

6th European Ramsar Meeting
Stockholm, Sweden

Working Group session N° 2, on Sunday, 4 May 2008, 11h00-13h00

focusing on **Ramsar Project Initiatives**

Christophe Lefebvre, president of the French IUCN committee, will provide an introductory lecture, briefly analyzing the ten-year partnership between the French **Groupe Danone** (selling bottled water, biscuits, fresh dairy and cereal products) and the Ramsar Convention, with an outlook to the starting “water schools” programme to increase wetland ecosystem awareness and support specific projects.

Then we will explore in an interactive way two major axes with substantial potential to increase our capacities to implement the Ramsar requirements on the ground, at local, national and transboundary levels:

1. Projects to better implement Ramsar requirements

- Ramsar’s own Small Grants Fund and the proposed Small Projects Portfolio
cf. the Draft Resolution submitted to Standing Committee in SC37-9
- multilateral project support programmes by donors such as the EU, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, EBRD, national development agencies, and others
where and how to find information about funding opportunities?
new programmes in preparation?
- national project support programmes
information about existing programmes and opportunities?
- other opportunities for financial support
gap analysis: what is most urgently needed?
focus of support programmes needed: geographically, by catchment basin, by theme?

2. The role of and possible support by the private sector

- support for specific projects and programmes
- programmes in partnership with Ramsar
existing cooperation, opportunities for new cooperative programmes?
- business sponsorship of specific activities, use of the “Ramsar” identity
cf. the Draft Resolution submitted to Standing Committee in SC37-34
- enhancing wetland ecosystem-related performance of individual businesses
how to use existing Ramsar guidelines, needs to develop other guidance?