



# First Coordination Meeting of the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)

9 December 2016 Hilton Double Tree, Bangkok, Thailand



**Meeting Report**

## Table of Contents

<b>Acronyms .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>1. Background .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2. Opening Remarks .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Presentation of the IBRRI objectives and 2017 work plan .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Ramsar Regional Initiative Operational Guidelines .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. Governance Mechanisms for the IBRRI: Definition of a Steering Committee, Technical Committee and Regional STRP.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. Overview of ongoing Ramsar-related Programmes and Initiatives in the Indo-Burma Region.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. Coordination with other Ramsar Regional Initiatives in the Region (EAAFP and RRC-EA) 11</b>	
<b>8. Communications for the IBRRI and Planning of Inception Workshop .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>9. Next steps and closing remarks.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Appendix 1: Agenda .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Participants list .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Appendix 3: Proposed Work Plan for the Indo Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative for the year 2016-2017.....</b>	<b>16</b>

## Acronyms

AA	Administrative Authority
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness
DEQP	Department of Environmental Quality Promotion
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EAAFP	East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IBRRI	Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative
IOP	International Organization Partner
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NWCD	Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division
NFP	National Focal Point
ONEP	Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning
PA	Protected Area
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)
RRC-EA	Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia
STRP	Scientific and Technical Review Panel
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

## 1. Background

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The Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI) was approved by the 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Ramsar Convention Standing Committee (SC 52) in June 2016. Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) can be established at the initiative of Contracting Parties to support the effective implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan, in particular, through cooperation and capacity-building on wetland-related issues in specific regions or sub-regions.

The Ramsar Convention, also called the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, is an intergovernmental treaty that provides a framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

The concept for the IBRRI had been developed jointly by the Ramsar National Focal Points of the five countries (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam), and IUCN's Asia Regional Office based on specific needs identified in these countries. The IBRRI will aim to support the effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention among the five Contracting Parties by supporting the coordinated implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention.

A first IBRRI Coordination Meeting was held on 9 December 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand, to discuss the IBRRI's objectives and work plan, its governance mechanisms, and cooperation with other Ramsar-related programmes and initiatives in the Indo-Burma region. The meeting was attended by the Ramsar National Focal Points and/or their representatives from the five countries.

This report summarises the key elements of discussion and key decisions taken at the meeting.

## 2. Opening Remarks

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**Dr Scott Perkin, Head, Natural Resources Group, IUCN Asia**, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the first coordination meeting for the IBRRI. He mentioned that this was a small, but quite historic meeting as it marked the first activity of the newly approved IBRRI. He also explained that IUCN has assisted many countries in implementing the Ramsar Convention, and that IUCN is hosting the Ramsar Secretariat at its Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.

Dr Perkin noted that the wise use of wetlands is essential for the achievement of sustainable development. This is particularly evident in the Indo-Burma region, where the link between wetlands and human wellbeing is immense – in such areas as food production, water provision, climate change mitigation, and flood prevention. Recent events such as the droughts in Thailand and the floods in Myanmar remind us how important it is to preserve the integrity and functions of aquatic ecosystems, of which wetlands are a key part.

Dr Perkin explained that IUCN has been pleased to see that the five countries have made considerable progress in implementing the Ramsar Convention, through site designations, enhanced management, awareness raising through Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA), and the integration of wetlands into policy. However, a number of gaps still exist in each of these countries, and increased regional collaboration and experience sharing could help enhance implementation of the Convention significantly. He noted that he looked forward to the establishment of a strong platform for developing the IBRRI in the future.

### 3. Presentation of the IBRRI objectives and 2017 work plan

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Mr Raphael Glemet, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia, then gave a presentation on the purpose and the objectives of the IBRRI, as proposed in the concept document that was submitted to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. The concept had been developed in collaboration with the five Ramsar National Focal Points, and endorsed by the five countries (as evidenced by the letters of support from the five Administrative Authorities).

Mr Glemet explained that there are currently 15 existing Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRI), and that four new ones, including IBRRI, were approved by SC 52 in June 2016. He summarised the six key elements of an RRI:

1. Ramsar's 19 regional initiatives are platforms supporting cooperation and capacity building on wetland-related issues in specific regions or sub-regions.
2. Groups of Contracting Parties in a region/sub-region, which may also share a common thematic goal, can apply for endorsement as "regional initiatives".
3. The Administrative Authorities (AA) responsible for implementing the Convention in their countries drive the development and activities of regional initiatives.
4. Initiatives give the Parties a platform for collaborating with technical experts and representatives of intergovernmental bodies, Ramsar International Organization Partners, NGOs, local communities and private companies.
5. Regional initiatives are endorsed by the SC in between meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP). To be formally recognized, they must conform to the Operational Guidelines for RRIs in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands.
6. They are independently governed and are not authorized to speak or act on the Convention's behalf, but they work in close contact with the Secretariat. Some initiatives receive start-up financial assistance from the Secretariat's core budget.

Mr Glemet added that the IBRRI is therefore not a project, but rather, a long-term institutional platform to support the implementation of the Convention at the regional level. He also noted that there is a great diversity in Ramsar sites in the region, and that these are very important for people and livelihoods. However, there are a number of challenges and threats in these sites.

The four objectives of IBRRI according to the concept document are:

1. **Science and knowledge:** Promote scientific and technical cooperation by supporting joint research on management and wise use of wetlands;
2. **Site designation and management:** Develop or support the development of management plans and regulatory/management tools for the wetlands;
3. **Policy and advocacy:** Promote regional dialogue on the development of wetlands conservation policy by sharing existing policies and working jointly on improvement;
4. **Capacity building and awareness:** Support capacity building through the development of training and educational programmes and courses.



Mr Glémet also presented the proposed work plan for 2017 (Appendix 3).

**Ms Nirawan Pipitsombat, former Ramsar National Focal Point for Thailand,** added that, apart from translating the Ramsar documents, it is also important to simplify them. She then asked about the financial sustainability of IBRRI.

**Mr Raphael Glémet** responded that IBRRI has received initial financial assistance of CHF 30,000 from the Ramsar Secretariat for 2016-2017, which is likely going to be renewed for a period of three to six years. In addition, IUCN Asia - through its s Water and Wetlands Programme - will seek to provide support to the IBRRI, to ensure its financial sustainability for the next four years. However, additional core funding to support IBRRI in the medium to long term will need to be sought. IUCN, as the IBRRI secretariat, will assist in exploring and identifying funding opportunities and approaching potential donors directly. It will be also important that the Ramsar AA in each country explore means of funding and promote the IBRRI to potential donors.

Regarding the governance mechanisms, **Dr Srey Sunleang, Director, Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation, Ministry of Environment, Cambodia,** explained that the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia (RRC-EA) has regular meetings once a year. However, there should be some flexibility to convene additional meetings on particular topics when necessary.

**Dr Scott Perkin** added that the Steering Committee of the Asia Protected Areas Partnership (APAP) also meets at least once a year.

**Dr Srey Sunleang** noted that a lack of funding is sometimes an issue in the implementation of the Convention. He asked whether the IBRRI could provide financial support for representatives from Asia to participate in the Standing Committee meetings. Representation from Indo-Burma countries is not sufficient to raise important issues of the region.

**Mr Raphael Glémet** responded that this can be analysed as part of the 2017 work plan.

#### 4. Ramsar Regional Initiative Operational Guidelines

Mr Raphael Glémet then presented the Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention (see separate document and presentation).

#### 5. Governance Mechanisms for the IBRRI: Definition of a Steering Committee, Technical Committee and Regional STRP

Mr Raphael Glémet presented the governance structure that had been proposed as part of the concept document (Figure 1).

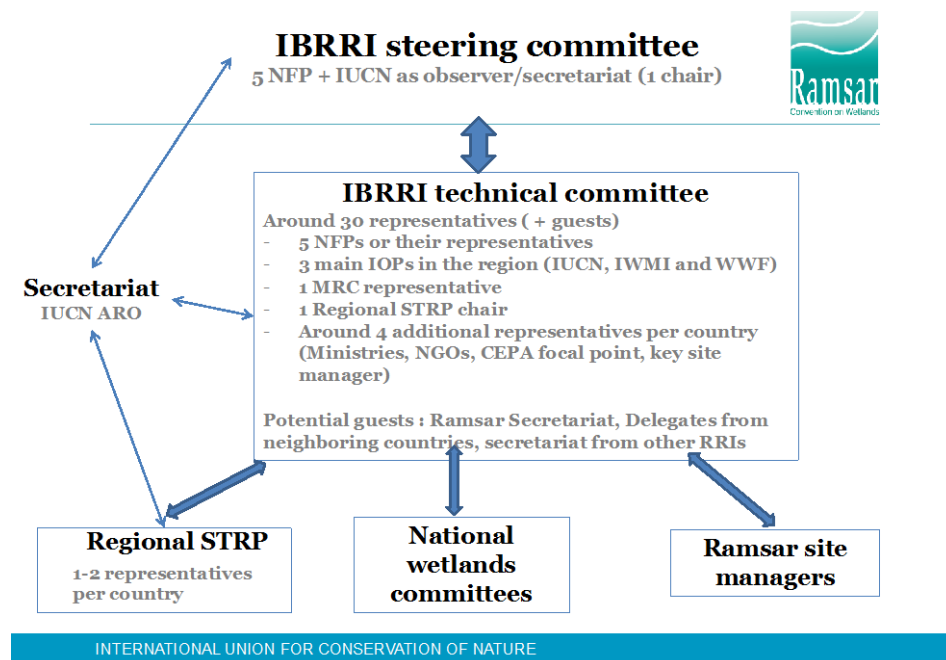


Figure 1: Initial proposed governance mechanism

Ms Nirawan Pipitsombat explained that in Thailand, communication with the Ramsar site managers and the national wetland committee should go through the NFPs. Therefore, they do not need to be represented in the governance structure of IBRRI. The IBRRI could work on establishing a network of Ramsar site managers and providing support, training and facilitation to this network. Ms. Pipitsombat also suggested that there is no need to establish a regional STRP, but that an STRP working group and a CEPA working group could be established under the IBRRI technical committee. The CEPA focal points for NGOs would act as representatives from civil society in the IBRRI governance mechanism. The other participants agreed with these suggestions.

Dr Srey Sunleang added that the site managers often do not speak English and therefore language is also an issue. He also suggested that the NFPs of each country should nominate the representatives.

Mr Khonesavanh Louangraj, Director of Division, Lao Ramsar Convention Office, Department of Environmental Quality Promotion, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE), Lao PDR, explained that in Lao PDR the national wetlands committee is chaired by the Prime Minister, and that the Ramsar AA is the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. The NFPs are at the level of Director General of Department. This needs to be considered when defining the

representatives for the IBRRI steering committee. The steering committee representatives from all five countries should be at the same level.

**Mrs Tran Thi Kim Tinh, Deputy Head of Ecology Department, Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Viet Nam,** agreed with these suggestions and explained that in Viet Nam, MONRE is in charge of wetlands management and that there is no national wetlands committee. She suggested that the NFPs should nominate their STRP and CEPA representatives as they consider appropriate. These can be government representatives and/or independent experts with knowledge about wetlands management. The other participants agreed with this suggestion. Mrs Tinh also highlighted the importance of establishing a network among Ramsar site managers in order to share best practices of management. This can be part of the IBRRI programmatic approach.

**Mr Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ramsar Convention National Focal Point, Myanmar,** agreed with these suggestions and explained that in Myanmar, a wetlands committee is in place involving high levels of government. He suggested that the chair of the IBRRI technical committee should be elected for a period of three years. **Dr Srey Sunleang** added that the location of the annual meeting can be rotated among member countries.

**Ms Nirawan Pipitsombat** suggested that Dr Srey Sunleang be elected chair of the IBRRI technical committee. Dr Srey Sunleang was the representative of the Asia region at the Ramsar Standing Committee during the last triennium, and he will still attend the SC with funding support from the Cambodian government until 2018. The current Asian representative is Nepal, with Viet Nam as the alternate member. Dr Sunleang has long-standing experience of the Ramsar Convention and is also the chair of the RRC-EA Steering Committee. The other participants agreed with the nomination of Dr Srey as the chair, and Dr Srey accepted the nomination.

The participants then agreed on a revised governance structure as shown in Figure 2 (24 members in total). They also discussed that the name of the 'technical committee' may need to be revised. They agreed that all five recognised International Organization Partners (IOPs) should be invited to join the technical committee. They also agreed that the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity should be part of the IBRRI technical committee.



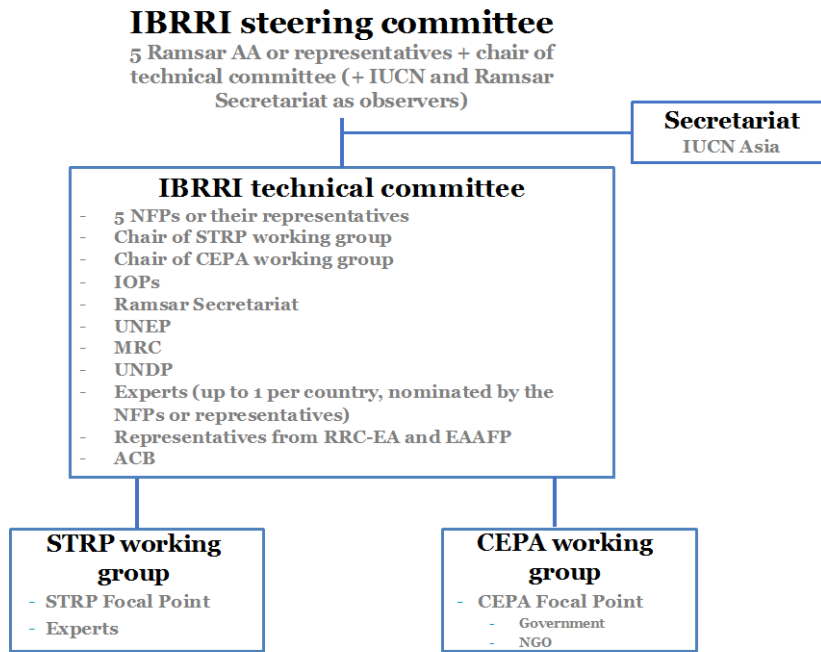


Figure 2: Revised governance structure for IBRRI

IUCN offered to prepare first drafts of the IBRRI Statutes and the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee and to share these with participants for their review.

Regarding the initial work plan, it is hoped that through other projects the activities of the IBRRI can be expanded. The participants also suggested that national level training workshops be organised in each country. In addition, a training needs assessment should be carried out. Some countries may require support for the organisation of World Wetlands Day. The documents to be translated should be discussed during the inception workshop. Some countries have already translated certain guidelines into national languages (such as the handbook on Wise Use of Wetlands and on Wetlands Inventory). Other local languages should also be considered.

## 6. Overview of ongoing Ramsar-related Programmes and Initiatives in the Indo-Burma Region

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### a) Myanmar country presentation

**Ms Hsu Sandar Aung, Range Officer, Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Myanmar,** presented the status of Ramsar implementation in Myanmar (see separate presentation). She explained that Myanmar has two existing Ramsar sites: 1) Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary; and 2) Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary.

Two other site designations are ongoing: 1) Meinmahlakyun Wildlife Sanctuary in Ayeyarwady Region; and 2) Gulf of Mottama in Mon State. She explained that as the Gulf of Mottama is not a protected area, it is not under the authority of the Forest Department; the management of the site is less clear than with the wildlife sanctuaries, which are under FD.

**Mr Raphael Glémet** added that there is good leadership from the Mon and Bago Governments to take responsibility for the management at the site level. Regional and state level wetland

committees have been established. The recently created Mon State wetland committee is willing to take responsibility for the management of the site. The revised RIS has been prepared and can be shared with the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD) for comments. IUCN stands ready to support NWCD with the RIS submission.

#### **b) Thailand country presentation**

**Mr Wanlop Preechamart, Environmental Management Officer, Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Thailand,** presented the status of Ramsar implementation in Thailand (see separate presentation). He explained that there are currently 14 Ramsar sites in Thailand, of which nine are inside Protected Areas (PAs), while five are outside PAs.

Mr Preechamart explained that the process of designation has been transformed to become a bottom-up process, where local communities, governments or NGOs propose the designation of wetlands of international or national importance. He also noted that the Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) could be used to generate case studies from the five countries.

#### **c) Cambodia country presentation**

**Dr Srey Sunleang** presented the status of Ramsar implementation in Cambodia (see separate presentation). Cambodia currently has four designated Ramsar sites. Ramsar management is under the mandate of the Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation, Ministry of Environment (MOE). In addition, Stung Sen core area is in the process of nomination to be a Ramsar site, and four more sites are planned to be designated.

#### **d) Lao PDR country presentation**

**Mr Khonesavanh Louangraj** presented about the status of Ramsar implementation in Lao PDR (see separate presentation). Lao PDR has two designated Ramsar sites: Xe Champhone Wetland and Beung Kiat Ngong Wetland. Two main projects are currently supporting these sites: the “Climate Change Adaptation in Wetlands Areas in Lao PDR” (CAWA) project; and the “Lower Mekong Basin Wetland Management and Conservation” project funded by the German government (KfW).

Mr Louangraj explained that wetland guidelines are currently being developed by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). DWR is responsible for wetlands that are not Ramsar sites. These guidelines will be attached to the revised Water Law that will be submitted to the National Assembly in 2017.

#### **e) Viet Nam country presentation**

**Mrs Tran Thi Kim Tinh** presented the status of Ramsar implementation in Viet Nam (see separate presentation). Viet Nam has a total of eight designated Ramsar sites. Each of them has been established as a PA and has a management plan. Several ministries are involved in different activities or resources of the Ramsar site, such as fisheries, forests or biodiversity, but coordination needs to be improved.

## 7. Coordination with other Ramsar Regional Initiatives in the Region (EAAFP and RRC-EA)

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**Mr Raphael Glémet** explained that IBRRI had been discussed with the two other RRI relevant for this region, namely, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) and the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia (RRC-EA). These initiatives are aware and supportive of the IBRRI.

The IUCN Asia Regional Office is a member of the EAAFP and has good relationships with the RRC-EA, including through past support to RRC-EA workshops and trainings.

IBRRI should collaborate closely with these initiatives and explore synergies, such as joint events and trainings.

## 8. Communications for the IBRRI and Planning of Inception Workshop

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The participants agreed on the dates of 29-30 March 2017 for the first Steering Committee meeting and the Inception Workshop. These initial meetings should be held in Bangkok; subsequently, the meeting location will rotate among the five countries.

The purpose of the Steering Committee meeting on the first day will be to discuss and approve official documents such as the statutes and the TORs. The Inception Workshop will be held on the second day and will include all members of the IBRRI technical committee. Donors should also be invited to attend. The objectives of the Inception Workshop will be to present the IBRRI, discuss the Ramsar Strategic Plan and its relevance for the region, and prepare a sub-regional strategic plan.

In terms of visual identity, the participants were asked to identify preferred colours and key messages for the future IBRRI logo. The outcomes of the discussions are summarised below. These, as well as the logos of the existing RRI, will be given to a design company to prepare a selection of proposed logos. The final selection will be done at the first IBRRI Steering Committee meeting.

Colours	Key messages / elements
Green (or light green): 6 people Green and blue: 5 people Blue and red: 1 person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Flags of five countries</li><li>- Partnership for sustainable wetlands</li><li>- Mangrove, hand, disaster protection, collaboration</li><li>- Map of five countries</li><li>- Take care of wetlands + Mekong River</li><li>- Regional collaboration, biodiversity and livelihoods</li><li>- Biodiversity conservation, wise use of wetlands, strengthening ecosystem services of wetlands</li><li>- Mekong River</li><li>- Fish partnership</li><li>- Livelihoods and climate change</li><li>- Regional cooperation and wise use of wetlands</li><li>- Collaboration for sustainable development</li></ul>

## 9. Next steps and closing remarks

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**Ms. Angela Joehl Cadena, Senior Programme Officer, IUCN Asia**, gave a presentation about two upcoming regional projects related to wetlands. The first one is “Mekong WET: Building Resilience of

Wetlands in the Lower Mekong Region through a Ramsar Regional Initiative”<sup>1</sup> funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMU). This project will aim to establish an effective and replicable framework for delivery of ecosystem-based adaptation and mitigation benefits from existing and planned Ramsar sites in the region, including through transboundary collaboration. It will be closely linked with the IBRRI, and the IBRRI technical committee will be used to provide guidance for this project. This project will include Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The second one is the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded “Sustainable Management of Peatland Ecosystems in Mekong Countries” project, which will be implemented in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar. This project is currently in the Project Preparation phase and will support the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy.

**Mr Raphael Glémet** concluded that some important decisions regarding the governance structure had been taken during this meeting, and that IUCN will get back to the participants with proposed statutes, draft TORs and operational procedures and a draft agenda for the IBRRI Steering Committee meeting and the Inception Workshop. The participants will then be asked to work on the nomination of participants for each governing body.

**Dr Scott Perkin** closed the meeting by emphasizing that IBRRI can be an important platform to increase regional collaboration and build on the important work that is already carried out in each country. He thanked Raphael Glemet for his efforts in supporting the establishment of IBRRI, and thanked all participants for their contributions.

**Link to IBRRI documents and country presentations:**

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jfg04aueexu5l3h/AAACtvhUHZdeyN9mE3VosB3La?dl=0>

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<sup>1</sup> A revised name “WARM – Wetlands Adaptation and Resilience in the Mekong” is currently under discussion.

## Appendix 1: Agenda

### First Coordination Meeting of the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)

(9 December 2016, Hilton Double Tree,  
Soi 26 Sukhumvit, Bangkok, Thailand)

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#### Agenda

08:00 – 08:30	<b>Registration</b>
08:30 – 09:00	<b>Opening Remarks</b> (15 mins) Presentation on objectives and agenda (10 mins) (IUCN ARO and IUCN Indo-Burma Group)
09:00 – 10:00	<b>Presentation of the IBRRI; objectives and 2017 workplan</b> (Mr Raphael Glemet, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia) <i>Discussion and preliminary validation</i>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Ramsar Regional Initiative Operational Guidelines</b> (Mr Raphael Glemet, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia) <i>Discussion</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee break and group picture
10:45 – 12:00	<b>Governance Mechanisms for the IBRRI: Definition of a Steering Committee, Technical Committee and Regional STRP</b> (Mr Raphael Glemet, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia) <i>Discussion and preliminary validation</i>
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-15:15	<b>Overview of ongoing Ramsar-related Programmes and Initiatives in the Indo-Burma Region</b> (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam, IUCN)
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee Break
15:30 – 16:30	<b>Coordination with other Ramsar Regional Initiatives in the Region (e.g., EAAFP and the RRCEA)</b> <b>Communication for the IBRRI: Visual identity, website and communication tools</b> <b>Planning for the IBRRI Inception Workshop (list of participants, preliminary agenda, dates)</b>
16:30 – 17:00	<b>Next steps and closing remarks</b>

## Appendix 2: Participants list

No	Name & Title	Organisation	Country	Contact email
1	Mr Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ramsar Convention National Focal Point	Myanmar	kyawkyawlwin189@gmail.com
2	Ms Hsu Sandar Aung, Range Officer	Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Myanmar	hsusandaraung6988@gmail.com
3	Mr Khonesavanh Louangraj	Director of Division, Lao Ramsar Convention Office, DEQP, MoNRE	Lao PDR	k.louangraj@gmail.com
4	Mrs Keopaseuth Inthisone	Technical Officer, Lao Ramsar Convention Office, DEQP, MoNRE	Lao PDR	keopaseuth.inthisone@gmail.com
5	Dr Srey Sunleang, Director	Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation, Ministry of Environment	Cambodia	kampongspeu@yahoo.com
6	Mr Sun Visal, Vice Chief of Office	Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation, Ministry of Environment	Cambodia	sunvisal@gmail.com
7	Mrs Tran Thi Kim Tinh, Deputy Head of Ecology Department	Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)	Viet Nam	kimtinhtkt@gmail.com
8	Mr Wanlop Preechamart, Environmental Management Officer	Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Thailand	wanloponep@gmail.com
9	Mr Tossapon Piantanakulchai	Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Thailand	parinya_lee@yahoo.com
10	Ms Nirawan Pipitsombat	Former Ramsar National Focal Point for Thailand	Thailand	nirawanfang@gmail.com

11	Dr Scott Perkin, Head Natural Resources Group	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	scott.perkin@iucn.org
12	Mr Raphael Glemet, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	raphael.glemet@iucn.org
13	Ms Angela Joehl Cadena, Senior Programme Officer	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	angela.joehlcadena@iucn.org
14	Ms Kulkanya Hiranyasthiti	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	kulkanya.hiranyasthiti@iucn.org
15	Ms Tanya Wattanakorn	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	tanya.wattanakorn@iucn.org

**Appendix 3: Proposed Work Plan for the Indo Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative for the year 2016-2017**

<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Results/Outputs</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>1. Create the governance mechanisms for IBRRI</b>	1.1 Hold the first meeting of the Steering committee	Endorsement of IBRRI's status and ToRs	Approved ToRs for IBRRI's governance committees
	1.2 Organise an inception workshop	Preliminary workplan defined	Draft workplan approved by IBRRI members
<b>2. Strengthen knowledge of key Ramsar tools and guidelines</b>	2.1 Translate two key Ramsar documents into local languages and disseminate	Two key documents translated into the five local languages and disseminated online and through workshops	Number of downloads and number of copies distributed
	2.2 Organize two regional trainings	Two trainings held, involving at least 50 participants (25 participants per training). (Topics to be defined during the inception workshop, but may include: the development of management plans and/or wetlands policies; and/or the R- METT)	Number of trainings held; number and profile of participants; evidence of improved understanding of management guidelines, policy frameworks and the R-METT at local level as revealed by training assessments
<b>3. Strengthen awareness of the Ramsar Convention in the IBRRI region</b>	3.1 Provide support for World Wetland Day in the five IBRRI countries	Technical and small-scale financial support provided to World Wetland Day events in the five countries	Number of technical missions undertaken and number of small grants provided in support of World Wetland Day activities
	3.2 Communication strategy for the IBRRI developed and implementation initiated	Media reports at national and regional levels mention the IBRRI; a specific webpage and a logo for the IBRRI are launched	Number of media reports published; IBRRI website and logo launched