

WETNET PROJECT
Coordinated management and networking of Mediterranean wetlands

WP 2 - Communication

Activity 2.7 – External event report

Project Partner: Italian Centre for River Restoration (CIRF)

Date: March, 19th – 23th 2018

Deliverable 2.7.1 - Event Report
IX RAMSAR EU pre-COP meeting

Table of Contents

1	EVENT DETAILS	1
2	DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT.....	2
3	RELEVANCE FOR THE WETNET PROJECT AND THE MED TERRITORY	2
4	CONCLUDING REMARKS	2
5	PHOTO GALLERY.....	4
	ANNEX 1 - EVENT PROGRAMME	6

1 Event Details

Title:

Preparatory meeting for the 13th Conference of the Parties (COP13) of the Ramsar Convention

Type:

Meeting

Date:

19-23/03/2018

Location:

Olomouc (Czech Republic)

Programme:

See link below and annex 1.

Link:

<https://www.ramsar.org/event/regional-pre-cop-meeting-2018-europe>

Audience:

Delegates representing forty-eight Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention.

WetNet participation:

- Giancarlo Gusmaroli (Italian Centre for River Restoration)

2 Description of the Event

This regional “pre-COP” meeting provided the 48 European Ramsar Contracting Parties with an opportunity to prepare themselves for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP13) taking place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 21-29 October 2018. The European Meeting focused on the goals and targets of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and how their implementation contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

3 Relevance for the WetNet Project and the MED territory

Focus on European wetland projects and policies

The European Meeting aimed to identify areas of successful cooperation between different sectors of society, administration and private business. Ramsar Convention National Focal Points (NFPs) from the Ministries, experts on scientific, technical and site management issues, in charge of communication, education, awareness and capacity building, from Ramsar International Organisation Partners (IOPs) and from other organisations have – together – looked at progress made with the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, and how to support the efforts of the Ramsar Parties, partners and other stakeholders in preventing, stopping and reversing the global decline of wetlands.

Focus on Draft Resolutions for COP13

The participants have looked at, and discussed, substantial aspects of the draft texts for Resolutions to be submitted by Standing Committee for final negotiation and adoption at COP13.

EXTENDED REPORT:

https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/agenda_europe_precop2018_e.pdf

SUMMARY REPORT:

https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/report_europe_precop2018_e.pdf

4 Concluding Remarks

Concerning the DRs submitted for COP13, some topics triggered longer discussions that could not be concluded during the Meeting; notably the DR on improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention, proposing to replace the executive team of the Ramsar Convention with a conference bureau (Doc. SC54-21.8), the DR on the rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services, where delegates considered it important to make the proposed approach compatible with already existing European Union tools, such as CICES and MAES (Doc. SC54.21.1), and the DR on agriculture in wetlands (Doc. SC54-21.5). Delegates regretted that no DR on the Convention’s CEPA programme was submitted and made reference to specific

requests for this in Resolution XII.9. The delegates agreed that the Parties participating in SC54 will have to convey to the Standing Committee the recommendations compiled during the discussions at the European Meeting. The Meeting discussed also a number of European Union policies and instruments, such as the EU Action Plan for Nature, People and the Economy, and the upcoming review of the Water Framework Directive.

International projects in Europe were presented and discussed, such as the EU Interreg projects “WetNet” and “PANACeA”, the EU Horizon 2020 project establishing a Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS), the Mediterranean Island Wetlands project and the “Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2”. This helped the Ramsar Administrative Authorities to better understand the tools in preparation by these projects and how they can be used for Ramsar implementation at national and local scales.

5 Photo Gallery



9th European Ramsar Meeting
19-23 March 2018
Olomouc, Czech Republic



Ministry of the Environment
of the Czech Republic



INTERACTIVE SESSION
Wednesday 21st March 2018 | 09.10-10.40

RAMSAR RESOLUTIONS: HOW TO TRANSLATE POLICIES INTO LOCAL ACTION

The WetNet project partners work with support from the EU Interreg Med programme to test in six Mediterranean countries the effectiveness of “wetland contracts” for the active inclusion of public and private stakeholders in site governance and management.

May voluntary agreements amongst public and private stakeholders make the management of wetlands more effective in terms of sustainability? Under what conditions and to what extent?

What are the barriers to and opportunities for the creation of public-private partnerships? How can wetland conservation and restoration become a good deal for wetland managers and other stakeholders?

CONVENERS & FACILITATORS

Giancarlo Gusmaroli (CIRF) - g.gusmaroli@cirf.org
Cy Griffin (WIEA) - cy.griffin@wetlands.org

RAPPORTEUR

Christian Perennou (TdV) - perennou@tourduvalat.org

This session is organized in the framework of the WETNET project:



Project co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



ANNEX 1 - Event Programme

Monday 19 March

10:00 Opening of the Ramsar Sites photo exhibition
 -> on the square in front of the Olomouc Regional Administration building
 by the head of the Department of Environment and Nature Protection
 of the Olomouc Regional Administration
 followed by interviews with the media
 Josef Veselský

Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Sites network in the Czech Republic (Strategic Goal 2 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024)

14:00 **Opening and Welcome**
 Deputy Minister of the Environment of the Czech Republic
 Deputy Governor of the Olomouc Region
 Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention
 Vladimír Dolejšky
 Jiří Zemánek
 Martha Rojas Urrego

14:25 **Evaluation of the ecological status and trends of the Czech Ramsar Sites**
 Is the ecological character of the 14 Czech Ramsar Sites improving or getting worse?
 The results of a mapping and monitoring programme provide answers.
 David Pithart

14:45 **Wetlands and climate change**
 Evapotranspiration from wetland vegetation cools the air and provides water
 vapour for local water cycles. This advantage is often overlooked or ignored.
 Jan Pokorný

15:05 **Water lost and returned**
 Hydrological restoration of mires and wetlands, including mountain headwaters,
 is undertaken at landscape level with a holistic approach, using various methods.
 Ivana Buřková

15:25 *introduction to the practical flow of the interactive sessions*
 Tobias Salathé

15:30 *coffee break*

16:00 *interactive session:*
1 Enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention
 An introduction to the DR¹ on enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention
 (Doc. SCS4-09); and the DR on improving the efficiency of structures and
 processes of the Convention (Doc. SCS4-21.8); with reference to the DR on
 roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee (Doc. SCS4-10).
 Sibylle Vermont
 (Switzerland)

2 Assuring that Ramsar remains relevant
 An update on the DR to enhance the Convention's visibility and synergies with
 other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international institutions
 (Doc. SCS4-14); with a reference to the DR on World Wetlands Day (Doc. SCS4-
 21.11).
 Libuše Vlasáková
 (Czech Republic)
 Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst
 (Germany)

17:30 film screening: *Mysterious World of Wetlands*
 Libuše Vlasáková

18:30 time for parallel meetings of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRI) in Europe
 (BlackSeaWet, CWI, MedWet, NorBalWet, according to their own agendas)
 RRI chairs/coordinators

20:00 Welcome Dinner Buffet at the Clarion Hotel
 Ministry of the Environment

¹DR indicates that the interactive session is focusing on proposed text of a Draft Resolution submitted for consideration by COP13.

Tuesday 20 March

On-site visits to experience Ramsar Sites management in the Czech Republic (Strategic Goal 2 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024)

- 08:30** buses leave in front of the Clarion Hotel:
three groups visit different Ramsar Sites in the region: Punkva subterranean stream, Litovelské Pomoraví floodplain of the Morava river, and Poodří floodplain of the Odra river, according to a separate programme (> wear sturdy shoes and adequate clothing to cope with the [weather](#) of the day)
- 17:00** buses return to the Clarion Hotel
- 18:00** departure from the Clarion Hotel on foot:
for a guided visit of the historical centre of Olomouc and the Holy Trinity Column, a cultural property listed by the [World Heritage](#) Convention
- 19:00** end of the guided visit - enjoy the evening to discover typical restaurants - or set up individual meetings
- Ramsar Sites Information System** - if you wish to receive a hands-on demonstration how to use this online tool, please contact Kasia Nikraszewicz to fix a time.

Wednesday 21 March

Wisely using all wetlands in Europe – policies and projects (Strategic Goal 3 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024)

- 08:30** Implications of the EU Action Plan for nature, people and the economy
Following a thorough evaluation of the Birds and Habitats Directives, the European Commission has adopted an [Action Plan](#) to improve their implementation and boost their contribution towards reaching the biodiversity targets for 2020. András Demeter
(European Commission)
- 08:50** Restoring the lateral and longitudinal connectivity in the Rhine basin
The International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine ([ICPR](#)) coordinates the basin-wide implementation of the EU Water Framework and Floods Directives, and its "Rhine 2020" programme targets to reactivate 1000 km² of floodplains. Laura Gangi
(ICPR)
- 09:10** *Interactive session:*
3 Using the EU Water Framework Directive for wetland management
This innovative legislation adopted in 2000 is increasingly used, also beyond the European Union (e.g. in the Danube basin). This year a process to review the Directive starts to decide about possibly needed improvements. András Demeter
(European Commission)
Eva Hernandez (WWF)
- 4 Ramsar Resolutions: how to translate policies into local action**
The WetNet project partners work in 6 Mediterranean countries, supported by the EU Interreg programme, to test the effectiveness of wetland contracts for the active inclusion of public and private stakeholders in site governance and management. Giancarlo Gusmaroli
(Italian Centre for River Restoration)
Cy Griffin
(Wetlands International)
- 10:40** coffee break
- 11:00** *Interactive session:*
5 Waterways and wetlands – how to find mutually acceptable solutions?
The EU considers waterway transport as an environment-friendly alternative to road and rail. Waterway development plans should be compatible with the management of Ramsar Sites and with guiding principles, such as the [Joint Statement](#) on the development of inland navigation and environmental protection in the Danube basin. Volha Kaskevich (NGO Bahna)
Zoltan Kun
(Frankfurt Zoological Society)
- 6 Integrated wetland ecosystem monitoring and management**
PANACEA acts as a science-policy platform to build synergies for biodiversity conservation in the Mediterranean, supported by the EU Interreg programme. A specific working group is addressing freshwater, wetlands and coastal ecosystems with a strong focus on Ramsar issues. Dania Abdul Malak
(European Topic Centre – University of Málaga)

12:30 *light lunch*

14:00 *three bullet-point reports by the facilitators or rapporteurs of sessions 3, 4, 5*

A. Demeter, E. Henandez,
V. Kaskevich, Z. Kun,
G. Gusmaroli, C. Griffin

14:30 *interactive session:*

7 A practical tool to assess wetland ecosystem services
Ramsar adopted in 2015 (with Resolution XII.15) a tool to track wetland site management effectiveness (R-METT); now a DR proposes a complementary tool for the rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services (Doc. SC54-21.1).

Wolfgang Pelikan
(Austria)

8 Implementing Ramsar at regional level
Introducing the DR on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021 and their new Operational Framework. RRIIs are considered effective implementation tools for the Convention at regional level (Doc. SC54-20.2).

Jenny Lonnstad
(Sweden)

16:00 *coffee break*

16:30 *interactive session:*

9 Helping to solve human-induced problems at Ramsar Sites
Based on the analysis by STRP experts, a DR on Ramsar Advisory Missions (Doc. SC54-21.4) proposes how to modernise this successful Ramsar tool helping Contracting Parties to find solutions to restore the ecological character of their Ramsar Sites.

Jan-Petter Huberth-Hansen
(Norway)

10 Supporting Contracting Parties with scientific and technical aspects
Recalling the recent work and outputs of Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and introducing the DR on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention (Doc. SC54-23). Which are the priorities that help Parties most to implement the Convention?

Jari Ilmonen (STRP)
David Stroud (STRP)

18:00 *two bullet-point reports by the facilitators or rapporteurs of sessions 6 and 7*

D. Abdul Malak, W. Pelikan

18:20 *time for report writing and bilateral meetings*

19:40 *buses leave in front of the Clarion Hotel:*

for the Conference Reception at the Archbishop's Palace
a formal reception by the Archbishop in the Baroque Palace, with a concert,
buffet dinner and guided visits of the Palace (> *business suit*)

hosted by the
Ministry of the Environment

22:00 *buses return to the Clarion Hotel*

Thursday 22 March

Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

(Strategic Goal 1 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024)

08:30 *three bullet-point reports by the facilitators or rapporteurs of sessions 8, 9, 10*

J. Lonnstad, J.P. Huberth-
Hansen, J. Ilmonen, D. Stroud

09:00 *interactive session:*

11 Wetlands and water management in agricultural basins
Focusing on the DR on agriculture in wetlands (Doc. SC54-21.5); with references to the DR on wetlands, peace and security (Doc. SC54-21.15); and the DR on wetlands in West Asia (Doc. SC54-21.7) covering the Euphrates and Tigris basins.

Martina Eiselová
(Czech Republic)

12 Creating awareness with the Mediterranean Wetlands Outlook 2
The Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory of the RRI MedWet is preparing its second monitoring report with indicators of wetland status and trends, and provides science-based evidence for decision-makers to enhance wetland conservation.

Christian Perennou
(Tour du Valat Institute)

10:30 *coffee break*

11:00 interactive session:

13 Coastal wetland ecosystems essential for migratory species
 Introducing the DR on promoting the conservation and wise-use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats (Doc. SC54-21.13); and the DR on the enhanced protection and management of sea turtle breeding, feeding and nursery areas and their designation as Ramsar Sites (Doc. SC54-21.10).

David Stroud (STRP)
 Ghislaine Ferrère (France)

14 Small wetlands - the first victims of human impacts
 Introducing the DR on small and micro wetlands (Doc. SC54-21.3), and presenting progress with the implementation of Resolution XIII.14 Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands through the project Med-Is-Wet.

Thanos Giannakakis (WWF)

12:30 *light lunch*

13:30 side-event:

SWOS – the Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service
 The Horizon-2020 EU project provides services and freely available tools for wetland monitoring, management guidance, and for national reporting on the extent of wetlands according to the indicator 6.6.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Kathrin Weise (Jena Optronik Ltd)

14:00 three bullet-point reports by the facilitators or rapporteurs of sessions 11, 12, 13

M. Eiselová, C. Perennou, D. Stroud, G. Ferrère

14:30 interactive session:

15 Cultural and gender issues relevant for the wise use of wetlands
 Focusing on the DR on cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands (Doc. SC54-21.2); the DR on gender and wetlands (Doc. SC54-21.16); with reference to parts of the DR on assessment of ecosystem services (Doc. SC54.21.1); the DR on agriculture (Doc. SC54-21.5); and the DR on urbanization (Doc. SC54-21.12).

Gordana Beltram (Slovenia)

16 Polar and sub-polar wetlands coming under stress
 Introducing the DR on wetlands in polar and subpolar regions (Doc. SC54-21.14); with reference to the work of the Arctic Council's CAFF working group and the Antarctic Treaty.

Jenny Lonnstad (Sweden)

16:00 *coffee break*

16:30 interactive session:

17 Wetlands helping us to cope with climate change
 Presenting the DR providing guidance on identifying Ramsar Sites for global climate change regulation (Doc. SC54-24); DR on restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity (Doc. SC54-25); and the DR on urbanization, climate change and sustainable wetlands (Doc. SC54-21.12).

Jari Ilmonen (STRP)

18 Coastal wetland ecosystems, climate change and biodiversity
 Focusing on the DR that promotes conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems (Doc. SC54-21.9).

Stephan Glatzel (STRP)

18:00 two bullet-point reports by the facilitators or rapporteurs of sessions 14 and 15

T. Giannakakis, G. Beltram

18:20 *time for report writing and bilateral meetings*

19:00 Opening of the public wetland evening

poster presentations by their authors (at their posters)
 exhibits and stands (wetland NGOs, programmes, projects, etc.)

Tobias Salathé

20:00 **Public video contest:** screening of nominated short videos (cf. separate list)

21:30 *announcement of the winning video*

22:00 *closure of the public evening*

Friday 23 March

Enhancing Ramsar implementation

(Strategic Goal 4 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024)

	<i>chair:</i> Libuše Vlasáková
08:30 <i>three bullet-point reports by the facilitators or rapporteurs of sessions 16, 17, 18</i>	J. Lonstad, J. Ilmonen, S. Glatzel
09:00 Ramsar Sites in Europe – trends and challenges An update of the European part of the COP13 report pursuant to Article 8.2 (Doc. SCS4-19). Nearly half of all 2300 Ramsar Sites are in European countries. Maintaining their ecological character and keeping information on them up-to-date is a challenge for the Contracting Parties and for the Secretariat.	Kasia Nikraszewicz
09:20 Enhancing the effectiveness and governing bodies of the Convention <i>Reporting back from the interactive session 1</i> on Monday, with further discussion on the proposed operational and governance improvements. Adoption of bullet-point recommendations to be submitted to SCS4.	S. Vermont
10:40 <i>coffee break</i>	<i>chair:</i> Gerhard Schwach (Austria)
11:00 The Convention's visibility and synergies with other organisations <i>Reporting back from the interactive session 2</i> on Monday with further discussion.	L. Vlasáková, A. Kušiková
11:30 Submitting European recommendations on DRs to SCS4 Clarification how to report the bullet-point recommendations on the DRs from each interactive session to Standing Committee 54. How to distribute the recommendations of the 9 th European Ramsar Meeting.	Tobias Salathé
11:40 Any other business needing urgent attention or further clarification Looking for a DR on CEPA.	Sanna-Kaisa Juvonen (Finland)
12:10 Thanks and Closure of the 9th European Ramsar Meeting	Martha Rojas Urrego Libuše Vlasáková
12:30 <i>light lunch</i>	

The Ramsar Secretariat thanks the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic for its generous offer to host the 9th European Ramsar Meeting together with the Olomoucký Region and the City of Olomouc.

The Secretariat is also thankful to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, and to the Norwegian Environment Agency, for their financial support to sponsor the participation of delegates from eastern European countries.

