



Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
Ramsar COP11
“Wetlands, Tourism, and Recreation”

African Regional Preparatory Meeting
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso 3-8 October, 2011

REPORT



October 9th, 2011



As a prelude to a coherent and productive participation in COP11 of the Ramsar Convention to be held in Bucharest, Romania, from 19 - 26 June 2012, the delegates of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands in the African region distributed in six sub-regions:

- Central Africa;
- East Africa;
- West Africa;
- North Africa;
- Southern Africa;
- Island States of the Indian Ocean;

met in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 3 to 8 October 2011 to assess progress in implementing the strategic objectives of the Convention from 2009 to 2015, and future prospects.

The first day of the meeting was very instructive. Through the addresses of the Minister and Representative of the Mayor of the town of Ouagadougou, we noted that Burkina Faso was glad to hold this African meeting in Ouagadougou and made every effort to make it successful.

The address from **Mr. Anada Tiéga**, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention reminded delegates of the mission of the Convention and specified that the Ouagadougou meeting helped to mark by the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention.

Following the opening ceremony, **Dr. Paul Ouedraogo**, Ramsar Senior Regional Adviser of Africa, introduced the objectives and the expected results of the meeting. Following his introduction, two presentations enabled participants to discover two new useful tools for monitoring and designation of Ramsar site.

The first presented by **Dr. William Darwall** on the theme of African *Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment* clearly shows the potential of African wetlands their parameters of abundance, distribution and biological diversity. Mr. Darwall encourages participants to take ownership of this new information tool which development required six years of study and collaboration of several scientists.

The second presentation by **Dr. David Stroud** was about the new format of the Ramsar Information Sheet. As such, participants mainly noted the need for practical exercises to better understand the use of this tool.

The issues discussed in the afternoon at the sub-regional working groups have helped to assess the level of effectiveness of the implementation of the concept of wise use of wetlands in the states and sub-regions, constraints encountered effectiveness of international cooperation, the development of greater coordination of the activities with other global and regional conventions.

Globally, the relations of the countries have more or less revealed:

- Lack of national policies for wetland management in several countries;
- The low level of private sector investment;



- The low level of implementation of monitoring and evaluation, of sensitization and education resulting in a low public participation in the sustainable management of wetlands;
- Modesty of legislation and policy and decision making in general in the management of wetlands;
- Insufficient financial resources;
- Pollution and threats posed by invasive species such as water hyacinth, in some wetlands;
- A small number of designated Ramsar Sites, and those who have a management plan;
- The inefficiency or lack of funding mechanisms;
- In most countries there is a lack of a national strategy.

The funding mechanism is a major concern, it is understood that this Ouagadougou meeting offers a framework for thinking about what to do to move towards solutions to this problem.

The first day was chaired by Dr. **Georges Yaméogo**, Director in Charge of Conventions at CONEDD Permanent Secretariat.

The second day of the meeting addressed the successes, challenges and opportunities facing the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan for 2009-2015.

After a speech by Mr. **Anada Tiéga**, Secretary General of the Convention which highlighted the vital importance of wetlands, from the standpoint of environmental safety (maintenance of diversity, water and ecosystem management), food security, social security and finally economic security (tourism), he invited participants to make commitments through a call to action to address the proposal of the Minister.

During discussions, several Contracting Parties have questioned the visibility of the Convention and the lack of political will of Contracting Party government leaders. The central question is: How to make them sensitive and exhibit the importance of the Ramsar Convention? To do this, it is essential to use focal points as well as Ramsar Advisory Missions. This debate also highlighted the importance of synergy between the various African focal points of the Convention. During this session of open and useful discussion, the question of the establishment a ministerial segment was also raised. The Contracting Parties have suggested making a recommendation to set up this segment. This effort may lead to financial resources.

Delegates also followed with interest the presentation of Mayor of the Municipality of Gaoua, **Jean-Baptiste Kambou** who noted the importance of the involvement of populations for better visibility and clearness of actions. He stressed that mobilising the public must be done in conjunction with their interests. To set an example, he personally agreed to provide the recommendations of the Ouagadougou meeting to all the Mayors of Burkina Faso.

After lunch, a panel of international journalists on the Network of African Journalists for Environment was established and chaired by Mr. **Sidi El Moctar Cheiguer**. The panel explained the importance of establishing a real communication strategy for the



Convention. For this panel, it is essential that the communication units in the ministries in charge of wetlands make these wetlands a full subject. It is proposed that Contracting Parties shall develop a mechanism to associate the media with all the events concerning wetlands. It is important to raise awareness and to learn about wetlands, especially with knowledge of the economic value of the wetlands.

Following fruitful discussions, delegates closely followed several presentations including one by Professor **Géladio Cissé**, a researcher at the Swiss Tropical Institute. He discussed the methodologies for analysing ecosystem services of urban wetlands, health and local governance against poverty in Africa.

Mr. **Atigou Balde** presented briefly the regional initiatives: NigerWet and WacoWet for which he said that their development is in progress. Mr. Paul Mafabi introduced the regional initiative RAMCEA through the work plan of the centre, the achievements and challenges.

In the afternoon, group work took place and was devoted to the priorities for the next triennium, 2013-2015. First, it was about deciding on the options proposed as part of administrative reform. With regard to this subject, 2 regions out of 6 have chosen UNEP to host the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention. The other four sub-regions have asked for more information and figures before deciding.

Mr. Balde confirmed the voting members to serve on the Standing Committee. North Africa and Central Africa have made the choice of Tunisia to represent them. Eastern Africa wishes, in turn, to be represented by Rwanda. For West Africa, the member that has been chosen is Guinea. With regard to Southern Africa and Indian Ocean archipelago of small islands, the choice was South Africa.

The second day was chaired by Mr. **Joachim Ouédraogo**, Director General of Nature Conservation of Burkina Faso.

The third day of the meeting was marked by the visit of Lake Bam under the competent responsibility of Mrs. **Mama Christine Liehoune**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Burkina Faso, led the field visit on behalf of the Government.

Several activities were held during this visit:

- a summary presentation of the MASTER in Conservation and Sustainable use of wetlands by Professor Prosper Zombre from the University of Ouagadougou;
- the welcome speech of Mrs. High Commissioner;
- a presentation on Lake Bam by Mr. Ambroise Ouedraogo followed by the presentation of Pictures by the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention to Mrs. High Commissioner;
- and the guided visit of the Lake.

At the end of the visit, Mrs. High Commissioner called for a twinning between Lake Bam and any other African wetland.



On the fourth day of the meeting began with a brief summary of the day 2 and day 3. The facilitator reported on the lack of a development plan for most of the Ramsar Sites in the continent, the need for commitment from decision makers, and the weak support of regional initiatives. He noted that the field trip of the day before was rich in lessons and that as a former director of the Lake Chad Authority; he saw Lake Bam as a small Lake Chad and appreciated the commitment and legitimate concern of local communities for the future of the Lake.

In the discussion that followed the brief summary, it appeared:

- The need for African countries to settle definitively the administrative reform issue;
- Some clarification on the operation of NigerWet and WacoWet;
- The requirement that it should be allowed the West African region with 16 countries to have a second vote in the Standing Committee;
- The need for appropriate financial mechanisms.

By way of clarification, the Secretary General of the Convention, Anada Tiéga, said that the issue of administrative reform has been raised since COP10 and since that time, nine meetings were held and apart from a few countries (Senegal and South Africa), African countries have remained timid on this issue. This question is still the responsibility of the Contracting Parties. Furthermore he pointed out that since members of IUCN are also States, it would be useful not to dwell on this issue so as to hide the real challenges which are the understanding of the Convention and making a proper use of the Convention for the benefit of development strategies.

He also noted that the issue of the number of votes in the regions is answered in the resolutions of the Convention that sets minimum number of 12 countries for one voice. And the West Africa should include at least 24 countries to qualify for two voices. If the number of African countries was 48, then the continent will win one more voice. After this brief summary and discussions that followed, several presentations were made.

The first presentation was that of **Kathrin Weise** from GlobWetland II on a global observation system. This tool has the advantage of being simple, effective and less expensive because it uses Landsat images that can be obtained free of charge. The project is ready to assist in training and capacity building for better monitoring of Ramsar sites using this tool.

The second presentation was that of **Lawrence Narteh** of FAO on water, agriculture and the shallows. This presentation showed the importance of shallow lands in food production especially rice.

The third presentation was that of **Lucinda Fairhust** from ICLEI on Wetlands and Urbanization. She showed essentially the need to integrate wetlands into urban development planning. In order to praise the presentation of Lucinda, the Secretary General of the Convention urged the delegates to work closely with local governments in local development planning.

The fourth presentation was the report of the workshop of journalists. The latter proposed to improve the visibility of the Convention through a communication strategy based on a



partnership with ANEJ. Reflections on that will primarily take into account civil society and beneficiary populations.

The fifth presentation was done by Mr. **Yves Bathelemy** and Professor Serge Riazanoff on available data and their reception for the monitoring of wetlands. In the afternoon, participants attended a demonstration on the use of the Ramsar Information Sheet by **David Stroud**. Before listening to a series of presentations by **Stephen Flink**, **Evelyn Moloko** and **Chikomo Thandiwe** about the use of remote sensing tools for monitoring birds in the wetlands.

The first day of this part of the meeting was chaired by Professor **Aimé Joseph Nianogo**, Regional Director of IUCN for West and Central Africa.

The fifth day saw the presentation of challenges and threats to wetlands in Africa by **Mr. Denis Landenbergue** WWF's freshwater unit. Mr. Landenbergue drew particular attention to certain documents and draft resolutions for this issue important to COP11.

Some side events accompanied the Ouagadougou meeting. In this context, several institutions held stands: IUCN, WWF, University of Ouagadougou, ANCE Togo, BirdLife International, Wetlands International and GlobWetland II and ICLEI. A journalist's workshop was also organised to support the elaboration of the Convention Plan of visibility.

To mark the 40th anniversary of the Convention, the Municipality of Ouagadougou, designated a Ramsar Convention Trail in within the Urban Park of Bangr Weogo.

Reported by:
Dr. Paul Ouedraogo
Ramsar Senior Advisor for Africa
Ouagadougou, October 7, 2011



The Participants



Entertainment during the opening ceremony



Professor Jean Koulidiati, Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development during his opening remarks



Mr Anada Tiéga, Secretary General of Ramsar Convention during his speech



Delegates



Delegates



Experts and other resources persons



Delegates



Experts



Delegates



Delegates



Field Visit Lake Bam Ramsar Site N°1880



Field Visit Lake Bam Ramsar Site N°1880



Field Visit Lake Bam Ramsar Site N°1880



Lake Bam



Gift of awareness material to local community by the Secretary General



From left to right: Mayor of Kongoussi city, the Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, the High Commissioner of the Province of Bam and Anada Tiéga, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands





List of Participants

N°	Name	Organisation	Country	Address + Email
1.	ABAMY Kossiawavi	Ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources Forestières	TOGO/Lomé	BP 355-Direction de la faune et de la chasse maoagnes@yahoo.fr
2.	ABBA Mahmoudou	NCN- Chargé de communication	Niger	cbam_fa@yahoo.fr
3.	ABDALHAKIRE Osman Eljack Abdalhafize	Protected Areas WILDLIFE General Administration/Sudan	Khartoum	abdalhafize@hotmail.com
4.	Abdou SALAM KANE	DPN/MEPN	Sénégal	BP 5135 Dakar ak7salam@yahoo.fr
5.	ADAMU Muhammad Sani	Facilitator	Nigeria	msaadamu@yahoo.com
6.	Ana VEIGA	Ministry of Environment and Land Planning Directorate General of Environment	Cap Vert	veiga.anav@gmail.com
7.	Anada Tiéga	Ramsar Secretariat	Switzerland	tiega@ramsar.org
8.	AWAISS Aboubacar	NCN- Directeur Exécutif	Niger	awaiiss.abou@gmail.com
9.	BALDE Atigou	Ministère d'Etat chargé de l'Energie / Environnement/Ministère délégué de l'Environnement Point focal National Ramsar	République de Guinée	BP.642 conakry atigoudire@yahoo.fr
10.	BELEMSOBGO Urbain	MEDD Comité National RAMSAR	Ouagadougou	ubelemsobgo@hotmail.com
11.	Ben Houssen Abdourahaman	Vice présidence en charge du Ministère de l'Environnement	Union des Comores	BP 775-Moroni ashouhab35@gmail.com
12.	BESSAH Ghanra	Direction Générale des forêts-Ministère de l'Agriculture et du Développement Rural	Algérie	gh_bessah@yahoo.fr 00 213 21 91 52 86
13.	Cecelia KOLLIE	Assistant Manager for Conservator/Compliance and Enforcement	Liberia	cekollie@yahoo.com
14.	Charles C. AMANKWAH	WETLANDS COORDINATOR RAMSAR FOCAL POINT	GHANA	ccamankwah@yahoo.com
15.	CHUMA Simukonda	Senior Ecologist National Focal Point	Zambia	chumasimuko@yahoo.com
16.	CISSE Gueladio	Swiss TPH	Bâle/suisse	gueladio.cisse@unibas.ch
17.	DAGBA Camille -Alex	Ministère de l'Environnement de l'Habitat et de l'Urbanisme ABE	COTONOU République du Bénin	calex53@gmail.com 00 229 95 90 10 00 00 229 97 63 40 48
18.	David A. STROUD	STRP/UK JNCC	United Kingdom	david.stroud@jncc.gov.uk
19.	Denis LANDENBERGUE	WWF International	Switzerland	dlandenbergue@wwfint.org
20.	EBEH Kodjo Fabrice	ANCE -TOGO/WWW/AFRICA	Togo	ebeh@ancetogo.org
21.	Edward NETSHITHOTOLE	Department of Environmental Affairs	Pretoria-SOUTH AFRICA	enetshithothole@environment.gov.za
22.	FANANA Makomoreng	Ministry of Natural Resources, Department of Water Affairs	LESOTHO	fanana@dwa.gov.ls
23.	FAUCON Naïk	ATEN	Montpellier-France	naik.faucon@espaces-



N°	Name	Organisation	Country	Address + Email
				naturels.fr
24.	Faustin MUNYAZIKWIYE	Rwanda of Environment Managment authority (REMA)	Rwanda	mufausi@yahoo.fr (+250 788462012) Kigali, Rwanda
25.	FAYAMA Masseifa	Université d'Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso	fmasseifa84@yahoo.fr
26.	Frans M. KAMENYE	Directorate Environmental Affairs -CEPA Government Focal Point	Windhoek- Namibia	fkamenye@live.com
27.	GROGA BADA Camille	Ministère des Eaux et Forêts /Direction de la faune et des Ressources cynégétiques	Côte d'Ivoire	BPV 178 ABIDJAN 01 grogabadacamille@yahoo.fr +225 20 21 07 00/+225 05 74 97 82
28.	HABIB Abid	Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'environnement-DGF	Tunisia	habibabid2001@yahoo.fr
29.	HEMA M. Emmanuel	Doctorant Université d'Ouagadougou Rapporteur	Burkina Faso	01 BP 3379 Ouaga 01 Hema.emmanuel@yahoo.fr
30.	HONADIA Kambou Clarisse	UICN	Ouagadougou	clarisse.honadia@uicn.org
31.	Ibrahim DEMBELE	Direction Nationale des Eaux et Forêts/Plan d'action de gestion des zones humides	Bamako/Mali	idem21@yahoo.fr/idem21@yahoo.fr; d_brun5@yahoo.fr
32.	Ing. Seco CASSAMA	Secrétariat d'Etat de l'Environnement Développement Durable Point Focal RAMSAR	Guinée Bissau	secocassama@yahoo.com.br
33.	James G. NJOGU	Assistant Director, conventions and Research Authorization Ramsar focal Point	Kenya	jjgichiah@kws.go.ke
34.	KAFANDO Pierre	DGCN/MEDD	Burkina Faso	pierre_kafando@yahoo.fr
35.	KAMBOU Jean Baptiste	Commune de Gaoua	Burkina Faso	jbkam48@yahoo.fr
36.	KAMBOU Jean Baptiste	Commune de Gaoua	Burkina Faso	Jbkam48@yahoo.fr
37.	KARAMA Mamadou	AGEREF- Comoé-Léraba	Banfora	BP 223 Banfora (BF) mfkarama@yahoo.fr
38.	Kathrin WEISE	GlobWetland II Jena Optronik	Germany	D-07745 jena Pruessingstrasse 41 kathrin.weise@jena- optronik.de
39.	KENNETH Uiseb	Ministry of Environment and Tourism	Windhoek- +Namibia	kuiseb@met.na
40.	Laurent GANSONRE	Rapporteur	Burkina	laurentgang@yahoo.fr
41.	Laurent M. SOME	WWF Prog. Afrique Madagascar	Kenya	lsome@wwfnet.org
42.	LUCINDA Fairhurst	ICCEI-AFRICA Manager Climate Change	South Africa	Lucinda.fairhurst@ictei.org
43.	LUNGREN Clark	Centre pour le Développement de la Production Faunique (CDPF) Wildlife Production Développement Centre (WPDC)	Burkina Faso	BP 5570 Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso edpfwedbila@yahoo.com (+226) 78 83 65 77/71 72 25 51
44.	Madame Issa Mariamaa Ali Omar	Ministère de l'Hydraulique et de l'Environnement-DGE/EF	Niger	mariomar_issa@yahoo.fr (+227) 90 75 74 09/97 50 70 26
45.	MAIGA Alkassoum	Université de Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso	kasmaig@yahoo.fr
46.	MANGANG Félicité	UICN PACO	Burkina Faso	Felicitte.wangang@iucn.org
47.	MASILO MASHATOLE	Department of Environmental	South Africa	mmashatole@environment.gov.



N°	Name	Organisation	Country	Address + Email
		Affairs		za
48.	MBATI Gilbert	Ministère du Développement Durable, de l'Economie Forestière et Environnement	CONGO	gimbatti@yahoo.fr
49.	Mohamed ABDELMANNAN	M.F.A Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Sudan	abdalmannan@gmail.com
50.	Mohamed Reda FISHAR	National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries	Egypt	101 Kasr Lolkas El-Aini st, Cairo, Egypt mfishar@hotmail.com
51.	MOLEPKO Gilbert	Ministère de l'Environnement Point Focal National	République centrafricaine	BP 686 Tél : 00 236 75 22 32 34 molepko@yahoo.fr
52.	N'DONGO Cheick T	Rapporteur	France	cndongo@gmail.com
53.	Nadia Hassan Omar	Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources	Sudan	nadiahassan2004@yahoo.com
54.	Nadia SAWADOGO	Rapporteur	Burkina	nadia.sawa@hotmail.com
55.	NANA Somanégré	SP-CONEDD Ministère de l'Environnement	Ouagadougou	nanasomanegre@yahoo.fr
56.	NARTEH Lawrence	FAO	Italy	Lawrence-narteho@fao.org
57.	NASSA Souleymane	PNGT 2 Phase I	Burkina Faso- Ouagadougou	nassasuley@hotmail.com
58.	NIANOGO Aimé	IUCN	Burkina Faso	aime.nianogo@iucn.org
59.	NOAMAN Mohamed	HCEFLCD	Maroc	noaman_md@yahoo.fr
60.	ONDAMBA OMBANDA Faustin	Ministère de l'Environnement/Direction Générale de l'Environnement	Gabon	BP 11274 LIBREVILLE faustondamba@yahoo.fr
61.	ONDOUA Seye Hervé	MINEP/Cameroun	Yaoundé	ondouabalounga@yahoo.fr
62.	OUABDA Jean Marie	CNRST Comité national RAMSAR	Ouagadougou	03 BP 7047 Ouagadougou 03 jmouabda@yahoo.fr
63.	OUEDRAOGO Andréa	Point Focal National Ramsar Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso	(+226)50 31 31 66 B 70 26 37 93 m.andreaoued@yahoo.fr
64.	OUEDRAOGO François de Charles	Université de Ouagadougou	Ouagadougou	resabo2000@yahoo.fr
65.	OUEDRAOGO Georges Henry	NATURAMA	Burkina Faso	oueda1@hotmail.com
66.	OUEDRAOGO Joachim	Direction générale de la conservation de la nature/MEDD	Burkina Faso	ouederjoachim@yahoo.fr
67.	OUEDRAOGO Kouka	SP/CONEDD	Burkina Faso	fofnskouka@yahoo.fr
68.	OUEDRAOGO Paul	Ramsar Secretariat	Suisse	ouedraogo@ramsar.org
69.	OUEDRAOGO Mamadou R.	DGEAP/MRA	Ouagadougou	ohamadou25@yahoo.fr
70.	Paul MAFABI	WETLANDS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT Ministry of Water and Environment	UGANDA	PO Box : 20026 Kampala Uganda +256 772503255 pamfabi@yahoo.com
71.	Pugazhendhi MURUGAIYAN	Department of Environment – Min. of Home Affairs Environment, Transport and Energy	Seychelles	p.murugaiyan@env.gov.sc murugaiyanseychelles@gmail.com
72.	RIAZANOFF Serge	visiotema	Paris-Marre la vallée- France	14 rue Albert Einstein 77420 Champs sur Marre serge.niazanoff@visiotema.fr
73.	ROURE Jean Louis	Guide de chasse Réserve partielle faune du	Ouagadougou	10 BP 288 ouagadougou rourejl@aol.com



N°	Name	Organisation	Country	Address + Email
		Sahel		
74.	RUFUGUTA Evariste	Ministère de l'Eau, de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement du Territoire et de l'Urbanisme	BURUNDI/ Bujumbura	erufuguta@yahoo.fr
75.	SARR Moustapha Mamadou	Parc Urbain Bangr-Wéogo	Ouagadougou	06 BP 9535 Ouagadougou 06 sarrmmoustapha@gmail.com pubbw@fasonet.bf
76.	SAVADOGO Moumini	UICN	Burkina Faso	moumini.savadogo@uicn.org
77.	SEDEKE Crispin	Ministère de l'Environnement – Conservation de la Nature et du Tourisme	RD Congo	crisudila@yahoo.fr
78.	SEEWAGEE Pandoo	NPCS, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security	Mauritius	seepandoo@mail.gov.mu
79.	SEKGOWA Motsumi	Department of Environment Affairs	Botswana	semolsumi@gov.bw ssmotsumi@gmail.com
80.	SHEHU Ndaman	FM Env. Federal Ministry of Environment	Nigeria	shehunda@yahoo.com Federal Ministry of Environment Abj
81.	Sidonia MUHORRO	Ministry for the coordination of Environment affairs	Mozambique	smuhorro@hotmail.com
82.	SOME Der	Université de Ouagadougou	Burkina Faso	d.some@yahoo.fr
83.	SOME Y.S. Corentin	2IE/Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'eau et de l'environnement	Ouagadougou- Burkina FASO	corentin.some@2ie-edu.org
84.	Stephan FLINT	Technical Officer	Netherlands	stephan.flint@wetlands.org
85.	THANDIWE Chikomo	BIRDLIFE International	Kenya	thandiwe.chikomo@birdlife.org
86.	WILLIAM MGOOLA	Ministry of Tourism, wildlife and Culture Department of National Parks and wildlife	Lilongwe-Malawi	wmgoola@yahoo.co.uk boo@malawi.net
87.	WOLF Bert	GlobWetland II Jena Optronik	Germany	bert.wolf@jena-optronik.de
88.	Z. Rosalie CONGO	Programme FEM/ONG (GEF /SEP) PNUD	Burkina Faso	rosalie.congo@undp.org
89.	ZOMBRE N. Prosper	Université de Ouagadougou	Ouagadougou	nabizom@yahoo.fr 03 BP 7021 Ouagadougou 03