



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.

www.ramsar.org

STRP Newsletter

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

Issue n. 1/2012

1, 2, 3, 4, 5 COPs - the story of a long time involvement with Ramsar and its scientific support



Randy Milton is the STRP National Focal Point for Canada and also the current STRP Regional Networker for North America.

Although we all have a strong commitment to wetlands, I am not sure anyone actually plans their career to become involved with Ramsar's STRP.

I recall reading an article on the Ramsar Convention published in the IUCN Bulletin (1984) and believing at the time that applying the Ramsar goals could greatly assist the conservation of wetlands and waterbirds in Indonesia where I was a volunteer with WWF and Indonesia's Directorate of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation. After my posting was finished, little further thought was given to Ramsar until 1992 when I discovered two Ramsar Sites were now my "responsibility" upon assuming my current position with the Nova Scotia provincial government. As the manager for the Ecosystems and Habitats Program, input is continually provided into the decision making process that must try to balance conservation and societal desires and needs in a sustainable manner.

My position brought me into contact with Canada's Ramsar Administrative Authority (Clayton Rubec, now retired) as requests were received to update Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS), provide input into national reports, undertake wetland inventory, develop site management plans, and generally pursue wetland conservation. Who was this Clayton making all these requests and why? To say Clayton is passionate about wetlands and Ramsar is an understatement. During our meetings on other federal/provincial issues, our side discussions invariably lead to peatlands, wetland inventory, Ramsar, and a unique opportunity.

An invitation to participate on the Canadian Delegation to Ramsar COP 7 (in Costa Rica) led to further meetings with a diverse group of peatland scientists and managers; and to becoming Canada's STRP National Focal Point in 2001. Since that first COP I have attended COPs 8, 9, 10 and recently COP 11; and I have remained involved in varying roles with the STRP including peatlands, wetland inventory, wise use, RIS, poverty alleviation and regional networking. What keeps me returning? It is more than the opportunity to work on a diverse range of wetland management issues with committed individuals drawn from around the world. The work undertaken by the STRP on behalf of the Contracting Parties is relevant to the often complex wetland management issues among competing societal, individual and sectoral needs.

Increasingly, the relationship of people and local communities to wetlands and their role in wetlands conservation and management has rightfully captured more of the COPs time and been reflected in the make-up of the STRP work program. Importantly, the issues are not abstract and the guidance produced through this collaborative effort and brought to the COP is valuable reference material for my work provincially and nationally. To paraphrase the opening text of the Convention "wetlands and society are interdependent with the ecosystem services provided by wetlands to society and wetlands dependent upon society for their conservation and wise use". Although the content of STRP documents may not be as specific as required by some site managers, the principles and approaches to successfully address issues are generally based upon case studies. Adaptation is often required to local circumstances but I have applied these materials for example in my work with community and private land owner stewardship, wetland inventory and wetland policy.

Being involved with the STRP has been challenging and rewarding and brings a broader perspective to my daily work. The opportunity exists for all National Focal Points to participate in the work of the STRP and I challenge all to seek out opportunities to contribute. Your effort will not be wasted and you will benefit in the network of colleagues with whom you can seek advice.

Randy Milton

Randy is Wildlife Resources Manager at the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

New Ramsar Sites:

- BUMDELING ; KHOTKHA - BHUTAN
- PARTIE CAMEROUNAISE DU FLEUVE NTEM ; ZONE HUMIDE D'ÉBOGO - CAMEROON
- ØRSTED DAL, PINGEL DAL AND ENHJØRN-INGEN DAL (GREENLAND); MYKINES; NOLSOY (NOLSOY); SKUVØY (SKUVØY AND SKUVØY) — DENMARK
- LAKE OARUN PROTECTED AREA; WADI EL RAYAN PROTECTED AREA - EGYPT
- LIHULA; LEIDISSOO; AGUSALU; HAAPSALU -NOAROOTSI— ESTONIA
- TOURBIERE DE MOLTIFAO; MARAIS D'ORX ET ZONES HUMIDES ASSOCIEES; BASSIN D'ARCACHON-SECTEUR DU DELTA DE LA LEYRE ; LA VASIERE DES BADAMIERS (ÎLE DE MAYOTTE - OCEAN INDIEN) ; ZONES HUMIDES ET MARINES DE SAINT-MARTIN - FRANCE
- LEVERA WETLAND - GRENADA
- 9 RAMSAR SITES - JAPAN
- ILI RIVER DELTA AND SOUTH LAKE BALKHASH - KAZAKHSTAN
- LAC KINKONY ; ZONE HUMIDE MANDROZO - MADAGASCAR
- ÁREA NATURAL PROTEGIDA ESTATAL PRESA DE SILVA Y ZONAS ALEDAÑAS; LAGUNAS DE SANTA MARIA-TOPOLOBAMPO-OHUIRA ; PRESA LA VEGA ; PRESA MANUEL ÁVILA CAMACHO (PRESA VALSE-QUILLO) — MEXICO
- HAN RIVER-BAMSEOM ISLETS - REPUBLIC OF KOREA
- POIANA STAMPEI PEAT BOG; COMANA NATURAL PARK; BISTRET; LAKE CALARASI (IEZERUL CALARASI) ; OLT-DANUBE CONFLUENCE (CONFLUENTA OLT-DUNĂRE) ; SUHAIA - ROMANIA
- KOVILUSKO-PETROVARADINSKI RIT — SERBIA
- LAGUNAS DE RUIDERA; LAGUNAS DE CAMPOTEJAR ; LAGUNAS DE LA MORERAS ; RIA DE VILLAVICIOSA ; SALADAS DE SASTAGO-BUJARALOS ; TREMEDALES DE ORIHUELA - SPAIN
- 15 NEW RAMSAR SITES — TUNISIA
- UPPER NENE VALLEY GRAVEL PITS — UNITED KINGDOM
- KAKAGON AND BAD RIVER SLOUGHS; CONGAREE NATIONAL PARK; THE EMILQUON COMPLEX; SUE AND WES DIXON WATERFOWL REFUGE AT HENNEPIN & HOPPER LAKES; — USA
- TRAM CHIM NATIONAL PARK — VIETNAM

Inside this issue:

COP11 SPECIAL	2
GENERAL MATTERS	4
TOPIC OF THE QUARTER	5
ANNOUNCEMENTS	6
UPCOMING MEETINGS	7
PUBLICATIONS	7
USEFUL LINKS	7



Ramsar COP11 at a Glance



Some weeks away from the closure of the Conference in the warm buzzing city of Bucharest and the memories of this full-on ten days of discussions and events in the grandiose Palace of the Parliament are still very vivid.

While waiting for the official release of the COP Proceedings expected for late August, let's have a look at some of the highlights of COP11:

- 22 Draft Resolutions were adopted, ranging from administrative issues to more technical and scientific aspects of wetland wise use. Much time was spent discussing DR 1 on the institutional hosting of the Secretariat, which saw Parties renewing their trust in IUCN. The Conference warmly welcomed DR 8 on the new Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) and its Strategic Framework as well as a number of cross sectoral Resolutions such as "wetlands and energy issues", "tourism, recreation and wetlands", "wetlands and health – taking an ecosystem approach", "principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands" and "an Integrated Framework for avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for wetland losses". Consensus on "wetlands and climate change", DR 24, and on "agriculture-wetland interactions: rice paddy and pest control", DR15, was also reached after longer negotiations. The adopted science package of DRs 16, 17 and 18 laid a good foundation for the Convention to explore the future delivery and implementation of scientific support;
- 14 STRP core members and STRP invited experts who assisted Parties during the COP negotiations of scientific and technical Draft Resolutions and who have been working long nights to timely deliver revised versions for plenary consideration;
- 42 [Side events](#) held during lunch and evening sessions. In particular TEEB, in partnership with Ramsar, UNEP, and the Institute of European Environmental Policy (IEEP) convened an event on "valuing wetlands - capturing economic benefits from wise use" in which a [Briefing note](#) introducing the overall development of the upcoming "TEEB for water and wetlands" report was also launched;
- 3 official agreements signed between Ramsar and other partners: the Memorandum of Cooperation with JICA; the Resolution on Cooperation with Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) (Read [more](#)) and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC);
- 5 special plenary presentations on:
"wetland conservation and sustainable use in Romania"; "outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for the Ramsar Convention" by Brice Lalonde, the Coordinator of the recent Rio+20 Conference; "sustainable tourism and the value of wetlands" by Mr Taleb Rifai, Secretary General of the World Tourism Organization (read his speech [here](#)); "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)" by Andrew Farmer of IEEP; and "water security and importance of wetlands and natural infrastructure in water resource management" by Michael Scoullou, Chair of Global Water Partnership (GWP) Mediterranean;
- Launch of the joint Ramsar/UNWTO publication "Destination Wetlands – supporting sustainable tourism" (download [PDF here.](#))

Watch the most memorable moments from this year's Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention in Bucharest, Romania <http://www.youtube.com/user/RamsarConvention>.

Read [here](#) the Earth Negotiation Bulletin independent summary of COP11 outcomes.

All COP11 images are available for free at www.quartzfilm.ro (use the password: cop11).

Many thanks for the support to all the 900 participants who attended COP11!

STRP MEMBERS MEET WITH STRP NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS AT COP11

An informal meeting with STRP NFPs attending the Conference was organised on Monday 9 July.

It was an opportunity for STRP NFPs to meet each other personally and to get to know members of the STRP. The forty participants asked questions about the STRP and about the roles of STRP NFPs, and exchanged views and recommendations on how to improve communication and support for the preparation of the Convention's guidance and its implementation.

Read the summary of the discussions [here](#) and list of participants [here](#).



Photo © Sangdon Lee

2012, THE YEAR OF TOURISM & WETLANDS

The Ramsar Convention launched its focus on Tourism and Wetlands on 2 February 2012, [World Wetlands Day](#), with the slogan "Wetlands and Tourism, a Great Experience", in partnership with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

At Ramsar COP11 in Bucharest last month, the Convention has also formally addressed tourism through the adoption of [Draft Resolution 7](#) "Tourism, recreation and wetlands" recognizing the increased demands for tourism expansion and the potential negative impacts on the health of wetlands, but also understanding that, if managed sustainably, tourism can bring many benefits, environmental, social and economic.

At the conference, Ramsar/UNWTO jointly launched the publication "Destination Wetlands – supporting sustainable tourism".

Through case studies and other materials, this publication demonstrates the contributions that sustainable tourism practices in and around wetlands can make to conservation, poverty alleviation, regional and national economies, and support to local cultures; it also highlights the many challenges encountered and, wherever possible, the management solutions employed.

The publication can be freely downloaded from the Ramsar website in [English](#), [French](#), and [Spanish](#) (PDF).

For the full 14 case studies featured in the publication as well as other useful materials for sustainable tourism, visit our [webpage](#) dedicated to Tourism and Wetlands!



RAMSAR, STRP AND IPBES

At Ramsar COP11, Contracting Parties have adopted Resolution XI. 6 on "Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions". Annex 2 of this Resolution speaks in particular about the Ramsar preparation and engagement with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The adopted Resolution text will be posted [here](#) in mid August.

Watch the [IPBES interview](#) with our STRP Chair on how IPBES might work with biodiversity related MEAs and how IPBES can help to create synergies across them.

Read the IPBES meeting report from the 2nd session of the plenary meeting on April 2012 to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for IPBES at www.ipbes.net.

The first plenary meeting of the Platform will be likely held in early 2013.



VIBRANT REUNION PROVIDES REFRESHED LEADERSHIP FOR MEDITERRANEAN WETLANDS



Twenty years ago in Grado, Italy, a landmark symposium on wetlands produced a strategy for future priorities in the Mediterranean and the "Grado Declaration", from which grew Ramsar's first formal regional initiative, the **MedWet Initiative**. To mark this anniversary and to look forward another twenty years, over 260 participants from 21 countries gathered again in February this year for a symposium in Agadir, Morocco, organised by Ramsar, MedWet and the Moroccan authorities, with inputs from an array of partners. The Symposium, significantly re-branded as "water and wetlands", provided a rare opportunity to spot many of wetland history's conservation pioneers from this part of the world together in one room! At the same time it reviewed state-of-the-art knowledge, and refreshed an agenda for action in the ever faster-changing times ahead.

Three key outputs resulted:

- the "Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook", in which the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (a strong STRP collaborator) has synthesised the latest status and trends information for the region;
- the "Agadir Commitments", a roster of practical action projects and other initiatives underway or proposed, which offers a platform for new collaborations and support;
- the "Agadir Guidelines", summarising the conclusions and key messages from the Symposium's various workshops.



Photo: participants of the Grado 20+ symposium.

The "Commitments" will continue to evolve as a living document, and the draft "Guidelines" are now available online. Details can be viewed at the Symposium website:

<http://agadir2012.medwet.org/>

Global scientific and technical capabilities may be put to the test more intensively in the Mediterranean region than anywhere else, so the results from Agadir are of interest to us all.

Dave Pritchard

MANAGING HEALTHY WETLANDS

In Bucharest last month, the Ramsar Contracting Parties adopted an important Resolution, XI.12, on "Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach".

The Resolution formally recognizes the complex interactions between the health of people, livestock and wildlife and advocates an approach to health based on maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

Two recently published Ramsar Technical Reports have laid the foundation for this Resolution and are tools for its implementation:

- The Ramsar & WWT's **Wetland Disease Manual: Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring and Management of Animal Disease in Wetlands**. download the [PDF](#).

This generously-illustrated Manual offers practical guidance to managing healthy wetlands and highlights the importance of integrating disease management into wetland management plans. It provides a range of principles of disease management, together with both specific and generic practices for preventing and controlling diseases in wetlands. User-friendly factsheets of a wide range of priority animal diseases of wetlands are also provided, along with numerous case studies illustrating disease management in wetlands in action.

- Ramsar Technical Report No. 6: **Healthy wetlands, healthy people: a review of wetlands and human health interactions**. Download the [PDF](#).

This report, published jointly with the World Health Organization (WHO), focuses on providing advice to wetland managers



and decision-makers on the range of often complex issues concerning wetlands, human health and well being, as well as help facilitating dialogue between wetlands and human health professionals in their respective efforts to maintain and improve wetland ecological character and people's health.

Resolution XI.12 also "strongly urges Contracting Parties to communicate the Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual to wetland managers and **to help translate, publish, and disseminate it further**".

The STRP and Secretariat wish particularly to thank Ruth Cromie, Judith Newth, Rebecca Lee, David Stroud, Pierre Horwitz, Max Finlayson and Philip Weinstein for their major efforts in preparing and compiling these important new resources.

LAUNCH OF RAMSAR BRIEFING NOTES

In response to increasing demand and a recognized need for additional ways in which Ramsar could rapidly communicate interesting and important scientific and technical information on wetlands, we have recently introduced a new type of communication product: **Ramsar's series of Scientific and Technical Briefing Notes.**

Briefing Notes are intended to be short, relatively informal communications, easily accessible in PDF format and written in less technical language than might be the case for a scientific article or even for a Ramsar Technical Report. The intention of publishing in a series is to make the Briefing Notes easy to find and to use as an information source.

The STRP will use Briefing Notes to:

share information on current STRP work in progress, particularly where work is part of a longer STRP task which might be proceeding in phases over several years;

share STRP views on an emerging issue of importance or urgency for the Convention in the future, or of general interest, or

bring relevant scientific and technical information related to wetlands to the attention of Contracting Parties, wetland managers and policy makers, without necessarily being limited to the schedule of COPs for dissemination of such information.

In addition, several of the information papers which were submitted to the 11th Ramsar COP in July 2012 in support of scientific and technical Draft Resolutions will be published in the Briefing Notes series in order to ensure they are easily accessible for future reference.

Briefing Notes will be reviewed by the STRP for scientific correctness before publication, and then will be edited and formatted by the Secretariat.

We hope that the series will also provide opportunities for Contracting Parties and wetland experts within broader Ramsar networks to contribute to the Convention's scientific and technical work programme and to share their experience and expertise with the Ramsar family by collaborating on the preparation of Briefing Notes.

Briefing Notes are available for downloading from the Ramsar [website section on Publications](#). They are prepared in English and when resources permit also in the other Convention's languages.

As of the date of writing, four Briefing Notes have been released. [Briefing Note number 1](#) serves to introduce the series, by providing an overview of the purpose, the target audiences, and the types of topics to be addressed in Briefing Notes. BN no.1 also provides information on how Briefing Notes are prepared, reviewed and published.



We hope you will enjoy and contribute to this new series!

Heather MacKay, STRP Chair

BN no. 1	Introduction to the Briefing Notes series (2012)	Heather MacKay, STRP Chair 2009-2012	PDF
BN no. 2	Wetlands and water storage: current and future trends and issues (2012)	Mike Acreman, STRP Thematic Work Area Lead for Water Resources 2009-2012	PDF
BN no. 3	Avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for loss and degradation of wetlands in national laws and policies (2012) [also in Spanish]	Royal C. Gardner, STRP Invited Expert 2009-2012; Marcela Bonells, Erin Okuno, Juan Manuel Zarama	PDF
BN no. 4	The benefits of wetland restoration (2012)	Sasha Alexander, STRP Representative of the Society for Ecological Restoration, Robert J. McInnes, STRP Representative of the Society of Wetland Scientists	PDF



Photo: Severn Estuary, UK. Example of avoidance of changes to ecological character by government denial of permit for tidal energy project.
© Severn Estuary Partnership.



Malua BioBank, located in a conservation area in Sabah, Malaysia, issues biodiversity conservation certificates for the rehabilitation and preservation of critical orangutan habitat.
© JPHTN

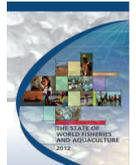


A SEARCH PORTAL ON MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

InforMEA harvests COP decisions and resolutions, news, events, MEA membership, national focal points, national reports and implementation plans from Secretariats of MEAs and other relevant instruments and organises this information around a set of agreed terms. It develops harmonised and interoperable information systems for the benefit of Parties and the environment community at large. The Initiative is facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme. Have a look at the website www.informea.org

Announcements

NEW [State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture Report](#) released by FAO



14TH INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE LAW CONFERENCE - CALL FOR PAPERS

The 14th International Wildlife Law Conference, with the theme **Conserving Africa's Wild Fauna and Flora: the Role of International Agreements**, will be held in Buea, Cameroon, 6-7 December 2012.



Organized by Stetson University College of Law's Institute for Biodiversity Law and Policy and hosted by the Buea University, the conference brings together wildlife law experts from the governmental, NGO, and academic sectors.

Papers are invited on the following aspects of wildlife law and policy:

*Forest Conservation Regimes, *CITES at 40, *Challenges and Opportunities for Regional Agreements, *The Role of Public Participation in MEA Implementation and *Protected and Designated Areas and Ecotourism;

Papers on other topics will also be considered. The best papers will be published in a special edition of the Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy.

The conference will be held in conjunction with a regional round of the 17th Annual Stetson International Environmental Moot Court Competition:

<http://www.law.stetson.edu/international/iemcc/>



Submit an abstract of your paper and a brief bio by August 31, 2012 to:
Prof. Royal C. Gardner at gardner@law.stetson.edu

WHAT WAS LAUNCHED AT RAMSAR COP11?

5th edition of the "Waterbird Population Estimates" (WPE) published as a web-based, open access, interactive database www.wpe.wetlands.org. WPE provides a wealth of information on waterbirds occurrence in the six Ramsar regions, families of waterbirds, population sizes, population trends and IUCN Red List 2012 status used for Criteria application in the designation of Ramsar Sites.



"33 Examples on Livelihood Cultures and Technologies of Wetlands in Japan" is the title of the report that Wetlands International-Japan (WIJ) have recently published in Japanese and English. The work highlights the interdependency between people and wetlands and the variety of Cultures of Wetlands throughout Japan. [Read more](#)



"[Enhancing the wise use of wetlands: A framework for capacity development](#)" is the guide prepared by the Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation in collaboration with UNESCO-IHE and Deltares for developing and implementing capacity development initiatives to achieve the wise use of wetlands.



"Outcomes of the 2011 Global Waterbird Flyways Workshop", the publication prepared by BirdLife International, the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), the Ramsar Convention, Wetlands International and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). [Read more](#)



Upcoming Meetings

[11th Meeting of the AEWA Technical Committee](#), Accra, Ghana, 27 - 30 August 2012

[IUCN World Conservation Congress](#), Jeju, Korea, 6-15 September 2012

[11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), Hyderabad, India, 8 - 19 October 2012

Publications

C. Max Finlayson (2012). [Forty Years of Wetland Conservation and Wise Use](#). Aquatic Conserv: Mar. Freshw. Ecosyst. 22: 139-143.

Nagabhatla N., Mishra, S., Finlayson, M., Sellamuttu, S.S., Van Brakel, M., Wickramasuriya, R., Pattanaik, C., and Prasad, S.N., (2012). [A case study approach to demonstrate assessment and monitoring as a tool for participatory management of ecological resources](#). Ecologia. Vol 2. Issue 3. 60-75.

Kingsford, R.T. and Biggs, H.C. (2012). [Strategic adaptive management guidelines for effective conservation of freshwater ecosystems in and around protected areas of the world](#). IUCN WCPA Freshwater Taskforce, Australian Wetlands and Rivers Centre, Sydney.

[The Multifunctionality of Green Infrastructure](#). Science for Environment Policy, In-depth Reports, March 2012.

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

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

Africa: Stanley Liphadzi (Stanleyl@wrc.org.za)

Asia: Rebecca D'Cruz (dcruz.rebecca@gmail.com)

Europe: Rebecca Lee (rebecca.lee@wwt.org.uk)

Neotropics: Montserrat Carbonell (poikilotermo@gmail.com)

North America: Randy Milton (miltonqr@gov.ns.ca)

Oceania: Philippe Gerbeaux (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

This newsletter has been prepared 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.

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 issue go to Randy Milton (STRP), Heather MacKay (STRP Chair), Dave Pritchard (STRP), Makoto Komoda (Nagao Natural Environment Foundation), Oana Barsin and Monica Zavagli from the Ramsar Secretariat.

Photos: Front page - left: Laguna Grande Reserva Natural Otamendi Ramsar Site, Argentina © Toledo C; right: Steppe Wetland Lake Ulug Kol Khakassia, Russian Federation © Kolbasov K.