

Table of abstracts of Ramsar COP10 side events

no	title & abstract	organizer(s)
1	<p>IOPs Supporting Event: Biofuels, agriculture and wetlands</p> <p>This side event will focus on implications and challenges to wetland biodiversity, livelihoods and climate change posed by biofuels expansion and associated intensification of agriculture. Specific issues to be discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Current and projected impacts of biofuels expansion on wetlands: regional evidences and implications b) Peatlands and biofuels c) Agriculture intensification, food security, wetlands and climate change d) Better biofuels - certification and policy requirements <p>Within the current COP agenda, the side event will specifically support the discussions and passage of draft resolutions 24 (climate change and wetlands) and 25 (wetlands and biofuels). Additionally, the event will also support discussions on draft resolutions 23 (wetlands and human health and well being), 19 (integrated river basin management) and 31 (rice paddies). The side event is also of relevance to contracting parties seeking synergies between their work under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar Convention. It is envisaged that the side event will identify a small number of key recommendations for an intervention in the plenary discussion on DR25 and 24.</p> <p>The events will be moderated by a conservation leader identified by IOPs. The session will include expert presentations and panel discussions. Potential speakers include WI senior experts on peatlands and biofuels and authors of Comprehensive Assessment on Agriculture. In addition, speakers and panelists will be drawn from IOP networks, including from the biofuels industry.</p>	<p>Wetlands International (WI)</p> <p>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)</p>
2	<p>IOPs Supporting Event: Climate change policies and wetlands conservation: conflicts and synergies</p> <p>Conflicts and synergies between climate change policies and wetlands conservation will be the focus of this side event. Key issues to be discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Likely impacts of climate change on wetlands and key adaptation options b) Detailed examples of and lessons from actual adaptation in water and wetlands management c) Global lessons from case studies for contracting parties seeking to optimize climate change mitigation & adaptation and wise use of wetlands d) Water infrastructure in adaptation policies and minimizing impacts/ maximizing wetland adaptation potential e) Global energy scenarios, hydropower, and minimizing impacts/ maximizing wetland adaptation capacity <p>Within the current COP agenda, the side event will specifically support the discussions and passage of draft resolutions 24 (climate change and wetlands) and 25 (wetlands and biofuels). Additionally, the event will also support discussions on draft resolutions 23 (wetlands and human health and well being) and 19 (integrated river basin management). The side event is also of relevance to contracting parties seeking synergies between their work under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar Convention. It is envisaged that the side event will identify a small number of key recommendations for an intervention in the plenary discussion on DR24.</p> <p>The event will be moderated by a conservation leader identified by IOPs. The session will include expert presentations, a panel discussion and summary. Speakers and panelists will be drawn from IOPs and key organizations working on these issues.</p>	<p>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)</p> <p>BirdLife International (WI)</p>
3	<p>STRP technical briefing: Wetlands and extractive industries</p> <p>The purpose of the briefing session is to provide additional information for delegates to assist them in their consideration of DR26 (Wetlands and extractive industries). The session will include brief overviews of DR26 and the supporting information paper (COP10.DOC24), and will offer an opportunity to discuss these with STRP members in order to clarify technical aspects of these documents. We also hope that participants will make input to the development of the proposed STRP task in the 2006-2012 period, on review of guidance related to impacts of extractive industries on wetlands.</p> <p>In addition, STRP members and invited experts will provide brief overviews of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • existing Ramsar guidance and how this guidance can be applied to managing the impacts on wetlands of extractive industries; • economic cycles in the extractive industries sector and the implications for wise use of wetlands; • emerging lessons for better practice in assessing, planning and managing the impacts of various extractive industries on wetlands. 	<p>Ramsar STRP</p>

4	<p>STRP technical briefing: The context and content of DR 21: guidance on responding to the continued spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza</p> <p>This side event will provide briefing as to the structure and content of Draft Resolution 21 on highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 prepared by STRP.</p> <p>It will provide background to the spread of H5N1 since Ramsar COP9 in 2005, as well as an outline of the structure and content of DR 21 including important elements to the DR such as the guide to available guidance; proposed new guidance for wetland site managers; and – on the basis of experience since COP9 – the concept of Ornithological Expert Panels as a means of integrating ornithological expertise into multi-disciplinary governmental response teams (as called for by Ramsar Resolution IX.23).</p> <p>It will also give a short review of the activities of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds – an important international forum through which Ramsar has been co-ordinating its activities with other international conventions and organisations. Further information on the work of the Task Force can be found at http://www.aiweb.info/.</p> <p>The side event will also provide an opportunity for an initial clarification on issues arising from DR21 and will conclude with a facilitated discussion session.</p>	Ramsar STRP
5	<p>Incorporating cultural aspects in the management of wetlands - progress and guidance</p> <p>The side event on 'culture and wetlands: progress and guidance' is organised by the Ramsar Culture Working Group, in accordance with Resolutions VIII.19 and IX.21 and the respective decisions of the Standing Committee. Opened by the Ramsar Secretary General, one of its primary objectives is to indicate progress made in various parts of the world (such as Asia, South America and the Mediterranean) on the incorporation of cultural aspects and values in the management and conservation of wetlands, while a second one is the presentation of the Ramsar Guidance document on this issue prepared by the Culture Working Group. This document will be available in English, French and Spanish in CD-ROM format. The debate that will follow will focus on future activities for strengthening the links of management and conservation of the natural and cultural heritage in wetlands.</p>	Ramsar Culture Working Group Ramsar Secretariat
6	<p>The Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS): developments and tools for Parties supporting Ramsar site designation</p> <p>Chair: David Stroud, STRP member for Ramsar site designation and management</p> <p><u>Purpose and objectives:</u> to demonstrate the recent major redevelopment of the RSIS and to draw to the attention of Contracting Parties the increasing suite of supporting tools and assessments designed that help Ramsar Contracting Parties to identify and designate Ramsar sites which are being provided by Ramsar IOPs, notably Wetlands International, BirdLife, IWMI. The side event provides an important opportunity to show Contracting Parties and all others involved in Ramsar site issues the increasing range of tools and facilities now available through the RSIS mechanism.</p> <p><u>Outline programme:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief introduction to RSIS and its purposes: Nick Davidson, Ramsar Secretariat (5 mins) 2. Tools and services provided by the RSIS: Ward Hagemeyer (WI) (25 mins) - this will showcase/demonstrate the overall suite of tools now accessible in the RSIS: searchable database, web-mapper, Google Earth, and importantly availability of downloadable Ramsar site boundary GIS files, and the new "Tools for Parties" part of the site. 3. Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and potential Ramsar sites: Richard Grimmett (BirdLife): (15 mins) - showcasing the IBA/Ramsar sites and gaps analyses already available (Europe, Asia, Africa) and any plans for future assessments for other regions. 4. Supporting the application of waterbird designation criteria: the "WOW" Critical Site Network Tool: Ward Hagemeyer (WI) (15 mins) 5. Using biogeographic regionalisation for wetland-type gap analyses: Lisa Rebelo (IWMI) (15 mins) - showing the results of Lisa's work commissioned by STRP using the MEOW bio-regionalisation as a tool to assess gaps in Ramsar site coastal/marine coverage of the application of criterion 1 etc. 6. Questions and discussion: (25-30 mins) 	Ramsar Secretariat Wetlands International IOPs
7	<p>Participatory CEPA Action Planning</p> <p>At COP10 the new CEPA Programme for the period 2009-2014 will be deliberated and hopefully adopted. As in the previous CEPA Programme, a key area of delivery for the Contracting Parties is the development and implementation of a CEPA action plan at the national or sub-national level. This has proved to be a challenging task for most Parties and, to date, very few strategic approaches have been taken to deliver CEPA within countries. This action planning tool that will be showcased at this event is intended to provide a "how-to" guide for effective CEPA</p>	Ramsar Secretariat IUCN Learning and Leadership Unit; Commission on Education and Communication

	<p>planning. The side event will be conducted as an interactive workshop and a CD with the planning tool will be made available at the end of the workshop to all participants.</p>	Ramsar STRP CEPA Expert
8	<p>Estrategia Regional de Conservación y Uso Sostenible de Humedales Altoandinos</p> <p>El propósito del side event es dar a conocer el proceso y experiencias aprendidas en la formulación e implementación de la Estrategia Regional para la Conservación y Uso Sostenible de los Humedales Altoandinos por parte de los 8 países parte de la misma, así como por las organizaciones socias de Ramsar y redes técnicas y, en el contexto de iniciativas regionales de la Convención Ramsar, servir como ejemplo para otras regiones y sub-regiones que trabajan también con otras iniciativas similares. Durante el evento se prevé la presentación del video clip Humedales Altoandinos: Agua, Vida, Futuro, el lanzamiento de la publicación de la estrategia y una exhibición fotográfica. Además de lo anterior, se espera con el evento dar a conocer la importancia de los humedales altoandinos como generadores de bienes y servicios ambientales, así como su vulnerabilidad frente a factores de cambio y en especial al cambio climático; también, expresiones de apoyo de la comunidad internacional en la implementación de la Estrategia. Cabe señalar que esta Estrategia fue aprobada mediante Resolución IX.7 de la Conferencia de las Partes de Ramsar.</p>	<p>Gobierno del Ecuador</p> <p>Gobierno de Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Perú, Bolivia, Chile y Argentina</p>
9	<p>Fortaleciendo capacidades en las Américas / Centro Regional Ramsar para el Hemisferio Occidental</p> <p>Este evento paralelo estará dedicado a presentar los avances realizados por el Centro Regional Ramsar para la Capacitación e Investigación sobre Humedales para el Hemisferio Occidental (CREHO). En el mismo se tiene previsto realizar un reconocimiento a las Partes Contratantes del Hemisferio Occidental que han apoyado activamente a CREHO mediante su participación en la Junta Directiva. Igualmente, se realizará el lanzamiento de un proyecto piloto de CREHO "Centro Interpretativo para Humedales", dirigido a promover acciones de educación ambiental y fortalecer sus acciones de capacitación.</p>	<p>Centro Regional Ramsar para el Hemisferio Occidental (CREHO)</p>
10 11	<p>ChadWet, NigerWet, CongoWet: Initiatives Régionales Ramsar pour trois grands bassins africains</p> <p>Il y a trois ans à Kampala, la COP9 de Ramsar avait formellement adopté ChadWet (réseau Ramsar pour le bassin du Lac Tchad/5 pays) et NigerWet (Réseau Ramsar pour le bassin du Niger/9 pays) en tant qu'Initiatives Régionales Ramsar. Un side-event conjoint avait présenté les activités et objectifs de mise en œuvre des 3 piliers de la Convention sur les Zones humides dans ces bassins, dans le cadre d'une collaboration étroite entre d'une part le Secrétariat Ramsar, d'autre part les organisations internationales de bassins concernées: Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad (CBLT) et Autorité du Bassin du Niger (ABN). Un side-event commun ChadWet/Com1-NigerWet/Com1 organisé à la COP9 avait par ailleurs constitué la "séance inaugurale" officielle de ces deux initiatives.</p> <p>Présente à cette séance, la Commission Internationale Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS) avait exprimé son intérêt pour la possibilité d'une approche similaire pour son bassin d'intervention - intérêt confirmé le 21 novembre 2005 par Déclaration du Comité des Ministres de la CICOS appelant au développement d'un Réseau Ramsar pour le bassin du Congo, CongoWet.</p> <p>Le side-event/COP10 du 4 novembre 2008 soulignera l'importance d'un Partenariat étroit entre les Organisations internationales de bassin, le Secrétariat Ramsar, ses ONG internationales partenaires dont le WWF et Wetlands International, les Ministères chargés de l'environnement et des ressources en eau de tous les Gouvernements concernés, la communauté internationale des bailleurs de fonds dont le Fonds pour l'Environnement Mondial (FEM) et diverses agences de coopération bilatérales, ainsi que le secteur privé.</p> <p>Bilan depuis 2005 et/ou perspectives d'ici à 2012 pour les trois réseaux seront illustrés par:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) projection d'un film sur ChadWet: 20 min. (MSA/CBLT) 2) Atlas du Bassin du Niger (Ppt) + dépliant NigerWet: 15 min. (AA/WWF et/ou BK/Wetlands Int'l, au nom de l'ABN) 3) Intervention du SG de Ramsar: 5 min. (AT/Ramsar) 3) Zones humides du bassin du Congo: 20 min. (Ino/WWF) 4) Développements depuis 2005 et prochaines étapes: ChadWet/NigerWet, CongoWet: 20 min.(DL/WWF) 5) Conclusion et clôture (avec éventuelle remise de Certificats Ramsar): 10 min 	<p>Commission du Bassin du Lac Tchad (CBLT)</p> <p>Autorité du Bassin du Niger (ABN)</p> <p>Commission Internationale du Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS)</p> <p>République du Congo (Direction Générale de l'Environnement)</p> <p>WWF International</p>
13	<p>International Forum of Wetland Governance</p> <p>Governance is one of key factors in wetland management over the world. The purpose of this side event is to have a 'closing gap' through information sharing, open discussions, and partnerships among stakeholders. This side event aims at the launching of international cooperation in the field of wetland management governance. The long-term goals of a wetland governance forum are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) enhance the regional capacity to implement BMP through information and experience changes; 2) provide the potential for scientific and technical assistance to make better decisions in wetland management; 	<p>Green Gyeongnam 21 Council</p> <p>Gyeongnam Ramsar Environmental Foundation, Kyungnam University</p>

	<p>3) promote the close and propitious relationship and coordination among stakeholders; and 4) extend the relevance of the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia to other Ramsar Regional Centers by international cooperation.</p> <p>Post - Ramsar COP10 Activities:</p> <p>The Steering Committee for the Wetland Governance International Forum will discuss to have a continuing international forum at the Gyeongnam Water & Earth (WE) Forum every year as a post Ramsar COP10 activity;</p> <p>Publication of Forum recommendations and results</p> <p>Side Event Moderator: Chan Won Lee (Professor in Kyungnam University, Co-President, Green Gyeongnam 21 Council, Trustee, Gyeongnam Ramsar Environmental Foundation, Advisor in International Cooperation COP10, Ministry of Environment, Korea)</p> <p>Speakers: Jong Hoo Lee (General Secretariat, Green Gyeongnam 21 Council, Korea) Amado S. Tolentino (RCJ, Philippines) Nakagai Muneharu (Mayor, Toyooka City, Japan)</p> <p>Organizers: Kyungnam University Gyeongnam Ramsar Environmental Foundation Green Gyeongnam 21 Council</p>	
14	<p>Harmonisation of national reporting to biodiversity-related MEAs</p> <p>National reporting is one of the key obligations for Parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). However, gathering and synthesising the information required for the reports to the various MEAs can prove to be a burden for many Parties. A range of COP decisions have called for continuing efforts to harmonise national reporting.</p> <p>This side event will focus on options for harmonisation of national reporting and will cover recent studies by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on whether the application of the approach for the harmonisation of reporting for the Human Rights Treaty System can be applied to the biodiversity-related MEAs. Thematic reporting on inland waters for CBD and Ramsar will also be discussed. A project by the Australian Government in collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to streamline reporting by Pacific Island countries to the biodiversity-related MEAs will also be presented. It is expected that the event will provide new insights and stimulate the discussion on harmonisation and synergies between MEAs.</p>	<p>Australian government UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)</p>
15	<p>North East Asian Crane Site Network: conserving wetlands to benefit cranes and people</p> <p>The proposed side event will present the conclusions of an International Crane Workshop held in Gumi, Korea, just before the COP10 meeting, including some key outcomes of the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetland Project. As such it will contribute towards COP10 discussions on flyway conservation as presented in Draft Resolution X.22 by sharing knowledge and expertise on best practices in the development and implementation of flyway-scale waterbird conservation policies and practices.</p> <p>It will summarize the results and experiences of the activities of the North East Asian Crane Site Network (launched in 1997) and look forward towards developing closer ties between crane conservationists, management authorities and organizations in North East Asia. The North East Asian Crane Site Network was established under the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy (1996-2005), in accordance with Ramsar Recommendation VI.04 and Resolution VIII.37. The Crane Working Group is now a component of the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership, continuing its work in coordinating activities at the network of key sites for cranes in NE Asia.</p> <p>The presentation of the workshop's results will include a special focus on efforts to conserve wintering cranes, and particularly to avoid over-concentration of crane species. It will also cover important sites and issues such as the DMZ of the Korean Peninsula and important wintering sites in the Yangtze basin in China.</p> <p>The presentation of the UNEP/GEF project will include a brief overview of the project's main outcomes to date, and two short presentations - one on waterbird monitoring and ecological research in Poyang Lake Basin and one on safeguarding wetland functions at key flyway sites in NE China.</p> <p>The main outcomes of the side event will be the sharing lessons and successes of the NEACSN working group, of other crane work featured at Gumi (particularly regarding winter sites for cranes) and of the UNEP/GEF project. We wish to link to others with similar interests and</p>	<p>BirdLife International International Crane Foundation (ICF) Wetlands Korea Wild Bird Society of Japan DMZ Forum</p>

	<p>challenges, in order to amplify the impact of our work and also to strengthen the continuation of gains made under the UNEP/GEF project after the project ends in 2009. We wish to ensure that NEACSN activities in the future link well with other initiatives in East Asia and elsewhere, and this side event amplifies our opportunities for making new contacts. Overall, it will contribute towards enhancing international cooperation on flyway conservation approaches, in line with Draft Resolution X.22.</p> <p>Moderators will be from BirdLife International or the International Crane Foundation. Potential speakers may include Lee Ki-sup (Wetlands Korea and the Korean Crane Network), George Archibald (International Crane Foundation), Claire Mirande (ICF), Crawford Prentice (ICF), Noritaka Ichida (BirdLife International), Simba Chan (BirdLife International) and other crane experts from NE Asian countries.</p>	
16	<p>Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and Launch of "Invisible Connections"</p> <p>The Side Event will have an introduction to the East Asian - Australasian Flyway, the challenges faced in conserving migratory waterbirds and their habitats, and the Flyway Regional Initiative. This will be followed by the launch of the book "Invisible Connections" that profiles the importance of the Yellow Sea for migratory waterbirds and closing with a few endorsements from Partners of the Flyway Partnership. During the Event, images from the book will be projected on a screen behind the speakers. A light lunch will be available.</p> <p>The envisaged outcomes of the Side Event will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raised awareness of the urgent need for the wise use of wetlands used by migratory waterbirds 2. Increased support for Draft Resolution X.22 on promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways 3. The critical importance within the EAA Flyway, of the tidal flats and coastal wetlands of the Yellow Sea, highlighted through the launch of "Invisible Connections" 4. Secured additional Ramsar Parties within the flyway as partners. <p>The Side Event will inform Parties of the activities of the Regional Initiative for the East Asian - Australasian Flyway and encourage support for Draft Resolution X.22 on promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways. It will also involve a number of Ramsar Parties in presentations at the side event.</p> <p>The proposed program for the 90 minute side event:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) East Asian-Australasian Flyway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migratory waterbirds in the EAA Flyway and the challenges to their conservation b) Flyway Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ramsar Regional Initiative (goal, framework, membership, working groups) - Flyway Site Network - Fostering collaboration (project concepts) - Yellow Sea – proposing a program for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and sustainable use of tidal mudflats 2. Launch of "Invisible Connections" – a photographic book on the Yellow Sea and migratory waterbirds (two copies of the book will be distributed to each delegation at COP10) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Launch of the book by the Ramsar Convention's Deputy Secretary General and the President of Wetlands International b) Short statements by Jan Van der Kam (photographer and lead author) and Shell (corporate supporter) c) Supporting statements from Flyway Partners 	<p>EAA Flyway Partnership</p> <p>Japanese government</p> <p>Australian government</p> <p>Wetlands International</p>
17	<p>Monitoring and Assessment of Wetlands: the role of space earth observations</p> <p>The overall objective of the Ramsar Convention is the conservation and wise use of wetlands by national actions and international cooperation as a means to achieving sustainable development. This complex and challenging task requires national, local and international bodies involved in the implementation of the convention to rely on suitable geo-information to better understand wetland areas, complete national inventories, perform monitoring activities, carry out assessments and put in practice suitable management plans based on up to date and reliable information.</p> <p>In the recent years, the use of satellite Earth Observations (EO) within innovative geo-spatial analysis has revealed as a key tool and unique information source to support the environmental community in different application domains, including wetlands conservation and management. In this context, the European Space Agency (ESA) in collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat launched in 2003 the "GlobWetland" project in order to demonstrate the current capabilities of EO technology to support inventorying, monitoring, assessment of wetland ecosystems. The project was carried out from 2003 to 2008 in close collaboration with several regional, national and local conservation authorities</p>	<p>European Space Agency (ESA)</p>

	<p>and wetland managers, involving 50 different wetlands across 21 countries on four continents. This large range of users and wetland sites provided an excellent test bed to assess the potential of space technology to be applied in different technical, economical and social conditions.</p> <p>Three main areas can be pointed out, where satellite EO technology may contribute to achieve the objectives of the Ramsar Convention: increasing scientific knowledge, supporting the efficient management of wetland areas and contributing to improve the performance of the Convention.</p> <p>The side event will present the main results and findings of the “GlobWetland” project, providing an overview of the current capabilities and limits of EO technology as a tool to support the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>The side event will also summarise the major recommendations of the GlobWetland symposium “GlobWetland: Looking at Wetlands from Space” that took place in Frascati, Italy on 19-20 October 2006 and which principal aim was to bring together and strengthen the links between the different actors involved in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the Earth Observation community, in order to review the state of the art in the use of EO technology for wetlands management and to agree on a coordinated road map for developing future scientific and policy-relevant activities. Finally the side event will serve as a consultation platform to prepare for a follow-on of the GlobWetland project, which the European Space Agency intends to initiate in the course of 2009, in close collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat.</p> <p>We anticipate that most speakers will be representatives of the Ramsar community (National Focal Points from the Contracting Parties, wetland managers, NGOs and conservation community) and will present the benefits of EO technology for their wetland management practices and reporting to the Ramsar Convention.</p>	
18	<p>Voices from Municipalities with Ramsar Sites in Japan</p> <p>Japan became a Contracting Party in 1980. Since then, Japan steadily increased the number of Ramsar sites, and more than doubled the number of Ramsar sites in 2005, in line with the global target specified in the strategic framework annexed to the Resolution VII.11. Currently there are 33 Ramsar sites in Japan, including high moors, tidal flats, lakes, subterranean karst, mangroves and coral reefs. The diversity of these sites results in diverse ways of conservation and wise use.</p> <p>This side event provides an opportunity to introduce Japan's experience in designating different types of Ramsar sites, review how the designation affected the stakeholders at all levels, and discuss challenges in managing the site as a Ramsar site. This event also celebrates the designation of new Ramsar sites in Japan, inviting the municipalities committed to wetland conservation and wise use to receive the diploma, and making all the participants to consider the expected role of Ramsar sites in implementing the Convention.</p> <p>The tentative program for the 90 minute side event:</p> <p>Introduction by the Director, Wildlife Division, Ministry of the Environment Remarks from Ramsar Secretary General (tbc) Dedication of diplomas by Ramsar Secretary General (tbc) Remarks from municipalities (mayors or officials) of newly-designated sites Presentation from the Director, Wildlife Division, Ministry of the Environment regarding Japan's experience Presentations from municipalities of existing Ramsar sites (Kushiro-shitsugen, Biwa-ko) regarding management issues Comments from a wetland expert (Dr. Makoto Komoda) regarding the expectations to the Convention and the Ramsar sites Closing remarks</p> <p>Relevance to COP10 discussions:</p> <p>While the Convention is an agreement by state parties, the implementation of it heavily relies on each site, and many of the discussions at COP10 are relevant to the local communities. This side event aims to identify which discussions each participant can bring home as homework to address on the site level.</p>	<p>Government of Japan Wetlands International Japan</p>
19	<p>The Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands: a tool for the assessment of status and trends of Mediterranean wetlands</p> <p><u>Objective of the side event:</u></p> <p>To present a collaborative initiative for creating an Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands, with the aim to disseminate it and to eventually obtain support and establish collaboration and synergies with other organisations.</p> <p><u>Background:</u></p> <p>The analysis of the wetland resources, their status, trends and priorities, and the dissemination of the results are fundamental for mobilising the</p>	<p>Tour du Valat Fondation Sansouire</p>

	<p>decision-makers about the need to conserve, manage and use aquatic ecosystems in a sustainable way. This should be reflected through the adoption and implementation of national wetland policies and action plans.</p> <p>At present there is no general overview about the status and trends of wetland resources and biodiversity in the Mediterranean region. Data exist for many countries, regions and individual sites or taxonomic groups, but often they are not easily accessible and they are under different formats. Since 1993, the Scientific and Technical Team of the MedWet Initiative (formed by EKBY-Greece, Tour du Valat-France, ICNB-Portugal, ARPAT-Italy, ENHEA/SEHUMED-Spain, and the MedWet Secretariat) work on and promote a standard and systematic methodology for wetland inventory, which includes an information system for data management. In response to the mandate of the MedWet/Com4, the MedWet Scientific & Technical Team works towards a Pan-Mediterranean Wetland Inventory (PMWI). This is the first attempt to develop a Mediterranean-wide wetland inventory and database that will allow producing analyses of location and extent of wetlands, as well as preliminary assessments of their values and status.</p> <p>Building on these activities, Tour du Valat, in partnership with international and national organisations working on wetland conservation in the Mediterranean region, is promoting a collaborative initiative to create an Observatory of Mediterranean Wetlands. This is conceived as a tool for assessing the status and trends of wetlands in the Mediterranean region, and for contributing and supporting public policies and actions.</p> <p>The general objectives of the Observatory of Mediterranean wetlands are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To assess the conservation status of wetlands in the Mediterranean and to identify the trends, by using selected objective indicators and methods. 2. To raise awareness among policy and decision makers and to influence public policies towards their conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. <p>Overall, the Observatory is to contribute to the 2010 target (CBD & EU): to "achieve a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level by 2010 and beyond".</p> <p><u>Relevance to COP10 discussions:</u></p> <p>This side event is relevant to a number of draft resolutions submitted at COP10, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DR 13: The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. - DR 14: A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs. - DR 15: Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance. - DR 16: A Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character. <p><u>Moderators & Speakers:</u></p> <p>The side event will be moderated by the organisers (Pere Tomas-Vives & Jean Jalbert) and speakers from a number of partner organisations have been invited.</p>	
20	<p>ICRI International Year of the Reef 2008</p> <p>The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is a unique partnership that brings together governments, international organizations, scientific entities, and non-governmental organizations committed to reversing the global degradation of coral reefs and related ecosystems, such as mangrove forests and seagrass meadows, by promoting the conservation and sustainable use of these resources. The ICRI Secretariat is currently co-chaired by the governments of Mexico and the United States.</p> <p>ICRI designated 2008 as the International Year of the Reef (IYOR), a worldwide campaign to raise awareness about the value and importance of coral reefs and threats to their sustainability, and to motivate people to take action to protect them. IYOR is also an opportunity to highlight the ICRI partnership, and the mission of this Initiative. As part of this campaign, the ICRI secretariat is raising coral reefs on the agenda of several international organizations and conventions. For example, side events were organized at the CBD COP-9 and IUCN World Conservation Congress.</p> <p>The purpose of this side event is to present the work of ICRI, in particular as it is relevant to mangroves, and improve the collaboration between mangrove countries and the Initiative. ICRI will also highlight a recent publication on the Economic Values of Coral Reefs, Mangroves, and Seagrasses. During the event, the link between mangroves and coral reefs will be highlighted, and some countries (with corals and mangroves) will present their work. This includes Mexico as the current co-chair of ICRI, and the governments of France and Brazil. At the conclusion of the side event, there will be a brief presentation of the International Year of the Reef campaign. For more information about the event, please visit http://www.iyor.org/ramsar or contact Francis Staub (fstaub@iyor.org).</p>	<p>U.S. Department of State CONANP (Mexico) International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) International Year of the Reef Campaign</p>

	<p>More about the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI):</p> <p>The International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) is a unique public-private partnership that brings together governments, international organizations, scientific entities, and non-governmental organizations committed to reversing the global degradation of coral reefs and related ecosystems, such as mangrove forests and seagrass meadows, by promoting the conservation and sustainable use of these resources for future generations.</p> <p>Since its establishment in 1995, ICRI has been a driving force behind scientific, governmental and civil society efforts to protect coral reefs and related ecosystems. The ICRI approach is to provide a platform for information sharing, as well as mobilize governments and a wide range of other stakeholders in an effort to improve management practices, increase capacity and political support, and share information on the health of these fragile ecosystems. In particular, ICRI aims to catalyze action that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve management practices Increase capacity and political support; and Share information on the health of these ecosystems. <p>The secretariat of ICRI is currently co-hosted by the governments of the U.S. and Mexico. Find out more by visiting www.icriforum.org.</p>	
21	<p>Out of Africa ... towards Mediterranean Coasts: Awareness-raising and Knowledge-sharing Tools, Partnerships and Proposals</p> <p>The Mediterranean region has been proven to be a fertile ground for the development of international cooperative frameworks, as well as for cultural and scientific exchanges throughout history – the successful operations of the MedWet Initiatives and the most recent establishment of the Union for the Mediterranean can corroborate this statement. On the other hand, the proliferation of bilateral/multilateral agreements and neighbouring regional initiatives calls for furthering linkages and knowledge-sharing across mechanisms, so as to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize the utilization of resources towards an effective and synergetic implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and other MEAs in the region (e.g. Barcelona Convention and its Protocols).</p> <p>Through this side event, FAO of the UN, as a knowledge-management organization and within the framework of the FAO/Italy and FAO/Ramsar collaborations, would like to provide a forum: (i) to identify bilateral/multilateral wetlands-related agreements in the Mediterranean Region (and in relevant neighbouring regions); and (ii) to discuss tools for awareness-raising/knowledge-sharing initiatives by building on past and present activities in/beyond the Mediterranean Basin. The discussion for the identification of the above-mentioned tools will revolve around the recent FAO/Ramsar multimedia mission to an African country (Rwanda) by highlighting the products developed as awareness-raising tools to be developed for other Contracting Parties around the Mediterranean Basin. In this context, a proposal for a similar mission in Tunisia will be described as an example of the application of this activities to a Mediterranean Country.</p> <p>Important to highlight that linkages will be made to discussions/presentations held in regional meetings, plenary sessions and in related side-events (e.g. “The Observatory of the Mediterranean Wetlands: a tool for assessment of status and trends of Mediterranean Wetlands”) and to the upcoming High-Level Conference on “Water for Agriculture and Energy in Africa: The Challenges of Climate Change” (Sirte, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 15-17 December 2008) and the Expert Group Meeting on “Sustainable Management of the Wetlands in the Arab Region” [Egypt].</p> <p>Among the expected outcomes, within the framework of the FAO cooperation with the Italian Ministry for Environment "Working Together Towards the Biodiversity 2010 Target: support to FAO cooperation with and other Environmental/Biodiversity-related Conventions and MEAs" and the overall cooperation between FAO and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the side event will deliver the basis for furthering awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing initiatives for strengthening the implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions and MEAs in Mediterranean island and coastal countries.</p> <p>The side event will be structured into three parts:</p> <p><u>First part:</u> It will provide an opportunity for “mapping” out the current situations concerning bilateral and multilateral environmental agreements around the Mediterranean Basin and related regional initiatives, through presentations and active involvement of the side-event’s participants (workshop/facilitation-mode). Pre-side-event’s e-mailing/outreaching will be required to speed up the process.</p> <p><u>Second part:</u> It will present different awareness-raising tools and instruments for awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing around the Mediterranean Basin, through presentation of the products of the FAO/Ramsar multimedia mission to Rwanda and the related proposal for a multimedia mission in Tunisia.</p> <p><u>Third part:</u> Open floor discussion on forwarding proposals for implementation of pilot initiatives within the Mediterranean Basin.</p> <p>Refreshments and English/French informal translation will be provided.</p>	<p>FAO</p> <p>Italian Ministry for the Environment</p>

22	<p>Valuing biodiversity in rice-based ecosystems</p> <p>This side event will focus on selected aspects of the importance and values of biodiversity in rice-based systems and highlight the need and potential as well as some of the risks and benefits of enhancing rice production and rice-associated biodiversity. Special attention will be given to the rich aquatic diversity found in rice-based ecosystems that is utilized by people around the globe who farm or depend on these ecosystems. Wild and gathered foods provide important diversity, nutrition and food security as food resources from ricefield environments supply essential nutrients that are not adequately found in the diet. Yet this rich and important diversity is generally not recognized in national statistics, policies, and legal frameworks. Papers presented at this side event will illustrate the critical importance of aquatic biodiversity for poor rice-farming households based on findings from several years of research in Cambodia, Lao PDR, China and Vietnam, and supported by results from a year-long household survey in Lao PDR as well as research on the nutritional composition of aquatic species from rice fields. A video on ricefield aquatic biodiversity and human nutrition will be featured. Importantly, ricefield biodiversity and its uses will be assessed against changes and trends in agricultural landscapes and the society at large. Discussions will focus on relevant RAMSAR draft guidelines, and include contributions from the Africa Rice Center (WARDA) as well as participants' views from a recent FAO regional African workshop on rice and aquaculture held in Burkina Faso in October 2008. An understanding of the value of aquatic biodiversity from rice-based ecosystems for food and nutrition needs to be well integrated into national agricultural systems that embrace the concepts of an ecosystem approach and the important role of agrobiodiversity for people and the environment. A working example is provided from the South American region where a Farmer Field School Guide on Integrated Pest Management and Aquaculture in Rice has been developed.</p> <p>Speakers include representatives from (i) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy (ii) Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR (iii) University of Tromsø, Norway and (iv) Tian Zi Biodiversity Research & Cultural Center, Xishuangbanna, P.R. China.</p>	FAO
23	<p>Assessing the Value of Ramsar Designation: Survey Results from North America</p> <p>Although Ramsar designation is a great honor that confirms the ecological importance of a site, does Ramsar designation provide any additional benefits? This joint side event will discuss and highlight the benefits that flow from Ramsar designation, even when the sites are already protected to some degree under domestic laws. The panel will report on the findings of surveys conducted on 22 U.S. Ramsar sites and 37 Canadian Ramsar sites, as well as a similar effort in Mexico. The results of the U.S. survey have been previously published: Royal C. Gardner and Kim Diana Connolly, <i>The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: Assessment of International Designations within the United States</i>, 37 <i>Environmental Law Reporter</i> 10089 (Feb. 2007), and the results of the Canadian survey, Pauline Lynch Stewart, <i>Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) in Canada</i> (Mar. 2008), may be publicly available shortly. Copies of at least the <i>Environmental Law Reporter</i> publication will be available at the side event.</p> <p>The moderator will be Royal C. Gardner, and speakers will be Kim Diana Connolly, Clayton Rubec, and Dr. Ernesto Enkerlin. After an introduction by Gardner, Connolly will report on the results of the U.S. survey and Rubec will report on the results of the Canadian survey. Enkerlin will discuss proposed plans for a similar survey in Mexico. Commenters may include Maria Rivera, Dr. Flavio Chazaro, and Arturo Peña and others. The discussion will focus on the potential value of conducting such surveys outside of North America, the mechanics and challenges of doing so, and resources that may be available in assisting these efforts.</p> <p>The presentations and discussions will be highly relevant to one of the main pillars of the Ramsar Convention. We envision that other countries may wish to conduct similar surveys, which can lead to a strengthening of the Ramsar site network and assist with strategic planning, as well as encourage interest in further designations (as has been the case in the United States). Additional outcomes after the COP can include publishing in English and Spanish the experiences of the three countries (with lessons learned). The results may be helpful in encouraging non-Contracting Parties to join the Ramsar Convention.</p>	US National Ramsar Committee Canadian Wildlife Service Environment Canada Comisión Nacional de Areas Protegidas (Mexico)
24	<p>Implementing a Global Action Plan for Peatlands</p> <p>A Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands (henceforth CC-GAP) is established by the Ramsar Secretariat as requested by the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Valencia, Spain, 2002) through Resolution VIII.17, paragraph 18. The task of the CC-GAP was to bring wide peatland expertise and interests to assist countries to implement Guidelines on Global Action Plan for Peatlands (GAPP) adopted by the same resolution. The Resolution requests activity by countries within a wide range of areas – scientific, education, management, protection etc.</p> <p>The CC GAP is a partnership of business, sciences, NGOs, country authorities. Bringing together a wide range of stakeholders, Secretariat balanced and high professional expertise to answer difficult questions on the wise use of peatlands.</p> <p>CCGAP has the capacity 1) to provide the Contracting Parties (CPs) with technical information on peatlands and recommendations on</p>	International Mire Conservation Group International Peat Society (IPS) Wetlands International Global Environment Center (GEC)

	<p>peatland policy and management, and 2) to provide feedback from the Contracting Parties to implement these recommendations and policies.</p> <p>The first opportunity has been used by launching within the Convention the book 'Wise Use of Mires and Peatlands' as a manual for decision makers (COP8) and the brochure 'Peatlands: Do You Care' as an education and public awareness tool (COP9).</p> <p>However, peatlands stay an unknown wetland type for Ramsar countries. Analyses of the National Reports from Europe and Asia for 2002-2005 gave a lot of information on peatland wise use policies and activities. The key problems identified for both regions are that 1) countries do not realise they have peatlands, 2) peatlands are not identified within existing Ramsar sites, even when they make up a significant part of them, 3) very few countries designate Ramsar sites especially for their peatland character, 4) no special management options exist for Ramsar sites with peatlands, and 5) only few countries have special policies including legislation on peatland wise use.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the recent Global Assessment on Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change undertaken by CBD has demonstrated that the role of peatlands for key global processes is outstanding. Our knowledge on peatlands is not enough and we usually underestimate the role which peatlands are playing on global, regional and local scales.</p> <p>The task of CC GAP during COP10 is 1) to bring more understanding of peatlands' role in the processes addressed by key COP Resolutions: wetlands and climate change, wetlands and biofuels, wetlands and extractive industries, wetlands and poverty, 2) to learn more from countries on their specific problems regarding peatlands.</p> <p>There will be an introduction from the CC GAP focal point in the Secretariat, Tobias Salathé, and three speakers: Faizal Parish, GEC, Presenting Global Assessment of Peatlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change Hans Joosten, IMCG, Global Peatlands Overview – diversity of peatlands diversity of problems Jakko Silpola, IPS, Wise Use of Peatlands – from global policy to policy in the country and in the company</p> <p>A technical paper will be distributed with an overview of countries' achievements on peatland conservation and wise use. A discussion will bring the input from the countries.</p>	
26	<p>Wetland Link International - what can it do for you?</p> <p>Wetland Link International (WLI) provides a support network for wetland centres across the world, developing their capacity to deliver communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities. A Memorandum of Cooperation constituting an expression of a shared objective and vision exists between the Ramsar Convention and the Wetland Link International (WLI) programme of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT). The initiative is led by WWT, supported by HSBC and has been running since 1992. With over 350 members, representing 75 countries across 6 continents, the network offers a fantastic opportunity for information sharing and dissemination, training and a resource of wetland educators that can deliver the message about wetland sustainability in their local communities.</p> <p>A change in staff means that the new Head of WLI is open to ideas about how the project can develop its work to better deliver CEPA objectives, and support local projects more effectively. A draft 3-5 year strategy will be put together in time for the Ramsar COP10 meeting, and this is the opportunity for you to help shape that strategy and influence how the project develops. The questions we would like answering include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the basic aims of WLI the right ones? - How has WLI delivered on those aims to date? - What could WLI provide that would be useful to you in your work? - How does WLI fit with regional networks that are developing? - How does WLI fit with other international wetland projects that exist? <p>The session will consist of a short overview from the new Head of WLI, Chris Rostron, followed by a structured discussion for 40 minutes around the above questions. The results will then be used to make decisions about how WLI will develop over the next 3-5 years to continue to support your CEPA work.</p>	<p>Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)</p> <p>Wetland Link International (WLI)</p>
27	<p>Ramsar Convention and the Sub-global Follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA)</p> <p><u>Background and Agenda:</u></p> <p>The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is one of the major users of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) that is the most comprehensive assessment undertaken between 2001 and 2005 on the links between ecosystem health and human well-being. The Convention that endorsed the MA, has been referring to its findings at the several work groups undertaking the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) workplan, the recent meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COPs), and also has been incorporating them into the Ramsar "toolkit" of</p>	<p>United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) UNEP</p>

	<p>Wise Use Handbook. The MA produced a special synthesis report on wetlands to guide the parties to the Ramsar Convention on the MA findings concerning inland, coastal, and near-shore marine wetlands. However, the MA evaluations found little evidence that the MA had made a significant direct impact on policy formulation and decision-making on ecosystems including wetlands. Viewing the need to maintain the momentum of MA built in relation to ecosystem services and their links with human development and to take the MA findings forward to maximize their impact on the scientific and policy communities, a consortium of partners has developed a global strategy for the overall coordination of MA follow-up activities on various aspects of the MA including scientific research, sub-global assessments (SGAs), policy implementation and decision-making, and outreach and education.</p> <p>This side event will examine how the MA findings have been used in the Ramsar Convention, and discuss the ways forward how turning knowledge into action for conservation of wetlands. It will also introduce the strategies and ongoing activities that have been undertaken in the MA follow-up process, and highlight some sub-global scale assessments to elaborate how the process and outcome of such assessments can contribute to the various stakeholders' activities on the ground. The seminar will convene policy makers, scholars, practitioners, and the public to discuss how the MA efforts can be further developed and implemented for achieving the Ramsar Convention goals.</p> <p>Moderator: Yoshihiro Natori, UNU-IAS</p> <p>Potential Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nick Davidson (TBC), Deputy Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention, on Application of MA findings in the Ramsar Convention - Anantha Kumar Duraiappah, UNEP, on Global Strategy for Follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) - W. Bradnee Chambers on Knowledge Gaps in MA: A Science Agenda - Maiko Nishi, UNU-IAS, on MA Sub-global Follow-up - Max Finlayson (TBC), Charles Sturt University, on MA SGA on Northern Australian Floodplains - Rodel D. Lasco (TBC), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), on Laguna Lake Basin: The Philippine Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 	
28	<p>Conflict or Symbiosis: Wetlands and Agriculture</p> <p><u>Rationale for this side event:</u> As the world's population rises and the need for food increases, the pressure of agriculture on wetlands is growing. Globally, agriculture is by far the biggest threat to wetlands, most usually through its impacts on water flows. Yet, many of the regulating services that sustain agriculture are dependent on the ecological condition of wetlands. There is increasing recognition of the need to manage agricultural practices so that food production is not at the expense of biodiversity and other ecosystem services. This side event will examine current knowledge on the impact of agricultural practices on wetlands and associated ecosystem services, and identify ways to increase resilience of wetlands in the face of increasing agricultural demands.</p> <p><u>Relevance to COP10:</u> This topic is of significant interest and of pressing concern to many convention partners. In this triennium the STRP has spent a considerable amount of time considering the issue of agriculture-wetland interactions, particularly through links to the GAWI project.</p> <p><u>Outcomes:</u> The side event will provide a forum to present major findings from a number of recent studies of interest to large numbers of convention partners. These studies include: i) Guidelines for Agricultural Wetland Interactions (GAWI); ii) the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA); iii) the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (CA); iv) Best Practices: Wetlands and Poverty. The side-event will create awareness and broad understanding of the issues that are critical for insight into wetland agriculture interactions. It will also facilitate discussion of approaches for the management of agriculture within wetlands and the need to balance provisioning and non-provisioning services. The need for, and types of guidance required to improve agricultural management in (and around) wetlands will be discussed. Finally, suggestions will be sought to guide work on agriculture-wetland interactions over the next triennium.</p> <p><u>Modalities:</u> The side event will be split into two parts. The first half (45 minutes) will comprise a number of short (ca. 5 minute) presentations, highlighting key issues and presenting findings from the studies conducted in the last triennium. Possible speakers include: Matthew McCartney, Afework Hailu, Gerado Halsema, Max Finlayson, Ritesh Kumar, Adrian Wood, FAO –irrigation-fisheries;</p> <p><u>Discussions/Debate</u> (45 minutes): Discuss a contentious issue related to water, agriculture and wetlands (e.g. how to reduce emphasis on productivity enhancement and promote other ecosystem services within poor communities whose livelihoods depend on agriculture).</p> <p>Possible convenor: Gordana Beltram</p>	<p>International Water Management Institute (IWMI)</p> <p>Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR)</p> <p>Wetlands International</p> <p>Institute for Land, Water & Society (Charles Sturt University)</p>
29	<p>Conservación de humedales, participación y alivio de la pobreza en Centroamérica: una propuesta metodológica para su análisis. Presentación de proyecto</p> <p>Este proyecto tiene como meta poner a disposición de comunidades, tomadores de decisiones y autoridades ambientales nacionales, información estratégica y acorde con la realidad local para fortalecer la conservación de los humedales, en cumplimiento de la Convención Ramsar y</p>	<p>Fundación para la Gestión Ambiental Participativa</p>

	<p>de la Política Centroamericana de Humedales. Se mostrará cuáles son los factores que determinan la efectividad de procesos de participación y su inter-dependencia con la conservación de los humedales y la generación de alternativas sustentables de alivio de la pobreza.</p> <p>Esta información se generará mediante el intercambio de experiencias sobre iniciativas de participación en el uso racional de los humedales y en la mejora de la calidad de vida; el fortalecimiento de capacidades; y el análisis de casos utilizando una propuesta metodológica basada en indicadores de sustentabilidad desarrollados por FUNGAP.</p> <p>Como antecedentes, durante el año 2004 a 2006, FUNGAP realizó un diagnóstico sobre gestión participativa en humedales en Latinoamérica (Marín, et al 2005). Se analizaron 41 proyectos, y dos de los resultados fueron:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. La identificación de 5 áreas determinantes para el éxito de proyectos de conservación y participación en humedales: a) Institucionalización de la participación; b) Cultura y tradiciones locales; c) Género e inter-generacionalidad; d) Coordinación intra e inter-institucional, y e) Sustentabilidad económica. 2. Los avances en este tema son menores en Centroamérica. Esto hace urgente la necesidad de poner a disposición información técnica para mejorar y aplicar las políticas de conservación de los humedales. <p>Esta propuesta tendrá los siguientes resultados:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Caracterizar del papel de la participación social en la distribución equitativa de los beneficios generados por los humedales y su sustentabilidad en el contexto actual Centroamericano. 2. Determinar la influencia en la conservación y el uso racional de los humedales que tienen cada una de las 5 áreas prioritarias identificadas por FUNGAP (Marin et al, 2005). 3. Identificar otras áreas y necesidades según las especificidades de Centroamérica. 4. Fortalecer la conservación y uso racional de humedales en la región, mediante la difusión de información, el intercambio de experiencias y el fortalecimiento de capacidades. <p>Los resultados contribuirán al entendimiento de los factores que determinan la interrelación entre humedales y gente, tomando como punto de partida al tema de la COP10 "Humedales sanos y gente sana". A los objetivos 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 y 18, del Plan Estratégico de Ramsar, y a las resoluciones VII.8 y VIII.36 sobre participación, y a las IX.14 y COP10 DR28 sobre Humedales y alivio de la pobreza.</p> <p>Este proyecto se ejecutará en 18 meses a partir de enero de 2008.</p>	
30	<p>Activities of NGOs, Local Governments, and Diet Members in Japan aiming for increasing Ramsar Sites, Wise Use and Wetland Restoration</p> <p>At COP9 in 2005, Japan designated 20 new sites, following the promise at COP7 to double the number of Ramsar Sites of 13 in Japan as an action to fulfil its Resolution. Draft Resolution X.1, the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2014, proposes three key result areas of Strategy 2.1 Ramsar site Designation [by 2014]: 2.1.i Preparation of a national plan and priorities for the designation and management of Ramsar sites; 2.1.ii Completion and update of RIS; 2.1.iii At least 2,500 Ramsar sites covering at least 250 million hectares. The Citizen's Association to Increase Ramsar Sites in Japan has worked on issues and challenges for further designation in Japan.</p> <p>OBJECTIVE: The side event aims to provide an opportunity of discussion to the secretariat, parties and NGOs by showing case studies of activities in Japan, especially on increasing the Ramsar Sites, Wise Use, Wetland Restoration and CEPA activities. It is to contribute to further development of conservation activities in the world.</p> <p>PRESENTATIONS: themes, contents and speakers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Objectives and Activities of "Citizens' Association to Increase Ramsar Sites in Japan" (presentation by ASANO Masatomi, General Secretary): The association is an alliance of wetland conservation groups in various sites in Japan. Activities focus on CEPA activities in each sites, and appeal to the local and national government for the designation to Ramsar List. 2. Objectives and Activities of "The Japanese Parliamentary League for Increasing Ramsar Sites" (presentation by Mr. TANI Hiroyuki, General Secretary, Member of the House of Councillors): Association of Diet members has been established in 2005, comprising 104 multi-party delegation of Diet members in Upper and Lower Houses. Activities are focussed on implementation of Ramsar Convention, especially, realization of wise use, increasing Ramsar Sites, improvement of legal system. The association often organises visits to important wetland sites and carries on hearing from local governments and people living in the area. 3. Re-introduction of Oriental White Storks and Restoration of Biological Diversity in Rice Paddies and Rivers in Toyooka City (presentation by Mr. NAKAGAI Souji, Mayor of the City): Toyooka City has long been trying with the citizens to re-introduce Oriental White Storks that has once been extinct in the wild, to restore the biological diversity of rice paddies that supports the species, and to restore natural flow of the rivers. The 	<p>WWF Japan Citizen's Association to Increase Ramsar Sites</p>

	<p>Storks released into the wild have started to breed on artificial nest towers, and to forage in rice paddies and rivers around.</p> <p>4. Survey and Conservation Activities of Hati Tideland by Local People (presentation by OKADA Kazuki, Hati Tideland Survey Meeting): Due to the survey and conservation activities carried out by a group of local citizens, landfill of the tidal flat was stopped and CEPA activities started.</p> <p>5. Conservation and Restoration of Watarase Marsh (presentation by KAWACHI Tatsuhiko, The Council of the Inhabitants of the Tone River area for the Protection of Watarase Marsh): Local people have long been working to conserve and restore the natural environment in a flood retarding pool for flood control.</p> <p>6. Discussion by participants</p> <p>MODERATORS: KASHIWAGI Minoru (Japan Wetlands Action Network), Shin-ichi HANAWA (WWF Japan)</p>	
31	<p>UNDP/GEF CIWP's experience in implementation of ecosystem approach to establish Iran's international wetlands management planning system</p> <p>The Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project was signed in 2005. Full implementation began in April 2006 and the project is due to end in 2012. The project is funded by a contribution of USD 3.287 million from the Global Environment Facility and co-financing of USD 9.190 million from the Iranian national budget.</p> <p><u>The project's Goal:</u></p> <p>is to catalyse the sustainability of Iran's system of wetland protected areas, thereby enhancing its effectiveness as a tool for conserving globally significant biodiversity.</p> <p><u>The project's objective:</u></p> <p>is to systematically remove or substantially mitigate threats facing globally significant biodiversity and sustainability at two demonstration sites, while ensuring that the lessons learned through these demonstrations are absorbed within wetland protected area management systems throughout Iran and most particularly at a set of target replication sites.</p> <p>The project is designed around the premise that decision-makers and local communities will only support the sustainable management and restoration of wetlands if they are aware of (and benefit from) the multiple values of these areas, and if they are involved in their management.</p> <p><u>Key elements</u> that permeate the whole project are therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising awareness among decision-makers, stakeholders and the general public of the multiple benefits provided by wetlands • Raising the capacities of wetland stakeholders (government agencies, users, NGOs etc), so that they understand their responsibilities for the sustainable management of wetlands, and so that they are better trained and equipped to contribute to such management • Establishing mechanisms to enable the sustainable management of wetlands, including intersectoral management committees, catchment-based management plans, improved legislation, and better monitoring and reporting. <p>The project will place substantial emphasis on demonstrating best practice approaches for the sustainable management of wetland protected areas at two demonstration sites: Lake Uromiyeh and its satellite wetlands (East and West Azerbaijan provinces); and Lake Parishan (Fars Province). While a high proportion of project activities will take place at these demonstration sites, GEF support will ensure that lessons learned will benefit the wetland management system throughout Iran. This will be achieved both through building the capacity of national and provincial agencies, as well as supporting other provinces to bring "Replication Sites" into the project as well as developing some guidelines and manuals.</p> <p>Following are some main achievements of the project, all of which have been prepared through a participatory process:</p> <p>Develop Lake Parishan(LP) and Lake Urmia (LU) management plans, LP habitat classification based on MedWet system, LP and LU zoning and codes of practice maps, prepare monitoring programme, LP Participatory Rural Appraisal.</p>	Government of Iran UNDP GEF
32	<p>Wetlands Across Asia: Applying Satoyama Satoumi Ecosystem Assessment to Wetland Management</p> <p>The Satoyama Satoumi Sub-Global Assessment (Japan SGA) is part of the ongoing global Millenium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) follow-up strategy of turning knowledge into action; specifically to assess the consequences of ecosystem change, while congruently increasing the scientific certainty and basis for actions needed to contribute to sustainable use of ecosystems and their overall enhancement of human well-being worldwide. The Japan SGA aims to provide policy makers with effective policy options for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and management of natural resources. The Japan SGA intends to respond to key questions faced not only by Japan but all global communities; specifically, to what extent should humans intervene in the natural environment. Further, the Japan SGA aims to address the complex</p>	United Nations University – Institute of Advanced Studies Kanazawa University Ishikawa Prefectural Government

	<p>challenge of trade-offs of how do we reduce negative trade-offs and provide positive synergies of changes in ecosystems, ecosystem services and human well-being.</p> <p>This side event will introduce the satoyama satoumi ecosystem assessment initiative in Japan, focusing on current and future potentials in applying this framework to wetland management in both Japan and beyond its borders throughout Asia. Satoyama and satoumi, traditional rural landscapes, are a mosaic of ecosystems wherein human interaction has been central to resource management and conservation. Rice fields, included in the Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type as human-made wetlands, are a constant in satoyama satoumi landscapes, providing an important animal and/or plant food sources to sustain human well-being and livelihoods, but also support wetland biodiversity and play a role in waterbird flyways contributing to waterbird population conservation. Recognizing these functions of satoyama and satoumi, it is the aim of this side event to directly address Ramsar COP10 DR 31 Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems, in seeking solutions to sustainable wetland management which contribute to global food security and human well-being.</p> <p><u>Tentative programme:</u></p> <p>Moderators: Dr. Koji Nakamura, Kanazawa University, Japan SGA Science Panel Co-Chair Ms. Anne McDonald, UNU-IAS Operating Unit Ishikawa/Kanazawa, Director</p> <p><u>Potential speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Dr. Koji Nakamura, Kanazawa University, Japan “Overview of Japan SGA and its Application to Wetland Management” (includes case study from Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan) 2) Ms. Anne McDonald, UNU-IAS Operating Unit, Japan “Enhancing Biodiversity in Rice Fields” (case study from Miyagi Prefecture, Japan) 3) Dr. Gea-Jae Joo, Pusan National University, Korea “Ecological Value of Rice Paddies as Wetland Systems in Korea” 4) Dr. Wei-hong Zhu, Yanbiang University, China “Transboundary Wetland Conservation in North Eastern Asia” (wetland management and conservation efforts in China, North Korea and Russia) 5) Dr. Sansanee Choowaew, Mahidol University, Thailand “Window on Human-Managed Wetland Conservation in Asia” (focus on current status and future potentials) 	
33	<p>Rice Paddies in the World – focussing especially on their biodiversity and sustainable use</p> <p>Rice paddy is a type of artificial wetland defined by the Convention. At least 114 countries have rice paddies in their territories. Many of them have been maintained for more than thousands of years. We can find rice paddies that are habitats of biodiversity.</p> <p>Especially, in the Asian region, in harmony with its climate of high temperature and much rain, areas of rice paddies occupy the largest area of wetlands. They play the role of agricultural wetlands that support a diversity of ecosystem-based rice growing.</p> <p>NGOs in Korea and Japan jointly organised a side event during the period of COP9 in 2005 with a title of “Rice Paddies – Amazing wetlands in Asia”. It was confirmed in the side event that: 1) Rice Paddies in Asia are important as habitats of diverse organisms such as migratory birds, 2) Change in socio-economical condition resulted in the loss of rice paddies and the degradation of their quality as wetlands, 3) “Winter-flooded Rice Paddy” is a means to restore the function of rice paddies as wetlands, and 4) To work for the parties for the adoption of a resolution that focuses on the value of rice paddies as agricultural wetlands in the COP10 in Korea in 2008.</p> <p>This side event aims to deepen the discussion on the Draft Resolution X.31. It is a draft resolution of ‘Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems’ submitted by the governments of Japan and Korea to the COP10. It is expected that the importance and the necessity of this draft resolution is discussed from various standpoints.</p> <p><u>Tentative programme:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Movie: Rice Paddy “Story that the lives tell” (Rice Paddy Production Committee) 2) How has the draft resolution been developed? (MoEJ/MoEK) / (JNNRC/KNNRC) 3) Rice Paddy in Ramsar (IWMI: International Water Management Institute) 4) Rice Paddies in Asia as Ecosystem-based on Rice Growing (IGES: Institute for Global Environmental Strategies) 5) Sustainable Agriculture in Rice Paddy (FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations) 6) Rice Paddy and Waterbirds (Rice and Waterbirds Working Group) 7) Discussion by participants 	<p>Japanese Association for Wild Geese Protection</p> <p>Japan NGO Network for Ramsar COP10</p> <p>Korean NGO Network for Ramsar COP10</p>

34	<p>Important Bird Area Local Conservation Group: How local communities participate in wetland management & conservation in SE Asia</p> <p>The side event will present the results of a BirdLife International wetland project supported by the Ministry of the Environment (Japan), Darwin Initiative (U.K.), and Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund (Japan) in four Asian countries, namely Vietnam, Cambodia, Malaysia and Thailand. The project aims to promote Ramsar Site designation and encourage sustainable management of the Important Bird Areas where the Ramsar Sites are located involving local communities as Local Conservation Groups (IBA-LCGS). This project supports the theme of COP10 'Healthy wetlands, healthy people' as the balance of ecological conservation and livelihood of the local communities are regarded as a high priority. We expect the experience of IBA-LCGs will inspire more wetland work with local communities in other, particularly Asian, countries.</p> <p>The side event moderator will be from BirdLife International or BirdLife partner organizations in Asia. Potential speakers are: Ms Nirawan Pipitsombat (Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy & Planning, Thailand), Nguyen Duc Tu (BirdLife International), Simba Chan (BirdLife International) and probably some funding agencies. Project countries may announce their intention to designate more Ramsar Sites after the COP10 and have brief presentations to introduce those sites.</p>	<p>BirdLife International Malaysian Nature Society Bird Conservation Society of Thailand</p>
35	<p>Discussion on and finalisation of the Wetlands Capacity Building Framework</p> <p>Interactive side event on capacity development for wetlands</p> <p><u>Why this side-event?</u></p> <p>Capacity Development for wetlands is needed! Goal 4 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2014 reads: Institutional capacity and effectiveness: To progress towards fulfillment of the Convention's mission by ensuring that it has the required mechanisms, resources, and capacity to do so. We are not there yet! There is still an enormous capacity needed in wetlands!</p> <p><u>For whom is this side-event?</u></p> <p>The members of the Administrative Authorities, focal points, CEPA focal points, regional initiatives, training institutes and others that have a responsibility and/or (want to) play a role in developing capacity for wise use of wetlands are invited to participate in this interactive side event.</p> <p><u>What is the side-event about?</u></p> <p>In an hour and a half you will hear what capacity development for wetlands entails, hear of experiences from others and diagnose the capacity situation in your own country/region. By participating you contribute to a Ramsar capacity development document.</p> <p><u>How will we do this?</u></p> <p>After a brief introduction to capacity development for wetlands, we will break into three language groups: English, French and Spanish. In these language groups you will exchange experience and diagnose your own capacity development situation. For this diagnosis we will use a summary of the Framework for Capacity Development, produced by Wageningen International and the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p><u>Programme of the side-event:</u></p> <p>13.15 Opening by Anada Tiega, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention and chair of the Advisory Board on Capacity Building</p> <p>13.30 Division into three language groups: English, French and Spanish, with per group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to capacity development • Diagnose own capacity development situation • Share observations/questions in the language group <p>14.30 Sharing main observations from the language groups in the plenary</p> <p>*lunch will be provided in the language groups</p>	<p>Ramsar Convention Advisory Board for Capacity Building Rijkswaterstaat UNESCO Wageningen University and Research Centre (WUR)</p>

36	<p>The Cultural Values of Wetlands: case studies from Asia</p> <p><u>Keynote addresses:</u></p> <p>Resolutions and recommendations concerning the cultural values of wetlands under the Ramsar Convention: developments and challenges Ms. Miki Sasaki, Secretary General, Wetlands International Japan 13:25 2. For a better tomorrow: wetland culture and associated traditional practices Dr. Tatsuichi Tsujii, President, Wetlands International Japan</p> <p><u>Case studies:</u></p> <p>13:40 3. Traditional techniques in the collection of flora and fauna in wetlands: traditional aquaculture practices in rice paddy fields in Malaysia Professor Mashhor Bin Masor, School of Biological Sciences, University Sains Malaysia, Malaysia 13:50 4. Management systems: Participatory wetland management involving local people Mr. Yasuo Sato, Sakata Waterfowl and Wetland Center, Japan 14:00 5. Amenity and recreation: Eco-tourism and local resource use in Japan Kushiro International Wetlands Center (presented by Ms. Mina Yoshikai) 14:10 6. Spiritual and religious values: Worship at the Ramsar Sites in the Himalayas Mr. Kamal Rai, Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation, Nepal 14:20 7. Ethnic cogitation: Feng Shui in South Korea Professor Won Suk Choi, Seoul University, Republic of Korea</p> <p><u>Comments:</u></p> <p>14:30 Comment 14:42 Closing remarks 14:45 Closing</p> <p>Coordinator: Professor Kouichi Sasagawa, Hosei University, JAPAN</p>	Wetlands International Japan
38	<p>Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)</p> <p>There is general consensus among governments and other stakeholders on the need to establish a science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES), building upon the global initiative to follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), as well as outcomes of an International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB) consultation.</p> <p>In 2007, the consultative process of IMoSEB invited UNEP, in collaboration with the government of France, other governments and other partners to explore modalities for establishing such an intergovernmental mechanism. In response to this, a concept note has been developed to support consultations with governments and partners, which was discussed by a group of government representatives and other experts at the CBD COP9 held in Bonn, Germany, in May 2008. Currently, the governments and other partners are being invited to review the concept note, which will be further discussed at an inter-governmental and multi-stakeholder meeting scheduled for November 2008.</p> <p>The side event aims to support this ongoing consultative process regarding the establishment of IPBES, provide opportunities for the experts attending the Ramsar COP10 to exchange views, and discuss some of the remaining challenges in establishing such a mechanism as well as options that are available to address these challenges.</p> <p>Some of the specific questions to be discussed at the side event include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Rationale and needs for the platform 2) Modalities, governance structure and institutional arrangements for the platform 3) Programme of work of the platform for the 1st phase: 2008-2012 4) Ways forward 	UNEP
40	<p>Screening of films on wetlands and water</p> <p>This screening will give an opportunity to promote films that participated in the Ramsar MedWet film award organised in the framework of the Ecofilms Festival. Three films about wetlands and water in the Mediterranean will be shown conveying a wealth of messages about the values</p>	MedWet

	<p>of wetlands including their natural, social and cultural values. The films proposed for screening are:</p> <p>i) <u>One meter below the fish</u>, M Mellara, A Rossi, Italy, 2006, 58'</p> <p>Brief summary: This film is a poetic diary about a journey into the mouth of the Po in Northern Italy. The traveller discovers an unknown place where people live and work hard. They live under the sea level. It is also a journey through memories. Fifty years ago the well known director Florestano Vancini did several documentaries about this region. They re-appear in this work to disclose a forgotten past and to give strength to the present. Fishermen, teachers, old people are the characters of this unusual journey together with the hidden traveller that finally disappears into nature.</p> <p>ii) <u>Rain is Falling</u>, H. Ernst, Germany 15'</p> <p>The film earned the Ramsar / MedWet award for best film on water and wetlands in the sixth Rodos Ecofilms Festival on film and visual arts, Rodos 20-25 June 2006</p> <p>An apparently simple tale forms the basis of the narrative: a little girl works to carry water back to her village where she takes care of her sick mother and of the household. Intuitive and captivating imagery weave themselves into a poetic narrative that works without words to communicate a wealth of messages on water. With a well measured pace the film gradually builds up to address the issue of access to water, its value as a life sustaining element, and the potential of local solutions to meet the needs for water.</p>	
41	<p>Preserving Biological Diversity of the Demilitarized Zone for Nature and Humans</p> <p>Objective of the DMZ side event: To inform Ramsar participants of the quality and importance to Korea, North and South Asia of the biota and habitats, including wetlands, of the DMZ. Since 1953, the DMZ has been essentially "off limits" to human activity and has become a de facto transboundary nature reserve. It contains over 1,200 plant, 50 mammal (including the endangered sheep-like Amur Goral), 80 fish and hundreds of migratory bird species living in the wetlands and multiple other habitat types encompassed in the DMZ. There are numerous opportunities for viable "ecosystem services" in the DMZ that could generate trillions of Korean Won (billions of dollars) by establishing sustainable eco-tourism, agriculture, teaching institutions and numerous other activities in and around the DMZ.</p> <p>Due to the lessening of tensions on the Korean Peninsula and to the gathering of thousands of conservationists from around the world at the Ramsar COP 10 Convention, this will be an ideal venue for education, awareness building and development of strategies and action steps to help the Korean people preserve DMZ resources.</p> <p>Speakers with first hand knowledge will discuss importance of the DMZ and options for preserving it, such as Ramsar designated sites, World Heritage Site (WHS), Man and Biosphere Reserve (MAB), based on personal experiences of the speakers, one of whom has spent over 30 years working in Korea. Handouts and posters (in English and Korean) will reinforce points made by speakers, showing the biological and cultural wealth of the DMZ, ways to protect it, organizations now involved and how participants can join these efforts.</p> <p>Expected outcomes of the side event include: (1) increased awareness and understanding among key conservationists in Korea AND from around the world about the DMZ's importance; (2) making contacts and plans with many key decision makers in Korea and elsewhere; (3) developing strategies and specific action steps to foster DMZ preservation; (4) interesting participants in ways they can help preservation activities.</p> <p>Moderators: Kim, Ke Chung, Chairman, The DMZ Forum, Inc, professor of entymology at Penn State University; Hall Healy, President, The DMZ Forum, Inc; Kim, Choony, Director of International Affairs, Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM), Seoul; Ma, Yong-un, Wetlands Director, KFEM, Seoul</p> <p>Speakers: Dr. Willem Van Riet, former Chief Executive Officer, Peace Parks Foundation (of South Africa) and initiator of 15 transboundary parks in South Africa; Dr. George Archibald, Co-founder, International Crane Foundation, Wisconsin, with extensive experience in Korea; Dr. Noritake Ichida, Vice President, BirdLife International (Asia); Dr. Chong, Jong Ryol (of North Korean heritage, living in Japan; has spent decades doing ornithological work in the DPRK.</p>	<p>DMZ Forum</p> <p>Gyeonggi Research Institute, Ministry of Environment, Gyeonggi Province</p>
42	<p>To be or not to be, that is the question of East Asian Coastal Wetlands</p> <p>In the side event, colleagues from Japan, Korea, Australia, Germany and The Netherlands seek a strategy to protect and conserve the East-Asian coastal wetlands which have long been exposed to the pressure of development, especially through reclamation for land creation. It is a follow-up discussion of the 'International Symposium on East Asian Coastal Wetlands' held on 27th October, which reports the current status of their ecosystem functions, cultural importance, management and conservation. This event will focus specifically on the issues of destructive projects in the East Asian region, and by juxtaposing practices from other regions, will discuss on the future challenges and solutions. Partner-</p>	<p>Getbol Forum Korea</p> <p>Common Wadden Sea Secretariat</p> <p>Birdlife International</p> <p>National Fisheries R&D</p>

	<p>ships, cooperative action, exchange of information, and other actions to protect the East-Asian coastal wetlands are also expected to be proposed by the discussants and the audience from governments, public agencies and NGOs. Your participation and contribution is greatly appreciated in this sense.</p> <p>Chair:</p> <p>Chul-hwan Koh / Representative of Getbol Forum Korea</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <p>Alison Russell-French / President of Birds Australia, Australia Sugenami, Tamotsu / General Secretary of the Ariake Sea Network of Fishermen and Citizens, Japan Je, Jong-Gil / Director of City and Nature Institute, Korea Lim, Hee-Ja / Secretary of Korea Federation of Environmental Movement, Masan-Changwon-Jinhae branch, Korea Akutsu, Hitoshi / Vice President of Wild Bird Society of Japan, Chiba Prefecture Chapter, Japan Harald Marencic / Deputy Secretary of Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, Germany Herman Verheij / Chairman of Ramsar committee, The Netherlands Yoon, Hyun Soo / Director of Marine Ecology Division, Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, Korea</p> <p>A brief Introduction to the International Symposium on East-Asian Coastal Wetlands, 27th and 29th October 2008, Changwon, Korea</p> <p>The International Symposium on East-Asian Coastal Wetlands on 27th October 2008 and the panel discussion following on the 29th in Changwon City, the venue of Ramsar COP10, seeks an alternative way of wetland conservation against intense development imperatives in the East Asian region.</p> <p>Habitat loss is severe in the region particularly due to state-led reclamation projects for agriculture, aquaculture and industrial use. The most compelling rationale for reclamation is for economic growth. The economic growth and construction of infrastructure are essential for improving the living standard in this region. Crop production is frequently considered as food security and creation of farmland from the coastal zone was traditionally important. Under these circumstances, the community-led small-scale reclamation in the past has been transformed to immense state-led projects today. The modern engineering of dike construction extends the area of embankment even to the estuaries and offshore. However, those reclamations are destructive to the coastal ecosystem and the lives of people, primarily to those whose livelihoods are highly dependent upon the health of ecosystem. In this context, the symposium endeavors to find alternative logics to improve the current situation.</p> <p>The sessions on 27th October report the coastal wetland ecosystem functions and services, the sites of international importance for migratory shorebirds, cultural values of coastal wetlands and effective conservation strategies in the region. Tidal flats in China, Japan and Korea are an important area of subject, but the practice in Wadden Sea and Sunderbans delta in India-Bangladesh will also be introduced for reference. The severe loss of stop-over grounds for migratory birds is surely a hot topic in the sessions.</p> <p>The panel discussions on 29th October seek more specific strategies for the protection of the East-Asian coastal wetlands. Consensus building, arrangement of partnerships and recommendations facilitating and ensuring the protection of this precious wetlands ecosystem will be made by the discussants.</p> <p>The Symposium was made possible under the strong support from international organizations; Birdlife International, Common Wadden Sea Secretariat, UNEP/GEF Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem project have been participating as organizers. The Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs Korea, and Gyeongsangnam-do offered administrative and financial support. Finally, Getbol Forum Korea served as a symposium secretariat. We are very grateful to all of the contributors and wish further to have your contributions as speakers, discussants and participants.</p>	<p>Institute –Tidal Flat Research Center</p> <p>UNDP/ GEF Yellow Sea Project</p>
43	<p>Reinvigoration of local economy through species restoration around rice paddies</p> <p>1. Title: Reinvigoration of local economy through species restoration around rice paddies</p> <p>2. Background:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rice paddies are important habitats for various creatures. - Many animals and plants relying on rice paddies are endangered by abuse of agrichemicals and fertilizers. - More and more people tend to buy safe organic foods inspite of its high prices. - Eco-friendly organic rice farming and species restoration around the rice paddies are recognized to be important and effective to increase the 	<p>Gyeongnam Provincial Government</p> <p>Gyeongnam Ramsar Environmental Foundation</p>

	<p>brand value of farming products.</p> <p>3. Expected Output:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribution toward the biodiversity through species resotation - Increasing brand value of products with the safe images from restored species - Satisfied customers with safe food and satisfied farmers with increasing income - Species restoration and eco-friendly organic rice farming create ecosystem in which all creatures are able to coexist <p>4. Expected Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lee, In-Sik: Raising awareness of local residents for the conservation of Upo wetland and increasing brand value of farming products through Crested Ibis restoration - Jeong, Jong Chul: Importance of rice field as habitats of wetland creatures and restoration of endangered species to increase the biodiversity 	
44	<p>Coexistence Cranes And Human Life</p> <p>This side event will focus on conservation of cranes and the management of their habitat. It will be time we are thinking about the relationship of cranes and people. And we will have the international cooperation to conserve wetlands for cranes, especially on their flyways.</p> <p><u>Moderators:</u></p> <p>Lee Ki-sup Simba Chan</p> <p><u>Potential speakers:</u></p> <p>Simba Chan (BI Asia): Wintering grounds management and avoidance of over-concentration Crawford (ICF): Crane conservation involving local communities Yutaka Kanai(BSJ): Crane census techniques (mainly for Korean participants) Lee ki-sup (KCN): Ecotourism and education progammes</p>	<p>Korea Crane Network BirdLife International Asia</p>
47	<p>Restoration of Urban Wetlands</p> <p>A lot of wetlands have been reclaimed from development pressures and major ecosystem benefits provided from wetlands have been lost. Urban wetlands are so close to our daily life that they can provide natural learning places. People who live in city can visit there any time and they can take a rest there. So their function is closely related to the topic of COP10 "healthy wetlands, healthy people".</p> <p>Restoring urban wetlands is an important issue for the Ramsar Convention as well as in the Kushiro Statement and the 2005 Asian Wetland Symposium in India. In Seoul, the rehabilitation of Cheonggyecheon (a stream) is a successful case study. Many Seoul citizens as well as foreign visitors are enjoying its numerous wetland benefits.</p> <p>Changwon City would like to enhance the importance of urban wetlands based on local or international excellent case studies. In addition, Changwon City would like to focus on urban wetlands' functions with regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><u>Moderator of the workshop:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetlands expert <p><u>Potential speakers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert from Multifunctional Administrative City Construction Agency (MACCA) - Secretary General of ICLEI - Mayor of Asian city, member of CITYNET - Expert from Changwon City 	<p>Changwon City Korea Wetlands Institute</p>
48	<p>How to protect the Nakdong River Estuary</p> <p>Nakdong River Estuary is one of the most valuable estuaries in Korea. Once, and hopefully still now, it was called the biggest area of birds in East Asia. At the moment, the estuary is protected through 5 different domestic laws. But town development of Busan Metropolitan City has decreased the size of the estuary, damaged and changed the ecology of the estuary. Still now, large areas of the estuary are being reclaimed to provide land for factory and residential purpose. And a large scaled bridge being built across the estuary has already affected the ecology of the estuary. That's why the estuary, still important for many endangered species of birds and other animals, is not designated as a Ramsar Site.</p>	<p>Wetlands & Birds Korea</p>

	<p>Wetlands and Birds Korea (WBK), a non-governmental, non-profit organization has been monitoring the ecology of the estuary. The result of monthly research conducted from 2003 was made available in several reports, which we think is the most reliable and thorough research information about the birds and ecology of the estuary. WBK has also been monitoring the migratory waterbirds.</p> <p>At the side event, we will explain the current state of Nakdong River Estuary. We will provide the threats to the estuary and our research result. With such activities, we would like to discuss how to use the estuary wisely.</p> <p>Mr. Park Joong Rok, the representative of the organization and a high school teacher, will lead the side event. And Mr. Lee Insik, who established the organization, and who is working as a representative of civil volunteers for the COP10, will also give a presentation.</p>	
52	<p>Conservation strategy for Korean tidal flat</p> <p><u>Envisaged outcomes</u> :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearing The Current situation of Korean Tidal flat damages 2. Scoping major factors to recovery the soundness of our tidal flat ecology. 3. Framworking the strategy for conserving the tidal environment and finding sustatinable wise use directives <p><u>Relevance to COP10 discussions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to involving the tidal flat and importanceness for wise-using and community development into the Ramsar Convension mission. <p><u>Moderators:</u></p> <p>Prof. Sung-Soo Chun Prof. Sung-Ryong Ha</p>	<p>Korean Wetlands Society Korean Tidal Flat Conservation Forum</p>
53	<p>Education for Sustainable Development Workshop: Cases of Sustainable Production & Consumption in Costal Wetland Management – Report from Tongyeong ESD International Forum, October 2008</p> <p>The city of Tongyeong, coastal town of Gyeongnam province was designated as the world's 8th Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE) by the United Nations University in 2005. Global network of 55 cities dedicated to promoting the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD: 2005-2014), an RCE is a network of existing formal, non-formal and informal education organizations, mobilized to deliver ESD to local and regional communities. Since its launching ceremony in 2006 in the presence of the Rector of the UNU, RCE Tongyeong has been holding annual ESD International Fora to promote the concept and cases of ESD in and out of Korea.</p> <p>The proposed side event of COP10, "Education for Sustainable Development Workshop: Cases of Sustainable Production and Consumption in Costal Wetland Management-Report from Tongyeong ESD International Forum 2008" is a direct feedback event from 2008 ESD International Forum held 23-25 October 2008 in Tongyeong. This year, the Forum is held under the theme of 'ESD and Sustainable Production and Consumption in Coastal Region'.</p> <p><u>Envisaged outcomes:</u></p> <p>The event hopes to bring to attention the role of UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development in attaining the ultimate goal of Ramsar Convention, especially in relation to Ramsar CEPA programs, and many other international conventions. With down-to-earth cases from in and out of Korea, the event will also give practical ways in empowering local community towards sustainable management of coastal wetland areas.</p> <p><u>Potential moderator:</u> Dr. PARK Eun-kyung</p> <p><u>Potential speakers:</u> Dr. PARK Eun-kyung, Prof. CHOI Byeongdae (RCE Tongyeong), Prof. Osamu ABE (ESD-J Japan), Prof. KOGANEZAWA (RCE Sendai Japan), staff of UNU, 1-2 cases from Korea and other coastal RCE cities</p>	<p>Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development, Tongyeong Tongyeong City UNU-IAS</p>
56	<p>Ramsar Regional Center Consultation Meeting</p> <p>As you are well aware, the RRC-CWA overall goal is to enhance the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the region through training, research, advocacy and public awareness programmes and we are looking for fulfilling the objectives of the Ramsar Strategic Plan through the Center's CEPA programme.</p> <p>Fortunately, COP meetings gather all the experts and countries together and the Center would like to take this opportunity to give a report to countries especially in West and Central Asia and to other interested parties and experts. Also, on the other hand we are looking for hearing</p>	<p>Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research in Central and West Asia</p>

	<p>more about countries' special needs, requests and advice.</p> <p>Also, one of the Center's challenges is financial matters. Financial support is essential to enable the effective functioning of the Center. Currently this comes from the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Ramsar Secretariat. In the future, funding of the activities of the Centre should also come from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National sources of income from countries in the region as appropriate • Income generating activities • National, regional and international grants • Sponsorship of activities by appropriate commercial and private supporters <p>In this regard we would like to attract the audience's attention to the Center's main challenges and find donors for our activities.</p> <p>The potential speakers will be the Ramsar Center's Executive Director and we will ask one of the countries in the region to moderate.</p>	
57	<p>Amur Regional Initiative for Free Flowing River and Sustained Basin</p> <p>Organizers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Yury Darman, WWF Russia, Director of Amur branch (Vladivostok, Russia); Amur Coordination Committee, representative of Amur NGO Coalition 2. Tatiana Minaeva, Wetland Int, Russia program, wetland coordinator (Moscow, Russia) 3. Alexander Sidorenko, Khabarovskii Province Administration, Vice-Minister of Natural Resources (Khabarovsk, Russia) 4. Tom Dahmer, ADB-GEF Sanjiang Plain Wetland Protection Project Forestry Department of Heilongjiang Province, Deputy Team Leader (Harbin, China) 5. Viktor Barduk, Khabarovskii Province Administration, Head of Dept of environmental control (Khabarovsk, Russia) 6. Evgeny Simonov, Amur program consultant (Harbin, China) 7. Vitaly Tyagunin, Bolonskii nature reserve - Ramsar site, Director (Amursk, Russia) 8. Svetlana Titova, WWF Russia, Amur program communicator (Vladivostok, Russia) <p>Description:</p> <p>The Amur-Heilong River basin exemplifies transboundary regions in need of shared environmental responsibility, particularly for wetlands. Almost 3,500 kilometers of the border between Russia, China and Mongolia is formed by shared river courses and adjacent wetlands, many of which are of global conservation concern. Rivers and lakes in the Amur-Heilong River basin provide habitats for about 130 freshwater fish species, including seven species of migratory salmon and Kaluga (<i>Huso dauricus</i>) – the largest sturgeon of the world. With species from the northern boreal, temperate and subtropical biomes, the Amur-Heilong River basin supports a tremendous diversity of habitats. The floodplains of the Amur-Heilong and its tributaries serve as an important link in the chain of stopover and nesting sites for millions of migratory birds of three major transcontinental flyways. As much as 95 percent of the world's nesting population of Oriental white storks (<i>Ciconia boyciana</i>) is found in the Amur-Heilong floodplain, along with 65 percent of the red-crowned crane (<i>Grus japonensis</i>) and 90 percent of the white-naped crane (<i>Grus vipio</i>) populations. The area includes four WWF Global 200 priority ecoregions, including the Amur-Heilong freshwater ecoregion and the Russian Far Eastern temperate forests ecoregion shared by Russia and China. The Daurian wetland-steppe ecoregion is shared by Mongolia, Russia and China. And the Amur-Heilong River discharge greatly impacts another Global 200 marine ecoregion – Sea of Okhotsk. The importance of Amur-Heilong River basin and its protected areas is recognized by virtually all global assessment and listing systems. The basin has 15 Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance, 10 Man and Biosphere Reserves, 1 World Heritage Site, 75 Important Bird Areas. The basin includes many important wetlands that are linked by hydrology, bird breeding, and wildlife migration. These wetlands are ideally suited to coordinated management using the Ramsar Convention's regional river basin approach. WWF offices in Russian Far East, North East China and Eastern Mongolia closely collaborate with governments of 10 provinces in 3 countries to create a system of protected areas connecting by water protection zones and keep main stream of Amur free of dams. Threats to biodiversity have been assessed by many projects in each basin country, but rarely compared across international borders. The Amur-Heilong regional initiative would help catalyze a basin wide ecological network by helping: systematic exchange of information and experience between countries, agencies and experts; identify and fill information gaps; establish archives of Amur-Heilong River basin information; enhance institutional capacity to implement policy, legislation and regulations at all levels; establish new protected areas to fill conservation gaps and link ecoregions; enhance institutional capacity to work cooperatively on nature conservation; develop and gain official recognition for a scientifically valid strategic conservation plan; develop and implement model transboundary interventions to strengthen institutional, technical and management capacities and build public support and participation; support policies integrating conservation into socio-economic development; develop communication tools to promote ecological networks and IRBM. This side event will focus on development of cooperation and funding mechanisms for mutual implementation of</p>	<p>WWF Russia, Amur branch</p> <p>WWF China</p> <p>WWF Mongolia</p> <p>Khabarovskii Province Administration</p>

	<p>the Ramsar Convention by countries joined by one basin. It will include three presentations focusing on the most urgent environment problems and discussion of the listed activities under the Amur Regional Initiative. There can be overlap with an exhibition which would be prepared by Administration of Khabarovskii Province with Bolonskii nature reserve to demonstrate the importance of wetlands protection down stream of the Amur River.</p> <p>Schedule:</p> <p>18:00-18:10 Open ceremony – video film about Amur River 18:10-18:15 Welcome speech – Dr.Yury Darman, WWF Russia, Amur branch; Tatiana Minaeva, Wetlands Int – Russia 18:15-18:35 Dr. Yury Darman, “Amur Ecoregion – world priority for biodiversity conservation” 18:35-18:45 Dr. Viktor Barduk – speech “Russia-China cooperation” 18:45-19:00 Vitaly Tyagunin – presentation of exhibition “Bolon Lake – Ramsar site of Amur River down stream” 19:00-19:15 Evgeny Simonov & Tom Dahmer – presentation “Amur-Heilong River Basin Reader” (books and CD) 19:15-19:30 Tatiana Minaeva – presentation “Amur River Regional Initiative”</p>	
58	<p>How is your wetland doing? Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool and Wetlands Management Guide</p> <p>Management effectiveness of protected areas became a priority issue for the international conservation community since 2004, when the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Programme of Work on Protected Areas was adopted. WWF has partnered with many organizations including IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas, the World Bank, TNC, UNEP-WCMC, UNESCO, CBD, GEF and many others to develop appropriate tools, and promote their use and the implementation of their recommendations to improve the protected area system worldwide.</p> <p><i>Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool</i> or METT aims to provide a quick and simple picture of effectiveness in individual protected areas, ideally through repeated application in sites over time. The METT has been tested over the past six years in hundreds of parks and a revised version applicable to all terrestrial protected areas (including wetlands) has been prepared.</p> <p>It is hoped that the Tracking Tool will be used more generally where it can help monitor progress towards improving management effectiveness; for example it is now obligatory for all Global Environment Facility protected area projects to use the Tracking Tool three times during the projects’ lifespan and the tool has been modified for use in several national protected area systems. The Ramsar Convention has adopted the use of METT as one of the indicators of the Convention’s effectiveness. This side event at COP10 will promote benefits of METT application for Ramsar Contracting Parties and encourage governments and partner organisations to apply METT regularly to assess the state of their wetlands and results of conservation efforts.</p> <p>The <i>Wetland Management guide</i> is intended to provide a summary of the steps to develop wetland management planning processes. Improved understanding of how to use these principles and planning steps will help achieve more effective conservation and thus wetland wise use.</p> <p>This summary guide has been prepared to help managers of sites listed under the Ramsar Convention on wetlands as well as all other types of wetlands. It provides a summary of Ramsar’s Handbook No. 16 (Managing wetlands; third edition; 2006), while highlighting other relevant sources of useful information on wetland management planning.</p> <p>Envisaged outcomes of the side event:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contracting Parties and partner organisations become familiar with the METT and its benefits, as well as the Wetland Management Guide. - METT is adopted by several Contracting Parties for regular use and report on management effectiveness of their protected areas. - Wetland Management Guide becomes a handy tool for site managers to plan well and use in conjunction with METT for ensuring healthy wetlands and its people. 	<p>WWF International World Bank IUCN WCPA UNEP WCMC</p>
60	<p>Himalayan Waters and communities: living with change</p> <p><u>Background:</u> WWF, Wetlands International and ICIMOD have been working on conservation and management of Himalayan wetlands for over 20 years. Various activities on identification of sites needing conservation, establishing community level conservation action, building awareness, policy advocacy, etc, in several countries, have led to the recognition of the importance of developing a regional body within which all member states can collaborate on wetland conservation issues to the benefit of all parties – the Himalayan Initiative. WWF, in collaboration with Ramsar and ICIMOD, brought together government representatives from different countries in the Himalayan region in 2002 to start formulation of the Himalayan Initiative. Since 2002 a Regional meeting has been regularly held almost every year, latest September 2008, in Kathmandu. These processes have also helped to strengthen the partners’ collaboration on conservation and sustainable use of Himalayan waters. Climate Change impacts on the Himalayas have added another urgent dimensions to the partners’ work, especially with local communities on adaptation to climate variability and data collection and management of these fragile ecosystems.</p>	<p>WWF India Wetlands International ICIMOD</p>

	<p>The COP10 side event is considered an optimal opportunity for Himalayan region member states' representatives to come together and share wetland conservation strategy issues and to work towards commitments for action.</p> <p><u>Objectives:</u> To highlight the urgency for action by governments to put in place strategies/policies on a fast track aimed towards:</p> <p>a) local communities' and biodiversity adaptation to climate variability that this region is already experiencing; b) conservation and management of Himalayan high altitude wetlands as important climate change buffers; c) importance of a regional approach to achieve effective tackling of the negative impacts of climate change and habitat degradation on wetlands and communities dependent on them;</p> <p><u>Description:</u> One or two Case Studies / Lessons from the field on adaptation strategies for local communities and biodiversity would be presented to highlight issues and solutions. These would come from the various field projects being implemented by the proposed partner organisations. WWF would try to get a Climate Witness to speak at the side event. ICIMOD, Wetlands International and could present the outcomes from their projects and programmes working on this issue. A Panel Discussion format would be used.</p> <p><u>Relevance to COP10 discussions:</u> The side event would be very topical as it relates to both the Draft Resolution DR 6 related to Regional Initiatives and DR 24 on Climate Change and Wetlands, coming up for adoption at the COP meeting. The event will help in: a) gaining recognition of important sites for Ramsar designation; b) bringing together the regional Governments for lessons-learned experience sharing concerning common wetlands' issues and solution finding.</p> <p><u>Moderators:</u> Archana Chatterjee, WWF and ICIMOD representative;</p> <p><u>Potential speakers/panelists:</u> Denis Landenbergue, WWF International; Eklabya Sharma, ICIMOD; Wetlands International; Government representatives from India/Nepal/Pakistan/China and other states; Climate witness from Ladakh</p>	
61	<p>Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.</p> <p>Les évolutions considérables du rôle et les responsabilités des points focaux nationaux Ramsar ont été marquées par une nouvelle recommandation adoptée lors de la COP10. Face aux enjeux croissant auxquelles les parties contractantes de la Convention doivent faire face, le secrétariat de la Convention a souhaité accompagner la professionnalisation du point focal national. Sa compréhension des processus et des procédures, son action au sein du Comité national Ramsar et son implication au sein d'instances traitant d'approches stratégiques transversales à diverses Conventions ou politiques nationales sont aujourd'hui pour lui des responsabilités majeures.</p> <p>Ce manuel à l'usage des points focaux nationaux de la Convention de Ramsar présente tout d'abord une " fiche de poste " élaborée en très étroite concertation avec les autorités nationales et le secrétariat de la Convention. Le cadre précisé par cette " fiche de poste " ne doit naturellement être appliqué strictement mais il peut utilement permettre des échanges entre l'autorité administrative et le point focal national sur ces missions et responsabilités. En outre, cette fiche de poste ouvre une douzaine de fiches pratiques organisées autour de trois grand thèmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connaître la Convention de Ramsar, - Répondre aux rendez vous majeurs de la Convention - Agir au niveau national <p>Chacune de ces fiches rappelle ce qui est essentiel de connaître pour remplir la fonction de point focal national et présente certains outils pratiques à mettre en oeuvre. Une rubrique " pour en savoir plus " sous forme d'ex tract, de liens hyper texte ou de référence bibliographique complète certaines fiches pratiques. Ce manuel vient en complément du Manuel de la Convention de Ramsar et vise à soutenir les efforts engagés au niveau national en matière de consultation et de coopération en vue de garantir les meilleurs résultats possibles pour atteindre les objectifs de la Convention. Naturellement, cet ouvrage est évolutif. Les fiches pratiques seront actualisées périodiquement et de nouvelles fiches pourront, en fonction de l'expression de besoins, être produites. La prise en main de cet ouvrage pourra également être soutenue par l'organisation de sessions de formation menées principalement dans le cadre d'actions de soutien aux comités nationaux Ramsar.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SE lié au projet de recommandation n° 29 - Modérateurs : E Thevenin ; Naïk Faucon; - Outcomes : Présentation et discussion autour du manuel ; restitution du "café des connaissances" du WCC de l'IUCN consacré à la concertation et renforcement des relais nationaux au service des Accords Multilatéraux sur l'Environnement ; Etablissement d'un plan d'action pour accompagner les NFP le désirant. 	<p>Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference. (ATEN)</p>
62	<p>Launching Book "Share – Managing Waters across Boundaries"</p> <p>The IUCN Water Programme launches it's latest toolkit entitled "Share, Managing Waters Across Boundaries". This toolkit is part of a wider</p>	<p>IUCN Water Programme</p>

	<p>range of knowledge series from the Water and Nature Initiative. The publication provides an overview of the world's shared water resources and insights for managing these resources. Using case studies from around the world, it describes the benefits to be gained from cooperation and the challenges of constructing legal frameworks, institutions, management processes and financing, and partnership strategies to govern transboundary waters equitably and sustainably. The side event will be an excellent platform for discussion and debate, chaired by IUCN's new Head of Water Programme, Dr Mark Smith.</p>	
63	<p>Integrated management of mountain wetlands in China</p> <p>The proposed side event will showcase experience in management and restoration of mountain wetlands in China with a focus on the mountain peatlands in the Ruoergai plateau in Sichuan/Gansu and in the Altai mountains on the border of china with Russia and Mongolia. The side event will share experience over the last five years in assessing and restoring the mountain wetlands in China both in designated Ramsar sites and other wetland areas. The importance of mountain peatlands for water control and carbon storage as well as potential climate change impacts will also be reviewed. The activities are in line with the implementation of the Ramsar GGAP and will complement the proposal to develop a Himalayan Initiative to link work to conserve mountain peatlands in the Himalayan region. They are also relevant to COP 10 deliberations on wetlands and climate change and wetlands and water resources.</p> <p>It is hoped that by sharing the experience at the time of the Ramsar COP that mountain wetland managers from other Ramsar parties will be encouraged to share experience and develop linkages and exchanges with projects in China.</p> <p><u>Speakers</u> will include:</p> <p>Prof. Chen Ke Lin, Director of Wetlands International China Faizal Parish, Director of the Global Environment Centre Prof. Hans Joosten, Greifswald University / Secretary General of the International Mire Conservation Group Representatives from the local government of the Ruoergai plateau and the Altai mountains</p> <p>The participation of Chinese experts and local government representatives is funded by the EU China Biodiversity Programme.</p>	<p>Global Environment Centre Wetlands International China University of Greifswald (Germany)</p>
66	<p>Collaborative Wetland Management: Uganda's experience since COP9</p> <p>The side event will be in form of short speeches, video, audio and art exhibition showcasing Uganda's effort in wetland management and conservation. Particular attention will be put on the progress made by the Government of Uganda in wetland management since the last Ramsar Conference (COP9).</p> <p><u>Activities</u> will include: a video presentation showing the 9 Ramsar Sites designated after COP9, launch of Uganda's Ramsar Site Handbook, exhibitions of work done by Uganda's children as a way of implementing the Children's Appeal made during COP9.</p> <p>The side event will provide an opportunity for the Ugandan Delegation to present progress made especially towards the implementation of the resolutions passed during the Ramsar COP9.</p> <p>It will also provide ground for sharing ideas with other Contracting Parties on sustainable wetland management.</p> <p>Various members of the Ugandan delegation will participate in the side event. Key among these will be the Minister of Water and Environment (the leader of the Uganda delegation), three officials from the Wetlands Management Department, one official from each of the three Non-Governmental Organisations, i.e Nature Uganda (NU), Uganda Wildlife Clubs (UWC) and Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC) and a children's representative to report back on the level of implementation of the Children's Appeal.</p>	<p>Wetlands Management Department, MoW&E, Uganda Nature Uganda Uganda Wildlife Clubs Uganda Wildlife Education Centre</p>
69	<p>Wetlands Management in the Nile Basin</p> <p>The Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) is a partnership of riparian states of the Nile: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The NBI's shared vision is to "achieve sustainable socioeconomic development through the equitable utilization of, and benefit from the common Nile Basin water resources". To translate the shared vision into action, there are two complementary programmes: the Shared Vision Program (SVP) creating a basin wide enabling environment for sustainable development; and the Subsidiary Action Programs (SAPs) that are engaged in concrete activities for long term sustainable development, economic growth and regional integration of the Nile Basin countries www.nilebasin.org.</p> <p>The Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project (NTEAP) is one of the eight Projects under the Nile Basin Initiative's (NBI) Shared Vision Program. The main objective of this Project is to provide a strategic environmental framework for the management of the transboundary waters and environmental challenges in the Nile River Basin. NTEAP meets its objectives through piloting initiatives such as those that</p>	<p>Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) Nile Transboundary Environment Action Project (NTEAP)</p>

	<p>support the management of major wetlands and biodiversity sites, while enhancing basin wide cooperation and capacities for better environmental management of Nile basin resources.</p> <p>NTEAP has a Wetlands and Biodiversity Conservation component which aims at enhancing the understanding of the functions of wetlands, biodiversity and water resources in sustainable development. The component has been operational for two years and has experiences in regional coordination for the management of wetlands that can be shared. It has regional working groups, network of experts, trains and builds capacity for wetlands management, conducts studies at specified sites to increase the understanding of wetlands and biodiversity, prepares transboundary management plans at selected sites and encourages community pilot initiatives that promote wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>The NBI-NTEAP wetlands component has been building on national and regionally focused initiatives within the Nile basin countries and works with networks of existing centers of knowledge and experiences to provide transboundary and basin wide perspectives that enhance regional conservation of wetlands and biodiversity sites, which has enhanced basin wide cooperation and capacities for better wetlands management in the Nile basin.</p> <p>NBI for the first time will attend Ramsar COP to share its basin wide experiences in managing the wetlands and biodiversity resources. The activities over the past few years have resulted in a wealth of knowledge, challenges and best practices. The side event will give an opportunity for NBI to interact and consolidate its river basin approaches in strengthening regional frameworks to manage wetlands, in line with the 2009 theme for World Wetlands Day. The side event interactions will also be an opportunity for getting ideas in development of the Nile Basin Wetlands Strategy that will enhance the domestication of the Ramsar Convention in managing transboundary sites. More sensitization will be made for the NileWet which provides a sustainable mechanism to regionally address challenges in wetlands management. A presentation of the Nile Basin and its wetlands component will be made and this will be followed by an interactive discussion. Some of the materials about NBI programs will be distributed.</p>	
70	<p>Australia's Ramsar wetlands - lessons for contracting parties on managing overallocation of water & opportunities for adapting to climate change</p> <p>The side event will focus on the key threats of over-extraction and climate change to Australia's Ramsar wetlands and current efforts by Australia to deal with these issues (including the new Water for the Future program & a ground-breaking referral of constitutional powers for water management to the Commonwealth Government). It will also provide a key forum for discussion between Australia and other parties about the role of the Ramsar Convention in assisting signatory parties in dealing with climate change risks and adaptation strategies.</p> <p>It will then examine the mechanisms used for 3.2 notifications, the value of such notifications, the role of the Montreux Record and how use of these mechanisms are beneficial and informative to other signatory parties.</p> <p>This side event will be particularly relevant to Draft Resolution 13, regarding the status of Ramsar listed wetland sites, particularly in detailing and discussing the use and value of Article 3.2 notifications and the Montreux Record within the context of Australian case studies, and for consideration of "options for assisting and encouraging Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in ecological character".</p> <p>It is also relevant to Draft Resolution 24 - Climate Change and Wetlands - particularly in regards to current Australian approaches to remove existing pressures on wetlands and increase their resilience, and maintaining the ecological character of wetlands.</p> <p><u>Envisaged outcomes</u> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Informing party consideration of Draft Resolution 13, particularly in relation to the use of article 3.2 notifications and the Montreux Record and the value in utilising those instruments; and in providing a forum for the consideration of "options for assisting and encouraging Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in ecological character"; * Informing party consideration of Draft Resolution 24, particularly in relation to increasing wetland resilience in the face of climate change and in examining management approaches for climate change adaptation; * Delivery of an informative Australian case study that will greatly inform other signatory parties and NGOs of threats and approaches to management from the Australian context; * Clarity on how the Ramsar Convention can provide assistance with climate change adaptation through the provision of several key case studies; * An enhanced understanding for Australia, signatory parties and NGOs about the role and value of Ramsar processes and instruments such as the Montreux Record for informing and assisting countries in managing threats to wetlands; <p><u>Potential speakers</u> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Senior Australian Department of Environment, Water and Heritage agency staff in the Australian delegation 	Inland Rivers Network WWF Australia

	* NGO representatives such as Mr Jamie Pittock, WWF International, Averil Bones, WWF Australia, Amy Hankinson, Inland Rivers Network Coordinator	
71	<p>Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in South Africa</p> <p>In South Africa, the combination of several factors has significantly elevated the importance of wetlands. These include the relative scarcity of wetlands as a result of the climate, their unique biodiversity, valuable hydrological and ecological functions, high rates of degradation and cultural value. Recognising this importance, South Africa signed the Ramsar Convention in 1971 and became the fifth contracting party in 1975, thus being considered a founding member.</p> <p>Since then, much progress has been made in South Africa towards internalising the spirit and goals of the convention. A notable achievement was the creation in 2000 of a government programme dedicated to the rehabilitation and wise use of wetlands. Working for Wetlands is a co-ordinated expression of elements of the cross-cutting wetland-related mandates of its parent departments, Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT), Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF), and Agriculture (DoA). Strong emphasis is placed on approaches rooted in cooperative governance and partnerships. The programme couples wetland rehabilitation with job creation and skills development, in line with government's Expanded Public Works Programme, which aims to provide short term work opportunities and skills to unemployed people. In the past year, Working for Wetlands provided temporary employment and 28,500 training days for 1,990 people drawn from vulnerable and marginalised groups, with particular emphasis on women, youth and the disabled. There are currently 43 active projects across South Africa focusing on 96 wetlands, with interventions ranging from stabilising wetland banks and halting erosion, to breaching barriers to water flow such as roads through wetlands.</p> <p>Research and CEPA activities also form a key part of the work of Working for Wetlands, recognising that these are not only supportive functions to rehabilitation implementation, but are also proactive interventions that can induce positive changes on their own. An extensive three year research programme on wetland rehabilitation recently culminated in the production of an eleven volume set of tools for understanding wetland origins and degradation in South Africa, and planning, implementing and evaluating rehabilitation.</p> <p>The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism is responsible for administering the convention in South Africa, and consequently leads the process of designation of new Ramsar sites, national preparations to participate in the COP. These include compiling and submitting a national report, preparing position papers on draft resolutions to be considered at the COP, and assembling a delegation to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Of importance to COP and to other countries like France, UK, New Zealand and Australia that have some overseas territories in the region and none of them are Ramsar sites yet, South Africa designated Prince Edward Islands as a Ramsar site. South Africa also designated a communally owned Ramsar site Makuleke Wetlands which is jointly managed by the community of Makuleke and Kruger National Park.</p>	<p>Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism</p> <p>South African National Biodiversity Institute</p>