

# Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs)

News from the Regional Initiative Workshop  
22 November



# 8 RRIs met informally at COP12

in the MedWet Agora on 6 June



- 8 of 15 RRI presented briefly their activities
- DSG made a statement re *i.a.* operational guidelines, governance, legal entity, fundraising, capacity building programmes of RRIs
- RRIs recommended work on *i.a.* operational guidelines, mutual reinforcement between RRIs, guidance and support to obtain legal status by Secretariat
- RRIs asked to be considered as essential instruments for the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan, *and*
- proposed to organize a workshop for RRIs with the Secretariat



# Workshop for RRIs & the Secretariat

22 November 2015



## ***Objectives announced for the workshop:***

- strengthen the linkages among the RRIs, promoting regional and international cooperation and collaboration, together with the Secretariat
- review and revise the Operational Guidelines 2013-2015 for Ramsar Regional Initiatives
- publicize RRIs as an operational means to provide support for the implementation of the Convention, to complement the efforts of the Administrative Authorities and to develop a communications strategy for the RRIs
- assess in a collaborative way the achievements of the RRIs in delivering technical, administrative and collaborative benefits to the Parties in their regions, as well as their effectiveness and efficiency, and to analyse weaknesses, strengths and difficulties

13 of 15 RRIs were present, 50 participants





# Assessment of the achievements of RRIs

workshop focus 1 – as requested by Res.XII.8.21



- August 2015: questionnaire to assess the achievements sent to all 15 RRIs
- draft assessment prepared with the information provided by RRIs, and with comments from Secretariat, was discussed during the workshop, and some factual corrections and updates were provided
- brainstorming on issues related to assessment of RRIs for consideration within the revision of the Operational Guidelines
- issues listed that would make the work of RRIs more effective

## ***follow-up:***

*draft assessment will be sent to all workshop participants and Parties forming the RRIs for additional comments to be sent back by 18 December*



# towards a RRI Communications strategy

workshop focus 2 - as requested by Res.XII.8.16



- presentation of the general context of the Strategic Plan, the communication requests from Parties and the CEPA action plan
- presentation of a communication and branding proposal to enable and support outcomes of the activities of RRIs
- analysis of the current communication tools used by the 15 RRIs
- brainstorming on RRI branding, capacity development, and the relationship among RRIs, Secretariat, IOPs and other organisations

## ***follow-up:***

*Participants and Parties forming the RRIs are invited to respond by 18 December to a set of questions that will be mailed to them next week*



# Operational Guidelines: proposed revision

workshop focus 3 - requested by Res.XII.8.9



## ***Resolution XII.8.9:***

“INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the Operational Guidelines ... taking into account issues, among others, of governance, capacity, fundraising, and programmatic approach in alignment with the Ramsar Strategic Plan, and adopt the necessary amendments no later than the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (SC52);”

## ***Revised Operational Guidelines for 2016-2024:***

- to be used as a practical reference tool to assess progress of work and outcomes of RRI
- compliance of RRI can be evaluated in a quantitative and qualitative manner with each of the guiding principles





# Outcomes of the workshop



- general satisfaction about the start of this interactive coordination process and desire to see future workshops organised on regular basis
- participants and Parties have another opportunity to comment on assessment report and proposed communication strategy by 18 December

## ***Follow-up on Operational Guidelines:***

- Secretariat will circulate the current Operational Guidelines to all Parties for further comments
- Parties and RRI-leaders will provide comments (with changes to the current text in track change version) and send to the Secretariat by 31 January 2016



# Standing Committee is invited to ...

draft decision re Doc. SC51-11



- ... take note of progress on work requested by Resolution XII.8 since COP12 and on the oral report on the workshop for leaders of Regional Initiatives and the Secretariat held on 22 November,
- ... request workshop participants and Parties forming Regional Initiatives to provide to the Secretariat by 18 December additional comments on the draft assessment, as well as on the proposed communication and branding strategy,
- ... request the Secretariat to distribute the Operational Guidelines 2013-2015 to all Parties, and leaders of the Regional Initiatives, and to ask them to provide their proposals for revision (with text changes tracked) to the Secretariat by 31 January 2016,
- ... request the Secretariat, based on the above, to submit to SC52 final draft proposals for revised Operational Guidelines 2016-2024, the assessment report and RRI communication strategy.





# Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs)

## Proposals for new Ramsar Regional Initiatives

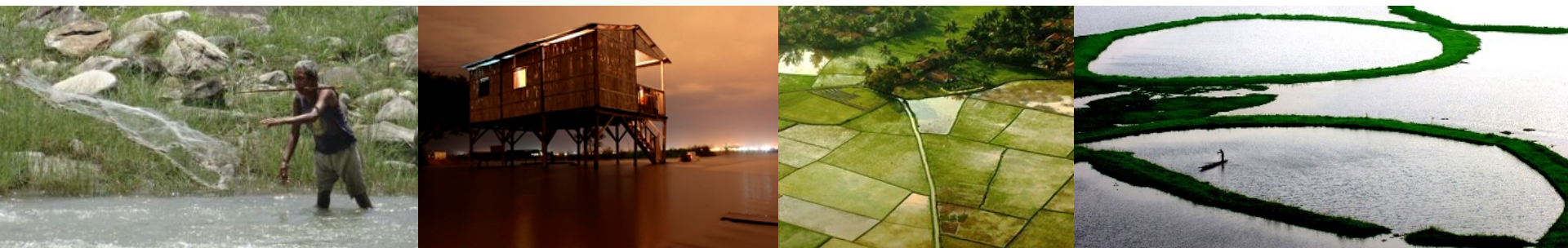


# proposals for new Regional Initiatives

cf. Doc. SC51-12



- The Secretariat sent an invitation to all Parties to submit information on new Ramsar Regional Initiatives to be developed during 2016-2018.
- In time for SC51, 4 proposals for new regional initiatives were submitted, concerning the: Senegal river basin, Amazon river basin, Indo-Burma region, and Central Asia.
- These four initiatives are currently at different stages of preparation to become operative in 2016.
- Preliminary information was provided by Iraq, indicating that it wishes to develop regional cooperation with its neighbouring Ramsar Parties in the Mesopotamian basin of Tigris and Euphrates rivers.



# Standing Committee is invited to ...

draft decision re Doc. SC51-12



- ... note the advanced preparation of four additional Ramsar Regional Initiatives for the Senegal and Amazon river basins, in Central Asia and in the Indo-Burma region,
- ... endorse these proposals as having the potential to operate within the framework of the Convention during the triennium 2016-2018,
- ... request these future initiatives to submit to the Secretariat, by 28 February 2016, an annual work and finance plan for 2016 (according to the format adopted by Standing Committee), in order to allow SC52 to approve them, along with the other existing Ramsar Regional Initiatives, as operating within the framework of the Convention during the triennium 2016-2018.

