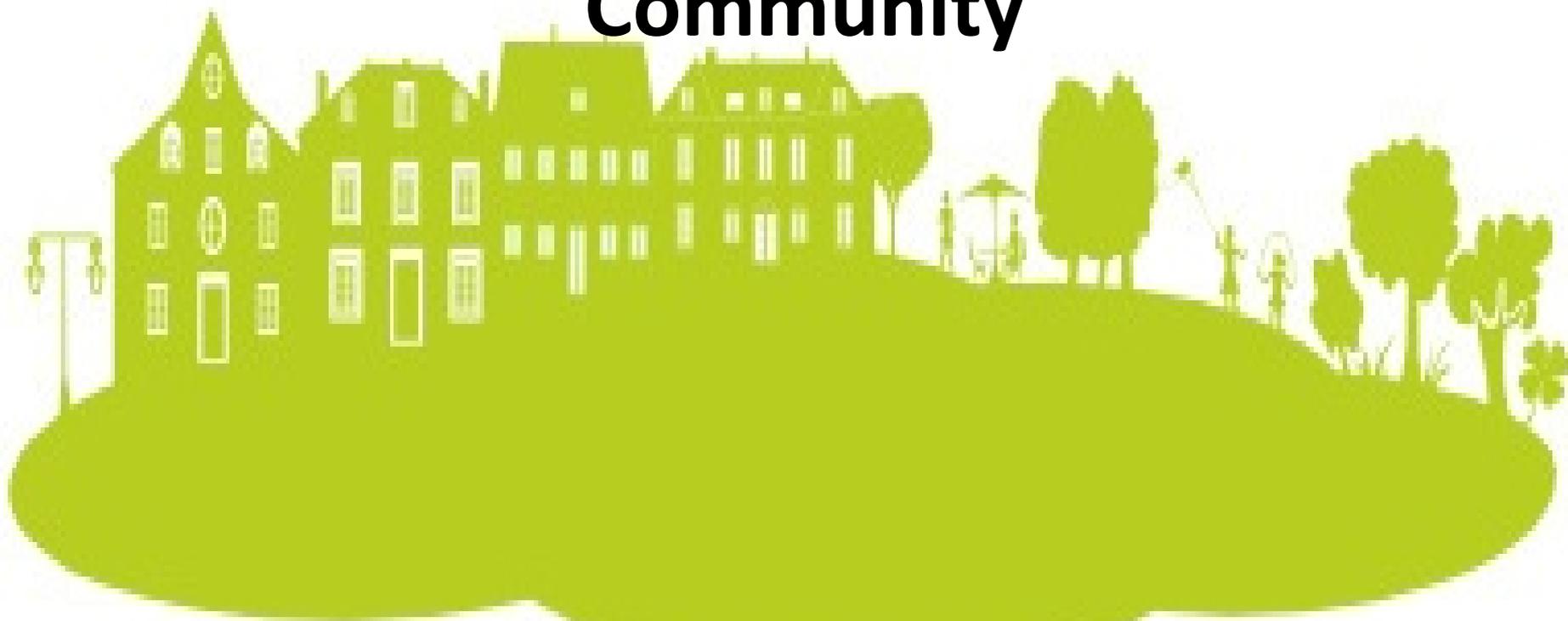


Progress with the DR on Ramsar Community



Paul Ouédraogo

SRA for Africa

Wetlands and Urbanization



- **Resolution X.27** *'Wetlands and Urbanization'* (2008, COP10) called for the conservation of urban and peri-urban wetlands , especially through appropriate formulation and implement of land-use planning and management.
- **Resolution XI.11** *'Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands'* (2011, COP11) asked the Convention to explore *'...establishing a wetland city accreditation, which may in turn provide positive branding opportunities for cities that demonstrate strong and positive relationships with wetlands'*.



Wetlands and Urbanization



Decision SC46-05 (2013) the R.O. Korea kindly offered to host a workshop to explore the development of a wetland city accreditation scheme.

Workshop on Wetland City Accreditation Mechanism (Jeju, R.O. Korea, 24 - 25 February 2014).

Proposed guiding principles for the wetland city accreditation scheme The operation of the scheme should be linked with Resolution XI.11 which can act as a background reference.

Decision SC47-27: The Standing Committee noted the presentation and asked the Secretariat to prepare for SC48 a document which takes its comments into account

3rd June 2014 Meeting in Tunis Proposed guiding principles for the wetland city accreditation scheme The operation of the scheme should be linked with Resolution XI.11 which can act as a background reference.

Criteria (1)

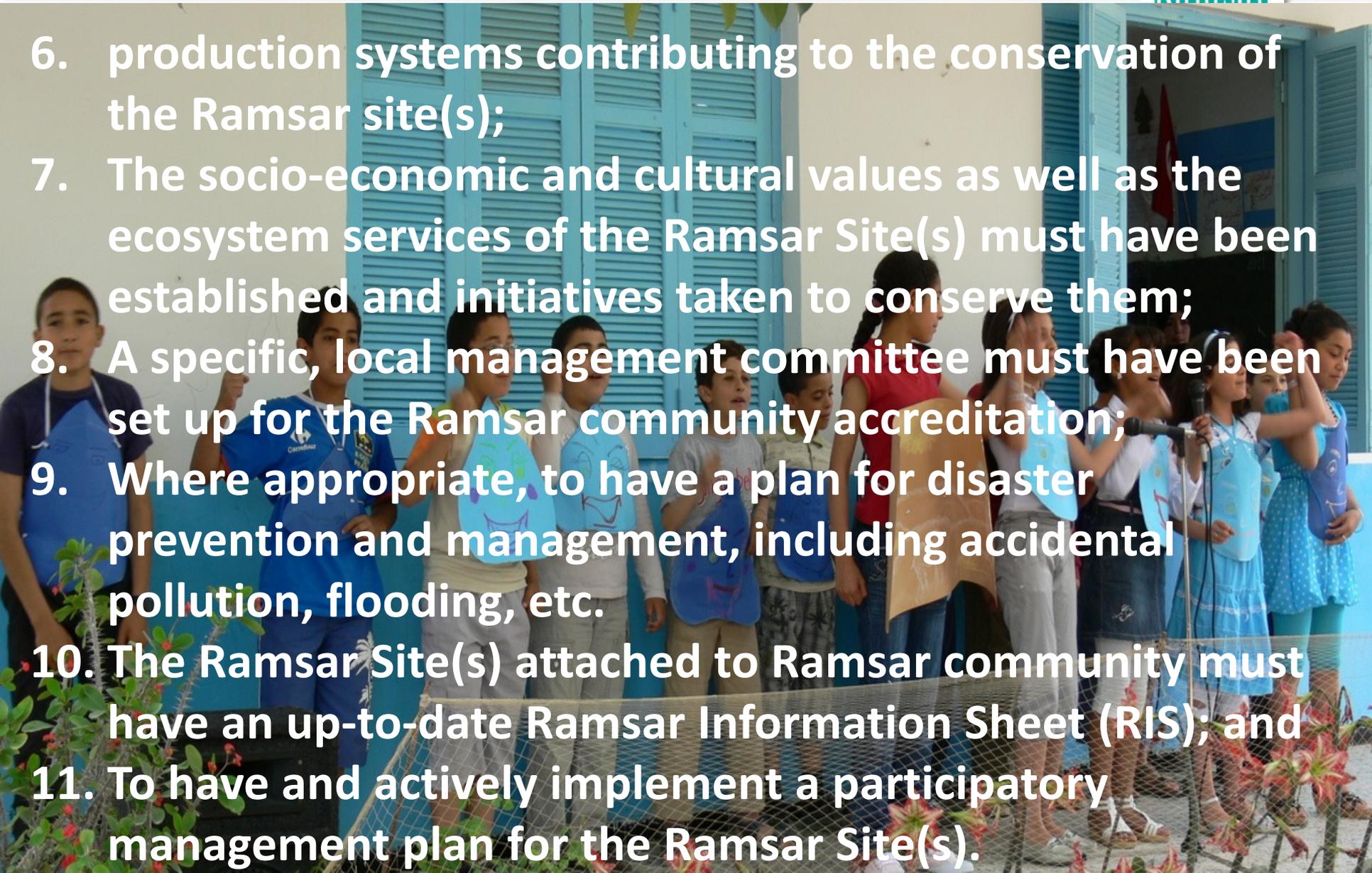


- A Ramsar community must meet the following criteria:
1. To host or has a justified close relationship with one or more Ramsar Site(s);
 2. To have a land use plan or its equivalent, which ensures the long-term conservation of the Ramsar Site(s);
 3. To apply the appropriate standards regarding water quality , sanitation and management in the entire area under its jurisdiction;
 4. To have an operational interpretation/information centre or equivalent, open to both the local population and visitors;
 5. Where appropriate, to have sustainable agricultural, forest, fish and pastoral.

Criteria (2)



6. production systems contributing to the conservation of the Ramsar site(s);
7. The socio-economic and cultural values as well as the ecosystem services of the Ramsar Site(s) must have been established and initiatives taken to conserve them;
8. A specific, local management committee must have been set up for the Ramsar community accreditation;
9. Where appropriate, to have a plan for disaster prevention and management, including accidental pollution, flooding, etc.
10. The Ramsar Site(s) attached to Ramsar community must have an up-to-date Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS); and
11. To have and actively implement a participatory management plan for the Ramsar Site(s).



Accreditation procedure



- Requires an independent, international body to verify, provide the accreditation and to monitor compliance (could be support nationally);

A community is labeled “*Ramsar community*” by the Standing Committee on a triennial basis and the accreditation is audited every five years, in accordance with the following procedure:

1. The accreditation request must be submitted after consultation with local populations by the Local Accreditation Committee to the Head of the Ramsar Convention Administrative Authorities of the Contracting Party concerned;
2. After reviewing whether the community meets the criteria defined in Article 2 above, the Head of the Ramsar Convention Administrative Authorities of the concerned Contracting Party, where necessary, submits to the Ramsar Secretariat the accreditation proposal, in the form approved by the Standing Committee for this purpose supported by the appropriate documentation;

Accreditation procedure



3. The Secretariat checks the contents of the file and its documentation; if a proposal is incomplete, it requests the Contracting Party to provide the missing information;
4. The accreditation proposal is submitted by the Secretariat to an independent Advisory Committee on Ramsar communities, which in turn submits its recommendation to the Standing Committee; and the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention decides on the accreditation.

The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention informs the relevant Contracting Party of the Standing Committee's decision. If the accreditation proposal is accepted, the Contracting Party is then given an accreditation certificate valid for five years.

Independent Advisory Committee



Proposed composition of the Independent Advisory Committee:

1. A representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), who acts as chairperson of the group ;
2. A representative of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI);
3. A representative of the Ramsar Convention's International Organization Partners;
4. Five Contracting Parties (member of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention):
5. One representative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention;
6. A representative of the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel of the Ramsar Convention; and
7. The Senior Regional Advisor at the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention for the concerned Contracting Party: Ex officio (Reporter).



The Committee must develop its work specification document-“Cahier de Charge”- (rules and regulations, term of reference, roadmap, and monitoring-evaluation) and its operational budget, both of which will be subject to the approval of the Standing Committee.

Periodic Review



❖ The situation of each Ramsar community is subject to periodic review every five years, on the basis of a report drawn up by the Local Accreditation Committee, on the basis of the criteria in Article 2 above, and which the head of the Administrative Authority of the Contracting Parties concerned address to the Ramsar Secretariat.

❖ The report is examined by the Advisory Committee on Ramsar communities and submits its recommendations to the Standing Committee.

❖ If the Standing Committee thinks that the state of the management of the Ramsar human settlements or Ramsar communities is satisfactory, he/she renews the accreditation for three more years.

Periodic Review



- ❖ If the Standing Committee considers that the Ramsar community does not continue to meet the criteria set out in Article 2 above, it can recommend that the Local Accreditation Committee takes measures within a year to ensure compliance with the said criteria.
- ❖ If after one year, the Standing Committee notes that Ramsar community in question still does not satisfy the said criteria, the Ramsar community loses its accreditation. The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention notifies the Contracting Party concerned of the Standing Committee's decision.
- ❖ If a Contracting Party wishes to withdraw the Ramsar accreditation from a Ramsar community placed under its jurisdiction, it notifies the Ramsar Secretariat. This notification is then transmitted to the Standing Committee for informative purposes.

Accreditation costs



The accreditation body and process would require resources.

The Ramsar communities which in a position to do so must contribute towards the costs of the Ramsar accreditation system, using either their own resources or those obtained for this purpose, in accordance with the criteria adopted by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on the basis of recommendations made by the Advisory Committee.

When to award the accreditation



- The accreditation can be awarded (and re-awarded) every three years, e.g. at the time of the Ramsar COP, to settlements demonstrating significant progress in the wise use and conservation of their wetlands over the previous three years.



Contributions



Insert an independent peer review analyzing the community and assessing its progress in order to assert that the Ramsar community is better served by its community compared to any other Ramsar Site.

The ToRs of the Independent Committee require a number of visits to investigate and follow up on each site. A global / regional panel of experts would need to be available for such a work.

The accreditation cost will cover the allowance for the expenditure and the additional costs of the Secretariat in management and participation in such process.

Contributions



- ❖ Specify the explicit advantage of being a Ramsar Community
- ❖ Reports would be needed on progress and success and review to be done for each site and globally.
- ❖ Removal of the Site: Can the Standing Committee remove the site without the right of the country to present its case?
- ❖ Membership also needs to include SG or DSG.
- ❖ Useful to have meetings of peers across Ramsar Communities on a triennial basis maybe and this should be proposed.

Next Steps



UNHABITAT is very pleased to be part of the Independent Committee. The Secretariat will develop an MoU with UNHABITAT on that matter.

ICLEI is actually doing some very exciting work on urban wetlands and biodiversity, and is in the process of final confirmations for funding from USAID for the implementation of a large project in South Africa. This project will target 10 District Municipalities to assess their wetlands, put together a wetland management plan for the District, and to implement a project at one of the wetlands. There's a strong focus on involving local communities, and their collaboration with the Districts.

Collect STRP comments and inputs and send them to Tunisia and its partners . Draft the ToRs of the Independent Committee.

Agenda item:

Thank You

