



## **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



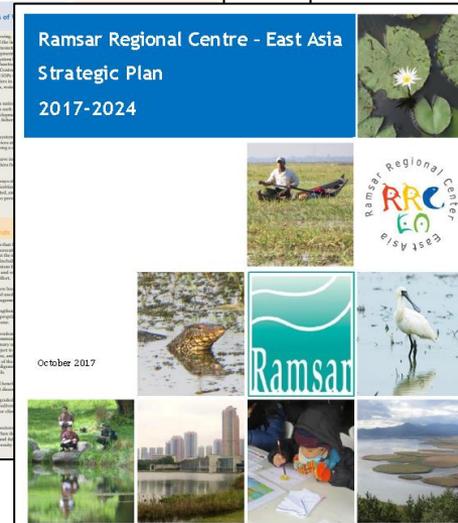
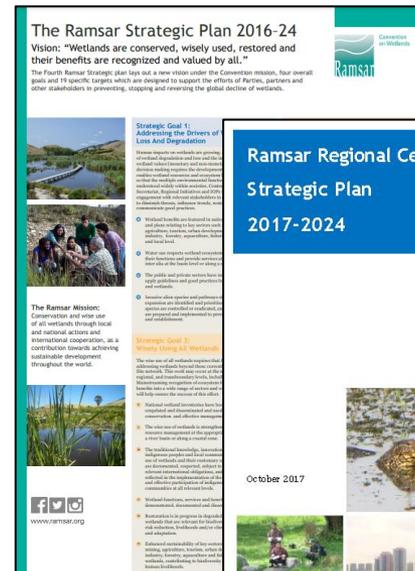
- **national**
  - local language
  - validate the priority training needs



# 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



Parties through Resolution X.8 adopted the third CEPA (for the term 2009-2015) and introduced participation as a programme of recognition of the role that participation can play in wetland conservation.

Ramsar Convention's stakeholders recognize that CEPA has an important role to play in the implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

In 2014, 129 Contracting Parties had designated Government CEPA focal points and 129 Contracting Parties had designated Government CEPA focal points. This represents a significant increase in designations since the last Ramsar meeting in 2011, and provides an excellent opportunity for coordinating CEPA delivery, and indeed broader wetland conservation, across the Ramsar Convention.

Contracting Parties which have reported carrying out CEPA activities include those which have incorporated CEPA into wetland management plans, those which have developed wetland centres, some Ramsar 70% of Parties which promote participation in wetland planning and those which have reported celebrating World Wetlands Day, but still some still have to make significant progress in many of these areas.

Donor Group for its continuing sponsorship of outreach and awareness activities, and particularly its support for the annual World Wetlands Day.

The work done by the Ramsar Secretariat and the CEPA Panel since 2015, and the Panel's oversight of the CEPA programme since 2015.

REFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024 which is set out in Annex 1 to this Resolution, as an integral part of the Ramsar Convention, the Ramsar Secretariat, the Convention's Parties (GOs), NGOs, community-based organizations, and other entities, and appropriate actors to engage, enlist and enable people to

# Development of the RRC-EA Strategic Plan 2017-2024

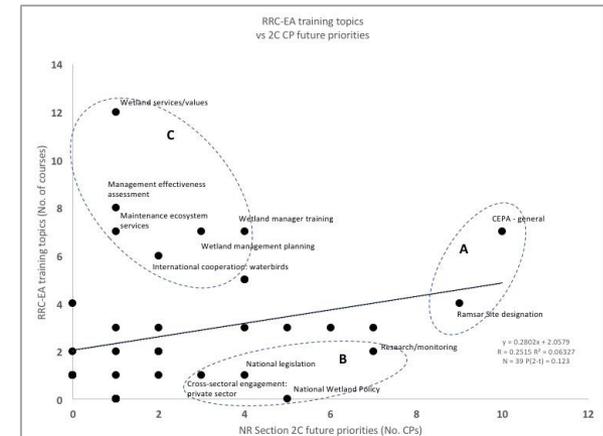
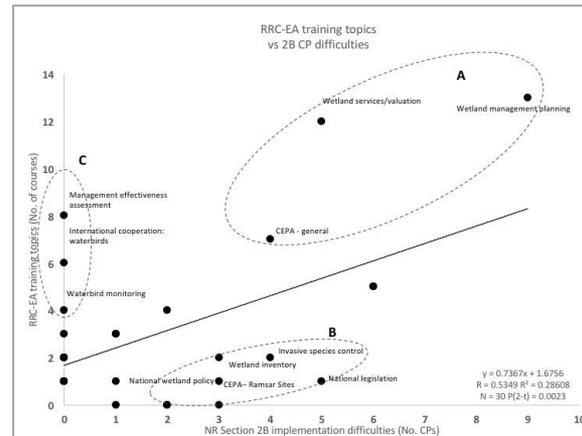
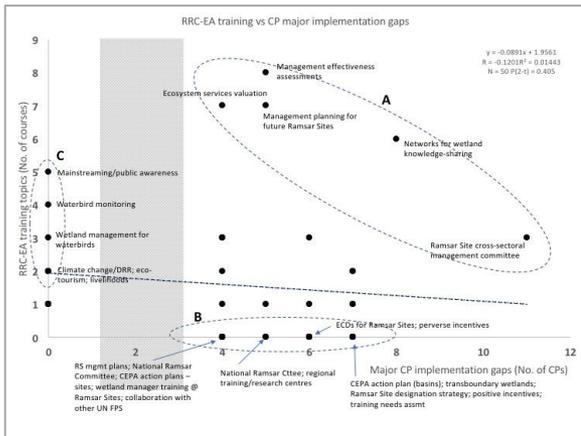


- information has been derived primarily from National Reports to Ramsar COP12
- Ramsar COP12 National Reports were submitted by all RRC-EA Member Countries (17 at the time)
- an analysis looked at the 74 selected National Report indicator questions which apply to all Contracting Parties

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

# RRC-EA priority topics



Action	Priority	Activity
<b>Continue training on:</b>	<b>HIGH</b>	<b>Cross-sectoral/participatory management for wetlands and Ramsar Sites</b> <b>Networks for knowledge and training on wetland conservation</b>
	MODERATE	Wetland ecosystem services/values assessment Ramsar Site designation and update process Wetland management planning Management effectiveness assessment CEPA – general
<b>Reduce greatly or cease capacity building and training on:</b>	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

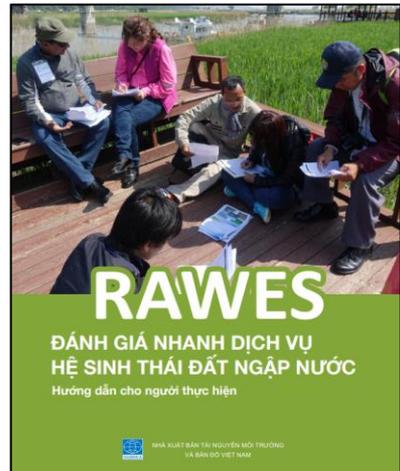
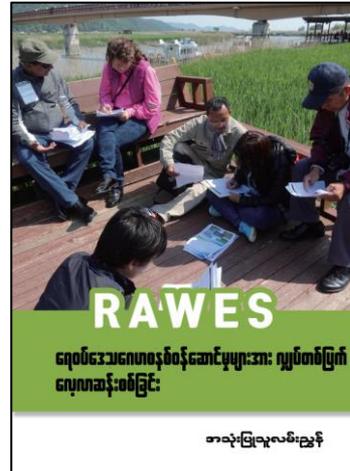
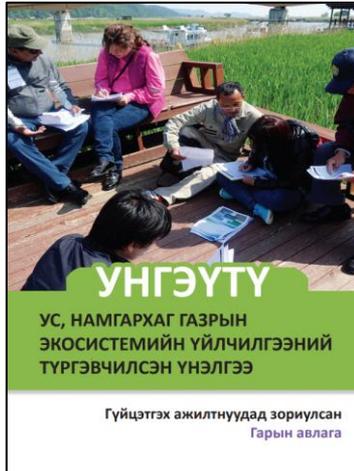
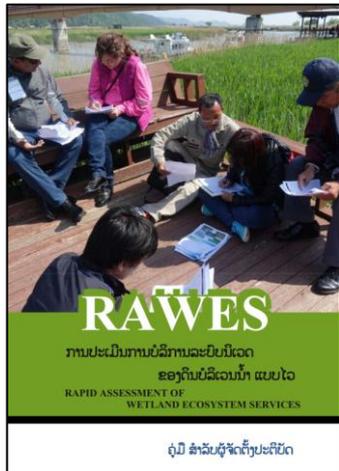
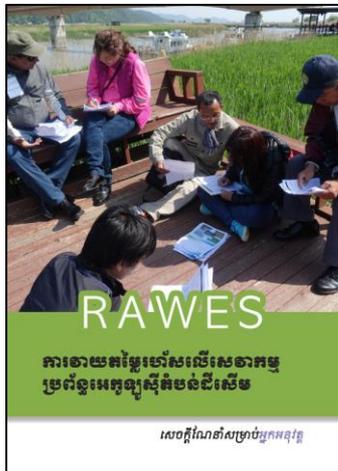
# Recommendations

- 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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