

**Title:** Draft Programme “Regional Technical Meeting on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Arab Region.”

**Date and venue:** 22-25 June 2009, Cairo, Egypt.

**OUTPUTS:**

1. *Workshop report on the status of wetlands in the Arab region: including status, challenges, opportunities and national/regional framework strategies for their sustainable management/development,*
2. *Development of national and regional strategy. The latter may include:*
  - *The LAS hiring a full-time officer to promote, and follow up on the work of the Convention in the Arab region,*
  - *Raising funds to translate Convention documents into Arabic, and provision of Arabic simultaneous translation during Ramsar Conference of Parties.*
3. *Work plan and timetable for implementing the recommendations from the meeting,*
4. *Accession indications from non-Contracting Parties.*

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3		Day 4
a.m.	<b>1. Welcoming speeches</b> from; League of Arab States, Government of Egypt, UNEP-ROWA, Ramsar Secretariat  <b>2. Group Photograph</b>	<b>4c. Country reports:</b> Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan,	<b>7. Divide into sub-regional discussion groups</b> <b>7a. Africa</b> <b>7b. West Asia</b>		<b>8. Report from the sub-regional discussions</b>
	Morning coffee	Morning coffee	Morning coffee		Morning coffee
	<b>3. Key note presentations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• League of Arab States</li> <li>• UNEP-ROWA</li> <li>• Ramsar Secretariat</li> </ul>	<b>4d. Country reports:</b> Somalia, Syria, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen			<b>9. Work plan</b> for the LAS, UNEP-ROWA, Ramsar Secretariat, national governments and other participants after the meeting  <b>10. Round up</b>
	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch
p.m.	<b>4a. Country reports:</b> Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan	<b>5. Ramsar Case Studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships: MedWet</li> <li>• National Wetland Strategy</li> <li>• CEPA, World Wetlands Day</li> </ul>			<b>12. Field visit</b>
	Afternoon coffee	Afternoon coffee	Afternoon coffee		
	<b>4b. Country reports:</b> Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco,	<b>6. Report from rapporteur</b> Highlight common themes running through the Country Reports, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Value of wetlands in the Arab region</li> <li>• Challenges facing these wetlands</li> <li>• Any differences between Africa and West Asia?</li> <li>• Opportunities on the national and regional level</li> </ul>			
	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner		

**Country report:**

Each country representative is expected to provide a written report on:

- The distribution, location and type of wetlands in the country, indicating those wetlands which are of national or international importance;
- Describe the value of these wetlands for people, economy, biodiversity, etc.
- The legislations that are in place to protect these wetlands;
- The threats that these wetlands face;
- Explain the further work/assistance needed to protect these wetlands?
- Outline what do you hope to get out from this meeting?

This report needs to be submitted to the organizing committee one month before the date of the meeting.

In addition, each participant is expected to provide a 15 minute oral presentation (with no more than 10 Powerpoint slides), summarizing the results of the written report. This can be submitted on arrival at the meeting.