

# 17th meeting of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) 25 February – 1 Mars 2013



## Africa: Top of top priority tasks and emerging issues

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# Method:

**Report of the Regional – October  
2011 : All the NFP**

**Opportunity of a meeting on  
MEA negotiations training  
workshop. March 2012**

- **Assessment done with 35 resource persons in Africa including: Head of AA, NFP, STRP FP, STRP Members, IOP and other Partners (FAO, Universities, STPH-Institut).**



## 5 Top of Top Priority Tasks



### ***1 - Implications of, and advice on, climate change for Convention implementation***

Climate change and its impending impacts on wetlands and therefore livelihood to communities relying on wetland water and other provisioning services.



# ***Case studies and information papers and concrete measures:***

➤ WBA focuses on functioning ecosystems being part of adaptation strategies that can provide multiple social, economic and cultural benefits for local communities and national economies and thus help minimize risks from climate variability and change (Communities and Wetlands resilience).



➤ WBA as cost-effective measure and be part or be a substitute for high-cost infrastructure investments.



# ***Lessons learned:***



Matrix with WBA case studies :

- Representing different wetlands (coastal wetlands, inland wetlands, Peatlands, etc....)
- Categorized by ‘intended’ vs ‘incidental’ climate adaptation outcomes
- Application of guiding principles or measurement parameters at site and local levels– if any.



Tools and best practices on an integrative wetlands and risk management

## 2 - Economics of wetland ecosystem services/benefits



The ecosystems based market has always been undervalued in Africa. This challenge contributes in making ecological assets not seen as valuable natural capital.

### ***Case studies and information papers:***

- Community Based and Framework Wetland Management
- Assessment of monetary value of Wetlands for informed decision making
- Promotion of economically viable wetland alternative

# 3 - Wetlands & poverty eradication



Communities are major stakeholders/ actors in the whole issue of wetland conservation or conversion. So awareness raising and communities participation in wetland management are key elements.

Policy and decision makers often lack awareness of the interconnection between functioning ecosystems and people's livelihoods and between environmental degradation and poverty.

Raising decision makers' awareness of wetland values is a first step towards sustainably managed wetlands.





# ***Case studies and information papers:***

- Case studies on wetlands and poverty interlinkages
- Tools and guidance demonstrating in a practical way how a resilient wetland ecosystem can provide for both human needs and sustained biodiversity.



- Best practices on learning from the knowledge of indigenous stakeholders
- Example of integration of wetland management into environmental perspectives with livelihood benefits, especially the sustainable production of food.

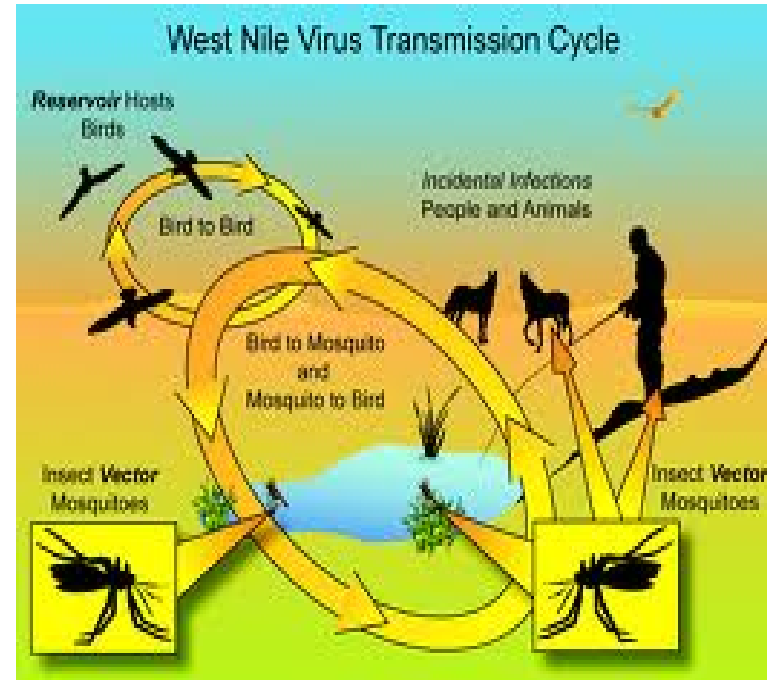


# 4 - Guidance on “Wetlands and Human Health” for the health sector

❑ Develop strategies that support the maintenance of both wetland ecological character and human health.

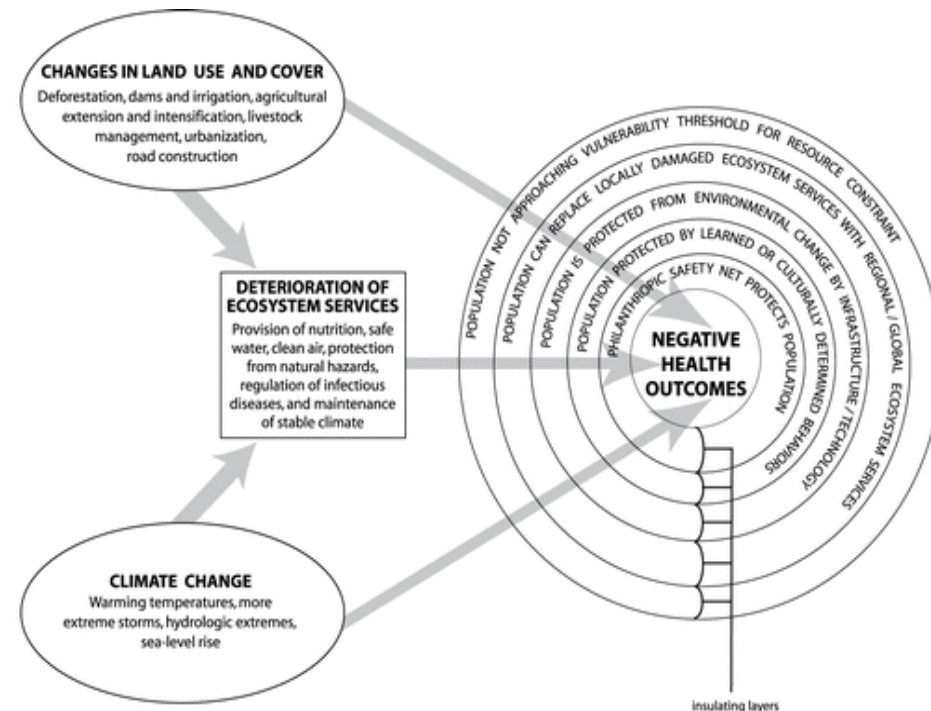
❑ Wetland managers must have information that will allow them to articulate, and respond professionally.

❑ Need to assess carefully the direct benefits and potential direct and indirect losses when managing wetlands and, in some instances, to reach compromises and agreed tradeoffs between services and beneficiaries.



# Case studies and tools:

- **Baseline surveys:** vectors (entomology), diseases at community/household levels, wetlands, water and sanitation, ... vulnerabilities
  - Partnership with research centers and universities
- **Monitoring :** Tools



AR Myers SS, Patz JA. 2009.  
Annu. Rev. Environ. Resour. 34:223–52

- **Partnership with diseases programmes**
- **Integrated risk analysis:** times series of climate data, health data, wetland structure and functioning data ...



# 5 - Detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character

Development of monitoring tools to regularly monitor the integrity and health of the wetland ecosystems. Basic tools to be used by wetlands managers and local communities:

## ***Case studies:***

- A system that would make monitoring of wetlands more easier, cheaper but still accurate. Something one can conduct with some training and can report on annually.
- Assist Contracting Parties to establish of databases for tracking wetlands characteristics, dynamic and resources, threats, etc.).



# ***Guide and guidance tools:***



- Guidance on best practices for integrating ecosystem services values within the response options for wetland management;
- Practical of tools, knowledge, methodology to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making.
- Guidance on issues relating to Article 3.2 of the Convention, including the role and operation of the Montreux Record; approaches to establishing the range of natural variability of wetland sites and defining Limits of Acceptable Change;



- Set up criteria for, and streamline the procedure for, reporting cases of human-induced negative changes in the ecological character of a Ramsar Site under Article 3.2



## II - New or recurring problems in Africa, that STRP should be aware of

1) Wetlands and  
urbanisation

2) Impact of Mining on wetlands is  
increasingly becoming a problem.  
Studies on cost-benefit analysis  
for African countries may assist.



3) Conflicts and insecurity that affect the valuation  
of wetlands and potentially their integrity

## II - New or recurring problems in Africa, that STRP should be aware of



- 4) Capacity-building support for STRP National Focal Points to fill the gap between experts and wetlands managers as well as the gap between wetlands managers and local communities.
- 5) Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) should be explored more in Africa to attain and establish sustainable solutions and development. There is a need for systematic capturing of IKS for wetland and ecosystems management in Africa. STRPs can assist or lead this initiative.
- 6) Finance mechanism and Fundraising: to overcome fundraising difficulties in order to stop African wetlands rapid degradation.



More guide, guidance, tools and case studies  
for locale communities and wetlands managers

Thank you

