

Side Event Descriptions



Saturday 7th July / Lunch session (13.15-14.45)

(55) Wetlands & People, Water & Livelihoods. Sustainability of conservation and restoration: a “livelihoods centred approach”

The side event will focus on how to improve livelihoods of local communities through the crucial role of wetlands conservation and the wise use of their ecosystems. It will explore opportunities on how to influence and inspire the world’s stakeholders to protect and use wisely these exceptional ecosystems by using a “livelihoods centred approach”. A roundtable discussion will be organized with interactive participation of the public together with experts and field practitioners to address the following questions:

- How to better value wetlands and the services they provide to improve livelihoods?
- How to reach scale and sustainability of “livelihoods centred approach” projects?
- Why and how to involve the private sector together with the local communities together in supporting conservation?

A mangrove restoration project will be used to showcase the Livelihood Fund Initiative, a carbon offset fund initiated by the Danone group through the Danone Fund for Nature launched in 2008 during Ramsar COP 10 in Changwon. A short film will be screened to conclude the side event.

Lead organization: Danone Group & the Livelihood Fund

Language: English / Room 1 – HUMAN RIGHTS / Food provided

(45) Eco-tourism potential of Wetlands – Case studies from Namibia and Spain.

The side event will present experiences from Namibia and Spain looking at the potential of wetlands to support eco-tourism and biodiversity.

Two short documentaries from Namibia, one of those produced through the Ramsar’s Swiss Grant Funds for Africa, will be screened followed by a presentation from Mr Kenneth Uiseb, Ramsar’s CEPA National Focal Point.

In the second part of the event, Roberto González from SEO/BirdLife will provide an overview of the trends of the past 30 years in waterfowl abundance, distribution and population in Spain and discuss how this analysis could be used to improve wetland protection and the potential for quality birdwatching tourism with reference to the ‘Manual of SEO/BirdLife, good practices in birdwatching’ and ‘Iberaves: a training commitment by the ornithological tourism’.

The event will conclude with Q&A.

Lead organization: Namibia’s Ministry of Environment and Tourism & SEO/BirdLife

Language: English / Room 2- N. BALCESCU / Food provided

(10) STRP briefing event: streamlining procedures for describing Ramsar Sites at the time of designation and subsequently.

At the request of previous COPs, STRP has undertaken a revision of the Ramsar Information Sheet format for describing Ramsar Sites at designation and subsequently. Proposals, which have been presented in 2011 and 2012 to the Standing Committee and Regional meetings of the Parties, are presented in Draft Resolution (DR) XI.8 and its two Annexes. The main elements of this DR are:

- a proposal to revise the RIS format following a review of Ramsar’s procedures for collecting data and information on Ramsar Sites;
- a revision of the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance to provide more coherent guidance related to the selection and description of Ramsar Sites; and
- proposals (funding dependent) to upgrade Ramsar’s technical capabilities to collate, manage, analyze and report data on Ramsar Sites. These will be via
 - a) development of a system to allow the on-line submission of the revised RIS, and b) upgrading of the Ramsar Sites database.

The side event will complement COP11 Doc. 22 in presenting the technical background to these proposals and allow for early discussion. It will also demonstrate the proposed on-line reporting system that will be developed if DR XI.8 is adopted.

Lead organization: Ramsar’s Scientific & Technical Review Panel

Language: English / Room 3 – N. IORGA / Food provided

(3) Celebration of new Ramsar Sites designation and introduction of the lives in harmony with wetlands ecosystem in Japan, Thailand and some South East Asian countries.

This side-event will be structured in two parts: the celebration of new Ramsar Sites and announcement of the Ramsar Sites designation in near future in South East Asian countries and Japan; and the introduction of wetlands management and wise use in each site.

Japan will designate 9 new Ramsar Sites including various types of wetlands like river, rice paddy, tidal area, and many more. To add to this MOE of Japan has been contributing to the wetland adequate management in South-East Asian Countries in cooperation with BirdLife International Asia Division since the 1990s.

This event will provide an opportunity to introduce the new and the future Ramsar Sites and to present the efforts undertaken for wetland conservation and wise use in Japan, Thailand, Vietnam and Myanmar. We believe this will be a good chance to share our experience and encourage regional and international cooperation.

Lead organization: Ministry of Environment, Japan

Partner organizations: Biodiversity Conservation Agency, Vietnam; Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning, Thailand; Ministry of the Environment, Myanmar and BirdLife International Asia Division

Language: English / Room 4 – PREZIDENT / Food provided

(34) Restoration of wetlands - criteria for success. A review of experiences from the NorBalWet countries.

The Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative (NorBalWet) is a regional initiative under the Ramsar Convention. NorBalWet includes Denmark and the Faroe Islands, Estonia, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Russia, and Sweden.

The NorBalWet countries have broad experience with restoration of different types of wetlands. The main aim of the side-event is to show how to ensure successful restoration projects. We identify the most important criteria for a successful project, and try to show how to avoid pitfalls in different phases of a project. Experiences at a national level will also be demonstrated, including some concrete examples.

The following experts have kindly agreed to share views on the findings presented: Dr. Lei Guangchun (Professor at the Beijing Forestry University, China) and Dr. Max Finlayson (Scientific and technical Review Panel –STRP- and Director at the Charles Sturt University, Australia), as well as comments from Mr. Rob McInnes (STRP) on the Wetland Restoration Briefing Note.

Lead organization: Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management

Partner organizations: Denmark, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Latvia, Russia, and Sweden

Language: English / Room 9 – M. VITEAZU / Food provided

Saturday 7th July / Evening session (18.15-19.45)

(9) Challenges in wetland conservation, addressing economic development and poverty alleviation: experience in China, Iran, Malaysia and Mali.

The conservation and wise use of wetlands has not been prioritized as expected in the context of development policy in many developing countries. While all people depend on ecosystems and natural resources for their livelihood to some extent, the degree of dependence varies so that conservation needs to address development and poverty eradication in a well-balanced manner. International aid should make contributions from various aspects in its attempt to transform societies in a sustainable manner. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will sign a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ramsar Secretariat as part of this side-event to strengthen the linkages with the global needs. To this end, we aim to discuss how international aid in wetland conservation should address and facilitate both conservation and development needs based on case studies from on-going projects being conducted by JICA's counterpart organizations in China, Iran, Malaysia and Mali.

Lead organization: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Partner organizations: Ramsar Secretariat

Language: English / Room 1 - HUMAN RIGHTS / Food provided

(50) Enhancement of Biodiversity in Rice Paddies as Wetland Ecosystem.

The event aims to:

- Introduce cases of enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies;
- Disseminate agriculture that enhances biodiversity in rice paddies by wisely using rice paddies as wetlands;
- Announce the release of a compilation of good practices.

A search for implementation of the Ramsar COP10 Resolution X.31 on Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems adopted in 2008, and paragraphs of the CBD COP10 Decision X/34 on the importance of biodiversity in rice paddies adopted in 2010. Presentations will be about i) survey of living organisms in rice paddies, ii) revitalizing a municipality linking waterbirds restoration with biodiversity friendly rice agriculture; iii) activities of private sectors and governments supporting farmers for a farming enhancing biodiversity, iv) significance of Multiple productions from Asian traditional rice paddies through biodiversity, and v) Pest control and biodiversity.

Lead organization: Ramsar Network Japan & Korean Network on Rice Paddy Wetlands; Partner organizations: Ministry of the Environment Japan, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Language: English / Room 2- N. BALCESCU / Food provided

(19) The World Wetland Network - Wetland Globe Awards Ceremony 2012.

The World Wetland Network (WWN) was launched at Ramsar COP10, with the aims of increasing the recognition of civil society's input to wetland conservation; improving their involvement in Multi-lateral environment agreements; and offering support to NGOs and civil society organizations.

This is the second round of the WWN Globe Awards, with over 1800 votes via the WWN website for 270 wetlands; awards will be given to a maximum of 12 wetlands. Blue Globe awards will highlight wetlands in good condition; Grey Globe Awards will show wetlands under threat.

The aims of the awards process are to communicate the results of the collective views of civil society on the status of key wetlands; to bring international attention to good and bad practice of wetlands management; and to showcase the strengths and needs of civil society groups. Come along and find out if your wetland has won!

*****FRENCH

Le Réseau mondiale des zones humides (WWN) a été lancé à la COP10 de Ramsar, avec les objectifs d'augmenter la reconnaissance de la contribution de la société civile à la conservation des zones humides, l'amélioration de leur implication dans les accords multilatéraux sur l'environnement et offrant un soutien aux ONG et aux organisations de la société civile.

C'est la deuxième série des Prix Globe WWN, avec plus de 1800 votes pour 270 zones humides via le site web de WWN; les prix seront attribués à un maximum de 12 zones humides. Les Globes Bleus mettront en évidence les zones humides en bon état; les Globes Gris montreront les zones humides sous la menace.

Cette démarche vise notamment à communiquer les vues collectives de la société civile sur l'état de quelques zones humides clés; pour attirer l'attention internationale de bonnes et de mauvaises pratiques de gestion des zones humides, et de montrer les atouts et les besoins des groupes de la société civile. Venez et découvrez si votre zone humide a gagné!

*****SPANISH

La red mundial World Wetland Network (WWN) se creó durante la COP10 de la Convención Ramsar, con los objetivos de incrementar el reconocimiento general sobre el papel de la sociedad civil en la conservación de los humedales; mejorar su participación en acuerdos multilaterales ambientales; y ofrecer apoyo a las ONG y organizaciones de la sociedad civil.

Esta es la segunda edición de los Premios Globo de WWN, con 270 humedales votados con más de 1800 votos a través de la página web de WWN. Los ganadores son un máximo de 12 humedales. El Globo Azul destaca humedales en buenas condiciones de conservación, y los Globos Grises son para humedales bajo peligro.

Los objetivos de este proceso, fue dar a conocer la visión colectiva de la sociedad civil sobre el estado de humedales clave; atraer la atención internacional sobre las buenas y las inadecuadas prácticas en el manejo de los humedales; y mostrar las fortalezas y necesidades de los grupos de la sociedad civil.

¡Ven y descubre si tu humedal ha sido uno de los ganadores!

Lead organization: WWT; Partner organizations: FUNGAP; Stay Green Foundation; UNESCO Pro Natura, Vogelbescherming; International Crane Foundation; RamsarNet Japan; WetlandCare Australia
Language: English / Room 3- N. IORGA / Food provided

(37) Opportunities for protecting and restoring ecosystem services provided by bivalve reefs, an under-protected and globally imperiled wetland type.

Bivalve reefs are globally imperiled and critically important for ensuring the function of temperate coastal ecosystems, and contribute to coastal economies around the world. A recent study estimated the loss of oyster reefs at 85% globally, likely making it the most imperiled type of marine habitat on earth. There is a pressing need for conservation of remaining bivalve reefs, as well as

active restoration of degraded reefs. Much has been learned from restoration and conservation work accomplished in the U.S. through a public-private partnership between The Nature Conservancy (TNC), a private non-governmental conservation organization, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the nation's ocean science and management agency. Since 2001, TNC and NOAA have worked to restore bivalve reefs and beds in dozens of bays, with a particular focus on non-consumptive services like water quality, shoreline protection and fish production. Similar efforts are also underway elsewhere, including in Europe and South America. This Side Event will introduce participants to the many ecosystem services and benefits provided by intact bivalve reefs, and recent efforts to define the economic return on investment provided to coastal communities from restoration and conservation efforts focused on bivalve reefs. The Side Event will also provide an opportunity to explore how the Ramsar Framework could be used to address this conservation challenge and ensure better protection of this important coastal habitat.

Lead organization: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Partner organizations: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center

Language: English / Room 4- PREZIDENT / Food provided

(1) Culture: contributing to wetland wise use.

This special event –organised by the Ramsar Culture Working Group with the financial support of the MAVA Foundation– will demonstrate some fascinating examples of the contribution of cultural values and practices to the conservation and wise use of wetlands, from around the world. A draft Strategic Action Plan for enhancing the role of cultural aspects in the work of the Ramsar Convention during the next triennium will also be briefly presented.

The event will be facilitated by Ramsar Laureates Sansanee Choowaew and Dave Pritchard. Presentations will be in English. The event will close with an opportunity to sample some traditional food and drink from the Danube Delta, Romania.

Lead organization: Ramsar Culture Working Group

Partner organization: World Heritage Centre, UNESCO, Med-INA (Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos), MAVA Foundation for Nature

Language: English / Room 9 – M. VITEAZU / Food provided

(27) Wetlands monitoring by earth observation satellites – current state of the art.

This side event aims to:

1. provide an update of the state of the art of wetlands mapping and monitoring by satellite remote sensing, and
2. stimulate an open floor discussion regarding how Earth observation technology can contribute to both national monitoring needs and to the development and operations of the Ramsar Global Wetlands Observing System (GWOS).

Satellite technologies available for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring will be demonstrated. This will cover a range of different satellite data types, their capabilities, and examples of how they can be used in support of both the Ramsar global inventory and in monitoring and assessment at the individual site level. Examples will be provided from across all Ramsar regions. Participants will have the chance to discuss the examples provided and the relevance to their sites with experts from the Japanese and European Space agencies. Speakers: Osamu Ochiai, JAXA Ake Rosenqvist, JAXA Marc Paganini, ESA Lisa Rebelo, IWMI.

Lead organization: JAXA; Partner organization: European Space Agency (ESA)

Language: English / Room 1 - HUMAN RIGHTS / Food provided

(18) Responsible management of wetland agro-ecosystems for food security and biodiversity conservation: an urgent global call to reduce pesticide-related risks in rice paddy production systems.

This event is an opportunity for Contracting Parties to be briefed on the experiences, evidence and science base behind DR 15 (Agriculture-wetland interactions: rice paddy and pesticide usage), and to ask questions relevant to the resolution prior to the plenary debate.

Information presented will support the scientific rationale of DR 15 and include:

- Rice production intensification, resurgence of pest outbreaks and the current threat to the health and functioning of rice ecosystems and food security due to the overuse of pesticides;
- Case studies of best-practices for sustainable rice production intensification and conservation/sustainable utilization of wetland agro-ecosystem services;
- The latest relevant research and development work on pesticide risk reduction (policy/regulatory and Integrated Pest Management field training).

Format: presentations followed by a panel discussion and questions & answers.

*****FRENCH

(18) Gestion responsable des agro-écosystèmes des zones humides pour la sécurité alimentaire et la conservation de la biodiversité: Appel Urgent Mondial visant à réduire les risques liés aux pesticides dans les systèmes de production rizicoles.

Cet événement est une occasion pour les Parties contractantes d'être informés sur les expériences, les éléments de preuve et la science derrière DR 15 (Interactions Agriculture-zones humides: l'utilisation de rizière et pesticides), et de poser des questions pertinentes à la résolution avant le débat en plénière.

L'information présentée soutiendra la justification scientifique de la DR 15 et comprend:

- L'intensification de la production de riz, la résurgence des épidémies de ravageurs et de la menace actuelle pour la santé et le fonctionnement des écosystèmes de riz et de la sécurité alimentaire en raison de la surutilisation des pesticides ;
- Étude de cas des meilleures pratiques pour l'intensification de production de riz durable et la conservation / utilisation durable des services de l'agro-écosystème des zones humides ;
- Les dernières recherches pertinentes et les travaux de développement sur la réduction de risques liés aux pesticides (politique / formation sur le terrain sur la lutte antiparasitaire intégrée et réglementaire).

Format: présentations suivies d'un débat et des questions-réponses. Déjeuner et traductions française et espagnol sont fournis.

*****SPANISH

(18) Manejo responsable de humedales en agro-ecosistemas para garantizar la seguridad alimentaria y la conservación de la biodiversidad: un llamado urgente para la reducción de riesgos relacionados al uso de pesticidas en sistemas productivos de arrozceras.

Este evento representa una oportunidad para las Partes Contratantes para informarse sobre las experiencias, la evidencia y la base científica en relación a DR 15 (interacciones entre la agricultura y los humedales: arrozceras y el uso de pesticidas), y de hacer preguntas relevantes a la resolución antes del debate plenario.

La información presentada apoyará la razón científica del DR 15 e incluirá:

- Intensificación de la producción arroceras, resurgimiento de plagas, amenaza actual a la salud, al funcionamiento de los ecosistemas arroceros y a la seguridad alimentaria debido al uso desmedido de pesticidas ;
- Estudios de caso sobre buenas prácticas para la intensificación de la producción sostenible de arroz y la conservación/uso sostenible de agro-ecosistemas arroceros ;
- Últimos trabajos relevantes sobre investigación y desarrollo relacionado a la reducción del riesgo de pesticidas (políticas/regulación y capacitación de campo en el Manejo Integral de Plagas).

Formato: presentación seguida por una discusión de panel y preguntas-respuestas. Incluye almuerzo y traducción a francés y español.

Lead organization: Wetlands International (WI) & FAO; Partner organizations: IRRI, IWMI

Language: English, French & Spanish / Room 2- N. BALCESCU / Food provided

(43) The MedWet Initiative: twenty years of regional cooperation.

The side event is designed to promote at the global level, the innovative work done by the MedWet Initiative during these last 20 years in the field of knowledge and improved awareness on the importance of Wetlands in the Mediterranean region.

The event will be divided into three parts, all of which focusing on different aspects of promoting the wiser use of wetlands: from mobilization of stakeholders, provision of facts and figures from the first report on the status and trends of Mediterranean wetlands prepared by the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO) to a presentation on the forward-looking educational activities that involve young people in wetland issues. Three short films will also be screened during the event.

Lead organization: MedWet Secretariat; Partner organizations: Tour du Valat, IUCN-Med, WWF

Language: English & French / Room 3– N. IORGA / Food provided

(45) STRP briefing event: wetlands in a changing climate

Among the Draft Resolutions for negotiation at the 11th Conference of the Parties is DR 14 “Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands”. This briefing event, facilitated by Prof Max Finlayson (STRP lead for the thematic work area on Climate Change), will provide an opportunity to reflect on the proposed Draft Resolution and share supplementary information about key issues that are relevant for wetlands such as vulnerability and mitigation measures, including REDD+, and how other Multilateral Environmental Agreements are responding to climate change. Presenters will be from some of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and Ramsar’s Partner Organizations.

Lead organization: Ramsar / Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP)

Language: English / Room 7 – ROSETTI / Food provided

(51) Launch of the Waterbird Population Estimates V and report of the first Global Inter-Flyway Network meeting.

The side event is to support Resolutions:

- VIII.38 “ Waterbird population estimates and the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance, through launch of the latest Waterbirds Population Estimates as an interactive website”;
- X.22 “Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways; and
- Draft Resolution XI.6: Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions.

The event is organized in two main parts and provides space for presentations and discussion: 1) the Launch of the 5th edition of Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE), presented as a newly developed interactive website. The WPE provides information on the sizes of waterbird populations as a basis for the application of the Convention’s site-selection Criterion; and 2) the launch of the report of the first Global Inter-Flyway Network meeting organised in Korea, October 2011. For the first time, the workshop brought together representatives from multiple flyway-scale initiatives covering different flyways to compare how the different initiatives operate, and to share experiences and lessons learned.

Lead organization: Wetlands International (WI) & East Asian- Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP)

Partner organizations: Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Convention on Migratory Species Secretariat, BirdLife International

Language: English / Room 9 – M. VITEAZU / Food provided

(28) Les zones humides comme trait d'union entre les pays du Maghreb.

Le Maroc, l'Algérie et la Tunisie représentent trois des cinq pays du Maghreb qui ont réalisé un progrès remarquable en ce qui concerne la promotion des zones humides d'importance internationales à travers la mise en œuvre de la Convention Ramsar au niveau national.

Le side event est organisé dans le but de présenter les principales actions, les projets actuellement en cours et les priorités à court terme pour la conservation et l'usage rationnel des zones humides et mettra en évidence l'amélioration de la gouvernance au niveau de ces écosystèmes: stratégie nationale et comités inter-sectoriels pour les zones humides au pays du Maghreb.

Il permettra également de mettre en exergue les actions d'échanges, de similarité et les synergies sous-régionales en mettant l'accent sur la coopération régionale à travers les projets développés avec MedWet, WWF Méditerranée,

Il s'agit d'une opportunité d'introduire un nouveau concept pour le label « Ville/Commune Ramsar » en cours de développement autour du site-pilote de Ghar-el-Melh (complexe lagunaire au Nord de la Tunisie), tout en suscitant une discussion sur les critères bien spécifiques à envisager pour un tel label et sur les étapes à suivre pour son adoption formelle et sa diffusion en tant que outil de gestion conservatrice pour les principaux intervenants sur les zones humides en Afrique du Nord.

Lead organization: Algérie/Direction Générale des Forêts, Maroc /Haut Commissariat des Eaux et Forêts et à la lutte contre la désertification, Tunisie/Direction Générale des Forêts; Partner organizations: WWF, Tour-du-Valat, MedWet

Language: French & Arabic / Room 2- N. BALCESCU / Food provided

(32) Tools for Parties: practical demonstration on use of IUCN Freshwater species datasets: tools for site designation and / or management and monitoring.

The main objective of the side-event is to introduce Ramsar Parties to the online IUCN freshwater species data sets, navigation of the databases, and to demonstrate potential applications of the data within them. It is estimated that by the end of 2012, there will be about 25,000 species classified as "Freshwater dependant" on the IUCN Red List.

The side event will be used to demonstrate:

- 1) Navigation of the IUCN Red List website, specifically to execute customized search queries of the database such as for freshwater dependent species by country, habitat, threatened status etc.
- 2) Overview of the Red List spatial interface to visualize species ranges with overlay of data sets such as the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), and GBIF point locality data.
- 3) Download of query results and spatial data sets from the IUCN Red List website.
- 4) Use of the online BioBrowser that allows the user to query any of 7000+ river/lake sub-catchments across Africa for: i) species presence and their Red List status etc; ii) individual species ranges across sub-catchments, and iii) threatened species.
- 5) Identification of Important Site of Freshwater Biodiversity (KBAs) – using the Africa data set of river/lake sub-catchments for demonstration purposes.

Lead organization: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Language: English / Room 3– N. IORGA / Food provided

(59) Sustainable management of fish resources in Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve - Case study: poaching

The Danube Delta is the largest wetland biosphere reserve in Europe, part of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and UNESCO. This multiple identity gives a number of benefits but also a number of issues, especially related to how non-renewable natural resources are managed. In the Danube Delta, fish is one of these resources and, yet, the few existing resources for the local population, approximately 10,000 people.

Given this context, illegal fishing is one of the biggest pressures on fish resources in recent years causing alarming declines of fish populations in the Danube Delta. For example, illegal fishing has dramatically affected valuable species of fish such as sturgeon. The side event proposed by Save the Danube Association wants to put into discussion this reality and to focus on the problems and specific solutions to approach and combat the phenomenon.

*****ROMANIAN

(59) Managementul sustenabil al resursei piscicole din Delta Dunării. Studiu de caz – braconajul

Delta Dunării este cea mai mare zona umeda din Europa, parte a Convenției Internaționale Ramsar și Sit natural UNESCO. Această multiplă identitate îi oferă zonei un număr de beneficii dar și de probleme, mai ales legate de felul în care sunt gestionate resursele naturale neregenerabile.

Peștele este una dintre aceste resurse și, totodată, printre pușinele surse de existență pentru populația locală în număr de aprox. 10 000 de locuitori.

În acest context, braconajul reprezintă una dintre cele mai puternice presiuni asupra poluțiilor de pește din Delta Dunării. Se estimează că o cantitate egală cu cea pescuită legal este anual braconată.

Braconajul a scăzut în mod alarmant, aproape de limita dispariției, specii deosebit de valoroase de pește precum sturionul. Evenimentul organizat de Asociația Salvati Dunarea și Delta va pune în discuție această realitate, accentuând principalele probleme și soluțiile necesare abordării și controlării fenomenului.

Lead organization: Save Danube & the Delta Association

Partner organization: Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve Administration

Language: Romanian & English / Room 7 – ROSETTI

(35) Enhancing synergies among MEAs: the CMS Family Online Reporting System (ORS) - development, experiences and the potential for the Ramsar Convention and other MEAs.

The UNEP/CMS and the UNEP/AEWA Secretariats would like to share their experience and progress related to the Online Reporting System (ORS) which was developed by UNEP-WCMC in collaboration and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

The ORS has proved to be crucial in streamlining the national reporting process, making it more efficient for the Contracting Parties and also providing the basis for easier analysis of datasets. The ORS could accommodate additional reporting processes under other CMS instruments and MEAs which would make a large part of the biodiversity-related information become available internationally under the same system as well as provide for an easier harmonization of national reporting. Presentations will explain the development of the system, its functionalities and outputs. Speakers will also touch upon potentials of the system still to be explored and implemented including the possibility to complement it with a web-based analytical tool to enable searching, extraction and analysis of information.

Lead organization: UNEP/CMS, UNEP/AEWA & UNEP WCMC

Language: English / Room 9 – M. VITEAZU/ Food provided

(12) The Great Flight

The side event will open with the Film director introduction followed by the film screening and discussion.

Filming 'The Great Flight' was led by KNN, local broadcasting company in Gyeongnam area, Republic of Korea with the support of Changwon City and business sectors in the region; it was not an easy journey but it was made possible through the help of many people and organizations.

It was filmed for two years along the migration route of shorebirds from Australia to Alaska, especially for the Bar-Tailed Godwit. The film shows how tough migrations are and how they also influence human culture. Recent researches unveiled the migration route of Bar-Tailed Godwit. Weighing only 300 grams, the bird covers about 300,000 Kilometers in their lifetime migration, which is about the same distance from the Earth to the Moon. Its migration has affected human culture in various ways for a long period of time and was a part of nature in the route. Birds, humans and nature were all connected in a huge loop within migration.

One hour version of the film will be screened at the side event, although copies of the full 4 hours version DVD will be distributed to all participants with the support of MOE Korea, Gyeongnam Province, Changwon City and business sectors.

Lead organization: Ramsar Regional Centre -East Asia

Partner Organizations: Ministry of Environment, Gyeongnam Province (Republic of Korea)

Language: English / Room: PLENARY HALL / Food Provided

(7) Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands.

The relationship between urbanization and wetlands has been on the radar of both UN HABITAT and the Ramsar Convention for a number of years. Collaborative work between the two organisations, along with contributions from city officials and NGOs, has resulted in the drafting of a Resolution for COP11. Building on this foundation, UN HABITAT proposes to use the side event to showcase their relationship with the Ramsar Convention and to identify future needs and priorities of Contracting Parties in relation to cities and wetlands. The outcomes of the side event will provide a better understanding of the synergies between the organizations and will assist UN HABITAT in implementing the wise use of wetlands within their various programs and across cities around the world.

The discussion will be shaped around the following key questions:

1. Is this a wetland sector or urban planning issue?
2. How best to move from 'principles' to success on the ground?
3. What does success look like?

Lead organization: UN HABITAT

Partner Organizations: Ramsar's Scientific & Technical Review Panel

Language: English / Room 2- N. BALCESCU / Food provided

(22) Valuing wetlands – Capturing economic benefits from wetlands wise use.

The TEEB "Water and Wetlands" report is currently under preparation, under the auspices of the Ramsar Convention. It aims to raise awareness of the global economic benefits of biodiversity and to highlight the growing costs of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. The Water and Wetlands TEEB builds on a significant body of existing work at local, national and regional levels, including a range of economic studies and analyses found in peer-reviewed publication and grey literature. It identifies how the value of water and wetlands can be captured, based on good practice, and how this information can be applied effectively to integrate wetland ecosystem service values in planning and decision-making.

This side event aims to provide a forum to allow participants to discuss how such economic tools and approaches can assist Ramsar focal points and wetland managers in making the case for investment in wetland conservation and wise use, addressing threats to wetlands, and identifying new modes of support for wetland management. Selected case studies and a panel discussion will address how to better use information on economic values in wetland management, and consider related needs and challenges.

Lead organization: UNEP & Institute for European Environmental Policy (IIEP), TEEB

Partner organization: Ramsar Convention

Language: English / Room 3– N. IORGA / Food provided

(2) Business, Water and Wetlands – the role of the private sector in conserving and restoring wetland areas.

The private sector has a key role to play in any efforts to safeguard, preserve and restore wetland areas. The impacts that businesses have on wetland areas – directly, e.g. through infrastructure development or resource extraction in wetland areas, or indirectly, e.g. through abstraction of water for thirsty crops – is well known. At the same time, companies are becoming increasingly aware of their own dependence on water and wetlands – and becoming increasingly active in efforts to safeguard and restore such areas. The side event will feature representatives of both private and public sectors who will highlight the role of companies in wetland conservation and restoration and good practice, and summarize the results of the 2-day Symposium "Business, Water and Wetlands" organised by WWF, the Ramsar Secretariat and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River on 9-10 July in Bucharest in parallel to the Ramsar COP.

Lead organization: WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme

Language: English / Room 7 – ROSETTI / Food provided

(36) Peatlands: global challenges and opportunities for the Ramsar Convention.

Since the 10th Ramsar Conference of the Parties the profile of peatlands has considerably been raised, both in and outside Ramsar and both nationally and globally. This side event will

- present an overview of latest peatland developments and initiatives on a global scale, including in UNFCCC, IPCC, FAO, UNEP, and UNESCO;

- analyse the implementation of Res. VIII.17 on Global Action on Peatlands by Ramsar Contracting Parties;
- illustrate regional initiatives with respect to peatland inventory, restoration and sustainable use and their effect on climate and biodiversity by various case studies;
- discuss examples of generating funds for conservation through carbon trading and cooperation with business;
- be relevant for negotiation of Ramsar COP11 Draft Resolutions, especially on energy issues, climate change and responsible investment.

The format of the event will be: presentations followed by questions, answers and discussion.

Lead organizations: International Mire Conservation Group, Wetlands International, Michael Succow Foundation, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, APB-BirdLife Belarus

Language: English / Room 9 – M. VITEAZU / Food provided

Tuesday 10th July / Evening session (18.15-19.45)

(4) Water security for people and wetlands.

The Mexican government through the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), with support of WWF and the Fundación Gonzalo Río Arronte, has been working on a provision under the national water law that recognizes ecosystems as an authentic user of water and that also enables official allocation of water for the environment. A national exercise led by CONAGUA with support from WWF identified 189 basins as potential “water reserves”; basins that meet favorable conditions for implementation due to high biological conservation values, high natural availability of water and low current demand for human use. These basins are nominated to be decreed water reserves as part of the National Water Reserves Program. Once in place they will secure flows and natural flow regimes, provide safeguards against over- allocation, and will be continuously monitored in their effectiveness. The water reserves are a key mechanism for the national adaptation strategy towards climate prepared water management and development, which balances human and environmental needs for water, and creates a buffer to deal with water resource uncertainty and scarcity. The experiences from this initiative could lay the basis for a possible Ramsar Draft Resolution focusing on securing enough water for each wetland, thus maintaining its hydrological and ecological functions.

Lead organization: CONANGUA-CONANP (Mexico) & WWF

Language: English & Spanish / Room 2- N. BALCESCU / Food provided

(60) GlobWetland II, a S/W toolbox for the assessment and monitoring of wetlands from Space.

The Ramsar strategic plan has, amongst its objectives, the ambition to develop, through international partnerships, a Global Wetlands Observing System (GWOS) that allows to increase accessibility of information on wetlands and to report on changes in wetland status. In 2009, the European Space Agency, in partnership with the Ramsar STRP, the MedWet secretariat, the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory and 10 countries from the southern Mediterranean basin, initiated the GlobWetland II project as a GWOS regional pilot project. The GlobWetland II project had the principal objective to develop a S/W toolbox that can be used by all Parties to assess and monitor wetlands with satellite images. Over 2,000 maps and indicators have been produced on 200 wetlands. The side event will present the results of the GlobWetland II project, how it is currently being extended to the whole Mediterranean basin and the possibilities for a wide deployment by all Ramsar Parties.

Lead organization: European Space Agency (ESA)

Partner organizations: MedWet secretariat, Tour du Valat / MWO, Wetlands International, MedWet countries

Language: English & French / Room 3– N. IORGA / Food provided

(49) Experience of applying ecosystem approach and implementing integrated management plans for Iranian wetlands and roll out at national and regional levels.

Conservation of Iranian Wetland Project (CIWP) has developed integrated management Plans for 3 demonstration sites, Lakes Parishan, Urmia and Shadegan Wetland. The Plans, that promote an ecosystem approach, are now ratified as multi sectoral documents and they have enabled frequent capacity building meetings to help with the implementation of activities. At the 3 sites the project has adopted a cross-sectoral and participative approach and has demonstrated how to rehabilitate and conserve wetlands whilst achieving ecological and socio-economic goals. Thanks to the achievements at these 3 demonstration wetland sites, the Department of the Environment and the project managers also identified the need for a national wetland conservation strategy and action plan following 2 years of collective work between a

large number of managers and experts. The action plan should provide clear directions and a set of priorities to facilitate collaboration between ministries and other institutions, whose decisions can have an impact on wetlands. This side event will present on the experience of applying ecosystem approach and implementing integrated management plans for Iranian wetlands and scale up wetland conservation at national and regional levels.

Lead organization: Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project /IRI/UNDP/GEF
Language: English / Room 4- PRESIDENT

17) Wetlands wise use and oil and gas development: challenges and opportunities.

Oil and gas development often overlaps with wetlands. This event will inform Contracting Parties on examples of existing operations of oil and gas companies within Ramsar Sites and other wetlands around the world. Presentations will share best practice collaborations between companies, NGOs and scientific organisations, and describe the experiences of integrating the Ramsar Convention's requirements to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate the negative impacts of development on the ecological character of wetlands. A panel will discuss if companies are ready to work according to the guidance of the Ramsar Convention and if regulators are ready to integrate suggested measures and rules into legislation.

Lead organization: Wetlands International (WI)
Language: English & Russian / Room 7 – ROSETTI/ Food provided / The event will close at 20.30

(23) Sharing benefits of transboundary cooperation in managing wetlands through a joint implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention).

In this side event, country representatives will illustrate with practical cases the challenges of management and use of water and water-related ecosystems in a transboundary context. The related opportunities for sharing the costs of conservation, and sharing the benefits from ecosystem services will also be discussed. The side event benefits from the experience of two international frameworks advocating ecosystem approach: the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention).

The event contributes to the focus of the COP11 through identification of benefits of transboundary cooperation in managing wetlands and water resources, shared interest and of good practices in increasing such benefits. Recommendations for promoting the ecosystem approach to managing transboundary waters outside the UNECE region with the approaching global opening of the UNECE Water Convention will also be developed.

Lead organization: Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
Partner organizations: Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
Language: English / Room 9 – M. VITEAZU / Food provided

(53) Conserving the "Amazon of Europe" – towards the penta-lateral UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Mura-Drava-Danube.

The lower courses of the Drava and Mura Rivers and related Danube areas are among Europe's ecologically most important riverine areas -- the "Amazon of Europe". The 700 km long "green belt" connects more than 800,000 ha of highly valuable natural and cultural landscapes in Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia and Slovenia that will become the world's first penta-lateral Biosphere Reserve and Europe's largest riverine protected area. This is the key message of a Ministerial Declaration signed in March 2011 by the five countries who have committed themselves to establishment of the reserve.

Representatives of all five countries together with WWF will provide first hand information regarding the efforts to reach the joint agreement and the next steps and challenges before its final establishment.

Lead organization: WWF-Austria

Partner organizations: Governments of Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and Serbia

Language: English / Room 2- N. BALCESCU/Food provided

(61) Attuning infrastructure development and preservation of peri-urban wetlands in the Bay of Panama Ramsar Site.

The side event will present a successful case in Panamá City, where, ever since its foundation, the untreated sewage has been dumped into local rivers and Panama Bay. To solve this health and environment problem, the Federal Government has started the construction of the Bay of Panama Cleanup Project.

The rapid urban development, constrained by the Panama Canal on its western edge, has led to an increasing pressure on the eastern edge where there's a large tract of mangroves extending along the coast. The sewage treatment plant was designed to be built at the boundaries of these wetlands. Odebrecht, the contractor in charge of the works, being aware of the environmental value of the site and working together with stakeholders and local ONG's, has voluntarily started a plan to create an Urban Mangrove Park that will include facilities for environmental education, scientific research of carbon sequestration and community capacity building on green businesses.

Lead organization: Construtora Norberto Odebrecht SA

Partner organizations: Health Ministry, CAF, Audubon Foundation, Virginia University

Language: English / Room 3– N. IORGA / Food provided

(26) The disappearing tidal flats of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

For millennia, tidal flats in the East Asia region have been reclaimed for agriculture. However, since the mid-20th century the loss of tidal flats to urban and industrial expansion has been too rapid and extensive to be compensated for by natural sedimentation. The loss of tidal flats is linked to an alarming decline of migratory birds that use them as migratory stop-overs.

The event will provide the opportunity to share experiences about the challenges and opportunities for the conservation of tidal flats. A facilitated discussion will follow four short presentations on:

- The East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership and its role in conservation of Asian tidal flat
- The IUCN Situation Analysis on East and Southeast Asian intertidal habitats, with particular reference to the Yellow Sea
- Conservation of the spoon-billed sandpiper, a Critically Endangered migrant dependent on East Asian tidal flats
- Conservation of tidal flats in Myanmar

Lead organizations: East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAP), BirdLife International, Wetlands International (WI) and BANCA, BirdLife in Myanmar.

Language: English / Room 7 – ROSETTI / Food provided

(14) For peat's sake! Arctic wetlands in a changing world.

Wetlands are among the Arctic's most important and threatened ecosystems. They serve as important migratory corridors and habitat for a disproportionately high number of species and offer critical ecosystem services integral to human survival and development in the region.

Join speakers from the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF), the biodiversity working group of the Arctic Council, and Wetlands International to learn more about Arctic wetland diversity and distribution, impacts and threats, conservation projects, and connections to Ramsar. Special attention will be paid to CAFF's Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program (CBMP) an international network working to harmonize and integrate efforts to monitor the Arctic's living resources, and the Arctic Biodiversity

Assessment (ABA) project, a major scientific undertaking to describe the current status and trends of Arctic biodiversity. In addition, learn how a recent Resolution of Cooperation with Ramsar will contribute to knowledge sharing and an enhanced capacity for understanding change in Arctic ecosystems.

Lead organization: Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF)

Partner organizations: Eight Arctic countries (Canada, U.S.A., Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Russia, Denmark: Greenland, Faroe Islands) and six Permanent Participants organizations representing the Indigenous Peoples of the North: Arctic Athabaskan Council, Aleut International Association, Gwich'in Council, Saami Council, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Inuit Circumpolar Council

Language: English / Room 9 – M. VITEAZU / Food provided

Thursday 12th July / Evening session (18.15-19.45)

(15) integrated management basin Tigris and Euphrates.

The Tigris-Euphrates Rivers are one of the major river basins of the world, starting in Turkey and flowing through Syria and Iraq before emptying into the Gulf by Kuwait. It is a river basin of great historical and cultural importance, giving life to many important ancient civilizations and even today, the people in the countries through which the rivers flows is dependent on the water for their livelihood.

In recent decades however, the flow along the Tigris-Euphrates Rivers has declined due to a combination of decreased rainfall because of the effects of climate change, and the construction of water holding structures along its course.

The decline in water flow is also affecting the wetlands throughout the length of the river basin, many of which are important for biodiversity. There is also less freshwater entering the Gulf which in turn, is affecting the marine environment there and its fisheries. This side-event will touch on issues that relate to a number of the Draft Resolutions that will be discussed at COP11, including the status of sites in the Ramsar List (DR 4), partnerships and synergies with MEAs and other institutions (DR 6), wetland and health (DR 12), wetland and poverty eradication (DR 13), and wetlands and climate change (DR 14).

Discussions will take place to identify how the Ramsar Convention guidance can be used by the riparian countries and relevant organizations, to solve water related issues.

Lead organization: Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources & Centre for Restoration of Iraqi Marshlands

Partner organization: Ministry of Environment

Language: English / Room 2- N. BALCESCU / Food provided

(21) A national action plan for wetlands and an association of Ramsar Site managers.

The Ramsar Strategic plan 2009-2015 request from Contracting Parties to implement numerous actions in favor of wetlands in general and of wetlands of international importance in particular. In 2010, the French Ministry for Ecology launched a 3-year action plan in favor of these ecosystems. The side event will present this 20 billion Euros plan, which was set up in 9 months by a national group for wetlands gathering all stakeholders on a national level.

The side event will also present the Ramsar France association created on the 29th of September 2011, which has for goal to promote Ramsar brand in France, to improve the management of designated Ramsar Sites, to promote exchange of experiences, to lobby in France and abroad and to promote Ramsar Sites.

Speakers will be Emmanuel Thiry, French Ramsar Focal Point for the national action plan for Wetlands and Jérôme Bignon, Member of the French Parliament and Chair of the Ramsar France association.

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(21) Un plan national d'action pour les zones humides et une association des gestionnaires des Sites Ramsar.

Le plan stratégique 2009 -2015 demande aux parties contractantes de mettre en place de nombreuses actions en faveur des zones humides en général et de celles d'importance internationale en particulier. En 2010 le ministère français chargé de l'écologie a lancé un plan d'action de 3 ans en faveur de ces milieux. L'activité permettra de présenter ce plan, doté d'un budget de 20 millions d'euros, qui a été élaboré en 9 mois par un "groupe national pour les zones humides" rassemblant l'ensemble des parties prenantes.

L'activité permettra également de présenter l'association Ramsar France créée le 29 septembre 2011 a pour objet de promouvoir le label Ramsar en France, d'améliorer la gestion des Sites Ramsar inscrits, de créer des conditions d'échange, d'être force de proposition et de réflexion en France et à l'international, de promouvoir les Sites Ramsar.

Les animateurs et orateurs seront Emmanuel Thiry, point focal Ramsar pour la France et Jérôme Bignon, Député et Président de l'association Ramsar-France. L'événement sera en français avec une interprétation en anglais.

Lead organization: Ministère de l'écologie, du développement durable des transports et du logement – France

Partner organizations: Association Ramsar-France

Language: English & French / Room 3– N. IORGA / Food provided

(39) Synergies and cooperation: Options for the biodiversity-related agreements.

Many decisions and resolutions of multilateral environmental bodies have called for increased synergies between multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), including within the cluster of biodiversity-related conventions. UNEP-WCMC and the Finnish Ministry of Environment have cooperated on a report outlining options for a party-driven process on synergies between CBD, CITES, CMS, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, Ramsar Convention and World Heritage Convention. The side event will introduce the key findings of the report, which looks at current coordination and collaboration between the conventions and identifies options to strengthen potential synergies in four key areas: 1) science – policy interface, 2) implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), 3) national reporting, and 4) capacity-building.

Lead organization: UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre with the Ministry of Environment Finland

Language: English / Room 4 – PREZIDENT / Food provided

(20) How to link wetlands conservation and wise use with poverty alleviation? An example on promoting community conservation areas as a best practice for wetland conservation and tourism

The UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention conducted a two-day training to enhance the capacity of Ramsar National Focal Points from Africa to improve their negotiation skills. The training was successful in exchanging and sharing information on key wetlands conservation and sustainability issues. As a follow up, the Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa and NigerWet jointly planned this side event to discuss the topic of linking wetlands conservation and wise use with poverty alleviation. The two regional initiatives will provide briefs on poverty alleviation related case studies; a publication highlighting lesson learnt through Wetland Community Conservation Areas will also be launched. In a panel discussion, Ramsar National Focal Points will present experiences on integrating wetlands conservation and wise use in poverty reduction strategies. For Further information contact: iyangol@yahoo.com

Lead organization: Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA) & NigerWet; Partner organizations: UNEP, Ramsar Secretariat

Language: English & French / Room 7 – ROSETTI / Food provided

(24) My home, My Island and My Wetlands.

The wetlands of the Oceania region are crucial to the Pacific way of life; they help support livelihoods, ecosystems and cultural practices – all which make up our Pacific identity.

How much do you know about the Ramsar Sites in the Pacific region?

This is your opportunity to become familiar with the sites in the Pacific Islands, a vital part of our Ramsar Convention family.

Wetlands in the Pacific result in many economic and conservation benefits for our region. For example, the Lake Lanoto'o national park and its two sub-catchments in Samoa form the Apia catchment, which is a very important source of the water supply for its capital city of Apia. Wetlands in the Pacific also support extensive unique and threatened biodiversity. The Upper Navua Conservation Area in Fiji contains breeding populations of at least two endemic freshwater fish species and the forests surrounding the conservation area contain 17 endemic species of birds, 15 of which are endemic to the island of Viti Levu.

During this side event you will learn more about the challenges faced by Pacific islanders and sister nations within Oceania as they strive to maintain the integrity of Pacific wetlands; and the Pacific solutions to these challenges that are overcome with support from Pacific communities and people. New Zealand, Fiji, the Marshall Islands and the Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) will be showcased during the side event which will bring a taste of the Pacific to Romania.

Lead organization: Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Partner organizations: Oceania Contracting Parties, Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Language: English / Room 9 – M. VITEAZU / Food provided

(46) Capacity Development for the Wise Use of Wetlands: from Framework to Action.

Capacity development remains high on the Ramsar agenda. At COP10, UNESCO-IHE, WUR-CDI and DELTARES organized a side event on capacity development where participants discussed bottlenecks for capacity development for the different steps in the wetland management planning cycle. As a result, a framework document "Enhancing Wetland Wise Use: a Framework for Capacity Development" has been drafted with the aim of assisting Ramsar Regional Centres and national Focal Points to develop concrete capacity development initiatives in their own country/region.

The event will have an open and active character with brief visual presentations about the framework document and about the Wetlands Forum in East Africa in 2013. The organizers will design a flexible, active format in which participants will be invited to brainstorm on major aspects of the framework document and develop initiatives for capacity development in their own country.

Lead organization: UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE)

Partner organizations: Wageningen University and Research Center, Center for Development Innovation (WUR-CDI), Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Language: English / Room 2- N. BALCESCU / Food provided

(11) New strategy for future implementation of the Changwon Declaration

The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands was adopted at the Ramsar COP10 as the Resolution X.3 and it presents an overview of priority action steps that together show "how to" deliver some of the world's most critical environmental sustainability goals.

Since 2009, the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, Republic of Korea, has organized the Changwon Declaration Network Meeting annually to promote the implementation of the Declaration. About 70 representatives from the Ramsar Contracting Parties, international research institutes, and international environmental organizations participated in these three meetings and offered visions and stories that we believe are relevant to and worth sharing with all countries. The side event will be an opportunity to present some of those stories and to exchange valuable ideas and advice on the way forward for the implementation of the Changwon Declaration. The outcome reports from the previous meetings will be also made available and distributed at the event.

Lead organization: Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia and Ministry of Environment, Gyeongnam Province, Republic of Korea

Language: English / Room 3– N. IORGA / Food provided

(56) Wetland Centre Networks, CEPA and Flyways.

The WLI (Wetland Link International) network has over 300 wetland centre members globally, and works regionally through active member centres. The network is starting to develop partnerships and active programmes along several migratory bird flyways, such as the MBP (Migratory Birds for People) programme along the East Atlantic Flyway, discussions with partners on the Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) and the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).

In the event we will present examples from existing flyway / wetland centre work, explore the possibilities for practical ways of linking wetland CEPA and migratory bird conservation work on site, look at opportunities to involve local people in collecting and providing information, and discuss how joint work between centres can add benefit. We will also look at how WLI and flyway initiatives can better coordinate their delivery of wetland CEPA at the international level specifically through wetland centres.

Lead organization: WWT

Partner organizations: WI; EAAFP; Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network; BirdLife International.

Language: English / Room 4- PREZIDENT/ Food available

(40) Land grabbing, transformation and change of land use Ramsar sites that have mangrove ecosystems.

Studies have revealed a large loss of mangrove ecosystems in tropical and subtropical areas, in some cases more than 30% of these areas have been destroyed for shrimp production - activity being recognized as the main threat in the global scale. In addition to that, conversion of mangrove ecosystems have taken place for many other uses such agriculture and infrastructure development: resorts, ports and fishing docks, real estate development, and hydroelectric dams.

The side event will be use to share experiences and debate e on environmental and social impacts linked to land grabbing in Ramsar sites with presence of mangroves: the feedback received at the event will be used to craft key recommendations to report to the Ramsar Secretariat for follow up actions and advice.

Lead organization: Redmanglar Internacional (International Mangrove Network)

Language: Spanish / Room 9 – M. VITEAZU