



**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. 3/2011

## The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and its support to Ramsar



Matthew McCartney (Hydrologist), Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu (Senior Researcher - Livelihood Systems) and Lisa Maria Rebelo (Researcher - Remote Sensing & GIS) are the main IWMI scientists participating in STRP work.

Elected an International Organization Partner (IOP) at the Convention of the Parties in Kampala in 2005, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is the fifth and most recent IOP of Ramsar. IWMI is an international non-profit organization that is one of the 15 research centers supported by the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Its mission is *to improve the management of land and water resources for food, livelihoods and the environment*. Working primarily in Asia and Africa, IWMI scientists conduct research that seeks solutions to agricultural land and water challenges with the aim of reducing poverty, improving food security and increasing economic growth whilst simultaneously safeguarding important ecosystem services.

Within this context IWMI recognizes the hugely important role that wetlands play in supporting the livelihoods and wellbeing of millions of people living in developing countries. In such countries wetlands are often inextricably linked to agricultural production and wetland agriculture can be a pathway out of poverty for a significant number of people if care is taken to ensure that other ecosystem services, including other means of food security, such as fisheries, are not undermined. In many places, a significant proportion of the economic value of wetlands is derived from agriculture. Growing populations are escalating pressure to expand agriculture within wetlands. **However, if wetlands are not used sustainably, the functions which support agriculture, as well as other food security and ecosystem services, including important water-related services, are jeopardized.** The dilemma remains how to maximize the benefits of agriculture whilst simultaneously minimizing the adverse impacts on other valuable ecosystem services.

Currently, the basis for making decisions on the extent to which, and how, wetlands can be sustainably used for agriculture, to the benefit of the rural poor, is weak. There is a dearth of knowledge on the best agricultural practices to be applied within different types of wetlands and a lack of understanding on how to establish appropriate management arrangements that will adequately balance protection and sustainable use of wetlands. Against this background IWMI's wetland related research is focused on determining:

- linkages between wetland ecosystem services and livelihoods
- the role of wetlands in hydrology, for example flow regulating functions
- the important contribution wetlands can play in building resilience to climate change
- the possible impacts of climate change and other drivers (water resources development, dams, small reservoirs, ground water pumping) on wetland hydrology and ecosystem services
- key characteristics needed for effective inventory, monitoring and assessment

**Dr Matthew McCartney, Dr Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu and Dr Lisa-Maria Rebelo** are the main IWMI scientists who participate in the regular STRP meetings and have been contributing to several of the STRP Working Groups including: i) wetlands and agriculture; ii) wetlands and poverty alleviation and iii) wetlands inventory and mapping.

IWMI wetland research has in part been summarized in a recent research report entitled *Wetlands, Agriculture and Poverty Alleviation* that, along with all IWMI research outputs, is freely available on the IWMI website (<http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Topics/Wetlands/index.aspx>).

Over the past two years the CGIAR has been re-organizing the way that it conducts its research. This has culminated in a number of Consortium Research Programs (CRPs) which are intended to bring about better impact from CGIAR research. IWMI is leading one of these CRPs called Water Land and Ecosystems, which will begin in 2012. This is an ambitious, fully integrated, multi-disciplinary programme that is built around ecosystem services as an over-arching concept. IWMI's wetland research is a major component of this endeavor and we hope that the STRP will remain a key conduit for learning about wetlands, disseminating our research findings and ensuring that the science IWMI and partners conduct is relevant and has impact.

*Matthew, Sonali and Lisa*

### New Ramsar Sites:

- KHOR VIRAP MARSH – ARMENIA
- AUTERTAL/ST LORENZENER HOCHMOOR – AUSTRIA
- GANSU GAHAI WETLANDS NATURE RESERVE; HEILONGJIANG NANWENG RIVER NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE; HEILONGJIANG QIXING RIVER NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE; HEILONGJIANG ZHENBAODAO WETLAND NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE; – CHINA
- LA TEMBLADERA – ECUADOR
- PULAU RAMBUT WILDLIFE RESERVE – INDONESIA
- MASON RIVER PROTECTED AREA – JAMAICA
- ADUTISKIS-SVYLA-BIRVETA WETLAND COMPLEX (ADUTIŠKIO-SVYLOS -BIRVĖTOS ŠLAPEŽIŲ KOMPLEKSAS); GIRUTISKIS BOG (GIRUTIŠKIO PELKĖ) – LITHUANIA
- POINTE D'ESNY WETLANDS – MAURITIUS
- BAÑO DE SAN IGNACIO; ESTERO EL SOLDADO; HUMEDALES DE BAHÍA SAN JORGE; HUMEDALES DE YAVAROS-MORONCARIT; LAGUNA DE CUYUTLÁN VASOS III Y IV; PRESA DE ATLANGATEPEC – MEXICO
- SISTEMA LACUSTRE PLAYITAS-MOYÚA-TECOMAPA – NICARAGUA
- JEUNGDO TIDAL FLAT – REPUBLIC OF KOREA

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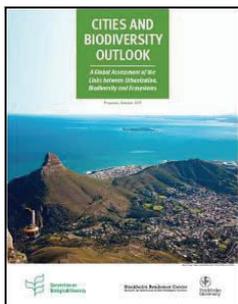


### CHANGE IN RAMSAR COP11 DATE!

The 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (**COP11**) will be held in Bucharest, Romania, from **6 - 13 July 2012**, with the 44th meeting of Standing Committee planned for 4 July 2012, and an additional day of regional meetings on 5 - 6 July, as requested by many Contracting Parties.

As more information becomes available it will be posted on [www.ramsar.org/cop11/](http://www.ramsar.org/cop11/)

### STRP INVOLVEMENT IN THE "CITIES AND BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOK 1"



Decision X/22 of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) called for the production of the "Cities and Biodiversity Outlook" (CBO-1). The first edition of the CBO-1 will consist of a global assessment of the links between urbanization, biodiversity and ecosystem services. Combining science and policy, scientists from around the world will analyze how urbanization and urban growth impacts biodiversity and ecosystems, delivering key mes-

sages on the conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources to decision-makers. Cities, local authorities and sub-national governments will have the opportunity to showcase their practices on sustainability and biodiversity and learn from existing experiences how to incorporate those topics in their agendas and policies.

The preparation of the CBO-1 will be guided by an Advisory Committee. The Ramsar STRP is being

represented on the Advisory Committee by Rob McInnes, with further support being provided by Matthew McCartney and colleagues from IWMI, Ritesh Kumar from Wetlands International and our Regional Networker for Africa Stanley Liphadzi.

For more information please go to <http://www.cbd.int/authorities/cbo1.shtml> where a publicity brochure is available for download.

### RAMSAR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND – UNEP COURSE ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS



The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Course on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), organised by the University of Eastern Finland and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), was hosted by the Asian Institute of Technology near Bangkok, Thailand, from 4<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

The aim of these courses is to transfer experience in the field of international environmental law to current and future MEA negotiators. This year's course brought together 33 participants from 26 countries, among them several involved with the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in their countries.

This year's course focused on synergies between the biodiversity-related Conventions, and several presentations approached the issue from different angles.

Monica Zavagli of the Ramsar Secretariat presented on synergies between STRP and the scientific advisory bodies of other Conventions, while representatives of CBD, CITES and CMS as well as of the Ministry of Environment of Finland gave their views on options for synergies. Peter Herkenrath, observer to STRP for UNEP-WCMC, introduced a current project on synergies with the Ministry of Environment, Finland. Haruko Okusu of UNEP reported on regional cooperation experience in the Asia and Pacific region. Participants practiced negotiating synergies in a number of exercises.

For more information on the course, visit <http://www.uef.fi/unep/home>.

*Peter Herkenrath, Monica Zavagli, Haruko Okusu*

The course also included a visit to **Khok Kham** in Samut Sakhon Province, a potential Ramsar Site, known for its many species of shorebirds – one of the last remaining sites where **Spoon-billed Sandpipers** can still be seen on migration.

Photos—clockwise: participants' group; the village Chief at the Khok Kham Learning Centre explaining coastal communities' activities and a mangrove rehabilitation project.

## LATEST UPDATES FROM THE IPBES



Photo: IPBES Chair Robert Watson; Neville Ash, UNEP; Ibrahim Thiaw, UNEP; and Masa Nagai, UNEP ©iisd RS

The first plenary meeting of the IPBES, held in Nairobi, October 2011, was intended to address more process-related aspects of IPBES operationalization, such as institutional structures and processes, rules of procedure, membership and procedures for prioritizing requests to the platform. See the [IPBES website](#) for the meeting report and also the [Earth Negotiations Bulletin summary](#).

Intersessional activities will continue, in particular to develop ideas for the future work programme of the IPBES, to be discussed at the second plenary meeting in April 2012. Proposals have also been invited for hosting and location of a future

IPBES Secretariat, and it is likely that decisions on these issues will be made at the April 2012 session.

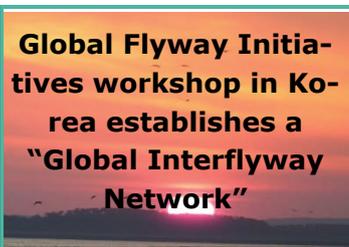
Ramsar's 43<sup>rd</sup> Standing Committee meeting discussed the ongoing IPBES process, and a draft resolution on Ramsar's engagement with the IPBES will be prepared for further discussion after the April 2012 plenary ([SC43 document DOC.SC43-19Add1](#)).

Although the IPBES has the potential to significantly strengthen science-policy interfaces related to biodiversity at all levels from global to local, it is important to recognize that within Ramsar, we already have science-policy interfaces at various levels. For example, the recent study on

[National Ramsar Committees](#) suggests that these committees might operate as interfaces at national and subnational levels. While the effectiveness of these existing science-policy interfaces varies, depending on individual situations, such internal interfaces could usefully be examined with the intention of strengthening them and making them more effective while the IPBES gathers momentum.

We recognize that there will be transaction costs associated with IPBES engagement. It will take time and effort particularly on the part of the STRP, for example in formulating terms of reference, assisting in execution of work and data provision, and reviewing outputs from IPBES. Contracting Parties may need to be involved in this scientific work too, especially in accessing data related to wetlands from subregional, national and lower levels. However, the potential benefits for enhancing Convention implementation are likely to outweigh the costs, and it is worth being involved in the process now in order to be able to influence initial ideas and priorities for the IPBES work programme.

*Heather MacKay, STRP Chair*



With the generous support of Seosan City (Republic of Korea), the Government of Switzerland and the Secretariat of the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), an international workshop to review good practice in international initiatives for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and other migratory birds was convened by the Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), the EAAFP and BirdLife International as well as Wetlands International. [More](#)

## REPORTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST OF MOROCCO

A Ramsar Advisory Mission was undertaken jointly with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on African-Eurasian Waterbirds (AEWA) in Rabat and the area of Saïdia, on the Ramsar Site n° 1478 "Embouchure de la Moulouya" from 12 to 16 October 2010. This mission, invited by the Moroccan Ramsar Administrative Authority, was organized to address the concerns related to the development of tourist facilities in the vicinity of the Ramsar Site, well-known for its avifauna and high biodiversity.

The mission expert group included Alexia Dufour, Regional Affairs Officer for the Ramsar Secretariat, Patrick Triplet (lead consultant and STRP National Focal Point of France), Mohammed Dakki (STRP National Focal Point of Morocco), Maria J. de Lope (representing WWF) and Imad Cherkaoui (representing CMS and AEWA).

A set of 25 concrete recommendations were proposed to address the issues and they're available in the mission report. Read the full story [here](#).



photo: east side boundary of the Ramsar Site "Embouchure de la Moulouya";



photo: field visit to the right bank of the Moulouya (area of regressive erosion)

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR WISE USE CONCEPT IN THE RIVER VENTA, LATVIA

The "Valley of River Venta" Nature Reserve, a Natura 2000 site, was designated to preserve valuable coastal meadows and forests of different types, as well to maintain diverse habitats for oxygen-sensitive aquatic invertebrates and fishes like salmonids.

Due to cumulative effect of biogene leakage and sedimentation processes, areas suitable for salmonids were overgrown with *macrophytes* and lost their value as spawning areas.

During August and September 2011, management activities were undertaken within an area of 4 hectares to improve both morphological features of the river as well to improve habitat requirements through

diminishing *macrophyte* vegetation overgrowth and removal of their root, reopening of former salmonid spawning sites and *rheophilous* microhabitats for aquatic invertebrates.

The monitoring of the state of aquatic invertebrates and fish population before and after the activity revealed a rapid replacement of aquatic invertebrates: from populations typical of stagnant waters, to rheophilic ones.

Also, the removal of *macrophytes* and their roots, restored access to one of the widest natural waterfalls in Europa restoring the historical river landscape.

To summarize, a diversity of positive re-

sults have been achieved through the project from the recovery of salmonid spawning areas and microhabitats for oxygen-sensitive invertebrates, to the reopening of one of the National Top 10 tourism attraction in Latvia.

The project received broad coverage from the media for its multipurpose Wetland management achievements.

The project was funded by the Latvia – Lithuania Cross border Cooperation Programme and Kuldiga town municipality.

*Andris Urtans*  
Hydrobiologist, Nature Conservation  
Agency of Latvia



BEFORE



AFTER

Photos: the state of the Venta river stretch before and after management activities.

## EURONATUR PRIZE AWARDED TO GORAN GUGIC, MEMBER OF THE RAMSAR STANDING COMMITTEE AND DIRECTOR OF THE LONJSKO POLJE NATURE PARK AND RAMSAR SITE

Since 1992, Euronatur awards an annual prize to a person with outstanding merits

for nature conservation. The list of recipients includes Nelson Mandela, Mikhail Gorbachev and HRH The Prince of Wales, as well as Ramsar Award winner Dr Luc Hoffmann. For 2011, the Board of Euronatur decided to bestow the honorary prize to Goran Gugic, member of the Ramsar Standing Committee and director of the Lonjsko Polje Nature Park and Ramsar Site in the Croatian part of the Sava river floodplain.

Goran Gugic was selected for his ability to federate different stakeholders around common goals for sustainable floodplain management through a catchment basin approach, and for his innovative approaches to manage sustainability in conditions of change and unpredictability that dominate in the cultural landscape of the

Sava river floodplain, framed by regular floods and ingenious human adaptations developed over generations to make a living from the specific resources at the water's edge.

In June 2011, during the UN Year of Forests, Goran organised a workshop on the "Conservation and management of freshwater, tree-dominated wetlands in Central and South-eastern Europe" to exchange management practices in relation to alluvial forests. Lonjsko Polje is used as a retention area and thus protects the capital of Zagreb from flooding by distributing flood waves in the alluvial floodplains. It demonstrates the possibilities of adaptation to such natural processes without the construction of defence mechanisms.

Read the full article [here](#).



Photo: Goran Gugic explaining the characteristics and flood retention properties of Lonjsko Polje

## STETSON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' RESEARCH ON MEAs NATIONAL COMMITTEES

During fall 2011, as a follow up activity to the [paper on National Ramsar Committees \(NRCs\)](#) prepared by Marcela Bonells and Monica Zavagli, students of Stetson University College of Law, USA, prepared fifteen case studies to inform Ramsar through the STRP on the work of National Committees (NCs) under biodiversity-related MEAs, including: CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, and CITES.

The purposes of the project were:

- to identify parallels between the structures and operations of NCs and National Ramsar Committees (NRCs);
- to find out how these committees may contribute to the goals of the Ramsar Convention; and
- the extent of cooperation between NCs and Ramsar Administrative Authorities.

The information was gathered from official sources on the MEAs' websites, as well as from communications with National Focal Points, government officials, and NC members.

The research suggests that texts of most of these MEAs do not explicitly mention the creation of NCs. The UNFCCC appeared to be the only MEA expressly encouraging the establishment of cross-sectoral Committees in some of its official documents. Nonetheless, many CPs under each of these MEAs have created NCs using a variety of organizational models to assist with national implementation and facilitate stakeholder involvement, similar to NRCs.

On the basis of the research, there appears to be limited synergy between NCs under other MEAs and Ramsar Administrative Authorities. Only the NCs for Kenya, under CITES, and Belgium, under



Photo: Stetson students with Professor Roy Gardner, STRP member.

the CBD, directly interact with Ramsar National Focal Points.

However, some countries appear to be taking steps to enhance synergies through: the exchange of information and scientific experts, placing NFPs for biodiversity-related MEAs within the same ministries, or creating bodies for coordinating activities between MEAs and mechanisms for better communication.

The greatest challenge the students encountered was finding information on the

operations of NCs.

Overall, this was a great opportunity for students to become acquainted with MEAs and their national implementation processes. Their work also highlighted opportunities and the need for further collaboration among MEAs. The executive summary and the case studies will be shared with IPBES and made available soon.

Marcela Bonells

## NEWS FROM THE STRP REGIONAL NETWORKER FOR OCEANIA

Last February, I had the opportunity to explore a new corner of our wonderful Oceania region with an extended team of experts from the French Natural History Museum. This year's destination was the Republic of Palau, a Ramsar Contracting Party. The Republic is an archipelago of about 350 islands located at the Western edge of Micronesia. Our freshwater survey focussed on Babeldaob, a high island with maximum altitude of 250m, and that accounts for over 70% of Palau's landmass).

Guided by our local Ramsar friend from the Bureau of Agriculture, Kashghar Rengulbai, the team surveyed rivers and streams from 8 catchments. Two taxa (from the *Gobiidae* family, *Sicyopus leprurus* and *Stiphodon surrufus*) were newly recorded for Palau with a total of 40 species identified (23 fish and 17 crustacean species). The country's environment management priorities appeared the same of

those identified last year in Rarotonga: i.e. need to maintain fish passage (most species being migratory) and water flows; need to protect forested catchments and riparian cover as well as water quality and mangrove/estuarine habitats. Despite previous attempts to eradicate it from the country, the presence of tilapia was still of concern.

The information gathered during my time in Palau will be also useful to the Ramsar Administrative Authority to fill in the updated Ramsar Information Sheet for Lake Ngardok, their unique Ramsar Site.

Last September, I also attended an Oceania Red-Listing workshop at the IUCN Oceania Office in Suva (Fiji), but I will report on that in the next STRP newsletter!

Philippe Gerbeaux



Photo: Ngardmau Waterfall © P. Gerbeaux



BOAGRI staff members discussing fish diversity with Philippe Gerbeaux (Paris Museum) in the Ngermeskang valley. © P. Gerbeaux

## ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION DISCUSSED AT THE LATEST CBD SCIENTIFIC MEETING

During the CBD-SBSTTA 15 meeting, held in Montreal, Canada, from 7-11 November 2011, the Ramsar Secretariat participated in a side event held by the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER); the side event focused on the economic rationale for restoring our degraded ecosystems. In that occasion SER launched a new [brochure on Investing in our Ecological Infrastructure](#):



"A new economic approach that prioritizes investment in our ecological infrastructure. Whether restoring a watershed to provide clean drinking water for large urban areas or

restoring mangroves for fisheries and storm protection, societies and governments can save billions of dollars by helping nature do what it does best."

The final recommendations emerged from the ecosystem restoration discussions were for the CBD Secretariat and relevant partners to initiate work to compile information on practical guidance or guidelines on:

- ❖ restoration of specific landscapes, ecosystems, habitats and their components, including identification of gaps and suggested means for addressing them;
- ❖ relevant tools and technologies, including positive and negative lessons learned and experiences used at multiple spatial scales and for specific ecosystems;
- ❖ the application of new and emerging

technologies for ecosystem restoration; and

❖ the most used definitions of key terms, highlighting their links to the Targets in the Strategic Plan and Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

CBD SBSTTA15 has provided a first glimpse of the impact of the new Strategic Plan, including its potential to substantively transform CBD work both in terms of new issues, such as ecosystem restoration, and new approaches, by accelerating the move towards bottom-up implementation and monitoring. Ramsar looks forward to continuing its partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity as the Parties strive to meet the ambitious biodiversity targets for 2020.

Sasha Alexander

### Announcements

## 2012 RAMSAR WETLAND CONSERVATION AWARD WINNERS

Read the full interviews [here](#).



### AVAILABLE NOW:

- ❖ Report and Decision of the 43rd Ramsar Standing Committee ([here](#)).
- ❖ Report of the 7th European Regional Meeting, 27-30 September 2011, Trnava - Slovak Republic ([here](#))
- ❖ Report of the Africa Regional Meeting, 3-8 October, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso ([here](#))
- ❖ Presentations from the Asia Regional Meeting, 14-18 November, 2011 Jakarta, Indonesia ([here](#))
- ❖ News Report from the 5th Pan American Regional Meeting, 6-10 December, Kingstone, Jamaica ([here](#))



This was the theme of the 7th Environment for Europe Ministerial Conference held 21-23 September 2011, in Astana, the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan. In their final declaration, the Ministers of 44 countries in the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) underlined that water is critical for economic and social development and environmental protection. They encouraged intersectoral cooperation, including national policy dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation, and agreed to pursue an ecosystem approach and the integration of ecosystem values in economic accounting. This constitutes an important regional contribution towards the Earth Summit Rio+20 in June 2012. Read more [here](#).



The Wetland Globes were developed by the World Wetland Network to encourage best practice in wetland management. The awards are divided into two categories. Blue recognises best practice in wetland management and grey highlights wetlands that are being actively degraded or neglected

Please vote before the deadline of the 31st March 2012. Results will be announced at the Ramsar COP11 in 2012 in Romania. Read more [here](#).



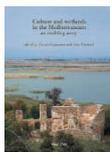
### Customization of WWD 2012 material

Just a few days ago we received our first customization of our WWD materials – a flyer from the PEGAZH Association in France (Association PEGAZH : Promotion des Etudiants en Gestion et Aménagement des Zones Humides). This is a student association at the University of Angers focused on encouraging student involvement in the management of wetlands. This group has been organizing WWD events locally for several years – have a look at their WWD 2012 flyer [here](#). **Still thinking of customizing our materials?** Time is tight for posting to some parts of the world but if you need the design files on CD please write quickly to [wwd@ramsar.org](mailto:wwd@ramsar.org).

### Upcoming Meetings

- **Ramsar's pre-COP11 Regional Meeting for Oceania** - 26-30 March 2012, Palau
- **The Second Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum**—12-13 March 2012, Bangkok, Thailand
- **Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet)— Grado + 20/ intersectoral symposium**—6-8 February 2012, Agadir, Morocco
- **Regional Workshop for Africa on Updating National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**  
27 – 29 February 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- **2nd International Symposium on "effects of Climate Change on the world's Oceans"**- 15-19 May 2012, Yeosu, Republic of Korea .

### Publications



❖ *Culture and Wetlands in the Mediterranean: an Evolving Story*, Papayannis, T. and Pritchard, D. (eds) 2011, Athens: Med-INA. Read more and download the PDF [here](#).

❖ *Climate Risks and Adaptation in Asian Coastal Megacities—Synthesis report; the World Bank* read and download the PDF [here](#).

❖ *Ecosystems for water and food security*. Boelee E (ed) 2011. UNEP-IWMI download the PDF [here](#).

### Useful links

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

Ramsar's International Organization Partners (IOPs):

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

BirdLife International [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)

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

IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org)

List of STRP Members [Click here](#)

IWMI (International Water Management Institute) [www.iwmi.cgiar.org](http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org)

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

Wetlands International [www.wetlands.org](http://www.wetlands.org)

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

WWF [www.panda.org](http://www.panda.org)

The Global Environmental Flows Network [www.eflownet.org](http://www.eflownet.org)

#### Get in touch with the STRP Regional Networker for your region:

**Africa:** Stanley Liphadzi ([Stanleyl@wrc.org.za](mailto:Stanleyl@wrc.org.za))

**Asia:** Rebecca D'Cruz ([dcruz.rebecca@gmail.com](mailto:dcruz.rebecca@gmail.com))

**Europe:** Rebecca Lee ([rebecca.lee@wwt.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.lee@wwt.org.uk))

**Neotropics:** Montserrat Carbonell ([poikilotermo@gmail.com](mailto:poikilotermo@gmail.com))

**North America:** Randy Milton ([miltonqr@gov.ns.ca](mailto:miltonqr@gov.ns.ca))

**Oceania:** Philippe Gerbeaux ([pgerbeaux@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pgerbeaux@doc.govt.nz))

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

send to [strp@ramsar.org](mailto: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 of 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.

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

**Acknowledgements:** special thanks for the contributions to this newsletter go to Matthew MacCartney (IWMI), Sonali Senaratna Sellamutti (IWMI), Lisa Maria Rebelo (IWMI), Peter Herkenrath (UNEP-WCMC), Haruko Okusu (UNEP), Marcela Bonells (Stetson University's Fellow), Rob McInnes (STRP), Philippe Gerbeaux (STRP), Heather MacKay (STRP Chair), Andris Urtans (Latvia), Sasha Alexander (SER) and Tobias Salathe, Kati Wenzel, Lynn Sorrentino, Sandra Hails and Monica Zavagli from the Ramsar secretariat.

**Photos** on the front page: left: Humedal Térraba Sierpe, Costa Rica, Ramsar Site © Gamboa J; right: Bardaca Wetlands Ramsar Site, Bosnia and Herzegovina © Dorothea August.