

# The Ramsar Convention Bodies & Processes

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1<sup>st</sup> Workshop of the STRP African National Focal Points and  
other Wetland Experts in the region.

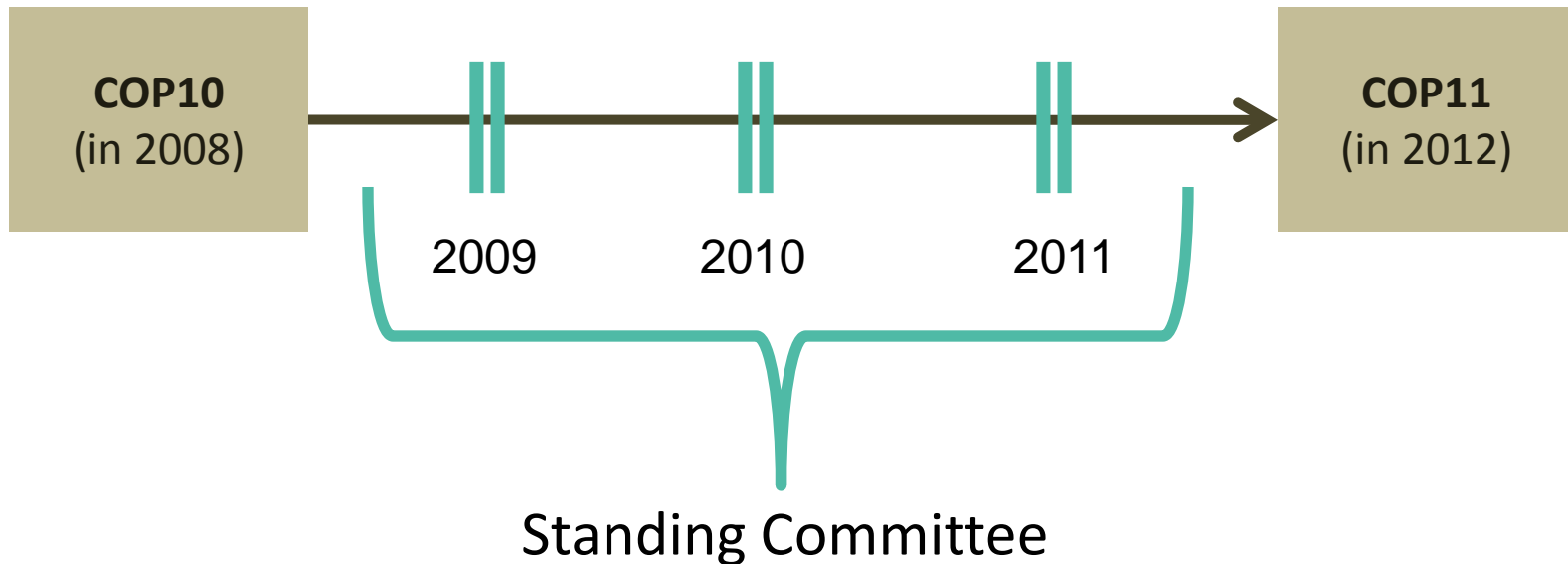
Johannesburg, South Africa, 30 November-2 December 2010

# A global Convention



- Governing Body of the Convention
- Contracting Parties meet to debate and agree actions for future implementation of the Convention
- Adoption of Resolutions (Scientific and Technical but also Administrative such core budget for next 3 years)

# The Standing Committee



- Inter sessional executive body that represents the COP and oversees implementation between COP meetings;
- Guided by the framework of the decisions made by COP
- Regional Representation : 18 regional members/2 observer CPs/5 International Organization Partners

for Africa: Cameroon, Mauritius, Tanzania, and Nigeria

# The Ramsar Secretariat



21 staff members based in Gland, Switzerland + 1 outposted in Samoa.

- ✓ maintain the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) (new designations, updates and RSs database);
- ✓ assist in organizing the COP, SC, STRP and Regional Meetings;
- ✓ provide admin., scientific, technical support to CPs (i.e. Advisory Missions);
- ✓ keep the Ramsar community and the public informed of the convention's developments and prepare material for World Wetlands Day;
- ✓ assist recruiting new Contracting Parties;
- ✓ seek financial contributions for implementation of projects;
- ✓ develop avenues of cooperation with other Conventions, NGOs, private sector etc.

# The Scientific and Technical Review Panel

➤ **provides scientific and technical guidance** to :



to **influence** current and future efforts with regard of priority issues, information needs, potential problems and conflicting policies on wetland conservation issues

- the Conference of Parties
- the Standing Committee
- the Ramsar Secretariat
- international processes



➤ It is appointed at the beginning of **each triennium** by recommendation from the STRP Oversight Committee based on nominations received and endorsed by Standing Committee.

➤ The **STRP Chair** reports back to each Standing Committee

➤ working language is English

➤ Small budget for a lot of work – always need for voluntary contributions



# Who is STRP? The core members



**Heather McKay –  
STRP Chair**



**Rebecca D’Cruz  
STRP Vice-Chair  
Asia**



**Stanley Liphadzi  
Africa**



**Rebecca Lee  
Europe**



**Randy Milton  
North America**



**Monts Carbonell  
Neotropics**



**Philippe Gerbeaux  
Oceania**



**Dave Pritchard**



**Pierre Horwitz**



**Mike Acreman**



**Max Finlayson**



**David Stroud**



**Kevin Erwin**



**George Lukacs**



**Chris Prietto**

## 6 Regional Networkers

## 8 Thematic Experts

- Wetland Inventory, Monitoring & Reporting
- Wetlands & Human Health
- Wetlands & Climate Change
- Wetlands & Water Resources Management
- Wetlands of International Importance
- Wetland Restoration, Mitigation & Compensation
- Wetland & Agriculture
- Communication, Education, Participation & Awareness

# ...Who is STRP? The invited Organizations

## 9 appointed invited experts:

Andrej Sirin (Russian Federation), Ernesto Briones (Ecuador),  
Kassim Kulindwa (Tanzania), Ebenizário Chonguiça (Mozambique),  
Sang-Don Lee (Rep. of Korea), Royal Gardner (USA), Teresita Borges (Cuba), Chris  
Gordon (Ghana), Cui Lijuan (China)

**5 appointed members from the Ramsar's International Organization Partners (IOPs):** BirdLife International, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN, Wetlands International, and WWF International

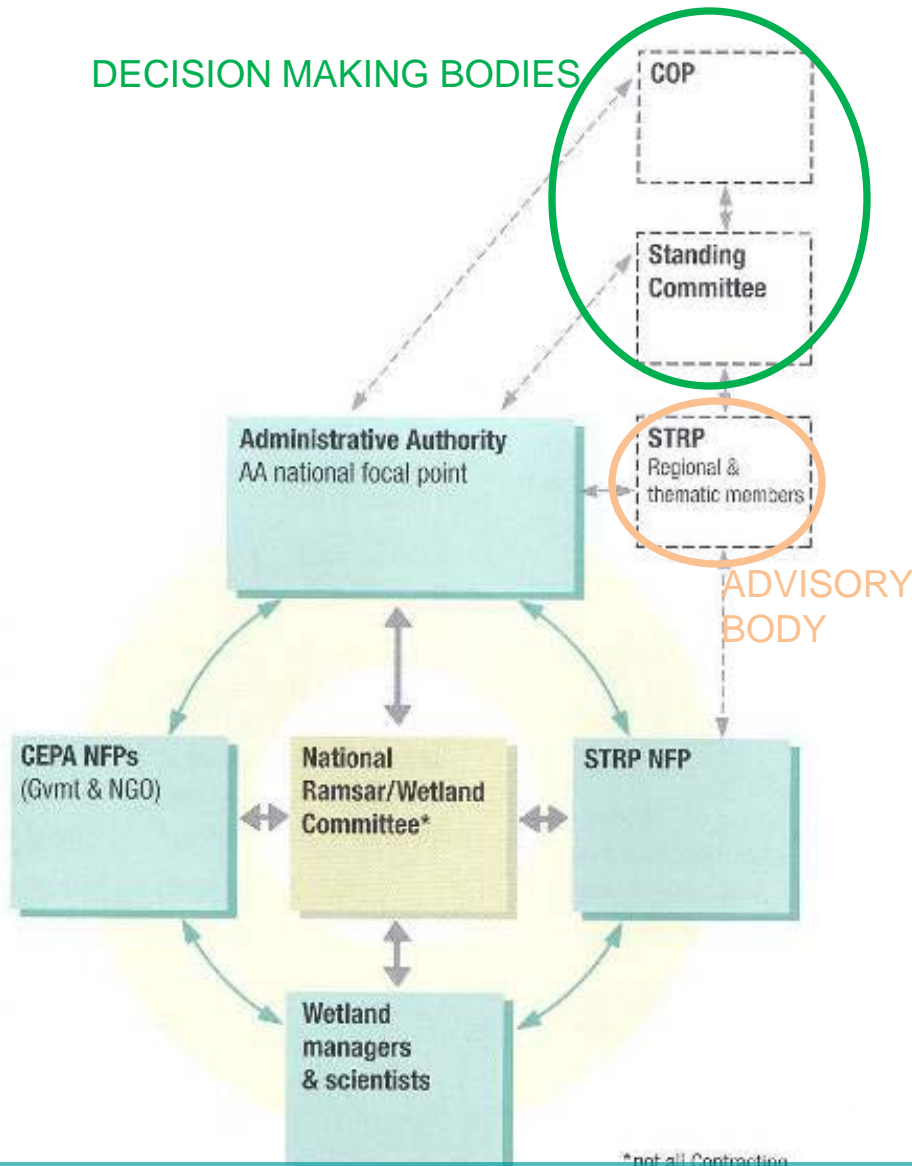
## 18 Representatives of other Organizations

- Deputy Secretary General
  - Scientific & Technical Officer
- with STRP Chair advice



# How is the Convention delivered in the Country?

## DECISION MAKING BODIES



\*not all Contracting Parties have yet

## Administrative Authority (AA)

the main governmental agency responsible for the application of the Convention  
daily contacts are kept by **AA focal point**

## STRP focal point

provides liaison between the STRP members and national experts

## CEPA (=Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) Government and NGO focal points

- provide leadership to spread the Convention's approaches to wetlands management

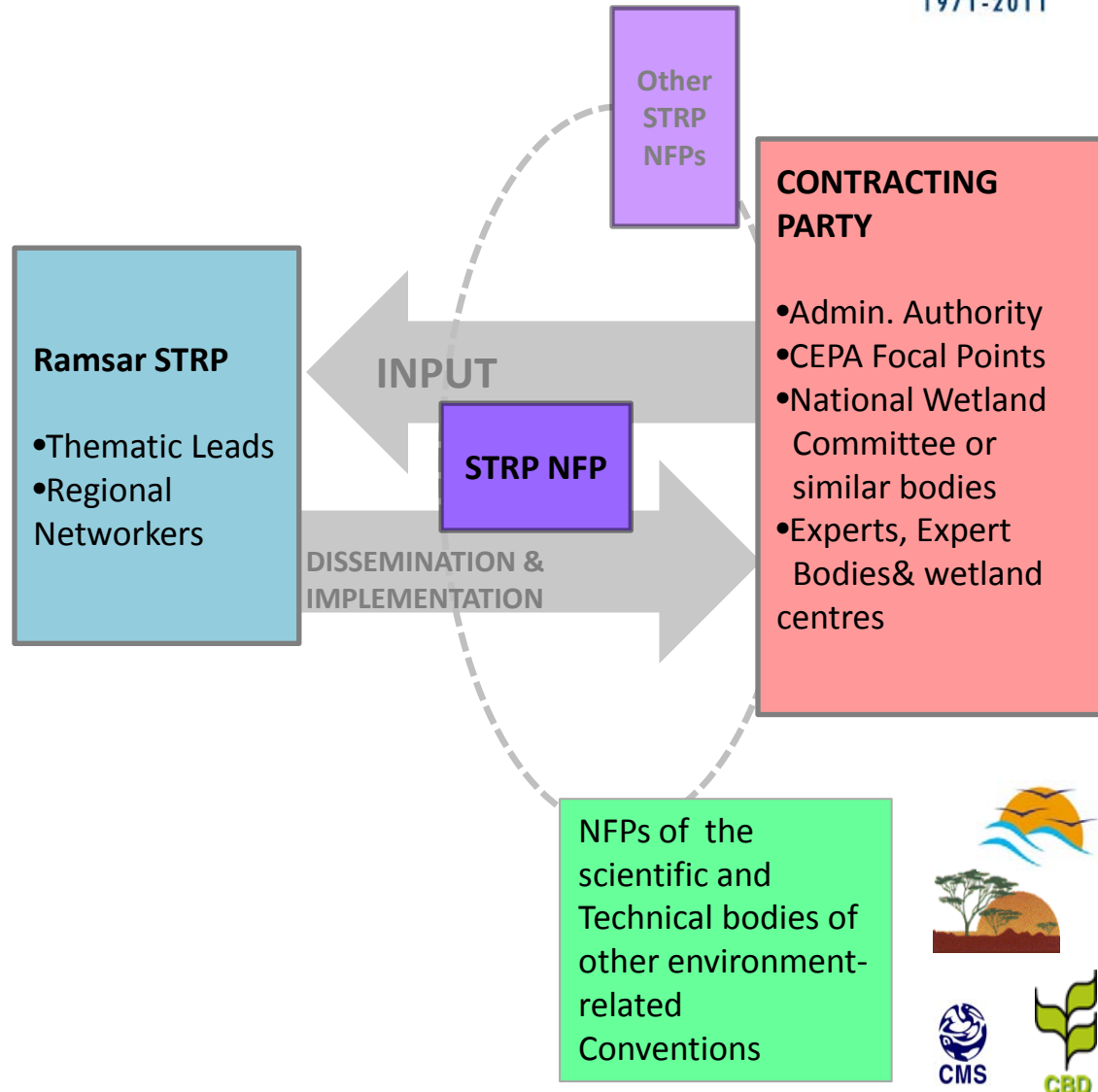
**National Ramsar Committee**, provides a mechanism to spread the Convention's tools beyond individuals and develops national policies.



# STRP National Focal Points (NFPs)

## Main functions:

1. to **input** and **support** the work of STRP;
2. to **advise** STRP on national and regional wetland issues;
3. to **act** as liaison person between STRP and other expertise in the country;
4. to **assist** the Ramsar Administrative Authority (i.e. brief on them on upcoming technical guidance and draft resolutions to COP)
5. to **involve** in Ramsar processes in the country (National Wetland Committee, Ramsar Advisory Missions)
6. to **disseminate** the work of STRP to their Contracting Party;



# Support from other Ramsar's Partners

The Ramsar's International Organization Partners (IOPs):



National

Regional

Global

Ramsar works closely also with other MEAs and Organizations

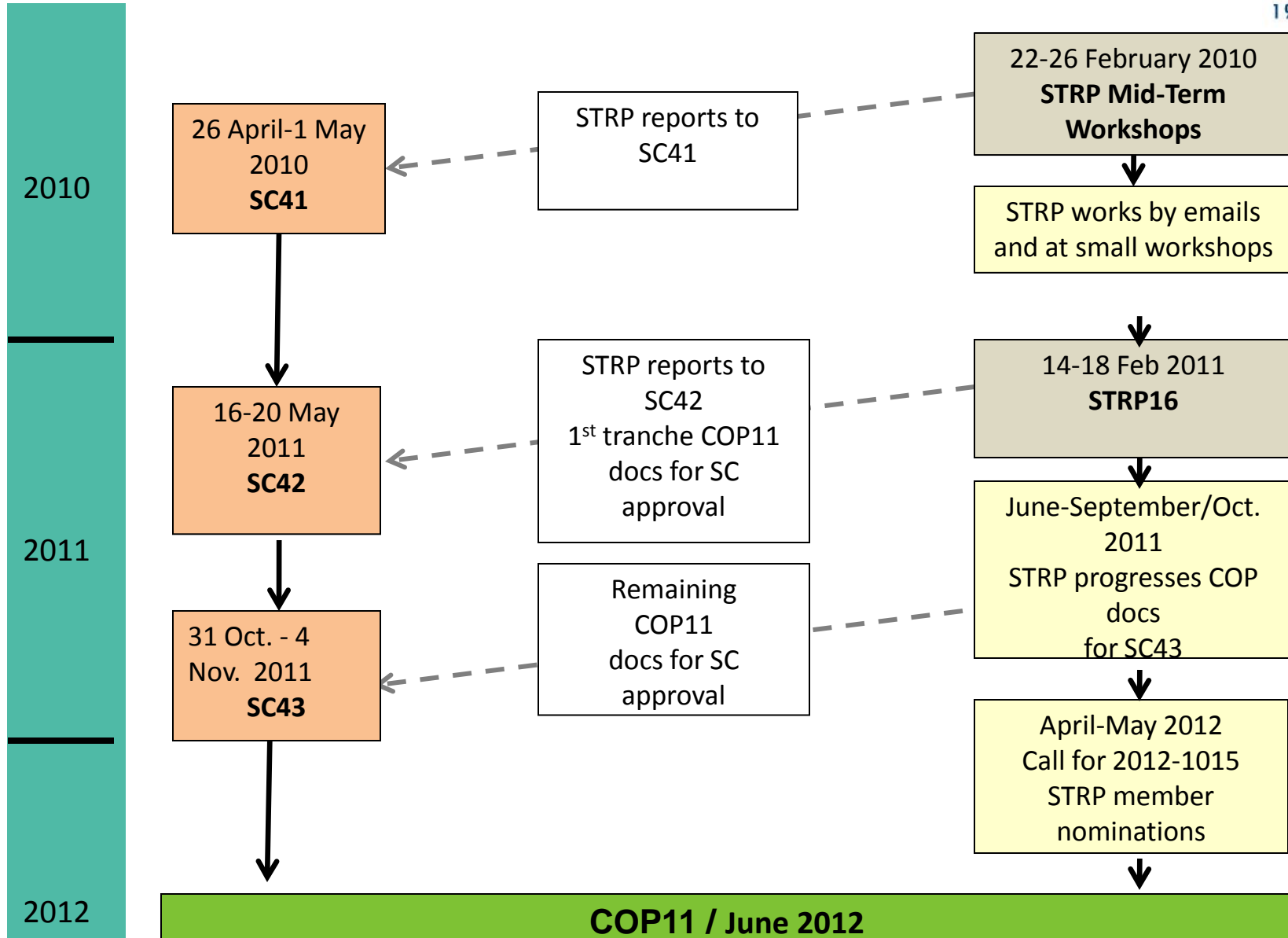
Supporting synergies and improving harmonised implementation Joint tools for effective implementation



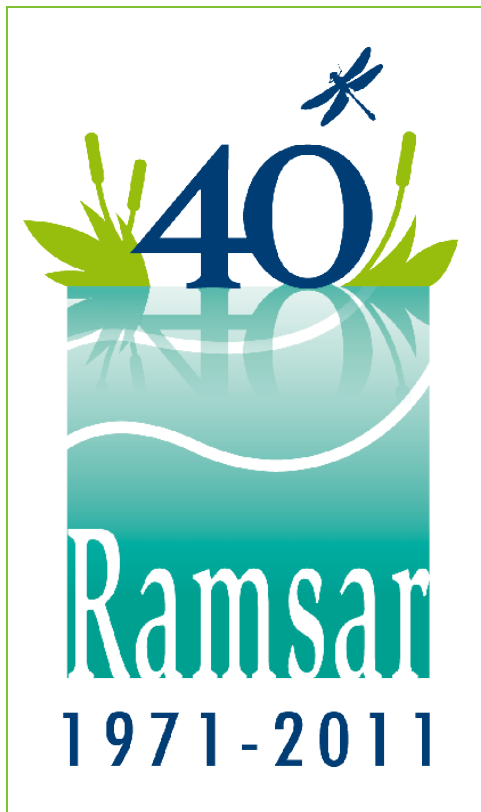
# Who can submit draft Resolutions to COP?

- Only the **Standing Committee** or a **Contracting Party** can submit a draft Resolution (DR) to the COP
  - Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP):
    - ❖ drafts **scientific & technical Resolutions** and guidances
  - Secretariat assists Standing Committee in drafting:
    - ❖ **administrative, policy and procedural Resolutions**
- All these must then be **approved** by Standing Committee before COP consideration
- Standing Committee can decide to not submit a DR and/or its annexes to COP

# SC & STRP timelines for DRs from now to COP



# Thank you



**Join us in celebrating the 40th  
Anniversary of the Ramsar  
Convention!**

**Visit**

**[www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org)**