

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Ramsar COP10

“Healthy wetlands, Healthy People”

African Regional Preparatory Meeting

Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon 26-30 November 2007

With Financial Support of UNEP, Switzerland, Sweden and Cameroon

Sponsored by



DRAFT - Provisional Programme

SUNDAY – 25.11.07

Arrival of participants at Meumi Palace Hotel, Bastos, Yaoundé, Republic of Cameroon.

Registration in the evening from 16:00 to 21:00 at the Hotel.

MONDAY – 26.11.07

Chair: Representative of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon

Head Rapporteurs: Ramsar Secretariat and Government representative

Morning

08:00 - 09:00 - Participants' Registration (C'd)

09:00 - 10:00- Welcoming session

- Keynote address by host country relevant authorities (By: Cameroon Ramsar Administrative Authority)
- Keynote address by Regional Representative of Central and North Africa in the Standing Committee of the Convention (By: Gabon)
- Welcome and opening address by the Mayor of Yaoundé
- Welcome address by the Secretary General, Ramsar Convention Secretariat

- Opening Speech (By: Cameroon Minister of Environment and Nature Protection)
- 10:00 - 10:15 - Tea break
- 10:15 - 10:30 - Presentation of the meeting objectives (Ramsar Senior Advisor for Africa) and adoption of the agenda
- 10:30 - 10:45 - Presentation of working groups' terms of reference and room allocations on sub-regional basis
(By: Ramsar Secretariat)
- 10:45 - 11:00 - Pre-working group sessions (election of chairs, reporters, working method, etc.)
- 11:00 - 12:00 - Effective national preparation for, participation in & conduct of multilateral negotiations (By Elizabeth Mrema, Senior Legal Officer, UNEP)**
- 12:00 – 13:30 - Lunch break

Afternoon

Session I: Working group sessions on problems and challenges that face the implementation of the Convention in the Africa sub-regions.

13:30 - 17:00 - Working group sessions

- West Africa
- Central Africa
- Southern Africa
- Indian Ocean and Small Islands
- Northern Africa
- East and Eastern Africa

17:00 – 18:40 – Plenary – Groups' reports and discussions

19:30-20:30 **Cocktail offered by the Government of Cameroon (TBC)**

TUESDAY - 27.11.07

Session II: Problems and challenges that face the implementation of the Convention in Africa since last COP

Morning

- 09:00 - 09:15 Short summary of the conclusions of the discussions from the previous day
- 09:15 - 09:45 Overview of the problems and challenges that face the implementation of the Convention in the region (Secretariat's perspective).
(By: Senior Advisor for Africa at the Ramsar Secretariat)

- 09:45 - 10:45 Discussions
- 10:45 - 11:00 Coffee break
- 11:00 - 12:30 Presentation and discussions on Regional Initiatives (NigerWet, ChadWet, WacoWet, RAMCEA and CongoWet, etc.)
- 12:30 - 14:00 Lunch break

Afternoon

Session III: Priorities for Next Triennium 2008-2011

- 14:00 - 15:00 **Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Scientific and technical priorities for the region
Introduction**
-Presentation of the Work Plan of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel. Edgar Kaeslin, STRP Officer, Ramsar Secretariat
-Status and key issues for the region. Abou Bamba, Senior Advisor for Africa, Ramsar Secretariat
- Suggestion to reorganize and motivate STRP NFPs in the region, Edgar Kaeslin.
- 15:00 - 16:00 **Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Wetlands and poverty reduction – Implementation of COP9, Resolution IX.14 (Wetlands International)**
- 16:00 - 16:15 Coffee break
- 16:15 - 17:15 **Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Wetlands and human health**
- 17:15 - 17:45 **Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Article 3.2 of the Convention and changes in the ecological character of African Ramsar sites**
- 17:45 - 19:00 **Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Mining and extractive industries, threats and challenges for African wetlands**

WEDNESDAY – 28.11.07

Morning

FIELD TRIP TO SITE TOURISTIQUE D'EBOGO, 1 HOUR FROM YAOUNDE

Departure from the hotel at 07:00 AM

Afternoon

14:00 - 15:00 Presentation of the Wings Over Wetlands Project, UNEP-GEF African-Eurasian Flyways Project

THURSDAY – 29.11.07

09:00-09:10 Short summary of the conclusions of the discussions from the previous day

Session IV: Priorities for Next Triennium 2008-2011

9:20-10:20 **Thematic Discussion on regional priorities (African Water Facility / AfDB+ Ramsar)
Sources of funding for wetlands-related projects in Africa + Countries with arrears +
SGF Contact Group of Sub-group on Finance document**

10:20-10:40 Coffee Break

10:40-11:40 **Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Special Program on Africa Transboundary Wetlands**

11:40-12:30 **Thematic Discussion on regional priorities
Wetlands and Climate Change**

Report of the Secretariat on climate change and wetlands

12:30-14:00 Lunch Break

Session V: Preparation for COP10

14:00 - 15:00 **Presentation of COP10 draft Program + New National Reporting Format
(Mr. Anada Tiega, Secretary General, Convention Secretariat)**

Discussions on issues of interest to the region in COP10 Agenda

15:00 - 16:00 **Presentation of draft Strategic Plan 2009-2014
(Mr. Anada Tiega, Secretary General, Convention Secretariat)**

16:00 - 16:15 Coffee break

16:15 - 17:00 **Proposed Resolutions and Recommendations from African Contracting Parties
to COP10- .**

- 17:00-18:30 **Simulation Exercises on Coordinating positions on a specific Ramsar issue to be debated in COP 10 (Led by Elizabeth Mrema, Senior Legal Officer, UNEP)**
- 18:30-19:00 **Discussion on the African representatives on the next Standing Committee + New National Report format**

FRIDAY – 30.11.07

***Chair: Representative of the Government of the Republic of Cameroon
Head Rapporteurs: Ramsar Secretariat and Government representative***

- 9:00-9:20 **Conclusions and recommendations from previous day.**
Presentation by Ramsar Secretariat Rapporteur
- 09:30-10:00 **Discussion on the African representatives on the next Standing Committee + New National Report format**
- 10:00-11:00 **Feedback on the outcome of the Regional Meeting including the multilateral negotiation and exercise component (Led by Abou Bamba, Ramsar Secretariat and Elizabeth Mrema, UNEP)**
- 11:00-11:10 Coffee Break
- 11:10-12:10 **Any other business and outstanding issues**
- 12:10 - 14:00 Lunch break
- Afternoon**
- 14:00 - 15:00 **Closing ceremony**

SATURDAY – 01.12.07

Validation of the Training Modules for French Speaking countries Ramsar NFPs

- 9:00-10:30 Introduction and presentation (Naik Faucon, ATEN)
- 10:30-10:45 Coffee Break
- 10:45-12:45 **Discussion and validation**
- 12:45-13:00 **Closure**
- 13:00-14:00 **Lunch**