

OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS IN THE FIELD OF NATURAL HERITAGE

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NEWS



Ramsar and UN-Habitat: joint efforts on sustainable management of urban and peri-urban wetlands

At a meeting in Nairobi last week, the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention Anada Tiega, the Chair of the Convention's Scientific Body (STRP) Heather MacKay, Mr Paul Mafabi of the Ramsar Center for East Africa (RAMCEA) and representatives of UN-Habitat Mr Rafael Tuts and Ms Karin Buhren discussed collaboration to join efforts and expertise in producing a comprehensive guidance for managing urban wetlands, taking into account the ecosystem approach and issues such as climate change, ecosystem services, food production, human health and livelihoods. "To bring into line urban development and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, we need to undertake ecosystem management with adequate tools that promote synergy between cities and other land users. A range of tools are available, but are not always used most effectively or within a consistent framework by all the responsible institutions and stakeholders. There is a need for guidance on managing wetlands and their biodiversity in urban and peri-urban areas, in a way that shows how the range of existing tools can be applied most effectively."

More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-76^24177_4000_0



Argentina names southernmost Ramsar site

The government of Argentina has designated a beautiful and valuable new Wetland of International Importance in the province of Tierra del Fuego, one which at the time of listing becomes the Convention's southernmost site. As summarized by Nadia Castro from data supplied with the designation letter, Glaciar Vinciguerra y turberas asociadas (2,760 hectares, 54°45'S 068°20'W) includes glaciers; lakes; Sphagnum-, Cyperacea-, and tree-dominated peatlands; Nothofagus (Southern beech) forests; and permanent and seasonal rivers, at an altitude between 200 and 1300 m. Among the flora, *Skottsbergia paradoxa*, an endemic and threatened moss species, stands out. The glaciers and peatlands, excellent natural water reservoirs, play an important role in the "Arroyo Grande" watershed regulation, a river that is the primary water source of the city of Ushuaia.

More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24167_4000_0



USA names key Florida sanctuary

Following on from the United States' designation of the Audubon Society's Francis Beidler Forest in the state of South Carolina in 2008, that Party's 25th Ramsar site has been named as Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, which is owned and managed by Audubon of Florida. The new site (5,261 hectares; 26°24'N 081°31'W) lies inland of the cities of Naples and Ft Myers and provides a vital link between several south Florida watersheds. Although it is privately owned, the site's level of protection corresponds to the IUCN category IV for National Park.



As summarized by Ramsar's Nadia Castro, based on the Ramsar Information Sheet that accompanied the designation, Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary contains pine flatwoods, wet prairies, cypress swamps, and marshes. The majestic 600-years-old bald cypress trees reach heights of 40m and comprise the largest remaining virgin bald cypress forest in North America. The endangered wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) nests high in these trees. In addition, nearly 200 species of birds – including the vulnerable (IUCN) Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), the critically endangered (IUCN) Florida Bonneted Bat (*Eumops floridanus*), and 22 species of threatened or endangered orchids live on the site.

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(Photo: Mike Knight)

Part of the site, formerly used for wetland mitigation by Panther Island Mitigation Bank, covers created/restored marshes. Nowadays, the site is used for conservation and – in limited areas – scientific research and tourism, and is now owned and managed by Audubon of Florida. Removal of invasive exotic species, especially of invasive plants and of wild hogs, is a continuing challenge. The Blair Audubon Center within the site serves as a model for National Audubon Society education and interpretation centers throughout the country. Ramsar site no. 1888. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24158_4000_0



11th Transboundary Ramsar Site declared by Poland & Czech Republic

The “Krkonose/Karkonosze subalpine peatbogs” were added on 21 September 2009 to the list of Transboundary Ramsar Sites during the 7th international conference on geocological problems of the Karkonosze mountains, held in the Polish tourist village of Szklarska Proreba. The Giant Mountains (Krkonose in Czech, Karkonosze in Polish) mark the natural border between Poland and the Czech Republic, form an isolated mountain range with a particular geological history, and function as a biogeographical refuge area and isolated outpost for several Arctic and Alpine species. The mountain habitats were at the base of the development of specific local cultures, traditions, legends and mysterious figures. Unfortunately, during the last period of the 20th century’s centrally-planned economies, industrial air pollution created large-scale forest dying in the area. But presently the forests are growing again, and the beautiful landscape attracts millions of hiking and skiing tourists each year.

The Polish Karkonoski National Park is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2009, and its Czech counterpart is to follow soon. Together with their buffer zones, both form a Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, and



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the coordination of the work of many scientists through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme was instrumental in furthering applied research and monitoring of this unique area. Now, with the declaration as a Transboundary Ramsar Site, also the peatbogs in the subalpine zone of the mountains (i.e., above the timberline), designated earlier unilaterally for the Ramsar list in 1993 in the Czech Republic (site N°637) and in 2002 in Poland (site N°1566), are formally recognized as a shared natural heritage and crucial hydrological infrastructure in the most upstream parts where such major European rivers as the Odra/Oder and Labe/Elbe take their sources.

During the international conference, bringing together about a hundred scientists, public administrators, Ramsar authorities and protected area managers, it was also evoked that not only the subalpine peatbogs in the Karkonosze mountains merit further consideration, but also other types of well-represented wetlands in the area, notably the subalpine lakes, mountain torrents, upstream river parts and their floodplains, and different types of mires. This led to the very concrete proposal about designating the nearby Izer river valley, forming the border between the two countries in its most natural part, with its floodplain, mires and bogs, as another Transboundary Ramsar Site. Watch this space to learn more about progress with this project.

More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24120_4000_0



Rwanda's Marshlands Law

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation by the General Director of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and the Ramsar Convention Secretary General in May 2008 (here), we are happy to offer our congratulations to the Republic of Rwanda for the elaboration of a draft Law determining the use and management of marshlands of Rwanda. The Bill, which is due to come into force by the end of 2009, has 10 chapters and 90 very comprehensive articles. It makes provision for compliance and enforcement through chapter 9 (violations and penalties) which clarifies among others (i) control and enforcement Authorities, (ii) enforcement powers, (iii) flagrant violations, (iv) prohibitions and sanctions and (v) court authority to levy additional sanctions.

More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24165_4000_0



World Wetlands Day 2010 - materials are ready at RAMSAR Convention Secretariat

2 February each year is World Wetlands Day. It marks the date of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea. WWD was celebrated for the first time in 1997 and made an encouraging beginning. Each year, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and groups of citizens at all levels of the community have taken advantage of the opportunity to undertake actions aimed at raising public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general and the Ramsar Convention in particular. From 1997 to 2009, the Convention's Web site has posted reports from more than 98 countries of WWD activities of all sizes and shapes, from lectures and seminars, nature walks, children's art contests, sampan races, and community clean-up days, to radio and television interviews and letters to newspapers, to the launch of new wetland policies, new Ramsar sites, and new programmes at the national level. With the suggested World Wetlands Day theme for this year on wetlands, biodiversity and climate change, we finally arrived at our 2010 WWD slogan: Caring for wetlands – an answer to climate change.

At the end of 2009 a critical climate change meeting of the world's leaders will take place in Copenhagen, and in January 2010 we will begin the International Year of Biodiversity, so biodiversity and climate change will



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definitely be hitting the headlines in the coming year. Our theme is therefore timely, and there is much to say at global and national levels about wetland species and ecosystems under continuing threat from unsustainable human practices, about the likely impact of climate change on wetland ecosystems, and importantly, about the role of wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Thus there is plenty of scope for you, the key World Wetland Day actors, in terms of your focus for the day.

As always, our approach is global, but we know that your activities are more likely to be either national or local. To make best use of our materials, we encourage you to customize them to make them more meaningful in your own situation. More information on this is available below.



More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-63-78^24106_4000_0



Building capacity for Ramsar CEPA Focal Points in West Asia

Ramsar Regional Centre for Central and West Asia, Ramsar City. 29th September – 1st October

The first of a series of CEPA (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) workshops throughout the Ramsar regions took place in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the city of Ramsar, the birthplace of the Convention, from 29th September – 1st October. Bringing together CEPA Focal Points (Government and NGO), National Focal Points (NFPs), and other members of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities from seven countries, as well as representatives from two non-Contracting Parties, this workshop set out to give participants some hands-on experience in CEPA Action Planning.

More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24113_4000_0



Twelve new Ramsar sites in Burkina Faso

The government of Burkina Faso has completed the process for designating twelve new Ramsar sites of extraordinary interest. In varied locations, from the Sahel region in the north to the Cascades region in the southwest, to the central and eastern regions, these new areas of natural as well as artificial lakes and both permanent and seasonal rivers present a wide array of ecosystem types and are of great importance to the wildlife of the region, the livelihoods of the human population in these areas, and the hydrological and climatic stability of many parts of the country. The 12 new sites join the famous Mare aux hippopotames, Mare d'Oursi, and Parc National du W, which were designated for the Ramsar List back in 1990, to bring Burkina Faso's Ramsar-listed total to 15 sites covering 652,502 hectares. Technical preparations for these designations were assisted by Ramsar's Swiss Grant for Africa, generously provided by the government of Switzerland.



Ramsar's Assistant Advisor for Africa, Cynthia Kibata, has prepared brief site descriptions based on the information supplied in the Ramsar Information Sheets.

Barrage de Bagre. 07/10/09; Centre-Est, Centre-Sud; 36,793 ha; 11°33'N 000°40'W. The dam is located in the southeastern region of Burkina Faso, on the Nakambé River. The most important functions of the site are its role in maintenance of biodiversity, the struggle against erosion, retention of nutrients, protection against

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storms, and recharging of groundwater. The site comprises the dam's permanent, artificial lake; endangered species found include hippopotamus, crocodiles and various vegetal species, all of which contribute to the outstanding biological diversity of the area. There is also a large proportion of indigenous fish species, amphibians, phytoplankton and zooplankton, though only a few mammal and bird species are present. The presence of the wooded savanna is largely due to the disease of onchocerciasis, which had caused the migration of populations. The main land uses are fishing, wood and water collection, riziculture, electricity production, and livestock farming. The main concerns are the increasing demographic pressures on resources, diseases related to water, and a lack of management actions. Ramsar site no. 1874. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Barrage de la KOMPIENGA. 07/10/09; Est, Centre-Est; 16,916 ha; 11°08'N 000°40'E. Situated in the east of the country, the site comprises a permanent freshwater lake as well as human-made features including a dam principally used for the production of hydroelectricity, as well as several irrigated land areas. The presence of the dam has not only allowed for diversification of income generating activities, i.e., fishing, agriculture, animal rearing, etc., but is now also widely recognized for the resources it is providing in support of a variety of flora and fauna species. Fauna of global conservation concern include the Nile crocodile, hippopotamus, lion, and the Black Crowned Crane, amongst others. Also of note are the threatened flora species *Khaya senegalensis* and *Damaliscus lunatus*. The site is also known to support over 20,000 water birds; at least 7,000 waders and 15,000 from the Anatidae family have been recorded. Various threats affect the site including high rates of erosion, declining fish yields, and increasing levels of eutrophication due to pollution from animal rearing and cotton cultivation. A management plan for the site was elaborated in 2005, but is not yet being implemented. Ramsar site no. 1875. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Barrage de la TAPOA. 07/10/09; Région de l'Est; 3,419 ha; 12°07'N 001°43'W. The Tapoa dam, built in 1961 on the temporary Tapoa River, is the principal water reservoir in the region and is responsible for the support of the various flora and fauna found in the region as well as for the income-generating activities of the local communities. The site is noted for its importance as a breeding area for numerous fish species, e.g., *Oreochromis niloticus*, *Sarotherodon galilaeus*, *Lates niloticus* and *Hyperopisus bebe*. The main livelihood activities practiced in the area are agriculture, fishing, animal rearing, market gardening and fruit plantations. As a result of its large water storage capacity, the dam is important for the recharge of groundwater and control of floods. Numerous threats are facing the site, however, including siltation of the reservoir, overexploitation of the fisheries resources, overgrazing, and bushfires amongst others. While there exists no management plan, other conservation measures are in place that regulate the exploitation of fish and forest resources including wildlife on the site. Ramsar site no. 1876. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Cône d'épandage de BANH. 07/10/09; Région du Nord; 10,003 ha; 14°10'N 002°33' W. At the edge of the border with Mali, the site has mostly seasonal rivers or lakes, but includes artificial wetlands such as seasonally flooded agricultural land and water storage areas. The cone represents a temporary body of water in winter that infiltrates in the soil when the dry season starts. Migratory birds take refuge in the site, and there is a large bird diversity, though the birds are being endangered by the modification of the ecosystem due to climate change and anthropo-zoogenic pressure. The groundwater is less profound than in the past due to the shifting of the cone to the west, which enabled the development of market gardening (tomatoes, onions); farmlands represent 30% of the site area. Although the soils are rich, they are also fragile and have low water-holding capacity. Other land uses are traditional fishing and livestock farming. Threats mainly come from climate change, which significantly reduces the amount of natural resources and increases the number of floods, thus reducing the general biodiversity. Population growth also has a great impact on the environment (extensive agriculture, over-grazing, wood production). Ramsar site no. 1877. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Forêt Galerie de LÉRA (Nan, Tchêfoun). 07/10/09; Cascades; 451 ha; 10°36'N 005°18'W. Consists of a seasonal river as well as a gallery forest comprising semi-deciduous and deciduous species that form corridors that are periodically flooded. Of the numerous species found here, also present are *Cola cordifolia* and *Berlinia grandiflora*; the *Nervilia umbrosa* orchid, known to be endemic to this forest, is also noteworthy. Fauna of global conservation concern include the Nile Crocodile and the Kob antelope amongst others. Apart from the maintenance of biological diversity, the site is also responsible for the recharge of groundwater, control of flooding, stabilization of the micro climate, and protection against storms. Through these services, the local populations are able to farm cashews amongst other crops; the practices of hunting and grazing have

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been banned, however, by the local communities. Threats such as siltation due to activities being carried out upstream on the Leraba tributary, increasing population pressure, poaching, etc., still affect the site. While there exists no management plan for this site, it is considered a forest village by the local communities and is therefore subject to other conservation measures. Ramsar site no. 1879. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

La Forêt Classée et Réserve Partielle de Faune Comoé-Léraba. 07/10/09; Cascades; 124,500 ha; 09°52'N 004°40'W. Réserve partielle de la faune. The forest represents the natural border with Côte d'Ivoire and is a transition zone between the savannah and rainforest, made up of permanent rivers and seasonal freshwater marshes. The site is known to support endangered species such as cheetah, elephant, lion, etc., and various flora species at critical stages of their life, including challenges faced due to the Ivorian crisis and the presence of military. The vegetation is of good quality in relation to soil coverage but is of a lower quality in terms of potential pasture. The site has dry dense forests, savannah shrub and grassland. The main hydrological values are recharging of groundwater, flood regulation, micro-climate stabilization, nutrients retention, and protection against storms. The site is used for hunting, tourism and fishing. While there exists a management plan, several challenges continue to face the site, including the illegal exploitation of protected areas, the over-collection of wood, poaching, over-harvesting, water pollution and attacks by domestic animals. Ramsar site no. 1878. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

La Vallée du Sourou. 07/10/09; Boucle du Mouhoun; 20,926 ha; 13°00'N 003°28'W. Important Bird Area. The Sourou is a tributary of the largest river in Burkina Faso, the Black Volta, and is found in the sudano-guinean region where water is often scarce. As a result it is important for its support of threatened species such as the hippopotamus, the Vervet Monkey, and the African mahogany. Despite scarcity of information, the site was also designated a BirdLife Important Bird Area as it is known to support the largest concentration of wild birds (Anatidae) in Burkina Faso. As the only large reservoir in the region, it is responsible for the recharge of the groundwater and stabilizes the temperature, allowing for cultivation of maize, rice, onions, etc. With continual growth in the human population, the pressure on available resources is also increasing, leading to excessive cutting of wood, water pollution due to overuse of fertilizers and over-irrigation. In 1986 the Autorité de Mise en Valeur de la Vallée du Sourou (AMVS) was established as the authority responsible for management of the site in collaboration with the Ministry of Water. Ramsar site no. 1885. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Lac Bam. 07/10/09; Centre-Nord; 2,693 ha; 13°24'N 001°31'W. Managed Resource Protected Area. As one of the principal freshwater sources in the region, this lake is particularly important, including for the Nile Crocodile, hares and jack rabbits as it provides refuge from the semi-desert climate found within the province. It is also home to various species of fish, such as Schilbe mystus, that are endangered due to the effects of siltation and over-fishing practices. The presence of the permanent freshwater lake, irregular streams and creeks, and irrigated land allow for the land to be used for various activities: fisheries, livestock rearing, subsistence and cultivation for export (green beans). They also play an important role in the area's hydrological cycle, i.e., creating and maintaining the microclimate (particularly as they are within the Sahel environment), recharge of the groundwater, prevention/control of floods, stabilisation of the banks, and sediment capture. The main threat facing the site is the increased levels of siltation occurring – to address this threat, a local water committee was established to monitor the removal of water from the lake as well as siltation levels. At present no management plan exists. Ramsar site no. 1880. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Lac de Tingrela. 07/10/09; Cascades; 494 ha; 10°38'N 004°50'W. A permanent freshwater lake in the west of Burkina Faso which serves as an important refuge for a variety of fauna and flora, including hundreds of hippopotami as well as aquatic flora such as *Andropogon Africana* and *Vetiveria senegalensis* during the dry periods. It is also noted as a site for reproduction for various species of fish, including *Clarias gariepinus*, *Lates niloticus* and *Heterotis niloticus*. The lake plays an important role in the region's hydrological cycle through replenishment of groundwaters, control of flood waters, and nutrient retention. Through the stabilization of the microclimate it allows for the maintenance of the region's biodiversity and support of income-generating activities such as tourism, farming of maize, rice and fruits including guava and mango. Desertification is an ever-present threat facing the lake, as are pollution from chemical fertilizers and increasing levels of siltation. Ramsar site no. 1881. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Lac Dem. 07/10/09; Centre-Nord; 1,354 ha; 13°12'N 001°10'W. The site is mostly occupied by permanent

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freshwater lakes and seasonal rivers. Increasing human pressure and effects of climate change have caused the extinction of the big game, and fish species such as catfish, carp and sardines are threatened by over-fishing. The site serves as a refuge for numerous species during periods of drought, especially for migrating birds on the lake's shores. The site is also responsible for the maintenance of the microclimate, recharging of the groundwater, flood regulation, bank stabilization, sediment capture, and protection against storms. The land uses are mainly market gardening, cereal, vegetable, wood, tuber and oilseeds production (sesame, cowpea, groundnut). Threats are mainly due to the competition among market gardeners and farmers, e.g., overgrazing of pasture. Moreover, the use of pesticides, erosion due to livestock trampling, construction of dams leading to siltation, and finally the extraction of water reducing the water volume, are further threats to the site. A management plan was elaborated in 2007 and is being implemented, and there is a local custom of sacrificing to the ancestral deities of the lake in order to take advantage of its resources. Ramsar site no. 1882. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Lac Higa. 07/10/09; Sahel; 1,514 ha; 13°36'N 000°44'E. Situated on the river Yali in the northeast of the country, the site is composed of permanent freshwater lakes, some seasonal rivers, and water storage areas. It represents an economic asset for local people, who practice ranching, farming, market gardening, and fishing resulting in a favorable ecosystem for the development of several plant and animal species. Of the 121 known fish species in Burkina Faso, 27 are found within this site; 133 bird species are also found here, of which 3 are classified as endangered. The site is also important for waterbirds that utilize it to nest, e.g., pelicans, ducks, cranes, etc. The lake is responsible for recharge of aquifers, flood prevention, protection against storms, sediment and nutrient retention, and stabilization of the microclimate. Threats concerning the sustainability of the lake are related to increased agriculture and livestock rearing leading to accentuated erosion and siltation of the lake. Ramsar site no. 1883. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

Réserve Totale de Faune d'Arly (Parc National d'Arly). 07/10/09; Région de l'Est; 134,239 ha; 11°35'N 001°27' E. Réserves de faune. The site is crossborder with the Park Pendjari in Benin and was ranked as the largest wildlife reserve in Burkina Faso as a result of the number of animals seen and the beauty of the scenery. The site has many mammalian endangered species including the cheetah, elephant, lion, etc. Also present are reptilian (crocodile) and floral endangered species. It has a large species diversity, including 21 waterbird species found on the site (herons, storks, ducks etc.), of which 32 are restricted to the Guinea-Sudanean Savannah. This site is also important for reproduction of various species; however, numerous threats exist due to anthropogenic factors such as poaching and tourism. This is especially a challenge for the unique breeding colony of vultures found within the site. The principal land uses are tourism, fishing and as a migration corridor for farmers crossing to Benin. Threats concerns the illegal exploitation of the protected area, over-grazing, poaching, water pollution (pesticides, fertilizers), and demographic pressures. The park is an attraction for tourists, sport fishing, and scientific research. Ramsar site no. 1884. Most recent RIS information: 2009.

More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24099_4000_0



“Country Clean-ups” at a sub-Antarctic Ramsar site

South Africa's Prince Edward Islands in the southern Indian Ocean form the first sub-Antarctic Ramsar Site (No. 1688), designated on 22 May 2007. The island group of Marion and the smaller Prince Edward is a Strict Nature Reserve, the highest level of protection under South African legislation. Tourism is not allowed, and the only activities that take place are related to scientific research (including weather observations), conservation management, and their logistical support. New conservation initiatives at the Prince Edwards include the announcement of the intention to declare a very large Marine Protected Area around the islands, that will include all of their territorial waters (extending 12 nautical miles) and parts of the 200-nm Exclusive Economic Zone. A new management plan, to replace that of 1996, is nearing adoption. Lastly, South Africa has placed the island group on its Tentative List for the World Heritage Convention as a natural site.

More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24089_4000_0



International Course on Ecohydrological Approach to Revitalisation and Conservation of Wetlands

An “International course on the ecohydrological approach to revitalization (i.e., restoration) and conservation of wetlands” was held on 15-20 June 2009 in the town of Trebon (Trebon Basin Biosphere Reserve, South Bohemia, Czech Republic), where the scientific school of wetland studies has a long history. The area around Trebon is famous for its unique landscape with a mosaic of five hundred fishponds, forests, water courses, fields and settlements which has been formed as a result of human activities since the Middle Ages. Two Ramsar sites are located in this area: Trebonská rašelinište (Trebon mires) and Trebonské rybníky (Trebon Fishponds). The course was organized jointly by the Czech UNESCO/ MAB National Committee, the Czech Ramsar Committee, and the ENKI public benefit corporation with a financial support from the UNESCO participation programme, the Czech Academy of Sciences, and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic.



More information: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-26-45-84^24087_4000_0



Workshop on cultural values of wetlands

On the Greek side of Prespa Lakes -- a Ramsar site -- a Mediterranean Workshop is being held from 23 to 27 September 2009 on the theme ‘Towards an integrated approach to the cultural and natural values of wetlands’. It has been organized by Med-INA (Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos), in collaboration with the MedWet Initiative and the Society for the Protection of Prespa, and is being held in the framework of a Med-INA project on ‘Cultural aspects of Mediterranean wetlands’ supported by the MAVA Foundation. The meeting’s agenda is available in the following link, and a letter of welcome from the Ramsar Secretary General here: http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/mtg/mtg_prespa_culture_anada.pdf

More information: http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/mtg/mtg_prespa_culture_agenda.pdf

URBIO 2010 Urban Bio-diversity and Design

18 - 22 May 2010. Nagoya, Japan

Sponsored by the Japanese Institute of Landscape Architecture, URBIO is an open worldwide scientific network for education and research with the aim to promote urban biodiversity through a continuing dialogue with the CBD, Convention on Biological Diversity, initiative on “Cities and Biodiversity”. In order to implement the CBD in urban areas, the URBIO2010 will be held before CBD_COPI0, which will also be held in Nagoya in October 2010. The main theme of URBIO2010 is “Urban Biodiversity in the Ecological Network”, which consists of the following two subthemes. Ecosystem network and quality of habitats in and around the urban area. The urban ecosystem is unique and its main feature is that it is an open system characterized by great fluxes of information, material and energy with the surrounding ecosystems. Biodiversity in urban areas is determined by turnover of species through immigration and extinction, and the quality of their habitats is not only affected by ecological conditions of the habitat site (soil, nutrition, water budget, vegetation structure, vegetation composition etc.), but also by functional and structural connectivity and their relationships.

More information: <http://www.jilac.jp/URBIO2010/doku.php>



KINSHACHI (金鯱) -
the symbol of Nagoya Castle