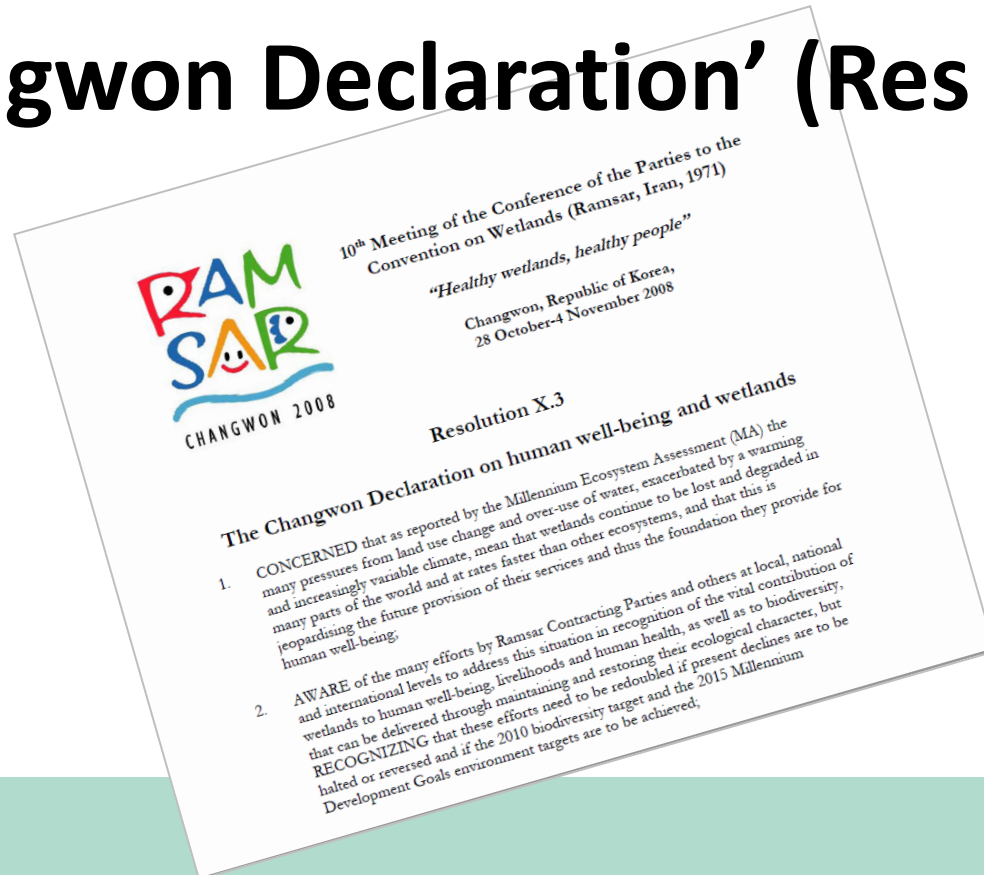


Promotion and utilization of the 'Changwon Declaration' (Res X.3)



43rd Meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, 31 October – 4 November 2011

‘Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands’ (Res X.3)

- Adopted at COP10 as a response to the loss and degradation of wetlands, which is continuing at a faster pace than for any other ecosystem;
- The Declaration was intended to transmit key messages concerning the important role of wetlands to sectors beyond the Ramsar community whose activities affect wetlands and their services.;
- These include those working in sectors such as:
 - water management,
 - human health,
 - poverty reduction,
 - climate change,
 - spatial planning and biodiversity conservation;
- The aim was to engage this groups of stakeholders so that they can take actions for wetlands conservation and wise use.



Reporting to COP11

Paragraph 18. Requested the Standing Committee, STRP, CEPA NFPs, Ramsar regional initiatives, IOPs, and other interested parties to advise the Secretariat on their experiences of the uptake of the Declaration in order to inform COP11;

The government of the R.O. Korea as the COP10 host country, kindly declared their intention to champion this Declaration. As a result, the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RRC-EA) organized two ‘Changwon Declaration Network Meeting’ in 2009 and 2010, to exchange information and experiences regarding its dissemination and uptake.



Implementation Plan

From the CDN Meetings, it was recognized that an Implementation Plan was needed to make it easier to communicate the Declaration and measure its update. The Plan would also include case studies presented at the Changwon Declaration Meetings so that the ideas can be shared and adapted for local situations;

The Implementation Plan would also allow the work being done by the Ramsar family to be measured, identify gaps, and allow the prioritization of actions which still need to be taken to deliver the Declaration;

Following a request at SC43, the Republic of Korea very generously provided funds to hire a consultant to prepare the Plan, which would also be used to contribute to the Information Paper for presentation to COP11.



Implementation Plan

The 3rd Changwon Declaration Network meeting was held in Changwon City from 23-24 August 2011 to review the case studies collected and to develop the Implementation Plan.

Whilst the details of the Implementation Plan are still being drafted, some observations about it can be made at this point.



Implementation Plan

- The Changwon Declaration should not be seen as something new that Contracting Parties need to implement.
- Instead, it is a reminder that wetlands are used and dependent upon by many stakeholder groups and if we in the Ramsar family are really going to achieve our aim of the conservation and wise use of wetlands, we need to recognize the role of these other groups and to engage them in our work.



Implementation Plan

In our existing and future activities:

- Need to ask whether what we are doing is reaching out to those other wetland stakeholders that Ramsar does not usually deal with but who also play a vital role in the conservation and wise use of wetlands?
- Identify who those key stakeholder groups who are relevant to our work;



Implementation Plan

Develop means to make engage with those groups so that they begin to take a greater interest in wetland conservation and wise use and would want to become involved with Ramsar;

- Site Management Committees;
- Wetland Project Management Committees;
- National Wetland Committee;

A measure of the success of this work would be when a), these sector begin to recognize the broader benefits that wetlands provide and that b), they themselves want to engage with the Ramsar family to ensure that the wetlands continue to provide the benefits that they depend upon.

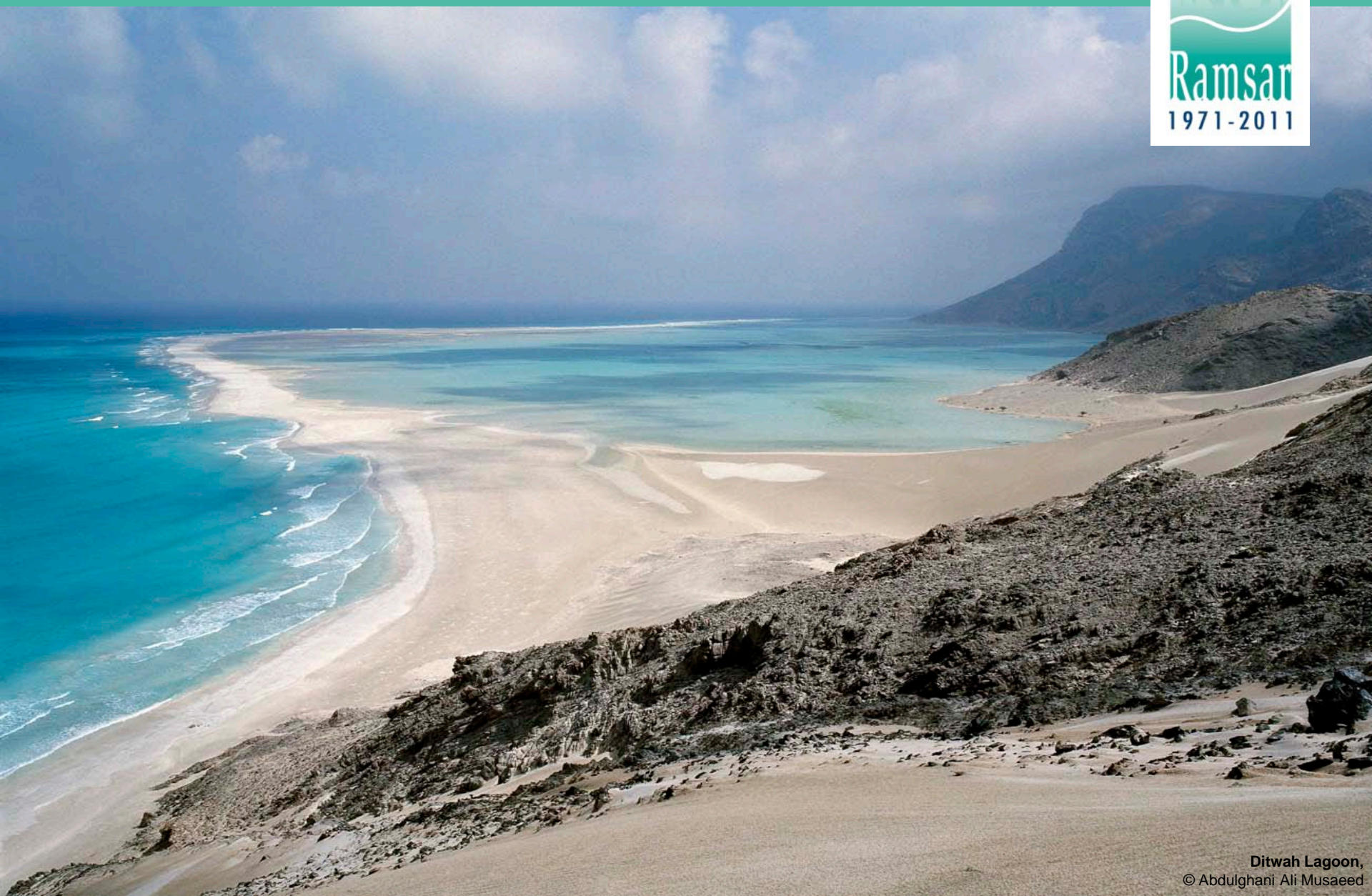
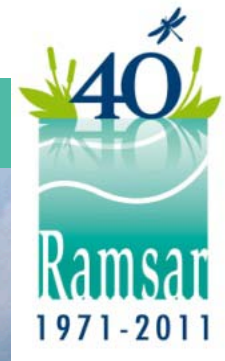


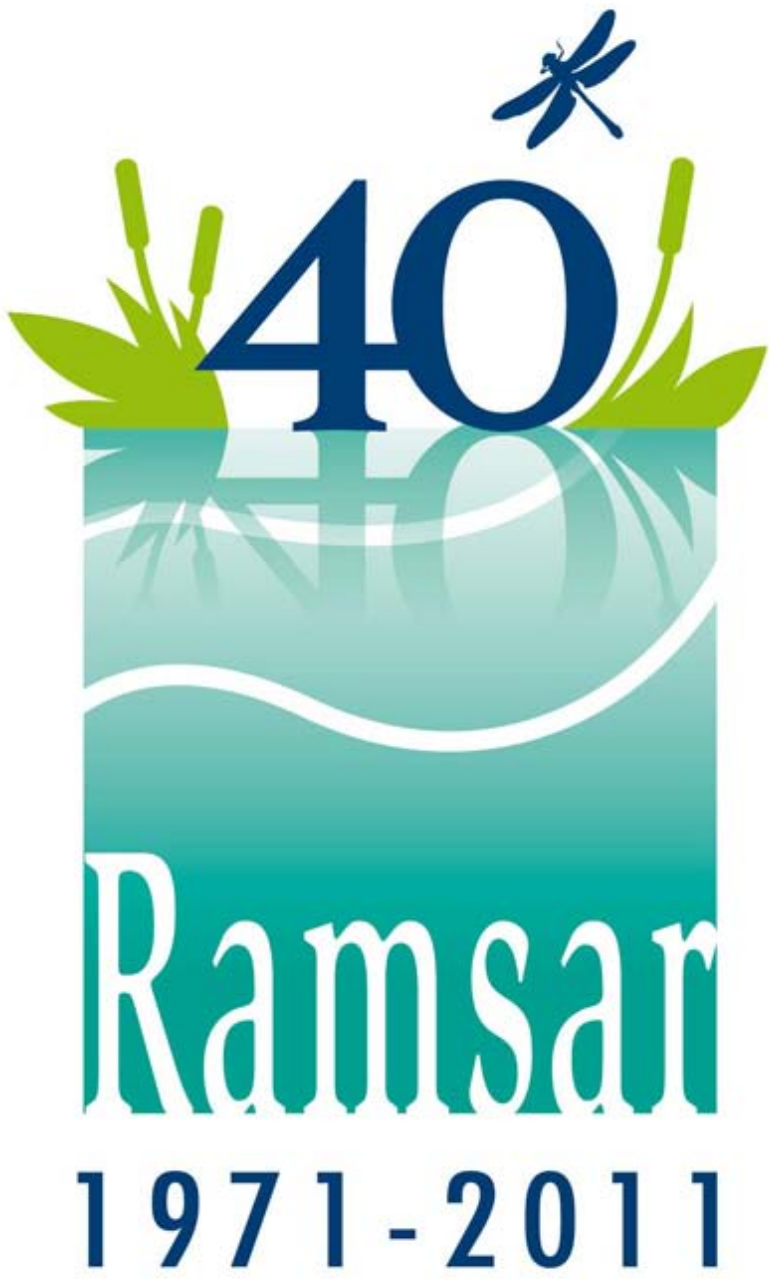
Implementation Plan

To monitor and report on the level of engagement with other sectors, the Ramsar Secretariat has incorporated a number of indicator questions into the National Report Form for COP11, The Parties' responses to those questions will be analysed separately for inclusion in the COP11 Information Paper.

- Site management plan
- National Wetland Committee
- National Wetland Policy
- Was your National Report drafted in consultation with relevant stakeholders?







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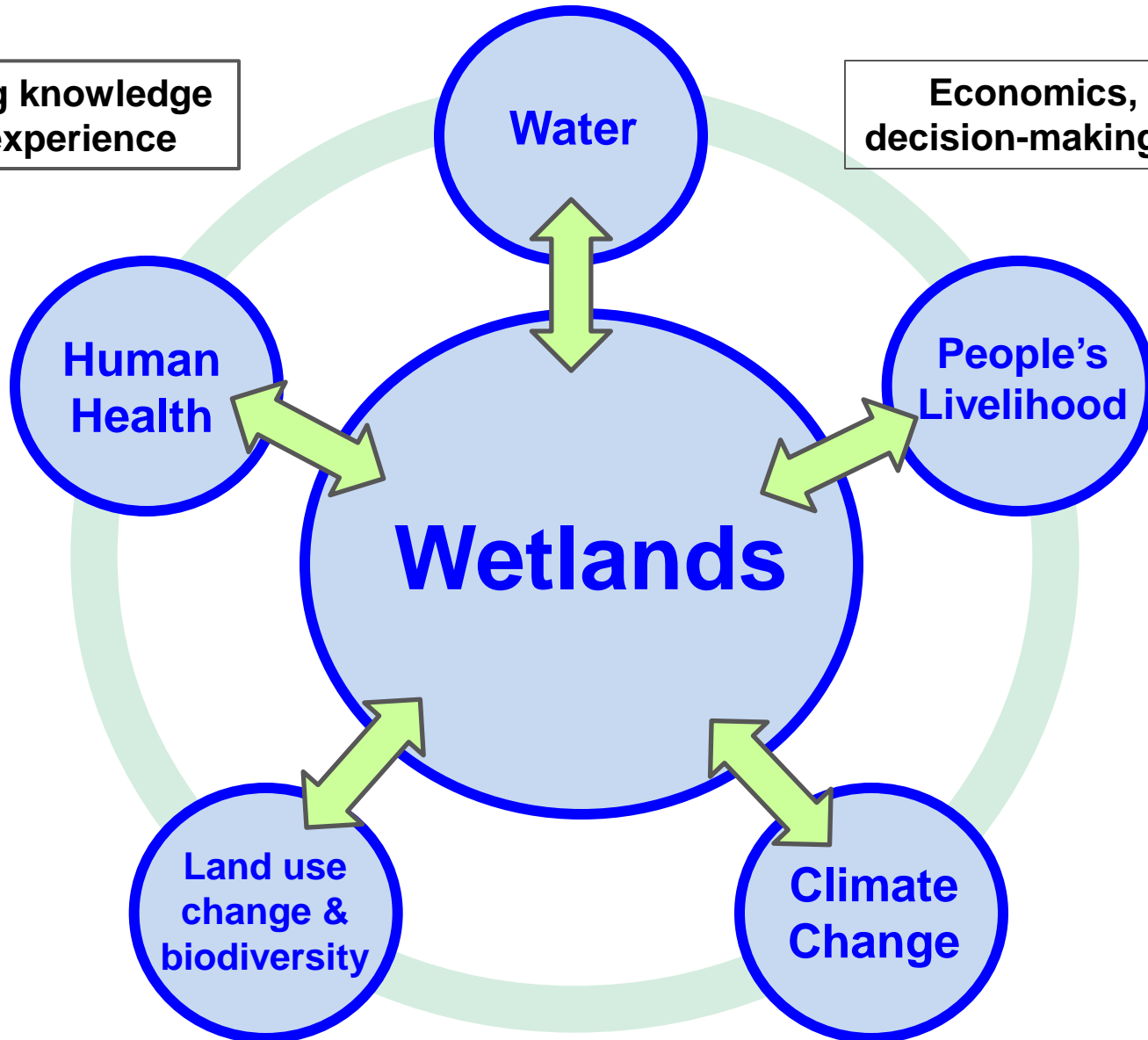
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Wetlands

Sharing knowledge
and experience

Economics, planning,
decision-making and finance



Dissemination of the Changwon Declaration

Res. X.3 urged the Ramsar community to use their own means and any relevant opportunities, to actively promote the Declaration.

Paragraph 16. Encouraged Contracting Parties and others to find the resources to translate the “Changwon Declaration” into local languages and to facilitate its dissemination and understanding as widely as possible;

- *The Changwon Declaration has been translated into 14 languages which have been placed on the Ramsar website for easy downloading*
http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-changwon/main/ramsar/1-31-434_4000_0



Uptake of the Changwon Declaration

Res. X.3 also urged the Ramsar community and those sectors and stakeholders who the Convention has not yet had much engagement, to use the Declaration to inform their policies, decision-making and actions at all levels for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Paragraph 17. Instructed the Ramsar Secretariat and Standing Committee to develop and include indicators in the National Report Format for COP11 concerning the dissemination and uptake of the “Changwon Declaration” and to report on this to Contracting Parties and others;

- *Indicators have been included in the National Report Format for COP11 and the results will be reported to COP11*

Decision SC42-26: The Standing Committee noted the report on the dissemination and uptake of the Changwon Declaration; thanked the Republic of Korea and the Ramsar Regional Centre for East Asia for championing the Changwon Declaration and supporting its implementation; encouraged the Secretariat to develop a framework for Changwon Declaration implementation case studies and a report to COP11; and urged Contracting Parties and others to consider providing voluntary funding for that purpose.

Challenges

- ‘Business as usual’
- Beyond translating, printing and distribution of the Changwon Declaration;
- Need to ‘internalize’ the spirit of the Declaration and to make sure that in our own work on wetlands, we are reaching out and involve those ‘other stakeholders’.
- Challenges to the implementation of the Changwon Declaration is a reflection of the challenges to the implementation of the Convention.
- There is no one, single solution - dependent on the region, the country, etc.
- There was a need for better sharing of best practices on wetland conservation and wise use, so that the ideas can be adapted for local situations;
- There is still a general lack of awareness of the economic value and benefits of wetlands amongst decision-makers.

Central government

Local government

Village
representatives

Farmers,
fishermen

Local
traders

Religious
leaders

Providers at
home

Local community