

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 (chair), Dr. A.A. van Dam, Mr. G. van Dijk, Ms. I. Gevers, Dr. A. Fesal, Mr. B. Fokkens, Ms. R. Montañes, Mr. T. Ojei, Mr. B.T. Ottow, Mr. M.J.H.P. Pinkers, Ms. P.C. Spliethoff.

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Members of the Advisory Board
Archives

From	Number
Advisory Board on Capacity Building	2007-1
Contact	Telephone
B.T. Ottow	+31 320 298345
Date	Enclosure(s)
18 June 2007	
Place of meeting	From/until
Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, The Hague	14.00/17.00
Subject	
Fourth meeting Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention	

1. Opening /Announcements/Apologies

- 1.1. Introduction round of those present:
 - Tunde Ojei: Wetlands International's global capacity building coordinator, representing Jane Madgwick, ceo of Wetlands International
 - Rosa Montañes: director CREHO: Regional Ramsar Center for Wetland Training and Research for the Western Hemisphere;
 - Gerard van Dijk: Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality; Netherlands Ramsar focal point;
 - Bouke Ottow: Rijkswaterstaat RIZA, senior specialist training and public participation, in the past coordinator of RIZA international training activities, functionary of the Advisory Board;
 - Peter Bridgewater: Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention and ex officio chair of the Advisory Board;
 - Matthieu Pinkers: Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, manager of the International Water Programme of the ministry;
 - Petra Spliethoff: Wageningen International, chair WetCap;
 - Ingrid Gevers: Wageningen International, training and participation specialist;
 - Ashgar Fesal: University of Teheran, coordinator of the Regional Ramsar Center for Western and Central Asia;
 - Anne van Dam: UNESCO-IHE, aquatic ecologist and, among other things, coordinator of UNESCO-IHE's on-line wetland management course.
- 1.2. Opening by Dr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention: This will be the last meeting of the Advisory Board that I chair as Secretary-General of the convention. A special welcome to new members and observers, especially the representatives of the regional initiatives. COP 10 is in 2008 and it is worthwhile to think about input for the COP and about the output! At COP 9 there was some recognition of the board, but the board is yet not so

well known in Ramsar. At the next board meeting, which will be chaired by the new Secretary-General Anada Tiega, COP 10 should be the main agenda item.

1.3. Apologies from:

- Jane Madgwick, ceo Wetlands International. Tunde Ojei represents her.
- Prof. Jay O'Keeffe, UNESCO-IHE professor wetlands. Jay is represented by Anne van Dam;
- Bart Fokkens: Rijkswaterstaat RIZA, senior advisor to Rijkswaterstaat on international co-operation. Bart is represented by Bouke Ottow.
- Arjan Berkhuisen, Freshwater coordinator WWF Netherlands. Arjan is the successor of the board's former member Leen de Jong and is considering joining the board, but was unable to attend this time.

1.4. The proposed agenda was slightly altered from that proposed by email and will be as follows:

- 1) Opening
- 2) Report of the December 15th, 2006 meeting + actions
- 3) Note on funding
- 4) Rough Draft Capacity Building framework
- 5) The framework in relation to the workshop on wetland related capacity building and next board meeting
- 6) New developments in international capacity building for wetlands
- 7) reports from the regional initiatives
- 8) closing

2. **Report 3rd meeting Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention, December 15th, 2006**

2.1. The report was circulated. One correction still: page 5, j. other initiatives: the Black Sea Wet initiative has start-up funding from BBI-MATRA, not from DGIS. With this correction the report was accepted. The report for this meeting will follow the same procedure again: the draft report will be circulated shortly after the meeting. Comments will then quickly be processed in the final report, which will be sent again and posted on the Ramsar/CEPA website on the report.

2.2. Actions:

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|--------|---|---|
| 2.2.1. | circulate draft report: | done |
| 2.2.2. | send comments | few comments received |
| 2.2.3. | post final report | done |
| 2.2.4. | send pdf file + hard copies brochure | done |
| 2.2.5. | brochure to agricultural counselors | done |
| 2.2.6. | brochure to CEPA focal points | done |
| 2.2.7. | support letter to RRC-CWA | done |
| 2.2.8. | clarify possibilities workshop with CEPA | done |
| 2.2.9. | Netherlands ministries meet to discuss funding paper: | there were two very constructive meetings, but funding still needs to be discussed. |

3. **Note on funding**

- The circulated note is not so much a note on funding in general as well as an overview of sources of funds for the RIZA courses in the past.
- The information in this note can be used in the development of a strategy.
- Striking from this overview is that ¾ of the 200+ participants were funded from the Netherlands. A considerable number of scholarships (60) came from/through the

Netherlands embassies and could in principle also be used for not specific Dutch courses.

- ❑ Not too many other countries have been approached for funding capacity building activities in the past. We need a coherent strategy and for that we need a coherent framework, which is under development.
- ❑ The European Commission might also be approached. They are relatively generous in funding biodiversity, but formally cannot be a member of the Ramsar Convention. There is convergence of directions between the EC and the Ramsar Convention. More could be done for integration; there could be an MOU. In the Netherlands implementation of the Ramsar Convention is done through implementation of the Birds Directive. That is o.k. but the convention is of course broader than birds!
- ❑ The framework can play a role as a means to attract funds: It can help making potential donors understand the importance of capacity building and how funding it can help the Ramsar convention achieving its goals.

4. **Rough draft of the Wetlands Capacity Building Framework**

Ingrid Gevers of Wageningen International introduced the framework:

- ❑ The development of this framework started during the Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Project of Wetlands International, but was not used in that project and not further developed.
- ❑ This draft is adapted for wetlands in general from the Ramsar convention's perspective but is far from finished. **Key question:** Is this what we are looking for?
- ❑ The framework first gives a background on capacity building (which is of course more than training), then links it to learning and stakeholders. The section about vision is the crucial part of the framework and needs input from the Ramsar Secretariat. After the vision follow the objectives of the framework, the needs assessment of specific stakeholders and the delivery mechanism.
- ❑ Is this heading in the right direction? Is there anything missing? In general the members of the advisory board consider this to be a very good start and heading in the right direction.
- ❑ The following remarks/suggestions are made:
 - There is still ambiguity between capacity building and CEPA, It is important to know exactly what we mean with capacity building, what we need for capacity building and how that is linked to CEPA.
 - The framework is a good start and provides a good foundation to build a much-needed strategy upon. It must also be linked to the new strategic plan and integrate the strategies of the Ramsar regional Centres and initiatives in the framework
 - The usefulness of the framework lies in the common direction it can give for regional centres and a strong and common vision, shared with the secretariat and the regional centres: where to go in the regional centres, how to communicate, how to make decisions.
 - The framework should serve Ramsar to decide on a more global scale what to do, how to do it and when to do it. On a site-specific scale these questions also need to be answered, but that should not be here. How do the regional centres relate to the Ramsar Secretariat?
 - It can be confusing to have both advisory board on capacity building and the CEPA oversight panel. To call the topic "capacity building" suggests that this is not CEPA. Maybe it is better to call it "knowledge and capacity enhancement", also to make clear that much capacity already exists.

- Although “capacity building” might suggest that capacity does not yet exist, where it often does, but needs nurturing and development, the term has currency among donors, so we must be careful not to ditch it. What we are looking for is “enhancing the way contracting parties can implement the obligations under the convention and attract the countries that are not yet party to the convention”.

5. The framework in relation to the workshop on wetland related capacity building and next board meeting

- The framework will not be used as such in the workshop. There will be a free discussion about the concepts.
- It is important that the workshop contributes to the roadmap for COP 10.
- It is also important to realize there are the regional meetings at the end of this year and at the beginning of next year.
- The framework will be substantially revised, based on the workshop outcomes. The revised version will be circulated among the board members in October. There will be a final draft at the end of October.
- In view of the many meetings scheduled already, we need to sit down with a meeting planner and carefully select the date for the next meeting. This will probably be early December, not later, because of the next standing committee in early February.
- Anada Tiega, the new Secretary General needs to visit in August and spend a day, for joint preparation of the process towards the December board meeting and the other meetings.

6. New developments in international capacity building for wetlands

a. UNESCO-IHE:

- 6.a.1. International Training on Rehabilitation in River Basins (UNESCO-IHE/RIZA): Unesco-IHE, with help from RWS-RIZA and Wageningen International, has finished a curriculum for this course which was partly built on RIZA’s and Wageningen International’s former Interactive Training on Restoration of River Basins. UNESCO-IHE is now making plans to implement the training. Those interested can get a pdf version of the curriculum.
- 6.a.2. Blended course in Jakarta: Paid by the Netherlands Embassy in Jakarta, UNESCO-IHE has trained 22 Indonesian wetland managers in a blended way: part of the training (on wetland management) was through the on-line wetland management module, part of the course was through a 1 week face-to-face workshop which took place three weeks ago in Bogor. This is an interesting way of training which combines the advantages of both on-line (cheaper) and face-to-face (more personal).

b. Wetlands International:

- 6.b.1. The Wetlands and Poverty Reduction Programme (WPRP) has trained 47 trainers in two training courses in Africa. 10 of these trainers have in their turn actually lead Anglophone training within the programme. The francophone training will follow in September. The programme will provide grants to participants to develop training. The programme is extended to 2010.
- 6.b.2. The Wings over Wetlands (WOW) Project will have a roundtable discussion this Friday in which a framework will be discussed and an inception workshop for the capacity building programme. The project builds on the

flyway concept and intends to build the capacity for it in four sub-regions: West Africa, East Africa, Middle East and Central Asia. It will co-operate with the Ramsar Regional Centre in Ramsar, Iran and with the KWSTI in Kenya.

- 6.b.3. A Civil governance project in the Mediterranean will start. This will be in co-operation with MedWet and WetCap. There will be a meeting next week in Paris. WI is still looking for a project manager, to be based in Tour du Valat.
- c. Wageningen International:
- 6.c.1. Is embarking on a co-operation project with Turkey to develop a Wetland centre in Turkey. Next week a Turkish delegation will visit the Netherlands.

7. Reports from the regional initiatives

a. Panama (CREHO)

- ❑ CREHO will organise for the first time an open international course this year: the International Course on Environmental Impact assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wetlands Management. CREHO is now raising the funds for the course.
- ❑ Last year, three national courses have been organised: one in Colombia and two in Panama
- ❑ This year, two workshops have been organised: one in Costa Rica for wetland managers and one in Colombia for members of the national Wetlands Committee.
- ❑ Also the National Wetlands Committee in Panama has been assisted with the wetland inventory and the development of a wetland policy.
- ❑ CREHO also supports regional initiatives, like the High Andean Wetlands.
- ❑ CREHO is now developing a network and the electronic tools that are needed for that: a website and bulletins.
- ❑ At present, CREHO has 5 staff members.

b. Iran (RRC-CWA)

- ❑ At COP 9 in Uganda, the decision was made to establish the Regional Ramsar Center in Ramsar, Iran. In August 2006 the Iranian cabinet agreed formally to establish the centre.
- ❑ Since 2006 the strategy is being developed and approved by the region. In May this year we had our first Collaborative board meeting.
- ❑ The centre receives Swiss Franc 18,000 from the Ramsar Convention and \$ 150,000 from different national organisations. As payment from Iran to the international level has to go through parliament, the simpler procedure was to pay to the university, which now runs the Regional Ramsar Centre. Ashgar Fesal is Dean of the College of Environment and at present co-ordinator of the centre until the new executive director will start.
- ❑ The director has recently been selected, out of four candidates. She will start this summer.
- ❑ Since 2006 there are two staff members: 1 interim secretary and 1 assistant.
- ❑ To date, the centre has organised 5 national training courses and 2 regional courses and celebrated world wetlands day in 2006 and 2007 with representatives from all countries in the region.
- ❑ The centre has MOU's with two regional programmes: one in the Caspian Sea and one in the Persian Gulf.
- ❑ Future plans:

- ⇒ organise a Training of Trainers
- ⇒ involve contracting parties in national or bilateral actions
- ⇒ organise 50 different courses
- ⇒ develop a website

8. closing

- Peter Bridgewater: It is good to see that the regional centres are coming in full steam with good perspectives. It is good to pay attention to further develop such cases. It is clear that regional networks play a key role in the development of regional centres.
- Gerard van Dijk presents, on behalf of the Netherlands government, “Holland Album”, a book on the Netherlands by a non-Dutch, to Peter Bridgewater, as a token of appreciation for four years chairing the Advisory Board.
- Peter Bridgewater: Chairing the board and seeing it develop was one of the pleasurable things about being in Ramsar!. The way the Dutch government has contributed to it is a good example. We do need a mechanism like this. Everybody talks about capacity building, but no one does it in an organized way. We need a global approach.

Actions

	Action	By	When
1.	Circulate draft report	RWS RIZA	asap
2.	Comments form attendants	All	asap
3.	Post final report on web page	Ramsar	asap
4.	Continue discussion on funding	Nl ministries	this autumn
5.	Revise the framework, using the remarks of this board meeting and the outcome of the workshop	Wag.Int/IHE/RIZA.	before October
6.	Circulate the revised framework	RIZA/Ramsar	October
7.	Arrange a meeting between Anada Tiega and the board secretary	Secretariat	As soon after his commencement as feasible