

# **Report of the workshop "Wetland-related Capacity Building"**

**19 June 2007**



by Anne van Dam, Edwin Hes and Bouke Ottow

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# 1. Introduction and background

The Advisory Board on Rijkswaterstaat RIZA's wetland training activities formed the basis for the development of the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention. During the 9th Conference of Parties of the Ramsar Convention, the parties decided that the Advisory Board should co-operate closely with the Ramsar Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel to "identify priorities in recognition of the gaps between capacity building opportunities and needs for the broad range of wetland professionals and stakeholders" (Resolution IX 18). The establishment of this Advisory Board was endorsed by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention in its meeting in April 2006.

Ramsar considers capacity building very important. The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and the Convention Work Plan 2006-2008 have two Operational Objectives/Strategies, with ensuing Key Result Areas (KRAs) and Key Performance Measures (KPMs) that are especially relevant to the Advisory Board:

- Operational Objective 18.1/Strategy 4.8: "Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use"
  - KRA: By COP 10, CPs to have undertaken reviews of existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands (CPs, IOPs)
  
- Operational Objective 20.1/Strategy 4.10: "Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses"
  - KRAs:
    - By COP 10, the RIZA-Ramsar cooperative effort being fully implemented, linking existing and proposed training centres.
    - At least half of the CPs to have assessed national and local training needs and an appropriate capacity-building effort in place.
  - KPM: Capacity building accepted and understood as part of the Convention's activities.

In the newly developed Strategic plan 2009-2015, this importance of capacity building is stressed again: To ensure that the convention (155 contracting parties) has the required mechanisms, resources and capacity to achieve its mission, the capacity needs to be developed.

It is commonly agreed by the different parties involved that the Advisory Board can play an important role in bringing together the needs and supply in capacity building for wetlands.

Partly this is done through the membership of the board, which represents a broad network in the wetland world. Partly this needs to be done through clear (long-term) agenda's, procedures and links to the relevant institutions.

In order for the Advisory Board to play an effective role both now and in the future, several things need to be clarified:

- its relationship with regional Ramsar-related initiatives (eg regional centres and focal points)
- its relationship with the CEPA Oversight Panel
- its specific contribution to the development of relevant capacity building opportunities

There are several ways in which the board could help. It could be through developing a certification procedure for wetland capacity building activities. By this certification, potential beneficiaries of these activities will know that these activities follow transparent quality procedures in support of the goals of the Ramsar Convention. It could also be by assisting in the development of a strategy for capacity building for wetlands, including financial mechanisms. The basis for such a strategy would be a clear framework to which all the different parties involved can refer and which would give a common understanding of concepts.

UNESCO-IHE, Rijkswaterstaat RIZA and Wageningen International, who also co-operate within the WetCap partnership, have taken up the task to develop this framework. Besides the development of the framework, and also as a means for getting relevant input for the framework, these organizations also responded to a request from the board to organize a workshop on capacity building, together with the CEPA Oversight Panel.

This report presents the results from the workshop. Of course the discussions at the workshop are not new. They are bringing together results from earlier discussions about the same topic, including discussions at COP 9, at meetings of the advisory board and at meetings of the CEPA Oversight Panel. We hope that the results in this report will not only bring the developing framework a step forward, but will also stimulate discussion on the subject in a broader sense and eventually lead to more capacity to maintain, manage and wisely use wetlands.



## 2. Workshop objectives and programme

The objectives of the joint workshop of the CEPA Oversight Panel and the CB Advisory Board were:

- Common understanding of concepts (communication, education, awareness, capacity building) and stakeholder groups;
- Common understanding of the priority capacity building needs for wetland conservation;
- Inventory of roles of Ramsar bodies;
- Definition of concrete actions.

To achieve these objectives, a 1-day workshop was held. During the workshop, the original programme (see Annex I) was slightly modified, resulting in the following programme:

<b>Workshop on wetland related capacity building</b>			
<b>19 June 2007, Delft, the Netherlands</b>			
	<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Facilitator/ presenter</b>
Morning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common understanding of concepts and respective stakeholder groups</li> <li>- capacity building</li> <li>- communication</li> <li>- education</li> <li>- public awareness</li> </ul>	9:00 Opening Followed by a walk to "het Meisjeshuis"  9:30 Introduction of concepts by interview  11:00 Groupwork to define the 4 concepts	Bridgewater and Meganck  Bridgewater, Hails and Gevers. Interviewer: Ottow  Ottow
Afternoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common understanding of the priority capacity building needs for wetland conservation;</li> <li>• Inventory of roles of Ramsar bodies;</li> <li>• Definition of concrete actions.</li> </ul>	14:00 Presentation of group work  16:00 Roles of Ramsar bodies (CEPA, CB, regional centers, other parties); presentation in plenary and discussion  16:30 Actions after the workshop  18:00 Closing, followed by drinks	Ottow  Gevers  Gevers, Bridgewater, Bowleg

### 3. List of participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>role in Ramsar</b>
Amankwah	Charles	Wildlife Division (Forestry Commission), Accra, Ghana	member, CEPA Oversight Panel
Bohórquez Gerardy	Stefan	Comité Ecológico del Litoral, Guayaquil, Ecuador	member, CEPA Oversight Panel
Bowleg	John	Water & Sewerage Corporation, Nassau, Bahamas	Chair, CEPA Oversight Panel
Bridgewater	Peter	Ramsar Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland	Secretary-General; member, CEPA Oversight Panel (ex officio); member advisory Board (ex officio)
Fazel	Asghar M.	College of Environment, Karaj, Iran	member, CEPA Oversight Panel; representative for regional center (CWA, Ramsar, Iran)
Fokkens	Bart	Rijkswaterstaat-RIZA, Lelystad, The Netherlands	secretary, CB Advisory Board
Gevers	Ingrid	WUR-Wageningen International, The Netherlands	WetCap
Hails	Sandra	Ramsar Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland	CEPA Programme Officer; member CEPA Oversight Panel (ex officio)
Hes	Edwin	UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Delft, The Netherlands	WetCap
Koopmanschap	Esther	WUR-Wageningen International, The Netherlands	WetCap
Pinkers	Mathieu	Ministry of LNV, The Netherlands	
Ojei	Tunde	Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands	member, CEPA Oversight Panel, member advisory Board
Otiang'a-Owiti	George E.	Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute, Naivasha, Kenya	member, CEPA Oversight Panel; representative of regional center (KWSTI,

			Naivasha, Kenya)
Ottow	Bouke	Rijkswaterstaat-RIZA, Lelystad, The Netherlands	functionary, CB Advisory Board, WetCap
Prietto	Christine	Wetlands Environmental Education Centre, Hunter Wetlands Centre, Australia	member, CEPA Oversight Panel, CEPA Thematic Expert for STRP
d'Cruz	Rebecca	AONYX Environmental, Sarawak, Malaysia	member, CEPA Oversight Panel
Montañez	Rosa	Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), Panama City, Panama	member, CEPA Oversight Panel; director of regional center (CREHO, Panama)
Splithoff	Petra	WUR-Wageningen International, The Netherlands	member, CEPA Oversight Panel, member advisory Board
van Dam	Anne	UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, Delft, The Netherlands	member, CB Advisory Board, WetCap
van Dijk	Gerard	Ministry of LNV, The Netherlands	member, CB Advisory Board



## 4. Results

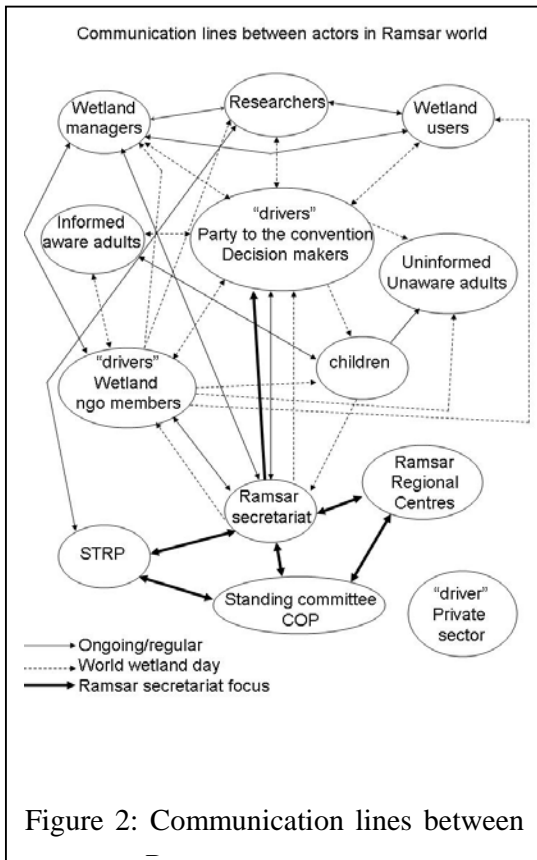
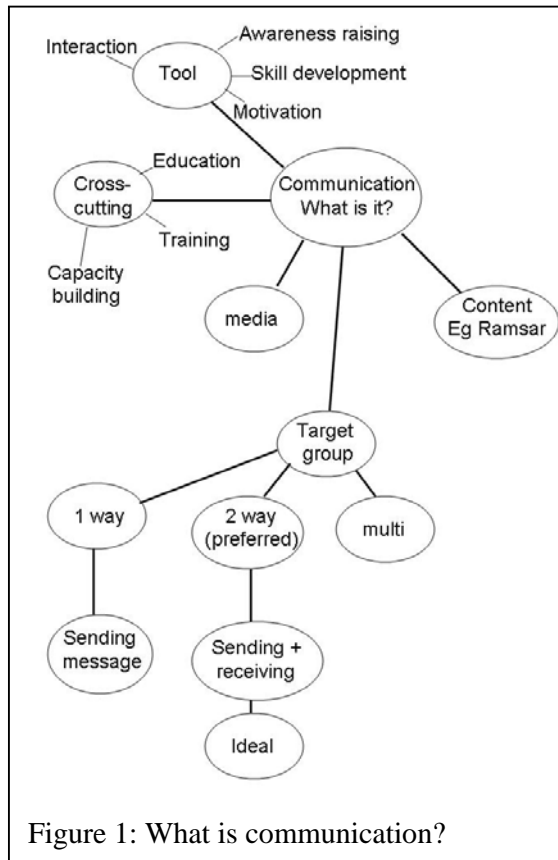
### 4.1. Concepts

In the following sections the results of the sub-groups on the various concepts of Communication (4.1.1), Education (4.1.2), Public Awareness (4.1.3) and Capacity Building (4.1.4) are reported. These were presented in the plenary and discussed to stimulate a common understanding of these concepts. The questions that each group was asked to answer in relation to the concept they were asked to discuss, were:

1. What is it?
2. For whom is it?
3. Who does it or should be doing it?

#### 4.1.1. Communication

Communication was defined as "a flow of information between a source and a receiver, ideally with a reflection back to the source" (see Figure 1). The sub-group then proceeded to produce a diagram that mapped out the various flows of communication between actors in the



"Ramsar World" (see Figure 2). Figure 2 shows an eminent role for the "drivers": both the parties to the convention and the wetland NGO members play a central role, according to the sub-group on communication. Whereas the third "driver", the private sector, seems to be

disconnected. Also the Ramsar secretariat plays a crucial role in its dialogue with the drivers and its focus on the Regional Centers, STRP and the standing committee. A challenge may be to also 'connect' the private sector more prominently. World Wetland Day boosts

communication between the different actors (Figure 2) and complements the on-going and regular communication lines.

Figure 3 is largely based on Figure 2 and shows a grouping of the different actors. The main groups are: "the drivers, wetland professionals, society and groups linked directly to the Ramsar convention. Ideally, two-way (or multi-way) communication flows should reach all groups. The main target for the Ramsar convention group is considered to be the drivers, who are thought to be crucial in the implementation of the wise use concept by involving the other actors (or stakeholders) from the wetland professionals and society groups.

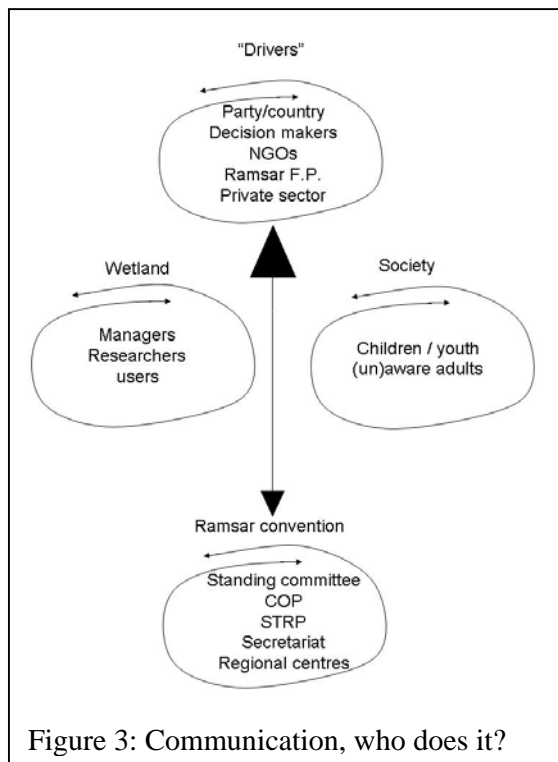


Figure 3: Communication, who does it?

#### 4.1.2. Education

*What is it?*

Two types of education were distinguished:

Formal education: an organized approach to imparting knowledge, skills, motivation and attitude, using standards and assessment and levels of achievement for the learner (student/individual). Formal education is intentional from the perspectives of both teacher and learner.

Informal education: an informal approach using a variety of methods and tools to enhance the understanding of the learner. It is often not assessed formally but can still include standards. The intention may be one-sided, from the teacher or from the learner.

*Who is it for?*

Target groups for formal education are typically:

- school children, from Kindergarten age to about 12 years
- secondary and tertiary education students
- practitioners
- researchers
- policy makers

Target groups for informal education are

- general public
- communities
- policy makers
- land owners
- wetland users

*Who does it / should do it?*

Imparting knowledge and skills can be done in three ways:

I. Formal (used by universities, schools and educators) has the following characteristics:

- curriculum-based
- organised
- standards
- levels (hierarchy)
- 2-way intention
- assessment
- qualifications
- certification

II. Non-formal (used by NGOs, training institutions, practitioners, trainers) with the following characteristics

- workshop
- tailor-made
- organised
- standards
- objectives
- levels

III. Informal (used by all, e.g. visitor's centers or parent to child and vice versa)

- sometimes
- coincidental
- but still organised
- serendipitous
- opportunistic

### **4.1.3. Awareness**

*What is it?*

- Building awareness is a process of raising/enhancing the level of understanding of wise use of wetlands (action).
- Need to know what is important to the stakeholders
- Need to know what the level of the understanding of the parties is
- Awareness is raised either to "inform" or stimulate an "action"
- Awareness should not be imposed
- Awareness is the foundation that sensitizes the public on the issues first. After this, other CEPA activities/campaigns can address other issues for action (e.g. skills needed etc.)

*Who is it for?*

- Ramsar focal points
- National administrative authorities / governments
- National wetland committees
- Local communities, school, CBOs, NGOs etc.
- People that will or have the ability to influence the conservation (or wise use) of wetlands

*Who should be doing it?*

- Someone with a broad overview of the process
- In partnership – different and complementary roles (shared responsibility and ownership)

Tools for raising awareness depend on constant and local conditions.

#### **4.1.4. Capacity building**

*What is it?*

Shared goal + practical

"Empowerment" or "Capacitation" for wetland conservation by using different approaches (awareness and knowledge)

Capacity building (CB) needs time, to become aware and to internalize knowledge. It is about institutional change, from individuals or groups of individuals to organisation change and then societal change. It may result in new organizations. The CB process can use any number of tools. CB is all that is needed to achieve the goal: awareness, skills, technology, resources, institutional arrangements, knowledge, and attitudes.

Capacity Building as defined by UNDP: "the process by which individuals, organisations, and institutions develop abilities (individually and collectively) to perform functions, to solve problems and achieve objectives."

For the purpose of this workshop, this could be changed in:

"the process by which individuals, organisations, and institutions develop abilities (individually and collectively) to ensure more effective wise use of wetlands".

*For whom is it and who should be doing it?*

In general, capacity building focuses on all stakeholders. It should be the focus of the regional centers, the CEPA oversight panel and the CB advisory board. Efforts should be complementary and focused: e.g., the CEPA oversight panel could focus on the CEPA focal points. CB needs to be site specific, e.g. targeting a country, region or basin.

The following table shows the capacity builders linked to their target groups. It should be noted that the working group was unable to complete the full table, due to time limitations. The table should be seen as indicative and not prescriptive or comprehensive.

## Capacity builders and target groups

Capacity builder	Target group
Members of the advisory board on CB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy and decision makers</li> <li>• Wetland management trainers</li> <li>• (potential) donors</li> </ul>
Ramsar Regional Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National/regional focal points</li> <li>• Governmental and NG organizations</li> <li>• Wetland managers</li> <li>• (local) governments with wetland jurisdiction</li> </ul>
National governments	School system (importance of wetlands)
NGO, I-NGO, CBO	
CEPA focal point	Local communities
CEPA oversight panel	CEPA focal points
Ramsar secretariate	
Regional/Global networks	
Private sector (direct and indirect through funding)	

## 4.2. Roles of groups within Ramsar

In the afternoon session, four groups were formed according to their role within the Ramsar Convention: the CEPA Oversight Panel (group 1), the Advisory Board on Capacity Building (group 2), the Regional Centers (group 3) and the WetCap group (group 4). Each group answered the following questions:

1. What are your priorities? (link to target groups and needs)
2. What is your body going to do? What are you doing yourself?
3. What do you expect of the other bodies?

### 4.2.1. CEPA Oversight Panel

*What are our priorities?*

To monitor and implement the CEPA programme within the Convention and to advice SC, STRP, the Ramsar secretariat on CEPA work priorities.

With the Advisory Board, identify the gaps between capacity building opportunities and needs for the broad range of wetland professionals and stakeholders.

Questions raised: (1) Can the AB deliver these tasks (training/capacity building and identify needs, guidelines on training needs assessment); (2) Should the structure/composition of the

AB be revisited; (3) Could the preferred arrangement be that the AB can provide info on training opportunities and also training products themselves to the CEPA Oversight Panel which then advises the SC on action?

#### 4.2.2. Advisory Board on Capacity Building

The advisory board consists of independent, international advisors (well-informed, well-experienced). The board members are not brokers. The task of the board is to address and/or enhance capacity to implement the Ramsar Convention. The primary target group is the actors involved in the Ramsar convention and politicians. The main goal for COP10 of the board is to make recommendations on capacity building.

#### 4.2.3. Regional Centers

Priorities

Topics	Targets
CREHO Wetland management (EIA, GIS, etc.) Socioeconomics and cultural values of wetlands Inventory and monitoring Policy/legislation Community participation Environmental education and communication	Ramsar focal points National wetland comm. (Govt., NGOs, universities, scientific organisations) NGOs that work directly on wetlands Wetland managers Other institutions with jurisdiction on wetlands Wetland networks and initiatives (e.g., WHMSI, WCC, etc.)
CWA Wetland management Communication and networking Research programme Awareness raising Non-contracting parties	Media and educators  National level (national govt., NFP, policy makers, media, universities, NGOs, donors) Site level (15 different stakeholders)
KWSTI Wetland management Good governance, policy and legislation Sustainable wetland utilization Regional Ramsar centre in collaboration with other initiatives Capacity building for trainers Stronger linkage with relevant wetland initiatives (Ramsar, WetCap, Wetlands International, etc.) Development of research capacity	Regional level (wetland managers, policy makers, influential people, judiciary and administrative organs, communities, media) Trainers within regional wetland centers

*What is your body going to do?*

1. CREHO

Capacity building (training, cooperation, research, communication)

2. CWA

Training programmes (same as CREHO), national CEPA programme (encourage CEPA plans)

3. KWSTI

Capacity building (wetland managers), training of trainers (WPRP)

*Expectations from other bodies*

Technical and advisory support

Political support

Coordination of fund raising and a fundraising strategy

Clarification of status of the Centers (including KWSTI)

#### **4.2.4. WetCap group**

WetCap is a partnership to build capacity for wise use of wetlands.

*Competencies of WetCap in wetland management, restoration, IRBM and ICZM:*

- formal education (BSc, MSc, PhD)
- tailor-made courses
- (annual) regular courses
- on-line courses
- wetland professionals platform ([www.wetlandprofessionals.org](http://www.wetlandprofessionals.org))
- publications
- curriculum development: academic setting + other regional partners
- institutional development
- project development and implementation

*What we have to offer:*

- partnership with regional centers: curriculum development, course development, fund raising, etc.
- training of focal points: skill development (e.g., facilitation, conflict management), knowledge enhancement
- facilitation of wetland center establishment
- advocacy

- policy advice
- capacity building framework
- etc.

*What do we expect from others:*

- CB board: advice on funding, endorsement of initiatives, recognition
- CEPA oversight panel: active collaboration, advice on funding, endorsement of initiatives, recognition
- Regional centres: cooperation, existing needs in the region (needs assessment), resource persons

## 5. Discussion and conclusions

The final session of the afternoon was devoted to discussing the results of the groups on the concepts, roles and activities related to capacity building, communication, education and awareness. What follows here is a summary of the main conclusions from the discussion.

The main conclusion about the concepts was that there is no fundamental difference between capacity building and CEPA. One could be seen as encompassing or at least overlapping with the other. Despite some on-going discussion about definitions<sup>1</sup>, most participants see CB as a more specific part of the whole field of CEPA activities, whereas others see CB as a more overarching framework.

Figure 4 attempts to summarize the discussions by breaking it down into objectives and processes.

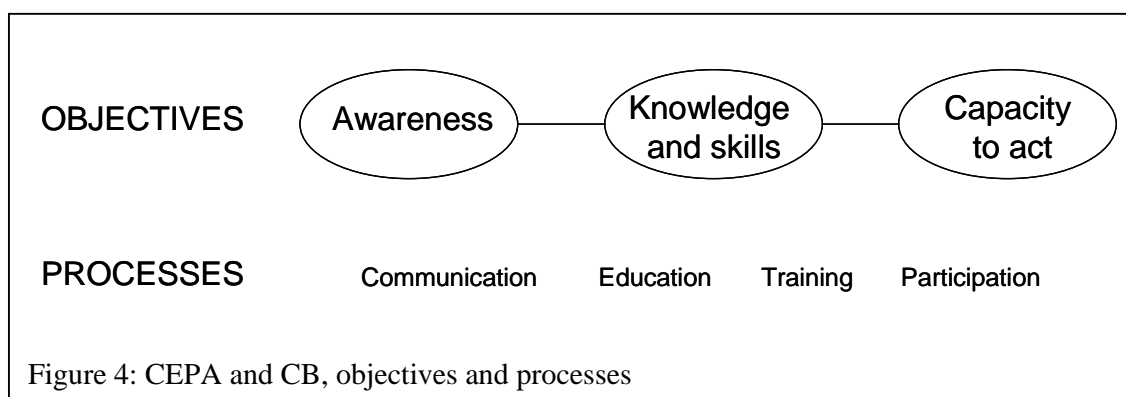


Figure 4: CEPA and CB, objectives and processes

Just like there is overlap in the concepts with which the CEPA Oversight Panel and the Advisory Board on CB work, there is also overlap in the roles of the two bodies. The Advisory Board provides enhanced capacity and enhanced awareness, and the CEPA programme also delivers tools for capacity building. Despite this overlap, the Advisory Board in daily life deals with other things than the Oversight Panel. Goal 4 of the draft Strategic Plan 2009-2015 ("to ensure that the convention has the required mechanisms, resources and capacity to achieve its mission") is broader than CEPA and CB per se. While CoP 9 regulated the existence of the Advisory Board and the CEPA panel, CoP10 should revise this and make additions on how capacity building can be taken forward in relation to the CEPA programme. This means that CoP10 will be very important for the definition of the roles of the Advisory

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<sup>1</sup> Participation was seen by many as crucial for both CEPA and Capacity Building. Some argued that it would be good to change the P in CEPA from "Public" into "Participation".

Board and the CEPA panel.

The composition of the Advisory Board will need to be reviewed. At the moment, it does not have a strong base as the process through which it came into existence was evolutionary. The process for reviewing this should be discussed by the CEPA Panel. Decision about this will eventually take the form of a resolution at CoP10.

The main questions with regard to the regional centers were: what is their status within Ramsar, what technical and political support do they get, and how can fundraising be coordinated. There are also questions about the communication between the regional centers and the Ramsar secretariat. There should be a good coordination between the regional centers and the activities of the WetCap group to avoid duplication of efforts.

## Annex I original programme

<b>Workshop on wetland related capacity building 19 June 2007, Delft, the Netherlands</b>					
	<b>program elements</b>	<b>objectives</b>	<b>outcomes</b>	<b>program flow</b>	<b>facilitator/ presenter</b>
<b>Morning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramsar's vision on wetland conservation</li> <li>• Introduction of concepts               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Capacity Building</li> <li>- Communication</li> <li>- Education</li> <li>- Public awareness</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Round table discussion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common understanding of concepts and respective stakeholder groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definitions of the different concepts (common language)</li> <li>• Opinion of the workshop participants on which stakeholder groups should be targeted by what concept</li> </ul>	9:00 Opening Followed by a walk to het Meisjeshuis 9:30 Introduction of concepts by interview 10:30 break 11:00 Groupwork* to define the 4 concepts	Bridgewater and Meganck  Bridgewater, Hails Gevers. Interviewer Ottow  Gevers, Koopmanschap, van Dam, Hes and Ottow
<i>13:00 lunch break</i>					
<b>Afternoon</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brainstorm and discussion on capacity building needs, to conserve wetlands, and existing instruments</li> <li>• Steps to be taken after this workshop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common understanding of the capacity building needs for wetland conservation</li> <li>• inventory of existing instruments</li> <li>• shared vision on broad lines on how to employ those instruments</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory of capacity building needs</li> <li>• Follow up actions</li> </ul>	14:00 Zoom in from the 4 concepts to Capacity Building only and complete the list of stakeholders (for whom?) 15:00 Identify needs per stakeholder 16:00 Actions for after the workshop 17:00 drinks	idem

## Annex II contact details of the participants

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