



Scientific and Technical Needs for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Asia - Oceania

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Background

STRP: is a subsidiary body of the Convention to provide scientific and technical guidance to the Conference of the Parties

...but Contracting Parties have...:

- indicated that past guidance have not always been useful to them.
- asked about how to ensure that the priorities of the CP's are communicated to the STRP and the Secretariat?
- noted the need to test the guidance before it is presented to Parties for adoption at the COP.
- stated that STRP needs to be better connected and coordinated with the work of other MEAs, regional and in-country expertise, including the STRP NFPs.



Outcome from Asia and Oceania Pre-COP11 Regional Meetings



Recommended top priority tasks 2013-2015	Asia	Oceania
CEPA		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing and supporting the capacity-building needs of CP's and wetland managers in applying Ramsar guidance 	Yes	Yes
Strategic, emerging & ongoing issues		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invasive species and wetlands 		Yes
Ramsar, wetlands and other sectors		
C. Wetlands & water resource management		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle 	Yes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of a strategy for engaging in the global water debate 	Yes	
Wetlands & ecosystem services		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economics of wetland ecosystem services/benefits 	Yes	Yes

Asia: The application of REDD+ for forested wetlands.

Oceania:

- Online Convention reporting mechanisms
- Harmonizing MEA information systems at national level

Economic Valuation of Wetlands



- Studies have been conducted on the economic valuation of specific wetlands in Asia but they have not always lead to the conservation of the site, e.g. That Luang, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- In order to factor wetland ecosystem values into economic planning, we need to:
 - take valuation beyond the realms of a purely academic exercise;
 - value wetlands as productive assets so as to demonstrate the returns to conservation and wise use – and the costs and losses they help to avert;
 - strategically respond to real threats and management needs, and
 - communicate values to support better and more informed decision-making.

Ramsar Sites



Ramsar Site designation

- The Convention should be more convincing in selling “the benefits of Ramsar Site designation”, as it is a common question, especially from local communities.
- Case studies to illustrate the benefits provided by Ramsar Site designation, particularly those benefits for local communities.
- 8 of the 9 criteria for Ramsar Site designation is focused on biodiversity and local people find it hard to see the relevance of designation to them.
- Should there be a number of new criteria for designation related to the ecosystem services provided by Ramsar Sites?



Ramsar Sites

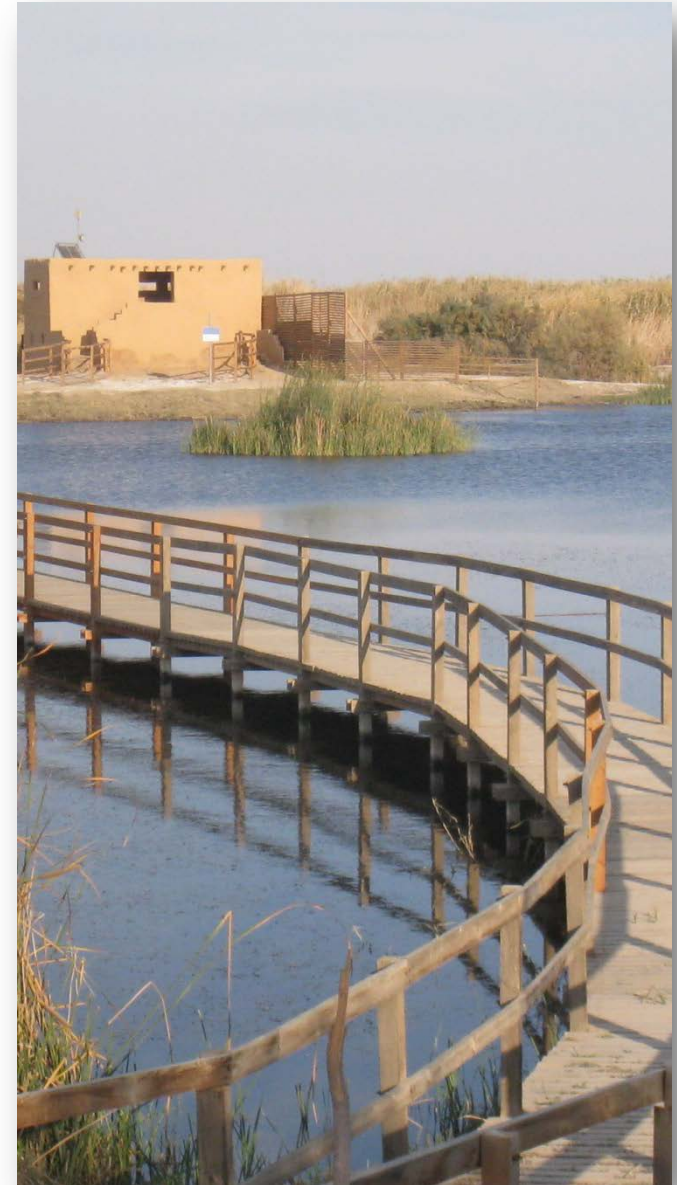


Branding

- How to brand the site and use the designation to improve the livelihood of local communities, promote better conservation, access to financial resources, increase awareness,

Local communities

- Monitoring not only ecological character of the site but also identify ways in which the community may benefit from the designation and effective conservation of the Ramsar Site.



Ramsar Sites

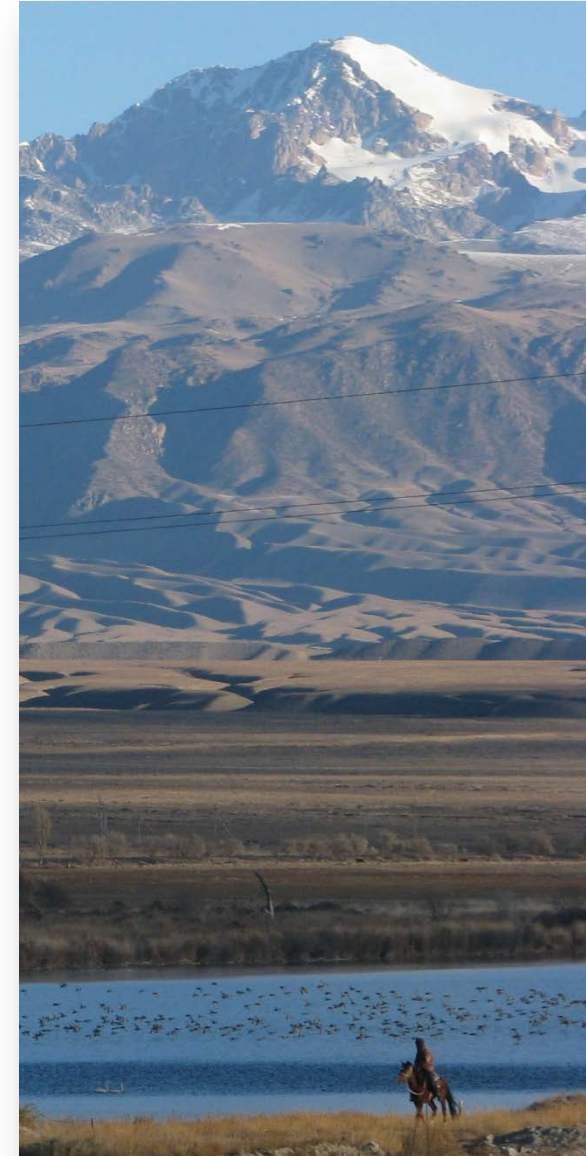


Financing

- Identifying sustainable financing mechanisms for Ramsar Sites is a challenge for many Contracting Parties.
- Ramsar Sites sometime have a hybrid status under national law and as a result, a budget for its management is not automatically allocated.

Quality and Quantity

- Help CPs not only to designate and increase the number of Ramsar Sites but also, to ensure that a site management planning process is also in place.
- 'Handbook' for site managers summarizing all the relevant guidance?



Ramsar and other sectors



Constraints

- Our NFPs are often based in the agency responsible for environment or forestry;
- Lack of communication and coordination between relevant government agencies;



Summary

- Ensure that STRP are working on the priorities identified by the Contracting Parties;
- STRP needs to be better connected and coordinated with the work of other MEAs, IOPs, regional and in-country expertise, including the STRP NFPs.
- STRP should try to involve CPs in the development and testing of the guidance to ensure that it is relevant and useful, and will be used by the CPs;
- The guidance should be in a language and format that is accessible for use by Contracting Parties and partners.





THANK YOU!

