

Report

Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management
Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management
Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment RIZA

Participants

Dr. P. Bridgewater (chairman), Dr. A.A. van Dam, Mr. B. Fokkens, Mr. J. de Groot, Prof. Dr. J. O'Keefe, Mr. J.W. Nieuwenhuis, B.T. Ottow, Ms. P.C. Spliethoff, Dr. D. Taylor

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Members of the Advisory Board
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From	Number
Advisory Board on International Training	2006-1
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Date	Enclosure(s)
2 February, 2006	
Place of meeting	From/until
Rijkswaterstaat, The Hague	10.00/12.30
Subject	
Tenth meeting Advisory Board on International Training	

1. Opening /Announcements/Apologies

- 1.1. Opening by Dr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention: This is the first Advisory Board meeting after COP9 and as such marks a new start. The COP was instrumental in getting the convention moving forward. There were a lot of apprehensions before the COP, but in the end the COP was very successful. This Advisory Board can help the convention further to engage more in developing capacity. In that respect the timing of this meeting is quite opportune, as there will be two relevant meetings in the near future: The Standing Committee will meet from April 10-13 and the Ramsar secretariat will meet with the ceo's of the IOP's (International Organization Partners) on February 28th. One of the items to be discussed with them is their role in capacity building. The outcome of this Advisory Board's meeting can serve these two other meetings.
- 1.2. Mr. Han de Groot is the successor of ms. Rebecca Parzer-Gludemans in the Department of Nature, Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality. Mr. Hans Nieuwenhuis is the successor of Mr. Henk Eggink in the international team in the same Department of Nature.
- 1.3. Apologies are received from Ms. Jane Madgwick of Wetlands International and Mr. Leen de Jong of WWF. Dr. Doug Taylor replaces Jane Madgwick.
- 1.4. The minutes of the meeting in January 2005 are enclosed to inform those members and observers who did not attend the meeting in April 2005.
- 1.5. The agenda is adopted.

2. Report 10th meeting Advisory Board, April 29th, 2005

- 2.1. There are no comments on the report. The report is accepted.

WATC

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3. Status and role of the board

3.1. COP 9: Wetland management training need Side-event and resolutions.

- Approximately 120 people attended the side-event organized by WetCap. 139 questionnaires on training needs were returned. A clear outcome of both the side-event and the questionnaire is that there is a tremendous gap between training needs and training opportunities. This outcome lead to the inclusion in resolution IX.18: “Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention” of the sentence: “The Panel should also work with the Ramsar Advisory Board on Capacity Building to identify priorities in recognition of the gaps between capacity building opportunities and needs for the broad range of wetland professionals and stakeholders.” Wetcap will further elaborate the very useful results from both the side-event and the questionnaires. A summary of the priority issues listed by the questionnaire respondents is as follows:

.1.	Integrated management (management planning, wise use, poverty alleviation)	28%
.2.	inventory/monitoring	24%
.3.	participatory approach	13%
.4.	outreach & training	11%
.5.	governance (policy, institutions)	7%
.6.	wetland valuation	7%
.7.	wetland conservation & restoration	6%
.8.	EIA	4%

- Based on these outcomes, there was a discussion on the use of the Ramsar handbooks and capacity building:
 - The handbooks are very authoritative, and WI uses them, for instance in Latvia, but the updating cycle never catches up with the developments.
 - Updating the handbooks is a knowledge-management issue.
 - Getting people to use the handbooks is also a communication and marketing issue.
 - Is capacity building part of CEPA (communication, education, public awareness) or is CEPA part of capacity building? This depends on the breadth of the definition of CEPA and that on capacity building. CEPA can be taken to include all formal and informal education, it can also be seen as local activities and part of what wetland professionals have to do and be trained in.
 - More important is how within Ramsar CEPA and capacity building are seen. For good communication between this board and the proposed CEPA oversight committee, there should be someone, besides the Ramsar secretary general, who is member of both. The CEPA panel will be established during the S.C. meeting in April.
- In resolution IX.7: “Regional initiatives in the framework of the Ramsar Convention” it is clarified which regional training initiatives the Ramsar

Convention supports. In resolution IX.8 “Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2003-2008”, annex, strategy 4.10 a key result area is that “the RIZA-Ramsar cooperative effort being fully implemented, linking existing and proposed training centres”. However, the link between the Advisory Board and the regional centers is not clear yet. One way is to invite the regional centers that the Ramsar Convention supports to come up with proposals/requests, which can be assessed by the Advisory Board. Peter Bridgewater will write a letter to these regional centers to invite them to express their plans and wishes. Bouke Ottow will assist in drafting this letter.

- 3.2. Rules of procedure for the Advisory Board on Capacity Building
- Basically the draft rules of procedure are fine and can be made final with the following additions:
 - .1. Based on the discussion on capacity building, there should be a paragraph 1.3 on capacity building, explaining what is meant with it.
 - .2. In paragraph 3 the first sentence will be: “The task of the Advisory Board is to report and to provide advice to ...”
 - .3. Item 2.3.e. “Resource development” will be replaced by “Funding needed for capacity building” and will become item 2.3.f.
 - .4. A new item 2.3.e will be inserted: “Engagement of regional initiatives in a global capacity building programme”, in light of the discussion on the relationship between the board and the regional initiatives.
 - .5. A new paragraph 3.7 is added: “When necessary, observers can be invited by the chair.”
 - .6. Paragraph 4.3 now reads: “The Board’s report and advice to the Ramsar Convention, through its Standing Committee, shall be prepared after each Board meeting”
 - There has not been an answer yet from the Standing Committee to the letter from the Netherlands Government on the Advisory Board and the appointment of the members. Peter Bridgewater will take this up with the chair of the Standing Committee. Originally it was considered that Tour du Valat could attend this board’s meeting as representative of MedWet, but given its involvement in capacity building activities especially in the Francophone world it is felt by the board that it is better to more actively involve Tour du Valat and invite them directly as a member.

4. Plan 2006-2008
 - It will be very useful to have a plan of activities as advisory board. By this way it will be clear about which subjects and how and when the board will report or advice on. This plan should be discussed and could be amended in the Standing Committee. It should be related to the Standing Committee's overall strategic workplan. For this reason, the board will develop such a plan after the Standing Committee has agreed on the Convention's workplan.

5. Training/Capacity Building initiatives
 - a. *Training of Trainers on Wetland Management (IAC/RIZA)*
 - One conclusion after two TOT's is that participants need more assistance in implementing training courses. The board wants to advise on this and also to play a role in getting funds for participants to develop training courses when they go back. This will be part of the board's workplan.
 - It would be good to involve the regional centres more in the selection and follow-up of the participants.
 - As part of the course, participants should be required to report back after the course.
 - The next TOT will be in Wageningen again, May 8-26, 2006. Probably next year's TOT will be in another region (Sout East Asia?).
 - b. *Wetland Professionals Platform (WetCap)*
 - The platform was re-launched just before COP 9. The Netherlands Water Partnership is now hosting the platform, Wetlands International (Tunde Ojei) is facilitating it. The partner-organisations of WetCap form an editorial committee. After the re-launch the platform has more members than before. In the near future more documents will be stored in the platform's library.
 - A discussion is going on how to link with the Ramsar expert database. Should there just be a link or could they merge? There will be a meeting soon on the Ramsar database.
 - The platform is a great way for regional centres to link up with eachother.
 - The platform could be linked with existing societies. For this reason it would be good to have an overview of all the relevant websites that exist.
 - c. *On-line course Wetland Management (UNESCO-IHE)*
 - UNESCO-IHE has developed several on-line courses. Besides the wetland management course also an Integrated River Basin Management course. In total 80 people have participated in the on-line courses, 16 in the wetland management course, of which 8 from international ngo's. 10 participants will receive a certificate, 4 if they finish their assignments and 2 have dropped out.
 - The course is cheap, compared to face-to-face courses: €550,00. Still, in the first version, there were only 9 paying participants.
 - Development and execution of the course is done by partners in the POWER network: Makerere University and RIZA. In the future, POWER partners like Makerere could play a more important role.
 - The experience so far is very good, but some questions remain: how to deal with

fieldwork? How to deal with participation? The answer could be a blended way: combine on-line course with face-to-face training.

- d. *Interactive Training on River Basin Restoration (RIZA/IAC/UNESCO-IHE)*
 - The first version was organised last year by RIZA and IAC with 14 participants. Although basically the training was ok, there is still quite some room for improvement. For 2006, RIZA and UNESCO-IHE have made a proposal for further development of the training to be funded by the MOU between UNESCO-IHE and the Ministry.
 - Ramsar and UNESCO-IHE will keep contact on whether the training could be part of the Ramsar/CBD GEF proposal on the River Basin Initiative.
- e. *International Course on African Wetland Management*
 - The Advisory Board of the ICAWM decided in its meeting in June 2005 to invite IUCN to lead an evaluation of the course during and after the 5th version. The preliminary results seem to indicate that the course is a good one, but that improvements can definitely be made. The evaluation will be discussed in the next meeting of the Advisory Board of the ICAWM.
 - This board looks forward to the conclusions from the evaluation and is interested in the progress of this regional course and in how this board could be of help.
 - Next ICAWM will be October 11th till November 21st 2006.
- f. *Panama*
 - CREHO will receive 80,000 Swiss Francs from the Ramsar Convention in 2006. The Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) has its own Board which guides the programme of the center. How this board can assist the CREHO needs to become clearer, see also 3.1.
- g. *Iran*
 - The Ramsar Regional Center for Central and Western Asia in Iran (abbreviation: RRC-CWA) is further developing. Today it organises an event in a wetland bordering Afghanistan and after that it will run a course on basin scale approaches for 10-12 people. As with CREHO, the relationship between the board and RRC-CWA needs to become clearer.
- h. *Chilika, India*
 - Wetlands International mentions that the Chilika Lake development Authority has plans to develop a regional wetland course for South Asia. There will be a proposal at next board's meeting. The board welcomes the proposal and endorses the approach taken by the Chilika Lake Development Authority.
- i. *Other initiatives*
 - IAC is asked by the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs to develop a Training of Trainers on Wetland Management in Turkey this year. RIZA will assist IAC in this. The board advises IAC to take into careful consideration how the different initiatives in the region could mutually strengthen each other: RRC-CWA, MedWet, the GEF Black Sea project and UNESCO-IHE's Konya training course on river basins.

6. Other matters

- Next board meeting will be on Tuesday June 6th, 2006, at 14.00 hrs.

Actions

	Action	By	When
1.	Elaborate results of COP 9 side-event	WetCap	Before next meeting
2.	Answer to Netherlands Government on the establishment of the board	Ramsar Secretariat	Before next meeting
3.	Clarity about the link between this board and the CEPA Oversight Panel	Ramsar Secretariat	April 2006
4.	Letter to regional centres, inviting proposals/requests	Ramsar Secretariat, assisted by RIZA	ASAP
5.	Finalize the Rules of Procedure for the board	RIZA/Ramsar Secretariat	ASAP
6.	Invite Tour du Valat as member of the board	Ramsar	Before next meeting
7.	Make a draft workplan 2006-2008 for the board	Ramsar/RIZA	Before next meeting
8.	Write a report for Standing Committee 34	Ramsar/RIZA	ASAP