



## The 8th International Wetlands Conference!

The 8th International Wetlands Conference will be held in the city of Cuiabá, Brazil, from July 20 to 25, 2008. Cuiabá -the geodesical centre of South America- is located at the border of the Pantanal, a wetland shared by Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay. One of earth's largest floodplain, Pantanal is an annually flooded savanna. The International Wetlands Conference occurs every four years and constitutes a forum for the technical sessions, conferences and round tables about the study, research, conservation politics, protection, management and sustainability of wetlands.

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## Big Wetlands, Big Concerns

Wetlands belong to the most threatened ecosystems worldwide, as clearly demonstrated by the tremendous deterioration and loss of small and medium-sized wetlands all over the globe. At the first glance, large wetlands seem to be better protected against human impact by their large extension, and, certainly, they have a greater buffer capacity against many human activities that threaten small wetlands. However, they suffer additional different types of threats because human populations inside the wetlands and mainly in their vast catchments are much larger and their activities more diversified. Therefore, efficient protection requires complex, long term management plans not only for the wetlands but for the entire catchment areas. The elaboration of such management strategies often require agreements between states or countries. These agreements should include not only a wide range of activities that may affect the wetlands directly and indirectly, such as the use of water and soils, the development of industries and infrastructure, waste treatment and disposal, but also harmonization of environmental legislation for an efficient protection of the biota. The 8th INTECOL Congress in Cuiabá is a proper forum to call, among other aspects of wetland ecology, special attention to these problems, because the Pantanal and its catchment are shared by three countries (Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay), while two other countries (Uruguay and Argentina) participate downstream on the middle and lower Parana/Paraguay River, being therefore, thus to be affected by any major modifications within the Pantanal upstream.

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## Preliminary for conference topics

- Amazonian Wetlands
- Biogeochemical cycles of wetlands
- Carbon Cycle
- Climate changes in wetlands
- Community based management
- Comparative studies of tropical and temperate wetlands
- Comparison among Wetlands: Long term ecological studies
- Conceptual approaches to wetland ecology and management

Conservation policies and strategies  
Environmental education and wetland protection  
Food webs and ecosystems functions and proprieties  
Hydrology of wetlands  
Impacts of large development projects  
Impacts of other management forms (fisheries, cattle ranching etc)  
Invasive species in wetlands and their control  
Larges wetlands  
Modeling ecological processes in wetlands  
Modern wetland management  
Primary production and decomposition  
Sustainable Wetlands  
Threats to wetlands  
Traditional wetland management  
Wetland biodiversity  
Wetland education  
Wetland organisms and communities I (plants)  
Wetland organisms and communities II (animals)  
Wetland policies and regulations  
Wetland related diseases and parasites, and their control  
Wetland restoration, rehabilitation, enhancement and mitigation  
Wetlands and eco-tourism  
Wetlands and global climate change

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## Conference Location

**Cuiabá** is the state capital and together with Várzea Grande constitute the largest urban pole of Mato Grosso. The singular culture and the hospitality of their people are an added attraction for those who go there on business. Modern infrastructure makes it possible to host events of national and international levels thanks to a an efficient hotel network an four safe and comfortable convention centers that guarantee the quality of fairs, congress and seminars.



How to get there:  
by air: regular flights  
by land: via the BR-364 highway

Distance from Cuiabá:  
São Paulo: 1.616 km  
Brasília: 1.133 km  
Belo Horizonte: 1.594 km  
Rio de Janeiro: 2.017 km

Cuiabá is one of the gateways to the Pantanal. With an area of 160 thousand square

kilometers, the Pantanal, which begins in Mato Grosso, is one of largest floodplain in the world and the third largest environmental Biosphere reserve. Its ecological importance is immense, as it shelters one of the richest wetland ecosystems ever found with different types of seasonal forest and savannas that undergo periodic flooding. The abundance of animals makes the Pantanal region one the most propitious for observing fauna (especially birds) and flora and for fishing – only permitted from March to October.

Trips on horseback or by boat, fishing, walks to observe the animals, photographic safaris – on board a 4-wheel drive vehicle, on horseback or in canoes, are the main programs for those who wish to get to know the exuberance of the Pantanal fauna.

Former cattle farms have been adapted to receive visitors offering those tourists who appreciate Ecotourism varied programs and excursions.

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This is the first newsletter of the 8th International Wetland Conference - INTECOL. Shortly, more information about the conference will be available. Newsletters will inform on important dates such as symposium proposes and abstract submission. Access our web site for more information: [www.cppantanal.org.br/intecol](http://www.cppantanal.org.br/intecol).

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8th International Wetland Conference – INTECOL  
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