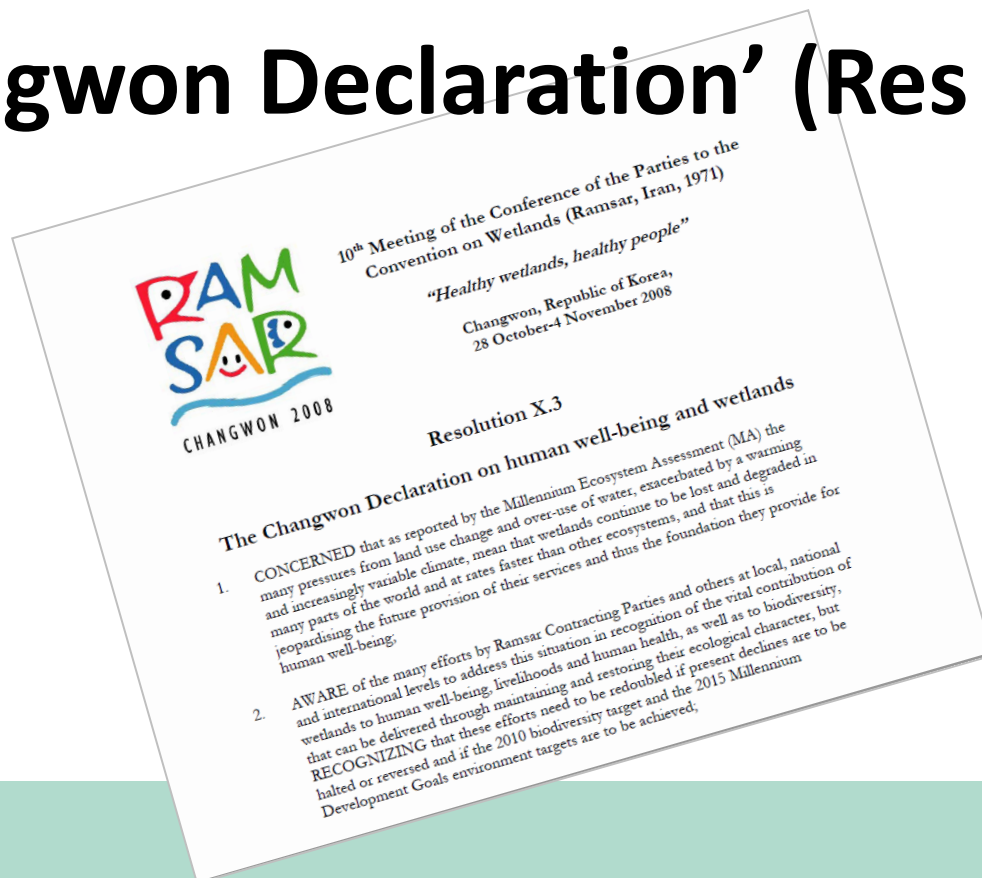


Promotion and utilization of the 'Changwon Declaration' (Res X.3)



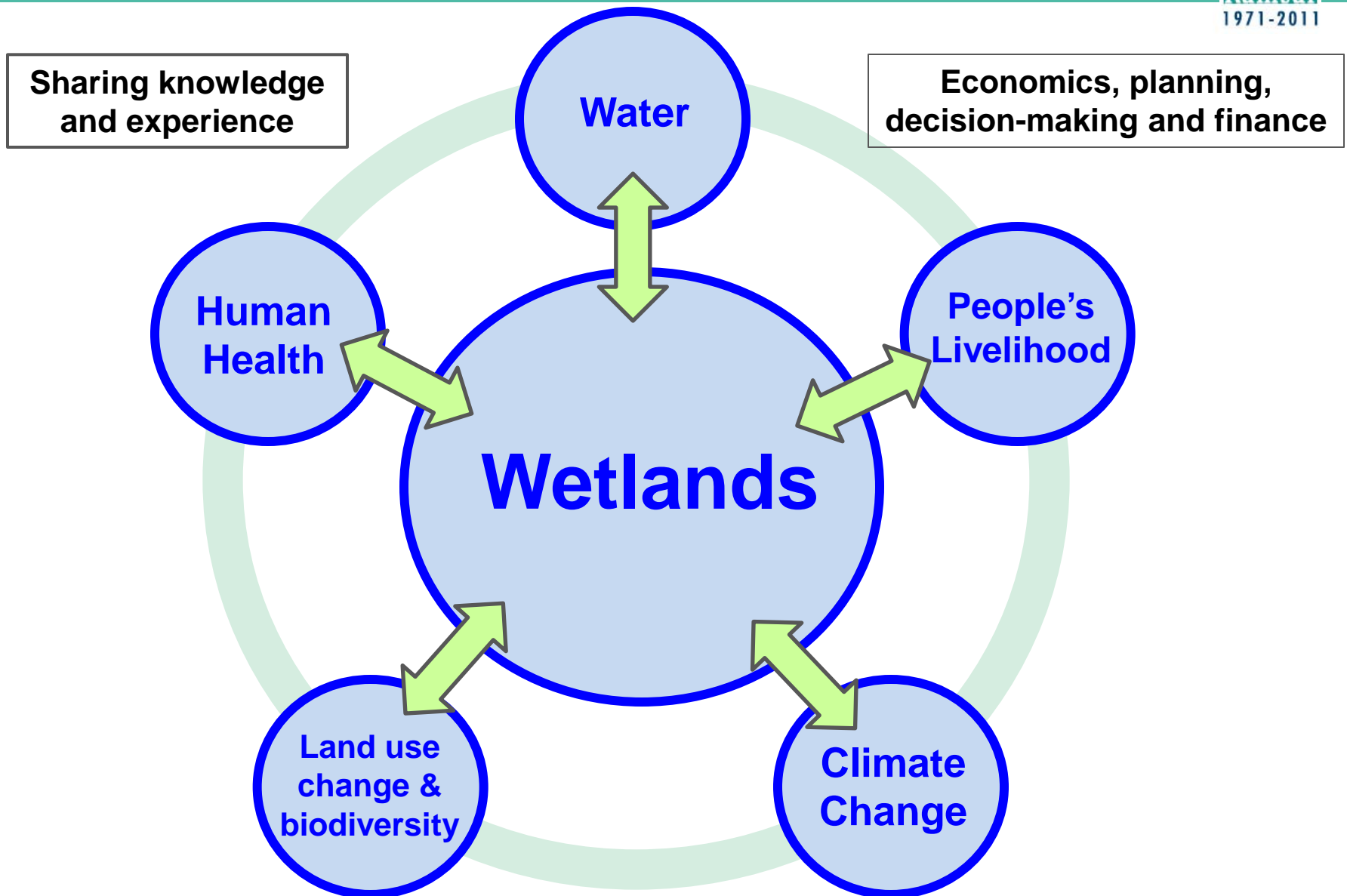
42st Meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, 14 – 18 2011

‘Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands’ (Res X.3)

- Adopted at COP10 as a response to the loss and degradation of wetlands, which is continuing at a faster pace than for any other ecosystem;
- The Declaration was intended to complement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 and to transmit key messages concerning the important role of wetlands to sectors beyond the Ramsar community whose activities affect wetlands and their services;
- This includes those working in sectors such as water management, human health, poverty reduction, climate change, and spatial planning;
- The aim was to engage this groups of stakeholders so that they can take actions for wetlands conservation and wise use.



Wetlands



Dissemination of the Changwon Declaration

Res. X.3 urged the Ramsar community to use their own means and any relevant opportunities, to actively promote the Declaration.

Paragraph 16. Encouraged Contracting Parties and others to find the resources to translate the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages and to facilitate its dissemination and understanding as widely as possible;

- *The Changwon Declaration has been translated into 14 languages which have been placed on the Ramsar website for easy downloading*
http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-changwon/main/ramsar/1-31-434_4000_0



Uptake of the Changwon Declaration

Res. X.3 also urged the Ramsar community and those sectors and stakeholders who the Convention has not yet had much engagement, to use the Declaration to inform their policies, decision-making and actions at all levels for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Paragraph 17. Instructed the Ramsar Secretariat and Standing Committee to develop and include indicators in the National Report Format for COP11 concerning the dissemination and uptake of the “Changwon Declaration” and to report on this to Contracting Parties and others;

- *Indicators have been included in the National Report Format for COP11 and the results will be reported to COP11*

Reporting to COP11

Paragraph 18. Requested the Standing Committee, STRP, CEPA NFPs, Ramsar regional initiatives, IOPs, and other interested parties to advise the Secretariat on their experiences of the uptake of the Declaration in order to inform COP11;

The government of the R.O. Korea as the COP10 host country, kindly declared their intention to champion the dissemination and uptake of this Declaration. As a result, the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RRC-EA) organized two ‘Changwon Declaration Network Meeting’ in 2009 and 2010, to exchange information and experiences regarding its dissemination and uptake.



Case study: Japan

Members of Diet: Japanese Parliamentary League for Increasing Ramsar Sites

Government: Inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee

Municipalities: Meeting of Japanese Municipalities involved with Ramsar Sites

NGOs: Many NGOs (e.g. Ramsar Network Japan)

Children: 'Kodomo Ramsar' network of children living in/near each Ramsar Site

**National
Wetland
Committee**

Successful implementation of the Convention in Japan is due to development of a strong network amongst a range of stakeholders, at all levels.

Challenges

- 'Business as usual'
- Beyond translating, printing and distribution of the Changwon Declaration;
- Need to 'internalize' the spirit of the Declaration and to make sure that in our own work on wetlands, we are reaching out and involve those 'other stakeholders'.
- Challenges to the implementation of the Changwon Declaration is a reflection of the challenges to the implementation of the Convention.
- There is no one, single solution - dependent on the region, the country, etc.
- There was a need for better sharing of best practices on wetland conservation and wise use, so that the ideas can be adapted for local situations;
- There is still a general lack of awareness of the economic value and benefits of wetlands amongst decision-makers.

What's next....?

In response, it is proposed that:

- Compilation of case studies on best practices for the implementation of the Changwon Declaration and thus the Ramsar Convention, so that the ideas can be shared and adapted for local situations;
- However, a framework first needs to be developed for compiling these case studies so that the work being done by the Ramsar community can be measured at all levels, identify gaps, and allow the prioritization of actions which still need to be taken to deliver the Declaration;
- The 3rd Changwon Declaration Network meeting will be used to fine tune the draft framework and to review the case studies collected;
- The document would then be used to contribute to the Information Paper for presentation to COP11. However, voluntary funding would be required to hire a consultant to work with the partners to produce this document.

