

FORUM

Wetlands: Wise Use, Smart Plans

Meeting the challenges for sustainable wetlands use



Kigali Call for Action

PREAMBLE (1)

- Representatives from 25 Ramsar Contracting Parties, UNESCO-IHE, 70 Partners (including Wetlands International, ARCOS, NGOs, Universities, Research Institutions, Private Sector, etc...) met from 5th to 12th July 2013 in Kigali, Rwanda for Wetlands Wise Use and Smart Plans in Africa;
- Thank Rwanda for its acknowledged, valuable and important support to hold this Forum;
- Thank Government of Rwanda, DFID, UNESCO-IHE, Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Wageningen University Centre for Development Innovation, RAMCEA, WacoWet, and NigerWet for their technical and/or financial contribution;

PREAMBLE (2)

- Referenced is made to the acceptance and understanding by the participants to the Kigali's Forum that there is need to renew commitment to implement the Wise Use concept;
- Also referring to Ramsar COP's Resolutions and other call for action for ensuring human well-being and future security of humankind; the Participants are proposing that the African region add more commitment

We are committed to assist Ramsar Contracting parties in their efforts (1):

- To promote the conservation and wise-use of African listed Ramsar sites and other Wetlands especially where there is the potential for threats and change in ecological character;
- To accelerate the implementation of the Ramsar *Strategic Plan 2009-2015* in Africa; substantially contribute to the preparation and implementation of the new Strategic Plan 2016- 2021 through a pragmatic approach based primarily on visible and explicit changes through review of relevant policies and practices which can set examples for African and other states, and knowledge about which can be disseminated via Networks, Initiatives, the media. This includes, but not restricted to promoting of inventories and categorisation of wetlands, national wetland policies, establishment of National Ramsar Committees, promotion of relevant policies, legislation, development of management plans, the designation of new Ramsar Sites, and the wise use of all wetlands;

We are committed to assist Ramsar Contracting parties in their efforts (2):

- To promote and make appropriate national arrangements for financial resources to complement funding expected as per resolution XI.15 from developed countries for the conservation and wise-use of wetlands;
- To develop capacity of stakeholders at all levels, from communities to senior decision makers through training modules, specific school and academic programs for young people, education programmes for legislators and/or advocacy related to wetland wise-use, making use, *inter alia*, of the Wings over Wetlands, Flyways Training Kit;

We are committed to assist Ramsar Contracting parties in their efforts (3):

- To take into account all wetland values in relation to the ecosystem benefits/services provided by them to the local communities, in the context of the Ramsar Sites so as to make these Sites beacons of sustainable development; and further to develop a new criteria related to the selection of Ramsar Sites on the basis of internationally important ecosystem services;
- To fully integrate Resolutions from the Ramsar COP into relevant national policies and strategies and implement these accordingly; and
- To bring national experiences with respect to Wetlands Wise Use to COP 12 so as to ensure that this African experience is fully taken into account in COP 12 outcomes on this issue.

We recommend (1):

- To institutionalize and strengthen this Forum and appoint 6 Wetlands ambassadors within the 6 African Sub region;
- To encourage the formal accession of States that are not yet Contracting Parties to join the Convention using appropriate sub-regional contacts and other mechanisms to this end, noting in particular the important role of regional representatives to the Standing Committee;
- To assist and encourage Contracting Parties to designate further Ramsar Sites by COP 12 in 2015 and to enhance the management of all Ramsar sites;

We recommend (2):

- To institutionalize and strengthen this Forum and appoint 6 Wetlands ambassadors within the 6 African Sub region;
- To encourage the formal accession of States that are not yet Contracting Parties to join the Convention using appropriate sub-regional contacts and other mechanisms to this end, noting in particular the important role of regional representatives to the Standing Committee;
- To assist and encourage Contracting Parties to designate further Ramsar Sites by COP 12 in 2015 and to enhance the management of all Ramsar sites;

We recommend (3):

- To facilitate better synergy of action between the Ramsar Convention, the Rio Conventions (the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification), the World Heritage Convention, the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and other relevant multi-lateral environmental agreements in the context of the joint management of wetlands and relevant policies;
- To encourage and support the adoption of Strategic Environmental Assessment as a planning tool before any interventions are made in wetlands and with a focus on conservation, sustainable use of water resources, biodiversity, other ecosystem goods and services, especially in those areas more vulnerable to changing and variable climate;

We recommend (4):

- To bring and support as best we can the outcomes and the initiatives of this Forum to the main regional economic communities in Africa and encourage them to use their meetings and other opportunities to consider these recommendations so as to promote the implementation and development of Convention activities in their member states, to prepare for COP 12, and to engage with the political and economic leadership of these communities;
- To strengthen and promote the existing African regional initiatives and to establish new regional initiatives so as to facilitate regional coordination and capacity development of stakeholders including NFPs, NGO's and other actors;

We recommend (5):

- To encourage Contracting Parties to address with their national governments and administrations the need to strengthen national government appreciation of the important role of local and sub-national governmental structures in the management and wise use of wetlands.
- To encourage Contracting Parties to make an emphasis on the economic valuation of wetlands as a priority for national implementation of the Convention
- To request the Ministers in charge of environment and Water through forums such as AMCEN and AMCOW to adopt and support the forum on wetlands wise use and smart plans.

It is the ambition to keep the progress of the Forum moving to strengthen the pillars of Wise Use of wetlands : Capacity Development, Research and Policy Implementation and Development.



Thank You!
Morakoze
Cyane



Wise use. Smart plans!

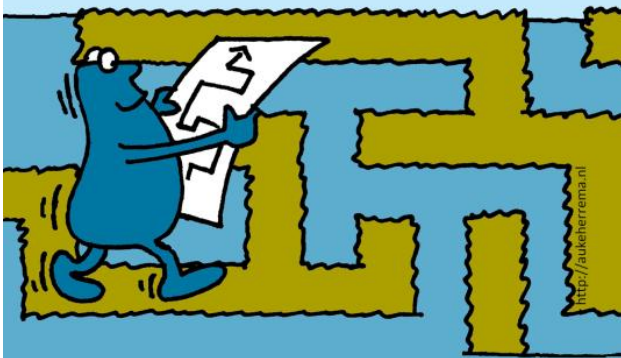


Illustration: Auke Herrema
<http://aukeherrema.nl>