Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

**Ramsar COP10**

““Healthy wetlands, Healthy People””

**African Regional Preparatory Meeting**

Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon 26-30 November 2007

**With Financial Support of UNEP, Switzerland, Sweden and Cameroon**

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**DRAFT - Provisional Programme**

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**SUNDAY – 25.11.07**

Arrival of participants at Meumi Palace Hotel, Bastos, Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon.

Registration in the evening from 16:00 to 21:00 at the Hotel.

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**MONDAY – 26.11.07**

**Chair: Representative of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon**

**Head Rapporteurs: Ramsar Secretariat and Government representative**

**Morning**

08:00 - 09:00 - Participants’ Registration (C’d)

09:00 - 10:00 - Welcoming session

- Keynote address by host country relevant authorities (By: Cameroon Ramsar Administrative Authority)
- Keynote address by Regional Representative of Central and North Africa in the Standing Committee of the Convention (By: Gabon)
- Welcome and opening address by the Mayor of Yaoundé
- Welcome address by the Secretary General, Ramsar Convention Secretariat
• Opening Speech (By: Cameroon Minister of Environment and Nature Protection)

10:00 - 10:15 -   Tea break

10:15 - 10:30 -   Presentation of the meeting objectives (Ramsar Senior Advisor for Africa) and adoption of the agenda

10:30 - 10:45 -   Presentation of working groups’ terms of reference and room allocations on sub-regional basis
(By: Ramsar Secretariat)

10:45 - 11:00 -   Pre-working group sessions (election of chairs, reporters, working method, etc.)

11:00 - 12:00 -   Effective national preparation for, participation in & conduct of multilateral negotiations (By Elizabeth Mrema, Senior Legal Officer, UNEP)

12:00 – 13:30 - Lunch break

Afternoon

Session I: Working group sessions on problems and challenges that face the implementation of the Convention in the Africa sub-regions.

13:30 - 17:00 -   Working group sessions

• West Africa
• Central Africa
• Southern Africa
• Indian Ocean and Small Islands
• Northern Africa
• East and Eastern Africa

17:00 – 18:40 – Plenary – Groups’ reports and discussions

19:30-20:30   Cocktail offered by the Government of Cameroon (TBC)

TUESDAY - 27.11.07

Session II:   Problems and challenges that face the implementation of the Convention in Africa since last COP

Morning

09:00 - 09:15   Short summary of the conclusions of the discussions from the previous day

09:15 - 09:45   Overview of the problems and challenges that face the implementation of the Convention in the region (Secretariat’s perspective).
(By: Senior Advisor for Africa at the Ramsar Secretariat)
09:45 - 10:45  Discussions
10:45 - 11:00  Coffee break
11:00 - 12:30  Presentation and discussions on Regional Initiatives (NigerWet, ChadWet, WacoWet, RAMCEA and CongoWet, etc.)
12:30 - 14:00  Lunch break

Afternoon

Session III:  Priorities for Next Triennium 2008-2011

14:00 - 15:00  Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Scientific and technical priorities for the region
Introduction
- Presentation of the Work Plan of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel. Edgar Kaeslin, STRP Officer, Ramsar Secretariat
- Status and key issues for the region. Abou Bamba, Senior Advisor for Africa, Ramsar Secretariat
- Suggestion to reorganize and motivate STRP NFPs in the region, Edgar Kaeslin.

15:00 - 16:00  Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Wetlands and poverty reduction – Implementation of COP9, Resolution IX.14 (Wetlands International)

16:00 - 16:15  Coffee break

16:15 - 17:15  Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Wetlands and human health

17:15 - 17:45  Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Article 3.2 of the Convention and changes in the ecological character of African Ramsar sites

17:45 - 19:00  Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Mining and extractive industries, threats and challenges for African wetlands
WEDNESDAY – 28.11.07

Morning

FIELD TRIP TO SITE TOURISTIQUE D’EBOGO, 1 HOUR FROM YAOUNDE

Departure from the hotel at 07:00 AM

Afternoon

14:00 - 15:00 Presentation of the Wings Over Wetlands Project, UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project

THURSDAY – 29.11.07

09:00-09:10 Short summary of the conclusions of the discussions from the previous day

Session IV: Priorities for Next Triennium 2008-2011

9:20-10:20 Thematic Discussion on regional priorities (African Water Facility /AfDB+ Ramsar) Sources of funding for wetlands-related projects in Africa + Countries with arrears + SGF Contact Group of Sub-group on Finance document

10:20-10:40 Coffee Break

10:40-11:40 Thematic Discussion on regional priorities Special Program on Africa Transboundary Wetlands

11:40-12:30 Thematic Discussion on regional priorities Wetlands and Climate Change Report of the Secretariat on climate change and wetlands

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break

Session V: Preparation for COP10

14:00 - 15:00 Presentation of COP10 draft Program + New National Reporting Format (Mr. Anada Tiega, Secretary General, Convention Secretariat) Discussions on issues of interest to the region in COP10 Agenda

15:00 - 16:00 Presentation of draft Strategic Plan 2009-2014 (Mr. Anada Tiega, Secretary General, Convention Secretariat)

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 Proposed Resolutions and Recommendations from African Contracting Parties to COP10.
17:00-18:30  Simulation Exercises on Coordinating positions on a specific Ramsar issue to be debated in COP 10 (Led by Elizabeth Mrema, Senior Legal Officer, UNEP)

18:30-19:00  Discussion on the African representatives on the next Standing Committee + New National Report format

FRIDAY – 30.11.07

Chair: Representative of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon
Head Rapporteurs: Ramsar Secretariat and Government representative

9:00-9:20  Conclusions and recommendations from previous day.
Presentation by Ramsar Secretariat Rapporteur

09:30-10:00  Discussion on the African representatives on the next Standing Committee + New National Report format

10:00-11:00  Feedback on the outcome of the Regional Meeting including the multilateral negotiation and exercise component (Led by Abou Bamba, Ramsar Secretariat and Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP)

11:00-11:10  Coffee Break

11:10-12:10  Any other business and outstanding issues

12:10 - 14:00  Lunch break

Afternoon

14:00 - 15:00  Closing ceremony

SATURDAY – 01.12.07

Validation of the Training Modules for French Speaking countries Ramsar NFPs

9:00-10:30  Introduction and presentation (Naik Faucon, ATEN)

10:30-10:45  Coffee Break

10:45-12:45  Discussion and validation

12:45-13:00  Closure

13:00-14:00  Lunch