

U.S. National Ramsar Committee
Strategic Plan 2008-10

USNRC Mission Statement:

To promote the goals and objectives of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands within the United States and internationally, by providing support and advice to initiatives that promote the conservation and wise, sustainable use of domestic and international wetlands.

USNRC Goals and Actions:

Goal 1: Promote the designation and conservation of U.S. Ramsar sites

- 1.1 Provide general information to persons and organizations interested in learning more about Ramsar designation
 - 1.1.1 Maintain current designation criteria on web site
 - 1.1.2 Explain designation procedures and provide sample application documents on web site
 - 1.1.3 Explain the benefits associated with Ramsar designation identified by the survey of U.S. Ramsar sites
- 1.2 Identify and recruit potential U.S. Ramsar sites
 - 1.2.1 Review and identify overlaps of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Important Bird Areas, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network sites, and other biologically and culturally important wetland areas for candidate sites
 - 1.2.2 Review and identify National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, and other protected areas for candidate sites
 - 1.2.3 Contact owners, managers, or stewards of candidate sites and explain benefits of Ramsar designation
- 1.3 Provide recommendations to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - 1.3.1 Visit candidate sites, where feasible
 - 1.3.2 Provide written comments to USFWS
- 1.4 Provide advice and recommendations to policy makers regarding the conservation of U.S. Ramsar sites through a Ramsar Threats Task Force
- 1.5 Work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to support implementing legislation for the Ramsar Convention

Goal 2: Foster linkages among different sectors of the domestic and international wetland communities

- 2.1 Encourage exchanges of information between and among U.S. Ramsar sites
 - 2.1.1 Support Ramsar Site Managers Meetings
 - 2.1.2 Send bimonthly email updates on site news
- 2.1.3 Support Migratory Bird and Wetlands NewsLink
- 2.2 Encourage linkages between U.S. and other Ramsar sites
 - 2.2.1 Explore collaborations between U.S. and Canadian sites and between U.S. and Mexican sites (e.g., joint presentations at conferences; webcasts on issues of common interest)

- 2.2.2 Explore opportunities for experts affiliated with U.S. Ramsar sites to participate in training programs run by Ramsar's Regional Office in Panama (CREHO)
- 2.2.3 Encourage participation in Ramsar Secretariat listserv, Wetlands Forum
- 2.3 Promote linkages among the USNRC, U.S. Ramsar sites, and Ramsar Secretariat
 - 2.3.1 Encourage experts affiliated with U.S. Ramsar sites to work with revised Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)
 - 2.3.2 Provide U.S. sites with updates on Ramsar activities (e.g., reports on Ramsar Conferences of the Parties)
 - 2.3.3 Support US Ramsar sites by offering the services of the Committee; using the diverse professional backgrounds of the members as an additional resource.
 - 2.3.4 Assist current U.S. Ramsar sites with reporting requirements (e.g., providing first drafts of Ramsar Information Sheets to site managers)
 - 2.3.5 Work with the Ramsar Secretariat on a survey of African Ramsar sites
- 2.4 Participate in the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
- 2.5 Participate in the National Fish Habitat Initiative
- 2.6 Serve as a U.S. representative to Wetlands International

Goal 3: Support wetland education and public awareness of wetlands

- 3.1 Help coordinate World Wetlands Day (February 2) and American Wetlands Month (May) activities
 - Maintain a Ramsar Speakers Bureau, with the goal of linking speakers about wetland issues with programs associated with World Wetlands Day, American Wetlands Month, and other events
- 3.2 Hold USNRC meetings at or near U.S. Ramsar sites and seek participation from local Ramsar site representatives
- 3.3 Encourage USFWS to hold its Ramsar-related meetings at or near U.S. Ramsar sites to facilitate site visits and meetings with site representatives
- 3.4 Assist USFWS in coordinating visits to U.S. Ramsar sites by foreign delegations
- 3.5 Publish articles related to the Ramsar Convention and Ramsar sites in wetland and environmental journals and newsletters
- 3.6 Develop a national Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) Plan

Goal 4: Strengthen the USNRC's institutional framework

- 4.1 Expand the USNRC's membership
- 4.2 Examine the legal status of the USNRC and consider whether to formally incorporate