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 Kit & Navis, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines, Guyana)
Goal 2. Wetlands of International Importance

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

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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

Colors that represent the Initiatives in the Americas:
- Caribbean
- High Andean / Plata’s Basin
- Plata’s Basin / Mangroves
- High Andean
- High Andean / Mangroves
- Caribbean / Mangroves
- Plata’s Basin
- Mangroves
Key Issues STRP

- % 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

Countries that have not designated STRP focal points:

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<th>STRP</th>
<th>Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay.</th>
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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.
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”