
From: Dave Pritchard [mailto:culture@ramsar.org]
Sent: 08 January 2020 11:23
Subject: Ramsar Culture Network – January update

Dear Ramsar Culture Network members -
Greetings for the new year, and the new decade!

RCN membership system rejuvenated

Following approval of our new Terms of Reference last year, every individual Network membership has now been properly re-validated, and we continue to attract new members too. The number now stands at around 115, covering all regions of the world and an inspiring variety of skills and connections. (Anyone else can request to join at any time, by sending an email to culture@ramsar.org).

The “core group” described in my previous message has been holding regular teleconferences to keep an eye on administrative and steering arrangements, and I thank them for continuing to volunteer their time.

Planning more activities

I am compiling the offers from you all on items in the activity list (see Appendix to ToRs [here](#)) which you might like to lead, or where you wish to make a contribution, or where you are already doing work. Many members are already involved in conferences (see below) and producing publications; and some earlier research on cultural values of Ramsar Sites is due to be revived soon.

One particular priority this year will be finding resources to support further work; and help with this would be particularly welcome.

Connecting through conferences and other events

With this message I would like to encourage some sharing of information about major relevant meetings and events coming up in the year ahead. If you are planning to participate in any of those listed below (or if you want to identify others I have missed), I would be pleased to hear from you, so we can put people in touch with each other.

- International Symposium on Water and Culture, Tokyo, Japan.3 February - <https://forms.gle/AeCaz4EueQmk6eLm9> .
- Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel 23rd meeting, Gland, Switzerland.16-20 March - <https://www.ramsar.org/event/23rd-meeting-of-the-strp> .
- Global Network of Water Museums 4th Conference, Hangzhou, China.27-30 March - www.watermuseums.net .
- Joint conference of the Society of Wetland Scientists, the Society for Ecological Restoration and the Canadian Land Reclamation Association, Québec, Canada.7-11 June - <http://www.re3-quebec2020.org/> .
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, Marseille, France.11-19 June - <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/> .

- Ramsar Standing Committee 58th meeting, Gland, Switzerland.22-26 June - <https://www.ramsar.org/event/58th-meeting-of-the-standing-committee> .
- ICOMOS 20th General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, Sydney, Australia.1-10 October - <https://icomosga2020.org/> .
- INTECOL 11th International Wetlands Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand.18-23 October - <http://www.intecolwetlands2020.co.nz/intecol20> .

Finally...

Finally, two recent outcomes of RCN involvements that might be of interest:

<https://powerprogressiveart.wixsite.com/powerprogressiveart/emeraldbluesilver-gold> .
<https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000372317>

With warm regards,
 Dave Pritchard.

From: Dave Pritchard [mailto:culture@ramsar.org]
Sent: 10 April 2020 09:06
Subject: Ramsar Culture Network – April update

Dear Ramsar Culture Network members -

The world has certainly become a stranger place since our last update mailing, but I hope you are all managing to stay safe and well.

As you might imagine, some of the **events and activities** that were foreseen for the year are paused or being changed. From the list in my previous message, the following items currently have revised information available (the other items will be updated when the position clarifies further):

- The Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel's 23rd meeting has been cancelled, and relevant tasks are to be progressed by working groups in other ways. We will update you on those that are relevant to culture when further details are available.
- The Global Network of Water Museums 4th Conference has been postponed; new dates to be advised later. In the meantime the Network's website has been expanded (browse here <http://www.watermuseums.net/>), and the deadline for submitting entries to the youth prize competition "The Water We Want" has been extended to April 30th (see <http://www.watermuseums.net/toolkit/>).
- The "Reclaim, Restore, Rewild" conference (RE3) has been postponed by a full year, to 19-24 June 2021 – see <http://www.re3-quebec2020.org/covid-19-conference-update> for details. A paper on wetlands and rights of nature (with two

RCN members among its co-authors) is nevertheless continuing to be prepared for publication in the meantime.

- The IUCN World Conservation Congress has been postponed, and will now take place on 7-15 January 2021 – see <https://www.iucncongress2020.org/newsroom/information-new-dates-congress> .
- One further interesting conference on “Inland Waterways, Waterscapes and Cultural Heritage” has been announced, and is still foreseen to take place in Hue, Vietnam on 8-11 December 2020 – see <https://www.shimajournal.org/conferences/vietnam/> .

I'm pleased to inform you that we have now provided a **new web-page** for the Ramsar Culture Network. You can find it here - <https://wli.wwt.org.uk/resources/culture-3/ramsar-culture-network/> , including links to various useful resource materials and a joining form for new members. At present this is fairly simple, but it would be our intention to enhance it with further materials, news etc, whenever voluntary capacity allows. Please take a look, and I hope you find it helpful.

You will recall seeing reference earlier to the idea of developing a new **“flagship project”** to be pursued with the involvement of the Network. A brief concept suggestion for this is now provided [here](#), and it would be great to have your feedback on how this might be developed in the most impactful way, what specific contribution you feel you could make to its implementation, and - importantly - what sources of potential funding support you can identify for making it happen.

Finally here are a few **further links** to things you may find interesting, from Network members around the world:

- A new film about how the Bagungu people in Uganda are restoring their Earth-centred culture and critical ecosystems along the shores of Itaka Lya Mwitanzige (Lake Albert) - <https://vimeo.com/373875301> .
- A compilation of the Twitter stream “#art4wetlands” (an initiative of the RCN Arts Thematic Group) - <https://wke.lt/w/s/oD8Dw> .
- A collaborative exhibition linked to a major research project on wetland values – summary here <https://valuing-nature.net/wetlandvalues> ; and full published guide here <https://valuing-nature.net/sites/default/files/documents/PROJECT/ReclaimingWetlandValues-ExhibitionGuide-FINAL-LoRes.pdf> .
- A major new book exploring the cultural and natural significance of wetlands in England, both historically and in a context of present-day climate change and other challenges - <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9783030413057> .

With best wishes to all,

Dave Pritchard.

From: Dave Pritchard [mailto:culture@ramsar.org]

Sent: 08 June 2020 13:41

Subject: Ramsar Culture Network – June update

Dear Ramsar Culture Network members -

My thanks to those of you who responded to the previous update email in April. There has not been much progress with **project development** since then, but I hope to work on that a little further in the near future. In the meantime here are a few items of other information to share.

- In addition to the list of rearranged **meetings and events** I mentioned last time, we now know that the 11th INTECOL Wetlands Conference is being postponed until October 2021 (New Zealand), and the next Annual Meeting of the Society of Wetland Scientists will be held on 1-4 June 2021 (USA). Hopefully those of you interested in contributing culture-related content to those meetings will be able to roll forward your planning accordingly.
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- It has also now been decided that the Ramsar **Standing Committee**'s 58th meeting (which had been due to take place this month) will now take place on 26-28 October this year. In principle the RCN should normally provide the Committee with an update on our activities at these meetings, so please make sure I am up to date with what you have been doing (especially where you have been supporting the work of Parties at national or local level), and let me know if you plan to attend the meeting itself so we can coordinate a little.
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- A group of authors (including myself from the RCN perspective) have undertaken considerable work over the past few months to research and develop a proposal for a **Universal Declaration of the Rights of Wetlands**, building on increasing recognition in various parts of the world of "Earth jurisprudence" and "nature rights" in general, informed *inter alia* by traditional and Indigenous viewpoints. Plans for discussion and formal endorsement of this in various global fora will now be realised a little later than intended because of conference postponements etc, but hopefully in due course many of you will be able to help in mobilising wide support for this initiative. Meanwhile look out for a publication with further details coming soon.
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- Our friends at the **Global Network of Water Museums** have announced the winners of their prestigious first **Youth Prize Contest** “The Water We Want”, which showcases the perspective of young people from around the world on water heritage and climate change, through some stunning drawings, photos and videos – see the results here <https://www.watermuseums.net/news/the-water-we-want-winners-announcement/> and a special video here <https://www.watermuseums.net/news/video-premiere-the-water-we-want/> . An associated on-line exhibition, supported by the UNESCO Office in Beijing, will be unveiled soon.
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- By way of further inspiration from the younger generation, I’m happy also to draw your attention to the lively **RE-PEAT** group, whose activities recently included a 24 hour on-line “**Global Peat Fest**”, featuring a range of interesting cultural content and contributions from members of the RCN Youth and Arts Groups. See <https://www.re-peat.earth/> for more details.
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- Here’s **another major book on wetland culture** (including chapters by RCN member Rod Giblett) - <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781498599948/Australian-Wetland-Cultures-Swamps-and-the-Environmental-Crisis> .
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- And here’s **another project** taking a multidisciplinary look at ways of knowing the estuarine environment - <https://tidelines.uk/about-tidelines/> .
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- Finally it’s not too soon to start thinking about Ramsar **COP14** in November 2021. Lead times for talking to Parties about proposing relevant Draft Resolutions (the Rights of Wetlands may be one candidate – see above) are long, and the same applies to putting together proposals for side-events and making input to pre-COP regional meetings. Good advance planning is therefore needed. The SC58 meeting (see above) is an important occasion for this. Youth Engaged in Wetlands (who act as our young people’s link) already have plans; and I would ask anyone else who is working up ideas to contact me so we can coordinate.

Remember our **web-page** <https://wli.wwt.org.uk/resources/culture-3/ramsar-culture-network/> provides further information and resources. We still need to add images to this to make it more lively - if you have relevant visual material that you would be happy for us to consider using (appropriately credited of course), please get in touch (but don’t send any big files – just a descriptive message to begin with, please!).

Wishing you all the best, as ever,

Dave Pritchard.

From: Dave Pritchard [mailto:culture@ramsar.org]
Sent: 13 August 2020 10:22
Subject: Ramsar Culture Network – August update

Dear Ramsar Culture Network members –

Greetings; and thanks to those who responded to the update in June. Please keep letting me know whenever you are planning to participate in any of the meetings we have been listing in these updates, so we can ensure that relevant individuals are in touch with each other. I'd also still welcome offers of images you might be willing to provide for the web-page (descriptions only at this stage please, no big files!).

I can now provide you with a further fleshed-out draft of the concept paper for the proposed project on "*Compiling and using information on cultural values and practices related to water and wetlands*" – at this link [here](#) . Thanks for the input some of you have made to this so far; and I would welcome all further comments. It would be particularly helpful to know who would be willing to contribute to this project (and how), and to have your advice on ways of raising the necessary resources to make it happen.

Conditions of lockdown have seemingly not slowed the process of writing new articles and book chapters about culture and wetlands – I have personally been roped into four that are in editing now, and I hope to bring you news of their publication in due course. Meanwhile here is a link to a new book by RCN member Rod Giblett that tells the story of the urban wetlands of Melbourne <https://www.intellectbooks.com/modern-melbourne> ; and this is a link to an interesting project involving artists at wetlands in Australia and the UK, led by RCN member Andrew Howe <https://ofthemosses.com/> . Let's hear from those of you in other parts of the world too! (There are RCN members in every Ramsar region).

Finally, the World Wetland Network, the Ramsar Section of the Society of Wetland Scientists, the Cobra Collective and IUCN are jointly undertaking a global assessment of the state of wetlands, using "citizen-science"; and they are asking each of us to fill in a simple survey about a wetland we know. This is a valuable exercise and repeats a previous one from 2017 (results here <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s13157-020-01267-8>). Please take a few minutes to help with this – the different language versions of the survey are here:

English: <https://openuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/world-wetland-survey-2020-english-2>

French: <https://openuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/world-wetland-survey-2020-french->

Arabic: <https://openuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/world-wetland-survey-2020-arabic>

Japanese: <https://openuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/world-wetland-survey-2020-japanese>

Spanish: <https://openuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/world-wetland-survey-2020-spanish>

Portuguese: <https://openuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/world-wetland-survey-2020-portuguese>

Chinese: <https://openuniversity.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/world-wetland-survey-2020-chinese>

With warm regards,

Dave Pritchard

<https://wli.wwt.org.uk/resources/culture-3/ramsar-culture-network/>