

Understanding capacity gaps and needs from Ramsar Site and wetland managers in East, Southeast and South Asia

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Presentation outline



- Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia
- RRC-EA capacity building program
- Bases for priority training needs
- Challenges in capacity building
- Recommendations

Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia



- one of the regional initiatives formally recognized by the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar Regional Initiative or RRI)
- established through the initiative of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea
- serves as a regional platform for capacity building, information exchange, and cooperation
 - among governments, Ramsar Site and wetland managers and stakeholders, international and national non-government organizations, technical experts and business organizations

RRC-EA Capacity Building Program



- capacity building as a component of CEPA
 - communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness
- focuses on providing training support
- topics align with the annual World Wetlands Day theme and the priority training needs of countries

RRC-EA Capacity Building Program



- training is delivered for Ramsar Site and wetland managers at different levels:
 - **regional**
 - 18 Ramsar Contracting Parties in East, Southeast and South Asia



RRC-EA Capacity Building Program



○ subregional

- transboundary wetlands (Yellow/West Sea, Lower Mekong River, and Bay of Bengal)
- geographical subregions (5 countries in East Asia, 8 countries in Southeast Asia, and 5 countries in South Asia)



RRC-EA Capacity Building Program

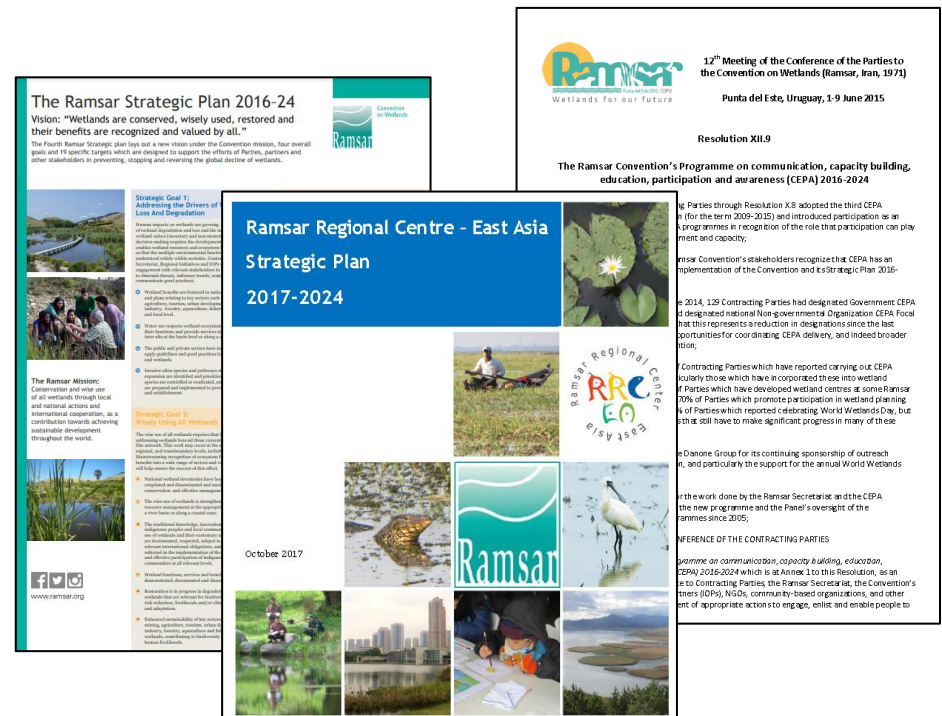


- **national**
 - local language
 - validate the priority training needs



Bases for capacity building needs

- Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024
- Ramsar CEPA Programme 2016-2024
- RRC-EA Strategic Plan 2017-2024
- National Reports
- workshop outputs



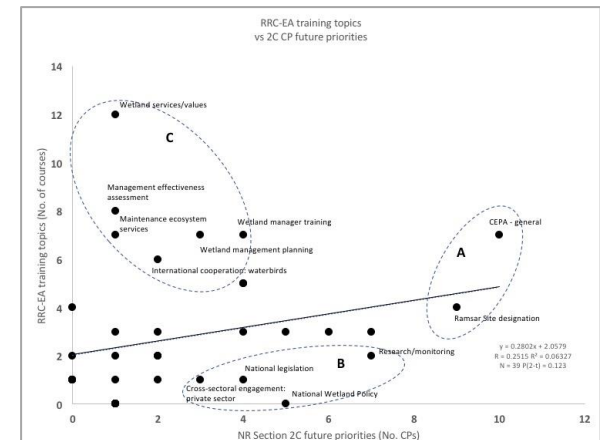
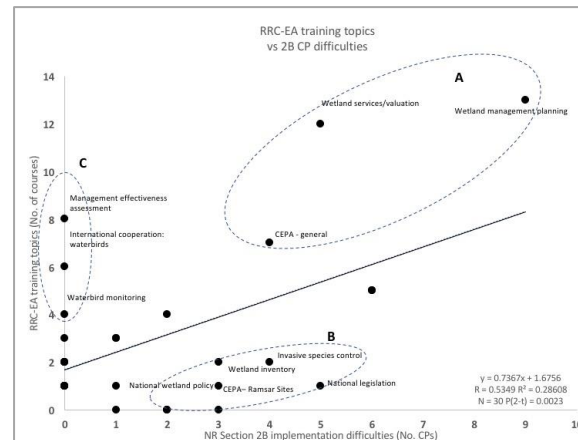
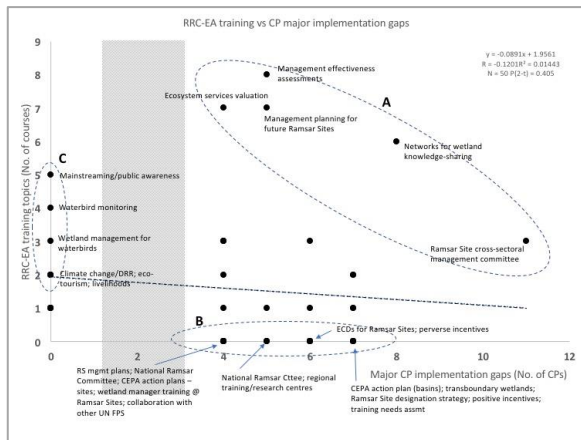
Development of the RRC-EA Strategic Plan 2017-2024



- information has been derived primarily from National Reports to Ramsar COP12
- Ramsar COP12 National Reports were submitted by all RRC-EA Member Countries (17 at the time)
- an analysis looked at the 74 selected National Report indicator questions which apply to all Contracting Parties

Development of the RRC-EA Strategic Plan 2017-2024

- recommendation to align training and capacity building support with the implementation gaps, difficulties, and future priorities identified by the Contracting Parties



RRC-EA priority topics



Action	Priority	Activity
Target capacity building and training on:	HIGH	Cross-sectoral engagement with the private sector Invasive species control Removal of perverse incentives Ecological character descriptions for Ramsar Sites CEPA action plans (sites, basins and national) Establishing visitor/education centres at wetlands other than Ramsar Sites Assessments of local and national training needs
	MODERATE	Wetland inventory Wetland research and monitoring National legislation National wetland policy Establishing positive incentives Ramsar Site future designation strategy Wetland manager training at Ramsar Sites CEPA specifically for Ramsar Sites Establishing a National Ramsar Committee

RRC-EA priority topics



Action	Priority	Activity
Continue training on:	HIGH	Cross-sectoral/participatory management for wetlands and Ramsar Sites Networks for knowledge and training on wetland conservation
	MODERATE	Wetland ecosystem services/values assessment Ramsar Site designation and update process Wetland management planning Management effectiveness assessment CEPA – general
Reduce greatly or cease capacity building and training on:	LOW	Mainstreaming and public awareness Climate change and disaster risk reduction Eco-tourism Sustainable livelihoods Waterbird flyway conservation Waterbird monitoring Wetland management for waterbirds

Challenges in capacity building



- language barrier
- frequent changing of management in the sites
- lack of experts on new topics
- lack of financial resources to implement capacity building activities
- lack or weak policy support

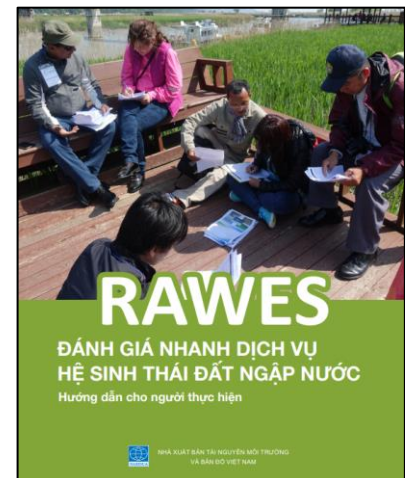
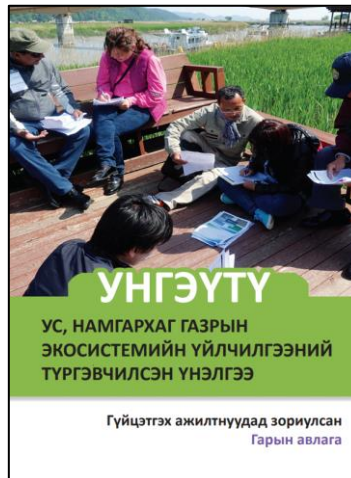
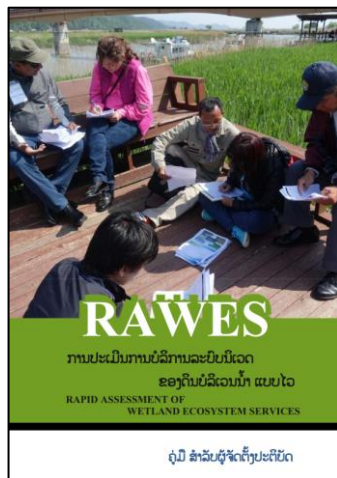
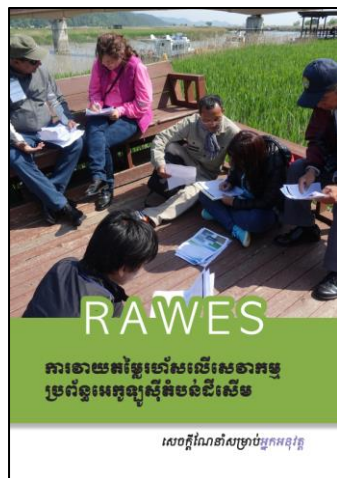
Recommendations



- develop training or reference materials that can be easily translated into other languages
 - not voluminous, easy to understand
 - seek assistance from the National STRP Focal Point to check the translation and from the National CEPA Focal Points (government and non-government) to disseminate the materials

Recommendations

- one example is the Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services (RAWES) Practitioner's Guide translated from English into 9 other languages
 - Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Viet Nam



Recommendations



- consistent delivery of training support
- build pool of experts through training of trainers
- mobilize resources by establishing and strengthening partnerships with the academe and with business organizations
- promote the use of available tools and approaches that aim to assist in wetland management
- monitor and update list of priority capacity building needs



Thank you

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