

Regional overview of the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in the Americas (Neotropics & North American regions) as input for STRP17



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Contracting and Non Contracting Parties in the Americas



- ✓ Contracting Parties in the Americas: 30 with Grenada Accession
- ✓ 5 Non Contracting Parties (Dominica, Haiti, Saint Kitt & Nevis, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Guyana)

Goal 2. Wetlands of International Importance



- ✓ 390 Ramsar sites: 63,449,227 ha
- ✓ 231 (61%) have a management plan



Threats to the Ecological Character Ramsar Sites

- ✓ 35 Reports of threats in 25 wetlands/Ramsar sites
- ✓ 7 Ramsar Advisory Missions (Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama).
- ✓ 7 Ramsar sites in the Montreux Record (Argentina, Costa Rica, Chile, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Uruguay and the United States).



Goal 3: International Cooperation

Ramsar Regional Initiatives in the Americas



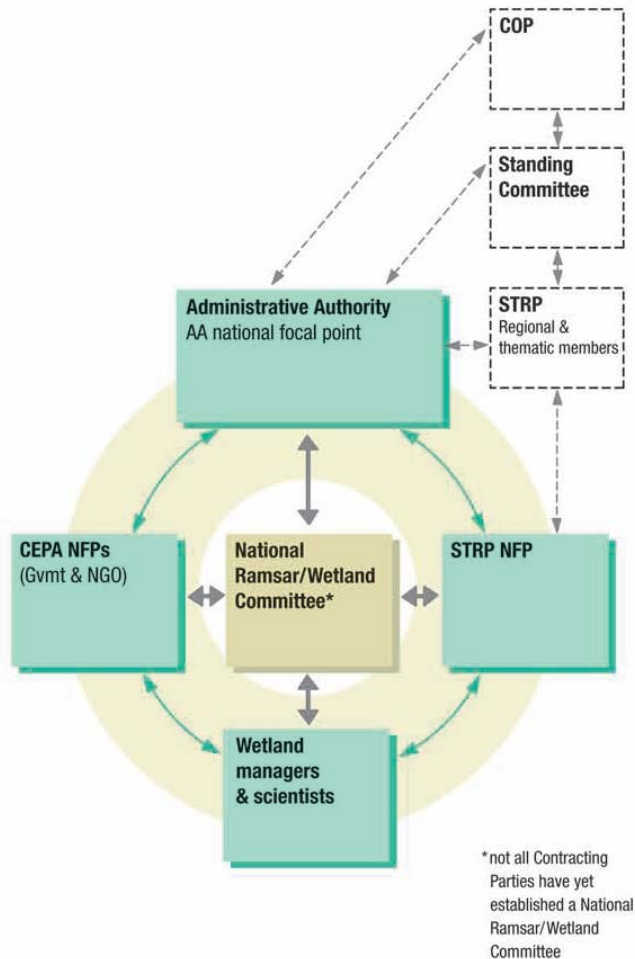
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Countries that are part of the Plata's River Basin Regional Initiative



Key Issues STRP



Countries that have not designated STRP focal points

STRP

Bolivia. Paraguay, Uruguay.

- % of the STRP NFP are outside the AA
- Lack of communication, coordination
- Lack of active participation in STRP processes by AA and STRP NFP
- Few guidelines are used
- Clear role of what is expected

Priorities 2013-2015

- a) Development or implementation of a **National Wetland Policy**;
 - b) planning or management of **Ramsar Sites**;
 - c) **Wetland inventory**;
 - d) Formation or reinforcement of **National Wetland Committees**;
 - e) **Public awareness raising**;
 - f) **Ramsar Site designations**;
 - g) **Restoration of priority wetlands**;
 - h) **Consolidation of Regional Initiatives**.
- a) **Environmental flows** (practical case studies implementation) via Regional Initiatives;
 - b) Tools and practical case studies for **economic valuation** of wetlands and instruments to estimate the value of wetland loss and degradation;
 - c) **Wetlands and poverty eradication** (implementation of case studies in the region, top issue Rio + 20 meeting);
 - d) **Capacity building and support for STRP National Focal Points**;
 - e) Implementation of the guidelines for **detecting, reporting and responding to changes in the ecological character**

Priorities 2013-2015

- Great concentration of guidelines and manuals that can be an important tool for the Parties but in some cases they have a too technical language.
- The guidance is usually made from the perspective of the developed countries, without taking into account that they have to be principally implemented in first instance in developing countries with a completely different reality, making its implementation even more difficult.
- It was urged that there should be a change in this approach and there needs to be better promotion and dissemination of the resource materials and tools.



Priorities 2013-2015

- The role and function of the Scientific Technical Review Panel (STRP) should be evaluated, especially with respect **to an assessment of the usefulness of the technical guidance being provided**. The ease of implementation of the guidance, especially by developing countries, must also be evaluated.
- The Convention must focus its efforts on training to build environmental capacity for climate change and adaptation.
- There must be increased alignment between the STRP and CEPA and STRP efforts and products must be shaped to become increasingly more effective training/education tools.

MAIN CHALLENGE

“Engage actively in the Scientific and Technical Issues of the Convention”

