



## RAMSAR CULTURE NETWORK UPDATE



### **Traditional Irrigation Landscapes in Sri Lanka**

Although there are no natural lakes in Sri Lanka, an array of ancient irrigation tanks (> 10,000) have been constructed to facilitate rice cultivation in the island over the past 2,500 years. The traditional irrigation tank-paddy field integrated wetlands have played a significant role in the cultural and socio-economic aspects of Sri Lanka, since rice has been the staple diet of its communities since historical times. The irrigation tank, paddy fields and the Buddhist temple formed the three essential elements in a traditional village in Sri Lanka. [Read more](#)

### **Memories of the Maliq Wetlands**

Following WWII, most wetlands in central, eastern, and southeastern Europe and the



former Soviet Union were drained. Albanian wetlands were especially susceptible to drainage, due to efforts to provide arable land within the small, tightly controlled territory during the period of [Read more](#)



### Wetland Landscapes in English Art

There is a widespread assumption that landscape preferences are unchanging so we preserve the landscapes that we love for our grandchildren. Of course, it is not true. The attraction of mountains was not widely felt prior to the eighteenth century, at least not to British travellers. What about wetlands? [Read more](#)



### The Sounds of Water

With the 2015 drought in California, the Turtle Bay Arboretum in Redding CA has shut down many of the art pieces that incorporate water. Despite the lack of rain and the lowering water table, one piece uses water with minimal impact and hence continues to burble; this is *The Sounds of Water* [Read more](#)



### Bringing Prespa's Watermill Back to Life

September saw the inauguration of the renovated traditional watermill at Agios Germanos in the Prespa National Park, Greece, a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance and part of the Transboundary Prespa Park, founded in 2000. [Read more](#)

## Communities & Coastal Change



More than 15 years ago I decided that I should commit wholeheartedly to how, as a visual artist, I might effectively contribute to a broader understanding of the challenge of environmental change. Living on the UK's dynamic East Anglia Coast, I started a series of projects with my immediate community to become more tangibly linked with coastal [Read more](#)

## News from the Ramsar Secretariat

**World Wetlands Day**  
Tuesday, 2 February 2016



### **World Wetlands Day Material Now Available!**

World Wetlands Day 2016 is rapidly approaching. For the 2016 edition, we invite you to engage and raise awareness around the theme "Sustainable Livelihoods" under our multi-year banner of "Wetlands for our future". Today we are thrilled to announce that all materials are now available to download [Read more](#)



### **New RCN Art Thematic Group!**

We are pleased to announce the formation of a further Thematic Group to help in taking forward an area of work within the RCN; this time on the relationship between wetlands and the arts. This follows the previously-reported establishment of Groups on bio-cultural diversity and on agriculture & food heritage. [Read more](#)

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**The theme of the next RCN Update will be 'Women & Wetlands'. Please don't hesitate to contact us at [culture@ramsar.org](mailto:culture@ramsar.org) should you have an idea for an article !**

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