



LakeNet Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention during November 2002- January 2004

Information Note to the Ramsar Standing Committee 11 January 2004

LakeNet was designated an Observer to the Scientific, Technical and Review Panel (STRP) at the 8th Conference of Parties, in Valencia, Spain, in November 2002. In March 2003, the international Steering Committee of LakeNet established a Ramsar Committee to guide its work with Ramsar and appointed as committee Chairman Dr. Ajit Pattnaik, CEO of the Chilika Development Authority, Orissa, India. The committee oversaw preparation of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) which was signed by the Ramsar Bureau and the LakeNet secretariat on 11 April 2003. The MoC provides for LakeNet to provide technical support to the Ramsar Bureau in its work, to the Ramsar Contracting Parties in their implementation of the Convention, and to the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008.

Lake Basin Management Initiative

LakeNet is a co-proponent of the Lake Basin Management Initiative, a project which has been funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the World Bank; by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); and by the Shiga Prefecture Government (Japan). At LakeNet's initiative, a representative of the Ramsar Bureau (Mr. Guanchung Lei) serves on the project Steering Committee. The project is reviewing the experience and lessons learned from managing 28 major lakes around the world. Ramsar sites are located in the watershed of more than half of the lakes in the survey, including lakes Baringo (Kenya), Bhopal (India), Biwa (Japan), Chad (Chad, Niger, Nigeria), Chilika (India), Cocibolca (Nicaragua), Constance (Germany), Issyk-Kul (Kyrgyzstan), Naivasha (Kenya), Nakuru (Kenya), Ohrid-Prespa (Albania, Macedonia & Greece), Peipsi/Chudskoye (Estonia & Russian Fed.), Sevan (Armenia), Tanganyika (Tanzania & Zambia), Titicaca (Bolivia & Peru), and Tonle Sap (Cambodia).

National and regional workshops

LakeNet sponsored or co-sponsored five workshops on the management of lake basins that include Ramsar sites:

- Nicaragua, Workshop on Protection of Lake Cocibolca and its Watershed, held in Granada on 4-5 June 2003 and organized by CIRA/UNAN and AMUGRAN.

- Indonesia: Indonesian Lakes Forum held in Jakarta on 4 June 2003 and organized by the Environmental Management Agency and the Lake Toba Heritage Foundation.
- Armenia: International seminar on Current Issues of Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands and Wetland Biodiversity in the European New Independent States, held in Sevan, Armenia, 15-19 September 2003 and sponsored by the Ministry of Nature Protection, Ramsar Convention Bureau, NGO Professional and Entrepreneurial Orientation Union, and LakeNet. Participants included representatives from Armenia, Belarus, Czech Rep., Georgia, I.R. Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russian Fed., Turkmenistan, and Ukraine.
- Philippines: First Congress on Philippine Lakes (LakeCon2003) held in Tagaytay City on 25-28 November 2003 and organized by the Technical Working Group on Philippine Lakes.
- India: Workshop on Management of Wetlands through Integrated Management Planning, held in Bhubaneswar on 9-10 January 2004 and organized by the Chilika Development Authority.

Technical support

- Kyrgyzstan: LakeNet signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Directorate General of the Issyk-Kul Biosphere Reserve on 24 October 2003. The objectives are to: (1) implement a Technical Cooperation Project through a small grant in 2003-2004 (Phase 1); (2) jointly prepare a work plan and secure funding for conservation of natural and cultural heritage and sustainable development activities such as eco-tourism, as part of a longer term Technical Cooperation Project during 2004-2006 (Phase 2); (3) share information and experience regarding lake management through the Biosphere Reserve Information Center, the LakeNet website, and exchanges and study tours; and (4) strengthen the capacity of Biosphere Reserve Directorate General and NGOs in the Lake Issyk-Kul basin.

STRP Observer

A LakeNet Observer, President David Read Barker, attended the STRP meeting in Gland, Switzerland, in April 2003.

Website:

LakeNet has enhanced and expanded its website at <http://www.worldlakes.org>, which includes a searchable online database of information about lakes and their management.

Lake biodiversity GIS

LakeNet has developed a GIS layer with nearly 250,000 lakes and reservoirs, from which it has created a map of the 250 lakes identified as global biodiversity priorities, as well as three regional maps which also show these priorities. All have been posted to the website.

