proposals

June 15th is the deadline for the second call of the WPRP Seed Funding Facility (also see the item on the left). The Seed Funding Facility supports the development of project proposal by local partnerships that strengthen on-the-ground activities linking wetlands conservation and poverty alleviation. The aim is to support a range of different sized projects; the maximum contribution will be 25.000 - granted only in a limited number of cases. For more information, the application criteria and guidelines click this [Link](#)

Freshwater fishes are extraordinarily important in worldwide conservation...They support the employment of millions and feed billions.

Professor Reid, aquatic biologist and General Director of Chester Zoo

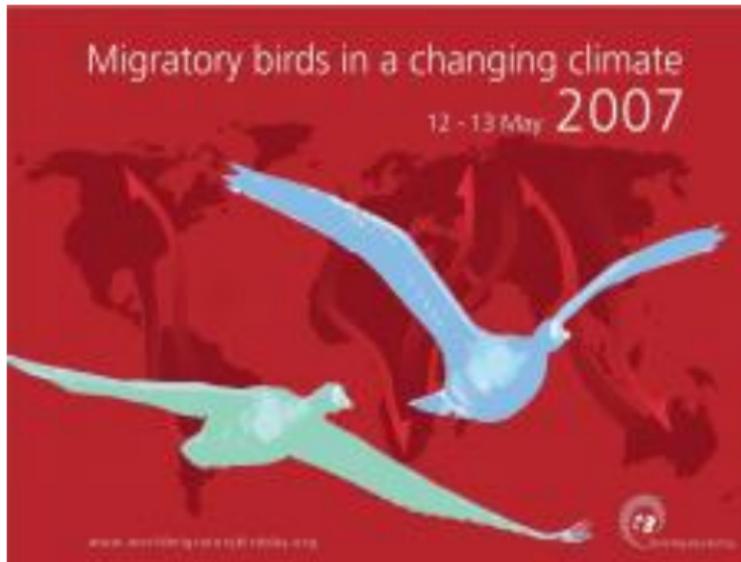
Freshwater fish in danger

The Freshwater Fish Specialist Group a collaboration between the IUCN (The World Conservation Union) and Wetlands International are currently re-assessing all threatened fresh water fish species. Climate change, over-fishing, pollution, damming and habitat destruction all pose threats to the survival of freshwater fishes. These species are crucial to biodiversity as well as human livelihoods; over 68 per cent of the freshwater fisheries are in developing countries. The Freshwater Fish Specialist Group offers support and advice to governments and wildlife agencies globally on these critical issues. To learn more about Wetlands International's specialist groups click this [Link](#)



Project of the Month: Himalaya

The wetlands in the Himalaya are crucial for biodiversity and play an important role in the regulation of many of Asia's largest rivers. The EU Asia Pro Eco Himalayan Initiative project aims to improve the management of these wetlands. The project is a cooperation of, among others, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development and Wetlands International. For more information click this [Link](#)



World Migratory Bird Day 2007

On 12 and 13 May many activities take place to celebrate World Migratory Bird Day. Last year this annual event was initiated by the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and the global Convention on Migratory Species. The aim is to raise awareness of the need to protect all migratory birds throughout the world. If you are organising an activity yourself you can register it at the special website, where you can also find more information. Just click this [Link](#)



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