



**Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Wetlands
Management with Focus on the Ramsar Convention in Pacific
Island Countries.**



9-13 March 2009, Nadi Fiji.

1. Introduction

The Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Wetlands Management with Focus on the Ramsar Convention in the Pacific Island Countries was held in Nadi Fiji, from 9-13 March 2009. The workshop was made possible through funding under the Pacific Island Wetlands Initiative, which is an Initiative operating within the framework of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The workshop was jointly organized and delivered by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the IUCN regional office for Oceania (See [annex 1](#) for the workshop program).

1.2 Representation

All five Pacific Island contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention were represented at the workshop, that being Fiji, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Samoa. The Ramsar Convention Secretariat was represented by their Senior Regional Advisor (SRA) for Asia/Oceania, Lew Young; The IUCN regional office for Oceania was represented by their Chief Technical Advisor, Philippe Gerbeaux; SPREP was represented by Associate Ramsar Officer, Vainuupo Jungblut, while secretarial and logistical support was provided by the SPREP Programme assistant, Theresa Fruean-Afa. (See [annex 2](#) for participant list)

1.3 Objectives

The Specific objectives of the workshop were:

- To strengthen capacity to develop management plans for priority wetland sites in PICs including Ramsar sites.
- To discuss integrating management approaches across both marine and terrestrial wetlands.
- To showcase specific case studies and examples from the region on successful site-based management plans and approaches.
- To share the cultural perspectives of wetland values from around the region.

Monday 9 March 2009

Informal supplementary session: Information needs for improved implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the region.

The main purpose of this half-day informal session was to introduce the upcoming European Commission-funded project on capacity building related to MEAs in ACP Countries and get feedback from participants on information needs and priorities in relation to the Ramsar Convention. The feedback from this session would inform the inception phase of this project which was commenced by SPREP in January 2009, specifically the project's information component.

The day started with lunch for participants at 12.00pm. The actual session started at 12.30pm. The Associate Ramsar Officer (ARO) of SPREP, Vainuupo Jungblut warmly welcomed all the participants as well as the Ramsar Convention's SRA for Asia/Oceania, Mr. Lew Young, to the afternoon session.

The ARO gave an introductory presentation on the European Commission-funded, UNEP coordinated project on capacity building related to MEAs in ACP Countries that SPREP would be implementing for the Pacific region. The presentation highlighted the purpose, objectives, proposed activities, timeframe, coordination arrangements and budget of the project.

After his presentation, the ARO invited questions from the floor. There were no questions or issues raised by participants with regard to the presentation.

The ARO then provided some guidance to the participants on the brainstorming exercise which followed on from his presentation. Post-it notes were given out to all participants and broad headings were noted up on the whiteboard - (1. existing regional/international sources of Ramsar information; 2) Priority information areas; 3) preferred format).

The participants filled out their post-it notes and posted their responses on the whiteboard under the appropriate headings.

Once all the responses were posted up, the ARO and Ramsar SRA invited the participants to come up and assist in grouping the responses provided under common themes identified, Samoa and Fiji volunteered to assist. The grouping of responses was carried out especially for headings 2 and 3 (See [annex 3](#) for the result of this exercise).

The session broke for afternoon tea at 3.30pm

After the grouping of responses, a discussion of the responses was facilitated by the Ramsar SRA and the ARO (See [annex 4](#) for issues that were raised during the discussions).

Following the discussion, and in preparation for work during the rest of the week, the ARO and Ramsar SRA gave out copies of the country chapters of the Oceania Wetlands Directory to participants as “homework” for them to study. They were requested to use the information to come up with their top 5 or 6 priority wetland sites.

The participants began referring to their respective country chapters to produce a listing of priority national wetland sites.

The informal session ended at 5.30pm

2. WORKSHOP RECORD

Day 1: Tuesday 10 March 2009

2.1 Official Opening

The official workshop opening started at 8.30am with the SPREP Associate Ramsar Officer (ARO), Vainuupo Jungblut, welcoming the participants to the first day of the workshop proper. He invited one of the participants, Mr. Tevita Evo from Fiji to open the morning with a prayer.

2.2 Fijian Government

The Commissioner Western Division, Mr. Joeli Boca Rokovadra, delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Government of Fiji. Mr. Rokovadra warmly welcomed the participants to Fiji and pointed out that the subject of wetlands was so dear to their fragile small island environment and economy. He mentioned also that Fiji was indeed honoured to be given the opportunity to host such an important regional workshop and expressed his country’s sincere gratitude to the workshop co-organizers for their confidence in choosing Fiji as the venue (See [annex 5](#) for complete opening address).

2.3 Ramsar Convention Secretariat

The Ramsar SRA for Asia/Oceania (Ramsar SRA), Mr. Lew Young delivered his opening remarks on behalf of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. Mr. Young addressed Mr. Rokovadra and the participants and stated that he was very honoured and fortunate, to be able to represent the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in attending the workshop. He highlighted that the Pacific Island region holds some of the most unique and important wetlands in the world, such as their coral reefs and mangrove forests and that the traditional management of these ecosystems by the local communities has helped to maintain these systems intact over the centuries. He thanked SPREP and IUCN Oceania for their hard work in the preparation of the workshop, and that he looked forward to the results of the workshop, particularly in seeing how the Convention could work with the Pacific Island parties to promote the wise use of wetlands in Oceania to benefit their peoples.

2.4 Participant introductions

The ARO invited the participants to introduce themselves and their expectations of the workshop. The participants then went around the table for their introductions

Tevita Evo from Fiji (representing the Forestry Department) introduced himself and mentioned that he was new to this kind of workshop and that he hoped to have management plans developed for wetland sites as an outcome of the workshop.

The Ramsar SRA, Lew Young introduced himself and mentioned that he hoped to strengthen the work of the Convention in the Oceania region and outlined the experience of the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site in Hong Kong, where he worked before joining the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

Philippe Gerbeaux representing IUCN Oceania introduced himself and posed a question for participants to keep in mind – what are management plans in the Pacific sense? And what does this mean for the participants? He also mentioned that it was important to know how to develop good wetland management plans that could be assessed.

Maturo Paniani from Samoa introduced himself and mentioned that he conducts a lot of watershed management work in Samoa. He also mentioned that baseline information had already been collected for some national wetland sites, however, that it was important to learn what types of information are needed for the development of management plans. He further pointed out that the implementation of management plans depends very much on the availability of funding. He pointed out that he was new to Ramsar issues and wished to learn from the experiences of the other participants. Lastly, he expressed that he would like to learn how write good project proposals.

Kashgar Rengulbai from Palau introduced himself and mentioned that he was the chairman of the board of Lake Ngardok nature reserve, Palau's first Ramsar site. He also pointed out that they have been revising the Lake's management plan over the last five years, but want to reduce this revision period to every three years. One issue that he was interested in was the sustainability of projects and how to achieve this.

John Bungitak from the Marshall Islands introduced himself and mentioned that he was interested in capacity building for site monitoring.

Basilio Cakaunivalu from Fiji (representing Rivers Fiji) introduced himself and mentioned that he was new to Ramsar issues and wanted to learn from others during the week.

Eleni Tokaduadua from Fiji (representing the Department of Environment) introduced herself and thanked the organizers for engaging 3 participants from Fiji. She mentioned that all

national stakeholders need to understand the concepts of the Ramsar Convention. She was also pleased that the workshop would assist each of the participants during the week to develop their draft management plan structures. Lastly, she pointed out that she was keen how SPREP can assist PIC parties to include new Ramsar sites at the national level.

Rose Kualke- Singadan from Papua New Guinea (PNG) introduced herself and pointed out that they have a total of 57 protected areas at the national level, including two Ramsar sites. She mentioned that she was looking forward to learning from the experiences and practices of the other participants with regard to the management of their wetland sites.

2.5 Daily arrangements & housekeeping matters

The workshop daily arrangements and housekeeping matters was carried out by the ARO for the information of the participants.

3. Session 1: National Experiences in Wetland management

Session 1 started at 9.15am

3.1 Country presentations

3.1.1 Samoa

The ARO introduced the Session 1 on country experiences with relation to wetland management and invited Maturo from Samoa to start off the country presentations. Following Samoa's presentation, the ARO invited questions and/or observations from the floor.

Issues:

Tevita Evo (Fiji) pointed out that the presentation mentioned that between 1977 and 1992 a total of 47% of merchantable forest was cleared. He wanted to know if this was planted or indigenous forest. Maturo (Samoa) replied that it was indigenous forest. He mentioned that African Tulip (*Spathodea campanulata*) and invasive tree species touched on in Samoa's presentation, was widespread in Fiji and that utilization studies have already been carried out. He pointed out that the villages use African tulip; however, there was a need for a way to manage these.

Maturo also highlighted *Albizzia spp*, another invasive tree species and mentioned that he wanted to share experiences with the other participants on utilizing these for construction purposes, as well as other invasive tree species that have other uses by communities.

Kashgar (Palau) mentioned that they receive funding from the USDA Forestry Program for invasive species work and that *Albizzia spp* was introduced into Palau by the Japanese. He pointed out that *Albizzia spp* was good for construction (walls, floorings and ceilings). He mentioned that Palau also had African tulip and that they were trying to eradicate it. He also stated that the view of a tree species being invasive varied from country to country as some do have uses for them.

The ARO invited further issues and questions; however, nothing further was raised.

3.1.2 Palau

The ARO gave the floor to Kashgar (Palau) for his country presentation. Following the presentation, the ARO invited questions and/or comments from the participants.

Issues:

Rose (PNG) asked how they were funding the management of Lake Ngardok nature reserve, Palau's first Ramsar site. She outlined their experience where wetland sites were managed by communities while funded by the national government.

Kashgar (Palau) explained that Koror State manage their own conservation activities through tourism fees, however they also had to look for other funding sources. He mentioned that turtle shells were a source of income for women and that they have been successful in educating and promoting turtle conservation in schools through a national awareness campaign known as "The turtle is our friend". They will be looking next to promote awareness on the conservation of giant clams.

The ARO invited further issues or questions, nothing further was raised.

The Session broke for morning tea at 10.00am and resumed at 10.34am. The group photo was taken during the break.

3.1.3 Marshall Islands

The ARO gave the floor to John (Marshall Islands) for his presentation. Following the presentation the ARO invited questions and/or comments from the floor.

Issues:

The Ramsar SRA (Lew) asked about banning coastal lagoon dredging and whether the craters created in the lagoon floor were covered up or not. Lew highlighted the experience in other parts of the world, where such craters have caused changes to lagoon hydrology and currents.

Philippe (IUCN Oceania) wanted to know the original values for which Jaluit Atoll Ramsar site was nominated, in relation to the issues raised in the presentation.

No further questions were raised.

3.1.4 Fiji

The ARO gave the floor to Eleni from Fiji to carry out her country presentation. Following Eleni's presentation, the ARO invited Basilio (from Rivers Fiji) for his presentation. Basilio presented a verbal account of his experience in managing Fiji's first Ramsar site, The Upper Navua Conservation Area (UNCA).

Following these two Fiji country presentations, the ARO invited questions, issues and observations from participants.

Issues:

John (Marshall Islands) asked whether the community at the UNCA wanted to get paid for conserving the area. Furthermore, would Rivers Fiji continue to manage the site for the community?

Rose (PNG) revealed that their national government did not implement down at the rural level. She asked whether it was a government policy for the Fiji Department of Environment to partner with Rivers Fiji for the management of the UNCA.

Eleni (Fiji) mentioned that the partnership was by mutual agreement. The Ramsar status of the UNCA was made possible through the Rivers Fiji lease, and that a letter of support was sent from Rivers Fiji to the Fijian government for this partnership arrangement to manage the UNCA.

3.1.5 Papua New Guinea

The ARO gave the floor to Rose (Papua New Guinea) for her country presentation. Following the presentation, the session broke for Lunch at 12.40pm.

The session resumed at 1.40pm with questions and comments on the PNG country presentation. The ARO welcomed back the participants and invited questions and comments from the floor.

Issues:

Kashgar (Palau) asked whether the Ramsar Secretariat could locate experts/scientists to conduct studies on the oil and gas exploration activities.

The Ramsar SRA (Lew) mentioned that they have Ramsar Advisory missions and also the representatives of the Ramsar STRP that could assist, although they have no budget.

No further questions or issues were raised. This was the last of the country presentations.

4. Session 2: Wetland Management Initiatives in the Pacific Islands region

4.1 IUCN wetland-related Initiatives in the region

The ARO gave the floor to Philippe Gerbeaux (IUCN) to carry out his presentation on IUCN wetland-related Initiatives in the region. Following his presentation, questions and comments were invited from the floor.

Issues:

No questions were raised. However, Maturo (Samoa) mentioned that they were ready to engage more fully in the IUCN Water and Nature Initiative (WANI), of which a project was already underway in Samoa.

4.2 The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: Overview of work in the Pacific Islands region

The ARO gave a presentation on the work of the Ramsar Convention in the Oceania region since 2005, for the information of the participants. Following his presentation, he invited questions and comments from participants.

Issues:

Tevita (Fiji) asked as to when the draft mangrove monitoring manual for the Pacific Islands region would be finalized. In response, the ARO mentioned that national and regional comments on the draft manual have been sought and received since the draft was developed in April 2007. The ARO further mentioned that a regional mangrove monitoring training was planned for November 2009, and that the manual would be finalized and field-tested at this training.

The session broke for afternoon tea at 3.50pm and resumed at 4.00pm

5. Session 3: Integrated Management Approaches

5.1 Relevant Ramsar guidance on integrated wetland management

The ARO welcomed participants back and invited the Ramsar SRA (Lew) to carry out his presentation on integrated water catchment guidance of the Ramsar Convention. Following his presentation, the floor was opened for questions and comments.

Issues:

No questions were raised by participants.

5.2 Participant Presentations – Site Prioritization

The ARO invited Fiji, RMI and Palau to briefly present the results of their site prioritization “homework” from Monday.

Issues:

No issues were raised by participants on these three presentations

5.3 The Need for and essentials of management planning

The ARO carried out a brief presentation on the need for management plans, for the information of participants.

Issues:

No questions or issues were raised by participants.

The sessions for Day 1 wrapped up at 5.40pm

Day 2: Wednesday 11 March 2009

The day started off with a plus delta evaluation of the previous day’s session, Tuesday 10 March 2009. The purpose of the evaluation was to find out what the participants felt went well from the previous day and what they would like to see done differently in upcoming sessions.

5.4 Continuation – Site prioritization exercise

Following the evaluation, Rose (PNG) was invited to present the results of her prioritization of national wetland sites, following on from presentations made on the afternoon of the previous day.

Issues:

Following from the presentation, there was some brief discussion on cultural criteria and considerations for Ramsar listing. Philippe (IUCN) and the Ramsar SRA (Lew) gave a bit of background as to why there is no cultural criterion for Ramsar site listing.

Maturo (Samoa) was invited to give the results of his prioritization of national wetland sites.

Issues:

No questions or issues were raised (See [annex 6](#) for draft list of priority wetlands sites)

6. Session 4: Wetland Management Planning Process

6.1 Management Planning Exercise

Following these presentations, the ARO introduced the activity on management planning to be worked on by the participants. Each country was asked to select one site from their prioritized list to work on for the rest of the week.

The ARO then asked participants to work on, and consider the following in relation to their chosen sites:

- Identify management objectives for the site
- What are the site’s key features?
- What are the factors that affect, or may affect, the site’s key features?
- Who are the stakeholders?
- Identify potential conflicts? – What mitigation measure will you use to defuse these conflicts?
- What are some needed actions to achieve the site management objectives?
- What are the site monitoring requirements?

- What are the options for effective enforcement?

The session broke at 10.00am for morning tea and resumed at 10.35am with participants continuing to work on the above.

The ARO invited Kashgar (Palau) to present on the exercise. Following the presentation, questions were invited from the floor.

Issues:

It was raised that more information was needed (in the section on key features) as to why the site was significant (site values).

The ARO invited John (Marshall Islands) to present on the exercise. Following the presentation, questions were invited from the floor.

Issues:

Eleni (Fiji) asked John (RMI) whether poaching was an issue on Namdrik Atoll, whether now or in the future. No comment was made by the Marshall Islands on this.

The ARO invited Maturo (Samoa) to give his presentation. Following the presentation, questions were invited from the floor.

Issues:

An observation was made that the monitoring requirements were actually monitoring indicators. Furthermore, a clarification was sought as to the link of Lake Lanoto'o to the ecotourism venture mentioned in the presentation.

The ARO invited Eleni (Fiji) to give her presentation. Once completed questions were invited from the floor.

Issues:

An issue was raised in relation to a management objective on stopping illegal logging within the UNCA - This read both like an objective and action and that more detail was needed.

The ARO invited Rose (PNG) to present her results of the exercise. Questions were welcomed following her presentation.

Issues:

It was raised that law enforcement was an important issue. Tevita (Fiji) highlighted that in Fiji loggers were penalized, not taken to court.

No other issues were raised.

The session broke for lunch at 12.25pm and resumed at 1.15pm.

The ARO welcomed participants back from lunch and invited Philippe (IUCN) to carry out his back-to-back presentations on the following:

1. Introduction to management planning
2. Setting management objectives
3. Knowing Wetland Values and management constraints

The session broke for afternoon tea at 3.15pm and resumed at 3.25pm

The ARO invited Philippe to carry on his presentations on:

1. Achieving management objectives
2. Monitoring

Following all of Philippe's presentations, questions were invited from the floor.

Issues:

It was raised that it would be useful to use the same jargon with regards to management plans (e.g. goal, vision, aim).

It was also raised whether the long term objective of a management plan is also its goal.

It was highlighted that a goal could not be measured while an objective could be.

A question was raised as to why goals could not be measured?

Another question was raised on the timeframe for management plans – whether three years was too short or not?

No further issues were raised.

The Session for Day 2 wrapped up at 5.20pm

Day 3: Thursday 12 March 2009

7. Session 5: The Management Plan

The day started at 8.30am with a continuation on session 4 from Day 2. The Ramsar SRA (Lew) carried out a presentation and exercise on the management plan format and considerations. In addition, Lew presented a short case study on the zonation of activities within the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar site in Hong Kong for the information of participants. After the presentations, the ARO invited questions from the floor.

Issues:

In relation to the management plan format presentation:

It was noted that there was a need to have a monitoring plan for each activity.

It was also noted that activities needed to be prioritized according to available resources.

A question was raised – whether a management plan could be used as a project proposal to attract funding. Lew mentioned that this could be done.

It was noted that in addition to a monitoring plan, a timeframe and budget should also be set for each activity.

In relation to the zonation case study:

A question was raised - whether zones could overlap? Lew mentioned that this was possible as a result of species movements.

No further issues were raised.

7.1 Management Objectives Exercise

Lew then introduced the exercise on the management plan format. Participants were asked to choose one management objective identified from the management planning exercise (Day 2)

and develop specific activities and a budget estimate. Participants were also asked to identify stakeholders for each specific activity.

The participants, assisted by the Ramsar SRA and ARO, worked on this exercise up until the workshop broke for morning tea at 10.00am

7.2 Field Trip

At 10.30am, the participants departed for a field trip to the Lomawai village, in the Tikina-I-Wai district which is about 1 hour and 50 minutes from Nadi. The field trip was jointly organized by the WWF Fiji Country Programme and the Fiji Department of Environment. Lomawai village is currently participating in a 4-year, GEF-funded climate change project focusing on mangroves, administered by WWF Fiji.

Upon arrival at Lomawai village the workshop group met with the chiefs of the village and presented their *sevusevu* (an offering of kava) during the traditional kava ceremony to welcome the visiting workshop group to the village.

Following the kava ceremony, the WWF Fiji Team, consisting of Monifa Fiu and Francis Areki, led the group down to the salt ponds which was a traditional salt making area of the village. The salt was a main source of income for the village. The WWF team explained the background of the traditional salt making and how WWF Fiji was supporting this form of traditional use practiced by the village.

Following the visit to the salt ponds, the participants were led on a hike through the mangroves that lasted approximately 1 hour. The participants hiked to an area where mangrove leaf litter was being collected and analyzed under the GEF project. Once all were in the area, the WWF Fiji team explained the background and aims of the project for the information of participants.

After the mangrove hike, the participants took part in a boat excursion down the Kubuna River to the river mouth and the coast. The WWF Fiji team gave some insight into the different species of mangroves clustered along the river bank. They pointed attention to mangroves replanting plots along the coastline and potential threats from adjacent developments up the coast.

After the boat excursion, the visiting workshop group had lunch (prepared by the village) and took part in a traditional kava ceremony by the village to farewell them.

The Field trip ended at 4.30pm. Due to other work commitments, Philippe (IUCN Oceania) departed for Suva on Thursday evening.

Day 4: Friday 13 March 2009

The day started off with a continuation of session 5, particularly presentations from participants on the exercise from Day 3.

The ARO invited Kashgar (Palau) to start off the presentations. Following his presentation, questions were invited from the floor.

Issues:

A question was raised – whether Palau was engaging children in awareness activities. No further issues were raised.

The ARO invited Maturo (Samoa) to carry out his presentation. Following the presentation, questions were invited from the floor.

Issues:

It was raised that it would be useful for Samoa to include an activity on controlling invasive species in their proposed plan.

No further issues were raised.

The ARO invited Eleni (Fiji) to carry out her presentation. Following this questions were invited.

Issues:

Eleni pointed out that the Fiji Native Land Trust Board (NLTB) would consult with logging companies on illegal logging, as this is their role.

Nothing further was raised.

The ARO invited Rose (PNG) to carry out her presentation. Following this, questions were invited.

Issues:

No questions were raised.

7.3 Ramsar Small Grants Fund

The Ramsar SRA (Lew) carried out a presentation on the general guidelines for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF) including tips and considerations for applying to this fund. In addition he also guided participants through the format of the Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RIS).

Issues:

An issue was raised by participants over the timeframe for releasing funds to countries for SGF projects. Lew commented that the process does take some time. In addition, he pointed out that the disbursement ratio was 80-20 but was now 60-40.

No further issues were raised.

8. Session 6: Next Steps & Workshop Closure**8.1 Where to Next?**

A discussion facilitated by the ARO and Ramsar SRA was carried out to discuss follow up actions that could be carried out for the remainder of 2009 and some others targeted for 2010. Timeframes and responsibility for these actions was also discussed (See [Annex 7](#) for follow up actions).

8.2 Workshop Evaluation

The ARO gave out the workshop evaluation forms to participants and kindly requested for them to complete the forms. CDs containing all the workshop materials, presentations and information documents were also given out during this time.

8.3 Workshop Closure

Following the completion of the workshop evaluation forms, The ARO made a closing statement on behalf of SPREP, the Ramsar SRA (Lew) made a closing statement on behalf of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, and Fiji delivered a statement of thanks and appreciation on behalf of their government. The rest of the participants also made brief closing remarks. The workshop was closed with a prayer by Fiji.

The Session for Day 4 wrapped up at 3.30pm

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Time	Monday 9 March 2009	Notes
	Informal Supplementary Session: Information needs for improved implementation of the Ramsar Convention	
12.30pm – 3.30pm	Facilitated discussion/brainstorming – <i>regional information priorities & needs</i>	Vainuupo Jungblut, SPREP/Lew Young, Ramsar Secretariat.
	LUNCH & AFTERNOON TEA WILL BE PROVIDED	
	DAY 1 – Tuesday 10 March 2009	
8.00am – 8.30am	Registration	
8.30am-9.00am	Workshop Opening Welcome Prayer Opening Remarks Opening Remarks – Ramsar Secretariat Participant introductions & expectations Daily arrangements & housekeeping matters	Vainuupo Jungblut, SPREP TBC Fiji Government representative Lew Young, Senior Regional Adviser for Asia/Oceania, Ramsar Convention Secretariat All Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania/Vainuupo Jungblut (SPREP)
	Session 1: National Experiences in Wetland management	
9.00am- 10.00am	In-country work on wetlands management - key Issues, challenges & opportunities?	Brief presentations by participants (15 mins each)
10.00am – 10.30am	MORNING TEA & GROUP PHOTO	
10.30am – 12.00pm	Continuation of session 1 - country presentations & discussions Discussions	Participants

12.00pm – 1.00pm	LUNCH BREAK	
	Session 2: Wetland Management Initiatives in the Pacific Islands region	
1.00pm – 1.30pm	Presentation: <i>The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: Overview of work in the Pacific Islands region</i>	Vainuupo Jungblut (SPREP)
1.30pm – 1.40pm	Discussions	All
1.40pm – 2.10pm	IUCN wetland-related initiatives in the region	Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania
2.10pm – 2.20pm	Discussions	All
	Session 3: Integrated management approaches	
2.20pm – 2.50pm	<i>Integrated Catchment Management case study from Fiji</i>	Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania
2.50pm – 3.00pm	Discussions	
3.00pm – 3.30pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
3.30pm – 4.00pm	Presentation: <i>Relevant Ramsar guidance on Integrated wetland management</i>	Lew Young, Ramsar Secretariat
4.00pm – 4.10pm	Discussions	All
	Session 4: Ramsar Management Concepts	
4.10pm – 4.40pm	Presentation: <i>Ramsar Convention criteria for evaluating ecological character features</i>	Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania
4.40pm – 4.50pm	Discussions	
5.00pm	Evaluation & End of day 1	
6.00pm	Welcome dinner reception for participants	
	Day 2: Wednesday 11 March 2009	
	Session 5: Wetland Management Planning Process	

8.30am – 9.00am	Presentation: <i>The need for & essentials of management planning</i>	Vainuupo Jungblut, SPREP
9.00am – 10.00am	group work & presentations	
10.00am – 10.30am	Presentation: <i>Knowing the wetland, its values and management constraints</i>	Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania
10.30am – 10.45am	MORNING TEA	

10.45am – 11.15am	group work & presentations	
11.15am – 11.45am	Presentation: <i>Lessons learnt from previous management planning experiences</i>	Lew Young, Vainuupo Jungblut, Philippe Gerbeaux
11.45am – 12.15pm	group work & presentations	
12.15pm – 1.00pm	LUNCH BREAK	
1.00pm – 1.30pm	Presentation: <i>Setting management objectives</i>	Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania
1.30pm – 3.00pm	group work & presentations	
3.00pm – 3.30pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
2.00pm – 2.30pm	Presentation: <i>Achieving management objectives</i>	Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania
2.30pm – 3.30pm	group work & presentations	
3.30pm – 4.15pm	Presentation: <i>Monitoring & reviewing progress</i>	Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania
4.15pm – 5.00pm	group work & presentations	
5.00pm	Evaluation & End of Day 2	
	Day 3: Thursday 12 March 2009	
	Session 6: The Management Plan	
8.30am – 9.45am	Presentation: <i>Recommended format of the wetland management plan & considerations</i>	Lew Young, Ramsar Secretariat
9.45am – 10.00am	Discussions & brief intro to field trip	All & Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania/WWF Fiji Country Program
10.00am – 10.30am	MORNING TEA	
10.30am – 5.00pm	Half-day field trip (Tikina -I -Wai)	Organised by the WWF Fiji Country Program
	Evaluation & End of Day 3	
	Day 4: Friday 13 March 2009	

	Continuation of session 6 from Thursday	
8.00am – 8.30am	Presentation: <i>Designing a monitoring plan</i>	Philippe Gerbeaux, IUCN Oceania
8.30am – 9.30am	Group work & presentations	
	Session 7: Additional management considerations	
9.30am - 10.00am	Presentation: <i>Wetland Risk Assessment framework</i>	Lew Young, Ramsar Secretariat
10.00am – 10.20am	MORNING TEA	
10.20am – 10.30am	Discussions	All
10.30am – 11.00am	Presentation: <i>Assessing & reporting change in ecological character</i>	Lew Young, Ramsar Secretariat
11.00am – 11.10am	Discussions	All
11.10am – 11.40am	Presentation: <i>Applying the Montreux Record of the Convention</i>	Lew Young, Ramsar Secretariat
11.40am – 12.00pm	Discussions	All
12.00pm – 1.00pm	LUNCH BREAK	
	Session 8: Next Steps & Workshop Closure	
1.00pm – 2.45pm	Plenary Discussions: Where to next? Follow up actions?	All
2.45pm – 3.00pm	Overall workshop evaluation by participants	
3.00pm –	Workshop closure & Afternoon Tea	
	End of Day 4	
	Free time for rest of the day	



Regional Capacity Development Workshop on Wetlands Management with Focus on the Ramsar Convention in Pacific Island Countries.

9-13 March, Nadi Fiji.

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Results of Information needs exercise

Are you familiar with existing sources of information on the Ramsar convention	Are they meeting your needs?	Priority information areas (6 main areas identified)	Preferred format for dissemination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Websites (Ramsar, SPREP, USFWS) - Research information (needs to be simplified for the public) - Ministry of Environment - Mapping of land use (should be an info source but not fulfilling that role adequately). - museums - Don't know (3) - Not aware of many sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not really - Little knowledge about available information in the region - Information needs to be more easily accessible (information on websites) 	<p>1) Legislation/policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of management plans - Existing policies/legislations on wetlands - Develop legislation to protect wetlands <p>2) Traditional knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional knowledge on wetland management <p>3) scientific/technical:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information on wetland species (profiles) & invasive spp - Survey wetlands in-country - Information on monitoring Ramsar sites (including wetland indicators) - ecosystem information (including mangroves) - Wetland research information - Water resource information - Forest resource information - Gathering Biological, ecological, economic data for wetland sites. - training course on how to produce education/communication materials 	<p>SPREP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - website - newsletter - posters - brochures - banners - international events (eg – world wetlands day) <p>TV programmes, DVD (regional level focus)</p> <p>Activities/Events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for communities - 'touch and feel' <p>Consultations/workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community level (land use plans, showcase results of conservation) - national level (SPREP to be

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - results of ecosystem surveys - impacts of climate change on wetlands 4) Databases - Ramsar information data basing and management - Create database to facilitate reporting requirements (both national/regional levels). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> more active) - Regional level
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Issues that were raised during the discussion on information needs

General comments:

- There needs to be more consultation at the community level (within the region)
- All official Ramsar meeting documents are in English – need to translate these for the communities.
- The National Park project in Samoa – closely involving communities in project activities (restoration/rehabilitation).
- Internet connectivity, security levels are not very reliable in some PICs (Fiji)
- NGOs have their own agendas and promote their own sites – this has been a challenge for government.
- Need to ensure that the project is sustainable after Ramsar designation – need information on how to achieve this.

Funding (Raised by Fiji):

Sustainable financial mechanisms – trend in the region now

Wetlands need to be more economically viable – Ramsar to assist in identifying these options

There is a community expectation that Ramsar designation will come with financial assistance

Community demands are a challenge.

They are talking to CBD about Protected Area financing also

National priorities have also been discussed under POWPA project

Land use mapping:

- not available, doesn't meet community needs (Samoa)
- Land use mapping not available to them (Papua New Guinea)
- Information needs to be accessed by communities for their decision-making

CEPA:

- Newsletters/posters/brochures - Topics?
- Ramsar World Wetlands Day posters are useful
- World Biodiversity Day (CBD) – good to link in different themes with national commemoration days
- Presenting issues & getting the message – need training on this
- Want to see things rather than reading about them
- Would be good to have documentaries of wetlands across the region
- State of the Environment Reports, National Environment Strategie – need to feed wetlands information into these in order to meet national, regional, international requirements (Fiji).
- Most in communities can't read
- Need to increase involvement of communities in field visits

Traditional Knowledge

- There is a need to capture wetland-related traditional knowledge across the region.

Some questions that arose out of the discussions:

- Is there really a need for more community meetings and are there ways of better presenting information to communities?
- What about information sharing between countries?
- How can communities be involved in wetland management activities?
- Do our sites still meet the Ramsar criteria?
- How can we provide for communities in order for them to meet their daily needs whilst also protecting the wetland sites?

**ADDRESS BY MR JOELI ROKOVADA, COMMISSIONER
WESTERN DIVISION, AT THE OPENING OF THE RAMSAR
REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP, NOVOTEL
HOTEL, NADI, FIJI, 10TH – 13TH MARCH, 2009**

The Workshop Director, distinguished representatives of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, SPREP, IUCN Oceania, delegates from the participating countries, ladies and gentlemen. Bula vinaka, on behalf of the Fiji Government it gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you to our shores and to officiate at the opening of this important regional workshop on a subject that is so dear to our fragile small island environment and economy. Fiji is indeed honoured to be given the opportunity to host this important regional workshop.

May I express our deep appreciation to host our regional delegates and distinguished visiting technical experts whose work involves the protection of wetlands under the Ramsar Convention.

Also I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the workshop co-organizers, SPREP, IUCN Oceania and Ramsar Secretariat for their confidence in choosing Fiji as the venue for this workshop, and to commend them for all the hard work leading up to the workshop, which is being manifested here today.

I understand that the workshop is an activity under the Pacific Islands Wetland Initiative (PIWI) funded by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The workshop is a response to a need expressed by Pacific Island Ramsar parties for the development of management plans for their Ramsar sites and other nationally significant wetlands. This is critically important for the protection and preservation of our wetlands and for ensuring that wetlands are not unduly exploited as a result of indiscriminate human activity and that they continue to remain in their natural state performing their ecological functions undisturbed.

The Ramsar Convention on wetlands was signed by 18 countries on the 2nd February 1971, in the small Iranian town of Ramsar. Fiji became a party in 2006 after some 35 years.

The Ramsar Convention promotes the conservation and wise use of the world's wetlands through national, regional and international action and co-operation.

The Ramsar Convention has grown to include 158 countries worldwide. Five of these are Pacific Island Countries, viz: Fiji, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.

The term wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention include everything from the ridge to the reef. Hence, the Convention covers mangrove, coral reefs, and sea grass meadows, lagoons, freshwater lakes, rivers and streams, marshes and swamps.

The wetlands of our region are under threat from population growth, indiscriminate waste disposal, coastal developments, land clearance, over-fishing and destructive fishing methods, unsustainable extraction practices, to name but a few.

In light of these threats, and the significant value of our wetlands, it is more imperative now than ever to manage our wetlands and their resources to ensure that they continue to provide their vital ecological functions and sustain the livelihoods of our people for now, well into the future.

The recent flooding events of January this year devastated most of Fiji's low lying areas and river basins, from upstream to downstream. These floods are focused mainly on large river basins in Fiji. One can still witness the impacts of the floods in the Nadi and surrounding areas if you get a chance to look around. The accompanying landslide in many areas as a result of intense prolonged heavy rainfall damaged water sources and devastated flora and fauna that provide significant contribution to the sustainability of ecosystems and livelihoods.

Heavy siltation of river mouths caused by frequent flooding poses serious threat to marine life as well as transportation system as the river gets shallower day by day thus restricting movement of bigger vessels and mobility in general.

It is now a critical time for Fiji to re-look at the management of its wetland areas and river systems and build up on how these systems can be resilient to climate change. More so, on how effective our communities can be engaged

and educated on the impact of poor management of river basins or wetlands. Through the SOPAC programme of assistance, a committee has been established to deal with the flood risk reduction within the Nadi river basin as a pilot project with further adaptation planned in other catchments around the country. Amongst other things the Committee is responsible for the development of a Flood Management Plan for the Nadi river basin. I understand that some countries in the region like Samoa have already put in place Flood Management Plans which are already paying dividend in those countries.

Technical assessments undertaken following the recent severe flooding events in Fiji revealed that even with the best flood control system it would not have prevented flooding that took place as a result of the unprecedented intense prolonged heavy rainfall that hit the country at the time. Dealing with climate change for the protection and preservation of wetlands therefore would be an uphill battle and a major challenge for small island nations like ours.

This workshop I hope will help our region in designing effective management plan for wetlands to be more resilient to climate change impacts we are currently experiencing. Following the recent flooding and landslide events, it is also crucial for Fiji and similarly affected countries to incorporate rehabilitation plans to recover threatened areas in the region. Extensive landslide within the Nadarivatu district has threatened eco-tourism and other planned developments as well as the revitalization of the district as a growth centre.

This is also an opportunity to initiate policies that can sustainably maximize the benefits derived from wetland for our communities and economic activities in the region. The need to integrate climate change into the planning process is crucial.

Fiji has begun discussion on the importance of considering ecological based approach management into policies and implementation of program. It is important for the long term security of our wetlands and at the same time challenging because of the decentralization of policies that focus on different management systems and processes.

Fiji is also in the process of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into sectoral plans, policies and programmes and as an integral part of the development planning process thus ensuring the effective management of wetlands and the sustainable utilization of wetland resources.

It is my fervent hope that the deliberations throughout the week will highlight the importance of community management of its wetlands resources, how to effectively engage a cross-sectoral management system, how to protect the different habitats for various stages of life, how to improve both land use and fishing practices in wetland areas, and making the critical link between natural resources and the key sectors.

The challenge is to develop our Ramsar sites and engage new sites and measure and monitor its effectiveness against the above principles.

Finally, once again I wish to thank the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, SPREP and IUCN Oceania for organizing such a workshop which I'm sure will benefit the region a lot, and in having the confidence on the Fiji Government to host such an important capacity building workshop.

I wish you well in your deliberations during the week and a safe stay in Fiji, and while you still have the opportunity I encourage you to please find time to enjoy the Fiji hospitality.

Draft list of potential future Ramsar sites in Oceania

Fiji

The sites below were not ranked because the list is informal.

RANK	SITE NAME	PROTECTION STATUS (LEGISLATION)	IMPORTANCE OF SITE (endemism, vulnerability, etc)	HABITAT TYPE	OTHER COMMENTS
		Size PA Status			
***	Vunivia catchment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry forest is zoned as protection forest Proposed for total conservation of watershed / mangrove / reefs 	Site is within a major watershed area comprising several creeks and three major rivers (Vunivia, Bourewa and Kedra)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine/coastal wetlands Represent an ecosystem based system Extensive forest and mangrove species Includes wet and dry zone forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tagituba Initiative is a local NGOs working on site Most areas cannot be logged Managed by native owners and government depts.
***	Labasa Delta Mangroves		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drains the fertile Labasa plain and fans of 3 rivers, Labasa, Qawa and Wailevu Rivers Principal activity in the delta is fishing 	Marine/Coastal Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 rivers are of main public concerns Flood prone areas Economic zone for Vanua Levu Threatened by industrial development and pollution, rubbish dump, logging Recommended management practices in Watling's

***	Ba River Delta & Mangroves	Reserved Forests and managed by Forestry from 1933 to 1975. De-notified in 1975 and is under the jurisdiction of the Lands Dept. since.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ba Delta mangroves sustain one of the most important offshore fisheries in Fiji Supports the largest contiguous stand of mangroves in Fiji Recommended for management 	Marine / coastal wetlands	report (1985)
***	Mount Koroyanitu Range	National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scenically, area is spectacular with waterfalls, towering cliffs of lava, luxuriant forest growth Provide headwaters for the Sabeto, Teidamu, Varaciva and Veitogo Rivers Divides the Nadi and Ba river catchments Unique and suitable for research and education purposes Important catchment for water supply to Lautoka before Vaturu Dam was established IBAs for endemic flora (17 species) and many more endemic bird species Cultural significant Island within the Rewa River, Fiji's largest and longest river Has 121 species of vascular plants, 14 bird species, 8 vegetation types of mainly mangroves Source of livelihood to communities of the Rewa Delta 	Inland wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Much effort has been put into this site Has options for sustainable financing mechanisms Trekking, mountain biking Provide for community's livelihood Many funded projects contribute towards the site, e.g. NLTB, SPREP and NZODA.
***	Nasoata Mangrove Islet			Marine/Coastal Wetlands	Invasive species biggest threat

Marshall Islands

RANK	SITE NAME	PROTECTION STATUS (LEGISLATION)	IMPORTANCE OF SITE (endemism, vulnerability, etc)	HABITAT TYPE	OTHER COMMENTS
		Size	PA Status		

1	Namrik Atoll			Coastal/Mangrove Mangrove crabs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevation, 3 metres Population, 800
2	Milli Atoll			Coastal/Mangrove Giant clams present	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevation, 3 metres Population, 500
3	Ailing Laplap			Coastal/ Mangrove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevation, 3 metres Population, 1200
4	Bikar Is.			Sea Birds/Turtle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevation, 3 metres Population, 0
5	Jemo			Turtle/Birds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevation, 3 metres Population, 0
6	Mgit Is.			Salt Lake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevation, 3 metres Population, 600
7	Lib Is			Mangrove Lake Important for traditional medicines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elevation, 3 metres Population, 500

Palau

RANK	SITE NAME	PROTECTION STATUS (LEGISLATION)	IMPORTANCE OF SITE (endemism, vulnerability, etc)	HABITAT TYPE	OTHER COMMENTS
		Size Status	PA		
1	Ngermeskang bird sanctuary				Community gets funding from BirdLife International
2	Ngerdorch River:		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the largest river in Palau Originate from Lake Ngardok 	Freshwater swamps, swamp forest and mangrove forest	
3	Ngerbekuu	Proposed Protected Area		Mangrove forest,	Presently Babeldaob

	River:	Network site		swamp forest and 4 freshwater swamp in the estuary of the river	Watershed Alliance member
4	Ngerimel River:			Fresh water swamps and mangrove forest	Source of water to Koror State which holds the biggest population
5	Ngerikii River:			Freshwater swamps, lowland swamp forest and mangrove forest	

Papua New Guinea

RANK	SITE NAME	PROTECTION STATUS (LEGISLATION)		IMPORTANCE OF SITE (endemism, vulnerability, etc)	HABITAT TYPE	OTHER COMMENTS
		Size	PA Status			
1	Kikori Wetlands & Purari River	1,331,300ha	np	Flyway for migratory spp High biodiversity Ext Mangrove habitat Sago Swamps	Large waterways in Gulf of Papua Swamp and Oxbow lakes	
2	Fly River Flood Plains (incls) • Lake Murray 64,700ha • Boset lagoon 1680ha	4,500,000ha	np	Food sources Biologically significant for lake systems	River system Sago swamp Oxbow and swamp lakes	OK Tedi Mine dumps waste into the Fly
3	Lake Daviumbu 1168ha Wetlands of Central			Food source Fishing grounds	Wetlands Mangrove	High Impact development • LNG Gas project

	Province	• 120ha	proposed	Flyway for migratory spp birds	Estuarine / tidal flats	• Construction
	• Waigani Swamp	• Unknown	proposed	High biodiversity		• Logging Concessions
	• Lealea Salt Flats	• 200ha	np			
	• Lake Iaraguma	• 30ha	np			
	• Kanosia Lagoon	• 150ha	np			
	• Aroa Lagoon	• 50ha	np			
	• Hisiu Lagoon					
4	Sepik and Ramu Floodplains	1,200,000ha WS, ES, & Madang	np	Food sources Waterway for transport Crocodile habitat supporting industry	Ext Wetlands Oxbow lakes	Invasive spp of plant Pop Increase
5	Markham Floodplains	196,400ha Morobe Province	np	High biodiversity Major	Sago swamp Ext wetland waterways	

Samoa

RANK	SITE NAME	PROTECTION STATUS (LEGISLATION)	IMPORTANCE OF SITE (endemism, vulnerability, etc)	HABITAT TYPE	OTHER COMMENTS
		Size Status	PA		
1	Togitogiga/Saaga Watershed	National Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking purpose • Freshwater fauna species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important fauna • Herbaceous swamp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist place • Degraded area • Proposed by land owners
2	Vaiusu Bay Mangrove		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest mangrove • Outlet of Fuluasou Watershed 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • POWBA • Previously Rubbish Dump

3

Mt. Silisili and Lake
Mafane, Mautalanoa
& Olomanu Uta
March

- Freshwater Lakes
- In the protected area
- Major Lakes in Savaii island

Challenge to identify
its habitat

- Community
Involvement
No studies have been
done

Plenary Discussions: Where to next? Follow up actions?

Activity/Action	Timetable	Person responsible
Write up WWD summaries and send (with photographs) to Vai	By 30 March	Individual countries
Update RIS	Within 6 months	Individual countries
Draft management plans for each of the Ramsar sites	By the time of the next meeting (Lake Ngardok to be ready by mid-2009),	Individual countries
Designate one new Ramsar site	By the time of the next meeting	Individual countries
Identify funding sources, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International/local NGO working at the Ramsar site - Private sector, e.g. international hotel chains for small amounts, e.g. to produce poster, leaflets, activity for WWD 	On-going	Individual countries, SPREP, Ramsar Secretariat
Organize national wetland meetings involving Ramsar AA and other relevant government departments, organizations, academics, NGOs, etc	By the time of the next meeting	Individual countries
Seek funding for next meeting in 2010 (Just for PIC CPs or for non-CPs as well, to encourage more accession?)	Need approx. US\$45,000 for CP only meeting in Fiji Need approx. US\$60,000 for CP only meeting in PNG	Individual countries, SPREP, Ramsar Secretariat
Establish 'Small Grant Fund' for Oceania Region (ask Australia/NZ to assist)	By next meeting	SPREP, Ramsar Secretariat

Ensure all the participants at this meeting are on the [Ramsar Forum]. LY to pass everybody's e-mail address to the website for the Ramsar website	By the end of March	Ramsar Secretariat
Identify all the relevant focal points	Within 3 months	Individual countries