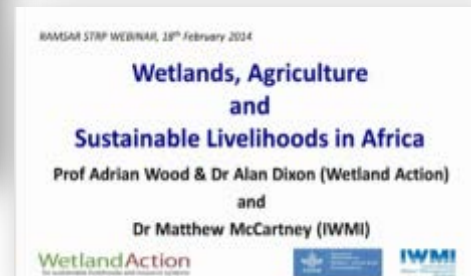


Standing Committee 47



Report of the STRP Chair Prof. Royal C. Gardner



STRP
Scientific and Technical
Review Panel

Briefing Notes
BN no. 6, December 2013

Ramsar Convention
on Wetlands

Towards the wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands

This Briefing Note expands on the principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands agreed by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, and aims to help managers and planners of towns and cities ensure the wise use of wetlands.

Sustainable towns and cities can drive economic development, increase wealth generation and enhance the overall quality of human life, all within a smaller footprint and at a lower per-capita resource use than any other settlement pattern. However, unsustainable urbanization continues to drive wetland loss and degradation in some parts of the world. Increasingly, people working to make towns and cities more sustainable recognize wetlands as essential natural infrastructure which can deliver a range of benefits to a variety of beneficiaries in urban and peri-urban environments. This Briefing Note provides further guidance on how to deliver the dual goals of wise use of wetlands and sustainable urbanization.

Key messages

- The benefits which wetlands deliver, such as providing drinking water, mitigating flood risk and regulating local climate, underpin human well-being in towns and cities. Therefore, the loss and degradation of urban and peri-urban wetlands diminish human well-being.
- Towns and cities are human constructs, and as such human society can influence and shape the evolution of towns and cities by integrating the principles of wetland wise use into planning and management decision-making.
- Wetlands should be considered as solution providers within an urban and peri-urban context, which can mitigate risks from a changing climate, support food production for a growing population and generate income through tourism and recreation.
- Too often the benefits which wetlands provide within urban and peri-urban environments are not fully recognized. The benefits provided by wetlands should be recognized and better integrated into planning and decision-making.
- The principles annexed to Resolution XI.11 should be adopted by local governments and integrated across all sectors and departments involved in the planning and management of towns and cities.
- The bodies of the Ramsar Convention and its wider networks should disseminate guidance and examples of how to implement the principles.

Download PDFs of all Briefing Notes at www.ramsar.org/BN/

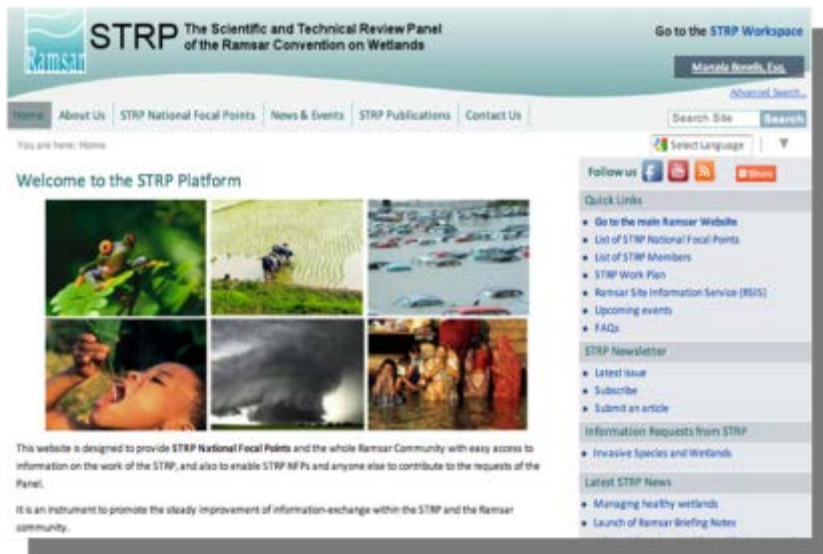
Agenda item: 12.2

- Update on STRP products
- Meetings and workshops
- Progress on high-priority tasks

Update on STRP products



- STRP Platform launched in July 2013



Update on STRP products



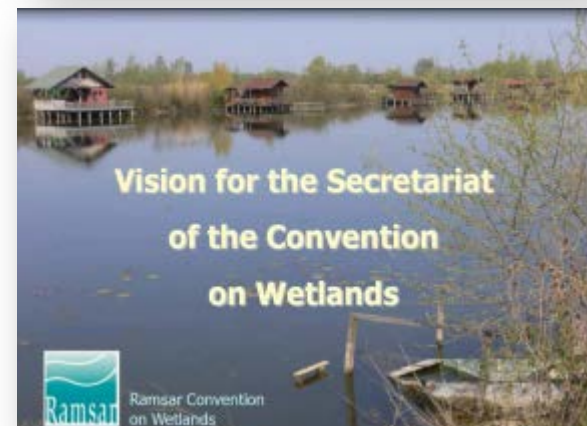
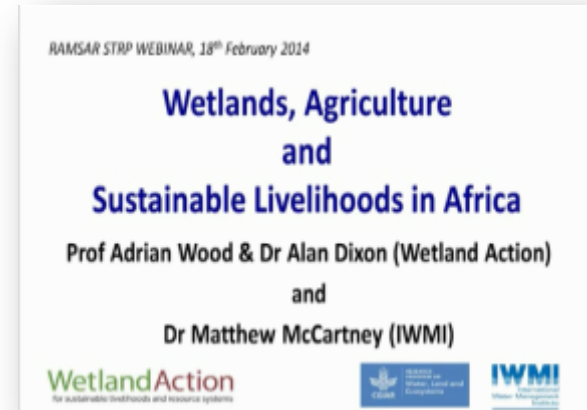
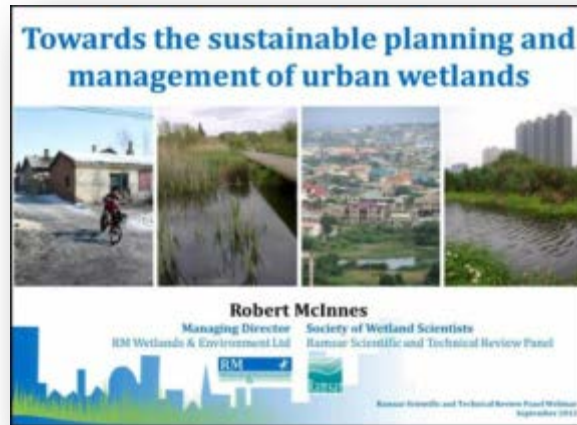
• STRP Newsletters 2013



Update on STRP products



- STRP Webinar Series



Meetings and workshops



- Asia Regional Workshop on Scientific and Technical Support for the Implementation of the Convention



Meetings and workshops



- Visit to Sultanate of Oman



Meetings and workshops



- IPBES



Agenda item: 12.2

Report of the STRP Chair

STRP Core Budget



- 2013

Support Officer	120
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STRP17	50
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Travel	10
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STRP tasks	30
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Contributions	88.85
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- 2014

Support Officer	120
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Workshops	50
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Travel	10
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STRP tasks	30
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Progress on high-priority tasks



- Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people (SoWWS) and the Convention's effectiveness (CHF 20,000)
- Assess and support the capacity-building and knowledge sharing needs of Contracting Parties in implementing the Ramsar Convention (CHF 15,000)

Progress on high-priority tasks



- Invasive species and wetlands – guide to available guidance (CHF 10,000)
- Implementation of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision (no allocation)
- Implications of, and advice on, climate change for Convention implementation (CHF 3,850)

Progress on high-priority tasks



- Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of a strategy for engaging in the global water debate (CHF 20,000)
- Wetlands and poverty eradication – guidance and case studies (CHF 30,000)

Progress on high-priority tasks



- Economics of wetland ecosystem benefits/services (no allocation)
- Monitoring for change in ecological character
– further guidance: standardised terminology concerning Article 3.2 issues (CHF 20,000)

In conclusion ...



- STRP18 will be held in September 2014
- Standing Committee is invited to:
 - note the STRP Chair's report; and
 - consider possible ways of sourcing funding for implementation of the highest priority tasks as identified by Standing Committee 46 Decision 14.

Thank you for your attention!

