

Asia meeting, October 2013

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 **Natioanl 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