



The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, is an intergovernmental treaty which provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the **conservation** and **wise use** of wetlands and their resources.

<http://www.ramsar.org/>

STRP Newsletter

The quarterly Newsletter of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention

Issue n. 1/2011

Rice and Wetland Biodiversity

...the voice of our STRP lead on Agriculture



George Lukacs, STRP Lead for the Thematic Work Area on Wetlands and Agriculture.

Rice is one of the world's great staple foods. Half of the global population eat it and one fifth is dependent on its cultivation for their livelihood. Production is located in uplands (4%), rain-fed lowlands (20%) and in flood-prone (often coastal) regions (1%) but the vast majority is grown under irrigation (75%). Produced across the world in various climatic zones, 90% is in Asia across some 200 million rice farms and over more than 140 million hectares. It is clear rice underpins numerous civilisations and stabilises global food security.

Many forms of production are also intrinsically linked to wetlands. Whether directly (eg wild harvest) or through complex water distribution networks (eg terraced rice), the water which sustains rice production is also responsible for maintenance of an aquatic biodiversity both within and outside the rice farm. Fish, waterfowl and various plants have traditionally been jointly harvested from the rice farm environment. This includes nationally iconic dishes, such as fermented raw fish, known as *funazushi* in Japan or *jeotgal* in Korea but also more widely known and eaten species, such as lotus root and water chestnut. Of course, the significance of the rice-wetland environment has always been seen as more than its consumptive value. The associated natural biodiversity has been revered, especially for key species which feature in national folklore, such as storks and cranes.

Recognition of these iconic values in rice-wetland environments also first led to concerns in the 1950s about pesticide use, habitat loss and the demise of key bird populations. The "Green Revolution" produced large increases in food produc-

tion but also commensurate ecological impacts. Interventions such as hand-rearing endangered species and fish restocking helped to stem the impact but, today, many rice farms no longer integrate wetland ecology as part of production.

A renewed interest in "agri-ecological" farming has seen various efforts to rekindle this association – for the benefit of not just biodiversity but also the sustainability of rice production. Evidence exists high-input rice farming (pesticide, fertiliser) may be undermining its very existence by increasing the likelihood of pest outbreaks.

The Ramsar Convention recognises the value of rice-wetland farming and in 2008 at the Changwon meeting of Contracting Parties adopted Resolution X.31 to urge greater consideration of the biodiversity and sustainability associated with some forms of rice production. In response, the Ramsar STRP has been striving to bring together information on alternative farming methods (Takashima Workshop, 2010) and the current status of pesticide usage and impact (Singapore Workshop, 2011). Proceedings from both workshops are currently being compiled and a further workshop on the rice-wetland interface is also planned for later this year in Wuxi, China as part of the Asian Wetland Symposium. Further, a Resolution specifically on the critical emerging issue facing rice-wetland systems (pesticides) is being drafted by a team of experts for consideration at the next Ramsar COP11.

With low global food inventories, increasing food prices and a growing population, it is an imperative we collectively find sustainable means to meet new targets for food production. Recently, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food declared before the General Assembly "*in a context of ecological, food and energy crises, the most pressing issue regarding reinvestment is not how much, but how.*" His advocacy for agricultural solutions rather than a Green Revolution Mark 2 is a call both the agriculture and wetland communities should heed.

George Lukacs

George is Senior Principal Research Scientist at the Australian Centre for Tropical Freshwater Research, James Cook University

New Ramsar Sites:

- COMPLEJO GÜJIA; COMPLEJO JALTEPEQUE – EL SALVADOR
- SEOCHEON TIDAL FLAT; GOCHANG AND BUAN TIDAL FLATS – REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- KUT TING MARSHLAND – THAILAND
- BEREZINSKY BIOSPHERE RESERVE – BELARUS
- HUMBURG MARSH; LAGUNA DE SANTA ROSA WETLAND COMPLEX – USA
- PALUDE DEL BRUSÀ – LE VALLETTE – ITALY
- KUMANA WETLAND CLUSTER – SRI LANKA
- WADI WURAYAH NATIONAL PARK – UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
- LAGUNA DE HUEYAPAN (EL TEXCAL); ECOSISTEMA ARROYO VERDE APFF SIERRA DE ÁLAMOS RÍO CUCHU-JAQUI – MEXICO
- REFUGIO DE VIDA SILVESTRE LAGUNA CABRAL O RINCÓN – DOMINICAN REP.
- BA BE (BA BE NATIONAL PARK) – VIETNAM
- CHOGHAKHOR WETLAND; KANI-BARAZAN WETLAND – ISLAMIC REP. OF IRAN
- BEUNG KIAT NGONG WETLANDS; XE CHAMPHONE WETLANDS – LAOS
- SON-KOL LAKE – KYRGYZ REPUBLIC
- RAWA AOPA WATUMOHAI NATIONAL PARK; SEMBILANG NATIONAL PARK – INDONESIA

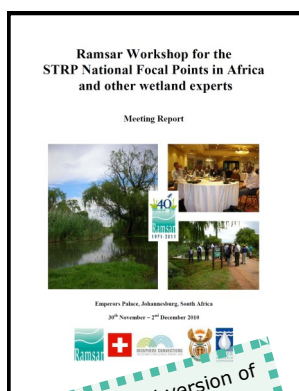
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THE FIRST WORKSHOP OF STRP AFRICAN NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS



Group Photo



The FRENCH version of the report is under preparation and will be available soon in the Water Research Commission's report series!

After months of fundraising efforts and preparation, the first workshop for STRP African National Focal Points and other wetland experts in the region was held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 30 November to 2 December 2010.

The workshop brought together some 50 participants including STRP National Focal Points in Africa, STRP members, Ramsar Secretariat members, IOPs, delegates from the South African Administrative Authority, the Water Research Commission, and other organizations.

The workshop offered a unique opportunity to meet face to face and to discuss wetland issues across the region, to address specific STRP tasks and future priorities, and to build a better understanding of the Convention processes. A critical success factor for the workshop was the availability of resources for interpretation, since this allowed the group to share much new information on scientific work being carried out on wetlands in Francophone Africa.

A set of Recommendations requiring consideration and

implementation by a range of actors including AAs, the Ramsar Secretariat, the global STRP, STRP Regional Networkers and STRP NFPs was prepared and shared at the 16th Meeting of the STRP last February 2011.

The full report of the workshop proceedings, including recommendations, has been published in the [Water Research Commission's report series](#).

The STRP expresses deep appreciation to the sponsors of the workshop, namely the Governments of Switzerland (through the "Swiss Grant for Africa" programme), Norway, Tanzania and South Africa, the Water Research Commission of South Africa, the Ramsar Secretariat and the Convention's partnership with Star Alliance /Biosphere.

The STRP wishes to implement similar meetings for STRP NFPs in other regions in the future, building on the approach and experiences of the Africa region workshop and encourage Parties and others to help finding the necessary resources.

Monica Zavagli

THE GLOBAL FORUM ON WETLANDS FOR THE FUTURE

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was adopted in 1971 in the city of Ramsar in Iran. To celebrate the 40th Convention's Anniversary, a **Global Forum on Wetlands for the Future** was held in the Islamic Republic of Iran from 5th to 6th March 2011. Organized by the Department of Environment (DOE), I.R. of Iran and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the event brought together some 300 people, including ministers, ambassadors and senior officials from around 50 countries. Read more [here](#).



Prof. Eckhart Kuijken greeted on arrival in Ramsar city. Prof. Kuijken was present at the 1971 meeting when the Convention was adopted and has attended almost all the meetings of the Conference of Parties since then as a member of the delegation from the Belgian government.

During 2011, celebrations for the 40th Anniversary of the Ramsar Convention will continue taking place around the world. A special section on the Ramsar website will keep you up-to-date with the Ramsar Secretariat's and Contracting Parties' plans for celebrating—[here](#).

Hundreds of celebrations have been also carried out worldwide on 2nd of February for the World Wetlands Day. Have a look at the reports [here](#).

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF WETLANDS SCIENTISTS (SWS)

The Society of Wetland Scientists is holding its annual conference from 3 to 8 July 2011 in Prague.

The recently formed "Ramsar Section" of the Society is hosting a symposium at the Conference, in part to help celebrating the 40 years since Ramsar's establishment, but also to present a range of research being undertaken in relation to Ramsar Sites management and other guidance developed by the STRP.

Sections allow SWS members to network and promote activities that address subject areas ranging from science to policy. There are currently six such sections within SWS – Biogeochemistry, Global Change Ecology, Peatlands, Ramsar, Wildlife and Women in Wetlands. Their primary goal is to enhance the SWS annual meeting by organizing symposia, workshops or other activities. SWS members are encouraged to join the sections!

George Lukacs
Chair, Ramsar Section SWS

www.sws.org



The Ramsar section will be presenting the following 12 papers as part of its symposium:

- 1— Nick Davidson (Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Switzerland)
"Growing the wise use capacity of the global wetland protected areas network: gaps, strategies and future priorities for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and their management"
- 2— Bill Mitsch (Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, USA)
"Opportunities for research at Ramsar wetland Sites and for Ramsar wetlands at research sites"
- 3— Beth Middleton (USGS National Wetlands Research Center, Lafayette, LA, USA)
"Importance of long term research at Ramsar Sites"
- 4— Kevin Erwin (Erwin Consulting, USA)
"Approaches to restoration and management of Ramsar wetlands currently in peril because of climate change"
- 5— Max Finlayson (Charles Stuart University, NSW, Australia)
"Australia's most ignominious Ramsar wetland: should we do anything about the Coorong and Lower Lakes at the mouth of the Murray River?"
- 6— George Lukacs (James Cook University, Australia)
"The use of coastal wetlands (including Ramsar Sites) to mitigate agricultural impacts on the Great Barrier Reef"
- 7— Matthew Simpson (Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust Consulting, UK)
"Turks and Caicos Islands' Wetlands – how Ramsar designation can help promote wise use ecotourism"
- 8— Richard Smardon (SUNY College, USA)
"The role of non-government organizations (NGO's) in Ramsar wetland management and restoration"
- 9— Lisa Rebelo (International Water Management Institute, Ethiopia)
"Using Earth Observation data to support the Ramsar wise use concept"
- 10— Rob McInnes (Bioscan, UK)
"Urban wetlands: Ramsar guidance from the trenches"
- 11— Neil Saintilan (New South Wales government and CSIRO, Australia)
"Improving decision support for environmental flows in 3 large Ramsar wetlands: the Gwydir Wetlands, Macquarie Marshes and Narran Lakes in semi-arid New South Wales"
- 12— Hugh Robertson (Department of Conservation, NZ)
"Restoring three of New Zealand's foremost wetlands: ecosystem conservation amid ecological uncertainty"

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM: VALUING WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Over 100 government representatives and international experts on wetland science, policy and management met for a one-day symposium in Edinburgh, UK, on 24 February 2011.

Organised and hosted by the Scottish Government, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Wetlands International, the symposium on *Wetlands Matter: Valuing*

wetland ecosystems in a changing climate, has produced a Communiqué that calls for Action to ensure wetland conservation and that highlights the role of Wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The symposium was attended by the Ramsar Secretariat's Deputy Secretary General, Nick Davidson.

Read the communiqué [here](#).



"BIO-RIGHTS, PAYMENTS FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, MITIGATION BANKING, AGRI-ENVIRONMENT MEASURES, CARBON CREDITS AND RELATED APPROACHES ARE BEGINNING TO INTEGRATE MORE OF THE TRUE ECONOMIC VALUES OF WETLANDS INTO MARKET SYSTEMS."
(FROM THE COMMUNIQUÉ)

...ABOUT THE RAMSAR WETLAND RESTORATION GUIDANCE



Photo 1: workshop's participants
Photo 2: restoration project at Nisqually wildlife refuge.

As part of the STRP's ongoing efforts to evaluate the existing Ramsar guidance on restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands, several regional workshops have been organised to hear from restoration practitioners and policy makers about their experience, gaps and needs.

On 21 March 2011, a small group of wetland restoration experts from the Pacific Northwest (USA and Canada) attended a workshop to provide their input on Ramsar's existing wetland restoration guidance.

Held at the Daybreak Star Indian Cultural Center in Seattle, the STRP received

some valuable input on the needs of wetland restoration practitioners in the region (Oregon, Washington and British Columbia). In the afternoon, the group took a field trip to the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge's recently restored intertidal wetlands where U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service restoration biologist Jesse Barham lead a tour.

Participants eagerly discuss the possible role Ramsar might play in providing appropriate guidance. The feedback will be used to improve the current Ramsar guidance on restoration; the Nisqually River wetlands restoration project could be an excellent case study.

The STRP and the Ramsar Secretariat would like to thank Dr Scott Luchessa of Environ International Corp. for his assistance in arranging the venue, the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists for their generous contribution in paying for the use of the facilities, Jesse Barham and the Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge for hosting the field trip.

The next wetland restoration guidance workshop is tentatively scheduled on 22-24 June in Beijing, China.

Kevin Erwin

OYSTER REEFS AT RISK

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND MANAGEMENT



Photo credits: Mark Spalding

A new, wide-ranging survey that compares the past and present condition of oyster reefs around the globe finds that more than 90 percent of former reefs have been lost in most of the "bays" and ecoregions where the prized molluscs were formerly abundant. In many places, such as the Wadden Sea in Europe and Narragansett Bay, oysters are rated "functionally extinct," with fewer than one percent of former reefs persisting. The declines are in most cases a result of over-harvesting of wild populations and disease, often exacerbated by the introduction of non-native species.

Oysters have fueled coastal economies for centuries, and were once astoundingly abundant in favored areas. The new survey is published in the February issue of BioScience. It was conducted by an international team led by Michael W. Beck of the Nature Conservancy and the University of California, Santa Cruz. Beck's team examined oyster reefs across 144 bays and 44 ecoregions. It also studied historical records as well as national catch statistics. The survey suggests that about 85 percent of reefs worldwide have now been

lost and the condition of oyster reefs as "poor" overall.

Most of the world's harvest of native oysters comes from just five ecoregions in North America, but even there, the condition of reefs is "poor" or worse, except in the Gulf of Mexico. Oyster fisheries there are "probably the last opportunity to achieve large-scale oyster reef conservation and sustainable fisheries," Beck and his co-authors write. Oysters provide important ecosystem services, such as water filtration, as well as food for people. The survey team argues for improved mapping efforts and the removal of incentives to over-exploitation. It also recommends that harvesting and further reef destruction should not be allowed wherever oysters are at less than 10 percent of their former abundance, unless it can be shown that these activities do not substantially affect reef recovery.

Bioscience made the paper available associated with their press release. You can find [here](#).

"DESPITE THE CONTINUED DECLINE OF OYSTER REEFS, THEIR CONDITION MAY BE IMPROVED THROUGH CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES AND NONNATIVE SPECIES."
(FROM THE ARTICLE)

MEMBERS OF THE STRP MEET IN GLAND FOR THE 16TH ANNUAL MEETING

STRP appointed members, several of the 2009-2012 STRP Invited Experts, representatives of IOPs and observer organizations, and other invited experts met at the Secretariat offices in Gland, Switzerland, from 14 to 18 February 2011 to advance those tasks with deliverables to the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) and to develop the associated scientific and technical Draft Resolutions.



A number of significant issues were discussed at the STRP16 meeting. Among those:

The update and revision of Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) and supporting Strategic Framework. STRP emphasized that this is now essential for streamlining and making more efficient the whole process of identification, designation, reporting and management of information about Ramsar Sites within the Convention. An information document on this task has been provided to SC42 (DOC. SC42-19-01).

Wetlands and energy issues. A Ramsar technical Report supporting a Draft Resolution is under finalization to:

- A) help Parties to understand how energy policies and projects at national, regional and global levels might affect wetlands;
- B) assist Ramsar Administrative Authorities (AAs) to participate meaningfully in debates related to energy policy issues in their country or region; and
- C) raise the profile of wetlands to ensure that

they are considered in international energy policy debates.

The development of the energy sector guidance follows a more generic model, which continues to evolve within STRP, for dealing with other sectors and how policies and actions in these sectors affect wetlands, and in turn are affected by wetlands. A similar course was followed in the STRP work on the extractive industries sector, the water sector, human health and urban planning and management;

STRP's support to Parties at the regional preparatory meetings to assist Parties in understanding and discussing Draft Resolutions;

Progress with the redevelopment of the STRP Support Service to establish a robust platform for communication and sharing of information integrated with a simple but reliable system for STRP document management, tracking and archival.

Establishment of an "expert working group" under CBD COP10 Decision X/28 to review available information and provide key policy-relevant messages on "maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle". Under this Decision, the STRP, with CBD and other relevant partners, was invited to establish this group, building on the relevant core expertise of the STRP. In this regard a one day planning session will be held in Wallingford, UK in July 2011.

The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The STRP has recommended that the STRP Chair and the Ramsar Secretary General should participate in the consultative group and the first plenary of IPBES, and that the STRP should submit an Info paper to the first plenary, possibly as a joint paper with other members of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB) group.

Read more about the meeting's outcomes and the list of expected Draft Resolutions and other products [here](#). The annotated agenda also provides all the links to all the power point presentations.

A DAY OUT...

The Panel had a successful working day out on Thursday 17 February at the Champ-Pittet Nature Centre on the shores of Lake Neuchâtel, Switzerland, generously hosted by Pronatura and the "Groupe d'étude et de gestion de la Grande Carigaie".

Between the morning and afternoon plenary work sessions, the participants had the opportunity to visit the Rive sud du lac de Neuchâtel Ramsar Site, the largest area of lacustrine marshes in Switzerland.

<http://www.pronatura.ch/champ-pittet/>



What's next?

42nd Meeting of the Standing Committee, 16-20 May 2011

The STRP related documents that will be discussed during the meeting are available at: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-standing-sc42-docs/main/ramsar/1-31-41%5E24924_4000_0_

STRP members' workshop, 30 June - 2 July 2011

Since the length of this triennium was extended as a result of moving the COP back to a spring date in 2012, there will now be an unusually long gap between the last full STRP meeting of this cycle (STRP16) and the COP. At the STRP16 meeting, the Panel agreed to hold an additional workshop for Panel members and other key invited experts. The purpose of this workshop is to finalize products for COP11, and to give particular attention to the development of the Draft Resolution on the Convention's and STRP's future scientific and technical work and priorities.

The Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH) in the United Kingdom has generously offered to host the workshop.

Deadlines

STRP documents to be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for sign off:

- DRs with or without annexed guidance (31 July 2011)
- Info Papers supporting DRs (31 December 2011, but preferably earlier)
- Stand alone Info Papers (31 March 2012)

Announcements

STAR ALLIANCE'S NEW CAMPAIGN FEATURES TWO RAMSAR SITES



Star Alliance has launched its new brand campaign featuring the Alliance's "Biosphere Connections" initiative. The campaign, produced in association with National Geographic, highlights five international projects: Abrolhos Archipelago in Brazil, Chilika Lagoon in India, East Usambara tropical rainforest in Tanzania, the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey and the reintroduction of the Grey Wolf to the Yellowstone National Park in the USA.

The films are professionally made and feature efforts by field workers from the Biosphere Connections partners: the Ramsar Convention, UNESCO-MAB, and IUCN, working in Ramsar Sites, Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage sites.

The clip on **Chilika Lagoon** in India documents the reconnection of Chilika Lagoon to the sea, increasing fish 7-fold, showing just one of the amazing things that happen when you bring global or-

ganisations together. The clip also features Ritesh Kumar, from Wetlands International and active member of our Scientific and Technical Review Panel and Ajit Pattnaik, Chief Executive Officer of the Chilika Development Authority (winner of the 2002 Ramsar Award).

[All Star Alliance clips on YouTube](#)

COURSE ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

The University of Eastern Finland in partnership with UNEP is organizing the 8th Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements. 4 to 16 September 2011, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

<http://www.uef.fi/unep/home>

Regional Wetland Action Plan (RWAP) for the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) -Now available-



The new Action Plan outlines activities, responsibilities and targets that seek to promote and strengthen the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Pacific region.

Read more and download the action plan [here](#).



TWO SYMPOSIA IN MALAYSIA AND CHINA COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION



In this particular year 2011 of the 40th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention, two Asian Wetland Symposia (AWS) will be held in Malaysia and China. The AWS is a series of international symposia aimed at providing a platform for active discussion on issues related to wetland conservation and the wise use of wetland resources.

Sabah, Malaysia 18-20 July 2011

Wuxi, China 11-13 October 2011

Submission of abstracts for the Wuxi symposium is open until 31st of May. Have a look at the announcement [here](#).

NEWSLETTERS FROM RAMSAR PARTNERS AND FOCAL POINTS

GlobWetland II NewsLETTER - to keep informed with the progresses of a pilot project in the Mediterranean Region to facilitate the integration of remote sensing into the conservation and management of wetlands. [\(Link\)](#)

Boletín Humedales de Nicaragua - a newsletter in Spanish prepared by our STRP National Focal Point in Nicaragua that provides insights on activities, projects and news in the country and regionally. [\(Link\)](#)

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE RAMSAR WETLAND CONSERVATION AWARDS 2012



The fifth edition of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards will be presented at the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in Bucharest, Romania, in June 2012.

The Ramsar Award will be

given to individuals or institutions with a proven record of achievements in one of these three areas: "Management", "Wetland Science", and "Education". Nominees should have contributed significantly to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of

wetlands. Special consideration will be given to those initiatives which might serve as inspirational and practical examples for others, and are replicable.

For criteria and procedures look at [here](#).

Upcoming Meetings

- Ramsar's **42nd Standing Committee**, 16-20 May 2011, Gland, Switzerland
- **International expert meeting on IPBES and capacity building**, 25-27 May 2011, Trondheim, Norway
- **DeltaNet Conference** on the Impacts of Global Change on Deltas, Estuaries & Coastal Lagoons, 6-10 June 2011, Sant Carles de la Ràpita, Catalonia, Spain
- **STRP members workshop**, 30 June-2 July 2011, Wallingford, UK
- **Society of Wetland Scientists** joint meeting with WETPOL and the Wetland Biogeochemistry Symposium, 3-8 July 2011, Prague, Czech Republic
- **4th World Conference on Ecological restoration**, 21-25 August 2011, Merida, Mexico

Publications

- *Richard T. Kingsford (2011). Conservation management of rivers under climate change. Marine & Freshwater Research.* http://www.publish.csiro.au/view/journals/dsp_journal_fulltext.cfm?nid=126&f=MF11029
- *Lukacs, G.P. (2011). Successful Cases on Sustainable Rice Paddy Farming Practices and Wetland Conservation in Asia. Foreword. Proceedings of the International Workshop on Rice Paddy and Wetland Conservation: Best Practices in Asia. 6-7 August 2010, Takashima, Japan. Ministry of Environment, Japan.* Download it [here](#).

Reminder

A SET OF RAMSAR KEY DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE IN ARABIC&RUSSIAN

For the list of documents click [here](#).

Useful links

List of STRP National Focal Points [Click here](#)

List of Ramsar Administrative Authorities [Click here](#)

List of CEPA National Focal Points [Click here](#)

List of STRP Members [Click here](#)

STRP Support Service <http://www.wetlands.org/strp/>

The Ramsar Site Information Service <http://ramsar.wetlands.org/>

The Global Environmental Flows Network www.eflownet.org

Ramsar's International Organization Partners (IOPs):

BirdLife International www.birdlife.org

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) www.iucn.org

IWMI (International Water Management Institute) www.iwmi.cgiar.org

Wetlands International www.wetlands.org

WWF www.panda.org

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CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEWSLETTER AS WELL! SEND US ARTICLES AND OTHER INTERESTING NEWS RELEVANT TO WETLANDS IN YOUR COUNTRY AND REGION!

send to strp@ramsar.org

This newsletter has been created by the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in collaboration with STRP members and Observer Organizations with the purpose of keeping STRP National Focal Points and other STRP friends informed on the progress of the Panel's work during the 2009-2012 cycle and to provide you with useful information on wetland conservation for the implementation of the Convention in your own country, as well as to enhance our STRP network throughout the regions.

Acknowledgements: special thanks for the contributions to this newsletter go to George Lukacs (STRP), Carmen Revenga (TNC), Mike Beck (TNC), David Stroud (STRP), Heather MacKay (STRP Chair), Kevin Erwin (STRP), Philippe Gerbeaux (STRP), and Monica Zavagli (Ramsar Secretariat).

The previous editions of the STRP Newsletter are posted on the main Ramsar Website. You can view them [here](#)

Photos on the front page: left - Ramsar Site n. 1379 Lake Uvs and its surrounding wetlands" Ramsar Site in Mongolia, right: fishermen in the Niger River in Mali, near Mopti.