

Report of the STRP Chair

12th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015
Prof. Royal C. Gardner



Overview

- STRP members and meetings
- Progress on tasks
- State of the world's wetlands



STRP 2013-2015



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



Roy Gardner



Christine Prietto



Cui Lijuan



Guéladio Cissé



Hiromi Yamashita



Lars Dinesen



Matthew McCartney



Randy Thaman



Reda Fishar



Ritesh Kumar



Stanley Liphadzi



Pierre Horwitz



Matt Walpole



Randy Milton

**13
appointed
members +
the Chair**



WWF: Eugenio Barrios



IUCN: Stefano Barchiese



IWMI: Sonali Senaratna



WI: Stephan Flink



BirdLife: Vicky Jones

**5 International
Organisation
Partner
representatives**



Dave Pritchard



Mike Acreman



Max Finlayson



David Stroud



Amiro Perez-Leroux

**5 appointed
invited experts**

STRP meetings



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STRP17, March 2013



STRP18, September 2014

Progress on tasks

- Resolution XI.18 assigned STRP more than 70 tasks and sub-tasks
- CHF 30,000 per year was allocated for work plan implementation
- In light of the limited STRP budget, SC46 Decision 14 called on the STRP to focus on nine high priority tasks
- Because of limited funding, these high priority tasks, as well as other tasks, were primarily progressed through partnerships or through pro bono contributions from STRP members

High Priority Tasks

Task	Status
Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people (SoWWS) and the Convention's effectiveness	Ramsar Briefing Note 7 published in English, French, and Spanish
Advising on proposed minor modifications to the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision	Advice provided to SC46 in DOC. SC46-16, Annex 2
Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of a strategy for engaging in the global water debate	A paper, commissioned by the Secretariat and reviewed by STRP, on recommendations and opportunities for the Ramsar Convention to increase its impact within the global water debate has been provided to the Secretariat.
Monitoring for change in ecological character – further guidance: standardised terminology concerning Article 3.2 issues	A report (and summary report) on aspects of Articles 3.2, 2.5 and 4.2, the Montreux Record and the Ramsar Advisory Missions process was prepared for internal use of the Secretariat.

High priority tasks



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Task	Status
Implications of, and advice on, climate change for Convention implementation	A writing workshop was hosted by the Institute for Wetlands Research—Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China in May 2014. A Briefing Note is in preparation.
Economics of wetland ecosystem benefits/services	A Briefing Note is in preparation.
Invasive species and wetlands – guide to available guidance	A Briefing Note is in preparation.
Wetlands and poverty eradication – guidance and case studies	A writing workshop was held at Lake Chilika, India in June 2014. While progress has been made, due to time constraints, outputs will be consolidated into a report for internal reference and possible future use.
Assess and support the capacity-building and knowledge sharing needs of Contracting Parties in implementing the Ramsar Convention	This task was discontinued at the request of the Secretariat due to overlaps with the Resolution XI.16 review.

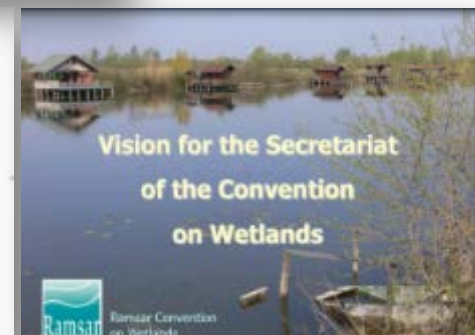
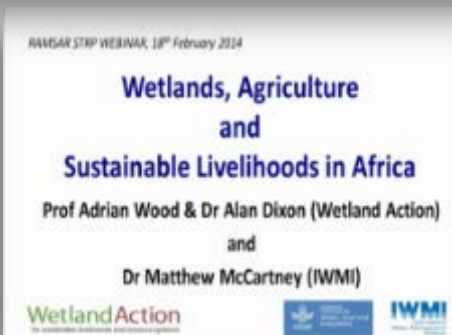
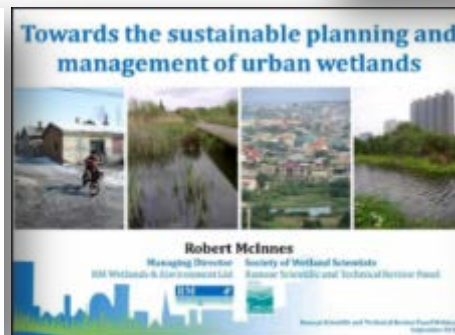
Tasks related to communication and exchange of information



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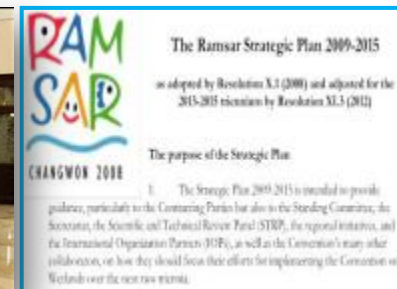
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

- STRP Platform
- Asia Regional Workshop
- STRP Webinars
- Ramsar Scientific Publication List



Advisory tasks

- Montreux Record Removal: Bañados del Este, Uruguay
- Draft Resolutions
- Ramsar Strategic Plan
- CMS/FAO Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds
- Sultanate of Oman: advice on establishing a national wetland committee
- Bangladesh: advice on oil spill in the Sundarbans



IPBES update



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- IPBES and MEP meetings
- Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment (2018)
- Regional Assessments (2018)



State of the World's Wetlands

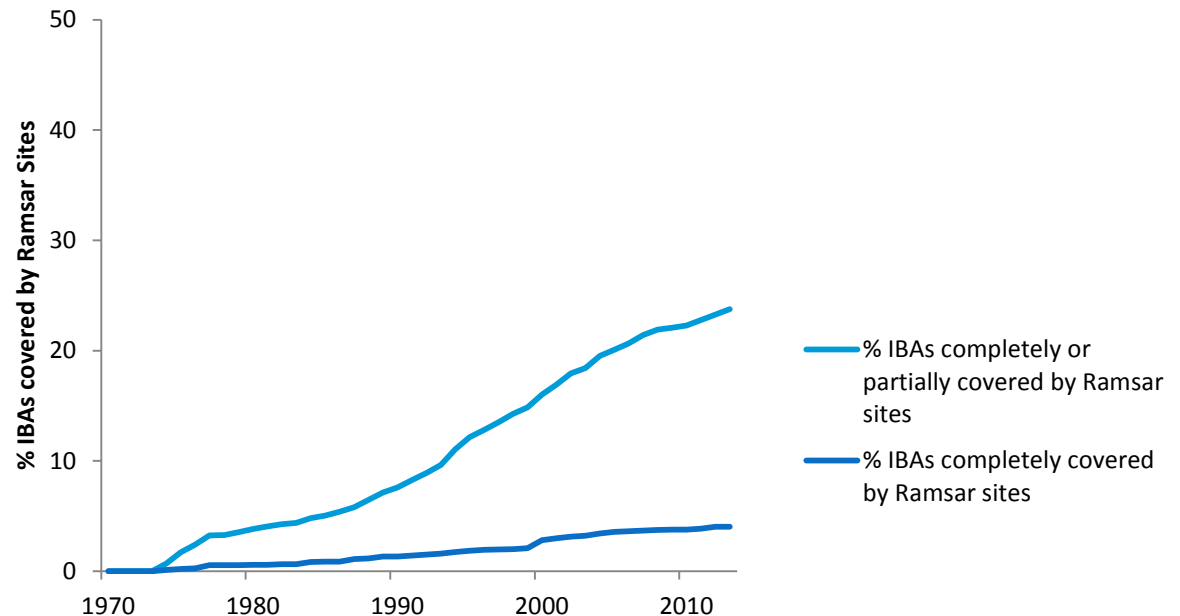


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(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

More than 75% of IBAs in Africa, Asia, and Europe do not have any designated Ramsar Sites overlapping with them, despite meeting Ramsar Site designation criteria.

But the percentage of qualifying IBAs completely or partially covered by Ramsar Sites has grown steadily in recent decades, increasing from 16% in 2000 to 24% in 2015.



Source: Birdlife International (2015)

State of the World's Wetlands

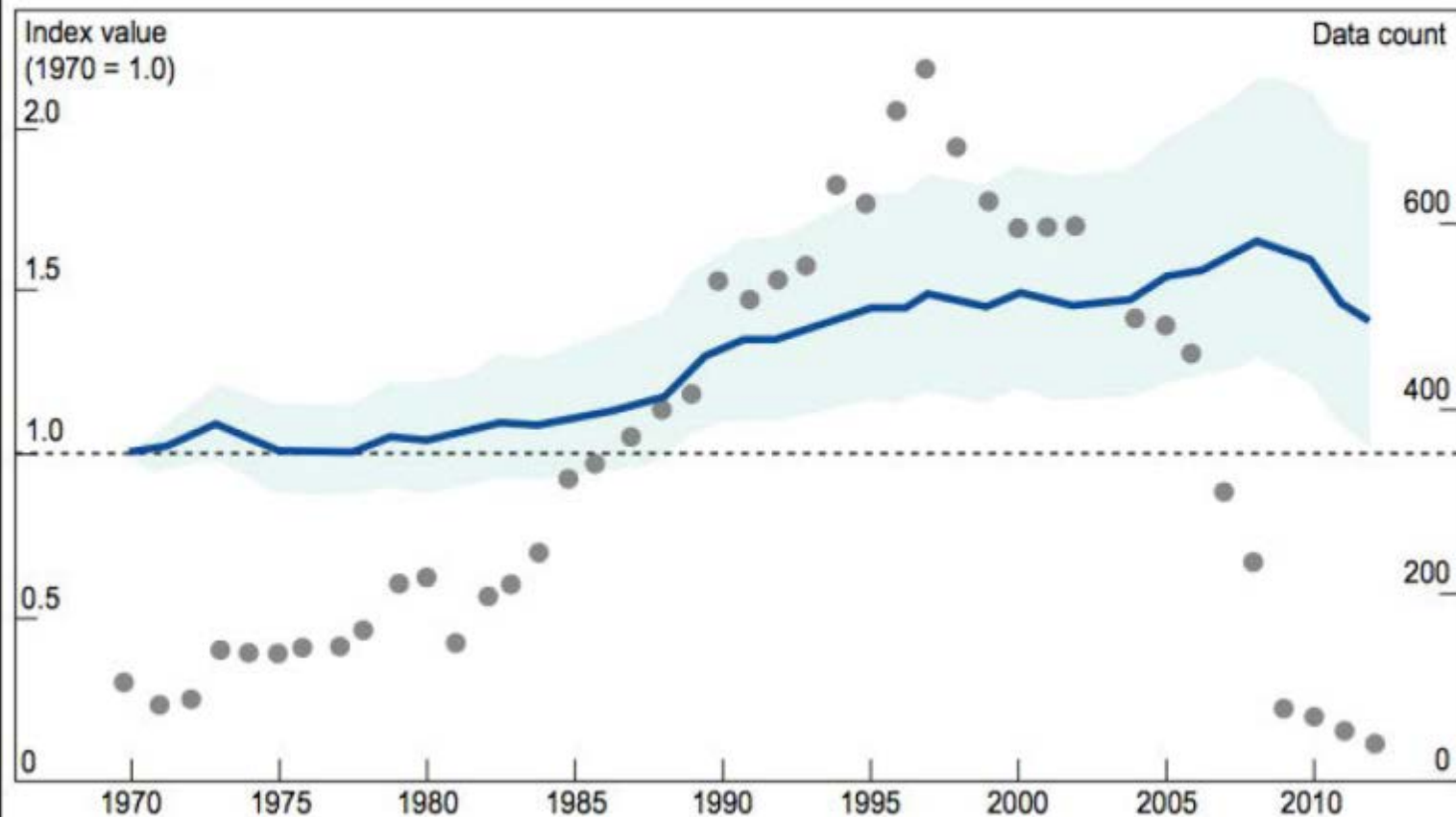


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(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Index of change in abundance of populations in Ramsar Sites between 1970 and 2011

adapted from CBD SBSTTA (2014)

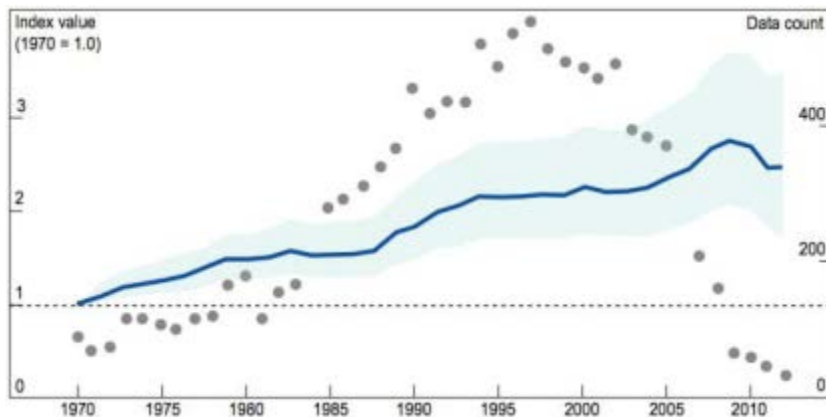


State of the World's Wetlands

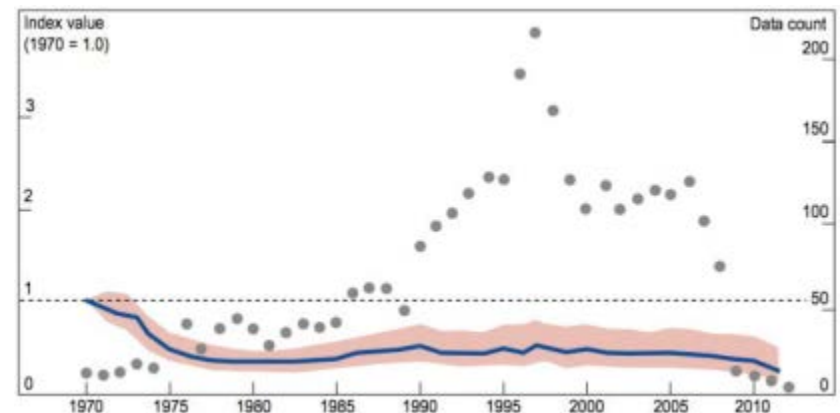


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Vertebrate population abundance in temperate Ramsar Sites



Vertebrate population abundance in tropical Ramsar Sites

Adapted from CBD SBSTTA (2014)

State of the World's Wetlands

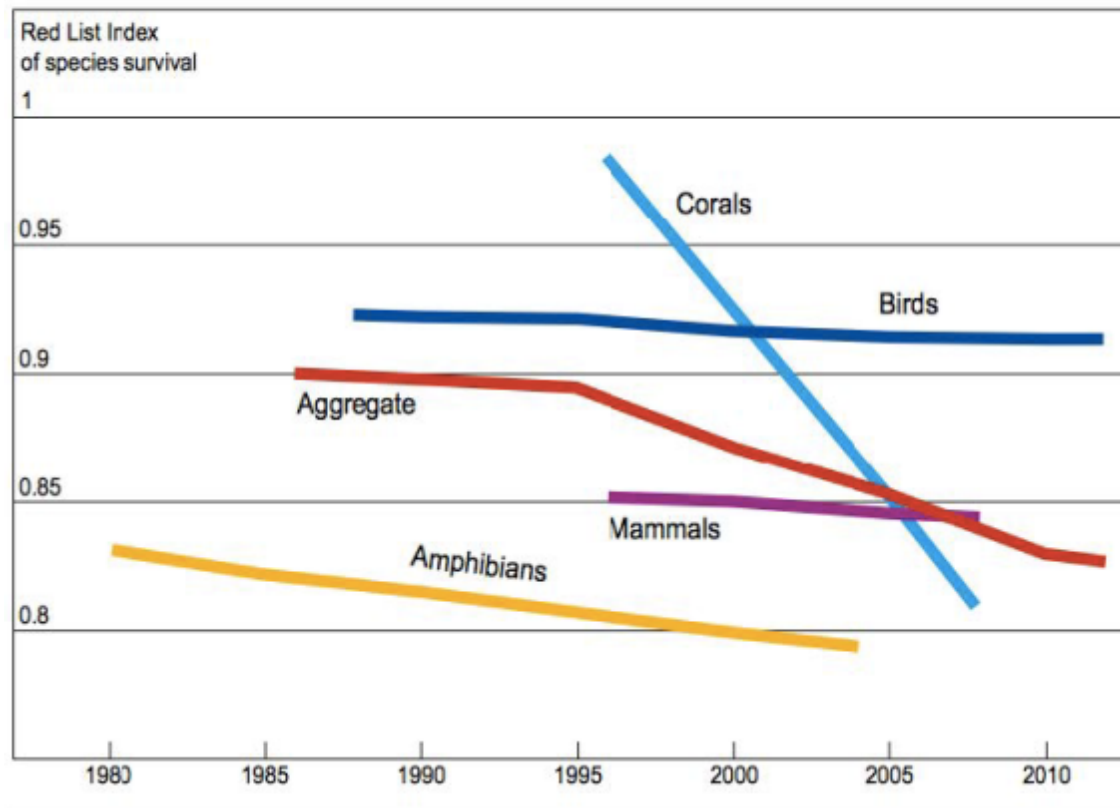


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(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Red List Index of species survival for wetland birds, mammals, amphibians, corals and in aggregate

adapted from CBD SBSTTA (2014)



N.B. Analyses in Butchart *et al.* (2006) and Hoffmann *et al.* (2010) show that that the declines would have been even steeper in the absence of conservation efforts.

State of the World's Wetlands



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- While there are ongoing initiatives that will provide a more precise picture of the extent of the world's wetlands, it is clear that wetlands are still being lost or degraded, resulting in negative impacts on biodiversity and other ecosystem services.
- Policymakers have sufficient scientific information to understand the urgent need to take appropriate actions to conserve wetlands and their services to people.
- The negative trends shown by recent studies should serve as a call to Contracting Parties to avoid further wetland loss and degradation and to strengthen wetland assessment, monitoring and restoration.



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Thank you!

Prof. Royal C. Gardner

STRP Chair

