

Agenda item XI Ramsar COP10 DOC. 6



Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level



Changwon, Republic of Korea,
28 October-4 November 2008



CHANGWON 2008

COP10

« Healthy wetlands, healthy people »



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Preamble



Progress report from (COP9) on 15 November 2005 to 15 August 2008 Report based on:

- the Strategic Plan 2003-2008.
- Input from regional teams of the Ramsar Secretariat,
- personal views of Secretary General.

Additional perspectives about the progress made in the implementation of the Convention:



- The report of the Standing Committee Chairperson
- The report of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)
- The report of the Secretary General under Article 8 on the status of the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Significant progress



- From 146 Contracting Parties to 158
- From 1505 Ramsar sites to 1822 Ramsar sites,
- From 126.5 million hectares of Ramsar sites to 168 million hectares
- Outstanding actions taken by Mexico to methodically apply the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance*

Increasing recognition of the role of wetlands

- Wetlands and Biodiversity
- Wetlands and climate change
- Wetlands and agriculture/Food Security
- Wetlands and energy/Extractive Industries
- Wetlands and human health
- Wetlands and Economic Growth, especially through Tourism

Increasing recognition of the role of wetlands

- Wetlands and urbanization
- Wetlands and water supply, especially with regard to the relationships between wetland ecosystem quality and water yield/quality.

Key remaining challenges



- Image of the Convention
- Importance of Wetlands issues in national/international planning
- Secretariat's capacity to respond to growing needs of Contracting Parties
- Core Budget
- Funding for COP

Role of Ramsar Administrative Authorities

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- Catalysts, who build Partnership
- Facilitators who persuade stakeholders,
- Team leader who Carry national teams to new levels of collective achievements.



Role of Ramsar Administrative Authorities

- Encourage all relevant players and give them credit for their contributions in the promotion of wetland conservation and wise use.
- Outstanding example from South Africa and from the USA (Coastal America's Corporate Wetland Restoration Partnership, with more than 400 corporations and NGOs working together)

Scientific and technical challenges



- Necessary understanding of the state of global wetlands, trends and threats
- supporting an up-to-date decision context Fully engaging Contracting Parties where actions must be taken
- Promoting timely and relevant application of the Convention's assets/resources.

Scientific and technical challenges



- Making the best use of existing scientific knowledge and the guidance offered by the Scientific and Technical (STRP)
- Increasingly working with relevant organizations
 - Payments for ecosystems services/ environmental services
 - Carbon sequestration/emission by wetlands
 - Methane production/emission by wetlands



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Scientific and technical challenges



- Increasingly working with relevant organizations
 - Wetlands and Food Security
 - Wetlands and Human health
 - Wetlands and Energy
 - Wetlands and extractive industries
 - Wetlands and water quality/quantity

Emerging challenges



- the Strategic Plan 2009-2014;
- the Convention's Programme for 2009-2014 on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness;
- Future implementation of the scientific and technical aspects of the Convention; and
- Regional Initiatives for 2009-2012.

Call for Actions to save invaluable wetland areas

In Africa:

- Lake Victoria
- Balance between Food security, Biodiversity and Water Supply

In Asia & Oceania

- *Hanoi call to Action on Wetlands* to restore degraded marine/coastal, freshwater and human-made wetlands
- Drought adaptation & Flood control

Call for Actions to save invaluable wetland areas



South America:

- **Mangrove restoration and careful consideration of positive and negative effects of biofuels**

Central America and the Caribbean

- **Careful consideration of urban developments and tourism activities**

Call for Actions to save invaluable wetland areas



North America

- **Partnership among public agencies and other interests appropriate distribution and diversity of wetland ecosystems and habitats associated with migratory birds and other fish and wildlife**

Call for Actions to save invaluable wetland areas



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Europe

Partnership at local, national and international level to undertake joint activities with a careful balance between the need for biodiversity, water supply, energy production, and navigation.



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- **Globally: Partnership in Wetland Management for:**
 - **biodiversity conservation and sustainable use,**
 - **climate change mitigation & adaptation,**
 - **urban development and habitats,**

Call for Action : Partnership



- **Globally: Wetland Management for:**
 - tourism,
 - food production,
 - water supply,
 - energy production and distribution,
economic growth and poverty reduction,
desertification control,
- **human health**

Major Achievements



**SEE Agenda item XI:
Ramsar COP10 DOC. 6:
Report of the Secretary General on the
implementation of the Convention at the
global level**



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Membership



- The Convention has 158 Contracting Parties at present and progress is underway in Africa, Asia, and Oceania.
- *For the next triennium, efforts should be made to encourage the accession of remaining countries from the **Middle East and Central Asia, Oceania and the Caribbean**, as well as parts of Africa.*

Financial and budgetary matters:

- The Secretariat expects COP10 to take helpful decisions through the adoption of COP10 DR 2
- appeals to all Contracting Parties to pay their contributions in time.
 - urges all Contracting Parties in arrears to make a renewed effort to settle them as soon as possible.

Facilitating the work of the Convention at national and international levels



- Contracting Parties to intervene to ensure that the Convention and its Secretariat have appropriate recognition and status in key processes and organizations (national & international) to reflect the intergovernmental importance of the Convention.

Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness

- Stimulating actions that enhance sharing information cross-sectorally on wetland issues
- working together to recognize and make the best use of the various goods and services provided by wetland ecosystems.
- Ramsar Administrative Authorities encouraged to strengthen communication with all relevant ministries, departments and agencies, and the civil society.



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Legacy of COP10 and Chnagwon Declaration



- Support Korea's actions at local, provincial national and international levels, including the Ramsar Wetland Center
- Support to alla actions taken by all CPS
- Welcoming all partners and their contribution



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Engagement of the Ramsar Convention in processes dealing with Water



- Stockholm World Water Week
- World water Forum
- World Conservation Congress
- UN-Water
- Cooperation with River/Lake Organizations



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Cultural Values of Wetlands



- Appreciate the work of the Working Group on Cultural Aspects of Wetlands
- Publications on Cultural aspects of Wetlands

Review of Decisions of COPs

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- Ongoing work involving STRP and Standing Committee to identify and address:
 - Conflicting areas
 - Redundancy
 - Differing interpretation

THANK YOU



- **To the Republic of Korea**
- **to all Ramsar Contracting Parties**
- **to all Ramsar partners for their commitment.**
- **My appreciation and my thanks to all Ramsar staff members for their dedication and hard work.**