



The Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the **conservation** and **wise use** of wetlands and their resources.

<http://www.ramsar.org/>



## STRP Newsletter – October 2009

The quarterly Newsletter of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention

Dear STRP National Focal Points:

This newsletter has been created by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in collaboration with STRP members and Observer Organizations with the purpose of keeping you informed on the progress of the Panel's work during this new triennium 2009-2012, and to provide you with useful information on wetland conservation for the implementation of the Convention in your own country, as well as to enhance our STRP network throughout the regions. If you would like to contribute with new items for the next newsletter, please send them to [stp@ramsar.org](mailto:stp@ramsar.org)

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- List of Ramsar Administrative Authorities [Click here.](#)
- List of CEPA National Focal Points [Click here](#)
- List of STRP Members [Click here](#)
- STRP Support Service <http://www.wetlands.org/stp/>
- The Ramsar Site Information Service <http://ramsar.wetlands.org/>
- The Global Environmental Flows Network eFlowNet [www.eflownet.org](http://www.eflownet.org)

*Ramsar's International Organization Partners (IOPs):*

- BirdLife International [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)
- IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)
- IWMI (International Water Management Institute) <http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/>
- Wetlands International [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)
- WWF [www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)

### STRP Input in Ramsar Advisory Mission in Mozambique



From left to right, Francisco Rilla of CMS, Abou Bamba of Ramsar, Alcinda de Abreu Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, David Pritchard, Ms. Cesaltina Benedito, Ramsar NFP and Rogerio Wamusse, General Director of Environment of Mozambique.



Members of the Penembe Community representatives (they are the ones that have been the most affected by the exploration project) meeting with the RAM team members on site.

In August Dave Pritchard, STRP Lead for the Thematic Work Area on “Wetland Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring & Reporting “ took part, as a consultant and STRP expert, in a Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) to Mozambique's Zambezi Delta Ramsar site, the 688,000 ha Marromeu Complex. The Government of Mozambique had requested advice on management of potential threats from oil and gas prospecting activities in the site. Other Mission team members were Francisco Rilla Manta, representing the Secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Agreement on African-Eurasian Waterbirds, and Abou Bamba of Ramsar. In-country assistance was provided by WWF Mozambique.

Exploratory drilling, clearance of a small area of forest and construction of access roads had all taken place in the Ramsar site: the Mission visited the drill site, met with Ministers and government officials and consulted local village communities to consider impacts and safeguard measures, as well as reviewing Convention implementation in the country more generally. A report with recommendations is in preparation.

This case is another example of the rising trend of mineral extraction threats to wetlands which gave rise to Resolution X.26 and the STRP's current task 2.3 to review guidance on impacts of extractive industries. There may be scope for Marromeu to feature as a "ground-truthing" case example for some of this work.

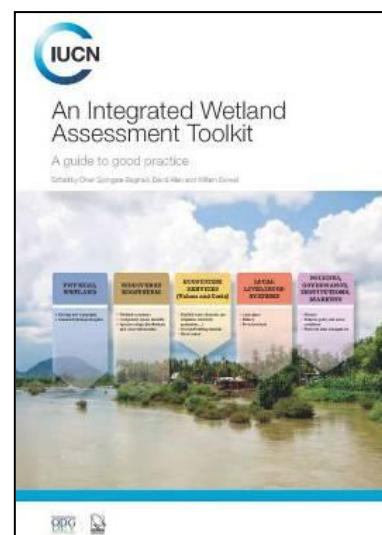
Another short report of the mission can be found at [http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/08\\_august\\_09/Ramsar\\_Mozambique.pdf](http://www.cms.int/news/PRESS/nwPR2009/08_august_09/Ramsar_Mozambique.pdf)

### Launch of an integrated wetland assessment toolkit

In its foreword, the Ramsar Secretary General, Mr Anada Tiega, says” I urge all those concerned with the management and conservation of wetland resources, and in securing the wise use of wetlands, to read it and use it in their future work.” The toolkit, funded by the Darwin Initiative of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Implemented by IUCN and other partners, provides a set of practical and policy-relevant methods for information collection. The integrated approach presented in the toolkit also enables practitioners to assess a wetland in terms of its combined biodiversity, economic and livelihood values. It has a particular focus on strengthening pro-poor approaches to wetland management. It is intended to help overcome the current methodological and information gaps in wetland assessment, thereby facilitating the factoring of wetland values into conservation and development decision-making and management planning. It can be applied to all sorts of wetlands and at all scales.

**Who this toolkit is for:** wetland site managers, environmental impact assessors, conservation and development planners, and researchers from both natural and social science disciplines.

<http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2009-015.pdf>



## Progress on Wetlands & Health

At the end of August, four members of the STRP and the Deputy Secretary General met in Perth Western Australia, to further develop the STRP theme of Wetlands and Human Health. Nick Davidson (Deputy Secretary General), Max Finlayson (STRP Lead for TWA5) and Pierre Horwitz (STRP Lead for TWA4) had just participated in the Society for Ecological Restoration International's Conference the previous week, and were joined by Christine Prietto (STRP Lead for TWA10) and Ritesh Kumar (Wetlands International). Together they spent three full days at Pierre's home in Fremantle, the principal task being to bring the Technical Report for the theme to a closer stage of completion. This particular exercise is the 'gateway' task for the theme – from this report all other work will unfold over the next three years.



The "Health team" took time to visit a Ramsar listed wetland (Thompson Lake) in Perth. (from the left: Pierre Horwitz, STRP lead for wetlands&health, Ritesh Kumar (Wetlands International) and Christine Prietto, STRP lead for CEPA)

The report presents the argument for ecosystem services and human well-being to be linked to ecological character. It uses a framework to outline where ecosystem services might be a determinant of human well-being, and human health, using examples wherever possible, highlighting public health principles, and global trends in human health and wetlands. The report has been written for wetland managers in particular, but it will have relevance well beyond that to other interested stakeholders.

A wetland manager will be encouraged to consider the positive or negative consequences of their actions for human health. Conversely, by attending to human health and well-being matters only, societal actions may directly or indirectly result in ecosystem disruption. Wetland managers therefore will need to respond and act appropriately in both cases.

It is aimed to have the report ready for distribution in early 2010. In the meantime, here is **a conceptual challenge for STRP National focal points**: The figure on the right makes it clear that degraded ecosystem services can have poor health consequences (- -). Similarly, a wetland with enhanced or maintained ecosystem services can have benefits for human health (+ +). It is also easy to think of instances where (- +) occur. But can you think of a good wetland example for (+ -): **poor health outcomes at wetlands with enhanced/maintained ecosystem services**? If so, why not send us an email! ([p.horwitz@ecu.edu.au](mailto:p.horwitz@ecu.edu.au)).

		Human Health	
		Poor health outcomes	Improved health outcomes
Ecosystem Services	Enhanced/Maintained	+ -	++
	Degraded	--	- +

## STRP and UN-Habitat for urban wetlands

At a meeting in Nairobi in early October, the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention Anada Tiega, the Chair of the Convention's Scientific Body (STRP) Heather Mackay, Mr Paul Mafabi of the Ramsar Center for East Africa (RAMCEA) and representatives of UN-Habitat Mr Rafael Tuts and Ms Karin Buhren discussed collaboration to join efforts and expertise in producing a comprehensive guidance for managing urban wetlands, taking into account the ecosystem approach and issues such as climate change, ecosystem services, food production, human health and livelihoods.



This is a major step in the accomplishment of task 2.7 of the Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)'s Work Plan which will support Parties in the implementation of [Resolution X.27](#) on Wetlands and urbanization.

The UN-Habitat will host an expert workshop in Naivasha, Kenya, 16-17 November 2009, as a first step towards development of joint guidance. This will be followed by a writing meeting in the margins of the Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) mid-term workshop of the 22-26 February 2010 in Gland, Switzerland. The draft guidance will be then tested with urban managers and wetland managers through the Ramsar Center for East Africa (RAMCEA).

The Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel welcomes any advice from Contracting Parties through their STRP National Focal Points on issues concerning urban wetlands and peri-urban wetlands that could inform the development of this scientific and technical guidance. (Please contact the STRP Task Lead, Rob McInnes [robmcinnes@bioscanuk.com](mailto:robmcinnes@bioscanuk.com))

## World Wetlands Day 2010

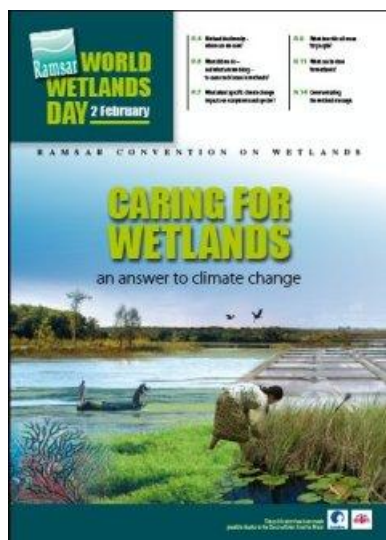
World Wetlands Day is the Convention's campaign day. Celebrated on February 2<sup>nd</sup> each year in recognition of the day in 1971 when the Convention was signed, WWD was launched in 1997 and is now THE date every year when the Ramsar family joins together in celebrating wetlands.

Our theme for February 2010 is **Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change**. As many of you know, 2010 is the UN's International Year of Biodiversity, a time to look at the ambitious 2010 target set in 2002 of reducing the current rate of loss of biodiversity at the global, national and local level. Climate change, of course, is one of many causes of biodiversity loss.

At the end of this year vital climate changes talks will be taking place at the international level in Copenhagen. At the national and local levels, the impacts on human lives and livelihoods of climate change are never far from our television screens and newspapers. At the Convention, Parties brought wetlands and climate change back on to the Ramsar agenda quite forcefully at our COP9 in November 2008 and it is an ongoing area of work for STRP.

In developing our theme, we finally arrived at the slogan *Caring for wetlands – an answer to climate change*. What do we produce to kick start WWD at the national level? Have a look here at our web page:

[http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-63-78^24106\\_4000\\_0](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-63-78^24106_4000_0)



In hard copy we have produced a poster, stickers, and a full-colour leaflet on the theme (the latter produced with much helpful input from STRP's Chair Heather MacKay and STRP member Max Finlayson). In soft copy on CD and available for download from the web, we have the above materials as well as two do-it-yourself ideas for children.

Through using and customizing our materials we are hoping our WWD actors will look at the theme from their national and local perspective, exploring the relationships between climate change and biodiversity loss and what it all means for wetlands and people. Our leaflet will assist actors (we hope!) in considering: **What is the human role in driving the loss of biodiversity and climate change? What we can do to find solutions? What role do wetlands have to play in climate change adaptation and mitigation systems?**

If you would like hard copies of our materials and the CD with the 'full package' please write to [wwd@ramsar.org](mailto:wwd@ramsar.org) and please do not forget to include your full mailing address. If you would like to customise any of our materials please ask for the DVD with the design files.

### Topic of the Quarter

**"Wetlands and Climate Change"** from our STRP Lead for Wetlands and Climate Change, Max Finlayson....

The Climate Change Thematic Work Area (TWA) was developed in the STRP Work Plan from [Resolution X.24](#) which outlined 7 main activities. To a large extent these are cross-cutting with our other TWAs. This is not surprising as we have been working on the basis that many of the consequences of global climate change will be expressed through ongoing climate variability and will exacerbate many of the existing pressures on wetlands, such as those due to changes in water quantity/quality and the presence of invasive species.

Restoration - there has been a lot of discussion with Kevin Erwin as lead of our restoration TWA to establish a process to review and potentially revise the existing Ramsar guidance on wetland restoration to ensure it adequately covers climate change issues. In support of these efforts Nick Davidson, Deputy Secretary General, Pierre Horwitz, lead of wetlands & Human health TWA and myself attended the Ecological Restoration Society International (SERI) conference in Perth (Australia) in August 2009 and presented papers on:

- i) "Wetlands and global climate change: the role of wetland restoration in a changing world" (click [here](#))
- ii) "Wetland restoration, compensation & mitigation: the approach of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands" ( [here](#) )
- iii) "Matching human wellbeing and ecological requirements for wetland restoration"

Nick Davidson also gave an opening plenary presentation on "Trade-offs and complementarities between people & nature – priority issues for restoration: the role of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands" (click [here](#) to see the presentation and [abstract](#))

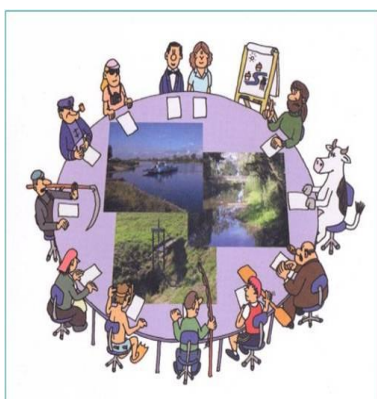
During the conference we also discussed closer links between SERI and the STRP, noting that SERI has joined the STRP as an observer organisation and has indicated strong support for our agenda on restoration in the broadest

sense. As I am moving towards overtly equating restoration with many adaptation options this could be a very profitable partnership. In support of these efforts we have also discussed with the publishing house Springer the production of a book on restoration of wetlands with case studies showing wetland adaptation and responses to climate change - more on this as the outline for the book is developed.

Human health - again we have linked the climate change tasks with the TWA on human health being led by Pierre Horwitz. At this stage we are completing a report on wetlands and human health. This has a wider scope than climate change, but will provide a basis for teasing out specific issues that will be exacerbated by climate change.

#### *Wetlands & Climate Change tasks:*

- 1. Develop methods for assessment of hydro-ecological impacts of climate change on wetlands, including the testing of such methods in data-poor areas; a request was posted on the Support Service for information; existing draft report on vulnerability assessment will be revised and submitted as a Ramsar Technical Report. Opportunities for testing in data poor sites still need to be identified.*
- 2. Review of wetland distribution in relation to land use and population distribution trends, in order to demonstrate potential effects on human health if wetlands are lost due to climate change impacts; the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) has been approached to investigate data availability for land use and population distribution trends.*
- 3. Provide guidance on how wetland management and restoration can contribute to improving adaptation to climate change; this task has been joined with the review of wetland restoration guidance being done by the STRP, and can be linked with the abovementioned plans to establish a working relationship with SERI, and will benefit from the separate effort being undertaken by the Danone Group to look at carbon mitigation using mangrove wetlands.*
- 4. Review information on the ways in which changes in wetland thermal and chemical regimes, hydro-patterns, and increases in water storage and conveyance infrastructure, including impoundments, potentially alter the pathways by which non-native species invade wetlands and influence their spread, persistence and ecological impacts on native species; no direct progress, but note that the concept of what is or will be considered an alien species has been raised in a recently published paper on alien species in wetlands (Finlayson CM 2009. Biotic pressures and their effect on wetland functioning. In Maltby E & Barker T (eds), The Wetlands Handbook, Wiley-Blackwells, Oxford, UK. Pp 667-688).*
- 5. Liaise with the Arctic Council on an assessment of the vulnerability of Arctic wetlands to climate change and the development of guidelines for wise use while taking account of the ongoing Arctic Biodiversity Assessment - further information is being sought on this activity.*
- 6. Develop a multi-institutional coordinated programme of work to investigate the potential contribution of wetland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular for reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to climate change, lot of activity is underway with participation and discussions with the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and the UNFCCC and other relevant bodies to develop guidance for the development of mutually supportive adaptation and mitigation programmes that recognize the critical role of wetlands in relation to water and food security as well as human health; the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) have met to discuss enhanced scientific collaboration on issues related to wetlands and climate change; and links have been established with the IPCC on scientific issues specifically related to wetlands and climate change; the health and wetland report already being drafted will also provide information to support further links between the STRP and other organisations involved with climate change and wetlands/water.*
- 7. Review the global distribution of biofuel production in relation to impacts on wetlands; this task is being developed with the work plan on agriculture and wetlands and IWMI (the International Water Management Institute) has been approached for further information on the distribution of wetlands.*



The background and context for our work on climate change has been outlined in a briefing note being prepared by the STRP - with Heather Mackay, STRP Chair, taking the lead - to provide relevant, easily accessible information on wetlands and climate change, in order to support Ramsar's Contracting Parties in preparation for and during the upcoming meeting in Copenhagen of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (December 2009).

Current knowledge and information on the role and importance of wetlands should be fully integrated into policy decisions of the Parties of the UNFCCC, and incorporated into development of global, regional and national policies for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Future assessments by the IPCC need adequately to incorporate role of wetlands in global carbon, nitrogen and hydrological cycles. This note, which cross references the key Ramsar background documents, is an informative document and we encourage all readers to spread it

amongst their colleagues and ensure especially that your colleagues handling climate change issues are aware of its key messages! It will be issued in early November 2009.

### Recent meetings

- **International workshop on the future of the CBD's Programme of Work on protected Areas (POWPA); 14-17 September 2009, Jeju, South Korea.**

David Stroud, STRP's lead on Ramsar site designation, attended an international workshop on the future of the Biodiversity Convention's Programme of Work on Protected Areas in September. The Workshop was generously hosted by South Korea and organised with support from IUCN's Commission on Protected Areas. The meeting drew together 83 people from 43 countries on six continents. Additionally, 20 different international organisations were represented along with three IUCN commissions. It reviewed various strands of work on protected areas that have been pursued by CBD Parties and others following past adoption of CBD of an ambitious Programme of Work (see <http://www.cbd.int/protected> for detailed information).

The aim of the Jeju workshop was to review achievements to date and establish future priorities and directions. Outcomes and conclusions will be further elaborated at a series of five regional workshops being held this autumn prior to SBSTTA. It is hoped that in due course a revised Programme of Work will be adopted by CBD CoP10 in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010.

Ramsar was particularly keen to see better acknowledgement and linkage to its own, and other, international site-protection mechanisms in future POWPA activity. This includes recognition of the extensive body of guidance that the Convention has developed over many decades, much of which is highly relevant to the identification, protection and management of other types of protected area – either for non-wetlands or of different types of importance/scale. There were wide-ranging discussions as to how the activity of other MEAS such as Ramsar could better link POWPA objectives (and vice versa). It is hoped that this dialogue with CBD will continue to develop!

*Further information on the workshop, including a detailed briefing document on issues and a summary of main conclusions, can be found at:*

<http://www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/wcpa/?4010/Jeju-International-Workshop-on-the-Future-of-POWPA-workshop-14-17Sept--Initial-outputs-now-available>

- **Wetland Legislation International Workshop 21-22 September 2009, Beijing, China**

Prof. Cui Lijuan, STRP Invited Expert, organized a two-day workshop bringing together many different government departments that work with various aspects of wetlands (Municipal People's Congress of Beijing, Regulation Department in the Municipality, Beijing Municipal Bureau of Forests and Parks, Bureau of Development and Reform, Finance Bureau, Environment Protection Bureau, Water Authority, Agricultural Bureau, Land and Resource Bureau). The goal of the workshop was to explain the importance of wetlands and the need for wetland protection legislation in Beijing. Cui provided an overview of the Wetland Protection Management System and Legislation History in China, and professor Roy Gardner, STRP Invited Expert, discussed the US experience with wetland protection, focusing on the Clean Water Act and the goal of no net loss of wetlands, the wetland permitting process, mitigation (offset) policies, enforcement, non-regulatory approaches to wetland protection, and the role of the Ramsar Convention.



- **The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB-3) of the biodiversity –related Conventions, 4 October 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya**

The meeting was well attended by the Chairs of the various scientific advisory bodies. We used the opportunity to discuss matters of common interest and potential collaboration across the biodiversity-related Conventions. Matters discussed included the process of developing post-2010 biodiversity indicators; preparations for the International Year of Biodiversity in 2010, and specific themes or projects that could be identified as suitable for collaborative work amongst two or more of the Conventions. The Chairs also discussed and prepared a joint statement to be presented to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental and Stakeholder meeting for the proposed International Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. Meeting documents, including the full report and background papers, are available at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=CSAB-03>

Heather MacKay (STRP Chair), Monica Zavagli (STRP Support Officer) and Nick Davidson (Deputy Secretary General) prepared a discussion paper (available on the meeting documents site) for the meeting on options for collaboration on issues of common interest across the biodiversity-related MEAs. We explored several areas of possible future collaboration, and agreed that CITES would take the lead in co-ordinating work in relation to hunting and harvesting in various kinds of ecosystems, while Ramsar would take the lead in co-ordinating work related to ecosystem restoration.

- ***The 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental and Stakeholder meeting on the proposed International Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), 5-9 October in Nairobi, Kenya.***

Mr Anada Tiega and Dr Heather MacKay represented the Ramsar Convention at this meeting, the purpose of which was to continue discussion amongst all stakeholders, including country governments, NGOs, international scientific organizations and the biodiversity-related Conventions, on the development of mechanisms for an IPBES. This was a follow on meeting from the first consultation held in Putrajaya, Malaysia, in November 2008. The IPBES is intended to provide “a scientifically sound, uniform and consistent framework for tackling changes to biodiversity and ecosystem services”. Since the Ramsar Convention and STRP are stakeholders, as are our Contracting Parties, and need to make constructive inputs to the IPBES development process, we will discuss this further at the STRP mid-term meetings to formulate an STRP view that can be taken to the next IPBES meeting, likely to be in 2010.

Full documentation on IPBES and the October 2009 meeting can be found at <http://ipbes.net/en/index.asp>

- ***Ramsar Indicators of effectiveness workshop, 19-21 October 2009, in Cambridge, UK***

The latest in a series of technical workshops hosted by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre to advance STRP's work on Ramsar indicators of effectiveness.

A range of results products for the adopted indicators are in differing stages of preparation, including earlier work on wetland ecological status and on Ramsar site status. The latest workshop, concentrated on indicators covering trends in wetland extent, changes in Red List status of relevant taxa, and trends in shorebird populations.

The Convention has also been making significant contributions, based on this work, to assessments of progress in relation to the global "2010" biodiversity target, debates about a post-2010 targets regime, the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and the review by the Biodiversity Convention of its Programme of Work on inland waters.

Participants in the workshop included representatives of UNEP-WCMC, The Nature Conservancy, BirdLife International and the CBD Secretariat, as well as the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP members. A plan of further work for the coming months has been drafted - it will be posted on the STRP Support Service in due course, and in the meantime a draft is available on request from Dave Pritchard (dep@dendros.org.uk).

## Upcoming meetings

- *“Achieving Carbon Offsets through mangroves and other wetlands” expert workshop*  
*Danone Fund for Nature. 8-11 November 2009, in Gland, Switzerland*

The workshop will bring together a wide group of experts from various organizations to develop a mechanism for financing delivery of carbon offsets for the Danone Group through wetland restoration projects that are in line with the principles and practices of the Ramsar Convention. This is part of trilateral agreement signed by Ramsar Convention, IUCN, and the private sector Danone Group at the 10<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Conference of Parties in Changwon, R.O. Korea last November 2008.

- *‘Changwon Declaration Network Meeting’, 18 -20 November 2009, in Changwon, R.O. Korea*

Organized by Ministry of Environment (R.O. Korea), Gyeongnam Provincial Government and the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia, the meeting will aim to:

1. Review the promotion and implementation of the Changwon Declaration ([Resolution X.3](#)) in the 12-months since Ramsar COP10, based on a questionnaire that the Ramsar Secretariat has sent out to the National Focal Points of all the Contracting Parties on behalf of the meeting organizers;
2. Identify successful case studies and constraints that Contracting Parties have experienced in implementing the Changwon Declaration;
3. Develop a strategy to improve implementation of the “Changwon Declaration”;
4. Hold discussions on drafting a set of indicators for inclusion in the National Report Format for COP11, on the dissemination and uptake of the “Changwon Declaration”.

The meeting, generously funded by the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, will be attended by selected members of the Standing Committee from each of the Ramsar regions, as well as by representatives from STRP, International Organization Partners and the Secretariat.

The Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia is one of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives that was endorsed by the 40th meeting of the Standing Committee in May 2009.

For more information on the meeting, please contact Mr. Seung Oh SUH ([suhseungoh@gmail.com](mailto:suhseungoh@gmail.com)) or Lew Young ([young@ramsar.org](mailto:young@ramsar.org))

- 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties of the UN-framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), 7-18 December 2009, in Copenhagen, Denmark
- *Flood Pulse Wetlands, International Symposium, 1-5 February 2010, in Maun, Botswana* (<http://www.orc.ub.bw/floodpulse/index.html>). Ramsar/STRP will run a special session on “Climate change and socio-economic drivers of the degradation and loss of wetland services in Internationally Important Wetlands”
- *STRP Mid-Term Workshops 22-26 February 2010, in Gland, Switzerland*  
Further information about the mid-term workshops will be posted and coordinated through the Support Service.

## Announcements

### Wetlands at the UNFCCC COP15: Briefing Note to Ramsar Contracting Parties

STRP and the Ramsar Secretariat have prepared a Briefing Note on the role of wetlands in the climate change debate to assist Ramsar Contracting Parties to ensure that wetlands issues are given the consideration they merit in preparation of and during the Copenhagen meeting of the UNFCCC in December 2009.

The briefing Note is being translated into the three Convention languages and it will be sent as Diplomatic Note to the Ramsar Administrative Authorities in early November 2009; it will also be available on the Ramsar website. For further information please write to [stp@ramsar.org](mailto:stp@ramsar.org)

### Introduction of a “STRP National Focal Point appointment” form

To support the work of STRP and to assist Contracting parties to comply with the implementation of [Resolution X.9](#), (in particular paragraph 18 “*When a Contracting Party appoints a new STRP NFP, or reaffirms the appointment of an existing STRP NFP, the Party should provide to the Secretariat information on the expertise, skills and capacity of their STRP NFP in relation to the criteria listed in paragraph 17*”), the Ramsar Secretariat has developed a “STRP National Focal Point appointment” form for those Parties that do not have appointed an STRP NFP yet; the Administrative Authorities will be soon contacted by the Secretariat’s Regional Teams and kindly requested to appoint a suitable expert in accordance to the Terms of Reference set in the Appendix of the Resolution. The information submitted through the Appointment Form will greatly help the Panel identifying in-country expertise. On the same principle, a “reaffirmation” form will be submitted to those Contracting Parties that have already appointed a STRP NFP, but for whom the type of expertise was not communicated to the Secretariat.

We would greatly appreciate your collaboration in supporting this “exercise” to maximize the effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention!

## Publications

*Synthesis Report from the international climate congress in Denmark.*

The report (<http://climatecongress.ku.dk/pdf/synthesisreport>) is based on the 16 plenary talks given at the Congress as well as input from over 80 chairs and co-chairs of the 58 parallel sessions held at the *Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions* congress in Copenhagen from 10-12 March 2009.

The main web-site for the meeting also has lots of other useful sources including downloadable presentations by most of the plenary speakers.

(<http://climatecongress.ku.dk/presentations/congresspresentations>)



Kevin L. Erwin (2009)

*Wetlands and global Climate Change: the role of wetland restoration in a changing world*

Wetlands Ecol Manage 17:71–84 [http://www.wetlands.org/\\_stp/cforum/fileattachments/fulltext.pdf](http://www.wetlands.org/_stp/cforum/fileattachments/fulltext.pdf)

Grimsditch G., Tamelander J., Mwaura J., Zavagli M., Takata Y., Gomez T. (2009)

*Coral Reef Resilience Assessment of the Pemba Channel Conservation Area, Tanzania.*

Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. 40pp (<http://www.iucn.org/cccr/publications/>)



*Blue Carbon: A new Rapid Response Assessment report* released 14 October 2009 at the Diversitas Conference, Cape Town Conference Centre, South Africa. Compiled by experts at GRID-Arendal and UNEP in collaboration with the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the UNESCO International Oceanographic Commissions and other institutions; the report highlights the critical role of the oceans and ocean ecosystems, including the importance of coastal wetlands for carbon storage, in maintaining our climate and in assisting policy makers to mainstream an oceans agenda into national and international climate change initiatives  
<http://www.grida.no/publications/rr/blue-carbon/>

Delany, S., Scott, D.A., Dodman, T., & Stroud, D.A. (eds.) (2009).  
*An atlas of wader populations in Africa and western Eurasia*  
Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands. 524 pp.  
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Your suggestions on how to improve the features of this Newsletter's future editions are very welcome - as well as any STRP - related query. You can send your comments to Ms Monica Zavagli at [Zavagli@ramsar.org](mailto:Zavagli@ramsar.org)

Photos on the front page: left: *Suncheon Bay* Ramsar site in South Korea; right: *Sistema de Humedales de la Bahía de Bluefields* Ramsar site in Nicaragua.