



The cultural and spiritual significance of wetlands – supporting the integration of nature and culture in their governance and management

Expert workshop, International Academy for Nature Conservation, Isle of Vilm, Germany. 26 February – 2 March 2018



Photo credit: Sebastian Misgajski

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1. OVERVIEW

This workshop brought together members of the Ramsar Culture Network (RCN) with a range of collaborating organisations, representatives of Ramsar Convention Contracting Party governments and the Convention Secretariat, to review current work on culture in the framework of the Convention and to agree plans for the future.

Its timing came at the culmination of a three-year Ramsar project on the “Conservation of the natural and cultural heritage in wetlands” (referred to here as the “MAVA project”, in reference to the MAVA Foundation which helped to part-fund it); and in the period of preparations taking place around the world for the 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP13) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in October 2018.

The programme and list of participants are given in the appendices to this report. Background documents were provided via a file-sharing link.

The principal objectives were as follows:

- To share intelligence on relevant interests and activities by collaborators and partners as well as those undertaken in the framework of the Ramsar Convention.
- To review recent work, including specific project outputs, and to discuss ways of maximising the uptake and application of the results, including lessons learned.
- To review and make input to the draft IUCN *Best Practice Guidelines on Promoting the Cultural and Spiritual Significance of Nature in Protected Area Management and Governance*.
- To agree a plan of actions and recommendations concerning preparations, events and decisions to be proposed for adoption at COP13.
- To identify needs, opportunities and commitments concerning other priority areas of future activity on culture and wetlands in the Ramsar context.

As a working process, it proved hugely beneficial to bring together the mix of representatives from networks and institutions involved in a range of different domains concerned with nature and culture, to share perspectives on wetlands. While it does not yet purport to be fully globally representative, this is a key strength of the platform provided by the Ramsar Culture Network.

A feature of the workshop’s discussions, noted on several occasions, was their core relevance to support for progress by countries towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The cultural importance of wetlands is highlighted in the original Ramsar treaty text, and the workshop reaffirmed the myriad ways in which culture is fundamental to the Convention’s mission of wetland conservation and wise use, being described by some as a fourth “pillar of sustainability” (alongside the environmental, social and economic) and by others as running in an integrative way through all the other three. The workshop was of the view however that, in the Ramsar context, the subject needs more visibility and more support for specific initiatives.

Some of the issues covered in these discussions (youth engagement, community rights, indigenous peoples’ participation, wetlands and gender) go wider than issues of culture *per se* - but in the absence of any dedicated programmes on these elsewhere in the Convention, it is Ramsar’s culture work that has been the main focus for taking them forward. A broader basis for attending to this in future could be considered. The positioning of rights-based agendas in

particular may need careful thought, to avoid incorrectly eliding them with “permissive” provisions for access and participation.

Decisions regarding indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) have been taken by other Multilateral Environmental Agreements recently, and the workshop noted that this issue also cuts across the new Regional Assessments being undertaken through the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). ILK is increasingly used in management, data-gathering and analysis, a trend which is likely to intensify. UNESCO in particular suggested that Ramsar may wish to distinguish “culture” from participation mechanisms, human rights and methods for use of ILK usage at site level, since each of these has distinct processes and norms in the international system and each requires a different type of expertise.

“Culture” otherwise is understood here as a property of human groups or societies which expresses aspects of their identity, shared values, attitudes, beliefs, heritage (both tangible and intangible), knowledge systems, creativity and other practices. It conditions the ways in which people interact with each other and with their environment. It can be exhibited in both material and non-material ways, and it is constantly evolving. Traditional management practices, spiritual and sacred values, varied forms of knowledge (not only western science) and expressions of these, represent examples of the benefits that humans derive from wetlands (the wetland “ecosystem services” which Ramsar Parties have agreed to maintain), while at the same time they often provide the key to successful conservation and wise use of these ecosystems.

Ramsar reflects many of the typical biases in global environmental governance towards (for example) particular dominant languages, forms of science, world-views, belief systems, norms, orthodoxies and paradigms. A deeper engagement and understanding of cultural issues however offers a route to improving the Convention’s overall relevance, equitability and ultimate impact in the future. As demonstrated in the Vilm workshop, there is particular scope to advance this with the special asset of Ramsar’s 2,000+ internationally important designated sites, which offer tangible microcosms and project areas for these wider principles. Small Island Developing States (SIDS) were also highlighted as potential exemplars of acute challenges, complementary knowledge systems and opportunities for integration of natural and cultural conservation goals.

Extracts from participant responses to a post-workshop survey question on “what is the main message you take home from the workshop?”

- “The culture agenda in Ramsar has many areas of relevance and strong partnerships with a variety of organisations”.
- “There is much strategic work to do to help to secure culture under the Ramsar Convention, but there are many opportunities for doing so when working together”.
- “There is a lot of useful work and good ideas on the cultural aspects of wetlands, but still more work to do”.
- “Work on culture and wetlands should continue”.
- “Ramsar needs to feature more in the nature-culture cooperation and dynamics of the other MEAs”.
- “We hope that the RCN will evolve and deliver a high quality event at the COP, leading to new developments”.
- “There is enormous benefit in bringing different institutions and stakeholders together to exchange about ongoing activities and create a joint momentum”.
- “Culture is essential in the delivery of effective wetland conservation, but it is not sufficiently recognised as such and needs support”.
- “We need to create better ownership of cultural matters among the Ramsar Parties”.

Acknowledgements: Special thanks are due to Andrea Strauss and her colleagues at the Vilm Academy, including the administrators, catering staff, ferry crew and snow-plough drivers, as well as to Mariam Ali in the Ramsar Secretariat. The success of the workshop owed much to the spirited engagement of all participants in a genuinely collective effort. We hope to return!

- Dave Pritchard

2. SITUATION UPDATE

Results of recent and ongoing activities on culture and wetlands in the framework of the Ramsar Convention and by collaborating organisations were presented and reviewed. As highlighted below, many of these have generated specific recommendations for future action. The recommendations can be found in the individual project outputs: they take a variety of forms and are not reproduced here; but taken together with the conclusions of this workshop they help to build a full picture of future priorities. Key documents can be found here: <https://www.ramsar.org/activity/culture-wetlands> .

Highlights include:

- **A report on indigenous peoples and local communities**, which surveys relevant information in response to a request in Ramsar COP Resolution XII.2, presents a variety of case studies and makes a list of **recommendations** including exploration of rights-based approaches, updating the existing Ramsar guidance on participation and enhancing engagement of indigenous peoples & local communities in various Ramsar processes.
- Published **guidance on “Rapid cultural inventories of wetlands”** and several **supported inventory projects**, including a multi-country inventory for six Arab States (which includes **recommendations**) and a draft global **“inventory of inventories”**.
- A report on six case studies of **sites with both Ramsar and World Heritage designations**, including **lessons learned and recommendations** on conserving cultural values and practices, encouraging participatory approaches, and synergy between the Conventions.
- A growing portfolio of IUCN-linked initiatives and **projects on nature-culture linkages in relation to the World Heritage Convention**, notably on harmonising management of areas with multiple international designations (including Ramsar designation), “Nature-Culture Journey” initiatives, the “Connecting Practice” IUCN-ICOMOS project and the “World Heritage Leadership” IUCN-ICCROM project, each of which has produced or is producing **lessons learned and recommendations**.
- **Wetland-related activities in ICOMOS**, with some emphasis on urban and constructed wetlands (of relevance to the theme of Ramsar COP13).
- **Activities of the Ramsar Culture Network Thematic Groups**, which include:
 - mobilisation of youth initiatives and a **proposal for a Youth Forum** at Ramsar COPs;
 - policy-relevant positioning on the role of art in wetland conservation & wise use, with a developing inventory of examples;
 - links to the UN World Tourism Organisation on tourism and wetlands;
 - links to the CBD-UNESCO Joint Programme on Biocultural Diversity;
 - links to the FAO and the World Agricultural Heritage Foundation on agriculture & food heritage.
- **Seven projects funded through the MAVA project in each of the Ramsar regions**, each of which (to differing degrees) are producing **recommendations**. The

workshop reviewed the Asia-Oceania project, which documents case experiences and **lessons learned** in 13 countries.

- A project nearing completion (led by the IUCN Specialist Group on Cultural & Spiritual Values of Protected Areas) to produce **Best Practice Guidelines on cultural & spiritual values of protected areas**. (See <https://csvpa.org/best-practice-guidelines/cultural-and-spiritual-significance-of-nature/>).
- **Ecosystem services and multiple values assessment** work by the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel, which has produced a Briefing Note with **principles and methods guidance** for Parties, site managers and others.
- A selection of ten of the most relevant **Draft Resolutions** submitted by Parties for the Ramsar Standing Committee to review prior to COP13.

3. DISCUSSIONS

Discussions ranged widely, but gave particular attention to the following questions:

- How can maximum value be ensured from the projects and activities concluded so far or still underway, including:
 - Dissemination and uptake of outputs;
 - Promotion of specific recommendations;
 - Capturing lessons that will help to shape future projects.
- What can Ramsar best offer, from these endeavours and others, to other initiatives, organisations and processes? (e.g. the specific value of Ramsar Sites as an “entry point” and as demonstration sites, pilot projects, etc).
- What can other initiatives, organisations and processes best offer to Ramsar?
- How can participation of stakeholders, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities, be enhanced?
- What are the key bottlenecks and other obstacles preventing progress?
- What are the key opportunities for feasible progress in the foreseeable future?

4. LIST OF PRIORITY ACTIONS AND COMMITMENTS

As a preface to the workshop's generation of the priority actions and commitments listed below, a few key (non-exhaustive) **principles** for the selection of priorities were identified, as follows:

(Priority is particularly merited for opportunities or needs which):

- feature good geographical balance;
- involve Contracting Parties;
- are urgent or time-limited;
- promote either complementarity or commonality of interests;
- avoid perpetuating narrow sectoralisms;
- address fundamental needs;
- connect with formal processes, e.g. national reporting, documentation of site data.

As context for the specific suggestions listed, some over-arching categories of priority action were also summarised, as follows:

- Key text improvements to the Draft Resolutions for COP13 submitted by Parties.
- Developing a proposal (and looking for collaborators) for a culture side event at the COP.
- Re-confirming the nature, extent and location of interest and support for culture issues among Ramsar Contracting Parties (and others).
- Proposals for the future of the Ramsar Culture Network (and ideas about its themes, capacity/resources, status, etc). (Strongest/most justifiable/most needed themes may be in the areas of traditional knowledge, spiritual values, rights-based issues and the arts).
- (To consider) building a more structured link with Ramsar's CEPA programme.
- Developing fundraising efforts (for the short term and the long term).

The list of priority actions identified by the workshop is given below (not necessarily in priority order). Where specific commitments were expressed by individual participants these are included under the relevant items.

1. Promote the agreed suggestions for improvement of the selection of particularly relevant COP13 Draft Resolutions currently tabled by Contracting Parties for review by the Ramsar Standing Committee at its meeting in April 2018. (The specifics for this action are presented in detail separately in the next section of the present report).

Commitment: All participants will follow up with their contacts (with Contracting Parties in particular) to promote the agreed suggestions and to build support.

Commitment: Gordana Beltram will report the outcomes of the Vilm workshop, especially the suggestions on the Draft Resolutions, to the upcoming European Ramsar Regional Meeting, and will explore ways of reporting this also through Party delegates at Standing Committee 54 (e.g. finding an individual to take forward the workshop recommendations to that meeting, and securing supportive statements in the SC54 report).

2. Develop proposals for (a) side-event(s) at Ramsar COP13. (The specifics for this action are presented in detail separately in a later section of the present report).

Commitment: Tobias Salathé will explore the possibility of using any MAVA project budget surplus for this purpose.

Commitment: Henk van Schaik will take up the issue with Li Feng in Wetlands International regarding their possible assistance in organising a side event.

Commitment: Henk van Schaik will help with side event preparations from the ICOMOS perspective, and perhaps also involving the International Centre for Qanats and Hydraulic Structures.

Commitment: Gonzalo Oviedo will help with coordination of input on indigenous peoples participation aspects.

Commitment: Chris Rostron will explore the inclusion of some relevant content in a side event (and workshop) being planned by the World Wetland Network (with the Society of Wetland Scientists), and to liaise with Henk van Schaik, Louise Duff and others on this.

Commitment: Leburu Andrias and Med-INA will both contribute relevant materials for exhibiting.

Commitment: Karen Denyer will provide materials on Oceania examples if required.

3. Define a dissemination plan for all of the MAVA project outputs.

Commitment: Dave Pritchard will seek advice on this from Mariam Ali.

Commitment: Karen Denyer will disseminate through networks in New Zealand.

4. Define an advocacy plan for promoting the recommendations from all of the MAVA project outputs.

Commitment: Karen Denyer will present the Asia-Oceania case study project to the Oceania regional meeting (subject to confirmation of attendance).

5. Capture in one place the lessons learned from the recent (MAVA project) projects that will help to improve future projects.

6. Identify and cultivate more champions among Contracting Parties for addressing cultural issues in the Ramsar Convention. Do more to discover the truth of where strong interest and support lies among Contracting Parties (side events and surveys may offer opportunities for this, to supplement the sketchy picture given in national reports). As well as this picture of “breadth”, investigate also the dimension of “depth”, by more clearly identifying who are the field leaders/key champions. Keep reinforcing the visibility of existing mandates.

Commitment: All participants will promote the issues covered by this workshop and generally will build support in the course of any contacts with Contracting Party representatives that present themselves.

Commitment: Chris Rostron in his capacity as a member of the Ramsar CEPA Oversight Panel will champion the cause of culture in that context.

Commitment: Gordana Beltram in her capacity as a Contracting Party representative (and as Chair of MedWet/Com) will use her contacts and opportunities for this especially in those contexts.

- 7.** Define a continuation concept for the Ramsar Culture Network, including responsibilities, status, functions, themes, capacity, resourcing, etc.

Commitment: Dave Pritchard will take over the RCN mailing list from the Ramsar Secretariat after the end of MAVA project, and at least initially thereafter will be the contact point for keeping it up to date.

Commitment: Dave Pritchard will clarify with Mariam Ali, before she leaves, whether RCN networking can continue in the name of the Ramsar Convention on a voluntary basis, and within exactly what parameters this can be done.

Commitment: Dave Pritchard will communicate to the whole RCN membership list with information providing a situation update at least twice more before COP13.

Commitment: Thymio Papayannis and Irini Lyratzaki will continue promoting support in particular through Med-INA and in the framework of MedWet.

Commitment: Chris Rostron will investigate the possible scope for assistance from an intern who is due to join WWT/WWN in July.

Commitment: Andrea Strauss will follow up on this issue within the German administration by liaising with Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst.

- 8.** Consider re-framing the “Thematic Group” construct in the Ramsar Culture Network, perhaps with different/more apposite/higher priority themes, such as indigenous peoples, traditional knowledge, spiritual & religious values/sacred wetlands, rights issues, etc. “Art” should continue as an appropriate theme, and “biocultural diversity” also perhaps, as long as there are individuals willing to be active on the latter. The Youth Group appears to be viable and could continue as hitherto, although it does not automatically need to operate in an activity area labelled as “culture”. Activities on agriculture and tourism might possibly belong better in some other part of the Ramsar system.

Commitment: Chris Fremantle will continue coordinating the RCN Arts Group, and will assist in that context with planning a COP13 side event (and participating in it, subject to resources) (see report section 6 below).

- 9.** Develop a short agenda of key support actions to be delivered through each of the Ramsar International Organisation Partners (playing to their respective strengths). WWT and IUCN (as participants in the Vilm workshop) to set an initial lead in this.

Commitment: Chris Rostron will follow this up in respect of WWT.

Commitment: Tim Badman will give time to supporting positive interactions between IUCN and Ramsar and others in Gland concerning follow-up to the workshop.

Commitment: Tim Badman will follow up with colleagues in the IUCN Water Programme (= the IOP focal points).

Commitment: Nigel Crawhall will propose to the Chair of IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas that the Commission should create a Vice-Chair on wetlands.

Commitment: Nigel Crawhall will follow up with IUCN's CEESP Specialist Group.

- 10.** Take forward the specific recommendations made by the workshop for enhancement of the IUCN CSVPA SG Best Practice Guidelines on cultural & spiritual values of protected areas. (Detailed comments from the workshop, on both the text of the Guidelines and on the accompanying proposed plan for Training Modules and events, have been collated separately via the CSVPA on-line consultation portal and in person by Bas Verschuuren). The discussions addressed six main issues, namely:
- Validating the Guidelines for application in wetland-related contexts;
 - Promoting the Guidelines through wetland-related networks;
 - Opportunities for utilising the Training Modules in wetland-related contexts and in association with other capacity-building efforts in the framework of the Ramsar Convention;
 - Adding further wetland-related case examples in relevant sections of the Guidelines;
 - Identifying wetland-related case studies that could be used for further illustrating the Guidelines;
 - Other suggestions for enhancing the reflection of wetland issues in the Guidelines.

Commitment: Bas Verschuuren will explore options for closer collaboration with CSVPA, including possible contributions to activities at Ramsar COP13.

- 11.** Identify a tangible way for Ramsar to engage with the IUCN-ICCROM World Heritage Leadership project.

Commitment: Tim Badman will communicate this suggestion to ICCROM and ICOMOS, and will discuss the potential opportunities further with the RCN.

- 12.** Endorse the proposal made by the RCN Youth Group for a Youth Forum (or similar initiative) at COP13, and assist in developing this proposal further. Invite the Group to investigate models used in the context of CBD and MAB, and to explore continuing links with the MAB Youth Forum. If holding an event proves not to be achievable at COP13, secure agreement for something along these lines to take place at subsequent COPs.

- 13.** Explore the possibility of a "special intervention" on a culture-related issue as part of the formal agenda at COP13.

- 14.** Develop a proposal for creating an Indigenous Peoples' Forum in Ramsar (potentially modelled in a simple way on the existing International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Biodiversity in the Convention on Biological Diversity, or on the emerging process within IPBES which may involve a Forum and a Participatory Mechanism).

- 15.** Explore ways of making productive links with relevant Indigenous Peoples' fora such as IPACC, the fora in CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and most recently the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage.

- 16.** Strengthen relationships between Ramsar and UNESCO including synergies with the Man and Biosphere Programme; UNESCO Global Geoparks, co-inscribed Ramsar and MAB sites/Geoparks; attention to indigenous and local knowledge in Ramsar sites; the UNESCO SIDS Strategic Action Plan and the "SAMOA Pathway".

Commitment: Nigel Crawhall will consult with UNESCO colleagues in Paris (including in the Divisions responsible for MAB, IHP, etc) about strengthening links with Ramsar on agendas concerning water, culture, etc.

Commitment: Nigel Crawhall will look into the possibility of the UNESCO focal point on SIDS attending Ramsar COP13.

Commitment: Clemens Küpper will keep the list of dual (Ramsar-World Heritage) designations updated on a continuing basis, as one action in the context of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ramsar Secretariat and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre.

Commitment: Clemens Küpper will compare the list of dual (Ramsar-World Heritage) designations with the list of World Heritage sites of Religious Interest, with a view to identifying further potential synergies, such as through a joint project proposal.

Commitment: Clemens Küpper will add reference to the Ramsar Culture Network under the “networks” section of the web-pages relating to the WHC Initiative on Heritage of Religious Interest as well as on the “activities” page of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre’s web-site.

Commitment: Tim Badman will ensure support from IUCN for the points above, in relation to IUCN’s role as Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee and its contributions to Global Geoparks and MAB.

17. Identify ways of engaging with upcoming “Nature Culture Journey” events.

18. Develop a proposal for a side event at the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee meeting in Manama, Bahrain (24 June - 4 July 2018).

Commitment: Tim Badman will factor in some Ramsar/wetland component to the side event space managed by IUCN at the 2018 World Heritage Committee meeting (particularly referring to the case studies of sites with both Ramsar and World Heritage designations), and will coordinate with/incorporate the launch of the Ramsar Arab States Wetland Cultural Inventory report.

Commitment: Clemens Küpper will flag possibilities for linking Ramsar and RCN to other side-events at the 2018 World Heritage Committee meeting, where *inter alia* the “Arab States inventory” and “dual designation” reports could be featured.

19. Strengthen links with the CBD-UNESCO Joint Programme on Biocultural Diversity, considering especially its importance as an entry point for potential GEF funding.

20. Strengthen links with the CBD’s Article 8j Working Group and the related CBD Programme of Work.

21. Transmit a formal message on issues of culture and wetlands from Ramsar COP13 to CBD’s COP14 which follows soon thereafter (10-22 November 2018 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt) – potentially in an agenda item on MEA synergies.

22. Develop a proposal for a side event contribution at CBD COP14 (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 10-22 November 2018), potentially in the “nature-culture summit” event.

Commitment: Hellin Brink will contribute wetland-related issues to “nature-culture journey” events at the CBD COP, notably the proposed “nature culture summit”.

- 23.** Strengthen attention to the special case of Small Island Developing States in the context of culture and wetlands.

- 24.** Strengthen links with the ICOMOS Water Heritage Group.

Commitment: Henk van Schaik will explore options for taking this action forward.

- 25.** Strengthen links with the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes.

Commitment: Kerstin Manz will explore options for taking this action forward.

- 26.** Consider options for achieving traction with other relevant organisations and processes including IPBES, water sector processes (eg World Water Forum, Stockholm Water Week) and the Global Environment Facility (the latter probably via the indigenous peoples agenda).

Commitment: Nigel Crawhall will consider potential opportunities relating to IPBES, will monitor the process for the 2018 IPBES Plenary meeting and will liaise with Peter Bridgewater on this.

- 27.** Pursue other opportunities for generally raising the profile of culture and wetlands.

Commitment: All participants will continue generating material (authoring interesting articles, news items, etc) to be shared and promoted via Ramsar’s Communications staff on the Ramsar website and directly via the “Ramsar Forum” mailing list.

Commitment: Kerstin Manz will use opportunities to raise awareness through networks associated with the German National Commission for UNESCO and its activities.

Commitment: Hellin Brink will post information about culture and Ramsar on the website of the CBD-UNESCO Joint Programme.

Commitment: Karen Denyer will explore possibilities for influencing the draft national Ramsar CEPA Plan for New Zealand.

Commitment: Andrea Strauss will post an article about the present workshop on the BfN website.

Commitment: Chris Rostron will use the World Wetland Network mailing list and its social media tool to promote relevant messages about culture and Ramsar.

Commitment: Clemens Küpper will post a news item about the present workshop on the UNESCO World Heritage Centre’s web-site.

- 28.** Explore options for undertaking an evaluation of the MAVA project.

5. COMMENTS ON SELECTED DRAFT RESOLUTIONS FOR COP13

This section expands upon the first action listed in the preceding section, by giving the specific comments and suggestions for text amendments relating to a selection of the Draft COP13 Resolutions that are most relevant to the subject of culture and which were submitted by Contracting Parties by the deadline of 22 February for review by the Standing Committee at its 54th meeting in April 2018. The reference numbers given below (coloured blue) correspond to the document numbers for the Standing Committee meeting, and they are hyperlinked to the documents for ease of reference.

The notes below mainly provide brief paraphrased summaries of points suggested for inclusion and/or amendment in the text concerned. In some cases drafting specifics are also provided; but where this is not the case, relevant participants in the workshop stand ready to work with the sponsoring governments concerned on accurately fine-tuning appropriate revisions to the wording. Follow-up of this kind can be coordinated through Dave Pritchard dep@dendros.org.uk.

Ten Draft Resolutions were considered, as follows:

- Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions ([SC54-14](#))
- The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance ([SC54-19](#))
- Rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services ([SC54-21.1](#))
- Cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands ([SC54-21.2](#))
- Conservation and management of small and micro wetlands ([SC54-21.3](#))
- Agriculture in wetlands ([SC54-21.5](#))
- Urbanization, climate change and sustainable wetlands ([SC54-21.12](#))
- Wetlands, peace and security ([SC54-21.15](#))
- Gender and wetlands ([SC54-21.16](#))
- Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021 ([SC54-23](#))

[SC54-14](#) Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions

(DR submitted by the Secretariat).

- In the "background" section of the SC54 document that introduces this Draft Resolution, in the section headed "Work under the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related Conventions", it is suggested to include reference to the scope of culture-related collaborations, including the Ramsar-World Heritage Centre Memorandum of Understanding, the links with the CBD-UNESCO Joint Programme on Biocultural Diversity, collaboration with UNESCO and IUCN on areas with multiple international designations, etc.

- Also in the “background” section of the SC54 document, under the heading “Cooperation with other MEAs”, reference to the World Heritage Convention is missing, so it is suggested to add the following:

"Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage

XX. The Secretariat collaborated with the World Heritage Centre through the Ramsar Culture Network, particularly in the implementation of the joint project “Ramsar and World Heritage Success Stories: How cultural values and community participation contribute to conservation success”, which was funded through UNEP’s InforMEA programme and supported by Ramsar’s MAVA-funded Culture and Wetlands partnership.

XX. The Secretariat and the World Heritage Centre are cooperating on a regular basis within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the World Heritage Centre and the Secretariat, signed on 14 May 1999”.

- In the DR itself, add an overarching preambular paragraph on the fact that culture-related collaborations are an important part of the synergies context.
- In preambular paragraph 6, add a reference to the expected relevant decisions from the IPBES Plenary (once these have been agreed).
- In the preamble, after paragraph 12, add a new paragraph to read: “WELCOMING the continuing implementation of Resolutions VII.8, VIII.19 and IX.21, *inter alia* through the Ramsar Culture Network, as an important driver for the development of synergies with other biodiversity-related Conventions;”.
- In the preamble, after paragraph 18, add a new paragraph to read: “ADDITIONALLY NOTING the growing recognition of indigenous peoples across all UN agencies, including through the recent development of the UNESCO Policy on engaging with indigenous peoples, as a means of informing and strengthening the governance of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands;”.
- In operative paragraph 32, add reference to UNESCO and the Ramsar International Organisation Partners. In addition, at the end of the paragraph, insert “...as well as with relevant scientific bodies such as the International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes, the ICOMOS Water Heritage Group and relevant programmes such as the CBD-UNESCO Joint Programme on biocultural diversity”.
- At the end of paragraph 36 insert “including relevant joint programmes”.
- At the end of paragraph 37 insert “including relevant joint programmes”.

SC54-19 The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance

(DR submitted by the Secretariat).

- After operative paragraph 13, insert an additional paragraph to read: “REQUESTS Contracting Parties to give renewed attention to including information on cultural characteristics of Ramsar Sites when submitting or updating Ramsar Information Sheets, in accordance with Resolution IX.21 which establishes that ‘in the application of the existing criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance, a wetland may also be considered of international importance when, in addition to relevant ecological

values, it holds examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning'; and which also gives a description of relevant values to be considered for this purpose".

SC54-21.1 Rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services

(DR submitted by the Republic of Korea).

- The workshop expressed its support for this Draft Resolution, considering that it will have positive benefits for cultural interests in the framework of the Convention.
- In preambular paragraph 7, after "goods and services of wetlands", insert the words "including cultural values".
- In operative paragraph 17, after the words "other relevant Ramsar guidelines", insert "including the guidance documents produced by the Ramsar Culture Network entitled 'Culture and Wetlands – a Ramsar Guidance Document'; and 'Guidance: Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands'".

SC54-21.2 Cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

(DR submitted by Burkina Faso, Senegal and Tunisia).

A set of specific track-changed suggested amendments to this draft is annexed to this section of the report. Key aspects are summarised here as follows:

- In each instance where the phrase "local communities" appears, this should be amended to read "indigenous peoples and local communities".
- After preambular paragraph 2, insert a new paragraph to read: "FURTHER NOTING that Article 7 of the Paris Agreement concluded at COP21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change emphasizes the need for adaptation that is country driven, gender responsive and based on traditional knowledge, local knowledge systems and indigenous peoples' perspectives, as appropriate".
- After preambular paragraph 4, insert two new paragraphs to read:
"RECALLING Resolutions VIII.19 on the 'Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites' and IX.21 on 'Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands', which recognize and highlight the cultural connections between communities and wetlands and encourage the Convention's Parties to take cultural values into consideration in managing their wetlands and in designating them as internationally important sites;
ACKNOWLEDGING the pioneering work that the Ramsar Convention has accomplished in the application of Resolutions on culture for the integration of cultural values in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, through initiatives such as the Ramsar Culture Network;"
- After preambular paragraph 7, insert a new paragraph to read "TAKING NOTE of the Best Practice Guidelines produced by the IUCN-WCPA Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas on the role of the cultural and spiritual significance of nature in the governance and management of protected and conserved areas, and the

relevance of these guidelines in supporting wetland conservation and wise use under the Convention;”.

- Operative paragraph 9 should be moved to appear instead in the preamble, and its wording should be amended to be more appropriate.
- Various drafting improvements are suggested for paragraphs 10 and 11 (see the annex to this section of the report).
- After operative paragraph 12, insert a new paragraph to read: “REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue undertaking enabling activities for the effective integration of the cultural values of wetlands in their protection and management, working together with the Contracting Parties and other interested organizations and networks, and to establish appropriate mechanisms within the Secretariat to that end;”.
- Various drafting improvements are suggested for paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 (see the annex to this section of the report).
- After paragraph 14, insert a new paragraph to read: “ENCOURAGES the Ramsar Culture Network and other interested parties to review and update the Ramsar Guidance on Culture and Wetlands to reflect the provisions of the present Resolution on culture and to enrich the guidance with further recent examples of good practice”.

SC54-21.3 Conservation and management of small and micro wetlands

(DR submitted by China).

- The workshop expressed its support for the reference in this Draft Resolution (paragraph 12) to ensuring the maintenance of the cultural and social values of key small and micro wetlands in the Ramsar List.

SC54-21.5 Agriculture in wetlands

(DR submitted by the Czech Republic).

- The workshop expressed its support for the encouragement in this Draft Resolution (paragraph 17) for the identification and support of traditional uses of wetlands and their biodiversity.

SC54-21.12 Urbanization, climate change and sustainable wetlands

(DR submitted by the United Arab Emirates).

- In operative paragraph 19 (c), add reference to the heritage sector; and add reference to indigenous peoples.

SC54-21.15 Wetlands, peace and security

(DR submitted by Senegal).

- Add reference to guidelines 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16 in the section “Facilitating consensus building and conflict resolution” of the Best Practice Guidelines produced by the IUCN-WCPA Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas on the role of the cultural and spiritual significance of nature in the governance and management of

protected and conserved areas; and add reference to encouraging the use of these Guidelines in this context.

SC54-21.16 Gender and wetlands

(DR submitted by Colombia).

- The workshop expressed its support in particular for preambular paragraph 4, which recognises the crucial role played by women in (*inter alia*) conserving the culture, folklore, music, mythology, oral traditions, customs and traditional knowledge of wetlands.
- The workshop also expressed its support in particular for operative paragraph 11, which requests the STRP to develop guidance on integrating gender issues in the implementation of the Convention.
- Operational paragraph 12 (b) is too narrow in referring only to Ramsar meetings – it should refer to the equal involvement of women and men more broadly in Ramsar governance processes and in implementation of the Convention (i.e. amend the text to read: “Strengthen the skills and capacity of all delegates for equal participation of women and men in Ramsar governance processes and implementation, *inter alia* through training on negotiation skills, the drafting of legal documents and strategic communication”).
- It seems that the reference in paragraph 13 to “paragraph 6” is a misprint and that it should instead read “paragraph 12”.

SC54-23 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021

(DR submitted by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel).

- The workshop expressed its support in particular for the identified Thematic Work Area for 2019-2021 concerning “Best practices for developing and implementing management plans, action plans and other tools for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, recognizing traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities”.
- The workshop drew attention to the fact that for the Thematic Work Area referred to above, as well as for the tasks for STRP defined in the Draft Resolutions on “Cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands” (to review and revise the ‘Guidelines for Rapid Cultural Inventories in Wetlands’) and on “Gender and wetlands” (to develop guidance on integrating gender issues in the implementation of the Convention), as well as potentially for other relevant tasks [to be] defined in other Draft Resolutions, the membership of the Panel and/or the list of invited STRP observers in the next triennium should include sufficient expertise on issues of cultural values, traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, gender and related issues, so as to enable the Panel to undertake these tasks.

Detailed drafting suggestions for the Draft Resolution on Cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

(SC54-21.2)

Draft Resolution on cultural values, indigenous peoples, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

1. RECOGNIZING the vital importance of wetlands and the freshwater that they provide for human well-being, livelihoods, and food security, and REAFFIRMING that water is a human right in accordance with Resolution 64/292 of the United National General Assembly;

2. CONCERNED that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that some wetlands are among the ecosystems most vulnerable to climate change ,and ALSO CONCERNED that wetlands, which contain twice the carbon stored in all the world's forests, are currently degrading faster than any other ecosystem type-;

2 bis. FURTHER NOTING that Article 7 of the Paris Agreement concluded at COP21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change emphasizes the need for adaptation that is country driven, gender responsive and based on traditional knowledge, local knowledge systems and indigenous peoples' perspectives, as appropriate;

3. NOTING the relevance of the Ramsar Convention as a central delivery mechanism for the climate change targets set out in the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, as indicated in Resolution X.24 on climate change, Resolution XII.2 on the Ramsar Strategic Plan, and Resolution X.28 on poverty eradication;

4. AWARE that 80 percent of the world's biodiversity is located in traditional lands and waters, and ACKNOWLEDGING the significant contributions made by indigenous peoples and local communities to wetland conservation and wise use through their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices – including to mitigating and adapting to climate change - in line with Target 10 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan;

4 bis. "RECALLING Resolutions VIII.19 on the 'Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites' and IX.21 on 'Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands', which recognize and highlight the cultural connections between communities and wetlands and encourage the Convention's Parties to take cultural values into consideration in managing their wetlands and in designating them as internationally important sites;

4 ter. ACKNOWLEDGING the pioneering work that the Ramsar Convention has accomplished in the application of Resolutions on culture for the integration of cultural values in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, through initiatives such as the Ramsar Culture Network;

5. ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING the central role of women in wetland management and wise use, and in the management, provisioning and safeguarding of water, in line with the Dublin Principles , and EMPHASIZING that fully empowering women in a pre-requisite for sustainable development, including with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation and effective wetland and water management;

6. NOTES WITH CONCERN that due to climate change and wetland degradation food insecurity is increasing, and that staples such as rice, wheat and maize are predicted to decrease by 20% by

2050 , while populations in some parts of the world, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, are expected to double by 2050 ;

7. ALSO RECOGNIZING that some areas of the world are more prone to the impacts of climate change on wetlands and water, and that these 'water-shock' zones tend to be located in regions already experiencing harsh climates and adverse environmental conditions, and where people are further marginalised by high levels of poverty, inequality and a rapidly changing socio-economic governance and development context;

7 bis. TAKING NOTE of the Best Practice Guidelines produced by the IUCN-WCPA Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas on the role of the cultural and spiritual significance of nature in the governance and management of protected and conserved areas, and the relevance of these guidelines in supporting wetland conservation and wise use under the Convention;

8. CONSIDERING that while climate change is a global issue, adaptation is achieved locally: wetland adaptation benefits from the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, and this often provides context-appropriate and cost-effective resilience to climate impacts;

89. THANKING the government of Senegal, Tunisia and Burkina, for their support and work in developing this Resolution;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

~~9. CONSIDERS that while climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale and therefore the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities often hold context-appropriate and cost-effective solutions to decreasing vulnerability to climate change and to developing adaptation responses;~~

10. EMPHASIZES that joined up environmental, economic and social solutions- are necessary to achieving climate change targets, including through emission reductions, ecosystem conservation and restoration to 'sink' carbon, as well as infrastructure and land-use planning approaches...XXX, and FURTHER CONSIDERS that the Ramsar Convention has a central role to play in bridging the links between the sustainability of human societies, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the integrity of water environments;

11. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, the International Organisation Partners (IOPs), and others to provide to the Secretariat, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the Ramsar Culture Network (RCN) examples, particularly documented case studies, that demonstrate how cultural diversity and the ~~traditional~~ knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities can contribute to significantly ~~decreasing vulnerability~~ increasing resilience to climate change in wetlands, in advance of the 14th Conference of the Parties;

12. REQUESTS the STRP, working with the IOPs and the RCN and other interested organizations and networks, to review and revise the Guidelines for Rapid Cultural Inventories in Wetlands with a view to ensuring that these guidelines are effective in evaluating the cultural ecosystem services of wetlands, including in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, in advance of the 14th Conference of the Parties;

12 bis. REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue undertaking enabling activities for the effective integration of the cultural values of wetlands in their protection and management, working

together with the Contracting Parties and other interested organizations and networks, and to establish appropriate mechanisms within the Secretariat to that end;

13. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to continue to mobilize cultural diversity and knowledge systems within~~seek to integrate~~ wetlands as part of holistic approaches to cultural services into all relevant national and regional policies, including ~~in~~ Poverty Reduction Strategies, National ~~Determined Contributions~~Climate Change Strategies, and implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the need to base such ~~approaches~~strategies on an understanding of specific wetlands' current and projected future productivity, particularly where ~~such~~ wetland services may change over time and may be affected by~~due to~~ climate change;

14. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to collaborate with relevant institutions in developing suitable sustainable ~~eco~~tourism and other livelihood activities in wetlands in general, and especially in designated Ramsar sites, in order to facilitate skills development and economic opportunities for vulnerable communities and groups, with the aim of~~provide opportunities to~~ reducing poverty while~~and~~ contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as supporting, ~~whilst also taking into consideration the possible negative impacts of such tourism on wetland integrity and~~ ~~on~~ local cultures; ~~and~~

14 bis. ENCOURAGES the Ramsar Culture Network and other interested parties to review and update the Ramsar Guidance on Culture and Wetlands to reflect the provisions of the present Resolution on culture and to enrich the guidance with further recent examples of good practice; and

15. CALLS UPON development banks, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and other funding instruments~~donors~~ to support the implementation of this Resolution by Contracting Parties, including through supporting capacity-building for governments, and encouraging climate-related investment programmes that integrate the ~~traditional~~ knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in order to support the development of context-appropriate and cost-effective local solutions.

6. PROPOSALS FOR SIDE EVENT(S) AT RAMSAR COP13

This section elaborates on the action point listed earlier in this report to develop proposals for one or more side events at Ramsar COP13 in Dubai in October 2018. Specific commitments to take the action forward are noted in section 4 above.

The core of a primary proposal produced by the workshop is given below. This would however not be the sole possibility, since opportunities may also arise to develop contributions to events organised by others, or to join forces with any related proposals that might come forward from others and to develop a joint event. The separately listed action above concerning a “Youth Forum” could also be taken forward in the context of the COP’s programme of side events.

Event title: “#Culture4Wetlands - how cultural approaches deliver better wetlands”.

Aim: To illuminate the ways in which culture is essential to the delivery of Ramsar objectives, through showcasing activities undertaken through the Ramsar Culture Network and collaborating partners, particularly the recent projects funded by the MAVA Foundation.

Description: This side event will form part of a wider set of cultural activities during the COP, and will be supported by linked initiatives using social media. It offers opportunities for showcasing projects delivered through the Ramsar Culture Network, by Contracting Parties and by others including the UNESCO Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage. Drawing on good practice from around the world (and giving particular attention to examples from the host region of the COP), the event will feature performance, high profile wetland ambassadors and case studies from successful wetland conservation projects. The event will include coverage of aspects concerning gender, youth, sustainable livelihoods, and art.

The result will be increased recognition of the variety and richness of cultural approaches, effective means of engaging and learning from indigenous peoples and local communities, and their role in successful wetland conservation and wise use. This will then set the scene for future priorities for Ramsar and its partners to harness cultural approaches for more effective wetland conservation and wise use in the long term.

Lead organiser: TBC (Wetlands International to be approached).

Other partners: UNESCO Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (TBC); UAE COP host country (TBC); other Ramsar International Organisation Partners (TBC); ICOMOS (TBC), UNESCO World Heritage Centre (TBC); RCN Thematic Group leads (TBC).

Potential costs (including travel for invited special contributors): circa 50,000 Euros.

7. CALENDAR OF OPPORTUNITIES

The workshop noted some key calendar milestones, deadlines and opportunities to be factored in to planning and activities in the year ahead, including the following:

- Ramsar regional pre-COP meeting for Oceania: 12-16 March 2018, Wellington, New Zealand.
- Ramsar regional pre-COP meeting for the Americas: 12-16 March 2018, San José, Costa Rica.
- Ramsar regional pre-COP meeting for Europe: 19-23 March 2018, Olomouc, Czech Republic.
- (Regional meetings for Asia and Africa have already concluded).
- IPBES-6 Plenary meeting: March 17-24 March 2018, Medellin, Colombia.
- 54th meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee: 23-27 April 2018, Gland, Switzerland.
- Pre-registration opens for attendance at Ramsar COP13 (date TBC).
- Deadline for registering side events for the 2018 World Heritage Committee meeting: c11 May 2018 (TBC).
- Next meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group: (date TBC), World Heritage Centre, Paris, France.
- 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee meeting: 24 June - 4 July 2018, Manama, Bahrain. (Including side event to launch the report on Rapid cultural inventories of wetlands).
- Deadline for the Ramsar Secretariat to publish COP13 documents in the three languages of the Convention: 21 July 2018.
- Deadline for submitting proposals for side events for Ramsar COP13: (date TBC).
- Communication of COP13 side event acceptance results (may require re-planning in partnership to be done): (date TBC).
- At least two general communications from Dave Pritchard to the full Ramsar Culture Network membership before COP13 (dates TBC).
- Meeting of Ramsar International Organisation Partners prior to COP13? (Not yet confirmed).
- Ramsar COP13: 21-29 October 2018, Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- CBD COP14: 10-22 November 2018, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.
- Events in the “Nature-Culture Journey” series: (details TBC).
- 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee meeting (details TBC).
- Next INTECOL wetland conference: 2020, New Zealand (details TBC).

APPENDIX 1: WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Note: This is the programme as provided at the outset of the workshop. It was adapted in places by agreement during the workshop itself to allow discussions to proceed in the most fruitful way.

Monday, 26 February 2018		
18.10	<i>Departure by boat from Lauterbach to Vilm</i>	
18.30	<i>Dinner</i>	
19.30	Welcome to Vilm, brief round of introductions, essential housekeeping information	<i>Andrea Strauss</i>
Tuesday, 27 February 2018		
07.30	<i>Breakfast</i>	
09.00	1. Setting the scene. - Formal welcome from BfN hosts - Welcome from Ramsar	<i>BfN</i> <i>Tobias Salathé</i>
09.15	- Getting to know each other - icebreaker	<i>Led by Andrea Strauss</i>
09.45	- Aims, structure & ground-rules of the workshop. Expected results.	<i>Dave Pritchard</i>
10.00	2. Brief situation update on ongoing Ramsar Culture Network initiatives. <i>(Maximum 10 minute summaries only)</i> - Context: background to culture in Ramsar, the MAVA project and the RCN strategy - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities report - Rapid Cultural Inventories, including Arab States Report and analysis of Ramsar Sites Information Service data	<i>Chaired by Thymio Papayannis</i> <i>Tobias Salathé and Thymio Papayannis</i> <i>Gonzalo Oviedo</i> <i>Dave Pritchard</i>
10.45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.15	2. Brief situation update on on-going RCN initiatives (continued). <i>(Maximum 10 minute summaries only)</i> - World Heritage & Ramsar dual designations – new report - Preparations for the Conference of the Parties & draft resolution on cultural values, communities and climate change - Introducing the RCN Thematic Groups	<i>Clemens Küpper</i> <i>Tobias Salathé</i> <i>Chris Fremantle, Jackie Kariithi, Bas Verschuuren/ Nigel Crawhall, Dave Pritchard</i>
12.00	Discussion on ongoing RCN activities	<i>Chaired by Thymio Papayannis</i>
12.30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14.00	3. Brief situation update on ongoing activities by partners and Contracting Parties. <i>(Maximum 10 minute summaries only)</i> - Cultural & Spiritual Values of Protected Areas Best Practice Guidelines <i>(NB dedicated session on this comes later in the programme)</i>	<i>Bas Verschuuren</i>

	- World Heritage projects on nature-culture linkages	<i>Tim Badman</i>
	- Ecosystem services work by the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel	<i>Dave Pritchard</i>
	- Wetland-related activities in the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)	<i>Henk van Schaik</i>
	- Case studies in Asia & Oceania	<i>Karen Denyer</i>
15.00	4. Discussion on activities by partners, and generally on activities thus far, remaining steps for on-going projects, lessons learned etc.	<i>Chaired by Nigel Crawhall</i>
15.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
16.00	5. Breakout groups on topics defined by chair of preceding discussion, in particular to generate lessons learned and ideas for capitalising effectively on the work done	
	Group 1	<i>Facilitated by Gordana Beltram</i>
	Group 2	<i>Kerstin Manz</i>
	Group 3	<i>Facilitated by Andrias Leburu</i>
18.00	6. Brief feedback from breakout groups, and questions	<i>Chaired by Irini Lyratzaki</i>
18.30	<i>Dinner</i>	
	Evening free for informal networking And core team work on drawing together draft of key messages/ conclusions from Day 2	
Wednesday, 28 February 2018		
07.30	<i>Breakfast</i>	
09.00	7. Brief recap on outcomes of Day 2 , any questions, and opportunity to review/adjust the remaining programme	<i>Dave Pritchard</i>
09.20	8. Scoping priorities for a future programme	
	- Introduction to the purpose and process for this segment, then a first round of breakout groups on three topic-clusters:	<i>Dave Pritchard</i>
09.30	- Group 1: Research, analysis and information management.	<i>Led by Tobias Salathé</i>
	- Group 2: Feasible advances in policymaking	<i>Led by Dave Pritchard</i>
	- Group 3: Communication, engagement and outreach	<i>Led by Chris Rostron</i>
	<i>(All groups in this first round to consider the content of future priorities on these topics, and to include where applicable thinking about promotion of uptake and use of the reports mentioned in the "situation update" session above)</i>	
10.45	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.15	8 (cont). Breakout group discussions continue <i>(All groups in this second round to consider in particular the future working methods and opportunities for delivery, including networking and thematic priorities, with special regard to advice from the current Thematic Group leads).</i>	
12.30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13.30	Guided tour on the Isle of Vilm	<i>with Andrea Strauss</i>
15.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.30	9. Report-back from groups, and discussion	<i>Chaired by Gonzalo Oviedo</i>

16.45	10. Special session on CSVPA Best Practice Guidelines and the Ramsar perspective - Discussion about the revised draft (January), input of ideas, and proposals for dissemination, promotion and use.	<i>Bas Verschuuren</i>
18.30	<i>Dinner</i>	
	Evening – informal sharing of case examples and project experiences etc And core team work on drawing together draft of key messages/conclusions from Day 3.	
Thursday, 01 March 2018		
07.30	<i>Breakfast</i>	
09.00	11. Brief recap on outcomes of Day 3 , any questions, and opportunity to review/adjust the remaining programme	<i>Dave Pritchard</i>
09.15	12. Realising a future programme Facilitated discussion (not breakouts) on more practical aspects (with some specific questions to be provided in advance), on issues such as: - Funding options/opportunities - Who is in a position to do what, with institutional backing, as a volunteer, etc - The future of networking – how will things be run after the end of the MAVA project? - Calendar of opportunities <i>(a mechanism will be provided, eg flipcharts, for people to pool knowledge and suggestions and to continue adding to these during session breaks)</i>	<i>Facilitated by Chris Rostron</i>
10.30	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11.00	13. Planning for COP13 - Regional meetings and other milestones in the preparatory process - Intended activities by RCN members and other partners, including side events - Draft Resolution(s) - Culture in other agenda items/proposals up for discussion Discussion on planning for COP	<i>Chaired by Tim Badman Tobias Salathé (Tour de table) Dave Pritchard Tobias Salathé</i>
12.30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13.30	14. Crystallising a future programme - Discuss a draft or outline that has been taking shape by a drafting team during the course of the workshop - Agree list of post-workshop action points for finalising a programme document. <i>(Could potentially do some group work here eg according to the topics in item 12 above, plus COP13 as another item).</i>	<i>Chaired by Gordana Beltram Drafting team</i>
15.00	<i>Coffee break</i>	
15.30	14. (cont.). Crystallising a future programme - Bringing it all together.	<i>Chaired by Gordana Beltram</i>

16.30	15. Agreement of other post-workshop actions - (Including what we will offer, and when, by way of a report of the workshop itself). - (Including discussion on immediate post-workshop follow-up, and methods for staying in contact). Discussion , on getting maximum future value out of the time invested in the workshop.	<i>Dave Pritchard</i>
17.30	16. Final session - Workshop evaluation - Any remaining housekeeping issues - Concluding remarks and thanks.	<i>Andrea Strauss</i>
18.30	<i>Dinner</i> Evening cultural entertainments (Contributions invited in advance from everyone)	<i>Andrea Strauss</i>
Friday, 02 March 2018		
07.25	<i>Departure from Vilm</i>	
09.20		
08.00	<i>Trains from Lauterbach Mole</i>	
10.00		

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Andrias, Leburu Molatedi	Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)	Botswana
Badman, Tim	Director, IUCN World Heritage Programme	Switzerland
Beltram, Gordana	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, and Ramsar Convention National Focal Point	Slovenia
Brink, Hellin	Outreach and Events Coordinator, Center of Biodiversity and Conservation. American Museum of Natural History	United States of America
Crawhall, Nigel	Chief, Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge Section, UNESCO Natural Sciences Sector (SC/PCB/SII)	France
Denyer, Karen	National Wetland Trust of New Zealand	New Zealand
Fremantle, Chris	Senior Research Fellow, Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University	United Kingdom
Küpper, Clemens	Junior Professional Officer, Europe and North America Unit UNESCO World Heritage Centre	France
Lyratzaki, Irini	Scientific Secretariat, MedINA (Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos)	Greece
Manz, Kerstin	German National Commission for UNESCO	Germany
Oviedo, Gonzalo	Former Senior Advisor for Social Policy, IUCN	Switzerland
Papayannis, Thymio	Founder and Director, MedINA (Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos); and Senior Advisor on Culture and Wetlands to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat	Greece
Pritchard, Dave	Independent consultant; Coordinator, Ramsar Culture Network; and MAVA Ramsar project expert consultant	United Kingdom
Rostron, Chris	Head of Wetland Link International, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust	United Kingdom

Salathé, Tobias	Senior Advisor for Europe, Ramsar Convention Secretariat	Switzerland
van Schaik, Henk	Water and Heritage Ambassador of ICOMOS Netherlands, and Board Member of the Water Partner Foundation	The Netherlands
Strauss, Andrea	Federal Agency for Nature Conservation, International Academy, Isle of Vilm	Germany
Verschuuren, Bas	Co-Chair of IUCN Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas; and Wageningen University	The Netherlands



Photo credit: Sebastian Misgajski