



SWEDISH ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

Programme

6th European Ramsar Meeting Stockholm - Sweden



Aim of the Regional Meeting

Regional meetings, in between the global meetings of the Conference of the Parties, provide excellent opportunities for experts in charge of implementing the Ramsar Convention at national level:

- to exchange experiences, know-how and views,
- to focus on specific problems in the region,
- to take stock of the achievements, progress of implementation and
- to define further efforts needed to keep the Convention at the forefront of international instruments to cope with our environmental problems of the 21st century.

The meeting in Sweden will provide a European opportunity to prepare for the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP10), to be held in Changwon, Republic of Korea, on 28 October – 4 November 2008 under the theme “**Healthy wetlands – healthy people**”. We will be looking into operational procedures of the Convention, especially at European and national levels. How best to deliver the Convention’s mission to use all wetlands wisely through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation? The meeting will put emphasis on how we progress with wetland communication, education, participation and awareness, including the outcomes of the meeting of Ramsar’s scientific and technical national focal points, held in September 2007 in Austria.

Since the release of the results of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment during COP9 in 2005, we have gained new understanding and better insights how best to use wetland ecosystems in a sustainable way for our well-being. In Stockholm, we will have the opportunity to discuss progress and problems with the implementation of the Convention in our countries and put emphasis on the central issues that affect the operation of the Convention, in a context of rapid environmental change occurring at global level, affecting climate, biodiversity, human societies and livelihoods.

Using the Ramsar Tools

Ramsar COPs are substantive meetings that adopt a significant array of guidelines and resolutions (decisions) for the better implementation of the Convention. In 2007, the Secretariat published the 3rd edition of the **Ramsar Handbooks** for the Wise Use of Wetlands, providing an overview of existing guidelines in 17 volumes. They are available on CD in English, French and Spanish, and can easily be downloaded from www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_handbooks2006_e.htm.

2007 saw also the start of the publication series of **Ramsar Technical Reports**, with 3 volumes available to date at www.ramsar.org/lib/lib_rtr_index.htm, and more to be published before COP10. The series includes reports prepared by the Convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), formerly prepared as “Information Documents” to COPs, to ensure their increased and long-term accessibility. Other reports, not originating from COP requests to the STRP, may also be proposed for inclusion in the series.

Saturday 3 May 2008 p.m.

Annotated Programme and Agenda

Arrival of participants

Registration

Afternoon coffee

16h30-18h30 Plenary

Opening Session – from Kampala (COP9) to Stockholm

chair: *Lars-Erik LILJELUND*, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

rapporteur: *Nick DAVIDSON*

The opening session provides our hosts with the opportunity to show how Sweden is implementing the Ramsar Convention and what roles wetland ecosystems play in Sweden, how they are perceived by society and how they form part of the Nordic development cooperation. Brief summaries on progress with the implementation of the Convention in Europe will be provided by the Ramsar Secretariat, putting it into the global context and addressing the new challenges of the 21st Century.

◆ Opening and Welcome

Lars-Erik LILJELUND, Director General - Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Tiega ANADA, Secretary General - Ramsar Convention

Adoption of the Agenda (*chair*)

◆ Thriving wetlands, flourishing lakes and streams – Swedish environmental quality objectives

Ann WAHLSTRÖM, Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (20 min)

◆ The Convention in a global context - progress since COP9 and new challenges

Tiega ANADA, Ramsar Secretary General (20 min)

◆ Implementing the Convention in Europe - are we doing well ?

Tobias SALATHE, Ramsar Secretariat (20 min)

◆ Short introduction to Swedish national parks

slide show by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency

Dinner

in the evening

(times and rooms will be announced)

Presentation of the web-based **Ramsar Site Information Service** - *by Ward Hagemeyer*

Meeting of **European Union** member states - *convened by France*

Poster exhibition

Informal **contacts**

Sunday 4 May 2008 a.m.

09h00-10h30 Plenary **Implementing the Convention – Progress and Problems**

chair: *Gerhard SIGMUND*, Standing Committee – Austria
rapporteur: *Tobias SALATHE*

This session starts with brief analyses of major problems encountered during the triennium 2006-2008 when implementing the Convention. The presentations introduce major themes to be discussed in more detail during the following group working sessions. After each presentation, some time is foreseen to raise questions needed to clarify specific points raised and to prepare for more in-depth discussion in the working group sessions.

- ◆ **Ramsar sites – where we stand today, information needs and data management**
Monica ZAVAGLI, Ramsar Secretariat (15 min)
- ◆ **Wings Over Wetlands – the contribution of the flyways project to Ramsar implementation**
Ward HAGEMEIJER, Wetlands International (15 min)
- ◆ **Towards a European strategy for the development of a Ramsar Site network**
Michael STEINER, STRP National Focal Point - Austria (15 min)
- ◆ **Wetland ecological character – taking forward this key concept under Ramsar**
David PRITCHARD, STRP Expert (15 min)

Morning coffee

11h00-13h00 **Parallel Working Groups**

In order to allow fruitful interactions and provide a platform to everybody to bring in her or his concerns, experience and ideas, the Meeting will split in smaller working groups twice a day. They take up the issues of general interest presented in plenary sessions in more detail, focusing on sub-regional specificities and allowing for open exchange of ideas and visions. Each working group will have to designate a rapporteur, summarizing briefly (one page) the main conclusions of the group discussions, to be included in the final Meeting Report.

- 1 Action for culture** in European wetlands
chair: *Thymio PAPAYANNIS*, Ramsar Working Group on Culture
- 2 Ramsar project initiatives** - how to increase implementation capacities, including the private sector
chair: *Tobias SALATHE*, Ramsar Secretariat
- 3 Focusing on lakes** – wetland types neglected by the Convention?
chair: *Udo GATTENLOEHNER*, Living Lakes, Global Nature Fund

Lunch break

Sunday 4 May 2008 p.m.

14h30-16h00 Plenary **Priority Issues for Wetlands in Europe**

chair: *Libuse VLASAKOVA*, Standing Committee – Czech Republic
rapporteur: *Jan KADLECIK*

An opportunity to introduce the main emerging issues facing wetlands in Europe. To launch the discussion how Ramsar administrative authorities and wetland managers need to react and respond to these challenges in their work.

- ◆ **Wetlands and Climate Change - consequences for south European habitats and biodiversity**
Sonia RAVERA, University of Molise - Italy (15 min)
- ◆ **Understanding ecohydrological processes for sustainable floodplain management**
Ivona WAGNER, UNESCO European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (15 min)
- ◆ **Ramsar's contribution to the 2010 biodiversity target – progress and further needs**
Andras KROLOPP, IUCN Countdown 2010 Initiative (15 min)
- ◆ **Water-related ecosystems, their management and services – how to pay for them**
Ella BEHLYAROVA, UNECE Water Convention (15 min)

Afternoon coffee

16h30-18h30 **Parallel Working Groups**

The smaller working groups provide also a platform for specific Ramsar groups to meet and to discuss their specific work programmes and planning. This concerns specifically (sub)regional networks, national focal points, and experts focusing on specific wetland types.

- 4 Focusing on peatlands** – their biodiversity, water management and role in climate change
chair: *Tatiana MINAYEVA*, International Mire Conservation Group
- 5 Focusing on river basin wetlands and their management**
chair: *Goran GUGIC*, Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Ramsar Site - Croatia
- 6 Meeting of the partners in the Mediterranean and Black Sea Wetlands Initiatives**
chair: *Vasily KOSTYUSHIN*, Wetlands International Black Sea Programme

Dinner

in the evening

Meeting of **Wetlands International** members – *convened by Jane Madgnick*

Poster exhibition

Informal **contacts**

Monday 5 May 2008 a.m.

09h00-10h30 Plenary **How to Work with Partners and Become More Effective**

chair: *Sophiko AKHOBADZE*, Standing Committee - Georgia
rapporteur: *Monica ZAVAGLI*

- ◆ **First assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters**
Lea KAUPPI, Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment - UNECE Water Convention (15 min)
- ◆ **Managing transboundary Ramsar sites together – how to move on ?**
Gerhard SIGMUND, Federal Ministry for Environment, Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Austria (15 min)
- ◆ **The role of National Ramsar Committees - why they are needed**
Wolfgang PELIKAN, Coordinator Ramsar Committee - Austria (15 min)
- ◆ **Working at regional level – is it effective to make Ramsar more visible ?**
Tobias SALATHE, Ramsar Secretariat (15 min)

Morning coffee

11h00-13h00 **Parallel Working Groups**

- 7** Meeting of the partners in the **Nordic-Baltic Wetland Initiative**
chair: *Jan-Petter HUBERTH-HANSEN*, Nature Management Directorate - Norway
- 8** The work of **STRP** – national networking, roles of Administrative Authorities and National Focal Points
chair: *Michael STEINER*, STRP National Focal Point – Austria
- 9** Experiences from **transboundary cooperation** for shared wetlands and watercourses
chair: *Ilya TROMBITSKY*, Ecotiras River Keepers Association - Moldova

Lunch break

14h15-15h45 Plenary **Priorities for the Triennium 2009-2011**

chair: *Olivier BIBER*, Standing Committee - Switzerland
rapporteur: *Sandra HAILS*

The session provides an opportunity to focus on how to improve the effectiveness of our wetland work, by making full use of existing instruments and developing those further which have proven to be helpful.

- ◆ **Wetlands for a clean and healthy world**
Anders BERNTELL, Stockholm International Water Institute – World Water Week (15 min)
- ◆ **The European Union – a strong Ramsar partner not to be forgotten**
Patrick MURPHY, European Commission – Directorate General Environment (15 min)

Monday 5 May 2008 p.m.

- ◆ **FAO and Ramsar – synergies for the challenges posed by the 21st Century**
Lucilla SPINI, STRP Expert – Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (15 min)
- ◆ **Using CEPA tools to reach out and to increase our capacities**
Sandra HAILS, Ramsar Secretariat (15 min)

Afternoon coffee

16h15-18h00 Parallel Working Groups

- 10** Meeting of the partners in the **Carpathian Wetland Initiative**
chair: *Jan KADLECIK, State Nature Conservancy - Slovakia*
- 11** **Wings over Ramsar wetlands** – WOW and its contribution to the implementation of Ramsar
chair: *Ward HAGEMEIJER, Wetlands International*
- 12** Using **CEPA** tools to change behaviour
chair: *Sandra HAILS, Ramsar Secretariat*

departure by bus: 18h30 **Dinner Reception in the city of Stockholm**

hosted by the Ministry of Environment - Sweden

Tuesday 6 May 2008

full-day field visit **Wetland Excursion to the Stockholm Archipelago Area**

Our Swedish hosts offer a boat excursion in the coastal wetlands of the Stockholm archipelago with a short visit ashore on the island of **Ängsö National Park**. A detailed programme will be distributed to participants when registering at the welcome desk.

During the boat trip, information on current coastal wetland management issues will be provided, focusing on specific local issues as well as on problems common to many regions of the Baltic Sea basin, such as eutrophication, dying of benthic communities, over-fishing, oil pollution and risks created by international gas pipelines, etc.

Please make sure to have warm, windproof clothing with you, the air over the sea can be much colder than on land.

in the evening **Poster exhibition**

Informal **contacts**

Wednesday 7 May 2008 a.m.

09h00-13h00 Plenary

Closing Session – from Stockholm to Changwon (COP10)

chair: *Karen JENDEREDJIAN*, European STRP Networker - Armenia

The last session introduces important Ramsar issues to be decided and adopted during the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in autumn 2008, affecting the work of the Convention during the years to come.

◆ **Resolutions prepared by STRP for submission to COP10**

Nick DAVIDSON, Ramsar Secretariat (15 min)

◆ **Ramsar's Strategic Plan proposed for the years 2009-2014**

Nick DAVIDSON, Ramsar Secretariat (15 min)

◆ **The Convention budget proposal for 2009-2011**

Tobias SALATHE, Ramsar Secretariat (15 min)

◆ **The legal status of the Ramsar Secretariat**

Tobias SALATHE, Ramsar Secretariat (15 min)

Morning coffee

◆ **Discussion and adoption of the Meeting Conclusions, including the results of the working group sessions**

based on the reports by the *rapporteurs* of plenary and group sessions, presented by *Tobias SALATHE*,

◆ **Closure of the Meeting**

by the Deputy Secretary General and the Swedish host

Lunch

Departure of Participants

Documents supporting the agenda at: www.ramsar.org/mtg/mtg_reg_europe2008_index.htm