

The Convention in Africa – status & implementation

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Wetland Experts**

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How goes the Convention in Africa?

- The Convention goes well enough but with many many challenges. It is exactly the same diagnosis as we make for Conservation in the world.
- This diagnosis is well known but it is its perception and comments which differ as we are optimistic or pessimists.

A dynamic partnership which has to be extended over on thematic plan



The hosting of the present workshop due to the efforts of Water Research Commission, Department of Environmental Affairs and Biosphere Connections is the proof that the Convention is implemented in Africa even if the efficiency needs very big improvements and innovations.

Africa Team needs your assistance

I have just arrived on board since 2 weeks, I am still in the introduction period and at the same time I am finalizing a work plan for Africa.

The purpose of my presentation is just to introduce few problems and challenges which were documented and also to indicate few ongoing planning actions.

Problems

1. Institutional Set Up of the Administrative Authority

Few staff is in charge of wetlands and the Convention implementation

The AAs need to plan both networking and fundraising actions within their work plans for wetlands activities

Little time is allocated to the Convention implementation

Working relationships between the daily NFP and the other FP needs to be improved .

Problems (C'd)

2. Human, Financial and Technical Capacities

Process to update RIS is very long.

High turn over in NFPs appointments

Beside the SGF and SGA, there is no global funding mechanism for the Convention implementation, although some donors are supporting wetlands activities and the GEF « International Waters » component can help for transboundary wetlands projects.

Most of the national budgets (environmental line) do not make provision for wetlands activities.

Problems (C'd)

3. Political will

Only few African countries have prepared or are preparing a National Wetlands Policy.

Wetlands are not often addressed in the EDPRSs

In spite of the Heads of State commitment, the implementation of the wetlands component of the NEPAD Environment Action Plan is implemented with difficulty in the region.

Most of the Africa CPs do not pay their dues to the Convention. The balance as of November 30th, 2010 is 296 943 CHF

Only a few countries have adequate institutional set ups (e.g: Uganda with a Commissioner for Wetlands Inspection, Lesotho, Ghana, etc have a Wetlands Coordination Unit, etc.) which deals with the Convention implementation.

Regional Initiatives

- **4 endorsed:**

CongoWet

Congo Basin

NigerWet

Niger Basin

ChadWet

Chad Basin

WacoWet

West African Coast

- **Under development**

RAMCEA

Ramsar Centre for East Africa

Challenges

- Collaboration with other MEAs which have similar objectives calls for more synergies (at the local and regional level) (World Heritage, CMS, CBD, CITES, UNCCD, UNFCCC, etc..)
- More global approach in the Convention implementation
“From priority on “sites designation” to “policies and strategies development and implementation” and demonstration sites for wise use...”
- Implementation of the Wetlands component of NEPAD, COMIFAC, EAC, ECOWAS Environment Action Plan (When? How? Whom? Funding? Do we need a strategy?)

Challenges

Assist in development and implementation of national wetland policies

Assist CPs to integrate wetland issues into national development frameworks

Article 3.2 says: Administrative Authorities are informed on ecological changes at Ramsar sites – and they inform the Secretariat about such changes without delay. Report change and maintain or restore the ecological character of Ramsar sites.

Actions

COP11 regional preparatory meetings before July 2011

Prepare the region contribution to all the 2011
Convention statutory events

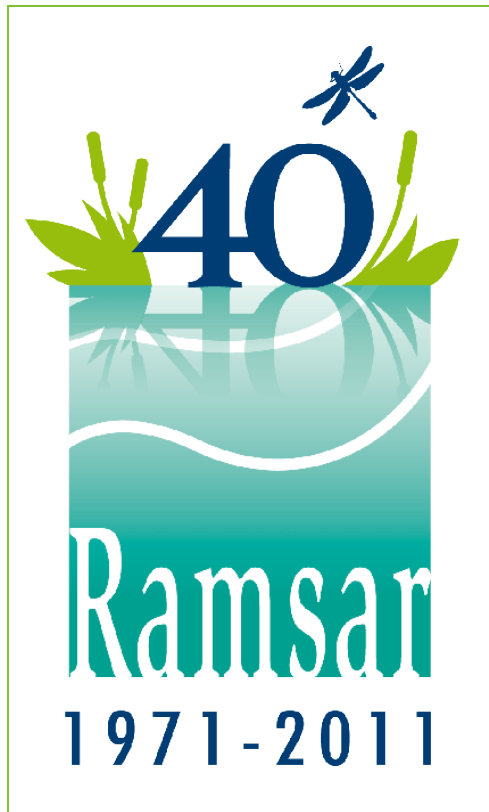
Finalise the Work plan

Draft a networking strategy for Africa (Fundraising, Sustain
the CP existing capacity building programs, etc.....)

Boost the collaboration with the regional's Initiatives



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