

LANGUAGE & WETLANDS

Ramsar Culture Network Update



The Biocultural Challenge for Wetlands

Editorial by Dr Peter Bridgewater, [RCN Biocultural Diversity Thematic Group](#) Lead

Welcome to the *language and wetlands* edition of the newsletter!

There is a series of excellent articles for you in these newsletter pages, and I encourage you to read them from cover to cover. But in the next few paragraphs I want to discuss how language diversity and biological diversity have much in common, and form the framework for biocultural diversity. The excellent interview from Luisa Maffi has more on this.

The 1995 UNESCO report of the World Commission on Culture and Development quotes Amadou Hampâté Bâ as follows: “*In Africa when an old man dies, a library burns down*”. He meant the store of cultural knowledge that such a person holds – but the expression of such cultural knowledge, its intergenerational passage and its real-world application is through language. Postulated extinction rates for languages parallel those for species

over the next century [Read more](#)

Language & Wetlands



'On the job' interview with Dr Luisa Maffi, Co-founder and Director of Terralingua

What first got you involved in [Terralingua](#) and bio-cultural diversity? It now goes back 20 years! In the mid-1990s, biologists were increasingly talking about biodiversity loss, linguists about endangered languages [Read More](#)



Bali's Wetland Rice Terraces; Are they real without words to describe them?

'Subak' is a system for growing rice that developed on the island of Bali (Indonesia) over 800 years ago. Water is gathered and distributed to the terraced rice fields; committees of farmers manage the water and the land [Read more](#)



On the Migration of Water and the Flow of Birds in the Upper Solway Ramsar Site, UK

The Upper Solway: a vast intertidal zone of flats and marshes which unites South West Scotland to North West England and into which rivers—the Nith, the Annan, the Eden and the Esk among them [Read more](#)

Video & Photo Gallery

Wetlands: Language of Lumbini

Click [here](#) to view a short video prepared by artist Lillian Ball that tells the story of the Sarus Crane Sanctuary in Lumbini, Nepal - the birth place of the Buddha (a [World Heritage Site](#) and located close to a [Ramsar Site](#)) by combining conservation science, local culture, and the Dharma teachings of Buddhism. See Lillian's



[website](#) for more information on her work.



Visual Language of the Peel-Yalgorup Wetlands

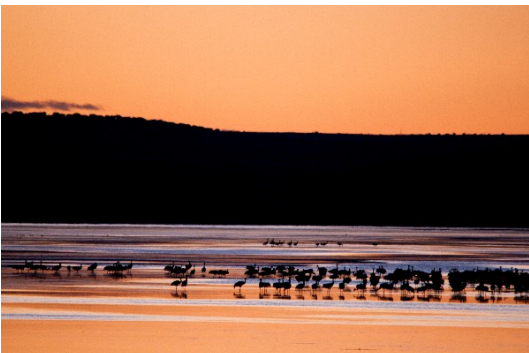
Click [here](#) to view a photo gallery of the 'visual language' of the [Peel-Yalgorup Ramsar Site](#) in Australia as interpreted by David Rennie who won the prestigious Australian Geographic ANZANG Nature Photographer of the Year award in August 2013. Read more about David [here](#).

Rapid Cultural Inventories and other initiatives



Ramsar & World Heritage Success Stories: Celebrating culture's role in conserving wetlands

Together, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre are developing 'Success Story' case studies for sites designated both as Ramsar Sites and World Heritage Sites, celebrating culture's [Read more](#).



Rapid Cultural Inventories for wetlands in the Arab States

The aim of this initiative is to deliver Rapid Cultural Inventories for wetlands in the Arab States, including Ramsar Sites and relevant World Heritage Sites, in order to build greater understanding of cultural values and practices as a contribution to conservation [Read More](#)



Cultural ecosystem services in a large Lithuanian peatland

During a preliminary assessment of ecosystem services (ES) of the third largest bog in Lithuania, undertaken as part of the project "Demonstrative restoration of the Tyruliai bog as a part of the initiative of the re-wetting of Lithuanian peatlands" (supported by the EU's LIFE+ Programme [Read More](#))

News from the Ramsar Convention Secretariat



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

The Ramsar Convention appoints Martha Rojas-Urrego as new Secretary General

The Ramsar Convention Standing Committee is pleased to announce that Martha Rojas-Urrego has been appointed to and accepted the position of Secretary General. She will be the sixth Secretary General to the Convention, succeeding Dr Christopher Briggs. Ms Rojas-Urrego's appointment was approved by [Read more](#)



Culture work presented to Standing Committee

The Ramsar Standing Committee's 52nd meeting on 13-17 June considered a report on progress with the Convention's work on culture. Supported by a presentation by Mariam Ali, the report provided background on [Read more](#)



MedWet Culture Network

The Mediterranean is well known as the cradle of civilisation: an area where nature has provided well for people, the climate is conducive to human settlement and where some of the first villages, thriving cities and great empires were established. Since antiquity, people constructed temporary [Read more](#)



**IUCN
World
Conservation
Congress**
Hawai'i 2016

47 Nature & Culture Events at the IUCN World Conservation Congress

Dear RCN Members, please let us know if you plan to attend WCC by writing to Mariam Ali at ali@ramsar.org! There are 47 Nature & Culture events scheduled from September 1-10, including several hosted by the Secretariat, for example on '[Women & Wetlands](#)'. You can find a list of events [here](#)

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