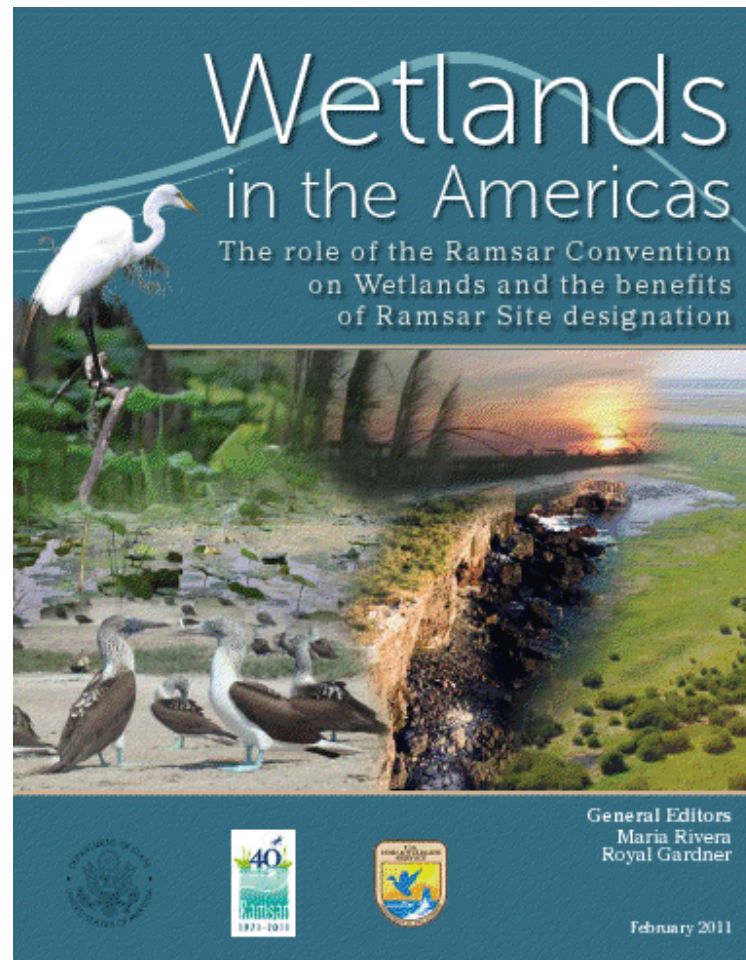


# Wetlands in the Americas: The role of the Ramsar Convention and the benefits of Ramsar Site designation



**María Rivera**  
**Senior Advisor**  
**for the**  
**Americas**  
**May 2011**

# Main Objective

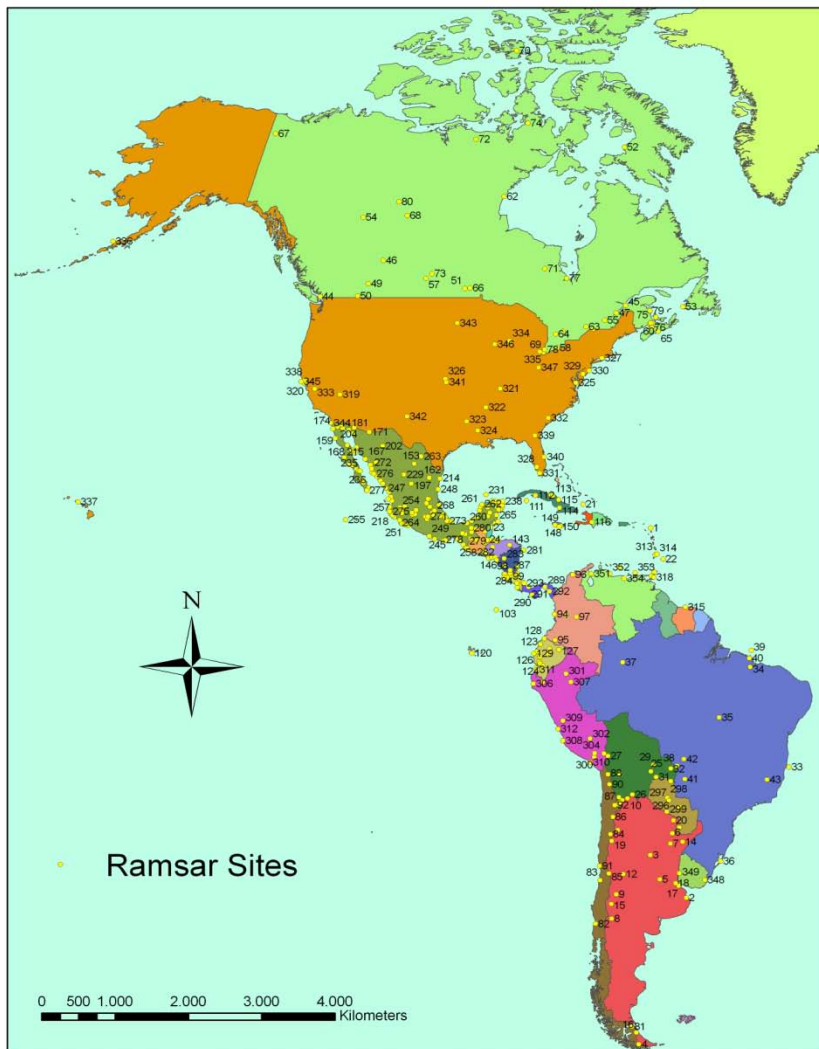
To raise awareness among the different stakeholders in the Americas region about the benefits of being part of the Convention and of designating wetlands for the Ramsar List





- **29** Contracting Parties

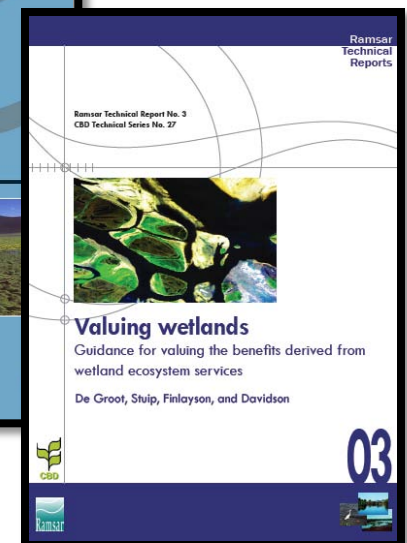
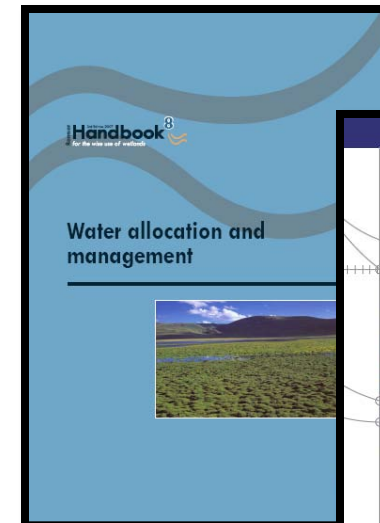
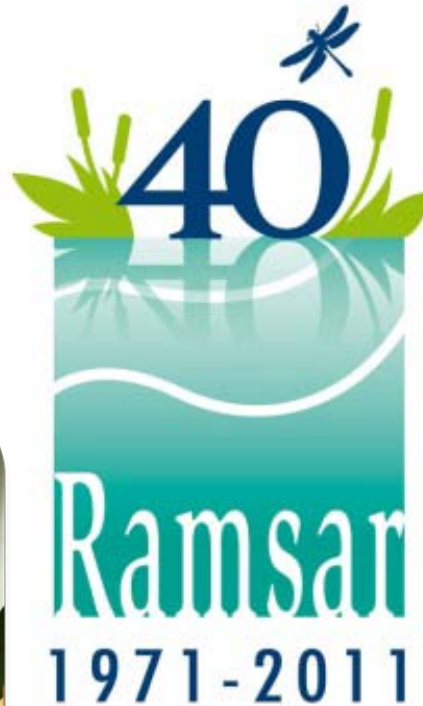
- **354** Ramsar Sites (55 million ha, 18% at the global level)



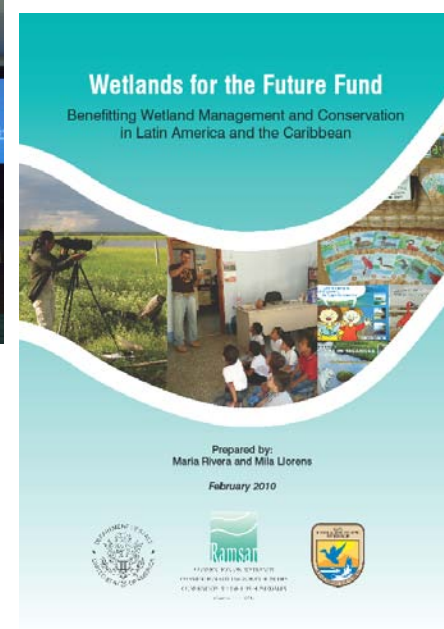
# Chapter 1. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands



A. FIROUZ (chair) S.AFRICA M.F. MÖRZER BRULINS G. MATTHEWS E. CAP



- Designation of Ramsar Sites
- National Wetlands Committees
- Regional Initiatives
- Wetlands Policies



## Chapter 3. Surveys of benefits associated with Ramsar designation

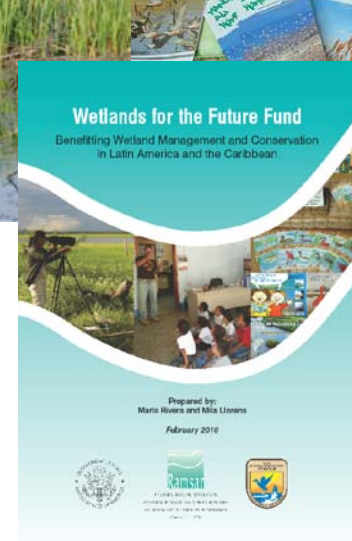


## Chapter 4. Case studies of selected Ramsar Site designations


24 successful Case Studies...



- International, regional to the national level
- Acknowledge of ecological values
- Strength of laws and regulations
- Funding Opportunities
- Network of Ramsar Sites
- Regional Initiatives



## Chapter 5. Benefits of membership to the Ramsar Convention and challenges for the future in the Americas

A wide-angle photograph of a coastal wetland. In the foreground, there's a rocky shoreline with some low-lying vegetation. The middle ground shows a large, shallow body of water with a sandy bar in the center. Numerous pink flamingos are scattered throughout the water and on the sand. The background consists of a flat, grassy plain under a clear sky.

There are many challenges ahead of us ,  
in order to achieve the wise use concept  
we must learn to appreciate what we  
have and not what we have lost ....