



Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW)

The initiative aims at promoting conservation and sustainable use of High Andean wetlands through long term regional cooperation.

This initiative contributes to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan, operational objective 12.1: “Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and river basins.”

Main objectives:

1. To develop a shared vision of the High Andean wetlands through coordination mechanisms and the reinforcement of regional capabilities.
2. To complete and improve the scientific and technical knowledge of High Andean wetlands and other ecosystems functionally related in order to support their conservation and sustainable use.
3. To promote conservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural resources through an adequate management.
4. To strengthen processes of education and communication to increase public awareness of the importance and value of High Andean wetlands.
5. To support countries in the region to develop coordinated conservation policies.
6. To design and implement a monitoring and evaluation system for the wetland strategy to guarantee its sustainability in the medium and long term at the regional, national and local level.

Endorsement and members

The initiative was approved in Kampala Uganda, during Ramsar’s COP9 in November 2005.

Members include the Ramsar Administrative authorities of eight Neotropic countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela). The following organizations also take part in the initiative: Wetlands International, BirdLife International (Americas office), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Sur), the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the High Andean Flamingos’ Conservation Group, CONDESAN, and the Ramsar Regional Center for the Western Hemisphere (CREHO).



Meeting of the Contact Group, Cusco, Peru, September 2011

Coordination

The Coordination and Follow-up Committee includes 8 National Focal Points of the High Andean Initiative, officially designated by the initiative's members. Since 2012 Chile serves as the initiative coordinator.

The Contact Group is composed by the Contracting Parties Members of the initiative and representatives of other organizations participating in the initiative: Wetlands International, IUCN, BirdLife International, WWF, the group for the Conservation of High Andean flamingos, CONDESAN, CREHO, and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).

Activities

The Coordination Committee and Contact Group meet annually to follow up the implementation of the strategy and its action plan. Besides the publication of the High Andean Wetlands Strategy, the initiative prepared a public awareness video in Spanish and English.



Meeting with local communities
Titicaca Lake (Bolivian side)
September, 2009



Meeting of the Contact Group, San Jose
Costa Rica, September 2010



Participants in Meñique Lagoon, Atacama Chile, 2012



Visit to el Morado National Park, Chile 2014



Meeting of the Regional Initiative, Santiago, Chile

Meetings

21-25 April 2014, Santiago de Chile, *X Meeting of the High Andean Wetlands Regional Initiative.*

18-25 November 2012, Santiago de Chile and San Pedro de Atacama. *IX Meeting of the High Andean Regional Initiative.*

20-23 September 2011. Cusco, Peru. *VIII Workshop of the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands.*

29 September - 29 October 2010. San Jose, Costa Rica. *VII Workshop of the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands.*

21 - 24 September 2009, La Paz, Bolivia. *VI Workshop of the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands.*

25-27 June 2008. Bogota, Colombia. *V Workshop of the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands.*

15-18 September 2007, Merida, Venezuela. *IV Workshop of the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW).*

May 2006, Iquique, Chile. *Workshop Financial Mechanisms of the Strategy for Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW).*

13 -17 February 2005. Salta, Argentina. *Workshop for the Document edition of the Strategy of High Andean Wetlands.*

November 2004, Merida, Mexico. *Workshop of the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW).*

29-30 March 2004. Quito, Ecuador. *Workshop of the Regional Strategy for Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW).*

Video



Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW): Water, Life, future (2008)

Contact

In Chile: Nancy Cespedes (ncespedes@minrel.gov.cl), Ramsar Focal Point, Alejandra Figueroa (AFigueroa@mma.gob.cl).

Ramsar Secretariat: Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor for the Americas, rivera@ramsar.org, or americas@ramsar.org.