Barriers which make Ramsar delivery more difficult

**Prietto_Session One**

There are many instances where **communication and information sharing** are inadequate, sometimes tied to institutional arrangements, sometimes related to people and relationships.

**These first observations were gathered from the exercise during session One with Hiromi Yamashita**

The diagrams described how the **National Ramsar Implementation Team was organised** in each country and how information from the Secretariat was **received and distributed** across the team.

**General observations**

1. Institutional arrangements are varied. The different arrangements influence the information flow across the team. In some situations the communication links are very poor.
2. Sometimes the entry point for information from the Secretariat is very narrow, 1 person. If they are busy or do not attach much priority to Ramsar little information gets distributed.
3. STRP National Focal Points do not always have access to broader networks of technical experts (one of the criteria for this position) which can attract greater science investment in wetland management.
4. Many countries do not have a National committee. here they do exist the expand the National Implementation Team, but in some cases they are an isolated group in terms of access to secretariat information.

**Contributions during the week are organised under set categories in this document. There is potential to use other categories for sorting. While we did collect feedback by country the countries names are not show here.**

**INSTITUTIONAL**

Lack of pressure on National Governments to follow through on commitment after joining.
No National Wetland Policy
No National Wetland/ Ramsar Committee
Lack of wetland legislation

Admin Authority has low interest in Conservation
Overlapping institutions
Overall responsibility for management of Ramsar Sites is unclear
Overlapping power at Authority level and Regulation is weak
Poor cross-sectoral linkages across ministries and local authorities.
Admin Authority changes every two years

Lack of funding is common
There are no funds for revising action plans, monitoring, evaluating

**POLITICAL AND SOCIAL**

Wetlands have many stakeholders, all with different interests, private, Government ministries, local community, NGOs.
Rural people very focused on resource utilisation, don't know about wetland conservation and sustainable harvesting, difficult to engage them.
Many inappropriate harvesting practices used with negative impacts

Political decisions and or economic considerations easily override Ramsar interest
Mismanagement of Areas by Developers and Local Government
Inadequate coordination with local bodies
Poor coordination among local NGOs
Lack of knowledge and/or understanding about Ramsar status at local level.
Lack of interest in Ramsar sites, low status, politically not important
Ramsar sites not within "protected areas".

There is a lack of support and even antagonism from stakeholders who were not involved in the listing process or ongoing

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**
Human Resources capacity at institutional level is absent or variable.
Lack of scientific knowledge for increasing capacity building
Scientists and Academics meet to provide support but do not get involved in the actual site
Communication with Scientists, need better system for getting their information.
Limited manpower, not enough personnel
Limited surveying and monitoring equipment
Human Resources Development is "low quality and low quantity"
Training needs to be routine, regular, consistent, guaranteed
Mongolia has new Training Centre but no funding to operate

**MANAGEMENT SKILLS**
Geographical boundaries are often not clear or incorrect
There is no strategic management plan for the site
There is no systematic set of procedures for wetland management
There is a lack of data for the Management Plan
Monitoring and reporting on site status need to be tighter, more frequent, every year.

**OTHER**
Site managers have low status, no power
Site managers are paid poorly and there is no career path

There is a poor system for poverty irradiation