



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES  
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

## **An Evaluation of the Use & Utility of Ramsar Guidance**

A report to Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel and Ramsar Secretariat

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## **Glossary and key to abbreviations**

CEPA	Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CEPA-NFP	CEPA National Focal Point
COP	Conference of Parties
CP	Contracting Party
GFP	Government Focal Point
IOP	International Organisation Partner
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRC	National Ramsar Committee
STRP	Scientific and Technical Review Panel
STRP-NFP	STRP National Focal Point
WSM	Wetland Site Manager

## **Acknowledgements**

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But most of all thanks go to the 236 people around the world who, by taking time to send in their responses to the questionnaire, contributed to this valuable evaluation.

## Executive Summary

**Editorial note.** At the time this survey was undertaken, responses and analyses concerning the Ramsar Web-site refer to the former Web-site and not to the new Ramsar Web-site launched in 2009. The survey responses helped guide aspects of the redevelopment and structure of the new website. Responses concerning the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks concerned the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Handbooks, issued in 2004, since at the time of the survey the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Handbooks had only just been published.

1. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) is one of the first global multilateral environmental agreements. At the time of the work undertaken for this report, 158 countries (Contracting Parties) were cooperate through Ramsar to conserve wetlands and promote their wise use. The Ramsar Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland, facilitates this cooperation and Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) provides the scientific and technical advice to the Convention.
2. In January 2007, the STRP commissioned an evaluation of the implementation guidance the Ramsar Convention has been providing to Contracting Parties (CPs) and other partners.
3. The study focused on the COP Recommendations and Resolutions as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Ramsar Wise Use Handbook series, issued in 2004, which included all adopted Convention guidance up to Ramsar COP8 (Valencia, Spain, 2002).
4. Given the diverse interest groups among the 158 Contracting Parties and partners in Convention implementation, the approach selected was a quantitative study using a questionnaire.
5. Questionnaires were sent to all Contracting Party National Focal Points, STRP and CEPA National Focal Points, Wetland Site Managers, National Ramsar or Wetland Committee members, Ramsar's IOPs and other NGO representatives. In addition, the questionnaires were distributed through the networks of the IOPs.
6. Of the 501 questionnaires sent to Ramsar NFPs (administrative Authority, STRP and CEPA), 45 (9%) failed to reach the addressee because of non-functional email addresses. The response rate of those who did receive the questionnaire was a disappointing 84 (18%). Of the 234 questionnaires sent to Wetland Site Managers, 51 (22%) failed to reach the intended recipient, but the response rate from those receiveing the questionnaire was higher: 68 (37%).
7. Of the 236 respondents to the questionnaire, a majority (66%) report using Ramsar guidance. For 43% of these users, the Ramsar guidance helps them to guide their thinking on wetland issues, 26% base their decisions and/or actions at least partly on this guidance, and 22% use it as a practical tool in assessments, evaluations or audits.
8. The only group where the majority does NOT use Ramsar guidance is the Wetland Site Managers (WSM). One third of this group states they have no access to guidance and another third responded that they were unaware of its existence.
9. Remarkably, a small group of Government Focal Points (GFP) also stated that they were unaware of the existence of the guidance, thus rendering it impossible for them to inform others within their country, such as WSMs.

10. Among those who use Ramsar guidance, Handbooks appear to be slightly more frequently used than Resolutions. However, STRP-NFP and NRC seem to use the Resolutions and Recommendations more frequently, while WSM and 'Other' respondents, who are primarily NGOs and experts/scientists, use the Handbooks more often. In other words, practitioners seem to favour the Handbooks.
11. Ease of access was stated as the main reason for using both Handbooks and the Resolutions and Recommendations, although the quality of the contents was also stated as a major reason for using the Resolutions and Recommendations. Format was also a factor for choosing the Handbooks but not the Resolutions and Recommendations.

### **Resolutions**

12. Of those who used the guidance, 77% use the Recommendations and Resolutions. Among the NRC, this is 100%, but less for WSM (69%) and 'Other' (59%). Most respondents obtained their copies through the website (84%).
13. It proved to be difficult to draw clear conclusions on the best known or most useful Resolutions. The answers were broad-ranging and most specific Resolutions that were mentioned were mentioned only once. However, Resolution IX.1 and its annexes A, B, C and E stands out as by far the most frequently used Resolution across all groups (in total 57 responses).
14. Suggested improvements to COP Resolutions / Recommendations were all along the same lines:
  - The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers (29%)
  - The language used is too complex - it should be simpler (16%)
  - The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse (15%)

### **Handbooks**

15. Of the guidance users, 87% use the 2<sup>nd</sup> Handbook series. The Handbooks seem well appreciated: 57% find them useful in their work, and 22% find them very useful.
16. With only slight differences per Handbook, most people obtain their copies through the website (55-65%). The second most important source is the CD-Rom and 60% of users were aware that the Handbooks are updated after every COP.
17. The three best-known Handbooks are:
  - Handbook 1 (Wise use of wetlands) is known by 90%
  - Handbook 8 (Managing wetlands): 79%
  - Handbooks 2 (National wetland policies): 73%
18. Least known Handbooks are:
  - Handbook 14 (Peatlands) is known by 33%
  - Handbook 12 (Water allocation and management): 43%
  - Handbook 3 (Laws and Institutions) 47% and 9 (International cooperation):48%
19. Clearly, being unknown means being unappreciated. Though in a slightly different order, the same Handbooks were mentioned when respondents were asked which were the most useful ones.
20. The two most useful Handbooks are: HB 1 on Wise Use (mentioned by 23% of the users) and HB 8 on Managing Wetlands (15%). HB 5, 7 and 10 were all mentioned by 9%.
21. The three least useful Handbooks are HB 9 on International cooperation (zero response), HB 14 on Peatlands (1%), HB 12 on Water allocation and management and HB 3 on Laws and Institutions (both 2%).

22. The Handbooks are primarily obtained through the web site, or alternatively from the CD Rom. The guidelines are generally considered useful elements.
23. Most Handbooks have an important function in guiding thinking on wetland issues. Handbooks 1, 4, and 5 are relatively frequently used to instruct others. Handbook 11 on EIA is used as an evaluation tool. Handbooks 6 and 13 on CEPA and Coastal Management actually influence decisions and actions. Handbooks 10 and 11 are least often used as a tool to remind government of its commitments while Handbook 2 on National Wetland Policy, is most often used for that purpose (55%) and is also often mentioned as influencing policy.
24. Out of the ten Handbooks that had enough responses to be further analysed, the technical information is the most appreciated quality of nine Handbooks. In the case of Handbook 11 all (100%) of the respondents mention this feature. Handbooks 1, 4, 5, 8 and 10 are appreciated for bringing structure to the Ramsar guidance.
25. In many cases, the fact that the Handbooks are targeted at both policy makers and practitioners is appreciated. However, this is also by far the most frequently mentioned element for improvement, in every Handbook, the language should be tailored more to practitioners and is often considered too complex. Handbook 5 on Participatory Management specifically needs a guide on how to use it.

#### **Access to the guidance**

26. The main source through which people (first) learn of Ramsar guidance is the Ramsar website and respondents find it fairly easy to gain access to it. COP meetings are the second most important source. Interestingly, the CD-Roms are not mentioned here as often as they are in relation to the individual Handbooks.
27. WSM do not regularly attend COPs or other Ramsar meetings, and therefore find it more difficult than others to obtain the guidance. For them the website is by far the most important source.

#### **Web site** [Note. These views refer to the former Website structure and content]

28. The web site is important. Only 7% of respondents never visit the Ramsar website. Almost half of the respondents visit the Ramsar web site weekly or monthly, with 40% visiting less than that.
29. But is the web site easy to navigate? The results do not give a clear picture. 46% are positive: easy or very easy; but 54% are critical about navigation: 12% found it not easy and 42% only somewhat easy. Among the critics are many WSMs, who also indicated that the website is key to obtaining guidance and information. Keeping in mind the importance of the website as the main source of guidance, this high percentage of critical responses means improvement is needed.
30. Improvements are especially suggested in the structure and organisation of the site (39%). This refers to the logical structure, an index, map or upfront outline, and improved search facilities. The WSMs in particular suggest that the structure/organisation of the site should be improved.
31. Language issues are relatively rarely mentioned, and when they are, most (mainly WSM) ask to be better served in all three convention languages rather than including more additional languages.

#### **Responses per User Group**

32. 83% of **Government Focal Points** use Ramsar guidance, meaning that 17% never use Ramsar guidance, and are, therefore, unlikely also to have passed it on to others. Compared with other groups, GFP relatively frequently obtain the guidance through COP meetings. The website, however,

is the main source, and GFP are frequent visitors: almost half of GFPs visit the website weekly or more often.

33. Of those using the guidance, 84% use the COP Resolutions and Recommendations. Almost 70% find them useful, a relatively large group. Regarding the Handbooks, the GFP are among the most positive of groups.
34. **Wetland Site Managers** form the largest group of respondents with 54% active at the local level. Over half, or 62%, state that Ramsar plays no, or an only somewhat significant, role in their work. This group is also the only group where a majority (60%) does not use Ramsar guidance. Partly, this is because they have limited access to the guidance. Another third is not aware of its existence and around 10% do not find it useful. The web site is the key source of guidance, but WSM's frequency of visits to the web site is low. More than half do not find the website easy, or only somewhat easy, to navigate. 85% use Handbooks, and over 75% find them useful or very useful.
35. It is interesting that up to 25% of **National Ramsar Committees** respondents do not use the guidance, despite their central role in advising national implementation of the Ramsar Convention. Among the users, all (100%) use the COP Resolutions/Recommendations. They are also the most positive: only one respondent finds them only 'somewhat useful'. The NRC respondents frequently visit the website: 53% do so weekly or daily.
36. Surprisingly, 25% of the **STRP National Focal Points** respondents state that Ramsar does not play a significant role for them. Compared with other groups, many more STRP-NFPs obtain their copies through COP meetings, more so than through the website. Those who do use the website find it easy or very easy to navigate. Guidance is used as a tool for assessments, evaluations or audits, relatively more so than for the other groups.
37. The **CEPA National Focal Point** group has the highest percentage of users of Ramsar guidance: 96%. While overall very positive about the Handbooks, the users of the Resolutions (80%) are relatively critical: 35% find them only somewhat useful, a relatively large group. In HB 1, on Wise Use, CEPA-NFP value the case studies highly. Perhaps not surprisingly, they use it to guide their thinking and to advise/instruct others. HB 6, on Wetland CEPA, is best known by this group.
38. **IOPs** state that Ramsar guidance guides their thinking. Aside from that, and like the STRP-NFP, they do not use Ramsar guidance much to influence their decisions, but rather as a tool for assessments, evaluations or audits, relatively more so than the other groups. Of this group 75% use the Resolutions but just over 50% find them only somewhat useful and 75% use the Handbooks, with 50% using both Resolutions and Handbooks.
39. Relatively few (58%) in the 'Other' group use the guidance provided by Ramsar. Of those who do, a majority use the Handbooks more often than the Resolutions. Many get their copies through the website, despite the fact that this group has the highest number of respondents who never visit the website (14%). 59% of the 'Other' guidance users use the Resolutions.

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## **Introduction**

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) is one of the first multilateral environmental agreements. To date 158 countries cooperate through Ramsar to conserve wetlands and promote their wise use. The Ramsar Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland, facilitates this cooperation and Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) provides the scientific and technical advice and guidance.

In January 2007, the STRP commissioned an evaluation of the guidance the Ramsar Convention has been providing to Contracting Parties (CPs) and other partners. This guidance assists Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention by providing up-to-date scientific standards and information as well as guidance on how to improve the mechanisms and processes for the identification and designation of Ramsar Sites in particular, and the management and wise use of wetlands in general. This guidance is provided through documents approved at the Conferences of the Parties (COP), including COP Resolutions and Recommendations, as well as the related Ramsar Handbook series. These handbooks organise the relevant COP-approved documents thematically by providing comprehensive information on several topics in one document.

Is this guidance what the countries expect and need? Do people make use of the handbooks, the COP-approved documents, or both? Is the format suitable? Is the level of technical detail appropriate? Is access to the guidance reliable and sufficient? Is it being used as intended, or what could be improved? These are some of the questions which this evaluation study was designed to answer in order to provide feedback to the STRP on the effectiveness of its guidance and on how to proceed in the future.

## **Methodology**

The study focused on the COP Recommendations and Resolutions as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> Handbook series, the version that has been available to Parties over the past years. A 3<sup>rd</sup> version of handbooks in which the numbering has changed has meanwhile been compiled and distributed to all Parties.

Given the diverse interest groups among the 158 CPs and partners, the approach selected was a quantitative study using a questionnaire. A series of (telephone) interviews and discussions with Ramsar and IOP representatives helped shape the contents and format of the questionnaire.

The questionnaire was sent to all CPs, and to specific target groups within these CPs, as well as partner organisations, by the end of April 2007. Three versions in the three official Convention languages (English, French and Spanish) were made available.

More specifically, the questionnaires were sent to contacts in the Ramsar Secretariat's database, including all Administrative Authority National Focal Points, Wetland Site Managers, National Ramsar or Wetland Committee members, STRP National Focal Points, CEPA National Focal Points, Ramsar's IOPs and other NGO representatives. In addition, the questionnaires were distributed through the networks of the IOPs.

The responses were collected directly by the consultant and only the results were made available to the Ramsar Secretariat and the STRP. The identity of respondents was not shared with the Ramsar Secretariat or the STRP, allowing people to respond openly and confidentially.

Throughout the report, the results have been provided in tables and visualised in graphs (pie and bar charts). The data have been analysed according to the category of respondents (see table 1.1). It was

checked whether the two types of Wetland Site Managers (WSMs), those working at site level on a day-to-day basis, and those working more on a policy level (see chapter 1.4) yielded different results. As they did not, it was decided to keep the WSM group as one category.

The questionnaire can be found in Annex 1 to this report. Annex 2 clarifies how the chapters in this report correspond with the questions asked in the questionnaire.

## **Response rate**

The Ramsar Secretariat sent a total of 501 questionnaires to each CP's formally designated NFPs (GFP, STRP NFP, CEPA NFP Government and CEPA NFP NGO). Another 234 questionnaires were sent to all WSMs included in the Ramsar contacts database, mostly individual people (76%) some of whom are no longer in that position as the Secretariat is not regularly informed of such changes. Furthermore, several hundred additional questionnaires were distributed through the Ramsar Conventions Focal Points and IOPs.

However, it is not easy to give an exact total response rate, as different channels were used to distribute the questionnaire. Of the 501 questionnaires sent to Ramsar NFPs, 45 (9%) failed to reach the addressee because of non-functional email addresses, but 84 (18%) did respond by filling in the questionnaire and returning it to the consultant. Of the 234 questionnaires sent to WSMs, 51 (22%) failed to reach the intended recipient, and 68 filled in and returned the questionnaire.

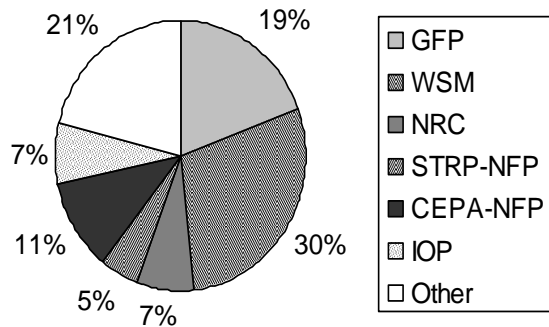
There were also an unknown number of questionnaires distributed directly by the IOPs through their networks, often open email lists, so it is not known how many people ultimately received it.

In total, 246 completed questionnaires were received, although 10 had to be excluded from the analysis due to multiple answers to question 1D: which group they belong to (see chapter 1.1). The analysis was completed with 236 respondents.

# 1: Identification of the Respondents

## 1.1. Response per group

The largest group of respondents were the wetland site managers (WSMs, 68) followed by the government focal points (GFPs, 46). Another large category, 'Other' (50 respondents), was comprised of NGO practitioners, independent experts, scientists, consultants, and government officials who stated they did not belong to any of the other categories. The pie chart below shows the proportion of each group; the table provides exact numbers. The category 'other' consisted mainly of NGOs and experts/scientists, or independent consultants (Table 1.1.b).



**Figure 1.1** Proportional response per group

**Table 1.1.a** Number of respondents per group and their relation to Ramsar

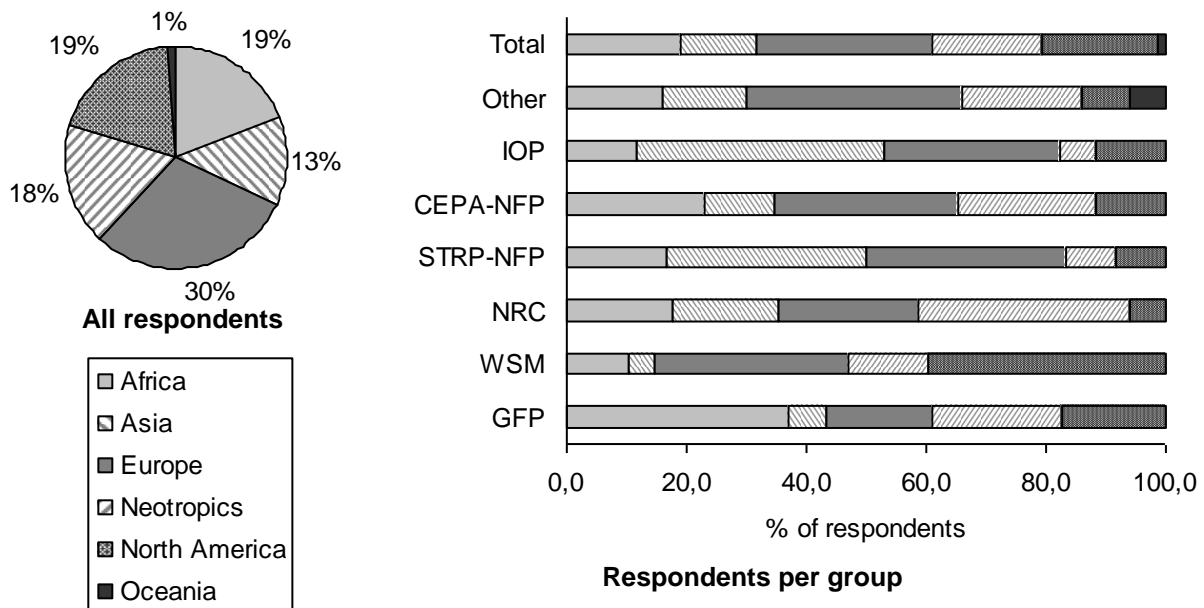
Group	# Respondents
GFP	46
WSM	68
NRC	17
STRP-NFP	12
CEPA-NFP	26
IOP	17
Other	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>236</b>

**Table 1.1.b** Number of respondents of different categories in group 'Other'

	# Respondents
NGO	14
Expert/Scientist	16
Consultant	8
Government (other)	10
Other (unspecified)	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>

## 1.2. Regional origin

Most respondents originated from Europe (29%), followed by Africa and North-America (including Mexico, both 19%) and the Neotropics (18%). This corresponds with the fact that most Ramsar Parties are from Europe and Africa. It also means that as the Neotropics has less Parties to Ramsar, response was relatively high (18%). From Oceania, which has only seven Parties to the Ramsar Convention, hardly any people responded, and those who did, did not have a clear relation to Ramsar (category: 'other').



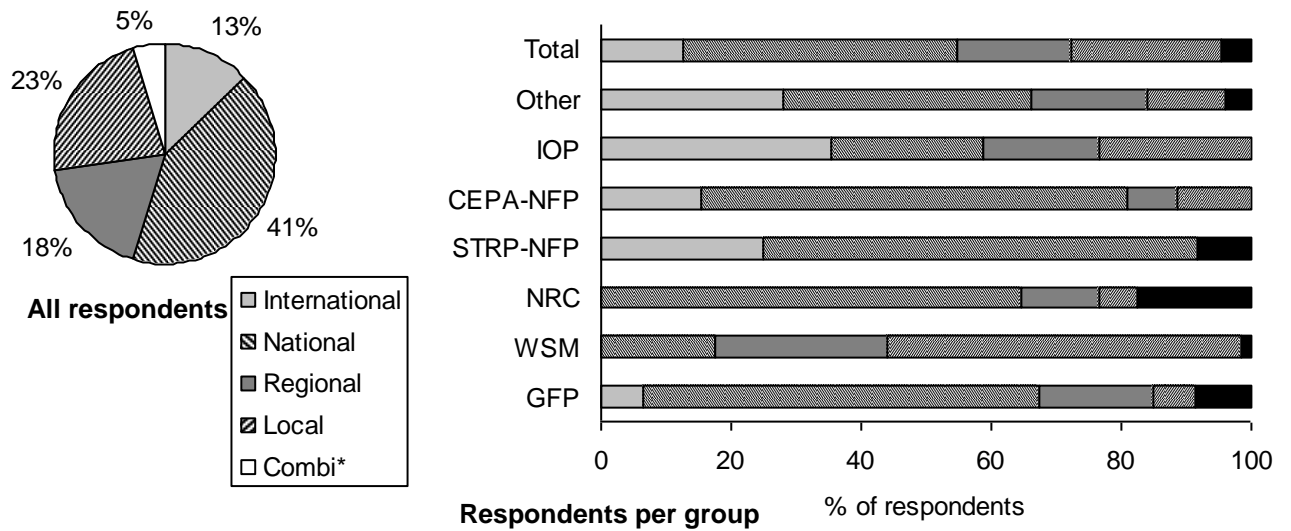
**Figure 1.2** Regional origin of respondents: % for all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

Region	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP NFP	CEPA NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Africa	17	7	3	2	6	2	8	45
Asia	3	3	3	4	3	7	7	30
Europe	8	22	4	4	8	5	18	69
Neotropics	10	9	6	1	6	1	10	43
North America	8	27	1	1	3	2	4	46
Oceania	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>236</b>

Looking at the different groups, some differences are evident (Table 1.2). Most responses from GFPs came from Africa, whilst most from WSMs came from Europe and North America. When interpreting results, this uneven regional distribution of these groups should be kept in mind.

### 1.3. Primary geographical level of activity

The majority of respondents are active at the national level (99 people or 42%) with the second largest group being active at the local level (23%). In this context, there is a clear distinction between groups. IOPs are more often active at the international level and WSMs are more often active at the local level. Perhaps not surprisingly, those with a more formal relation to Ramsar, such as the NRC members, GFPs, CEPA and STRP national Focal Points, are more often active at the national level.



**Figure 1.3** Primary geographic level of activity: % for all respondents (pie chart); and % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)

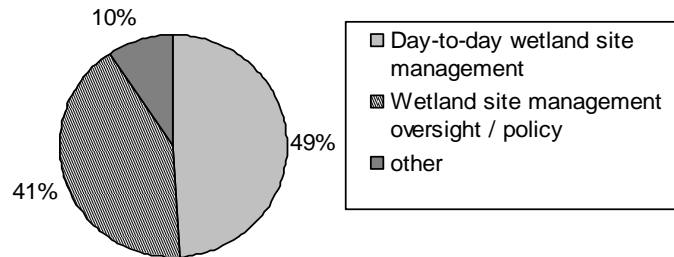
**Table 1.3** Number of respondents by geographical scale and group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
International	3	0	0	3	4	6	14	30
National	28	12	11	8	17	4	19	99
Regional	8	18	2	0	2	3	9	42
Local	3	37	1	0	3	4	6	54
Combi*	4	1	3	1	0	0	2	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>236</b>

\* Respondents who ticked more than one geographical level

### 1.4. Focus of activity of Wetland Site Managers

In addition to their geographical level of activity, WSMs were asked to indicate whether they work on day-to-day wetland site management, or on policy and oversight of wetland site management. Out of 68 WSMs, 5 or 7%, did not answer this question, but as is shown in Figure 1.4, slightly more WSMs stated they work on day-to-day wetland site management.



**Figure 1.4** Main focus of the work of wetland site managers

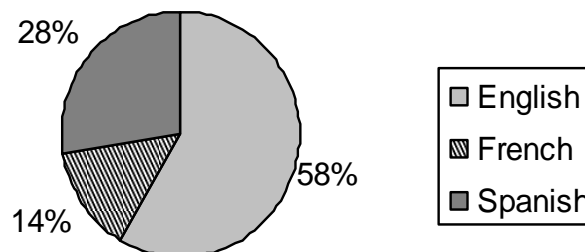
**Table 1.4** Main focus of the work of wetland site managers by number of respondents

	No. of respondents
Day-to-day wetland site management	31
Wetland site management oversight / policy	26
Other	6
No answer	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>68</b>

### 1.5. Language used

The questionnaire was made available in the three official Ramsar languages: English, French and Spanish. 58% of respondents used the English version for their contribution, 28% used Spanish while only 13% of respondents replied in French (Figure 1.5).

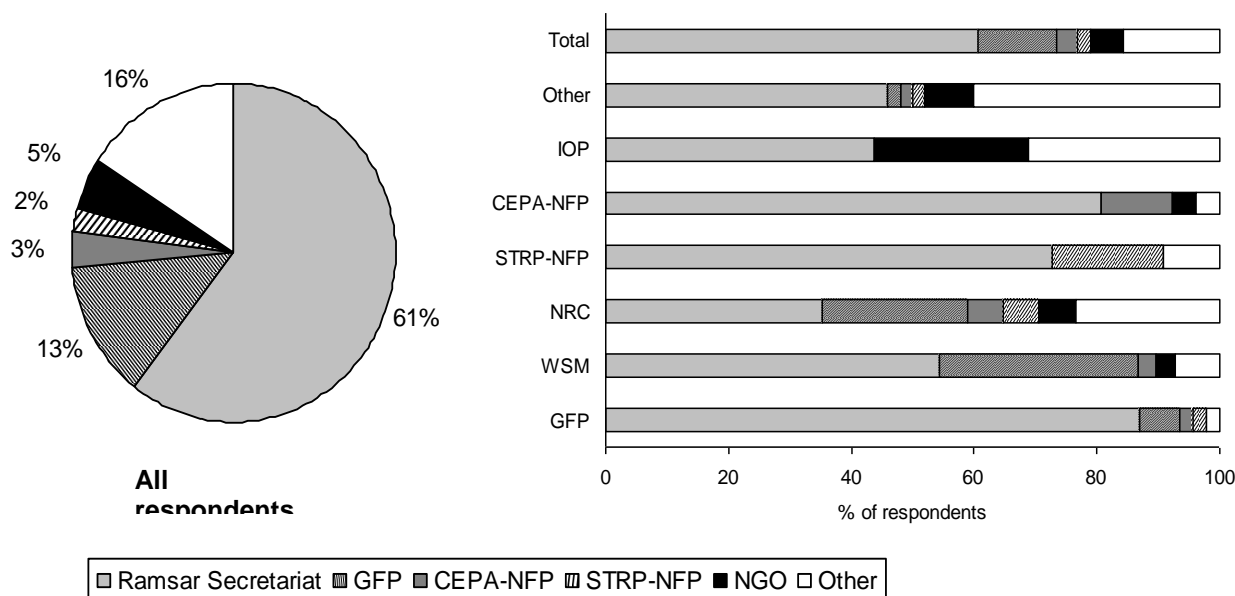
This more or less corresponds with the percentages of questionnaires sent out in the different languages: 69% in English, 17% in Spanish and 14% in French.



**Figure 1.5.** Language of questionnaire used (all respondents)

## 1.6. Source of questionnaire used

All respondents except two answered this question. In most cases (61%) the questionnaire came directly from the Ramsar Secretariat, with 13% receiving the questionnaire through their country's GFP (see Figure 1.6 and Table 1.6).



**Figure 1.6:** Source of the questionnaire: % for all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

When looking at each group in more detail from Figure 1.6, it becomes clear that for all groups, and especially the GFPs and CEPA NFPs, most respondents obtained the questionnaire through the Secretariat. However, the GFPs were also asked to forward the questionnaire to WSMs and NRC members and this is reflected by the fact that 32% of WSMs obtained the questionnaire through the GFP. The Convention's IOPs were asked to do the same, but this did not result in them being an important source for WSMs or NRC members. In very few instances the STRP and CEPA NFPs were the source of the questionnaire for the respondents.

**Table 1.6** Source of the questionnaire: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP NFP	CEPA NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Ramsar Secretariat	40	37	6	8	21	7	23	142
GFP	3	22	4	0	0	0	1	30
CEPA-NFP	1	2	1	0	3	0	1	8
STRP-NFP	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	5
NGO	0	2	1	0	1	4	4	12
Other	1	5	4	1	1	5	20	37
No answer	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>236</b>

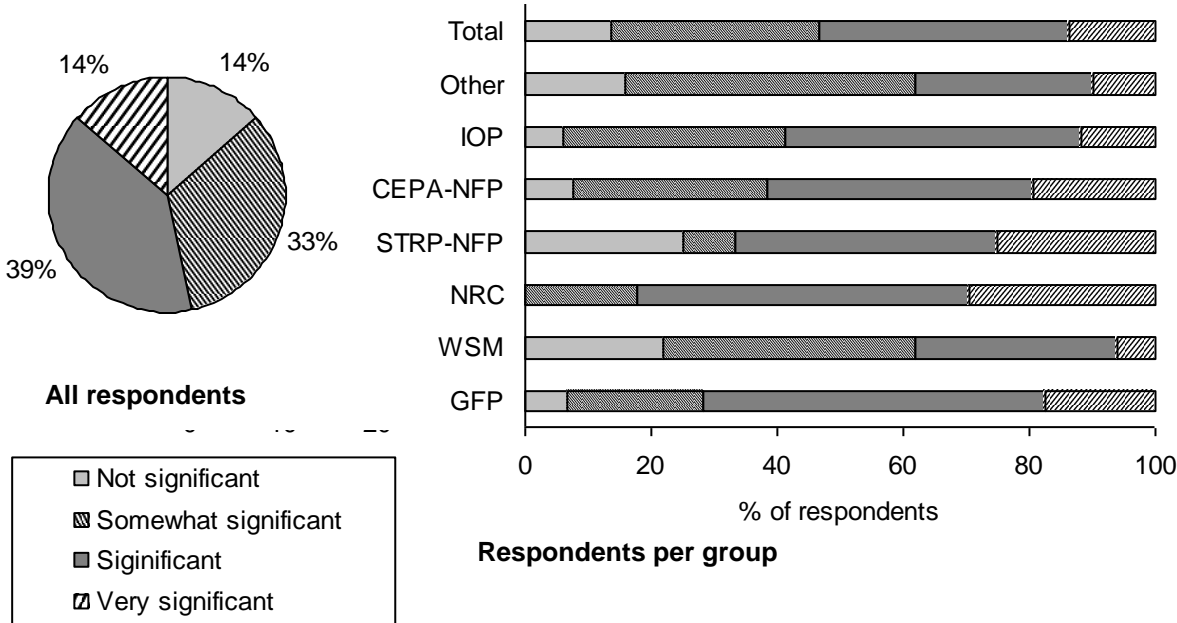
## 2. The role of Ramsar in the respondents' work

### 2.1. Role of Ramsar

Over half (53%) of respondents indicated that Ramsar plays a significant or very significant role in their professional life, with a further one-third (33%) indicating Ramsar being only 'somewhat significant' (Figure 2.1).

Between groups there are considerable differences. 82% of the NRC respondents and 72% of GFPs report Ramsar being significant or very significant for their role.

In contrast, the majority (62%) of WSMs reported that Ramsar is either not significant or only somewhat significant to their work. Another interesting result is that 25% of STRP NFPs say that Ramsar does not play an important role for them. However, their number of respondents is low (12 in total).



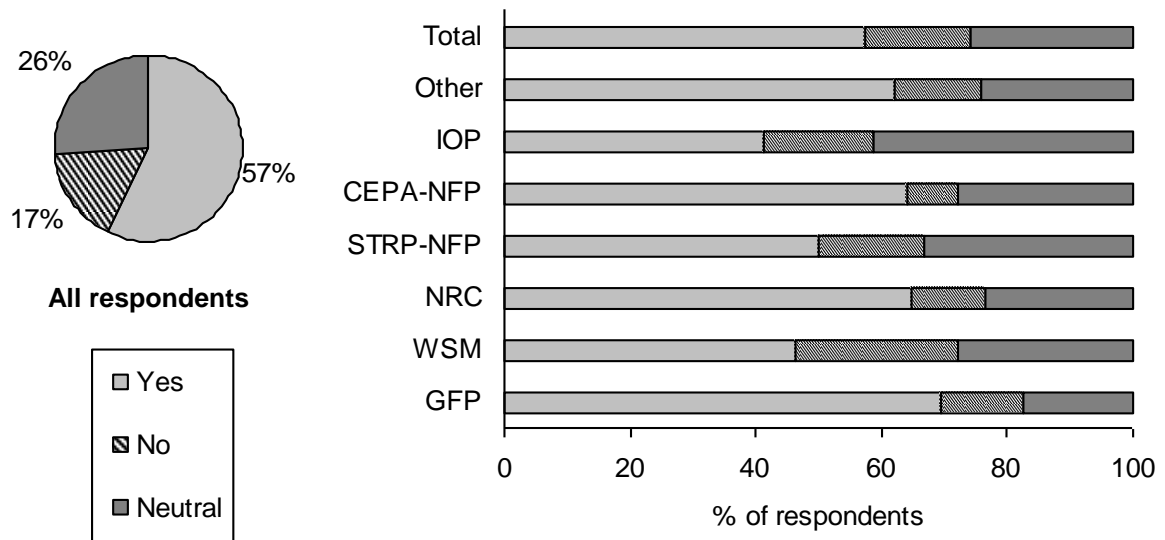
**Figure 2.1** The significance of the role of Ramsar in the respondents' work: % for all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

**Table 2.1** The significance of the role of Ramsar: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Not significant	3	15	0	3	2	1	8	32
Somewhat significant	10	27	3	1	8	6	23	78
Significant	25	22	9	5	11	8	14	94
Very significant	8	4	5	3	5	2	5	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>236</b>

## 2.2. Expectations of the role of Ramsar met?

Almost all respondents answered this question (98%). The majority (57%) responded that the current level of significance of the role of Ramsar in their professional lives met their expectations while 17% responded that their expectations were not met. The bar chart in Figure 2.2 shows the differences across groups: IOPs, WSMs and STRP NFPs are less positive, GFPs seem the most positive.



**Figure 2.2** Expectations of the role of Ramsar: % for all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

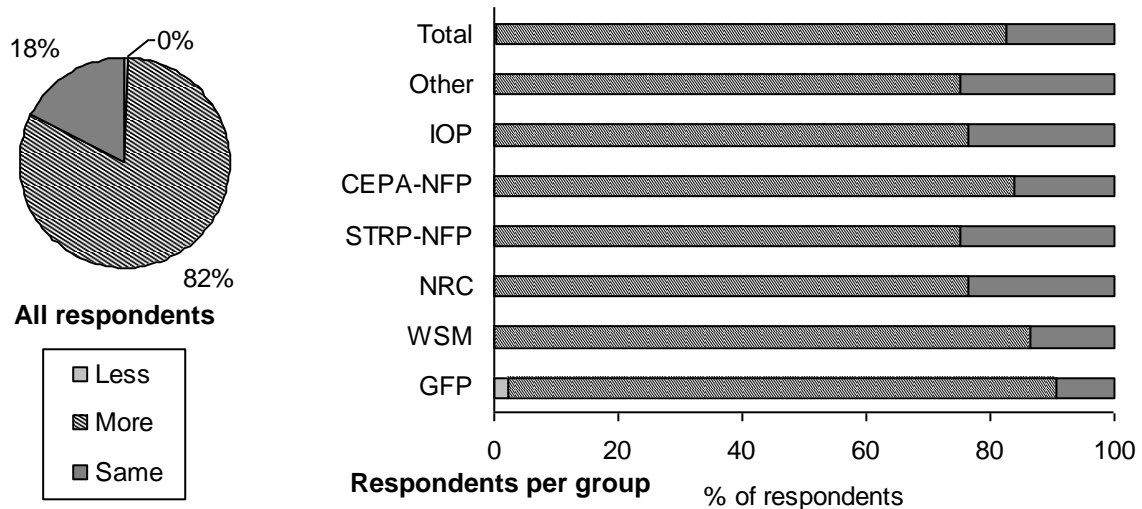
**Table 2.2** Expectations of the role of Ramsar: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Yes	32	30	11	6	16	7	31	133
No	6	17	2	2	2	3	7	39
Neutral	8	18	4	4	7	7	12	60
No answer	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	4
Total	46	68	17	12	26	17	50	236

## 2.3 Future expectations

This question was again answered by most respondents (97%). Despite indicating in section 2.2 that the current situation in general fits their expectations, most respondents (82%) would like Ramsar to play a more significant role in the future.

Between groups, WSMs and CEPA-NFPs in particular seem to want that role to grow. The GFP was the only group responding that they want Ramsar to play a less significant role in the future.



**Figure 2.3** The significance of the future role of Ramsar: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

**Table 2.3** The significance of the future role of Ramsar: numbers of respondents by group

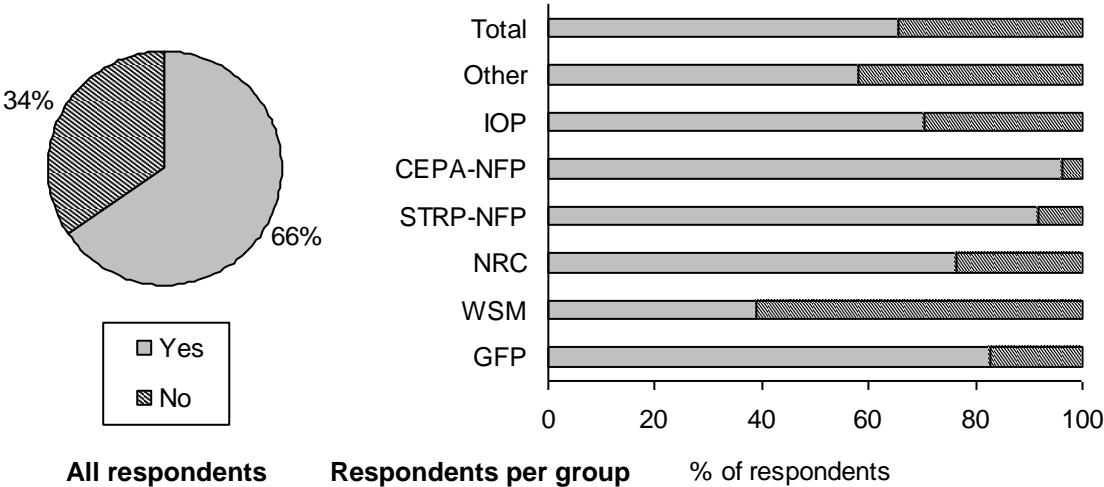
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Less	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
More	38	57	13	9	21	13	36	187
Same	4	9	4	3	4	4	12	40
No answer	3	2	0	0	1	0	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>236</b>

### 3. Use of Ramsar Guidance (general)

#### 3.1. The Use of Ramsar Guidance

The majority (66%) of respondents stated they do use Ramsar guidance in general. The level of use is highest among the CEPA and STRP-NFPs, followed by GFPs.

The WSMs are the only group where the majority does not use Ramsar guidance, 41 (60%) of the 68 WSMs who responded do not use Ramsar guidance at all. Perhaps even more surprisingly, given their close involvement in Ramsar matters, 8 out of 46 GFPs, or 17%, state they never use Ramsar guidance.



**Figure 3.1** Use of the Ramsar guidance in general: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

**Table 3.1** Use of the Ramsar guidance in general: numbers of respondents by group

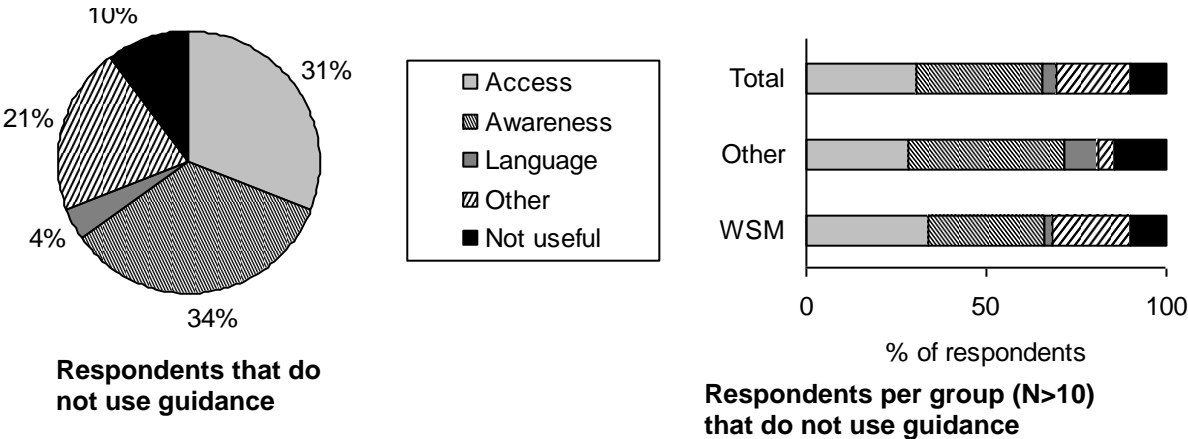
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Yes	38	26	13	11	25	12	29	154
No	8	41	4	1	1	5	21	81
No answer	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>236</b>

### 3.2. Why do people NOT use the Ramsar guidance?

As became clear in 3.1., 34% of respondents do NOT use Ramsar guidance. Unfortunately, there was a low response rate indicating the reasons for this, rendering analysis per group difficult. However, looking at all responses, one third indicates having no access to guidance, while another third indicates no being aware of its existence.

The WSM is the only group with a large enough number of respondents to enable any analysis. However, a similar response pattern can be seen for the total group of respondents.

Although drawing conclusions from such small numbers per group is difficult, it should be noted that some GFPs state they are not aware of the existence of guidance. This obviously makes it impossible for them to notify others within their country concerning the guidance. Approximately 10% of respondents do not use the guidance because they do not find it useful.



**Figure 3.2** Why do people NOT use Ramsar guidance?: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

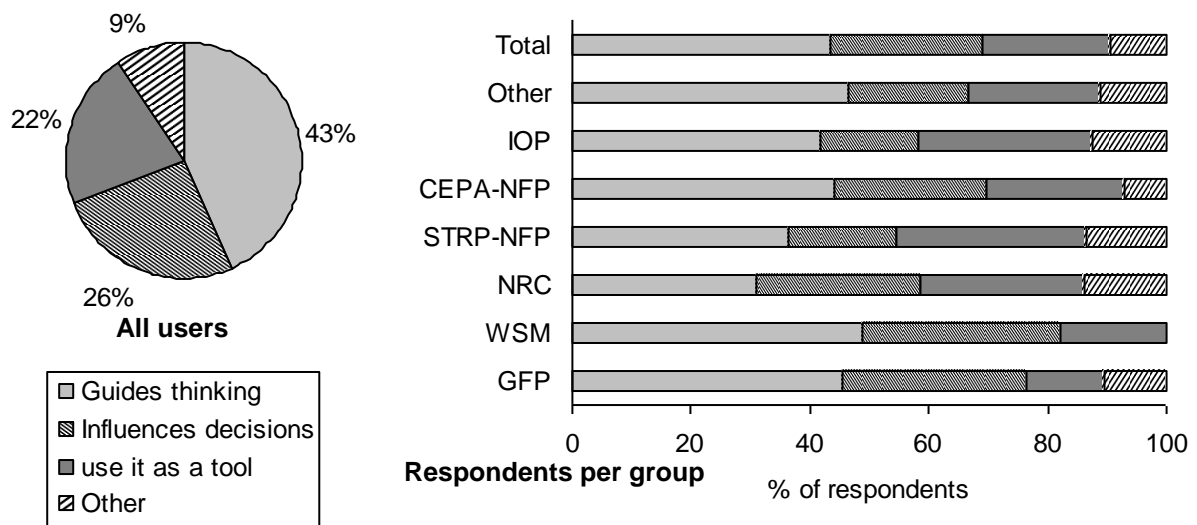
**Table 3.2** Why do people NOT use Ramsar guidance?: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Access	2	14	0	0	1	1	6	<b>24</b>
Awareness	3	13	1	0	0	1	9	<b>27</b>
Language	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	<b>3</b>
Other	2	9	2	1	0	1	1	<b>16</b>
Not useful	0	4	1	0	0	0	3	<b>8</b>
No answer	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>81</b>

### 3.3. The general function of Ramsar guidance

Of users of Ramsar guidance, the most frequent use (43%) is to help guide their thinking, with a further 26% using the guidance mainly as a basis for their decisions and/or actions, and 22% using the guidance as a practical tool in assessments, evaluations or audits.

Although there do not seem to be major differences between groups, fewer NRC and STRP-NFPs indicated they were guided by the Ramsar guidance in their thinking on wetland-related issues than the other groups. Similarly, fewer IOP and STRP-NFPs seem to have their decisions influenced by Ramsar guidance; rather they use the guidance more as a tool for assessments, evaluations or audits.



**Figure 3.3** The main function of Ramsar guidance: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

**Table 3.3** The main function of Ramsar guidance (note that (more than one answer was possible): numbers of respondents by group

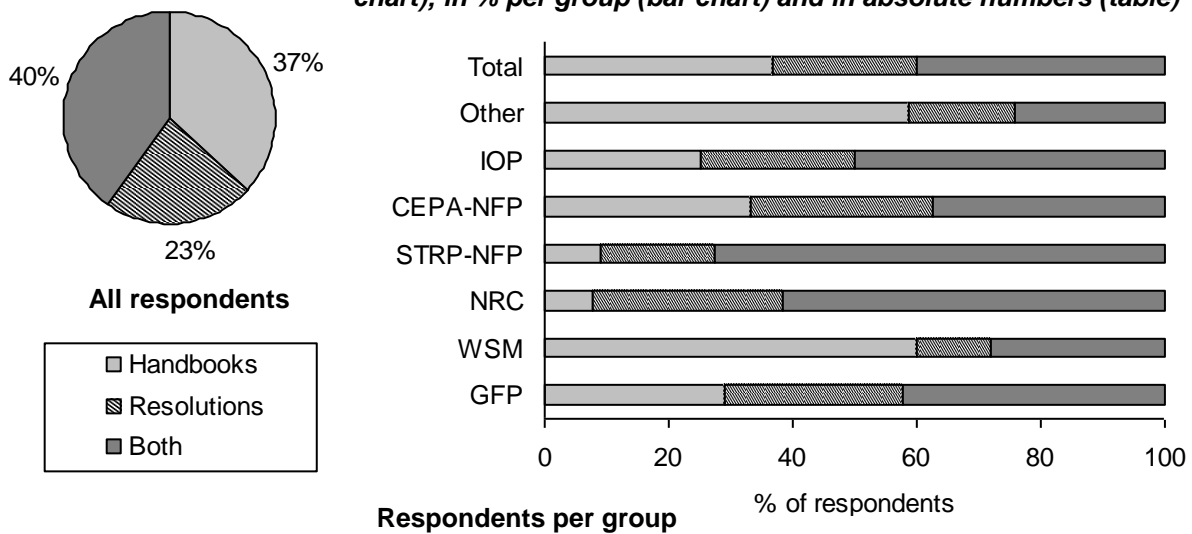
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
It guides my thinking on wetland-related issues	31	19	9	8	19	10	25	121
It influences my decisions and actions	21	13	8	4	11	4	11	72
It is used as an assessment/ evaluation/audit tool	9	7	8	7	10	7	12	60
Other	7	0	4	3	3	3	6	26
No Answer	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>284</b>

### 3.4. Type of guidance used most

Among those who use Ramsar guidance (see section 3.1), 37% use the Handbooks more frequently than the Resolutions and Recommendations, 40% use them both equally frequently, and 23% use Resolutions more frequently than Handbooks. All in all, Handbooks seem to be slightly more used than Resolutions.

When looking at the use of the different types of guidance per group, some differences can be noted. NRC and STRP-NFP are the only groups who use the Resolutions and Recommendations more frequently than the Handbooks, though both groups have clear majorities who use both types of guidance equally frequently. WSMs use the Handbooks more often than the Resolutions and Recommendations.

**3.4: Type of guidance used most; in % for all respondents (the pie chart); in % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**



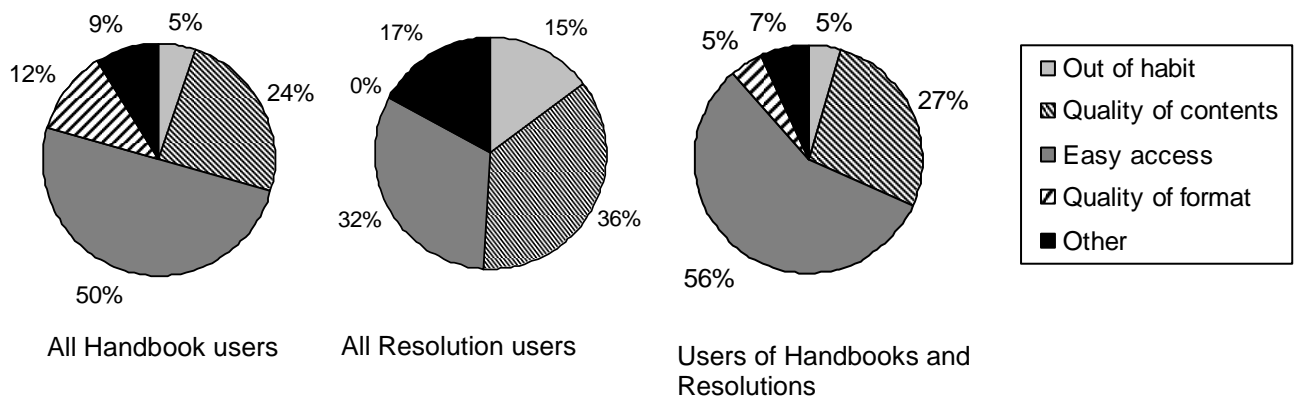
**Figure 3.4** The type of Ramsar guidance used most: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

**Table 3.4** The type of Ramsar guidance used most: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Handbooks	11	15	1	1	8	3	17	56
Resolutions	11	3	4	2	7	3	5	35
Both	16	7	8	8	9	6	7	61
No answer	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>154</b>

### 3.5. Reasons for patterns of use

Easy access to the Handbooks is an important reason to use them for 50% of their users (Figure 3.5 1<sup>st</sup> pie chart). Those using Resolutions were rather split between ease of access (32%) and the quality of the contents of the Resolutions (36%), as is shown in the 2<sup>nd</sup> pie chart. Format does play a role when it comes to using handbooks (12%), but not for the Resolutions, where habit is a more important reason (15%) than for the handbook users. People who use them both equally frequently, do this primarily because of easy access (56%). Again, more than one answer was possible for this question.



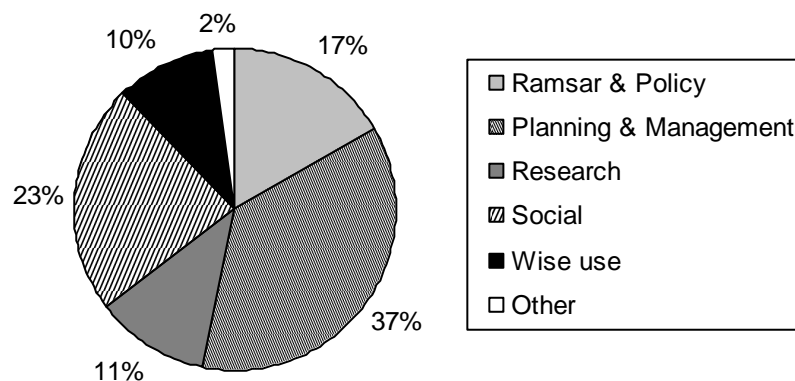
**Figure 3.5** Reasons for the preferences of use of Handbooks and of Resolutions and Recommendations

### 3.6 Thematic interests

This was an open question where respondents could indicate which thematic areas related to Ramsar implementation interested them the most. At a general level, issues related to planning and management were most frequently mentioned (37%), followed by social issues, which relate to CEPA, participation, capacity building etc. (23%).

For this analysis, responses have been coded into the thematic categories and sub-categories presented in Table 3.6. Most frequently, respondents expressed an interest in issues related to specific management, followed by monitoring and evaluation (M&E - which includes inventories and assessments) and CEPA.

**Figure 3.6** Thematic interest in guidance: % for all respondents



**Table 3.6** Thematic interest in guidance: numbers of respondents by group (note that more than one answer was possible)

			GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Category	Total	Sub-category								
<b>Ramsar &amp; Policy</b>	135	Ramsar	7	10	2	0	2	0	0	<b>21</b>
		Policy	21	4	3	2	2	7	3	<b>42</b>
		Law	1	6	1	0	2	0	2	<b>12</b>
		Identification/Definition/Designation of sites	9	9	5	3	7	3	5	<b>41</b>
		Governance	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	<b>5</b>
		Finances	4	5	0	0	0	1	4	<b>14</b>
<b>Planning &amp; Management</b>	294	Planning	11	3	3	3	4	1	3	<b>28</b>
		Management	12	22	3	6	5	2	14	<b>64</b>
		Specific management	22	46	13	10	12	12	24	<b>139</b>
		Rehabilitation	5	11	3	4	0	0	1	<b>24</b>
		Tourism	2	3	1	0	1	1	2	<b>10</b>
		Climate change	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	<b>7</b>
		Services	5	2	2	3	2	3	5	<b>22</b>
<b>Research</b>	92	M&E	25	23	8	7	9	7	9	<b>88</b>
		Data base	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	<b>4</b>
<b>Social</b>	185	Capacity building	4	2	0	0	1	0	1	<b>8</b>
		CEPA	9	30	6	2	21	5	18	<b>91</b>
		Culture	4	2	1	1	2	0	4	<b>14</b>
		Cooperation & exchange	9	12	1	1	0	1	8	<b>32</b>
		Participation	9	12	1	1	7	3	7	<b>40</b>
<b>Wise use</b>	80	Livelihoods	3	3	1	1	2	2	3	<b>15</b>
		Wise use	11	22	7	4	6	4	11	<b>65</b>
<b>Other</b>	19	Other	0	6	2	2	1	1	7	<b>19</b>
<b>No answer</b>	7	No answer	4	1	0	0	0	0	2	<b>7</b>

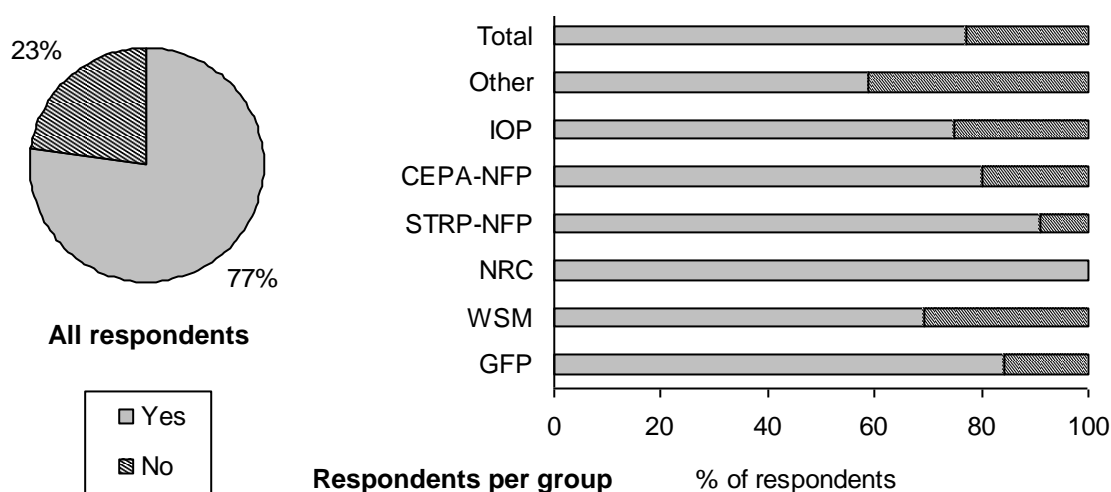
## 4. Use of COP Resolutions and Recommendations

This section looks at if, why and how people use the Resolutions and Recommendations that are adopted at every COP. The Convention has adopted over 250 Resolutions and Recommendations since COP1 in 1980, making it impossible to look into the use and utility of every single one of them. Rather the survey referred to the oval suite of Resolutions and Recommendations, with respondents asked to indicate which individual ones they use, and why.

Data in this chapter came from those respondents who indicated that in general they use the Ramsar guidance (see section 3.1). Responses from respondents who said they did not use Ramsar guidance have been excluded.

### 4.1. Use of the COP Resolutions/ Recommendations

Of those respondents who indicated they used Ramsar guidance, over three-quarters (77%) use the Resolutions and/or Recommendations that are adopted at the COPs. Within the groups, NRC are the highest users (100%) and the lowest, though still high (69%), are WSM.



**Figure 4.1** Use of COP Resolutions / Recommendations: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

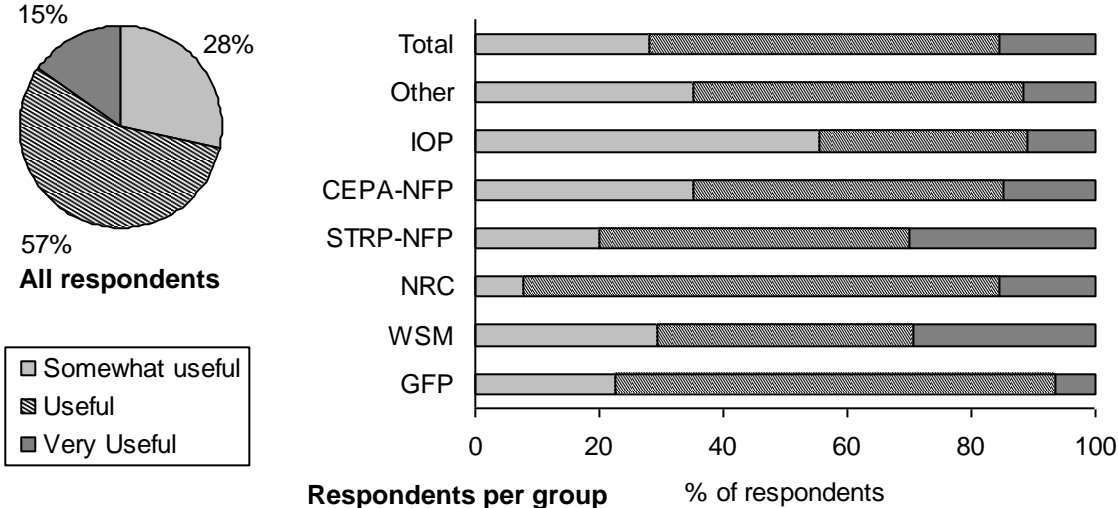
**Table 4.1** Use of COP Resolutions / Recommendations: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Yes	32	18	13	10	20	9	17	<b>119</b>
No	6	8	0	1	5	3	12	<b>35</b>
No answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>154</b>

**4.2 The utility of the COP Resolutions/ Recommendations**

Over half (57%) of the respondents who use the Resolutions and Recommendations find them useful, with a further 15% responding “very useful”. However, 28% find them only ‘somewhat useful’, although no responses of ‘not useful’ were received (Table 4.2).

NRCs in particular seem to be positive about the utility of the Resolutions, while the IOPs seem the least positive. Section 4.1 found that fewer WSMs than other groups use the Resolutions, but of those who do use them, 67% find them useful/very useful.



**Figure 4.2** The utility of COP Resolutions / Recommendations: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

**Table 4.2** The utility of COP Resolutions / Recommendations: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Not useful	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Somewhat useful	7	5	1	2	7	5	6	33
Useful	22	7	10	5	10	3	9	66
Very Useful	2	5	2	3	3	1	2	18
No answer	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>119</b>

**4.3. Preferences in COP Resolutions / Recommendations**

Within the context of this open question, most respondents mentioned only Resolutions and not Recommendations. For this reason, the tables in Annex 3 identify the most useful Resolutions only, broken down for each group of respondents. These tables are too large to be included here.

Although some respondents did mention Resolutions from COPs 4, 5, or 6, it is the Resolutions from more recent COPs (COPs 7, 8 and 9) which are more frequently used. From COP 5, Resolution V.7 (on management planning) is also mentioned by a few respondents, as is COP 6 Resolution VI.1 (ecological character and Montreux Record).

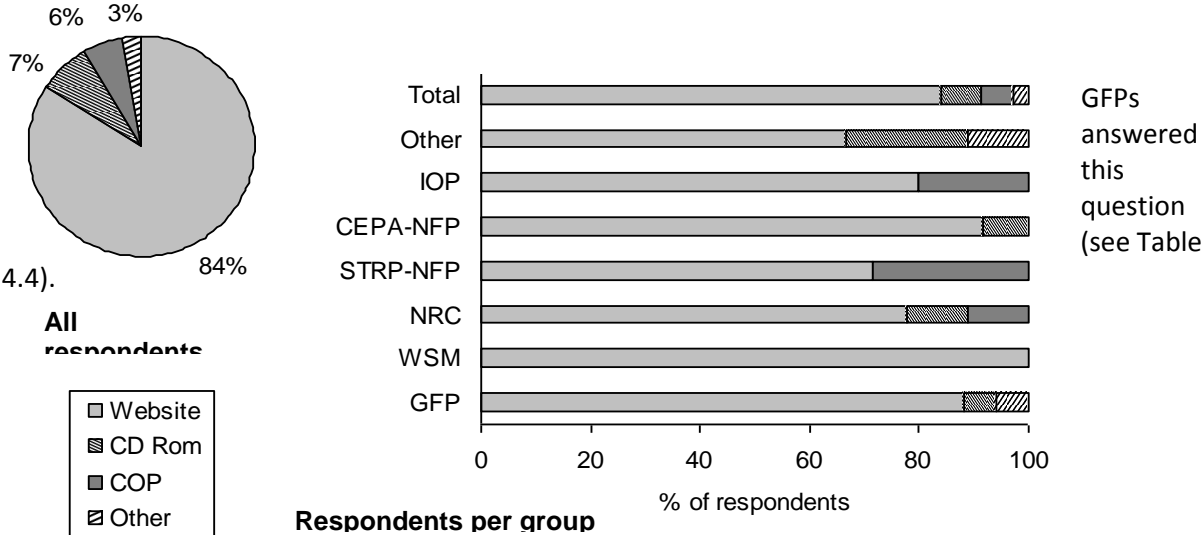
Looking at COPs 7, 8 and 9, which are referred to more often, no clear preferences seem to exist. The answers are broad-ranging and most Resolutions were mentioned only once.

For COP 7, Resolution VII.6 (National Wetland Policies) is the most frequently mentioned (7x). For COP 8, a wide range of Resolutions are used, with the most frequent being VIII.6 (8x), VIII.16 (6x) and VIII.13 (4x). Similarly, many different Resolutions were mentioned originating from COP9, most of them just once. Resolution IX.1, however, and its annexes A, B, C and E, is by far the most frequently used Resolution across all groups (in total 57x). Resolutions IX.4, IX.7 and IX.14 are mentioned 5 times, and IX.21 and IX.22 both 4 times.

**4.4. Access to Resolutions**

From the 118 users of Resolutions, 69 stated a single source of access, with most (84%) accessing Resolutions from the Ramsar website (Figure 4.4).

Figure 4.4 shows that the website is very important for all groups to gain access to Resolutions, whilst few respondents access them through a CD Rom. Small numbers of NRC, STRP-NFP and IOPs indicate that COP meetings are also good occasions to obtain the Resolutions. Interestingly, GFPs do not use COP meetings as a source of access to Resolutions but it should be noted for unknown reasons few



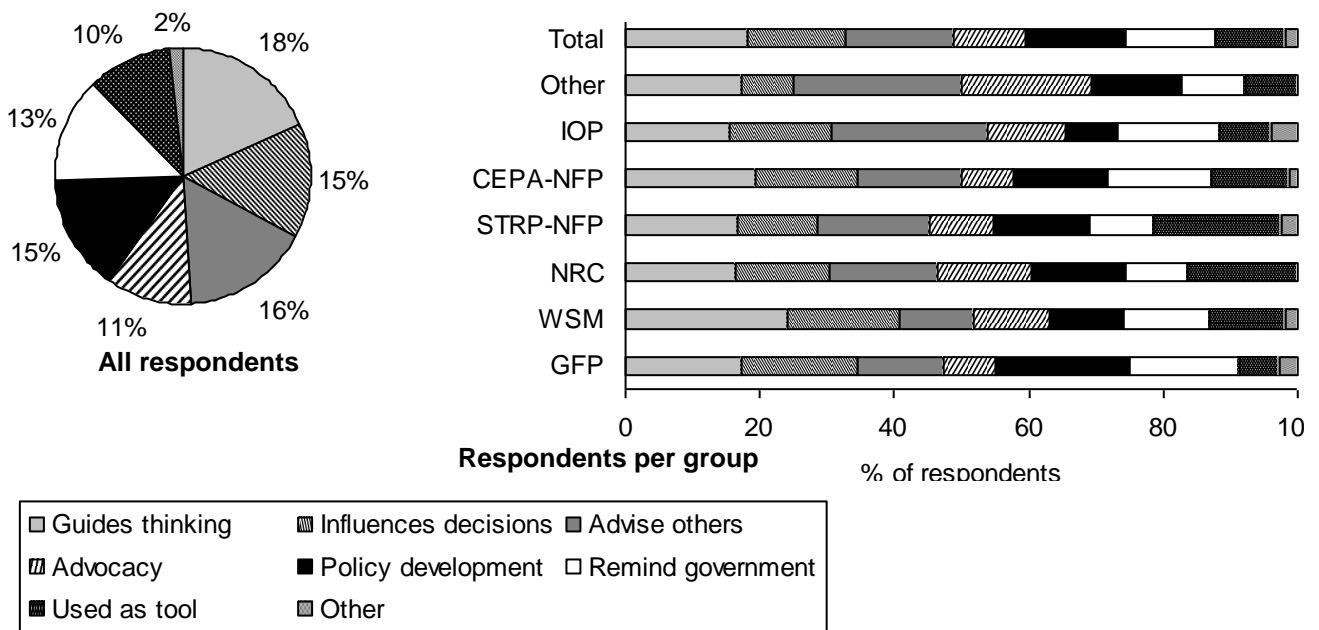
**Figure 4.4** Source of access to COP Resolutions / Recommendations: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

**Table 4.4** Source of access to COP Resolutions / Recommendations: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Website	15	10	7	5	11	4	6	58
CD Rom	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	5
COP	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	4
Several	5	1	2	2	1	0	2	13
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
No answer	10	7	2	1	7	4	6	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>119</b>

#### 4.5 The purpose for use of COP Resolutions / Recommendations

The respondents who use COP Resolutions / Recommendations, were asked to specifically indicate the purpose(s) for which they use these forms of guidance. More than one answer was possible. Full wording of the function options provided in Table 4.5. Figure 4.5 shows that both overall, and by different user groups, the overall suite of Resolutions/Recommendations are commonly used for a number of different purposes, as listed in Table 4.5.



**Figure 4.5** The purpose(s) of use of COP Resolutions / Recommendations: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

**Table 4.5** The purpose(s) of use of COP Resolutions / Recommendations: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
They guide my thinking about wetland issues	20	13	7	7	15	4	9	75
They influence my decisions and my actions	20	9	6	5	12	4	4	60
They are used to advise/instruct others	15	6	7	7	12	6	13	66
They are used for advocacy purposes	9	6	6	4	6	3	10	44
They guide policy development	23	6	6	6	11	2	7	61
They are used to remind our government of its commitments	19	7	4	4	12	4	5	55
They are used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	7	6	7	8	9	2	4	43
Other	3	1	0	1	1	1	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>411</b>

#### 4.6 Suggested improvements

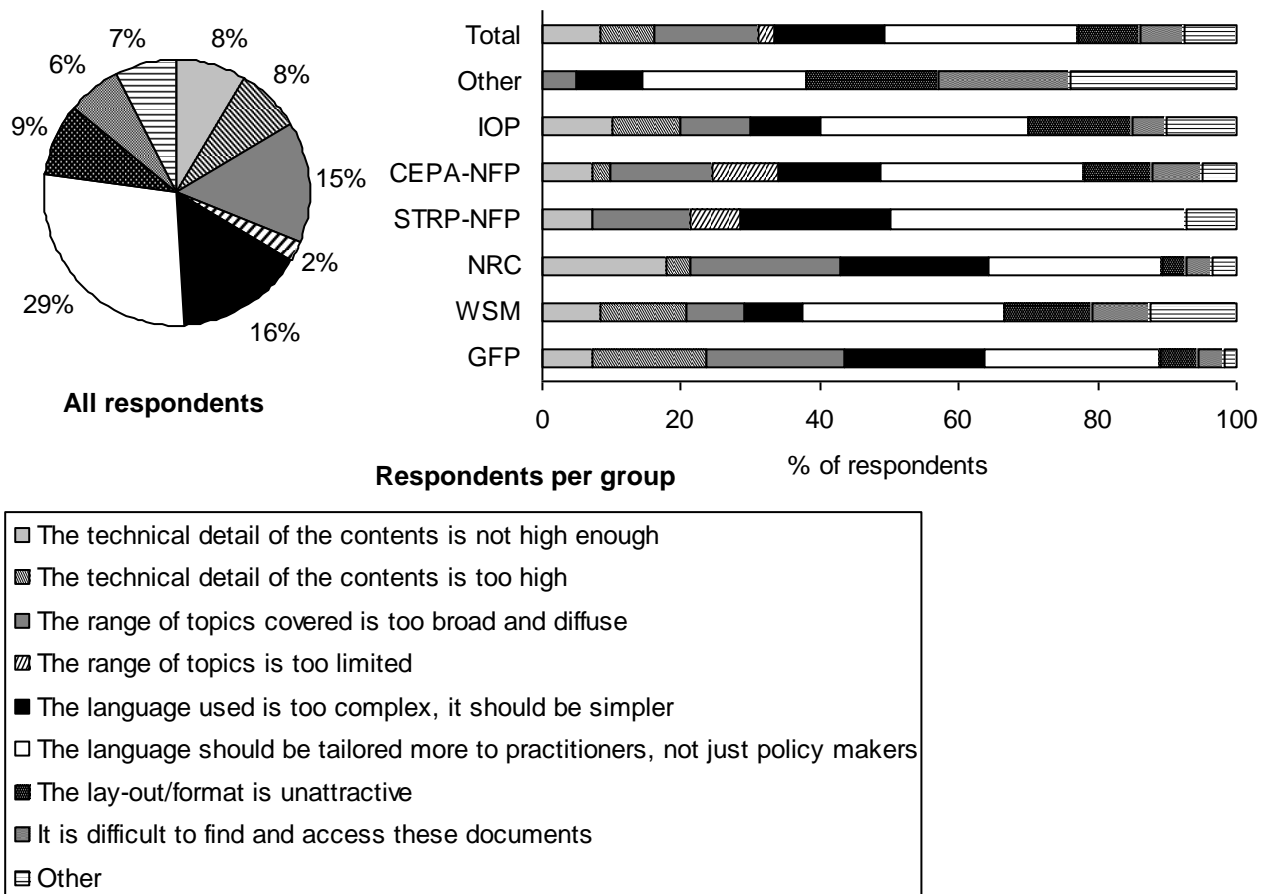
Several options were provided for respondents to indicate what could be improved in the COP Resolutions / Recommendations (Table 4.6.1), with more than one answer being possible.

The users of COP Resolutions/Recommendations most frequently suggested the following types of improvements:

- The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers (29%)
- The language used is too complex, it should be simpler (16%)
- The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse (15%)

Conversely, few respondents considered that the current range of topics is too limited.

**4.6 Suggested improvements to COP Resolutions / Recommendations in % for all respondents (the pie chart); in % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**



**Figure 4.6** Suggested improvements to COP Resolutions / Recommendations: % of all respondents (pie chart) and % per group (bar chart)

**Table 4.6.1** Suggested improvements to COP Resolutions / Recommendations: numbers of respondents by group

	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	4	2	5	1	3	2	0	17
The technical detail of the contents is too high	9	3	1	0	1	2	0	16
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	11	2	6	2	6	2	1	30
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	5
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	11	2	6	3	6	2	2	32
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	14	7	7	6	12	6	5	57
The lay-out/format is unattractive	3	3	1	0	4	3	4	18
It is difficult to find and access these documents	2	2	1	0	3	1	4	13
Other	1	3	1	1	2	2	5	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>203</b>

In addition to the suggestion options in Table 4.6.1, respondents also were given the opportunity to describe in their own words what they felt could be improved. Seventy-two respondents made a total of 92 suggestions, summaries in Table 4.6.2.

The largest group of suggestions focus on the commitment of countries towards the implementation of Resolutions, for example:

*“The Resolutions need to be results driven with key indicators and Parties need to commit resources to implementation and report on their progress in more detail”*

*“I would appreciate if the language were less political-diplomatic but more powerful to be understood as mandatory and to be executed by signatory states; the explanatory part should be more precise”.*

The second largest group focus on the contents of the Resolutions, many of them suggesting they should be more practical (12 respondents in table 4.6 (2)):

*“With practical examples not only on successful actions but on lessons learned; including specific cases on wetlands that are represented inadequately; choosing the best efforts carried out in countries and regions, which are worth to be replicated”*

*“Through providing more opportunities to practitioners to express themselves; by more strongly promoting examples of success”*

<b>4.6 (2): Suggested Improvements to Resolutions / Recommendations (narrative answers)</b>		
<b>Topic summary</b>		<b>Specific</b>
<b>Commitment to implementation</b>	<b>25</b>	result driven / to include indicators
		Prioritise (limit number)
		commitment/resources
		to be based on feedback
		Streamline drafting process

<b>Contents</b>	<b>23</b>	more practical	12
		case studies/lessons learnt	6
		technical, not political	2
		adjust to developing countries	1
		social subjects are lacking	1
		follow-up after designation	1
<b>Access</b>	<b>19</b>	thematic grouping	6
		Design / format/ illustrations	4
		summary / glossary	4
		improve accessibility	3
		search tool/ index	2
<b>Language</b>	<b>17</b>	simplify language	12
		more languages	5
<b>Dissemination</b>	<b>8</b>	dissemination/advertisement of information	5
		Through workshops	1
		Use of IT	1
		Through NFPs	1
<b>Total number of suggestions</b>			<b>92</b>

Accessibility is a problem for approximately 20% of respondents to this question; some provided practical ideas on how to improve this:

*“It would be useful to have available a single concise list of Resolutions, grouped by thematic area rather than by COP. It is not clear sometimes if Resolutions of past COPs are still standing or if some have been ‘overtaken’ by Resolutions of more recent COPs”*

The style of language used is also an issue, especially the need to simplify it (as 12 people indicate in table 4.6 (2)). People ask for translation into more languages but also recognise the limitations in the capacity of the Secretariat to do so, and suggest alternatives:

*“Promoting translation of documents in national languages through national focal points”*

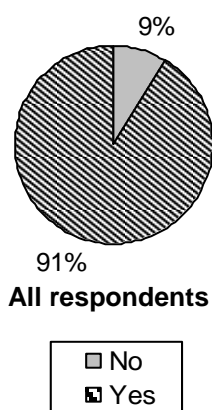
There were suggestions for ways to improve dissemination of the Resolutions more widely:

*“The CDs are to be distributed widely. The essential electronic documents must continuously be sent to all”*

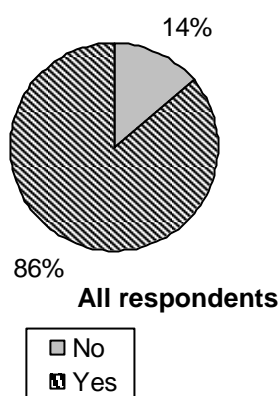
#### 4.7 Do Resolution users also use Handbooks?

As shown in the first pie chart 4.7.1 below, 91% or 32 out of 35 who indicated they did not use the Resolutions (see also 4.1), do use the Handbooks. This would amount to 100% when considering the remaining 9% stated they did use guidance but did not specify further when asked about Resolutions or Handbooks. The second pie, 4.7.2, shows that the vast majority (100 out of 116 or 86%) also use the Handbooks.

**4.7.1. Respondents who do not use the resolutions: Do you use the handbook?**  
In % for all respondents (the pie chart) and in absolute numbers (table)



**4.7.2. Respondents who use the resolutions: do you use the handbook as well?**  
In % for all respondents (the pie chart) and in absolute numbers (table)



The tables below give the exact figures for each group of respondents. As these numbers are rather low, no further graphs have been prepared.

4.7.1 Use Resolutions?	Use handbooks?	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
No	No	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
	Yes	5	8	0	1	5	2	11	32
	No answer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Sub-total	6	8	0	1	5	3	12	35

The table below shows that all IOPs who answered these questions use both the Handbooks and the Resolutions.

4.7.2 Use Resolutions?	Use handbooks?	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Yes	No	4	4	1	1	2	0	4	16
	Yes	27	14	11	9	18	9	12	100
	No answer	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
	Sub-total	32	18	13	10	20	9	17	119

## 5. Use of the Ramsar Handbook series

The survey focused more intensely on the Ramsar Wise Use Handbook series (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition), which are designed to make more readily available thematically all adopted Ramsar guidances, with supporting materials, to support implementation by Parties and others.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition comprises 14 individual Handbooks. At the time of the survey, several Handbooks of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition had already been published, but that series was not yet complete or available to the respondents. This chapter therefore focuses on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Handbooks, as listed in the table.

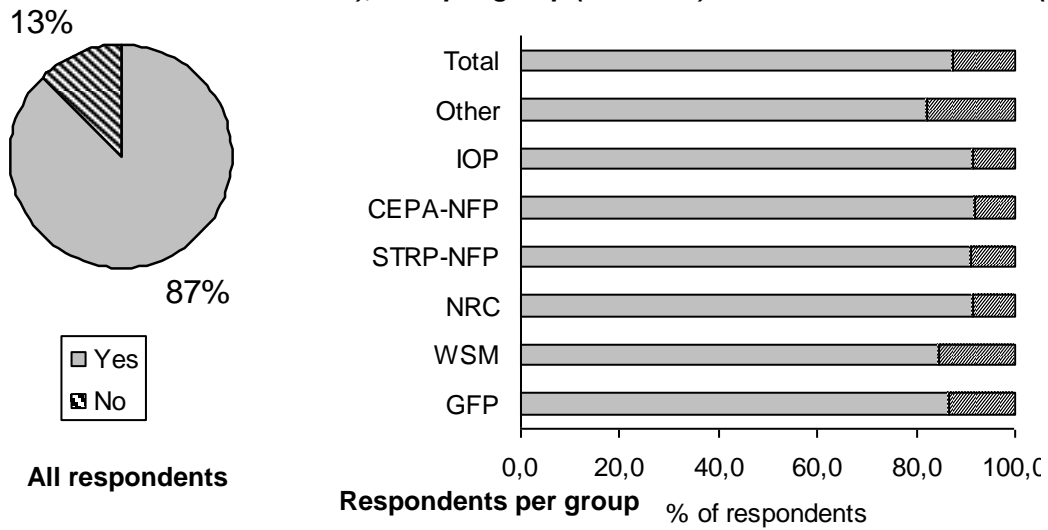
<b>Handbook Code</b>	<b>Handbook Title</b>
1	Wise use of wetlands
2	National Wetland Policies
3	Laws and institutions
4	River basin management
5	Participatory management
6	Wetland CEPA
7	Designating Ramsar Sites
8	Managing wetlands
9	International cooperation
10	Wetland inventory
11	Impact assessment
12	Water allocation and management
13	Coastal management
14	Peatlands

This chapter assesses the general use and utility of the entire 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Handbooks. Chapter 6 focuses on each individual Handbook and Annex 4 provides detailed data for each Handbook and respondent group in tables. As in Chapter 4, which focused on the Resolutions / Recommendations, data in the following chapters come from those respondents who indicated that they use the Ramsar guidance (see chapter 3.1). Other respondents have been excluded.

### 5.1 Use of Ramsar Handbooks

The majority of respondents, 87%, including all groups, use the Handbooks.

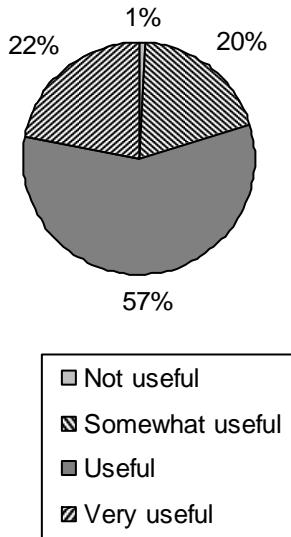
**5.1 Use of Ramsar Handbooks in % for all respondents (the pie chart); in % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**



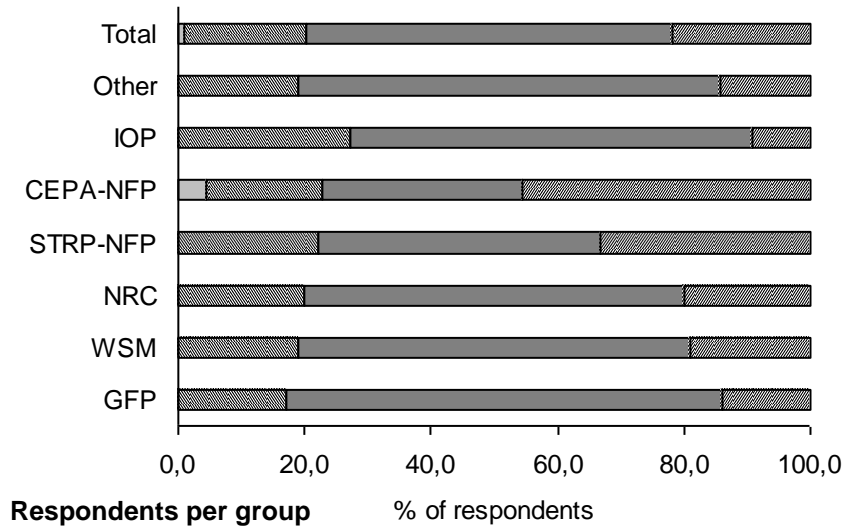
5.1 Use of Handbooks	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Yes	32	22	11	10	23	11	23	132
No	5	4	1	1	2	1	5	19
No answer	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Total	38	26	13	11	25	12	29	154

## 5.2 Utility of the Ramsar Handbook Series

The Handbook series are well appreciated: 57% indicated they find them useful in their work, with a further 22% stating they were very useful. Only one CEPA-NFP respondent stated that the Handbooks were NOT useful.



**5.2 Utility of the Handbook series in % for all respondents (the pie chart); in % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**

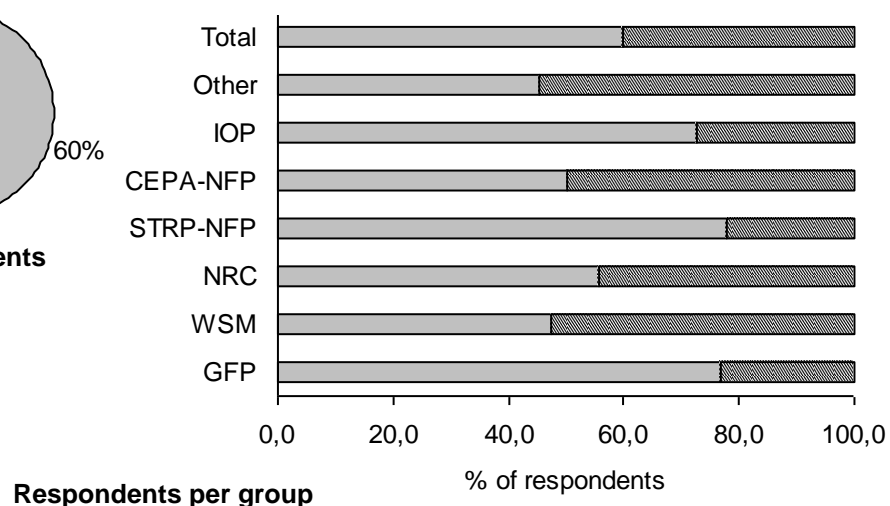
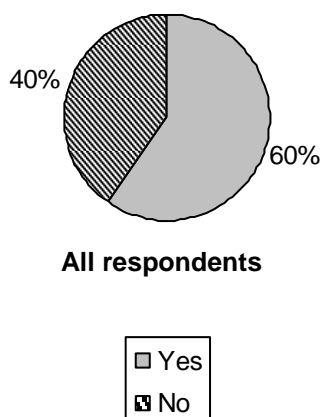


5.2 Utility of Handbooks	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Not useful	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Somewhat useful	5	4	2	2	4	3	4	24
Useful	20	13	6	4	7	7	14	71
Very useful	4	4	2	3	10	1	3	27
No answer	3	1	1	1	1	0	2	9
Total	32	22	11	10	22	11	23	132

## 5.3 Updating known?

A small majority of the users of Handbooks (60%) know that the series are updated after every COP. This fact is least known among WSMs (and the broad category 'other').

**5.3: Updating known? In % for all respondents (the pie chart); in % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**



5.3 Updating known?	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Yes	23	9	5	7	11	8	10	73
No	7	10	4	2	11	3	12	49
No answer	2	3	2	1	1	0	1	10
Total	32	22	11	10	23	11	23	132

#### 5.4 Best known and least known Handbooks

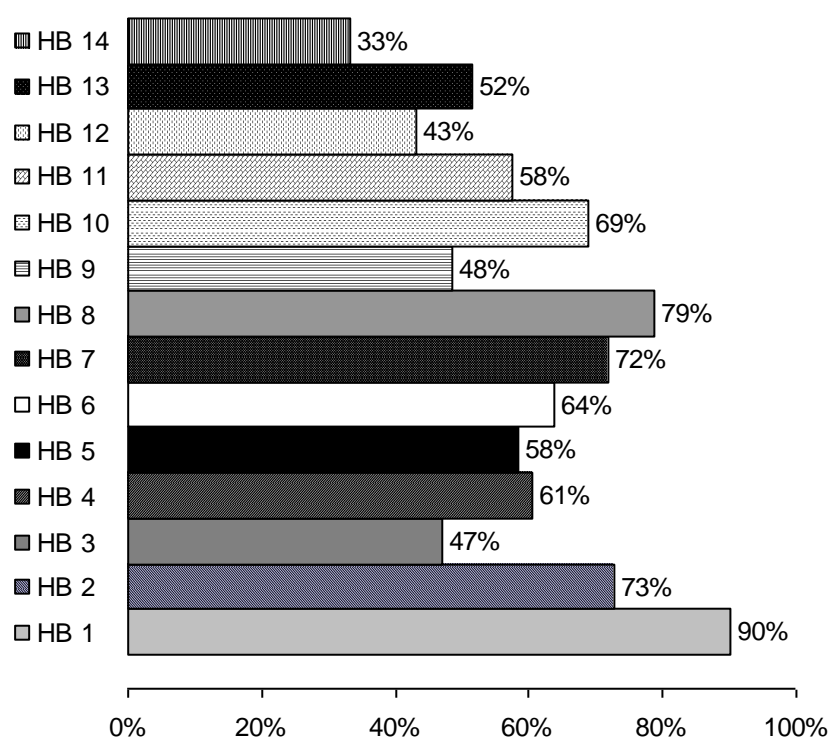
All users of the Handbook series were asked to tick which Handbooks they are familiar with, the three best-known Handbooks are:

- HB 1 (Wise use of wetlands) is known by 90%
- HB 8 (Managing wetlands): 79%
- HB 2 (National wetland policies): 73%

Least known are:

- HB 14 (Peatlands) is known by 33%
- HB 12 (Water allocation and management): 43%
- HB 3 (Laws and Institutions) 47% and HB 9 (International Cooperation): 48%.

#### 5.4 The proportion of respondents familiar with each Handbook in %, in the bar chart, and in absolute numbers (table)



According to their activities, different groups show some differences in terms of their familiarity with the Handbooks. CEPA people are more familiar with Handbook 6 on CEPA than others; see table below.

<b>5.4a How well are the Handbooks known?</b>	<b>GFP</b>	<b>WSM</b>	<b>NRC</b>	<b>STRP-NFP</b>	<b>CEPA-NFP</b>	<b>IOP</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>%</b>
HB 1	28	19	11	10	19	10	22	90,15
HB 2	28	14	5	9	16	8	16	72,73
HB 3	14	10	4	6	9	7	12	46,97
HB 4	17	11	7	8	14	9	14	60,61
HB 5	20	13	5	6	15	6	12	58,33
HB 6	18	10	6	8	21	7	14	63,64
HB 7	26	16	7	10	16	7	13	71,97
HB 8	23	18	9	9	18	9	18	78,79
HB 9	16	8	5	8	10	6	11	48,48
HB 10	25	13	7	9	13	9	15	68,94
HB 11	15	10	8	8	15	6	14	57,58
HB 12	13	5	5	6	11	6	11	43,18
HB 13	17	10	4	8	12	5	12	51,52
HB 14	8	6	3	5	9	3	10	33,33

The following table shows the top scores for each group, marked in grey. This immediately demonstrates that Handbook 1 is the best known for all groups.

<b>5.4b Familiarity with Handbooks in % per respondents group</b>	<b>GFP</b>	<b>WSM</b>	<b>NRC</b>	<b>STRP-NFP</b>	<b>CEPA-NFP</b>	<b>IOP</b>	<b>Other</b>
HB 1	10	12	13	9	10	10	11
HB 2	10	9	6	8	8	8	8
HB 3	5	6	5	5	5	7	6
HB 4	6	7	8	7	7	9	7
HB 5	7	8	6	5	8	6	6
HB 6	7	6	7	7	11	7	7
HB 7	10	10	8	9	8	7	7
HB 8	9	11	10	8	9	9	9
HB 9	6	5	6	7	5	6	6
HB 10	9	8	8	8	7	9	8
HB 11	6	6	9	7	8	6	7
HB 12	5	3	6	5	6	6	6
HB 13	6	6	5	7	6	5	6
HB 14	3	4	3	5	5	3	5
<b>Total</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

### 5.5 Most useful Handbooks

The users of the Handbooks series were asked to rank their three most useful Handbooks by giving them 1, 2 or 3 points. As this was not done consistently, this ranking could not be used in the analysis. However, the frequency with which Handbooks were selected could be used as an indicator of the popularity or usefulness of Handbooks.

The three most useful Handbooks are:

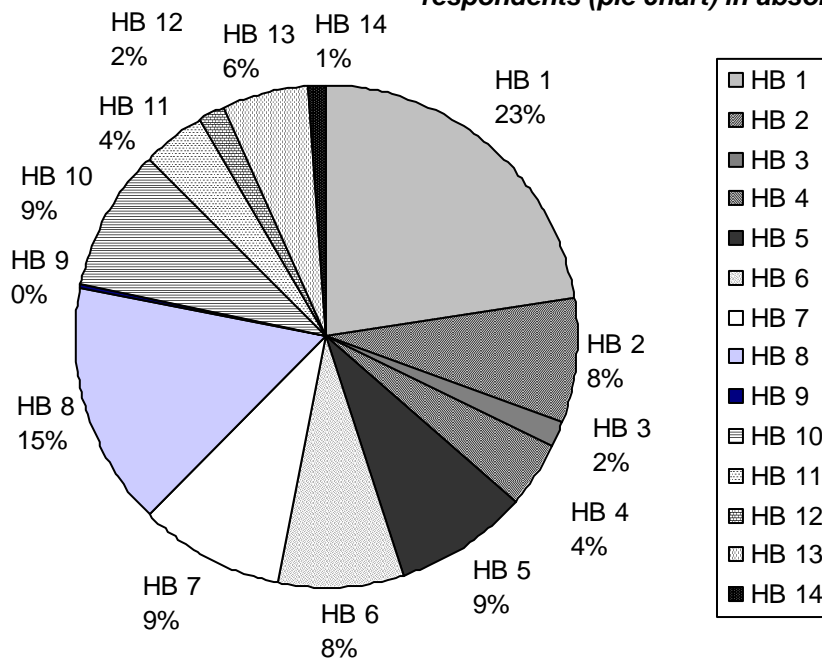
- HB 1 on Wise Use (23%)
- HB 8 on Managing Wetlands (15%)
- HB 5, 7 and 10 all were mentioned by 9%

The three least useful Handbooks are:

- HB 9 on International cooperation (0%)
- HB 14 on Peatlands (1%)
- HB 12 on Water allocation & management (2%);
- HB 3 on Laws and Institutions (2%)

As could be expected, the least known are considered the least useful. The same handbooks are mentioned here as in 5.4b above. The exact numbers of respondents in each category are provided in the table on the next page.

**5.5: Most Useful Handbooks in % for all respondents (pie chart) in absolute numbers (table)**



5.5a Most useful Handbooks	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	%
HB 1	19	13	5	2	11	4	10	22
HB 2	10	4	1	0	3	4	1	8
HB 3	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	2
HB 4	2	2	1	0	1	3	3	4
HB 5	4	4	2	0	8	5	2	9
HB 6	3	2	0	0	11	3	4	8
HB 7	7	2	2	4	8	0	4	9
HB 8	8	8	7	4	5	5	7	15
HB 9	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
HB 10	6	2	4	5	4	3	2	9
HB 11	4	1	2	2	0	1	2	4
HB 12	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	2
HB 13	6	3	1	2	0	1	3	6
HB 14	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	1
<b>Number of Respondents</b>	71	43	27	20	54	31	40	100

The next table displays the most useful Handbooks in percentages for each category of respondents with the top scores for each group marked in grey. This shows that for most groups, as for the aggregated results shown in the pie chart above, Handbooks 1 and 8 are considered the most useful. However, the table shows some differences as well. For example Handbook 6 is deemed useful by many CEPA-NFPs and Handbook 10, on wetland inventories, is considered useful by NRCs and STRP-NFPs.

5.5b Most useful Handbooks in % per respondents group	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other
HB 1	27	30	19	10	20	13	25
HB 2	14	9	4	0	6	13	3
HB 3	3	2	0	5	0	0	3
HB 4	3	5	4	0	2	10	8
HB 5	6	9	7	0	15	16	5
HB 6	4	5	0	0	20	10	10
HB 7	10	5	7	20	15	0	10
HB 8	11	19	26	20	9	16	18
HB 9	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
HB 10	8	5	15	25	7	10	5
HB 11	6	2	7	10	0	3	5
HB 12	0	0	4	0	2	6	3
HB 13	8	7	4	10	0	3	8
HB 14	0	2	4	0	2	0	0
<b>Number of Respondents</b>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## 6. The Individual Handbooks

This chapter provides summary responses on the general use and impression of each of the 14 Handbooks. The following questions were asked:

- 6.1 How did you obtain each handbook?
- 6.2 How useful is each element? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)
- 6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?
- 6.4 What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?
- 6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?

Handbook Code	Handbook Title	Number of respondents familiar with each Handbook (5.4)
1	Wise use of wetlands	119
2	National Wetland Policies	96
3	Laws and institutions	62
4	River basin management	80
5	Participatory management	77
6	Wetland CEPA	84
7	Designating Ramsar Sites	95
8	Managing wetlands	104
9	International cooperation	64
10	Wetland inventory	91
11	Impact assessment	76
12	Water allocation and management	57
13	Coastal management	68
14	Peatlands	44

A clear relation can be seen between the familiarity of a Handbook and the number of respondents that answered specific questions about it (see 5.5 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> column in the above table). For the less frequently used Handbooks it is not easy to draw any conclusions.

In all cases it becomes clear that the web site is a very important source for obtaining copies of the Handbooks. Overall, 55-65% of respondents indicate that the web site is the most important source. Secondly, the CD-Rom is used by around 20-30% to obtain a copy. The third most important source is the hard copy of the document. No real differences between Handbooks can be seen in this respect.

The different elements of the Handbook were judged differently. On a scale from 1-5, 5 being the highest, in most cases the Guidelines in the Handbook are the most appreciated and receive a high average mark above 4,5. This is especially the case in the more practically oriented Handbooks. In Handbook 6 on CEPA elements such as photos and additional information are more highly appreciated than in others. In Handbook 11 on EIA, references are more highly valued than in others.

Handbooks that received too few responses to draw any conclusions are Handbooks 3, 9, 12 and 14. These have therefore not been depicted in graphs and charts, but the absolute responses have been included in the tables in Annex 4.

Most Handbooks have an important function in guiding thinking on wetland issues. Handbooks 1, 4 and 5 are used to instruct others relatively often. Handbook 11 on EIA functions as an evaluation tool. Handbooks 6 and 13 on CEPA and Coastal Management actually influence decisions and actions. Around 40% of respondents considered their use as a tool to remind government of its commitments

an important function. Exceptions are Handbooks 10, and 11, which are much less often used for that purpose, although Handbook 2 on National Wetland Policy has that function for 55% of respondents and is also often mentioned as influencing policy.

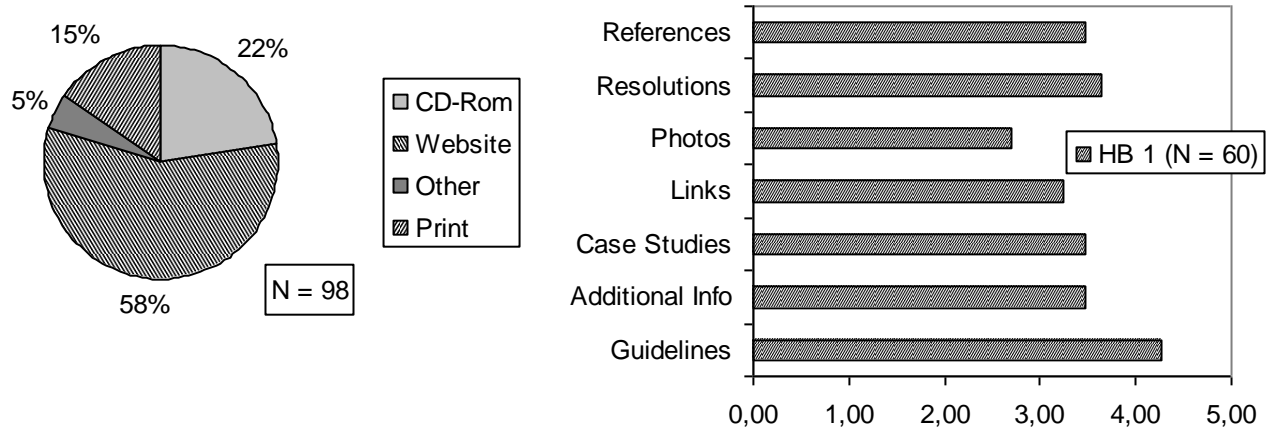
In most of the Handbooks, the technical information is the most appreciated quality; in the case of Handbook 11 all (100%) of respondents mention this feature. Handbooks 1, 4, 5, 8 and 10 are appreciated for bringing structure to Ramsar guidance. In many cases, the fact that the Handbooks are targeted at both policy makers and practitioners is appreciated. However, this is also by far the most frequently mentioned element for improvement in every Handbook: the language should be more tailored to practitioners and is often considered too complex. Handbook 5 on Participatory Management specifically needs guidance on use.

A summary result for each Handbook can be found in the following pages. The answers are provided for the entire set of users. Detailed information per group is provided in Annex 4.

### 6.1 Handbook 1: Wise Use

Handbook 1 (HB 1) is the best known and most useful Handbook (see 5.4 and 5.5). Of those who answered this question (98), 58% obtained their copy through the Ramsar web site, followed by the CD-Rom (22%). Looking at specific elements of this Handbook, people judge the guidelines most positively, the photos the least.

**6.1. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.**



The most important functions of Handbook 1 are; it guides thinking about wetland issues (83% of the respondents) and it is used to advise or instruct others (78%). Use as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool is the least important function.

The users are most positive about; the structure it provides to the Ramsar guidance, the technical information and the way it is targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers. Fewer people are positive about the format/layout and the way it links guidance across COPs. Despite appreciating the way the handbook is targeted at practitioners and policy makers, it clearly stands out that the language should be tailored to practitioners even more. At the same time, 38% feel the technical detail is not high enough.

<b>6.1.a Function</b>	<b>HB 1</b>
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	49
It influences my decisions and my actions	34
It is used to advise/instruct others	46
It is used for advocacy purposes	28
It guides policy development	32
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	27
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	22
Number of respondents	59

<b>6.1.b Positive aspects</b>	<b>HB 1</b>
The technical information	41
The wide range of topics covered	28
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	42
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	25
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	41
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	23
The fact that they are readily available on the website	36
Number of respondents	59

<b>6.1.c To be improved</b>	<b>HB 1</b>
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	19
The technical detail of the contents is too high	4
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	9
The range of topics covered is too limited	9
The thematic structure is illogical	3
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	9
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	31
They are not updated regularly enough	6
The lay-out/format is unattractive	8
It is difficult to find and access these documents	5
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	10
Other	3
Number of respondents	49

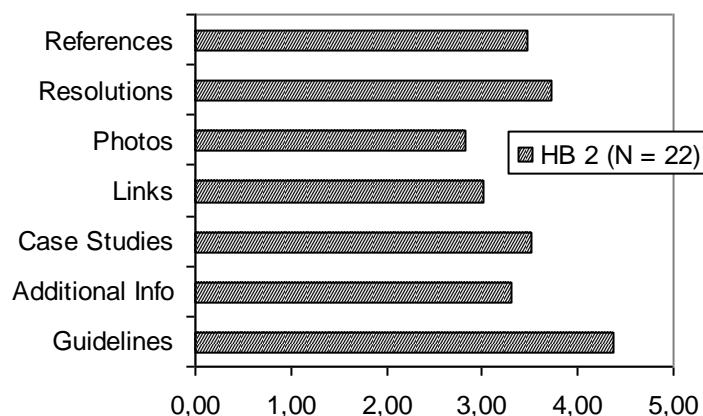
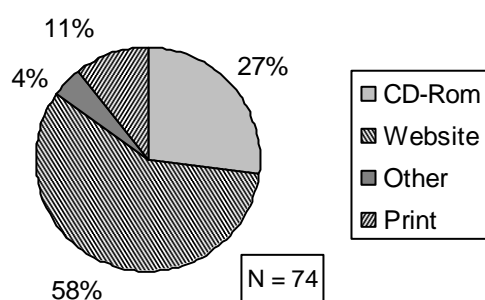
## 6.2 Handbook 2: National Wetland Policies

Although one of the best-known Handbooks (73%, see 5.4), only 8% consider it among their most useful. As for HB 1, copies are obtained mainly through the web site (58%) and secondly the CD-Rom (27%). Here, 11% used hard copies. Photos and links to other Handbooks seem less appreciated than guidelines and resolutions.

This Handbook is primarily used as a guide to policy development and for general thinking about wetland issues. Compared with other Handbooks, a relatively high number use it to remind government of its commitments: 15 out of 27, or 55%.

Users appreciate the technical information provided, but fewer are positive about the range of topics covered. Users are positive about the way the handbook is targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers and the way it brings structure to the Ramsar guidance. Suggested improvements focus on making the language even more tailored to practitioners *ie* simpler and more practical, and less technical detail of the contents.

### 6.2. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.



6.2.a Function	HB 2
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	17
It influences my decisions and my actions	12
It is used to advise/instruct others	12
It is used for advocacy purposes	10
It guides policy development	22
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	15
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	9
Number of respondents	27

6.2.b Positive aspects	HB 2
The technical information	19
The wide range of topics covered	7
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	16
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	11
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	16
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	8
The fact that they are readily available on the website	12
Number of respondents	25

<b>6.2.c To improve</b>	<b>HB 2</b>
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	2
The technical detail of the contents is too high	7
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	5
The range of topics covered is too limited	1
The thematic structure is illogical	1
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	7
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	11
They are not updated regularly enough	2
The lay-out/format is unattractive	2
It is difficult to find and access these documents	2
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	3
Other	0
Number of respondents	18

### **6.3 Handbook 3: Laws and Institutions**

Almost half of the handbook users were familiar with Handbook 3 on Laws and institutions, (see table 5.4), but it is considered useful by only 2% (see pie chart 5.5). This is reflected in that only 4 respondents took the time to answer more detailed questions on this Handbook.

With such a low number of respondents, it is not possible to draw conclusions from the results. For this reason, no graphs have been prepared, as is also the case for Handbooks 9, 12 and 14. For detailed responses please refer to Annex 4, Handbook 3, where all responses for each category of respondents have been provided in tables.

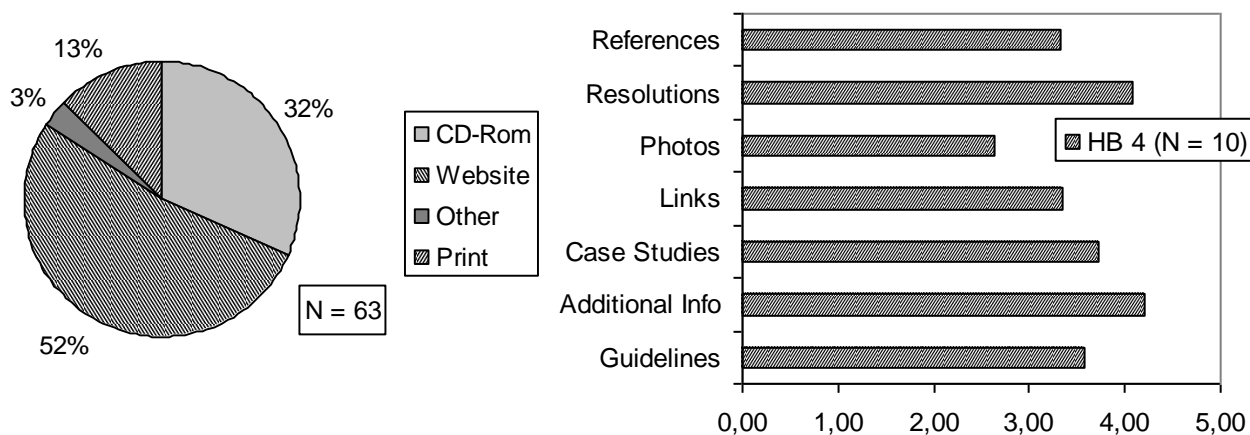
### **6.4 Handbook 4: River Basin Management**

Although 61% of users are familiar with this Handbook (see 5.4), only 4% stated this was one of the most useful. The majority obtain copies of this handbook through the website and the CD-Rom.

Keeping in mind the small number of respondents(10) for this handbook, 80% of them use it to instruct or advise others, and 60% for guiding their thinking about wetland issues.

80% appreciate the way this handbook is targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers, although many people would also suggest there is room for improvement here. The way the Handbook brings structure to the guidance is also valued positively. No one responded that this handbook is not updated regularly enough.

**6.4. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.**



6.4.a Function	HB 4
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	6
It influences my decisions and my actions	4
It is used to advise/instruct others	8
It is used for advocacy purposes	4
It guides policy development	5
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	5
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	5
Number of respondents	10

6.4.b Positive aspects	HB 4
The technical information	6
The wide range of topics covered	3
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	7
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	5
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	8
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	5
The fact that they are readily available on the website	4
Number of respondents	10

6.4.c To be improved	HB 4
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	2
The technical detail of the contents is too high	1
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	2
The range of topics covered is too limited	2
The thematic structure is illogical	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	2
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	6
They are not updated regularly enough	0
The lay-out/format is unattractive	1
It is difficult to find and access these documents	1
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	0
Other	0
Number of respondents	7

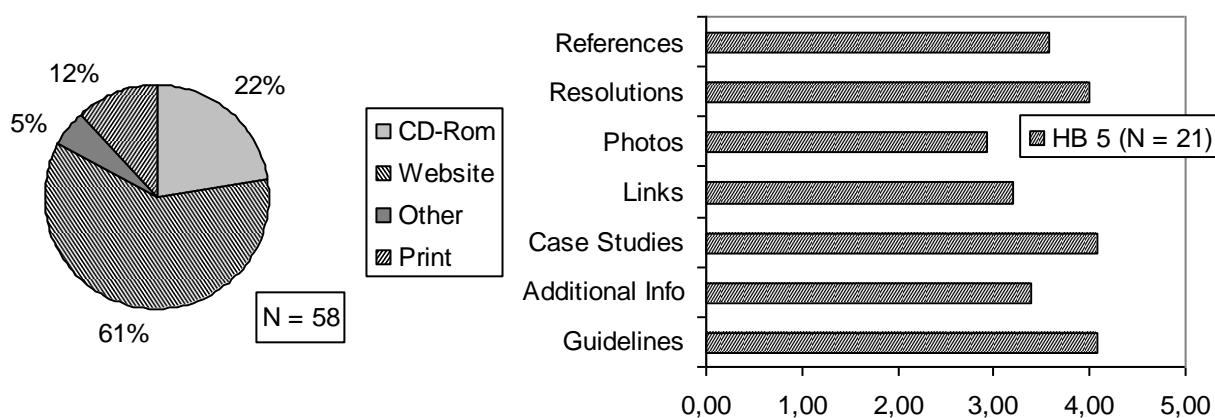
## 6.5 Handbook 5: Participatory Management

Over half of the handbook users (58%) are familiar with this Handbook on Participatory management (chapter 5.4), but only 9% mention it as one of the most useful. The majority, even more than for previous handbooks, use the web site to obtain copies. The case studies, resolutions and guidelines are well appreciated.

Important functions of this handbook are to advise/instruct others and to guide thinking. The most positive aspects are It's technical information and the structure it brings to the Ramsar guidance.

The most popular improvements would be to make the language more tailored to practitioners, and to include a guide to the handbook for its effective use.

**6.5. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.**



6.5.a Function	HB 5
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	14
It influences my decisions and my actions	11
It is used to advise/instruct others	15
It is used for advocacy purposes	8
It guides policy development	9
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	8
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	7
Number of respondents	20

6.5.b Positive aspects	HB 5
The technical information	17
The wide range of topics covered	9
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	14
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	8
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	13
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	11
The fact that they are readily available on the website	11
Number of respondents	20

6.5.c To be improved	HB 5
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	2
The technical detail of the contents is too high	4
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	4
The range of topics covered is too limited	2
The thematic structure is illogical	2
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	6
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	9
They are not updated regularly enough	0
The lay-out/format is unattractive	3
It is difficult to find and access these documents	2
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	6
Other	0
Number of respondents	17

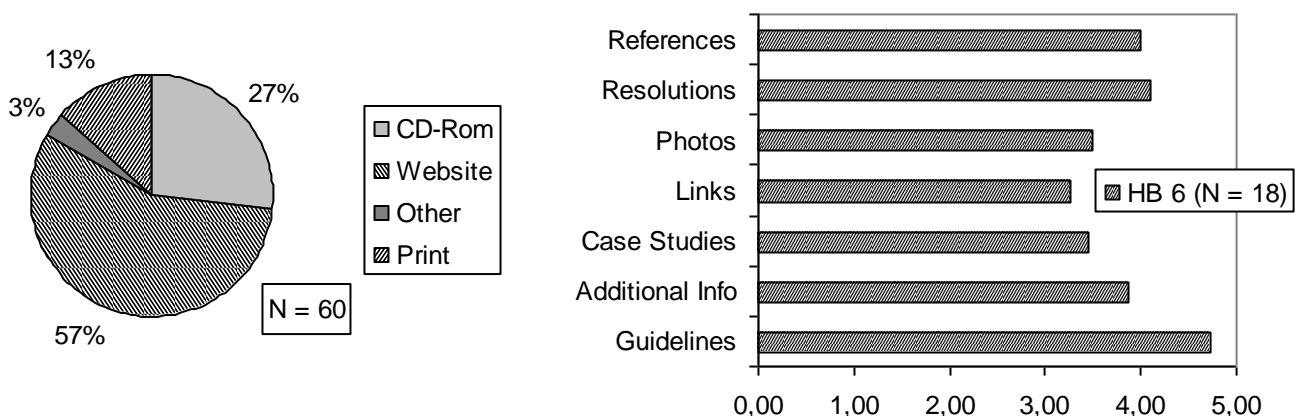
### 6.6 Handbook 6: Wetland CEPA

This Handbook is familiar to 64% of respondents but only 8% (see 5.4 and 5.5) ranked it as the most useful, the majority of whom were the CEPA National Focal Points. Again, the website, followed by the CD-Rom, are the main sources used to obtain copies. In particular, the guidelines are highly appreciated, more than in the other handbooks.

The CEPA Handbook influences respondents' decisions, actions, and thinking about wetland issues, and is used to advise or instruct others. It is also used to guide policy development.

People appreciate the different elements, particularly the technical information. Not many people suggested improvements, those who did stated the language could be tailored more to practitioners.

**6.6. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.**



<b>6.6.a Function</b>	<b>HB 6</b>
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	10
It influences my decisions and my actions	12
It is used to advise/instruct others	10
It is used for advocacy purposes	6
It guides policy development	9
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	7
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	4
Number of respondents	16

<b>6.6.b Positive aspects</b>	<b>HB 6</b>
The technical information	13
The wide range of topics covered	6
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	10
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	9
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	11
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	9
The fact that they are readily available on the website	10
Number of respondents	18

<b>6.6.c To be improved</b>	<b>HB 6</b>
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	4
The technical detail of the contents is too high	1
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	2
The range of topics covered is too limited	3
The thematic structure is illogical	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	3
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	7
They are not updated regularly enough	3
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0
It is difficult to find and access these documents	1
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	2
Other	0
Number of respondents	11

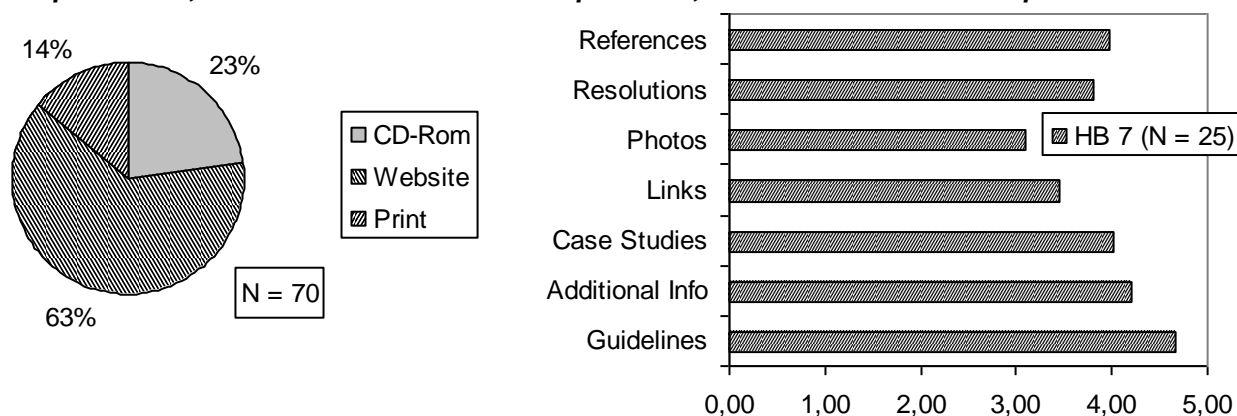
## 6.7 Handbook 7: Designating Ramsar Sites

This Handbook is familiar to 72% of respondents. It is also ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> most useful, with 9% (see 5.4 and 5.5). Similar to the others, the website is by far the most important source for obtaining this handbook (63%), followed by the CD-Rom, with 14% obtaining printed hard copies. The guidelines in this handbook are well appreciated.

HB 7 is mostly used to advise or instruct others as well as guiding thinking about wetland issues. It is the technical information that is most appreciated (21 out of 25 respondents mention this), as well as the fact that it is readily available on the website.

Again, room for improvement is found in the language which is considered too complex and should be tailored more to practitioners. Several people indicated the need for a Guide to the Handbook to use it effectively.

**6.7. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.**



6.7.a Function	HB 7
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	17
It influences my decisions and my actions	15
It is used to advise/instruct others	19
It is used for advocacy purposes	7
It guides policy development	11
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	11
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	11
Number of respondents	26

6.7.b Positive aspects	HB 7
The technical information	21
The wide range of topics covered	10
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	16
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	13
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	15
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	8
The fact that they are readily available on the website	16
Number of respondents	25

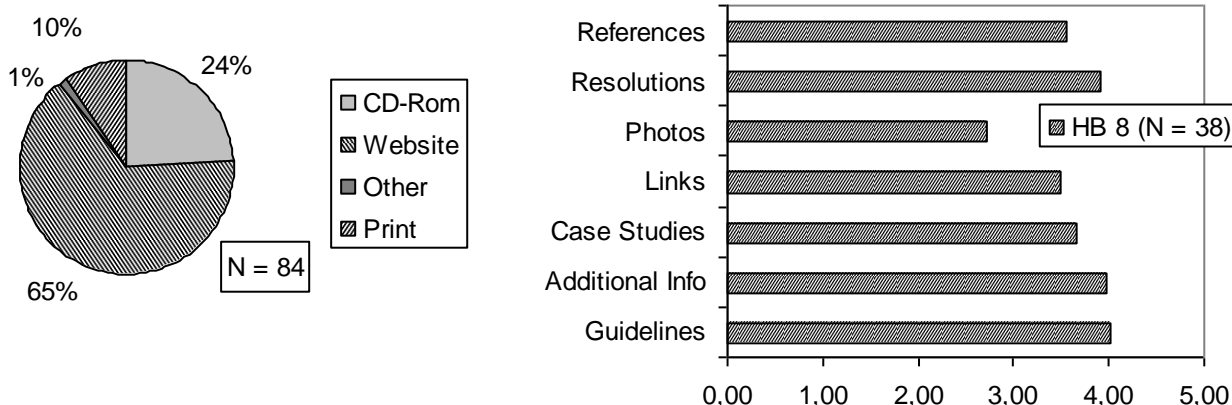
6.7.c To be improved	HB 7
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	3
The technical detail of the contents is too high	4
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	2
The range of topics covered is too limited	1
The thematic structure is illogical	1
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	5
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	12
They are not updated regularly enough	1
The lay-out/format is unattractive	2
It is difficult to find and access these documents	2
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	6
Other	0
Number of respondents	16

### 6.8 Handbook 8: Managing Wetlands

With 79%, this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> best known handbook (after HB 1) and also the 2<sup>nd</sup> most useful for 15% of respondents (see 5.4 and 5.5). This is reflected in the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest group after HB 1 responding to this set of questions. The majority, 65%, obtained their copy through the web site and 24% via the CD-Rom.

Guidelines, resolutions and additional information are the most appreciated elements. HB 8 is mostly used to advise or instruct others and for guidance in thinking about wetland issues, and least used for advocacy or to remind government of commitments. The technical information is very highly appreciated, although 9 people say the technical detail of the contents is not high enough. Again there is a strong message that the language should be tailored more to practitioners.

**6.8. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.**



<b>6.8.a Function</b>	<b>HB 8</b>
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	28
It influences my decisions and my actions	25
It is used to advise/instruct others	28
It is used for advocacy purposes	19
It guides policy development	23
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	16
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	20
Number of respondents	39

<b>6.8.b Positive aspects</b>	<b>HB 8</b>
The technical information	32
The wide range of topics covered	18
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	27
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	19
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	26
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	12
The fact that they are readily available on the website	24
Number of respondents	38

<b>6.8.c To be improved</b>	<b>HB 8</b>
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	9
The technical detail of the contents is too high	3
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	7
The range of topics covered is too limited	3
The thematic structure is illogical	2
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	7
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	17
They are not updated regularly enough	5
The lay-out/format is unattractive	4
It is difficult to find and access these documents	3
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	5
Other	2
Number of respondents	27

## 6.9 Handbook 9: International Cooperation

This is one of the least known handbooks (49%), and the favourite of only 1%. This is reflected in the fact that only 1 person answered the specific questions for this handbook.

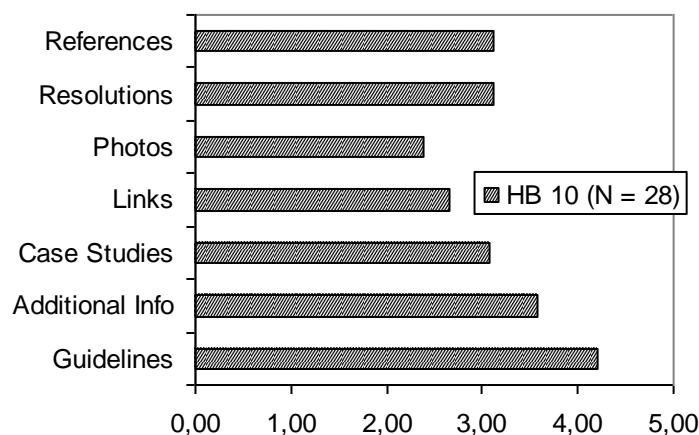
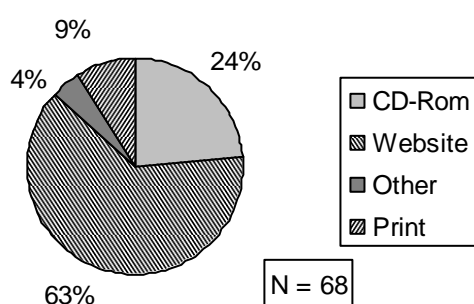
As in handbook 3, 12 and 14, the detailed graphs and tables have not been provided here, as with only 1 respondent, no conclusions can be drawn from their answers. For the detailed responses please refer to Annex 4, Handbook 9.

## 6.10 Handbook 10: Wetland Inventory

This is another well-known handbook: 69% of respondents are familiar with it and it is among the most useful for 9%. Again the vast majority obtained their copy through the website (63%), followed by 24% through the CD-Rom. The guidelines are the most appreciated element of this handbook. This handbook guides thinking on wetland issues, but is less useful for advocacy purposes. The technical information and its availability are particularly appreciated, as well as the fact that it brings structure to the Ramsar guidance.

Again, improvement can clearly be made in tailoring the language more to practitioners.

**6.10. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.**



6.10.a Function	HB 10
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	24
It influences my decisions and my actions	13
It is used to advise/instruct others	17
It is used for advocacy purposes	7
It guides policy development	14
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	9
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	17
Number of respondents	28

6.10.b Positive aspects	HB 10
The technical information	21
The wide range of topics covered	11
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	19
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	9
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	14
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	7
The fact that they are readily available on the website	20
Number of respondents	27

6.10.c To be improved	HB 10
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	5
The technical detail of the contents is too high	5
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	5
The range of topics covered is too limited	2
The thematic structure is illogical	1
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	6
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	16
They are not updated regularly enough	4
The lay-out/format is unattractive	3
It is difficult to find and access these documents	1
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	6
Other	0
Number of respondents	24

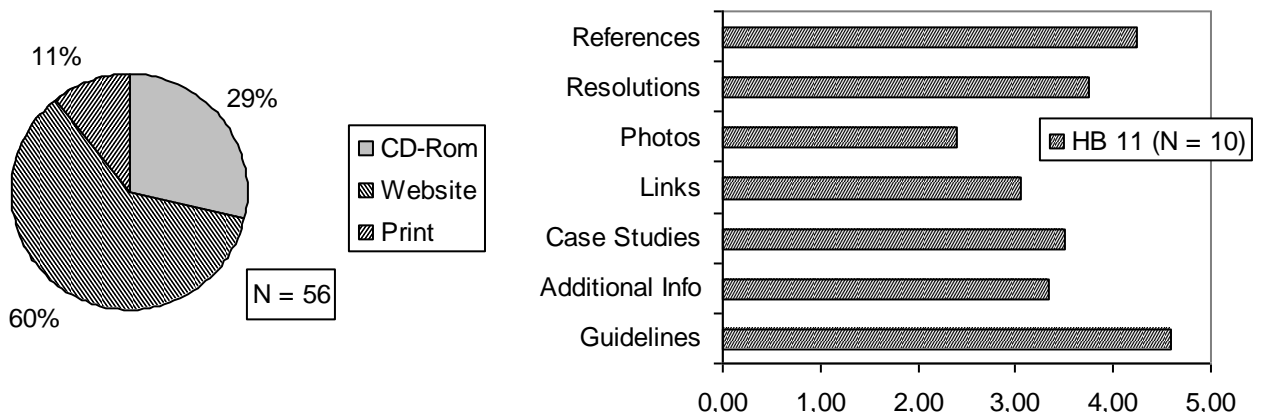
### 6.11 Handbook 11: Impact Assessment

This handbook is known by 58% of respondents, and is most useful for 4%. Again, most respondents (60%) obtained their copy through the website and (29%) via the CD-Rom. The references and guidelines are specifically appreciated elements.

This handbook is used as an assessment/evaluation or audit tool by almost all respondents (10 out of 11). It is also frequently used to instruct or advise others but is used relatively little to guide policy development or to remind government of its commitments.

The technical information in particular is appreciated, as well as the way it is targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers. Very few people indicated any options for improvement.

**6.11. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.**



<b>6.11.a Function</b>	<b>HB 11</b>
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	5
It influences my decisions and my actions	6
It is used to advise/instruct others	8
It is used for advocacy purposes	4
It guides policy development	3
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	4
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	10
Number of respondents	11

<b>6.11.b Positive aspects</b>	<b>HB 11</b>
The technical information	12
The wide range of topics covered	5
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	7
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	6
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	8
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	5
The fact that they are readily available on the website	7
Number of respondents	12

<b>6.11.c To be improved</b>	<b>HB 11</b>
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	1
The technical detail of the contents is too high	1
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	1
The range of topics covered is too limited	2
The thematic structure is illogical	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	1
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	3
They are not updated regularly enough	2
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	1
Other	0
Number of respondents	6

## **6.12 Handbook 12: Water Allocation and Management**

One of the least known handbooks (38% of respondents) and the favourite of only 1%, leading to very few responses for this handbook (4 people).

As for handbooks 3, 9, and 14, too few people have responded to justify conclusions to be drawn from their answers. Graphs have therefore not been provided here, please refer to Annex 4, Handbook 12 for detailed responses.

### 6.13 Handbook 13: Coastal Management

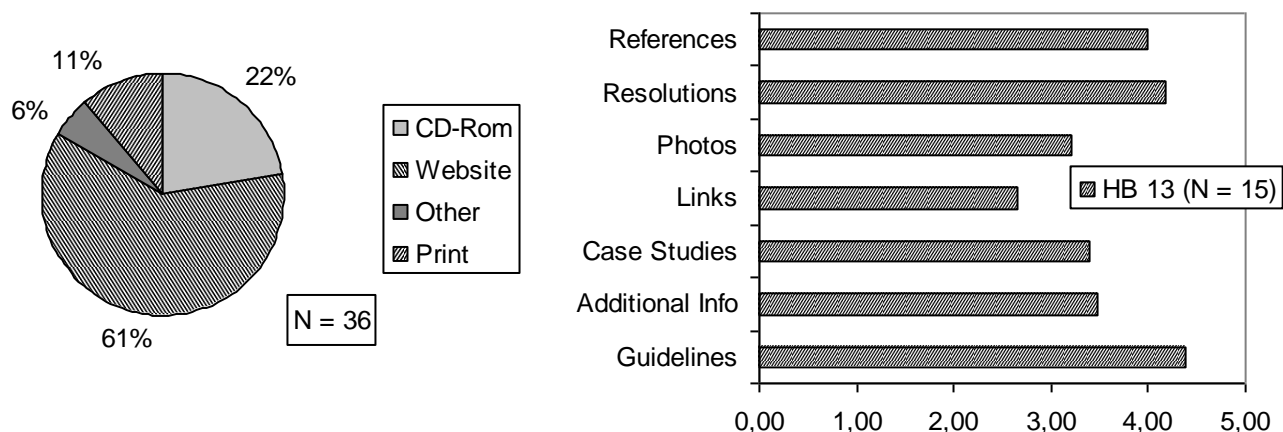
This Handbook is known by 52% of respondents and is considered by 6% to be among the most useful. It is primarily obtained through the website (61%), followed by the CD-Rom. The guidelines and resolutions are considered as especially useful elements of this handbook.

This handbook influences decisions and guides policy development, and it is also used to instruct or advise others. Advocacy is a less important function.

The technical information is the most appreciated (93%). People also value the fact that it is readily available on the website.

As for most handbooks, the language could be tailored more to practitioners, even though this is already an appreciated element.

**6.13. Source of this Handbook (pie chart, % for all users); and utility of each element (bar chart, score 1-5, 5 = highest). In the tables: specific function, positive characteristics and suggestions for improvement, in absolute numbers. For all questions, more than 1 answer was possible.**



6.13.a Function	HB 13
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	8
It influences my decisions and my actions	11
It is used to advise/instruct others	10
It is used for advocacy purposes	3
It guides policy development	10
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	6
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	6
Number of respondents	14

6.13.b Positive aspects	HB 13
The technical information	13
The wide range of topics covered	6
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	6
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs	7
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers	7
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	6
The fact that they are readily available on the website	9
Number of respondents	14

<b>6.13.c To be improved</b>	<b>HB 13</b>
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	2
The technical detail of the contents is too high	2
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0
The range of topics covered is too limited	2
The thematic structure is illogical	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical	3
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	8
They are not updated regularly enough	2
The lay-out/format is unattractive	1
It is difficult to find and access these documents	2
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	2
Other	1
Number of respondents	10

#### **6.14 Handbook 14: Peatlands**

This handbook is the least known of all, with only 32% of the respondents familiar with it. It is also the least favourite (1%). This is reflected in only 3 people responding to specific questions on this handbook.

As for handbooks 3, 9 and 12, too few people have responded to these questions to justify drawing conclusions from their answers. Instead of graphs being provided here, please refer to Annex 4, Handbook 14 for detailed responses.

## 7. Access to Ramsar Guidance

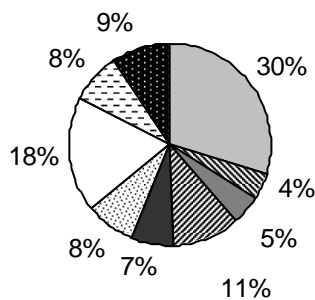
All respondents who use the Ramsar guidance (see chapter 3.1) were asked how they obtained it, and whether it was easy to gain access to the guidance.

### 7.1 First source of guidance

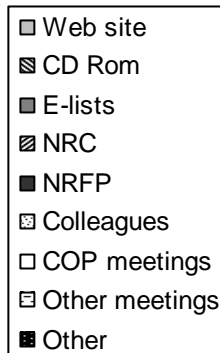
Out of 154 users of Ramsar guidance, there were 148 responses as to how they first obtained a copy of the guidance. It is clear that the Ramsar web site (see also chapter 8) is the main source (30%) through which people (first) learn about the Ramsar guidance.

Interestingly, respondents stated that the CD Roms produced for this purpose are used relatively little (4%). However, when asked more specifically in relation to each Handbook (see Chapter 6), around 20-25% indicated that the CD-Rom as a source of COP meetings are the second most important source. One would have expected colleagues to be important, but only 8% indicate them as a source.

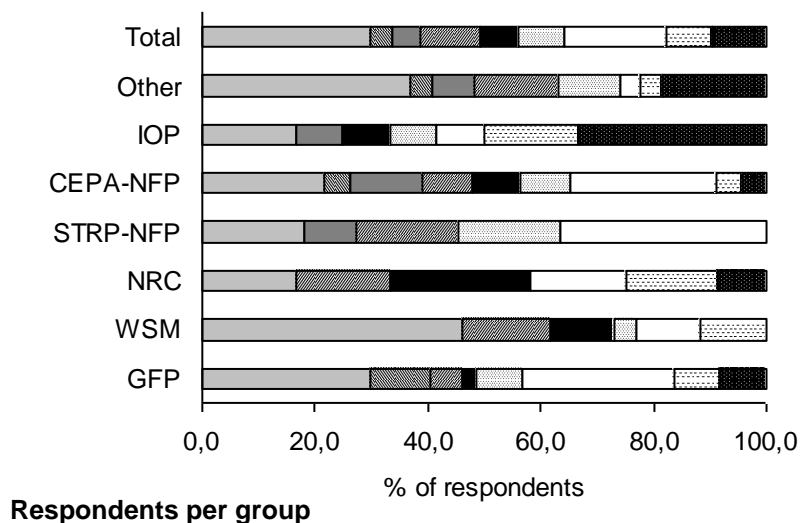
Looking at the bar chart and the table, it is clear that for most groups and especially WSMs the website is the most important source. There is relatively little use of colleagues or Ramsar contacts.



#### All respondents



**7.1 First source of guidance in % for all respondents (the pie chart); in % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**

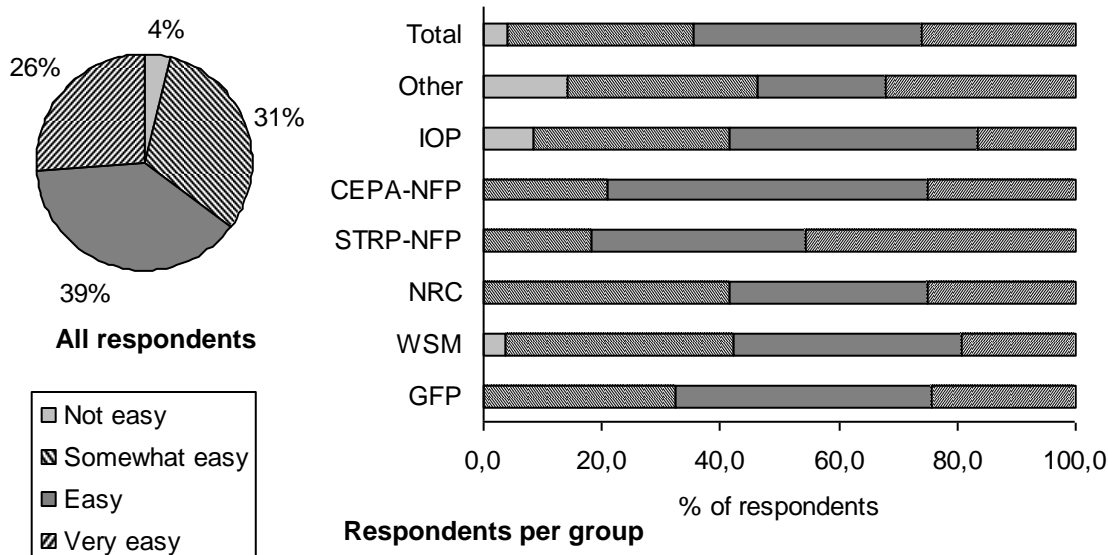


7.1 How did you first learn of the Ramsar guidance?	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Web site	11	12	2	2	5	2	10	44
CD Rom	4	0	0	0	1	0	1	6
E-lists	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	7
NRC	2	4	2	2	2	0	4	16
NRFP	1	3	3	0	2	1	0	10
Colleagues	3	1	0	2	2	1	3	12
COP meetings	10	3	2	4	6	1	1	27
Other meetings	3	3	2	0	1	2	1	12
Other	3	0	1	0	1	4	5	14
No answer	1	0	1	0	2	0	2	6
Total	38	26	13	11	25	12	29	154

## 7.2 Obtaining Ramsar guidance

Most respondents found it easy (39%) or even very easy (26%) to obtain copies of the Ramsar guidance. Looking at differences between groups, it would appear that NGOs, represented through the categories 'IOP' and 'Other', have more difficulty than the other groups. CEPA-NFP and STRP-NFP are the groups who find it easiest to obtain the guidance, while WSM (38%) and GFP (32%) often find it only 'somewhat easy'.

**7.2: Obtaining Ramsar guidance: in % for all respondents (the pie chart); in % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**

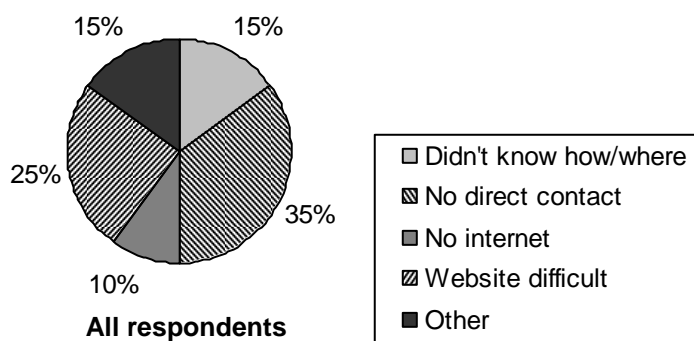


7.2 How easy was it for you to obtain Ramsar guidance?	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Not easy	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	6
Somewhat easy	12	10	5	2	5	4	9	47
Easy	16	10	4	4	13	5	6	58
Very easy	9	5	3	5	6	2	9	39
No answer	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4
Total	38	26	13	11	25	12	29	154

### 7.3 Difficulties obtaining guidance

Only very few respondents (20) who claimed to find it not easy or only somewhat easy to obtain the Ramsar guidance (chapter 7.2), answered this question. Of those, most indicated that a lack of direct contact with Ramsar representatives inhibits them from obtaining Ramsar guidance (35%). Respondents also found the website difficult to navigate in their search for guidance (see also chapter 8). None of the CEPA-NFP and STRP-NFP, or the NRC answered this question, which makes it difficult to draw final conclusions.

**7.3: Difficulties obtaining guidance: in % for all respondents (the pie chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**



7.3 If not/somewhat easy, why was it difficult to obtain Ramsar guidance?	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Didn't know how/where to access them	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	3
I had no direct contact with Ramsar representatives	1	1	0	0	0	1	4	7
I didn't have internet access	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
The website was difficult to navigate	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	5
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Total	3	5	0	0	0	1	11	20

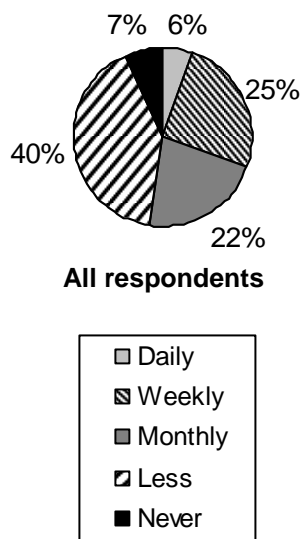
## 8. Ramsar Web site

All respondents to the questionnaire, both users and non-users of Ramsar guidance, were asked to comment on the Ramsar web site.

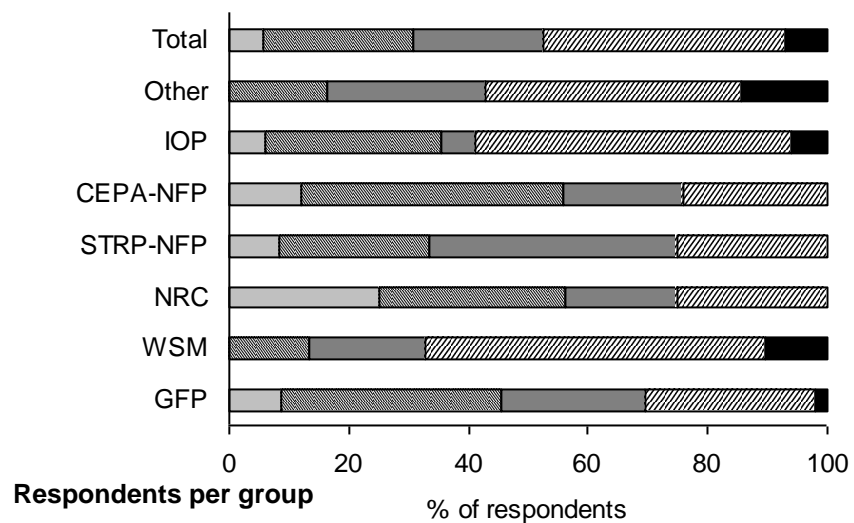
### 8.1 Frequency of visits

Only 7% of respondents never visit the Ramsar web site. Almost half visit the Ramsar web site weekly or monthly.

The majority of IOPs and WSMs visit the site less than monthly. NRC, CEPA-NFP and, to a lesser extent, GFP are the most frequent visitors (daily & weekly).



**8.1 Frequency of web site visits in % for all respondents (the pie chart); in % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**



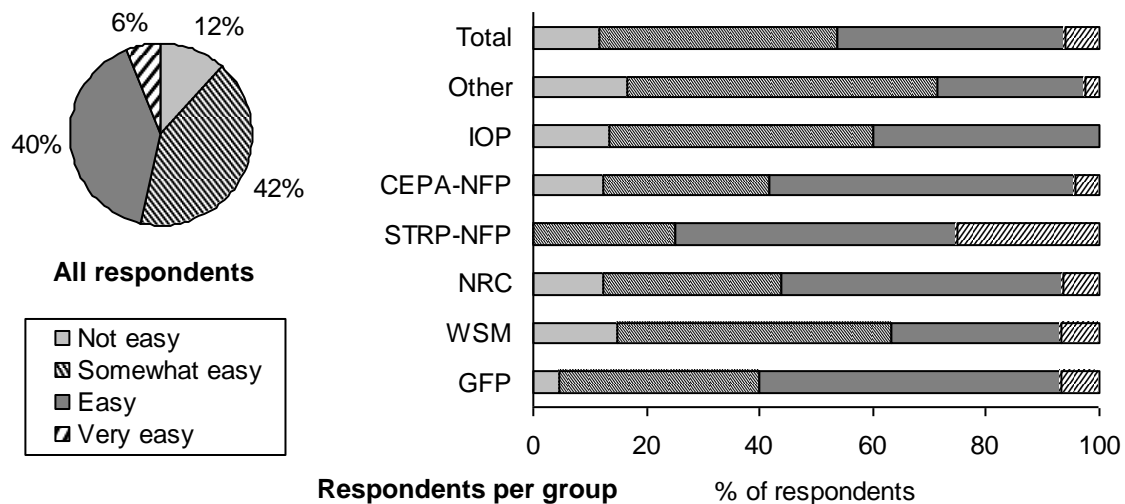
8.1. Frequency of web site visits	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Daily	4	0	4	1	3	1	0	13
Weekly	17	9	5	3	11	5	8	58
Monthly	11	13	3	5	5	1	13	51
Less	13	38	4	3	6	9	21	94
Never	1	7	0	0	0	1	7	16
No answer	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
Total	46	68	17	12	26	17	50	236

## 8.2 Ease of navigation

No clear picture emerges from the responses to the question as to how easy it is to find what they are looking for when navigating the Ramsar web site, 46% are positive: easy or very easy; while 54% are critical about navigation: 12% find it not easy, 42% only somewhat easy. Given the importance of the website for people as the main source of guidance (previous chapters), it means improvement to the website is needed.

WSM and 'Other' respondents, followed by IOP, are particularly critical. However, many WSMs did not answer this question. Most positive are the STRP-NFP, followed by GFPs and CEPA-NFP.

**8.2: Primary level of activity in % for all respondents (the pie chart); in % per group (bar chart) and in absolute numbers (table)**



8.2 How easy?	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
Not easy	2	9	2	0	3	2	7	25
Somewhat easy	16	29	5	3	7	7	23	90
Easy	24	18	8	6	13	6	11	86
Very easy	3	4	1	3	1	0	1	13
No answer	1	8	1	0	2	2	8	22
Total	46	68	17	12	26	17	50	236

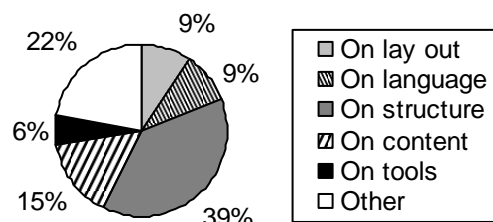
### 8.3. Suggested improvements

In total, 180 suggestions for improvements were made. The focus was primarily on the structure and organisation of the site (39%). This refers to the logical composition of the structure, to an index, map or upfront outline, and improved search facilities.

Please refer to table 8.3 for detailed suggestions. Looking at the different groups, WSMs in particular mention the structure/organisation of the site and the content should be improved.

Language issues are relatively rarely mentioned, but when they are, most (mainly WSM) ask to be better served in all three convention languages rather than including more additional languages.

**8.3 Suggested improvements to web site in % for all respondents (the pie chart); and in absolute numbers (table)**



**All respondents (in total 180 responses)**

8.3 Suggested improvements to the Ramsar web site										
Category	Total	Specific	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total
<b>On lay out</b>	17	Layout	2	5	2	0	1	3	4	17
<b>On language</b>	17	Better language	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
		Other language	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
		Convention languages	2	4	2	0	0	0	1	9
		Taylor info more	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	4
<b>On structure</b>	69	Structure/organisation	5	11	2	0	7	3	11	39
		Access/speed	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	5
		index/map/upfront outline	2	4	1	0	1	2	2	12
		Search facility improved	2	4	2	1	2	2	0	13
<b>On content</b>	27	Content	3	5	1	0	0	0	2	11
		Updating (frequency)	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	7
		summary/synergy main topics	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	4
		More activities/concrete guidance/report on them more	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	5
<b>On tools</b>	10	tools: e-tool/ newsletter/ direct contact/ participation in meetings	2	4	1	2	1	0	0	10
<b>Other</b>	40	Good as is	4	3	1	0	0	2	2	12
		No opinion	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	4
		Other*	2	11	1	1	2	2	5	24
<b>Total number of responses</b>	180		31	65	14	4	16	16	34	180

## 9. Summary per Group of Respondents

The previous chapters gave an overview of responses per topic/theme. In this chapter, a narrative summary of the key responses per group is provided.

### Government Focal Points (GFP)

This is the second largest group of identified respondents (46/236, 19%), after WSM, with many GFPs coming from Africa (37%). About 75% stated that Ramsar plays a significant or even very significant role in their work, which is mostly as they expected. Only one GFP would like this to become less in the future, most expect it to become even more important. 83% of them use Ramsar guidance.

This seems a high number, but nevertheless it means that 17% of GFPs, who are so closely involved in Ramsar matters, never use the Ramsar guidance and therefore can not pass it on to others. Compared with other groups, the GFP relatively frequently obtain guidance through COP meetings. Although 10% used the CD Rom, which seems low, it is more than in other groups. The web site is the main source, and GFP are frequent visitors: almost half of them visit the website weekly or even daily.

Of the guidance users, 84% use the COP Resolutions and Recommendations and almost 70% find them useful, a relatively large group. Not many specified which individual Resolutions they use, but of those who did, most mention COP 9 Resolutions, more specifically IX.1A and IX.1E. Resolution VII.6 was also mentioned several times, as was VIII.6. Relatively frequently, GFP use the resolutions for policy development and to remind their government of its commitments.

Looking at the Handbooks, GFP are among the most positive. Handbooks 1, 2, 7 and 10 are the best known, while Handbooks 1, 2, 8 and 7 are considered the most useful. In Handbook 1, on Wise Use, the guidelines are most appreciated. Although it should be tailored more to practitioners, its technical contents are valued positively and it guides thinking on wetland issues. Handbook 2, on National Wetland Policies, is also appreciated for its guidelines, but appears to be used more for policy development.

### Wetland Site Managers (WSM)

WSM form the largest group of respondents (68/236, 30%), with most coming from Europe and North-America. Most (54%) are active at the local level. About half of them work on day-to-day wetland site management, whereas 41% focus primarily on the policy or oversight of wetland site management.

Over half, or 62% state that Ramsar plays no or an only somewhat significant role in their work. Many had expected more and expect this to change in the future. This group is also the only group where the majority (60%) does NOT use Ramsar guidance. Partly, this is because they have limited access to the guidance. Another third is not aware of its existence and approximately 10% do not find it useful.

Among those who do use the guidance, approximately 25%, perhaps less than expected, obtained copies through the NRC or the NRFP. Most obtained it through the web site, more than other groups. Their frequency of visits to the web site however, is lower than most groups: 75% visit monthly or less. Perhaps this is explained partly by the fact that more than half do not find the web site easy, or only somewhat easy, to navigate. Suggestions for improvement are mainly in the area of structure and organisation of the site, the index used and the search facility provided.

Among the users, 61% use the Handbooks more frequently than the Resolutions. In fact, 69% use the COP Resolutions; while 85% use the Handbooks. All WSM who do not use the Resolutions DO use the Handbooks. Among the Resolution users, 28% find them only somewhat useful, which is countered by a similar percentage finding them very useful. Resolutions IX.1C and IX.1E were most frequently specified, followed by VIII.16 and VII.18. The Resolutions guide their thinking, and also influence decisions. While the website is also the most popular source for all respondents, for the WSM it is the only source mentioned for obtaining copies of the Resolutions.

85% of WSM use Handbooks, and among them, over 75% find them useful or very useful. Together with CEPA-NFP, this is the only group where less than half are aware that the Handbooks are updated after every COP. The WSM are most familiar with Handbooks 1, 8 and 7; while they consider Handbooks 1, 8, 2 and 5 the most useful. The relevant resolutions that HB 1 brings together is the most useful element, and the fact that it brings structure to the Ramsar guidance is more appreciated by this group. HB 8, on Managing Wetlands, is appreciated for its technical information, yet the technical detail of the contents is not considered high enough by half of the respondents.

### **National Ramsar Committee (NRC)**

As expected, their prime activities are at national level. Over 80% state that Ramsar plays a significant or even very significant role in their work. 75% use the guidance provided by Ramsar, but let it guide their thinking less than other groups. Similar to GFP, it is interesting that up to 25% of the NRC do not use the guidance, despite their central role in national implementation of the Ramsar convention.

Among the users, ALL (100%) use the COP Resolutions/Recommendations. They are also the most positive: only one respondent finds them 'somewhat useful'. Not many specific Resolutions were mentioned, though IX.1C was mentioned several times. Relatively frequently, like STRP-NFP, the NRC use the Resolutions as a tool for assessments, evaluations or audits.

Handbooks 1, 8 and 11 are best known, while Handbooks 8, 1 and 10 are considered most useful. In both Handbooks 1 and 8, the GFP appreciate the guidelines and the technical information provided. They frequently visit the website: 53% does so weekly or daily.

### **Scientific and Technical Review Panel – National Focal Points (STRP-NFP)**

Surprisingly, 25% of the STRP-NFP respondents stated that Ramsar does not play a significant role for them, which does not correspond with the Convention role for which they are appointed by GFPs. This attitude may be why there is a relatively low number of respondents for this group: 12. Except for one, all STRP respondents use Ramsar guidance. Compared with other groups, many STRP-NFP obtain their copies through COP meetings, more often than through the web site. Those who do use the website, find it easy or very easy to navigate.

STRP-NFP feel guided in their thinking by the guidance less than other groups. Instead, they use it as a tool for assessments, evaluations or audits, relatively more so than the other groups. They also mention this when looking specifically at the Resolutions. Most STRP-NFP use both the Handbooks and the Resolutions equally frequently. 90% of the users use the Resolutions, and half find them useful, some even very useful. No specific Resolutions were used more than others.

Handbooks 1 and 7, followed by 2, 8 and 10, are the best known. Handbook 10 is considered most useful, followed by Handbooks 7 and 8.

### **Communication, Education and Public Awareness – National Focal Points (CEPA-NFP)**

Many of the CEPA-NFP are active at the national level (17 out of 36 or 38%). This group also has the highest percentage of users of Ramsar guidance: 96%. The CEPA-NFPs use a variety of sources to obtain guidance, and seem to use e-lists more often than others, possibly reflecting the utility of the Ramsar CEPA e-list. They also visit the website frequently: 54% weekly or even daily. Almost 60% find the web site easy or very easy to navigate. However, 13% find it not easy to navigate.

About a third of the CEPA-NFP use the Handbooks more often than the Resolutions, almost half use both types equally. All of CEPA-NFP who do not use the Resolutions do use the Handbooks. The users of the Resolutions (80%) are relatively critical: 35% find them only somewhat useful, a relatively large group. Resolution VIII.25 was mentioned several times as being frequently used, otherwise Resolutions were mentioned just once or twice.

While overall very positive about the Handbooks, this is the only group where one respondent stated that the Handbooks are NOT useful. Only half of CEPA-NFP are aware of the Handbooks being updated after every COP. Handbooks 6, 1 and 8 are the best known, while Handbooks 1 and 6, followed by Handbooks 5 and 7, are considered the most useful. In HB 1, on Wise Use, the CEPA-NFP value the guidelines as well as the case studies highly, especially compared with the other groups. Perhaps not surprisingly, they use it to guide their thinking and to advise/instruct others. They appreciate the wide range of topics covered and the way it brings structure to the Ramsar guidance. Nevertheless, they also feel the language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers. HB 6, on Wetland CEPA, which is the best known by this group is appreciated highly for its guidelines.

### **International Organisation Partners (IOP)**

This is the group with the highest response from Asia (7 out of 17, or 41%). Not surprisingly, the IOP are more often active at the international level than any other group. IOP state that Ramsar guidance guides their thinking. Similar to the STRP-NFP, they do not use Ramsar guidance so much to influence their decisions, but rather as a tool for assessments, evaluations or audits, relatively more so than the other groups. This group visits the website less often than others; the majority visit less than monthly.

75% use the Resolutions and compared with other groups they are the most critical: over half find them only somewhat useful. Very few indicated which specific Resolutions they referred to. More than other groups, IOP use the Resolutions to advise others and for advocacy purposes. All IOP who use the Resolutions also use the Handbooks. Handbooks 1, 4, 8 and 10 are best known, while Handbooks 5 and 8 are considered most useful, followed by 1 and 2.

### **Other**

This group, containing a mixture of NGOs and independent experts or scientists, had 50 respondents. Only 58% use the guidance provided by Ramsar. Of those who do, the majority use the Handbooks more often than the Resolutions. Many of them obtained their copies through the web site, despite the fact that this group has the highest number of respondents who never visit the website (14%).

59% of guidance users use the Resolutions, which is a relatively small group. Also, this group is relatively critical of the Resolutions, with a third finding them only somewhat useful. Very few respondents in this group stated which specific Resolutions they referred to. Handbooks 1, 8 and 2 are the best known, while 1, 8 followed by 6 and 7 are considered the most useful. In both HB 1, on Wise Use, and HB 8, on Managing Wetlands, it is the guidelines and the technical information that are most appreciated.

## Annex 1: Questionnaire



### RAMSAR GUIDANCE: An Evaluation of Use & Utility

**Subject:** **Request to all Wetland Professionals** [and specifically Ramsar Administrative Authority National Focal Points, Wetland Site Managers, National Ramsar or Wetland Committee members, Ramsar STRP National Focal Points, Ramsar CEPA National Focal Points, Ramsar IOPs and NGO Representatives], **to assist in an evaluation of the Use & Utility of Ramsar Guidance**

Gland, Switzerland, 26 April 2007

Dear Wetland Professional,

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is evaluating the guidance it has been providing to Contracting Parties and other Partners in the past decade and before. This guidance is provided through documents approved at the Conferences of the Parties, including Resolutions and Recommendations, as well as the related Ramsar Handbook series.

As a wetland professional and possible user of this guidance, we would be grateful if you would contribute to this important evaluation by filling in the attached list of questions. We estimate it will take at most 10-15 minutes of your time.

Since we do not have contact with many site managers or National Ramsar/Wetland Committee members, we would also appreciate your assistance in passing on this survey to these people in your county.

Please submit the questionnaire, even if incomplete or if you do not regularly use any Ramsar guidance. This will allow us to improve the guidance we provide to you and serve you even better in the future. We will report back to you on the results of this evaluation in due time on our website.

Important: your answers will be used for analysis by our consultant, Ms Gwen van Boven, only and will not be shared with the Ramsar Secretariat. The questionnaire can therefore be considered anonymous. Your name is asked in the questionnaire since there is a possibility the Consultant may wish to contact you for further clarifications at a later stage of the survey, **but please be assured it will not be shared with any other person.** Therefore make sure to submit the completed questionnaire **before 26 June 2007** and **to Ms Gwen van Boven ONLY**, at the address provided below.

We are looking forward to your response and thank you in advance for your contribution!

Yours sincerely,

Nick Davidson  
Deputy Secretary General  
Ramsar Convention Secretariat

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!**

Send your answers (preferably by e-mail) before 26 June 2007 to:

SPAN Consultants Bezuidenhoutseweg 1 2594 AB The Hague The Netherlands	Attn. Ms. Gwen van Boven <a href="mailto:vanboven@span.nl">vanboven@span.nl</a> Telephone: +31 (0)70 750 4808 Fax: +31 (0)70 750 4818
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**SECTION 1: PERSONAL DATA<sup>1</sup>**

<b>A. Name:</b>								
<b>B. Organisation:</b>								
<b>C. Position:</b>								
<b>D. Relation to Ramsar (check one):</b>	Government Focal Point	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetland Site Manager	<input type="checkbox"/>	National Ramsar / Wetland Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	STRP National Focal Point <sup>2</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	CEPA Focal Point <sup>3</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	IOP Representative <sup>4</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other, namely:			
<b>E. Address:</b>								
<b>F. Country:</b>								
<b>G. Email:</b>								
<b>H. Telephone:</b>								
<b>I. Fax:</b>								

**1J. At what level are you primarily active in your work?** (only one answer possible)

National     Regional     Local

**1K. If you indicated you are a Wetland Site Manager at question 1D, which description would fit your work best?**

(Only one answer possible)

- Wetland site management oversight / policy  
 Day-to-day wetland site management  
 Other, namely:

**1L. Through which contact or network did you get this questionnaire?**

(Only one answer possible)

- Ramsar Secretariat  
 Government Focal Point  
 CEPA National Focal Point  
 STRP National Focal Point  
 NGO, namely:  
 Other, namely:

<sup>1</sup> As indicated in the separate covering letter: please note that this information will be used for analysis by the Consultant **only**. In that sense, the questionnaire can be considered anonymous. Your name is asked in the questionnaire since there is a possibility the Consultant may wish to contact you for further clarifications at a later stage of the survey, **but please be assured it will not be shared with any other person.**

<sup>2</sup> The STRP is Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel

<sup>3</sup> CEPA: Communication, Education & Public Awareness

<sup>4</sup> Ramsar's International Organisation Partners, or IOPs, are Birdlife International, Wetlands International, IWMI, WWF and IUCN.

**SECTION 2: CONTEXTUAL QUESTIONS**

**2A. Does Ramsar play a significant role in your professional life?**

(only one answer possible)

- Not significant
- Somewhat significant
- Significant
- Very significant

**2B. Does this meet your expectations?**

- Yes
- No
- Neutral

**2C. In the future, would you like this significance to become:**

- Less
- Same
- More

**2D. In which Ramsar thematic area are you most interested?**

Please list, in order of importance, up to 5 thematic areas. This is an open question, you are free to respond in your own words:

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

**2E. Do you use Ramsar guidance (such as resolutions, recommendations, and handbooks) at all?**

- Yes
- No

**2F. If not, why do you not use the Ramsar Guidance?**

(only one answer possible)

- I am not aware of its existence
- I don't know how/where to access the guidance
- It is not available in a suitable language for me
- Its is not useful for me
- Other, namely:

► **If you answered 'No' to question 2E, please make sure to answer 2F and continue to section 6 on page 6**

**2G. If yes, what general function does this guidance have for you?**

(more than one answer possible)

- It guides my thinking about wetland related issues
- It influences my decisions and my actions
- It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool
- Other, namely:

**2H. Which of the following two types of guidance do you use more frequently?**

- The COP Resolutions / Recommendations
- The Ramsar Handbook Series
- Both equally frequent

**2I. Why?**  Out of habit  Easy access  Quality of contents  Quality of format  Other, namely:

**SECTION 3: USE OF COP RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Conferences of Parties (COP) adopt Resolutions and, in the past, Recommendations. These form the core of the guidance provided to the Parties, and are available on CD-Rom & the Ramsar website.

**3A. Do you use the COP Resolutions / Recommendations in your work?**  Yes  No

► **If you answered 'No' to this question, please continue to section 4 on page 4**

**3B. If yes, how useful do you find the COP Resolutions / Recommendations as guidance in your work?**

(only one answer possible)

- Not useful
- Somewhat useful
- Useful
- Very useful

**3C. Which COP Resolutions / Recommendations do you consider most useful?**

Over the past decades, the Ramsar Conference of Parties has adopted over 250 resolutions / recommendations. Obviously, too many to list here without taking a lot of your time. Nevertheless, we would like to know your opinion.

In order of importance, please list the 5 resolutions / recommendations you personally find most useful, and indicate whether you obtained them through CD-Rom or through the website.

	<b>COP Resolution / Recommendation (number and title)</b>	<b>Through CD-Rom</b>	<b>Through Website</b>	<b>Other, namely:</b>
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

**3D. What function do these COP Resolutions / Recommendations specifically have for you?**

(more than one answer possible)

- They guide my thinking about wetland issues
- They influence my decisions and my actions
- They are used to advise/instruct others
- They are used for advocacy purposes
- They guide policy development
- They are used to remind our government of its commitments
- They are used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool
- Other, namely:

**3E. What would you like to see improved to the COP Resolutions / Recommendations in general? Check the statements with which you agree:**

(more than one answer possible)

- The technical detail of the contents is not high enough
- The technical detail of the contents is too high
- The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse
- The range of topics covered is too limited
- The language used is too complex, it should be simpler
- The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers
- The lay-out/format is unattractive
- It is difficult to find and access these documents
- Other, namely:

**3F. How would you like to see this improved? (explain in your own words)**

•

**SECTION 4: USE OF RAMSAR HANDBOOK SERIES**

In addition to the COP Resolutions / Recommendations, which we dealt with in the previous section, Ramsar also provides its guidance in the form of the Ramsar Handbook Series, which are available on CD-Rom and on the Ramsar website.

**4A. Do you use the Handbooks in your work?**  Yes  No

► **If you answered ‘No’ to this question, please continue to section 5 on page 6**

**4B. If yes, how useful do you find the Ramsar Handbook Series as guidance in your work?**

(only one answer possible)

- Not useful
- Somewhat useful
- Useful
- Very useful

**4C. Did you know the Handbooks are being updated after every COP?**  Yes  No

**4D. With which of the following 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Handbooks are you familiar? And if so, how did you obtain a copy?** Please check the appropriate box

Handbook Code	Handbook Title	Familiar? Yes/No	Through CD-Rom	Through Website	Other, namely:
1	Wise use of wetlands				
2	National Wetland Policies				
3	Laws and institutions				
4	River basin management				
5	Participatory management				
6	Wetland CEPA				
7	Designating Ramsar Sites				
8	Managing wetlands				
9	International cooperation				
10	Wetland inventory				
11	Impact assessment				
12	Water allocation and management				
13	Coastal management				
14	Peatlands				

**4E. Which Handbooks do you consider most useful in your work?**

In order of importance, starting with the most important, please list up to 3 Handbooks you personally find most useful:

Handbook number	Handbook title

► **The following questions focus on the handbooks you selected above in 4E. You do not need to repeat their titles but please make sure to maintain the same handbook number and order in all answers!**

**4F. Of the 3 Handbooks you selected under 4E, how useful is each element to you?**

Each Handbook consists of more or less the same elements: the Guidelines (usually adopted as an Annex to a COP Resolution), boxes with Additional Information and with Case Studies, Links to other Handbooks, Photo's, Relevant Resolution(s), and References.

For each Handbook, please grade each element on a scale from 1-5 (5 = most useful)

<b>Handbook number</b> (please copy numbers you selected in 4E):			
Guidelines			
Additional Information			
Case Studies			
Links to other Handbooks			
Photo's			
Relevant Resolutions			
References			
Other, namely:			

**4G. What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above have for you? Please check one or more of the possible answers, or add a reason of your own**

<b>Handbook number</b> (please copy numbers you selected in 4E):			
It guides my thinking about wetland issues			
It influences my decisions and my actions			
It is used to advise/instruct others			
It is used for advocacy purposes			
It guides policy development			
It is used to remind our government of its commitments			
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool			
Other, namely:			

**4H. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above? Please check one or more of the possible answers, or add a reason of your own**

<b>Handbook number</b> (please copy numbers you selected in 4E):			
The technical information			
The wide range of topics covered			
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance			
They link decisions/ guidance across several COPs			
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy makers			
Their format/layout with info boxes and photos			
The fact that they are readily available on the website			
Other, namely:			

**4I. What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above? Check the statements with which you agree, or add one of your own:**

<b>Handbook number</b> (please copy numbers you selected in 4E):			
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough			
The technical detail of the contents is too high			
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse			
The range of topics covered is too limited			
The thematic structure is illogical			
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler and more practical			
The language should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers			
They are not updated regularly enough			
The lay-out/format is unattractive			

It is difficult to find and access these documents			
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?			
Other, namely:			

**4J. Which thematic area/topic would you like to get more guidance on from Ramsar? (explain in your own words)**

- 
- 
- 

**SECTION 5: ACCESS TO RAMSAR GUIDANCE**

**5A. How did you first learn of the Ramsar guidance that you are familiar with?**

(only one answer possible)

- At the COP Meetings
- Through the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee
- At other Ramsar or related Meetings
- CD-Rom
- Website
- E-lists/correspondence
- Through our National Ramsar Focal Point
- Through colleagues
- Other, namely:

**5B. How easy was it for you to obtain the Ramsar guidance?**

(only one answer possible)

- Not easy
- Somewhat easy
- Easy
- Very easy

**5C. If not easy, why was it difficult to obtain the Ramsar guidance?**

(more than one answer possible)

- I don't know how/where to access them
- I have no direct contact with Ramsar representatives
- I don't have Internet access
- The website is difficult to navigate
- Other, namely:

**SECTION 6: USING THE RAMSAR WEBSITE**

**6A. How often do you visit the Ramsar Website?**

(only one answer possible)

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Less
- Never

**6B. When navigating the Ramsar website, how easy is it to find what you're looking for?**

(only one answer possible)

- Not easy
- Somewhat easy
- Easy

Very easy

**6C. How would you like to see this improved? (explain in your own words)**

- 
- 
-

## Annex 2: How the report corresponds with the questionnaire

The chapters in the report refer to the questions in the questionnaire as follows:

*Note: the information in brackets (..) indicates where a more specific analysis has been made for that part of the group who provided a certain answer only (answer between brackets)*

1.1: 1D	
1.2: 1F	
1.3: 1J	5.1: 2E (Yes) + 4A
1.4: 1K	5.2: 2E (Yes) + 4A (Yes) + 4B
1.5: 1L	5.3: 2E (Yes) + 4A (Yes) + 4C
1.6: # questionnaires	5.4: 2E (Yes) + 4A (Yes) + 4D 5.5: 2E (Yes) + 4A (Yes) + 4E
2.1: 2A	6.1 – 6. 14
2.2: 2B	<i>These paragraphs have all</i>
2.3: 2C	<i>been set as follows:</i>
	6.1 Pie chart = 4D
	6.2 Bar chart = 4F
3.1 : 2E	6.3 Table 'Function' = 4G
3.2 : 2E (No) + 2F	6.4 Table 'Positive' = 4H
3.3: 2E (Yes) + 2G	6.5 Table 'To improve' = 4I
3.4: 2E (Yes) + 2H	
3.5: 2E (Yes) + 2I	
3.6: 2D	7.1: 2E (Yes) + 5A 7.2: 2E (Yes) + 5B 7.3: 2E (Yes) + 5C
4.1: 2E (Yes) + 3A	
4.2: 2E (Yes) + 3A (Yes) + 3B	
4.3: 3C	8.1: 6A
4.4: 2E (Yes) + 3A (Yes) + 3C	8.2: 6B
4.5: 2E (Yes) + 3A (Yes) + 3D	8.3: 6C
4.6: 2E (Yes) + 3A (Yes) + 3E	
(Narrative part: 2E (Yes) + 3A (Yes) + 3F)	
4.7: 2E (Yes) + 3A (Yes) + 4A (Yes)	

### Annex 3: Utility of Resolutions

Which Resolutions do you find most Useful?

GFP		Times mentioned				
	COP	1x	2x	3x	4x	5x
	IV	10				
	V	5, 6, 7				
	VI	1, 9				
	VII	11, 18, 25	19, all		6	
	VIII	4, 7, 8, 14, 22, 25, 32, 33	13, 16, all	6		
	IX	2, 6, 8, 13, 23	1, 4, 5, 7, 19, 21, 22, all	1B, 14, 15	1E	1A

WSM		Times mentioned				
	COP	1x	2x	3x	4x	5x
	IV	10				
	V	7				
	VI	1				
	VII	6, 10, 20	7, 14	18		
	VIII	4, 6, 8, 14, 20, 22, 23, 31, 32		16		
	IX	1B, 1D, 3, 4, 6	1, 1A, 14	1E	1C	

NRC		Times mentioned				
	COP	1x	2x	3x	4x	5x
	IV					
	V					
	VI	5				
	VII	6, 11				
	VIII	1, 11, 13, 31, 35	6, 14			
	IX	1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, 6, 13, 15, 21, 22	1, 1E, 7	1C		

STRP-NFP		Times mentioned				
	COP	1x	2x	3x	4x	5x
	IV	10				
	V	3, 6, 7				
	VI	4, 13				
	VII	8, 10, 11	18			
	VIII	4, 6, 10, 11, 14, 16, 30, 38, 40, 45				
	IX	1E, 11, 15, 17, 21, 23, 24	1A, 1B			

**CEPA-NFP**

	Times mentioned				
COP	1x	2x	3x	4x	5x
IV					
V					
VI	2				
VII	6, 8, 10, 20, 31	9			
VIII	1, 6, 12, 14, 17, 20, 22, 24, 34	19, 31, 36		25	
IX	1A, 1E, 4, 7, 9, 18, 22	1, 1C			

**IOP**

	Times mentioned				
COP	1x	2x	3x	4x	5x
IV					
V					
VI					
VII	9, 18, all				
VIII	4, 11, all	14			
IX	1, 1A, 1C, all				

**Other**

	Times mentioned				
COP	1x	2x	3x	4x	5x
IV					
V	1				
VI	3, 4				
VII	21, 22				
VIII	13, 14, 18, 37, 38	3			
IX	1A, 1E, 1F, 5	1B, 1C, 23			

## Annex 4: Utility of the Handbooks

This annex provides tables with detailed information on the use and utility of each of the 14 Handbooks, according to the following questions:

- 6.1. How did you obtain each handbook?
- 6.2. How useful is each element? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)
- 6.3. What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?
- 6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?
- 6.5. What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?

Answers are provided for the entire set of respondents (total number in last column) as well as per group. The numbers of respondents in each group vary greatly for each Handbook and for individual questions within each Handbook, therefore total numbers for each question are given in the last row. Respondents were broken down into the following groups:

GFP	Government Focal Points
WSM	Wetland Site Managers
NRC	National Ramsar Committee
STRP-NFP	Scientific and Technical Review Panel – National Focal Point
CEPA-NFP	Communication, Education and Public Awareness – National Focal Point
IOP	International Organisation Partner
Other	Other

In the main text a summary of these results has been included for each handbook.

## Handbook 1

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	3	1	1	1	2	0	2	10
CD-Rom	4	4	3	5	1	0	5	22
Website	11	13	6	3	4	7	12	56
Other	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
All	3	0	0	0	5	0	1	9
Print	5	1	0	0	5	3	1	15
No answer	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Total # times mentioned	28	19	11	10	19	10	22	119

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								Average
Guidelines	4,07	3,71	4,00	4,50	4,67	4,75	4,11	4,26
Additional information	3,47	3,85	3,50	3,00	3,25	3,67	3,50	3,46
Case studies	3,29	3,50	3,00	3,00	4,11	4,00	3,43	3,48
Links to other Handbooks	3,00	3,54	3,17	4,00	3,86	2,00	3,14	3,24
Photo's	3,08	2,69	3,50	2,50	3,17	1,33	2,57	2,69
Relevant resolutions	3,46	4,07	3,14	4,00	3,88	3,33	3,67	3,65
References	3,31	3,46	3,83	4,00	3,44	3,33	3,00	3,48
# respondents	15	14	7	2	9	4	9	60

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	13	10	6	2	9	2	7	49
It influences my decisions and my actions	11	8	5	1	5	1	3	34
It is used to advise/instruct others	11	10	5	2	8	4	6	46
It is used for advocacy purposes	7	4	4	1	7	2	3	28
It guides policy development	9	6	5	1	5	1	5	32
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	7	5	4	2	4	2	3	27
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	5	6	4	1	3	0	3	22
# respondents	16	12	6	2	10	4	9	59

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	10	11	6	1	6	3	4	41
The wide range of topics covered	9	5	2	1	9	0	2	28
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	9	11	4	2	9	2	5	42
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	8	6	2	1	4	2	2	25
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	9	8	4	2	8	4	6	41
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	8	6	1	1	4	1	2	23
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	8	10	4	1	5	2	6	36
# respondents	15	14	6	2	10	4	8	59

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	3	7	2	1	1	1	1	16
The technical detail of the contents is too high	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	4
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	1	1	2	0	2	1	2	9
The range of topics covered is too limited	2	4	0	0	2	0	1	9
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	3	2	2	0	1	1	0	9
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	9	9	2	0	5	3	3	31
They are not updated regularly enough	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	6
The lay-out/format is unattractive	1	2	1	0	1	2	1	8
It is difficult to find and access these documents	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	3	3	1	0	1	2	0	10
Other	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
# respondents	12	15	4	2	7	4	5	49

## Handbook 2

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	2	1	0	1	2	1	0	7
CD-Rom	3	4	2	5	3	0	3	20
Website	15	9	3	2	1	3	10	43
Other	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
All	2	0	0	0	3	0	1	6
Print	4	0	0	0	3	1	0	8
No answer	0	0	0	0	4	3	2	9
Total # times mentioned	28	14	5	9	16	8	16	96

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	4,50	4,25	5,00		4,00	3,50	5,00	4,38
Additional information	2,88	4,00	4,00		3,00	3,50	2,50	3,31
Case studies	3,13	4,00	4,00		4,00	3,00	3,00	3,52
Links to other Handbooks	2,63	2,67	4,00		3,00	2,33	3,50	3,02
Photo's	2,75	2,50	5,00		4,00	1,67	1,00	2,82
Relevant resolutions	4,00	3,33	5,00		4,00	3,50	2,50	3,72
References	3,29	3,33	5,00		3,50	3,75	2,00	3,48
# respondents	9	4	1	0	2	4	2	22

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	5	5	1	0	2	1	3	17
It influences my decisions and my actions	4	4	1	0	1	1	1	12
It is used to advise/instruct others	3	4	1	0	1	1	2	12
It is used for advocacy purposes	3	3	1	0	0	2	1	10
It guides policy development	9	5	1	0	3	2	2	22
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	5	4	1	0	0	4	1	15
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	2	5	1	0	1	0	0	9
# respondents	9	6	1	0	3	4	4	27

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	3	5	1	0	2	3	2	16
The wide range of topics covered	2	2	1	0	2	0	0	7
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	5	4	1	0	2	3	1	16
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	1	4	1	0	1	2	2	11
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	4	4	1	0	3	1	3	16
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	2	2	1	0	1	1	1	8
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	3	2	1	0	2	3	1	12
# respondents	8	6	1	0	3	4	3	25

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
The technical detail of the contents is too high	3	2	0	0	2	0	0	7
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	5
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The thematic structure is illogical	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	7
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	4	3	0	0	2	1	1	11
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
The lay-out/format is unattractive	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	6	6	1	0	2	2	1	18

### Handbook 3

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	4
CD-Rom	3	2	0	2	0	0	3	10
Website	7	6	3	1	1	1	5	24
Other	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
All	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
Print	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	5
No answer	0	1	0	0	4	3	2	10
Total # times mentioned	15	9	3	4	9	7	11	58

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	5,00	5,00					5,00	5,00
Additional information	3,00	2,00					4,00	3,00
Case studies	4,00						5,00	4,50
Links to other Handbooks	0,00						5,00	2,50
Photo's	0,00						1,00	0,50
Relevant resolutions	0,00	2,00					3,00	1,67
References	0,00	3,00					4,00	2,33
# respondents	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	4

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
It influences my decisions and my actions	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
It is used to advise/instruct others	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It is used for advocacy purposes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It guides policy development	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	4
The wide range of topics covered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
# respondents	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	4

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The technical detail of the contents is too high	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3

## Handbook 4

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	5
CD-Rom	3	4	2	5	2	0	4	20
Website	7	9	4	2	1	5	5	33
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
All	2	0	0	0	3	0	1	6
Print	3	0	0	0	3	2	0	8
No answer	1	0	0	0	4	1	1	7
Total # times mentioned	18	14	6	7	14	9	13	81

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	4,00	3,50	3,00	5,00	2,00	3,00	4,50	3,57
Additional information	4,00	3,50	4,00	5,00	5,00	4,00	4,00	4,21
Case studies	3,00	3,00	3,00	5,00	5,00	2,00	5,00	3,71
Links to other Handbooks	5,00	4,50	4,00	3,00	2,00	2,00	3,00	3,36
Photo's	4,00	4,50	5,00	1,00	2,00	1,00	1,00	2,64
Relevant resolutions	5,00	4,50	4,00	3,00	5,00	3,00	4,00	4,07
References	3,00	4,00	5,00	0,00	2,00	2,00	4,00	2,86
# respondents	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	10

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	6
It influences my decisions and my actions	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	4
It is used to advise/instruct others	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	8
It is used for advocacy purposes	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	4
It guides policy development	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	5
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	5
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	1	0	1	0	1	2	0	5
# respondents	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	10

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	6
The wide range of topics covered	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	7
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	5
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	8
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	5
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	4
# respondents	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	10

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
The technical detail of the contents is too high	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
The range of topics covered is too limited	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	6
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	7

## Handbook 5

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	0	0	1	0	2	1	2	6
CD-Rom	2	2	0	3	3	0	3	13
Website	11	11	3	1	2	4	3	35
Other	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
All	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	5
Print	3	0	0	0	2	1	1	7
No answer	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	6
Total # times mentioned	20	13	4	6	15	6	11	75

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	3,50	4,25	4,50		3,20	4,00	5,00	4,08
Additional information	3,00	3,00	3,00		4,00	3,33	4,00	3,39
Case studies	3,25	4,00	5,00		3,83	4,33	4,00	4,07
Links to other Handbooks	2,25	3,25	3,50		3,17	3,00	4,00	3,19
Photo's	2,75	3,00	4,50		2,80	2,50	2,00	2,93
Relevant resolutions	4,00	5,00	3,50		4,00	4,50	3,00	4,00
References	3,25	5,00	4,00		3,17	4,00	2,00	3,57
# respondents	4	4	2	0	6	4	1	21

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	3	2	2	0	4	2	1	14
It influences my decisions and my actions	1	2	2	0	4	1	1	11
It is used to advise/instruct others	3	3	1	0	3	4	1	15
It is used for advocacy purposes	3	1	1	0	1	2	0	8
It guides policy development	2	2	1	0	4	0	0	9
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	0	1	1	0	2	3	1	8
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	7
# respondents	4	4	2	0	5	4	1	20

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	2	4	2	0	4	4	1	17
The wide range of topics covered	2	1	1	0	4	0	1	9
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	3	2	1	0	5	3	0	14
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	2	1	1	0	2	2	0	8
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	2	1	2	0	5	3	0	13
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	1	1	1	0	4	3	1	11
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	1	2	1	0	3	3	1	11
# respondents	4	4	2	0	5	4	1	20

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
The technical detail of the contents is too high	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	4
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	4
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
The thematic structure is illogical	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	6
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	3	2	0	0	2	2	0	9
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
It is difficult to find and access these documents	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	6
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	4	4	1	0	4	3	1	17

## Handbook 6

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	3	1	0	0	3	0	0	7
CD-Rom	3	3	1	4	1	0	4	16
Website	8	5	4	2	9	2	4	34
Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
All	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	6
Print	3	0	0	0	3	2	0	8
No answer	1	0	0	1	0	3	2	7
Total # times mentioned	18	9	6	7	21	7	12	80

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	5,00	4,00			4,67	5,00	5,00	4,73
Additional information	5,00	4,00			3,88	3,50	3,00	3,88
Case studies	3,33	5,00			3,90	2,00	3,00	3,45
Links to other Handbooks	2,33	3,50			3,44	2,00	5,00	3,26
Photo's	3,33	3,00			3,13	4,00	4,00	3,49
Relevant resolutions	4,00	3,50			4,00	4,00	5,00	4,10
References	3,00	4,50			3,50	5,00	4,00	4,00
# respondents	3	2	0	0	10	2	1	18

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	1	1	0	0	6	1	1	10
It influences my decisions and my actions	2	1	0	0	7	1	1	12
It is used to advise/instruct others	1	1	0	0	7	0	1	10
It is used for advocacy purposes	0	0	0	0	5	0	1	6
It guides policy development	2	1	0	0	5	0	1	9
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	1	0	0	0	5	0	1	7
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	4
# respondents	2	2	0	0	10	1	1	16

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	3	1	0	0	6	2	1	13
The wide range of topics covered	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	6
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	2	0	0	0	6	1	1	10
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	1	1	0	0	5	1	1	9
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	2	2	0	0	5	1	1	11
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	2	0	0	0	5	1	1	9
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	2	1	0	0	4	2	1	10
# respondents	3	2	0	0	10	2	1	18

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	4
The technical detail of the contents is too high	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	3
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	2	0	0	0	3	1	1	7
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It is difficult to find and access these documents	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	3	1	0	0	5	1	1	11

## Handbook 7

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	3	1	1	1	2	1	1	10
CD-Rom	4	1	1	5	1	0	4	16
Website	14	12	5	3	3	2	5	44
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	6
Print	4	1	0	0	3	2	0	10
No answer	0	1	0	0	3	2	2	8
Total # times mentioned	26	16	7	9	16	7	13	94

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	5,00	4,25	4,50	4,75	4,50		5,00	4,67
Additional information	4,00	4,33	5,00	4,50	3,88		3,50	4,20
Case studies	2,50	4,67	4,50	4,33	3,63		4,50	4,02
Links to other Handbooks	1,50	4,00	5,00	4,00	3,67		2,50	3,44
Photo's	2,60	3,00	5,00	3,25	3,67		1,00	3,09
Relevant resolutions	3,50	4,00	5,00	3,75	4,13		2,50	3,81
References	3,00	4,67	5,00	3,50	3,63		4,00	3,97
# respondents	5	4	2	4	8	0	2	25

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	2	3	0	4	7	0	1	17
It influences my decisions and my actions	2	3	1	3	4	0	2	15
It is used to advise/instruct others	2	2	1	3	9	0	2	19
It is used for advocacy purposes	1	1	0	1	3	0	1	7
It guides policy development	0	3	1	2	4	0	1	11
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	3	3	0	1	4	0	0	11
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	0	2	1	2	4	0	2	11
# respondents	4	4	2	4	9	0	3	26

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	4	3	1	3	7	0	3	21
The wide range of topics covered	2	1	0	3	4	0	0	10
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	1	3	1	4	6	0	1	16
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	1	2	0	3	7	0	0	13
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	1	3	1	2	6	0	2	15
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	1	0	0	3	4	0	0	8
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	2	3	2	2	5	0	2	16
# respondents	4	4	2	4	8	0	3	25

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	3
The technical detail of the contents is too high	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	4
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The thematic structure is illogical	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	5
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	1	2	1	2	5	0	1	12
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	0	2	0	0	3	0	1	6
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	2	2	2	3	6	0	1	16

## Handbook 8

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	0	1	1	1	2	1	1	7
CD-Rom	3	3	2	5	3	0	4	20
Website	13	13	6	2	4	6	11	55
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
All	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	6
Print	4	0	0	0	2	2	0	8
No answer	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	6
Total # times mentioned	23	18	9	8	18	9	18	103

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	4,14	4,33	4,40	4,00	3,00	3,67	4,57	4,02
Additional information	3,71	3,89	4,00	3,67	5,00	3,67	3,83	3,97
Case studies	3,29	4,22	3,00	3,33	3,50	4,00	4,25	3,66
Links to other Handbooks	3,00	2,50	3,40	3,75	3,00	5,00	3,75	3,49
Photo's	2,71	2,38	3,40	2,75	2,50	2,50	2,83	2,72
Relevant resolutions	4,29	3,50	3,80	4,00	4,00	4,00	3,75	3,91
References	2,86	3,33	4,00	3,67	3,00	4,00	4,00	3,55
# respondents	7	9	5	4	2	4	7	38

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	6	7	5	3	0	3	4	28
It influences my decisions and my actions	4	8	5	2	1	1	4	25
It is used to advise/instruct others	4	7	5	3	2	3	4	28
It is used for advocacy purposes	3	6	3	1	1	2	3	19
It guides policy development	3	6	4	2	1	2	5	23
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	2	4	3	0	2	3	2	16
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	4	5	4	1	1	2	3	20
# respondents	7	9	6	3	3	4	7	39

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	6	7	7	2	2	3	5	32
The wide range of topics covered	3	5	2	2	2	1	3	18
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	5	6	7	2	2	2	3	27
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	4	5	3	2	1	3	1	19
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	6	7	4	1	2	2	4	26
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	12
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	4	6	5	2	1	3	3	24
# respondents	7	9	7	3	2	4	6	38

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	1	4	3	0	0	1	0	9
The technical detail of the contents is too high	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	1	1	2	0	1	0	2	7
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	7
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	3	3	3	1	1	2	4	17
They are not updated regularly enough	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	5
The lay-out/format is unattractive	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4
It is difficult to find and access these documents	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	1	1	0	0	0	2	1	5
Other	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
# respondents	6	8	6	1	2	3	1	27

## Handbook 9

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	6
CD-Rom	4	2	0	4	0	0	3	13
Website	8	5	3	3	2	2	4	27
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	4
Print	2	0	0	0	1	1	0	4
No answer	0	1	0	0	3	2	2	8
Total # times mentioned	17	8	4	7	10	6	10	62

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines					5			5,00
Additional information					2			2,00
Case studies					3			3,00
Links to other Handbooks					1			1,00
Photo's					3			3,00
Relevant resolutions					4			4,00
References					2			2,00
# respondents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It influences my decisions and my actions	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
It is used to advise/instruct others	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
It is used for advocacy purposes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It guides policy development	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
The wide range of topics covered	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
# respondents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The technical detail of the contents is too high	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

## Handbook 10

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	4	0	2	0	1	1	2	10
CD-Rom	3	2	1	4	3	0	3	16
Website	13	9	4	4	2	4	7	43
Other	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
All	1	0	0	0	3	0	1	5
Print	3	1	0	0	0	2	0	6
No answer	0	1	0	0	4	2	1	8
Total # times mentioned	25	13	7	9	13	9	15	91

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	4,40	3,67	4,33	3,75	4,75	4,00	4,50	4,20
Additional information	3,25	4,00	4,00	3,80	3,25	4,00	2,75	3,58
Case studies	3,40	2,50	2,33	4,00	3,75	2,00	3,50	3,07
Links to other Handbooks	2,75	2,00	2,67	3,25	4,00	1,50	2,50	2,67
Photo's	2,25	3,00	3,00	3,00	2,50	1,00	2,00	2,39
Relevant resolutions	4,00	3,33	2,50	3,75	3,25	3,00	2,00	3,12
References	3,25	2,50	3,00	3,25	3,75	3,00	3,00	3,11
# respondents	5	3	4	5	4	3	4	28

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	5	3	3	3	4	2	4	24
It influences my decisions and my actions	1	2	1	4	1	1	3	13
It is used to advise/instruct others	2	1	2	4	4	2	2	17
It is used for advocacy purposes	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	7
It guides policy development	4	1	2	2	2	1	2	14
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	2	1	1	2	2	0	1	9
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	3	1	0	3	4	3	3	17
# respondents	5	3	4	5	4	3	4	28

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	5	3	3	3	4	1	2	21
The wide range of topics covered	1	0	2	3	4	0	1	11
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	3	2	2	3	4	3	2	19
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	1	0	1	3	2	2	0	9
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	3	0	1	2	4	0	4	14
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	7
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	4	3	2	3	4	1	3	20
# respondents	5	3	4	4	4	3	4	27

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	5
The technical detail of the contents is too high	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	5
The range of topics covered is too limited	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	2	0	3	0	1	0	0	6
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	4	3	1	1	4	1	2	16
They are not updated regularly enough	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	4
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	6
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	5	3	4	2	4	2	4	24

## Handbook 11

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	5
CD-Rom	3	1	1	5	3	0	3	16
Website	8	7	7	1	3	2	6	34
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	4
Print	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	6
No answer	1	1	0	0	4	2	2	10
Total # times mentioned	16	9	8	7	15	6	14	75

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	4,50		4,50	5,00		5,00	4,00	4,60
Additional information	3,25		4,00	3,50		3,00	3,00	3,35
Case studies	3,50		4,00	4,00		2,00	4,00	3,50
Links to other Handbooks	3,75		3,50	3,00		1,00	4,00	3,05
Photo's	3,00		4,00	1,00		1,00	3,00	2,40
Relevant resolutions	3,75		4,50	4,50		3,00	3,00	3,75
References	3,75		5,00	4,50		4,00	4,00	4,25
# respondents	4	0	2	2	0	1	1	10

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	5
It influences my decisions and my actions	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	6
It is used to advise/instruct others	3	0	2	2	0	1	0	8
It is used for advocacy purposes	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
It guides policy development	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	3	1	3	2	0	1	0	10
# respondents	4	1	3	2	0	1	0	11

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	4	1	3	2	1	1	0	12
The wide range of topics covered	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	5
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	7
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	3	0	1	0	1	1	0	6
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	2	0	3	1	1	1	0	8
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	5
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	3	1	1	0	1	1	0	7
# respondents	4	1	3	2	1	1	0	12

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
The technical detail of the contents is too high	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
The range of topics covered is too limited	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	1	1	2	1	0	1	0	6

## Handbook 12

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
CD-Rom	2	1	0	2	1	0	2	8
Website	6	2	4	2	2	3	3	22
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
All	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	4
Print	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
No answer	1	1	0	1	4	2	2	11
Total # times mentioned	14	4	4	5	11	6	9	53

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines			2,00			4,50	5,00	3,83
Additional information			4,00			3,00	3,00	3,33
Case studies			3,00			4,00		3,50
Links to other Handbooks			3,00			3,00		3,00
Photo's			2,00			1,00	4,00	2,33
Relevant resolutions			2,00			1,00	4,00	2,33
References			3,00			3,00	3,00	3,00
# respondents	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
It influences my decisions and my actions	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
It is used to advise/instruct others	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
It is used for advocacy purposes	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
It guides policy development	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
# respondents	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4
The wide range of topics covered	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	3
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
# respondents	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
The technical detail of the contents is too high	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	4

## Handbook 13

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	6
CD-Rom	3	1	1	2	3	0	2	12
Website	11	7	2	3	1	0	4	28
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
All	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
Print	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
No answer	1	1	0	1	4	3	2	12
Total # times mentioned	18	9	3	7	12	5	11	65

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines	4,33	5,00	5,00	4,00		5,00	3,00	4,39
Additional information	3,67	3,75	4,00	3,50		3,00	3,00	3,49
Case studies	3,67	4,25	3,00	3,50		2,00	4,00	3,40
Links to other Handbooks	3,17	3,25	2,00	3,50		2,00	2,00	2,65
Photo's	3,50	3,25	4,00	2,50		3,00	3,00	3,21
Relevant resolutions	3,83	4,00	5,00	4,00		4,00		4,17
References	3,67	3,25	5,00	3,00		5,00		3,98
# respondents	6	4	1	2	0	1	1	15

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	3	3	0	1	0	0	1	8
It influences my decisions and my actions	4	3	1	2	0	0	1	11
It is used to advise/instruct others	3	4	1	2	0	0	0	10
It is used for advocacy purposes	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
It guides policy development	3	3	1	2	0	0	1	10
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	3	1	0	1	0	0	1	6
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	3	1	0	2	0	0	0	6
# respondents	6	4	1	2	0	0	1	14

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	6	3	1	2	0	1	0	13
The wide range of topics covered	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	6
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	3	2	0	0	0	1	0	6
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	4	2	0	0	0	1	0	7
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	7
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	6
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	3	4	0	1	0	1	0	9
# respondents	6	4	1	2	0	1	0	14

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
The technical detail of the contents is too high	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The range of topics covered is too limited	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
The thematic structure is illogical	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	8
They are not updated regularly enough	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
The lay-out/format is unattractive	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
It is difficult to find and access these documents	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Other	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
# respondents	3	4	1	0	1	1	0	10

## Handbook 14

6.1 With which handbook are you familiar? And how did you obtain it?								
	GFP	WSM	NRC	STRP-NFP	CEPA-NFP	IOP	Other	Total respondents
None indicated	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
CD-Rom	2	1	0	2	0	0	2	7
Website	4	3	3	1	1	0	3	15
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
All	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
Print	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
No answer	0	1	0	1	4	3	2	11
Total # times mentioned	9	6	3	4	9	3	9	43

6.2 How useful is each element for you? Scale 1-5 (5 = most useful)								
Guidelines		4	5		3			4,00
Additional information		3	5		4			4,00
Case studies		5	3		3			3,67
Links to other Handbooks		1	3		4			2,67
Photo's		2	4		3			3,00
Relevant resolutions		5			3			4,00
References		5	4		4			4,33
# respondents	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3

6.3 What specific function does each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks have for you?								
It guides my thinking about wetland issues	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
It influences my decisions and my actions	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
It is used to advise/instruct others	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
It is used for advocacy purposes	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
It guides policy development	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
It is used to remind our government of its commitments	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
It is used as an assessment/evaluation/audit tool	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
# respondents	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3

6.4. What specifically do you like about each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical information	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
The wide range of topics covered	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
They bring (thematic) structure in the Ramsar guidance	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
They link decisions/guidance across several COPS	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3
They are targeted at practitioners as well as policy	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Their format/lay out with info boxes and photos	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The fact that they are readily available on the web site	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
# respondents	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3

6.5 What specifically would you like to see improved in each of the (up to) 3 Handbooks you selected above?								
The technical detail of the contents is not high enough	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
The technical detail of the contents is too high	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The range of topics covered is too broad and diffuse	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The range of topics covered is too limited	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
The thematic structure is illogical	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
The language used is too complex, it should be simpler	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
The language used should be tailored more to practitioners, not just policy makers	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
They are not updated regularly enough	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
The lay-out/format is unattractive	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
It is difficult to find and access these documents	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
I need a Guide to the Handbook: how to know where to look for what?	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# respondents	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	3