EAAFP 10th Anniversary
2019 World Migratory Bird Day

Harmonization of the conservation of wetlands and waterbirds and people in urban cities

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Chief Executive, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

WILDFOWL & WETLANDS TRUST

73 YEARS OF PIONEERING CONSERVATION

Sir Peter Scott 1909 – 1989

One of the most influential and visionary conservationist of the 20th Century

Founded WWT in 1946

Founded WWF in 1961

Created Red Data Lists of endangered species in 1962

A driving force behind creation of the Ramsar Convention for Wetland Conservation – launched 1971

Internationally renowned wildlife artist and author

Radio and television natural history broadcaster

In the UK

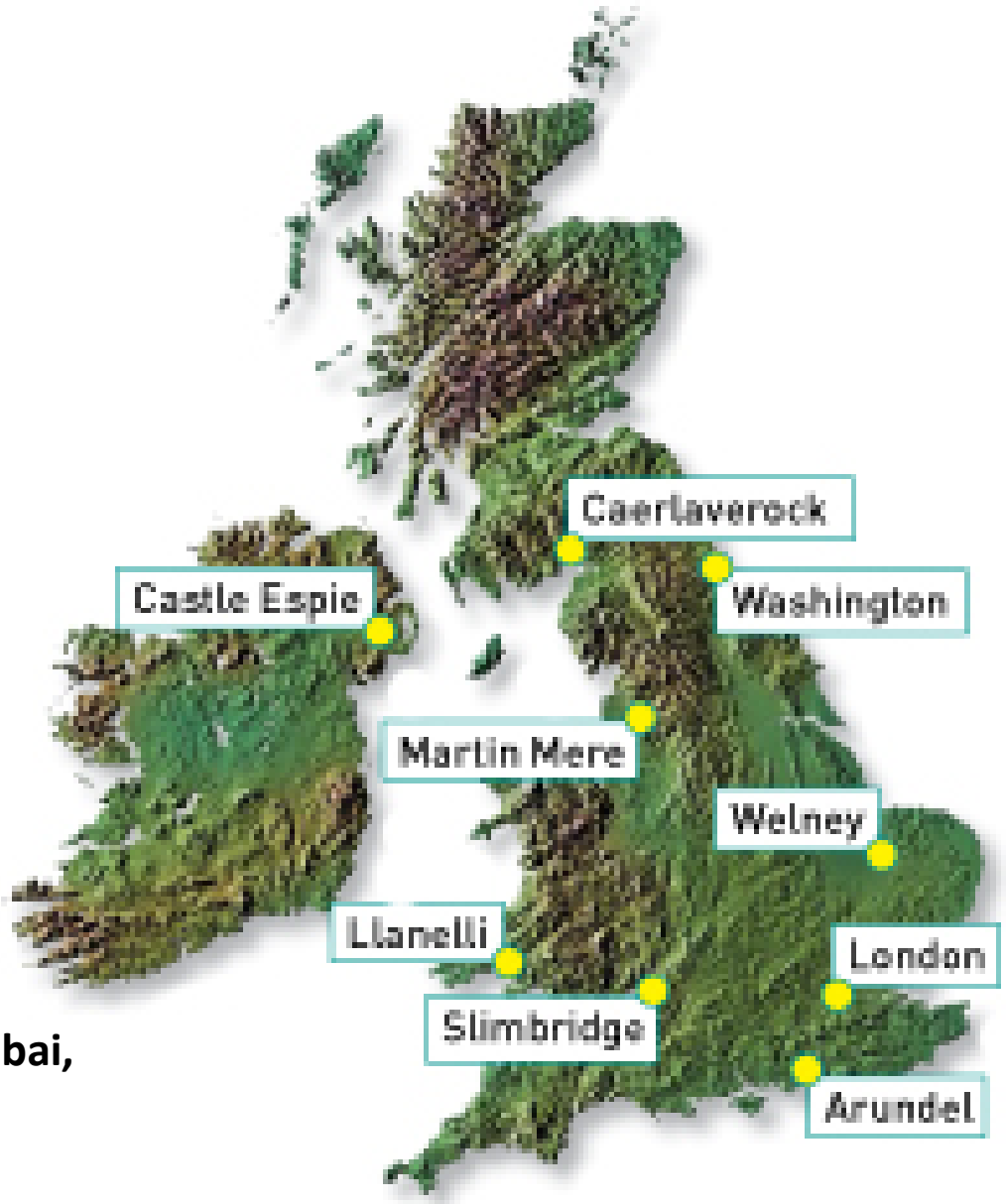
10 wetland centres

- **3,000 hectares of wetland reserves**
- **Visited by around 1 million people each year**
- **6 are Ramsar sites**

220,000 members

1,200 volunteers

60,000 school children experience nature at first hand each year



Internationally

Currently working in China, Cambodia, Russia, Madagascar, Dubai, Hong Kong, Australia, Sri Lanka

Urban Wetlands

Wetlands are one of the world's most productive ecosystems

They provide numerous economic, ecological and wellbeing benefits

Over 50% of the world's human population live in urban areas

They provide:

Water supply
Flood regulation
Climate moderation
Wastewater treatment
Habitat for biodiversity
Agriculture & aquaculture
Tourism
Recreation & leisure
Culture & heritage
Research
Human wellbeing

Wetlands under Threat

64% of the world's wetlands and their associated benefits have been lost since 1900

As more people move to cities and as populations grow, making our urban areas sustainable and healthy places to live in will be an increasing challenge

Conserved and sustainably used they can provide cities with multiple benefits and need to be integrated with city development and management plans

EAAFP

WWT

Good Practices Handbook for

INTEGRATING URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND WETLAND CONSERVATION

Ramsar

WWT CONSULTING

Case studies

- Suncheon Bay, Republic of Korea
- Sustainable Urban Development Systems (SUDs), UK
- Changshu City, China
- Colombo, Sri Lanka
- Mai Po, Hong Kong
- London Wetland Centre, UK

Suncheon Bay, South Korea

Suncheon Bay

Seen in the 1990's as barren land. A few years later some local NGOs and academics realised the need to prevent further deterioration of the Bay

The Suncheon City Government formulated a comprehensive land use plan defining urban zone, transition zone, buffer zone and core zone.

Now large scale infrastructure development will only be allowed in the urban zone.

The core zone is where wetland restoration projects are implemented

The government has established a committee of government, city council, experts, media, citizens, local communities and NGOs as a decision making body

Sustainable Drainage System

Hollickwood School, London, UK

- 10 schools in North London
- Surface water flooding problem solved
- Students, teachers, parents all involved
- Out of classroom teaching facility provided
- Improved environment for health & wellbeing

Changshu City, China

Full consideration given to importance of wetlands in spacial planning and city management

Urban Masterplan designates wetland areas, prohibited and restricted construction areas, proposed control measures

City plans define urban wetlands as the key to ecological protection and Restoration, and part of flood control and drainage

Wetland restoration integrated with sustainable tourism plan providing recreation for local people and visitors and promoting health & wellbeing

Shajiabang National Wetland Park

Colombo Wetlands, Sri Lanka

The Colombo Wetland Complex – network of wetlands within the Colombo Metropolitan Region (CMR) - 1,900 hectares – almost 10% of the CMR

A complex mosaic of freshwater and marine/brackish wetlands – open water, marshes, canal systems and wet woodlands - high biodiversity but poor water quality

Colombo, Sri Lanka

City wetland management embedded in Wetland Management Strategy for the city

Colombo Wetland Management Committee established

5 main objectives:

- Recognise benefits of wetlands
- Prevent loss and degradation
- Restore degraded wetlands
- Engage all stakeholders
- Govern with improved legal and management approaches

Main drivers:

- Increased flood risk over past 20 years
- Rapid, unplanned urbanisation

Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site
Hong Kong, China

1,540 hectares

Intertidal mudflats

Mangroves

Traditionally managed fish ponds (gei wai)

Fish ponds

Reed beds

High tide roosting sites

Town Planning Board established two zones within Deep Bay to support land use planning and conserve the ecological value:

Wetland Conservation Area

New development only allowed if it: -
- supports conservation
- promotes research and education

or is an essential infrastructure project with overriding public interest.

Wetland Buffer Area

Development allowed subject to Environmental Impact Assessment to prevent any pollution to Deep Bay

London Wetland Centre

Taking wetland nature to the people

From reservoirs in the heart of London

To 47 hectare urban wetland

A place for wildlife

Wet grassland, wet woodland, reed bed and mudflat habitats created

Over 1,000 species recorded including 120 species of birds, some in nationally important numbers

A place for people

A haven for people and wildlife

A place for inspiring young people

A place for learning about wetlands and nature - 22,000 school children experience the wonder of a wetland each year.

A place for wellbeing

Thank you