

Meeting location : Istanbul, Hotel Lady Diana
 Present : Mr. A. Tiega (General Secretary Ramsar Convention, chair), Mr. B. Fokkens (Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management, secretary), Ms. S. Hails (Ramsar Secretariat), Mr. B.T. Ottow (Deltares), Mr. M. McClain (UNESCO-IHE), Mr. M. Pinkers (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Security), Mr. J. Woodhill (Wageningen International)
 Company : Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention
 Date of meeting : 17 March, 2009
 Subject : Seventh meeting Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention
 Reported by : Bouke Ottow
 Attachment(s) : -
 Cc : Members and observers of the Advisory Board
 Projectnumber :

1. Opening /Announcements

- 1.1. Mr. Anada Tiega, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention opens the meeting by welcoming everybody. Mr. Michael McClain represents UNESCO-IHE instead of Anne van Dam/Jay O'Keeffe. Mr. Gerard van Dijk and Mr. Martin Lok of the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality cannot be present, but are represented by Mr. Mathieu Pinkers. Unfortunately, nobody from Wetlands International was able to attend the meeting.
- 1.2. The proposed agenda is accepted.

2. Report of the previous board meeting, April 2nd, 2008

- 2.1. The report of the previous meeting was already accepted and posted on the web site.
- 2.2. Most actions have been done.
- 2.3. Action 2.1, "Take the lead in solving the situation of the board secretariat" by Bart Fokkens is still pending.
- 2.4. Action 3.6, "Consult on funding possibilities for development Framework after COP 10" by ministries is also still pending and dependent on today's discussion.
- 2.5. Action 5.1, "Invite UNITAR to observe next board meeting" is not done. It looks still very useful for the right person from UNITAR to attend the board meeting, but given the discussion right now on the function of the board, this might not be the right timing; better wait till there is more clarity on the board's function.
- 2.6. Addition from Mathieu Pinkers: In May 2008, at the Water Week in Stockholm, there was a meeting between Mathieu Pinkers, Anada Tiega and Nick Davidson in which they decided to join hands at this World Water Forum, support two side-events and co-ordinate the water, ecosystem & life theme and convene the wrap-up session on Saturday.
- 2.7. Addition from Bart Fokkens: In the WWF session 3.1.3. "River Basin Management and Transboundary Co-operation" on Friday, Bart will use the Framework on capacity Building for wetland management.

3. Enhancing wetland wise use: a guide for capacity development

- 3.1. Based on the comments at, before and after the previous board meeting, Wageningen International has made a next draft of the framework on capacity building for wetland management with the above title. This new draft was presented

at Ramsar's 10th Conference of Parties in Changwon, Korea in November 2008 as information paper (DOC.33).

- 3.2. This draft is a big improvement compared to the previous one: much more condense, with a clear head and body. Compliments for Wageningen International. This draft still misses the "tail", the list of resources: tools, methods etc (see report of previous board meeting), but that is only logical as this is a lot of work and should be based on the outcome of the side-event at COP 10.
- 3.3. The information paper worked well as the backbone for the side-event at COP 10. And because of the framework, people at COP 10 were much more aware of the Advisory Board than before.

4. Final report "Capacity building side-event at Ramsar COP 10"

- 4.1. The side-event was well attended and more people could have attended if the room would have been bigger. People participated enthusiastically and many good remarks and recommendations were given by the participants.
- 4.2. The board agrees with the recommendations in the report. More specifically:
- 4.3. The board agrees that the draft capacity building framework should be completed on the basis of the results of the side-event. The framework can be considered as the most important outcome of the Advisory Board and we have raised expectations of the Standing Committee.
- 4.4. The board requests Wageningen International to make a calculation of how much the finalization of the framework would cost with three different scenarios:
 - 4.4.1. a minimum scenario in which the framework is made acceptable without spending much effort.
 - 4.4.2. an optimal scenario in which the framework is really made into a practical instrument that can be used by the administrative authorities to develop capacity building programmes, see also the remarks in the report of the previous board meeting;
 - 4.4.3. a scenario with the same result as in 4.3.2, but with an intensive interactive consultation process in which many administrative authorities, especially the ones that attended the side-event, are involved. In this way there will not only be a practical tool, but by involving these Parties, the development of capacity building programmes will already start in many countries/regions. Wageningen International is asked to send this calculation, before May 1st 2009, to the secretary of the board, who will discuss with the chair of the board. They will then approach potential donors to fund the finalization of the framework.
- 4.5. When Wageningen International is enabled to finalize the Framework, they will involve the Ramsar Secretariat and WetCap partners.
- 4.6. The board advises that the recommendations of the report of the side-event under heading 4.1 (page 15) get follow-up by the Ramsar Secretariat. It might be advisable to give priority to Africa and Asia when considering regions for the "priority areas for intervention meetings".
- 4.7. As far as the recommendations under heading 4.2 are concerned, the advisory board recognizes these as relevant and agrees that the functions mentioned here need to be taken up. Whether this would be by the advisory board depends on the outcome of the discussion on the function of the Advisory Board and its structure and funding. It is very necessary to have standards for "Ramsar Institutes"(such as Ramsar Regional Centres), but developing these is a broader function than the board has or can have at present.
- 4.8. The board also recognizes the relevance of the recommendations under heading 4.3. The Ramsar Secretariat could facilitate the implementation of the first

recommendation by incorporating the requirement to report on the capacity building activities in the draft format for the national reports and refer to the Framework on Capacity Building, preferably in the CEPA section. The resulting information could then be assessed and reported on at the regional and global level through the regional reports and the Secretary General's report.

The CEPA Oversight Panel, through Sandra Hails, could follow-up on these sections of the reports.

5. Considerations on the composition of the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention

- 5.1. A more extensive discussion should take place after the Framework is finished, as the potential function of the advisory board is more clear then.
- 5.2. For the Netherlands government, and probably for other donor countries to join, the potential for (co-)funding an advisory board on capacity building and its activities also depends on the outcome of the WWF theme "Water, ecosystems and life" and the capacity building that is needed for this.
- 5.3. In thinking about the right members of the board, the right individuals are more important than the right organizations. The board should be made up of a mix of people who are familiar with wetlands and what is necessary for the wise use of wetlands and people who are familiar with capacity building.
- 5.4. When the board's role shifts to more advising/coordinating capacity building institutions and advising on guidelines and standards for institutions (see recommendations in the side-event report), the members of the board should not be training/capacity building consultants themselves. The people that might do the work, should not be involved in making the decision/giving the advice on the basis of which the decisions are made.
- 5.5. On a similar note the board sees some tension for potential donors to be advising on certain activities.
- 5.6. The Ramsar Secretariat will discuss Wetlands International's actual and potential role on the advisory board with Wetlands International.
- 5.7. It might be a good idea to involve the business sector in the Advisory Board, although care should be taken with regard to the different roles: advising on versus financing certain activities.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1. The potential role of Deltares is still not clear, although some progress is made as regards to Deltares' overall stance towards training/capacity building: next month the management team of Deltares will discuss the strategy regarding the "Deltares Academy". This will include the goal, scope and budget of this training branch of Deltares. After this discussion, it will be clearer to what extent Deltares will be interested to contribute to capacity building for wetlands in general and specifically to the Advisory Board.

7. Date and venue of next meeting

- 7.1. Next meeting will be in Gland, probably in the first half of October 2009. The board's secretary and the Ramsar Secretariat will find a suitable date and inform the other members.

8. Actions

#	Action	By whom	Before date
4.1	Make a calculation of how much the finalization of the framework would cost with three different scenarios and send it to the secretary of the board.	Wageningen Int'l	1 May, 2009
4.2	Approach potential donor(s) for funding finalization of Framework	chair and secretary of the advisory board	pm
4.3	Finalize Framework	Wageningen Int'l and partners	before next board meeting
4.4	Follow-up on side-event's recommendations 4.1	Ramsar Secretariat	end of 2009
4.5	Follow-up on side-event's recommendations 4.3	Ramsar Secretariat	end of 2009
5.1	Extensive discussion on function of Advisory Board	all, Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention	after finalization of the Framework
5.2	Think through the composition of the advisory Board and its potential consequences	all	Next board meeting
5.3	discuss Wetlands International's actual and potential role on the advisory board with Wetlands International	Ramsar secretariat	pm
7.1	Settle on a suitable date for next meeting and communicate this with the board members	Secretary of the Board and Ramsar Secretariat	asap