Second Announcement

NORDIC WETLAND CONFERENCE
& Ramsar Meeting

MAY 4-7, 2004 IN NORWAY

Date : Tuesday May 4 – Friday May 7. 2004
Venue : Brekstad, Ørlandet Municipality outside Trondheim, Norway

Organised by: Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management - in co-operation with the Governor of Sør-Trøndelag County
Funded by: Nordic Council of Ministers and the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management

MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

- Present the report "Nordic Wetland Conservation" and other new documentation to get a comprehensive overview of the wetland situation in the Nordic countries and beyond
- Present directives, ways of co-operation, connections, experience and challenges in wetland conservation and management
- Identify possible future ways of organisation and co-operation within and among Nordic countries and beyond

TARGET AUDIENCE

The main audience of the conference will be national Ramsar authorities of the Nordic countries and other national authorities relevant for implementation of the convention. Furthermore, participants from the Baltic countries, Northwest Russian Regions, as well as from relevant non- and inter-governmental organisations will be invited as observers. An estimated 4-5 participants from each of the Nordic countries are desirable, in addition to participants from Baltic countries, Russia, NGO's and representatives from Norwegian County Governors (as responsible for the daily management of Ramsar Sites). The total number of participants is limited to 50, and we may therefore have to limit places available for NGO's and other institutions.

DETAILED PROGRAMME

The programme will consist of presentations, break-out sessions, discussions and an excursion. The detailed programme will be compiled by a Nordic program committee and will be circulated April 1.
Please note: The program committee very much welcome ideas and proposals for relevant presentations under the different sessions and encourage you to put this forward as soon as possible. Please forward any suggestion to the Conference Manager: jan-p.huberth-hansen@dirnat.no

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE:

Chair: Finn Katerås (Norway), Torsten Larsson (Sweden), Timo Asanti (Finland), Arni Bragason (Iceland). Key persons from the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management will provide advice.

PROGRAM - SESSIONS

The following outline of the sessions has been made:

Opening session

Welcome speeches by *Tobias Salathe* from the Ramsar Bureau *(confirmed)*, representatives from the Norwegian Directorate for Nature Management, the County Governor of Sør-Trøndelag, the major of "Ramsar Municipal Ørlandet" and NGO's. Intentions, goals, expected outcome.

Background session : Working with wetlands
Brief presentations and update from bodies involved and/or having a main focus on wetland conservation – including the Ramsar Bureau, international conventions and other agreements like the Biodiversity Convention (CBD), OSPAR, Arctic Council/CAFF, and NGO's.
Wetlands in connection with EU's Natura 2000 and the Bern Convention's Emerald Network.

Session 1: The wetland situation – Worldwide, European, Nordic
Main findings from the report "Nordic Wetland Conservation" presented by *Jon Suul* who headed the work of this report. The global situation. EU information on protection and management of wetlands in Europe, and Wetlands in the Arctic. Recommendations from Ramsar COP8 (Valencia 2002).

Session2: Wetland Conservation and management
Retrospect on wetlands ; Learning from histories of success and failures in wetland conservation and management, including nature information aspects, in the Nordic countries, Baltic countries, and NW Russia. Best practises - projects underway or planned.

Session 3: Wetlands - more than birds
About Wetland ecosystems in our part of the world. The ecological aspects of wetlands. When the Ramsar Convention entered into force some 30 years ago birds were a keyword. Today the intentions and the concept of the Ramsar Convention have been expanded e g criteria related to fish species etc. How is this reflected when protected areas are established today ?

Session 4: Towards increased and improved wetland cooperation in the Nordic countries ?
Experience from different ways of organising work on wetlands nationally and international. Is it wiehable establishing e g an informal Nordic Wetland Forum or an organisation somewhat like the "MedWet". Heading for the Ramsar regional meeting in Armenia (December 2004); discussions on possible common preparations and initiatives from the Nordic countries ?

Field excursion
The nearby wetlands (Ramsar site) in Ørlandet municipality will be used as demonstration areas. See http://www.ramsar.org/profiles_norway

LOCAL ORGANISING COMMITTEE:
Conference Manager: Jan-Petter HuberthHansen (DN), Secretariat: Tørris Ekker and Vigdis Jacobsen (County Governor of Sør-Trøndelag).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION, TRAVEL AND REGISTRATON FORM
On the following web site you will find registration form, general information, and information about travel and accommodation; www.fylkesmannen.no/ST (Any questions regarding financial issues not covered here may be given to the Conference Manager).

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRAT ION: APRIL 8, 2004
(BUT PLEASE DO IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE !)

	Directorate for Nature Management	Ramsar	County Governor of Sør-Trøndelag