

As we are nearing the project end, the **WETWIN FINAL** results are coming in. The final stakeholder conference has been held in Kampala hosted by NWSA, an account of which has been published in The Parliament Magazine | Issue 338 | 21 November 2011.

Final Workshop of the WETwin project

by Robyn Johnston and István Zsuffa



The final workshop of the WETwin project was held at the National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSA) offices in Kampala, Uganda on 19 September 2011. WETwin is a three year project under the European Union FP7. It focuses on integrated management of wetlands, using case studies in Uganda, South Africa, Mali, Ecuador, Austria, Hungary and Germany. The meeting was attended by the Minister for Water and Environment, Hon. Maria Mutagamba, along with 60 representatives from Ugandan agencies with interest in wetlands, and 24 international participants from the WETwin consortium.

In Uganda, there is a high level of concern about rapid degradation of wetlands, particularly due to urban encroachment and the demands of growing population. Uganda's

comprehensive laws and policies on wetland protection have not been able to prevent widespread degradation, and new approaches are needed to gain the support of local communities.

Discussions at the meeting covered a wide range of issues relating to wetlands including methods to involve local communities in management; threats from climate change; decision support tools to help managers find the most appropriate management options; and economic approaches to valuing ecosystem services provided by wetlands. Three priority areas for action were identified: improving access to data relevant to wetlands, which is currently scattered across different agencies; improving communication with stakeholders, through better understanding of the different groups involved, and their different information

needs; and a comprehensive evaluation of the potential role of payment for environmental services to encourage communities to manage and protect their wetlands.



CONTACT:
Dr István Zsuffa, Project Coordinator
VITUKI Non-profit Ltd.
Kvassay Jenő út 1., H-1095 Budapest
Hungary
Tel: +36 121 56140
zsuffa.istvan@vituki.hu
www.wetwin.net

THE LATEST REPORTS will be made available on the 'outputs' page of the WETwin website. The main results are summarized in a **series of factsheets** and **guidelines** containing sections on vulnerability assessment, governance and decision making. On the WETwin site you will also find a link to the **Spatial Data Infrastructure** developed by the project, including a data catalogue on the case study sites. On the website you furthermore find information on relevant follow-up initiatives. Also check out the special issue of the journal Environmental Science and Policy which will be entirely dedicated to WETwin, coming up in 2012.



Enhancing the role of wetlands in integrated water resources management of twinned river basins in EU, Africa and South America in support of EU Water Initiatives



SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME
Grant Agreement Number
212300
Copyright © 2008,
Wetwin Project



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON WETWIN YOU CAN CONTACT:

ISTVÁN ZSUFFA | ISTVAN.ZSUFFA -@- VITUKI.HU
TOM D'HAeyer | TOM.DHAeyer -@- ANTEAGROUP.BE

THE CONTENTS OF THIS NEWSLETTER ARE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WETWIN PROJECT. THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS NOT LIABLE FOR ANY USE THAT MAY BE MADE OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN.

CONTRIBUTED TO THIS ISSUE: ISTVÁN ZSUFFA, TOM D'HAeyer, ROBYN JOHNSTON