

# Ramsar Standing Committee 36

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

**DOC. SC36-2**



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

# CONSTITUENCY

- ◆ The Secretariat is currently serving **158 Contracting Parties with 1720 Ramsar sites, totaling 159 million hectares**



# Increasing Membership

- ◆ Asia is the only region that welcomed new Contracting Parties:
  - Iraq,
  - Kazakhstan,
  - the United Arab Emirates,
  - and Yemen



# Increasing Ramsar sites

- ◆ 4 new sites from 3 CP in the Americas
  - 41 new African Ramsar sites from 9 CP



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# Increasing Ramsar sites

◆ 4 new sites from 3 CP in the Americas

41 new African Ramsar sites from 9 CP

9 new sites in Asia



# Joint activities

- ◆ **Regional meetings:** involvement of key organizations
- ◆ **Wetland inventories:** cooperation with specialized organizations that are able to exploit new tools, such as remote sensing technologies;
- ◆ Increasing collaboration **with UN system**



# Threats to Wetlands

- ◆ Americas:
- ◆ Argentina, Belize, Honduras, Uruguay, Bolivia
- ◆ Africa
- ◆ Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Mauritania, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Zambia



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# Threats to Wetlands

## ◆ Europe

- Ukraine
- Germany and Georgia (Reduction of Ramsar site boundaries)





# IOP participation

- ◆ **IOPS:** Excellent participation in STRP's work
- ◆ Projects on wetland management
- ◆ Ramsar site designation
- ◆ World Wetlands Day
- ◆ Input in regional meetings



# Global Trends

The level of activity demanded of the Secretariat continues to increase, as the number of Contracting Parties increases and new challenges are emerging from global debates.



# Global Challenge

- ◆ Changing environment in which the Convention has to operate.



# REQUIREMENTS for Better implementation of the Convention

- ◆ Understanding of the status and trends of wetlands: values, threats and opportunities;
- ◆ updated reliable information that supports decision-making and enhances the commitment of Contracting Parties to take the right actions at the right time.



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# Approaches regarding achievable solutions

- ◆ Common understanding of « what are wetlands »?
- ◆ Effective Partnerships



# Existing Partnerships

- ◆ 5 International Organization Partners (IOPs),
- ◆ 4 global conventions,
- ◆ 1 regional convention,
- ◆ 4 UN agencies,
- ◆ 4 global programmes,
- ◆ 4 river/lake basin organizations.



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# Existing Partnerships

- ◆ 1 institute,
- ◆ 1 regional programme,
- ◆ 1 regional UN agency,
- ◆ 7 other NGOs,
- ◆ 1 university center,
- ◆ 1 private company,
- ◆ 1 alliance of private companies.



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# Existing Partnerships

- ◆ Recurring voluntary funding from some developed Contracting Parties.
- ◆ No signed agreement about funding from governments.
- ◆ Only 1 financial agreement with a private company.





# Increasing partnership with

- ◆ IOPs
- ◆ UN System
- ◆ other environmental conventions,
- ◆ research institutes,
- ◆ river/lake basin organizations,
- ◆ business sector,
- ◆ the media,
- ◆ and the civil society at large.




# Partnerships to enhance wetlands' contribution to sustainable development

- ◆ wetlands and biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use
- ◆ wetlands and water allocation
- ◆ wetlands and food security
- ◆ wetlands and human health



# Partnerships to enhance wetlands' contribution to sustainable development

- ◆ wetlands and poverty reduction
  - ◆ wetlands and energy/extractive industries
  - ◆ wetlands and tourism
  - ◆ wetlands and urban/rural development
  - ◆ wetlands and protected areas
  - ◆ wetlands and climate change
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# Adjustment in reporting system

Reporting system to encompass important contributions of key players in:

- ◆ land use,
- ◆ water management,
- ◆ biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.



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# Adjustment in reporting system

Reporting system to encompass:

- ◆ desertification control,
- ◆ climate change mitigation and adaptation,
- ◆ agriculture,
- ◆ sanitation,
- ◆ and rural/urban development, tourism



# Development and use of new tools

- ◆ "Payment for ecosystem services"
- ◆ Enhancing the involvement of the private sector



# CEPA: Communication, Education and Public Awareness

- ◆ World Wetlands Day
- ◆ Ramsar Web site
- ◆ Collaboration with media



# Capacity Building

- ◆ STRP's work
- ◆ Advisory Board on Capacity Building
- ◆ Training centers
- ◆ Regional initiatives
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Ramsar Secretariat's legal status





# Other opportunities

- ◆ Global Environment Facility
- ◆ Regional banks
- ◆ Special funds
- ◆ Organizations working on specific wetland ecosystems (glaciers, peatlands, mangroves, coral reefs, rivers, lakes, deltas, man-made wetlands, including rice paddies)



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