

Dear [FirstName:recipient],

Please see below a selection of news and activities from across the Wetlands International network. Enjoy!

## Putting environmental sustainability at the core of WASH Practice

Stockholm – WASH (drinking water supply, sanitation and hygiene) relies on and impacts water. Therefore, environmental sustainability needs to be at the core of WASH practice. Wetlands International featured our experiences reaching nature-based solutions and sought out additional partners to help transform the WASH sector at an event during Stockholm World Water Week.

Speaking to an audience of more than 70 WASH and environmental stakeholders, Susanne Boom, the WASH Programme Coordinator at Wetlands International explained that through an evolving partnership approach, Wetlands International is providing natural infrastructure solutions that improve water security and help deliver WASH more sustainably. [Read more.](#) •



World Water Week Daily  
Monday, September 02, 2013



Colleen Vollberg, Conservation International



Susanne Boom, Wetlands International

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## Steering the Policy and Practice in Disaster Risk Reduction

This September [Wetlands International](#) officially joined [PEDRR](#), a global alliance of UN agencies, NGOs and specialist institutes which plays a vital role in steering the policy and practice in [disaster risk reduction](#) (DRR). Through this alliance, Wetlands International can effectively influence and make recommendations to [the Hyogo Framework for Action](#) and the [UNISDR](#), the UN office which coordinates global activities on reducing the risk of disasters. [Read more.](#)

*Photo: Beetle leaf cultivation forms an alternate source of income for community in Tandahara, India*



## Five European rivers commit to more river restoration



Vienna, Austria – As part of the European River Restoration Conference that took place in September, five European river basins committed themselves to working together. The river basins include: the Arpa in Armenia, Irpen in Ukraine, Irwell in England, Orbigo in Spain, and Rhone in France. Under the facilitation of the European Centre for River Restoration, the five parties will develop and share their best practices and knowledge in order to stimulate larger scale river restoration. [Read more.](#) •

## Healthy oceans for humanity in Panamá



Under the motto “Healthy oceans for humanity” Wetlands International joined more than 30 civil society organisations, research institutes and government agencies to celebrate Month of the Oceans in Panamá. Different activities throughout the month of September raised awareness on the shared responsibility of each one of us to protect the oceans and coastal wetlands.

Celebrating already its ninth year, the Month of the Oceans was initiated as the first anniversary of the Coiba National Park. Activities included a forum and a fair, press conferences, a poetry session, competitions for the best reporting for journalists, and painting and sand sculpture for schools, as well as garbage collections underwater, on coasts and in rivers. [Read more.](#) •

## Lots of sharing and learning for Maya K'iche' communities in Guatemala

These past months have been full of sharing and learning for Maya K'iche' communities in Sololá Department, Guatemala. These communities are exposed to frequent landslides and mudslides occurring during the rainy season. Deforestation and climate variability and change have made matters worse. As part of our [Bio-rights initiative](#) with humanitarian partner [CARE](#), we brought many experts to their villages to give trainings on climate change, identification of threats and manage risks, even how to manage their forests and grow horticultural gardens ([video](#)). Youngsters also received [notebooks](#) with useful messages on how to identify and prevent landslides, how to prepare a '72 hour backpack', and on how to get ready to face a disaster. [Read more](#) (Spanish). •



## A Critical Juncture for Europe's Rivers

Vienna, Austria - Over 300 delegates came together for the European River Restoration Conference that took place in September. Leading policy makers, scientists and restoration practitioners shared experiences, identified the key future challenges and celebrated successes in improving the state of Europe's rivers. The Rhine River was recognised with the 1st European Riverprize while finalists from more recent river initiatives in central and southern Europe were highly acclaimed. Distinguished keynote speakers including EU Environment Commissioner Janez Potočnik were impressed by the growing body of knowledge and good practice examples that the European Centre of River Restoration and its partners brought together that is essential to support the implementation of many EU policy objectives. [Read more.](#) •



[Conference Proceedings Available Online](#)

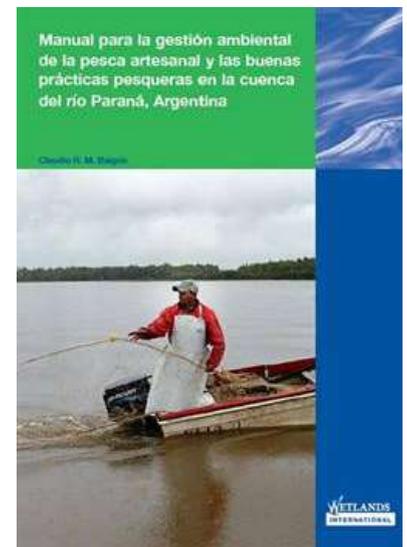
The full proceedings of the conference are available in the coming weeks on the [RESTORE website](#).

## Handbook for the environmental management of artisanal fisheries of the Paraná River basin

Serious changes in land use patterns and water management regimes, such as wetland drainage for agriculture, livestock and urban development, are reducing fishing areas, deteriorating water quality and affecting artisanal fisheries. This context highlights the need to set guidelines towards preservation of river ecosystems and their associated resources as well as for better conservation of fish resources. Thus, Wetlands International Argentina published the *Handbook for the environmental management of artisanal fisheries of the Paraná River Basin* authored by Dr. Claudio Baigún, Coordinator of our Fish and Fisheries Conservation Program.

The purpose of this handbook is to set the basis and the most important aspects for proper management of local fisheries and the promotion of good fishing practices, aimed to support the preservation of artisanal fisheries along the Paraná River basin.

Although this publication is focused on the Parana River basin, its contents are also useful in other large river systems of South America, where there is a visible concern regarding the long-term sustainability of local artisanal fisheries. [Read more.](#) •



## The Camel Caravan – Inspiring Sustainable Water Use



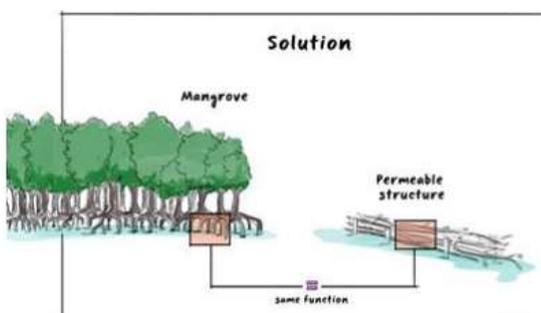
On the 17<sup>th</sup> of August, Under the banner of [Partners for Resilience](#), residents of Ewaso Ngiro River in Northeast Kenya joined hands in a 7 day climate change sensitisation expedition in the form of a camel caravan. The expedition started on both ends of the Ewaso Ngiro River (both upstream and downstream) and ended in the middle. Those who undertook this journey included local indigenous peoples' organizations who intended to raise awareness to the issues of water scarcity downstream. Due to over extraction up and midstream, residents living downstream have decreased access to water, also leading to the death of their cattle – and way of life. Maybe also include outcomes of this caravan? The event generated much national and local media coverage, raising awareness not only with the specific users of this river. A donor conference that took place after the caravan raised commitments to support local implementing organizations to protect and restore the river and to reduce abstraction. [Click to view video.](#)



## Re-launch of the Wetlands International Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group

Bonn 29 August 2013 – The Waterbird Harvest Specialist Group (WHSG) affiliated to Wetlands International was re-launched on the 28th of August 2013 at a special session on waterbird management at the [31<sup>st</sup> Congress of the International Union of Game Biologists](#) which took place in Brussels, Belgium on the 27 – 29 August 2013. [Read more.](#) •

## Hybrid engineering to protect eroding coastlines in Indonesia



Wetlands International, the Indonesian Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) and the Dutch research institute Deltares work together to reverse the erosion process near Timbul Sloko village, which is eroding at a fast pace and exposing the villagers to frequent flooding episodes. Deltares has designed an innovative approach to reduce erosion by using permeable structures to trap sediment along the coast and allow mangrove rehabilitation. [Read more.](#) •

## Rehabilitation of degraded mangrove areas

Wetlands International, IUCN and ENDA conducted training on mangrove reforestation techniques on dozens of hectares in Senegal, Guinea-Bissau and Banjul.

From 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August 2013, a team of Wetlands International Africa staff conducted training on reforestation techniques of mangrove for partners in the Saloum delta. As result, one hectare has been replanted in the Sokone pilot site. [Read more.](#)



## Videos and Blogs

### River Talk Series

Jane Madgwick, CEO Wetlands International sits down key speakers from the European River Restoration Conference, which took place from 11 to 13 September in Vienna, Austria. For more information visit <http://www.restorerivers.eu/>.



Special guest Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment sits with Jane to discuss the EU's commitment to rivers, how river restoration can help meet the goal of good ecological status of Europe's rivers and the 1st European Riverprize. [Watch Video.](#)



Hans Bruyninckx, Executive Director, European Environment Agency to discusses the state of Europe's rivers and how a systemic approach is needed to address the challenges facing Europe's environment. [Watch Video.](#)



Acclaimed journalist Fred Pearce talks about his impressions of the European River Restoration Conference, the potential for rivers to lead the way in the current century of ecological restoration and the need to engage society. [Watch Video.](#)



Alastair Driver, National Conservation Manager of the UK Environment Agency talks about the impact in London and the UK after the River Thames won the International RiverPrize. Alastair highlights some of the current projects of the Environment Agency and what the future needs are. [Watch Video.](#)



Matthew Reddy, CEO of the International River Foundation talks about the process and prestige of the 1<sup>st</sup> European Riverprize and the prospects for regional awards in the global south. [Watch Video.](#)



Dr. Benoit Terrier, Project manager in hydromorphology for Agence de l'eau Rhône Méditerranée et Corse meets with Jane to discuss river restoration in France, funding and the future. [Watch Video.](#)

## Bridges over troubled waters in Central Asia?

By Jane Madgwick

It's thanks to Tajikistan that it's the UN International Year of Water Cooperation. Through a string of events, the world's attention is focused on the water crisis and the urgent need for humanity to tackle it through improved cooperation – between nation states, across and between sectors, industry, government and civil society. [Read more.](#) •



## Mangrove-mud coasts; a muddy story (5)



By Han Winterwerp

In my [previous blogs](#), I have tried to convince you that the erosion of mangrove-mud coasts is directly related to thoughtless land-use. Though the observations are self-evident, we need to understand the underlying physical processes before we can think of mitigating measures. And that is only possible if we understand the behaviour of a healthy mangrove-mud coast. [Read more.](#)

## Diary of a Wetlands International intern in Central Java



By Stefan Verschure

I spent 4 months doing fieldwork in Timbul Sloko, a small village in Demak District, on the North coast of Central Java (Indonesia). I was there as part of a Wetlands International project to restore the eroding mud coast of the village through [hybrid engineering](#). [Read more.](#)

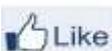
## Room for the River as an antidote to Europe's flood woes



By Paul Brotherton

As part of a training course on river restoration sponsored by the **RESTORE** project, I recently visited the Waal River, a main branch of the Rhine River, flowing through the Netherlands. Here the Dutch are making 'Room for the River', restoring floodplains to reduce the risks of floods and creating benefits for people and nature. On the heels of recent catastrophic floods in Central Europe, this approach deserves a closer look if Europe is to meet many of its growing environmental and social policy challenges, including climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. [Read more.](#)

## Stay Connected with Wetlands International



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