

The Role of the United Nations Foundation and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre

The UN Foundation has partnered with the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Centre to support and promote the management and conservation of Natural World Heritage sites. Through the ICWRP, the UN Foundation provides a vehicle for businesses and NGOs to invest in wetlands programs and projects within Natural World Heritage sites. Through a solicitation matching grant process, the UN Foundation will provide matching resources.

Providing Value to Supporters

ICWRP:

- Demonstrates an organization's global commitment to socially responsible projects that improve the environment.
- Offers opportunities for unique global partnerships and relationships with governments, NGOs and other entities.
- Facilitates global corporate recognition for addressing both small and large scale wetland restoration projects.

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INTERNATIONAL CORPORATE WETLANDS RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP

The International Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (ICWRP) is an innovative voluntary private-public global initiative to restore impaired but ecologically important wetlands and other aquatic habitats in watersheds around the world. The activities of the International CWRP are addressed through cooperation with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar), the Coastal America Foundation and the United Nations Foundation (UN Foundation).

Background

Wetlands and other aquatic habitats are vital natural resources. Their health is invaluable to our society, our environmental heritage and the world's economy. These critical natural resources purify our water, help prevent flood damage, and support our fisheries and a multitude of diverse plant and animal life including rare and endangered species. The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) was first established in the United States in collaboration with the Coastal America Partnership. The ICWRP has been created to protect, enhance and restore critically important wetlands, coasts and waterways around the world.

ICWRP Serves as an Umbrella Initiative

The ICWRP's activities follow a two-pronged approach, based on the size of the project. The activities are undertaken in cooperation with existing international organizations such as Ramsar and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. The intent of the ICWRP is to fully engage the private sector, and develop a cohesive multi-stakeholder partnership that joins technical, administrative and financial resources to more efficiently and effectively improve critical aquatic habitats around the world.

The ICWRP will serve as an umbrella initiative to facilitate the involvement of businesses, environmental organizations, and governments to participate in a global approach to restoring and protecting wetlands.

How Will ICWRP Work?

When fully operational, it is anticipated that the ICWRP will be facilitated by the International Corporate Partnership Council. The International CWRP Council will include representatives from corporate and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Gillette Company is the founding corporate member of the council. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the UN Foundation are founding NGO members.

Activities of the International Corporate Partnership Council will include:

- Determining priority projects submitted from Ramsar and World Heritage.
- Recommending lists of projects for support by corporate members and NGOs.
- Collecting and distributing contributions to the general activities of the ICWRP or facilitating contributions to specific projects.

The Role of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) oversees the Wetlands for the Future (WFF) and Small Grants (SGF) Funds, which address small and medium cost wetland restoration projects in the Western Hemisphere and worldwide in developing and transitional economy countries. National, state, provincial or local government agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations are eligible for grants. The ICWRP utilizes the existing Ramsar project selection framework.