

# Agenda/Coming Events



## International courses on wetland management and restoration (Lelystad, The Netherlands)

Every year since 1994, the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA), part of the Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management in The Netherlands, has hosted the International Course in Wetland Management at the Wetlands Advisory and Training Centre (WATC) in Lelystad. Over the past few years, RIZA has also hosted a separate International Course on Wetland Restoration.

Both 4-6 week, certificate-granting courses are organised according to approved Ramsar Convention principles (the Ramsar Secretary General serves as chair of the Advisory Board), and many graduates have returned to their own countries with a thorough experience of the Convention's work both in theory and practice.

The next iteration of the International Course on Wetland Management will take place in Lelystad, 23 August to 3 October 2001, and the deadline for applications is 1 March 2001. The next iteration of the International Course on Wetland Restoration will take place in Lelystad, 6 June to 5 July 2001, and the

deadline for applications is 1 February 2001.

Further information should be sought from WATC (not from the Ramsar Bureau), at: Tel. +31 320 298346  
Fax +31 320 298339,  
e-mail: watc@riza.rws.minvenw.nl.  
Here are PDF versions of the informative brochures and application forms for both courses.

*The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*  
<http://www.ramsar.org>

## The role of water in history and development IWhA 2nd conference. 10th -12th august 2001, University of Bergen, Norway



Foto : SEHUMED

This conference is organised by the International Water History Association in co-operation with UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme and CROP, the Comparative Research Programme on Poverty. It will explore the variations in human/water relations

in time and space, and examine why some societies have apparently succeeded, while others have failed to secure a sound management system of their fresh water. The conference is divided into 12 different themes which are:

- The political economy of water - ownership and control
- Images of water (in religion, myths, literature and art)
- History of hydrology and water control
- Narratives on the river and the dam
- The engineering of water systems - engineers, entrepreneurs and bureaucrats
- Institutional frameworks for solving the disputes in conflict waters
- History of water, sanitation and health
- Water, poverty and social development
- Freshwater and the coastal zone - integrated and ecological management
- Regional waters in a historical perspective
- Water and Civilization. Why History is Vital to Reframing Current Water Policy Debates

*SEHUMED*

## Mediterranean conservation projects coordinator

The Mediterranean Programme Office of WWF is looking for a Coordinator for its Project "Conservation and Management of Biodiversity Hotspots : Developing a Mediterranean network". The project is aimed to improve the conservation status of globally important biodiversity hotspots in the Mediterranean region, by enabling key stakeholders and other relevant actors of civil society to become partners in conservation and sustainable development. The project will be implemented

in four biodiversity hotspots of Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon and Turkey. It shall be developed according to the following components :

- Biodiversity conservation and sustainable development activities in each hotspot;
- Training and capacity building for local stakeholders; establishment of local committees for the implementation of the project activities
- Communication and networking
- Policy and advocacy

Most of the work of this position will consist of the coordination for the implementation of the activities at the regional level among the hotspots and the Mediterranean WWF team. The full-time position will be based at the MedPO headquarter office in Rome, Italy, and should be operative as from July 2001. The project has secured funds for a period of two years. The ideal candidate has:

- A good experience on nature conservation, protected areas management and sustainable development;
- A solid and proven experience in the



development and coordination of multinational projects;

- Excellent and proved project proposal writing skills, including good knowledge on project cycle;
- Experience in the field of capacity building, facilitation skills, participatory planning and management of nature resources, and conflicts resolution;
- Ability to work with, and co-ordinate multi-stakeholder teams (NGOs, Local Authorities, Local Communities) in a multi-cultural context;
- A strong interest and motivation in working for an NGO on environmental

protection and social/economic development in the Mediterranean.

The position involves extensive travel within the Mediterranean region. Excellent written and spoken English is a must and French, and/or Arabic an advantage. Applicants should send a cover letter and curriculum vitae to Pedro Regato, WWF Mediterranean Programme Office - Via Po 25/C - 00198 Rome. Fax: 06-8413866 e-mail: Pregato@wwfmedpo.org

*SEHUMED*

### Ramsar chooses new MedWet Coordinator

The Ramsar Bureau is delighted to announce that Mr Spyros Kouvelis of Greece has been selected from an excellent field of candidates to be the new MedWet Coordinator, replacing Mr Thymio Papayannis, one of MedWet's founders, who will continue to contribute his efforts as Senior Policy Advisor on a part-time basis. Mr Kouvelis has a BSc in Economics from the University of Athens and an MSc in Agricultural/Environmental Economics from the University of Reading in the UK. He has worked extensively with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) as a member of a number of policy teams with WWF International, as chair of the WWF Mediterranean Regional Team, and as Acting Chief Executive Officer of WWF Greece from 1995 to 1997. From 1997 to 2000 he has assisted as an Athens-based consultant to the WWF European Policy Office, whilst at the same time employed as Advisor to the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Environment, Planning and Public Works in the Government of Greece. He has also served as a consultant to the National Centre for Marine Research in Greece. Mr Kouvelis is married, with one young child, and works in English and French as well as Greek.

The MedWet Coordinator is an outpost Ramsar Bureau position, reporting directly to the Secretary General. In a new arrangement based upon a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of Greece, the MedWet Coordination Unit is being set up in Athens in facilities supplied by the



Government. It is only coincidental, however, that the new Coordinator is himself of Greek nationality, as he was selected from an impressive multinational field of candidates from all round the Mediterranean basin. He will be joined in the Unit by a newly-chosen Policy Advisor and by two technical officers to be seconded at the Greek Government's expense from EKBY (the Greek Biotope/Wetlands Centre in Thessaloniki). (EKBY is one of MedWet's three scientific and technical support institutions, along with the Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat in France and SEHUMED in Valencia, Spain).

In an additional development, the Secretary General has appointed Mr Nejib Benessaiah to assist the new MedWet Coordinator as Policy Advisor, also to be based in the Coordination Unit in Athens. Mr Benessaiah is a Tunisian national and has been trained in Paris and Montpellier as an architect and urban planner. Following a number of years working as a technical advisor with the United Nations Centre of Human Settlements-Habitat in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, he has been involved with MedWet since 1996, particularly in socio-economic issues, and is known to many for his role in some of MedWet's most impressive publications, particularly Mediterranean Wetlands: Socio-economic Aspects, published in 1998 by DG XI of the European Commission for the Ramsar Convention. Married with two children, Mr Benessaiah works in French, English, and Arabic, and to some extent in Greek as well.

*Ramsar Forum, June 2001*