

# TOURISM, CULTURE & WETLANDS

## Ramsar Culture Network Update

### Integrating Cultural Heritage in Sustainable Tourism

Happy [World Tourism Day](#) and welcome to the tourism, culture and wetlands edition of the newsletter!

This newsletter presents several excellent case studies from around the world, and provides some engaging stories about the interaction between tourism development, communities and the livelihoods associated with wetland ecosystems. We look forward to your feedback on this.

Sustainable tourism is envisaged as tourism that meets economic and social needs while maintaining cultural integrity, essential ecological processes, biological diversity and life support systems. Sustainable tourism in this sense is not a type of tourism but all forms of tourism that make an effort to adhere to sustainable development principles. [Read More](#)

*Editorial by Dr. Jacqueline Kariithi, [RCN Tourism Thematic Group Lead](#)*

### International Year of Sustainable Tourism: Messages from UNWTO & Ramsar

#### **The commitment of the tourism sector to preserve wetlands and biodiversity**

Biodiversity in general and wetlands in particular have been at the core of the interest and motivation of travelers to visit a certain destination. However, in the last decades, the progressive damage on wetlands and the subsequent impacts on the surrounding ecosystems [Read More](#)

#### **Message from Martha Rojas-Urrego Secretary General of the Ramsar**

**Convention on Wetlands** on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity: Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism. The Wetlands Youth Photo Contest will be taking

place from 2 February to 2 March 2017 (open to anyone aged 18- [Read More](#))

## Culture's role in wetland tourism

### **Beeshhazar Taal, Nepal - A hallmark in sustainable development**

Beeshhazar Taal is a lake surrounded by marshy areas in the Chitwan National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in Nepal. It lies in the Barandabhar forest area of central Nepal. The lake provides shelter and water for the wild animals of Chitwan and is also home to many varieties of birds. It sits at [Read More](#)

### **Biodiversity conservation through ecotourism in the largest Ramsar Site of Gabon**

Seven years ago on Christmas Day I travelled to the village of Tsam Tsam for the first time. I had been invited by Cyrille Mvele, who grew up fishing in the Ogooué River and the lakes of what is now the largest Ramsar Site in Gabon: the Bas Ogooué. He and others [Read More](#)

### **Anangu lagoon, a wetland generating jobs through sustainable tourism in Ecuador**

The history of conservation by indigenous peoples and local/traditional communities goes back thousands of years. It frequently features strong social organisation, identity, collective production, and adaptation of governance [Read More](#)

### **Caring for heritage, protecting culture in the Philippines**

Maria Galeon currently lives in Kiangan Poblacion, Kiangan town center, but she grew up

and raised her six children in a small village in Nagacadan. Before Maria retired, she worked as an elementary school teacher in Hungduan and Nagacadan [Read More](#)

### **Tourism and wetlands: Insights from the Ramsar Site Information System**

Wetlands offer significant tourism opportunities that can be an important source of income for communities and national economies. The Ramsar Convention supports Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in promoting and developing sustainable [Read More](#)

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