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RCN Update No.5 - March 2016
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WOMEN & WETLANDS

Ramsar Culture Network Update



Dear Reader,

Happy [International Women's Day](#) ! Welcome to this issue of the Ramsar Culture Network Update dedicated to Women & Wetlands.

This year's theme for International Women's Day is "[Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it up for Gender Equality](#)": a theme that is highly relevant to the Ramsar Convention thanks to the central role that women play in collecting, distributing and managing water, and the roles of some notable women in wetland science and global environmental governance. [Read more](#)

Women & Leadership



'On the job' interview with Dr Ania Grobicki, Acting Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention

Click [here](#) to see a short interview with Dr Ania Grobicki, Acting Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Women and Leadership!



Personal Account: Gordana Beltram on managing Slovenia's Škocjan Caves

I became passionate about wetlands in the early 1990s when I started working on my PhD on wetland management in Slovenia. After successfully defending my thesis, I began to work at the Slovenian Ministry [Read more](#)



Trinidad celebrates its women wetland leaders

The Pointe-a-Pierre Wildfowl Trust is uniquely situated within a petro-chemical, oil-refining complex in South Trinidad; actively managed by two vibrant, passionate women who have dedicated their lives to the cause of environmental education and wetland conservation. Molly R. Gaskin, PaP Wildfowl Trust's President [Read more](#)

Women in Action



Patrolling for wildlife crime in wetlands: Is it his or her job?

Having a majority of women patrolling wetlands of international importance in northern Greece in the framework of a "LIFE+" project did not happen on purpose. Responding to the need to safeguard the rarest waterbird [Read more](#)

Women-inclusive Local Water Committees score success in Burkina Faso

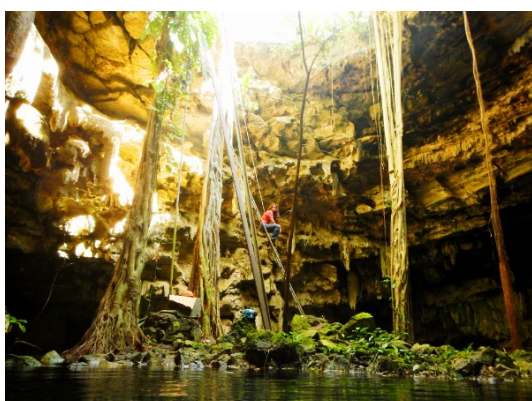


The Burkina Faso National Gender Policy of 2009 notes the existence of age-old gender inequalities in the areas of access to, supply of and management of drinking water. It states that shortcomings in hygiene and sanitation are also harmful [Read more](#) / [Lire plus](#)



New Study to focus on women's contribution to wetland science

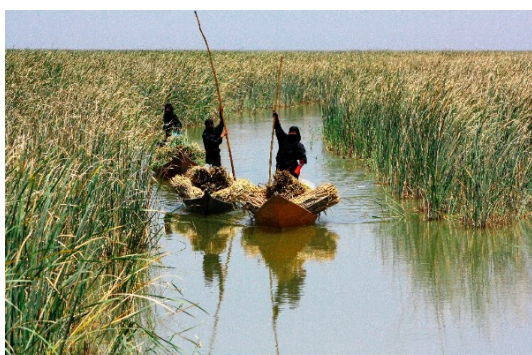
New research exploring a national archive of freshwater and wetland science is uncovering the significant role of women biologists and ecologists in the development of global freshwater biological sciences in the 20th Century [Read more](#)



Personal Account: A Mayan woman's action to help protect the Cenotes

Born and raised in Yucatan, Mexico, I have been fascinated by the complexities of the world. This has drawn me to an extreme curiosity and feeling of awe for nature. I have directed my efforts to caring about what surrounds me: water. Through science [Read more](#)

Women's Livelihoods



Women and craft industries in the marshes of Southern Mesopotamia

Women play an active role in the economic and social life of the marshes of southern Mesopotamia. They shoulder significant responsibilities and play multiple roles. Women as well as men inherited knowledge [Read more](#)



Ethno & eco-tourism initiative in Malaysia empowers women

Each day at a village called Abai in Malaysia's largest Ramsar site (the Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Wetlands), a mother is charting a future that connects her community back to their traditions and also promotes a functioning ecosystem. Jainah Amid is [Read more](#)



Women caretakers of traditional flood-recession agriculture in Senegal

The middle valley of the Senegal River is a vast flood plain fed by the annual flood of the River. Numerous depressions form a vast seasonal wetland where some [Read more](#) / [Lire plus](#)



Handicrafts inspire community to conserve and restore wetlands in Thailand

Lepironia grass is harvested from Thale Noi Wetland, the first Ramsar site of Thailand. The grass is collected and used by local women cooperatives, who harvest, process and weave it into handicrafts such as mats, rope, sugar sacks, bags, hats and fans. [Read more](#)



The role of women in water collection in Burkina Faso

The Burkina Faso National Policy for Wetlands identifies 1,794 natural and artificial wetlands within the country, including 18 Ramsar Sites. These wetlands receive water, store it, purify it, transport and distribute it from upstream to downstream in catchment basins.

[Read more](#) / [Lire plus](#)

News from the Ramsar Secretariat



Launch of Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands!

The Secretariat's Culture & Livelihoods Team has launched an initiative to stimulate the undertaking of Rapid Cultural Inventories around the world. The first inventories will begin in Spring 2016 and we are actively working with Ramsar partners and other stakeholders to identify Ramsar Sites [Read more](#)



World Wetland Day photo contest winner to be announced soon!

Thank you to all the young people who participated in our World Wetlands Day photo contest and uploaded pictures that capture "Wetlands are essential for Sustainable Livelihoods." We shall be announcing the top 100 finalists shortly. [See pictures](#) / [Read stories](#)

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