



Cooperation and Synergies between Ramsar and CBD in the context of the Strategic Plan

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The Convention



- Developed during 1960s
- adopted in 1971
 - concerns over destruction of wetlands and its impact on waterbirds
- 40 years evolution of implementation:
 - Initial focus on waterbirds, and Ramsar sites
 - Now responds to full scope of:
 - *wetlands & water*
 - *ecosystems & people*
 - **First intergovernmental agreement to combine conservation and sustainable use of resources**



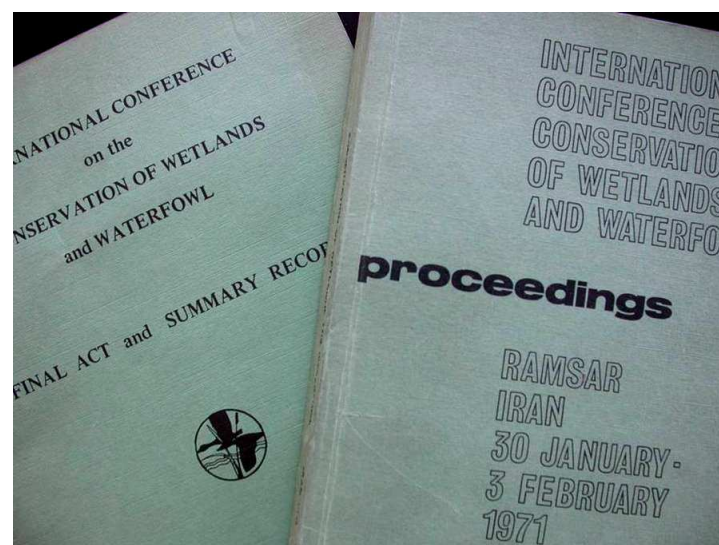
USSR A. FIROUZ (chair) S-AFRICA M.F.MÖRZER BRUIJNS G.MATTHEWS E. CARP



1971: The Convention's text

“wetlands constitute a resource of great economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value, the loss of which would be irreparable”

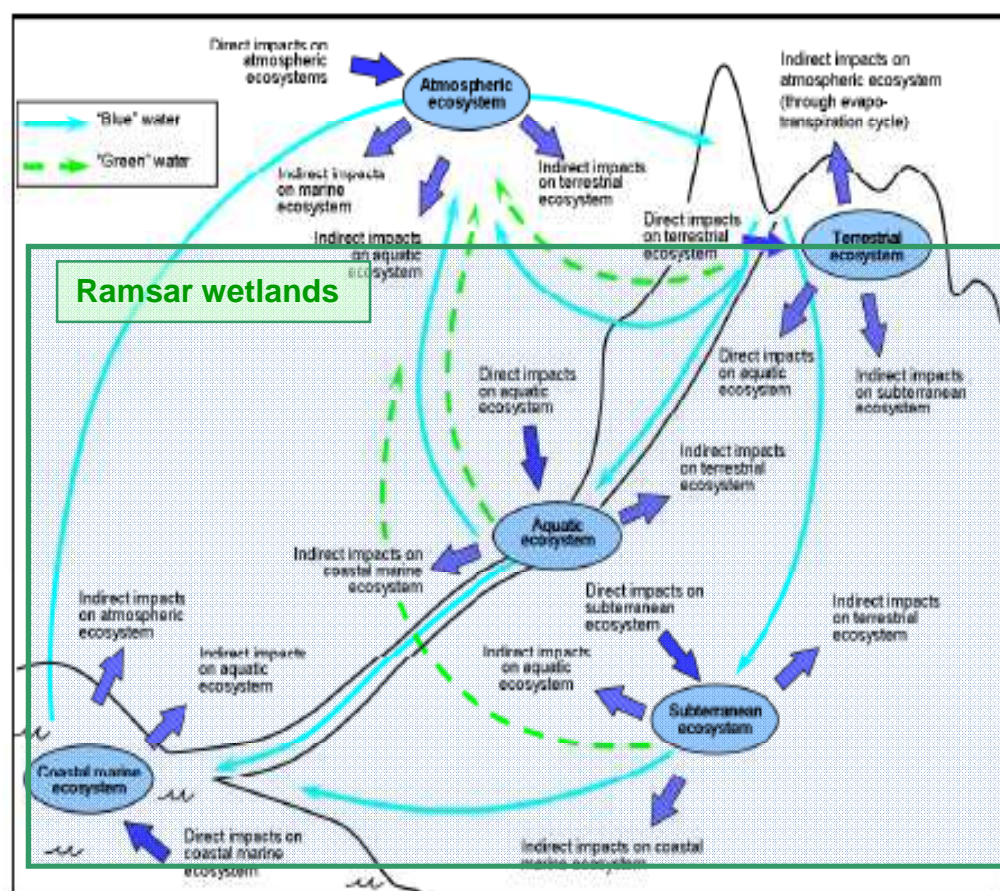
- **“wise use”** through:
 - landscape and waterscape-scale, ecosystem-based, approaches to decision-making and management



“the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes”

Ramsar, Wetlands and Water

- Global hydrological cycle is fundamental to **all ecosystems**, and wetlands are especially important



- Drinking water
- Irrigation
- Energy
- Transport

➤ Other sectors depend on wetlands

➤ Wetlands as our ***“natural water infrastructure”***

Wetlands – what does the Ramsar Convention cover?

Recognises the inter-connectivity of ALL wetlands
from the mountains to the sea

– Inland wetlands:

- marshes, lakes, rivers, peatlands, forested wetlands, arid zone seasonal wetlands

– Coastal and near-shore marine systems:

- Coral reefs, mangroves, estuaries, etc. - to 6 m water depth

– Human-made wetlands:

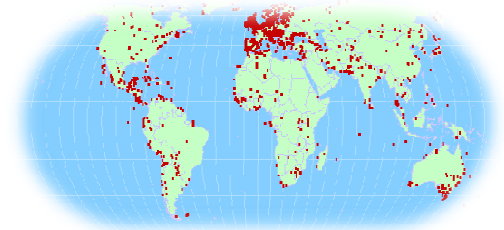
- Reservoirs, dams, fishponds, rice paddy etc.



The 3 pillars of the Ramsar Convention



1. **Wise Use** (sustainable use) of all wetlands through national land-use planning, appropriate policies and legislation, management actions and public education
2. Designation of wetlands (9 criteria) for the **List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)** and **ensuring their effective management** to maintain their ecological character, provide training, undertake necessary research and monitoring.
3. Promoting **International Cooperation** concerning transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems (and water catchments), shared species, and development projects that may affect wetland ecosystems



The problem remains....

- Despite our dependence on wetlands and other ecosystems for livelihoods and sustainable development
 - Economic development and land-use change have often higher priority than ecosystem maintenance
- Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) in 2005:
“degradation and loss of wetlands (both inland and coastal) is continuing more rapidly than for other ecosystems”
- Frequency of threats to Ramsar sites:
 - Water regulation
 - Agricultural impacts
 - Overall land-use change



Need for increased cross-sectoral attention
to maintaining ecosystem services for people

(“Changwon Declaration, Ramsar COP 10, 2008)

Convention partnerships: Ramsar & CBD

- Ramsar-CBD Partnership began with 1st Memorandum of Cooperation in 1996
- Since CBD COP3, Ramsar: **lead implementation partner for *Convention on Biological Diversity on wetlands***
 - Ramsar implementation = practical on-the-ground CBD implementation
- **Successive Joint Work Plans since 1998**
- **5th JWP under development**



Partnerships: Ramsar & CBD



- Collaboration has developed from:
 - ✓ Initial recognition of common ground;
 - ✓ through recommending/adopting guidances from one Convention for use by the other; e.g.
 - Ramsar use of CBD impact assessment guidelines
 - CBD use of Ramsar *Wise Use Handbooks*
 - ✓ to collaboration in CEPA activities
 - ✓ to joint development of programmes and guidances
 - Ramsar collaboration on revising and reviewing CBD inland waters PoW
 - Joint development and publication of technical reports requested by Parties
- Widely recognised as model for inter-Convention co-operation



Ramsar Handbooks 4th Edition



Now available
on
www.ramsar.org

The screenshot shows the Ramsar website interface. At the top left is the Ramsar logo and the text 'The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands'. A navigation menu includes 'Home', 'About Ramsar', 'News', 'Activities', 'Publications', 'Documents', and 'Media Galleries'. A sidebar on the left lists various publications under 'Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks'. The main content area features the title 'Ramsar Handbooks for the wise use of wetlands' with a date of '17/11/2011'. Below this is the title of the handbook: 'The Ramsar Handbooks for the wise use of wetlands, 4th edition'. A paragraph describes the 4th edition, noting it replaces previous editions and includes guidance from COP7 (1999), COP8 (2002), COP9 (2005), and COP10 (2008). A small image of the handbook cover is shown. A second paragraph states the series was prepared by the Secretariat following COP7, COP8, COP9, and COP10. On the right side, a summary box contains the number '160', the text 'Sites designated for the > List of Wetlands of International Importance: 1947', and 'Total surface area of designated sites (hectares): 190,090,712'. Below this is a 'Useful links' section with links to 'Upcoming events', 'SC42 documents', '40th anniversary booklet', and 'Factsheets on Wetland Ecosystem Services'. At the bottom right is the 'Ramsar Secretariat' contact information: 'Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland, Tel: +41 22 890 0170'.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

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» **Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks**
» Ramsar Technical Reports
» The Ramsar Manual
» Annotated Ramsar List
» Proceedings of COP9
» Proceedings of COP10
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Ramsar > Publications > Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks

Ramsar Handbooks for the wise use of wetlands

17/11/2011

The Ramsar Handbooks for the wise use of wetlands, 4th edition

This 4th edition of the Ramsar handbooks replaces all previous editions of this series. It includes relevant guidance adopted by several meetings of the Conference of the Parties, in particular COP7 (1999), COP8 (2002), COP9 (2005), and COP10 (2008), as well as selected background documents presented at these COPs.

This series has been prepared by the Secretariat of the Convention following each of the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP7, COP8, COP9, and COP10) held, respectively, in San José, Costa Rica, in May 1999; Valencia, Spain, in November 2002; Kampala, Uganda, in November 2005; and Changwon, Republic of Korea, in October-November 2008. The guidelines on various matters formally adopted by the Parties at these COPs have been summarized in a series of handbooks to date.

Ramsar Handbooks 4th edition

Handbook 19
Addressing change in wetland ecological character

160

Sites designated for the
> List of Wetlands of International Importance:
1947

Total surface area of designated sites (hectares):
190,090,712

Useful links

» [Upcoming events](#)
» [SC42 documents](#)
» [40th anniversary booklet](#)
» [Factsheets on Wetland Ecosystem Services](#)
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Ramsar Secretariat

Rue Mauverney 28
CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 890 0170

The Ramsar Convention Handbooks for the wise use of wetlands, 4th ed. (2010)

Convention pillar 1: Wise Use

Handbook 1	Wise use of wetlands Concepts and approaches for the wise use of wetlands	Download
Handbook 2	National Wetland Policies Developing and implementing National Wetland Policies	Download
Handbook 3	Laws and institutions Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands	Download
Handbook 4	Avian influenza and wetlands Guidance on control of and responses to highly pathogenic avian influenza	Download
Handbook 5	Partnerships Key partnerships for implementation of the Ramsar Convention	Download
Handbook 6	Wetland CEPA The Convention's Programme on communication, education, participation, and public awareness (CEPA) 2009-2015	Download
Handbook 7	Participatory skills Establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands	Download
Handbook 8	Water-related guidance An Integrated Framework for the Convention's water-related guidance	Download
Handbook 9	River basin management Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management	Download
Handbook 10	Water allocation and management Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands	Download
Handbook 11	Managing groundwater Managing groundwater to maintain wetland ecological character	Download
Handbook 12	Coastal management Wetland issues in Integrated Coastal Zone Management	Download
Handbook 13	Inventory, assessment, and monitoring An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment, and monitoring	Download
Handbook 14	Data and information needs A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs	Download
Handbook 15	Wetland inventory A Ramsar framework for wetland inventory and ecological character	Download



http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-handbooks/main/ramsar/1-30-33_4000_0

Recent/current Ramsar lead work requested by CBD

- Further development of **criteria for identifying sites of international importance** for wetland biodiversity (Ramsar site criteria)
- Developing a framework for **joint framework for reporting on inland waters** (also now looking at coastal wetland reporting)
 - Request reaffirmed by CBD COP9 & Ramsar COP10 decisions
- **In-depth review of CBD inland waters PoW**
 - Reported to CBD SBSTTA May 2010 – and further to CBD COP10



Joint Reporting on inland waters and other wetlands



- Ramsar National Reports provide “framework for harmonised [complementary] reporting” on inland waters PoW (and others)
- Ramsar National Report information from Parties is being used extensively to report to CBD
- But converse also needed – CBD 4th National Reports wetland information needs extracting and reporting into Ramsar processes (CBD COP 10 Decision on inland waters biodiversity)
- Strengthen **mutual information flow**
- To inform the planned “State of the World’s Wetlands” planned for preparation by Ramsar STRP during 2011/2012

Further collaboration

- **Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)** – Senior Secretariat staff
 - **Chairs of Scientific Subsidiary Bodies (CSAB)**
 - **2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP GEF project)**
 - Ramsar “ecological indicators of effectiveness of Convention implementation”
 - Ad hoc Technical Expert Group on developing the indicator set for the 20 Aichi Targets, building on 2010 indicator set
 - Participation in **SBSTTA** meetings
 - Relevant **other processes** such as upcoming:
 - Asia Wetlands Symposium (18 to 20 July in Malaysia)
- “Integrated biodiversity conservation: Linking forests and wetlands”.
- Enhance **synergy** in the delivery of the targets and goals of the **Ramsar Convention**, Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD**), **MAB Programme** and United Nations Forum on Forests (**UNFF**).



Resolutions with relevance to joint implementation, Ramsar COP 10



- *Resolution X.1 (The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015)*
- *Resolution X.3 (The Changwon Declaration on Wetlands and Human Well-being” (key messages to decision-makers in other environmental sectors)*
- *Resolution X.11 (Partnerships and synergies with MEAs & other institut.)*
- *Resolution X.17 (Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance, which adopted with Ramsar annotations the guidance adopted by CBD COP8 Decision VIII/28)*
- *Resolution X.25 (Wetlands and “biofuels”)*
- *Resolution X.26 (Wetlands and extractive industries)*
- *Resolution X.27 (Wetlands and urbanisation)*
- *Resolution x.28 (Wetlands and poverty reduction).*



Limitations: CBD - Ramsar

- CBD focus on inland waters' collaboration, but wetlands are a unifying theme across all CBD ecosystem Programmes of Work
 - **drylands, agricultural systems, forests, mountains, coastal/marine, islands**
- **Better recognition of the Ramsar Convention across CBD**
- **E.g. CBD programme of work on agricultural biodiversity: no reference to wetlands or the Ramsar Convention!**
- ☞ **although: land and water use by agriculture = primary driver of wetland loss and degradation**
- ☺ **Paramount importance of water as an ecosystem service was recognized in Decision X/28 on inland water biodiversity, CBD COP 10, 2010 and in the new "Strategic Plan for Biodiversity"**

Global vs. National Scale Implementation of synergies

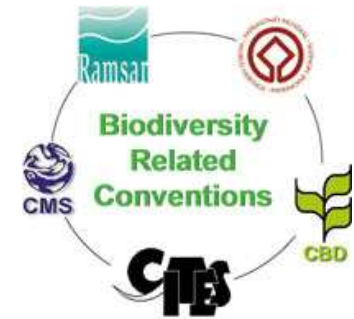


- Cooperation delivered mostly at global scales so far ...
 - But still needs more national-scale implementation collaboration between focal points and authorities
 - Key pre-condition for easier harmonised national reporting
 - Of 148 3rd National Reports to CBD only 9 Parties reported to have taken comprehensive measures for joint implementation between Ramsar Convention and the CBD
- Efforts could be made to involve Focal Points of other Conventions e.g. in the **NBSAP workshops** to increase synergy and stress wetland related issues
- Closer linkages between NBSAPs and National Wetland Policies and between them and other relevant sector policies affecting biological diversity

Beyond synergies between MEAs



- Still mostly sitting in our biodiversity comfort zone (within and between MEAs)
- Change in MEAs’ attitudes and language
 - Not “*biodiversity*” – more “*natural infrastructure*” for ecosystem values and benefits to people
 - Many sectors need services from ecosystems for their own sustainable business success and peoples’ livelihoods
 - Yet those are also the main drivers of ecosystem service losses
 - **Paradox** needs to be addressed across sectors and MEAs



An opportunity? Ramsar Regional Pre-COP Meetings



European Meeting:

27. – 30. September 2011, Trnava, Slovakia

- More synergies needed between MEAs, working together on the outputs of the CBD-COP in Japan 2010

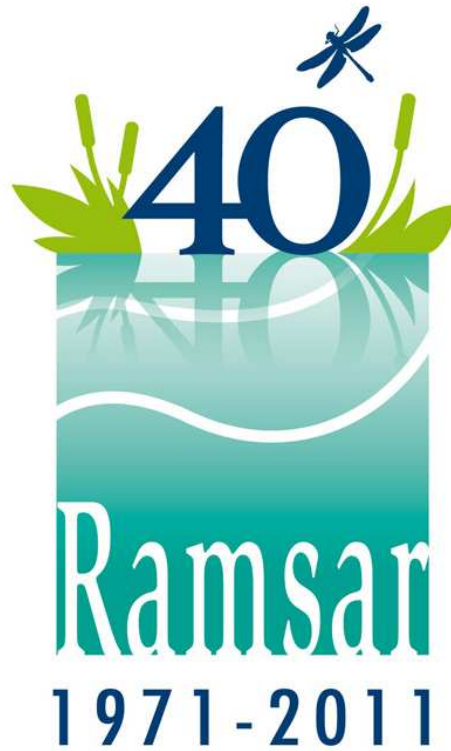
For more information: europa@ramsar.org

Asia- Oceania Meeting:

14. - 18. November 2011, Jakarta, Indonesia

For more information: asia.oceania@ramsar.org.

Thank You!



www.ramsar.org