

## Brief biographies of our Speakers

(Following order of agenda presentations - as of 18.11.2010)

	<p><i>Dr Heather MacKay, STRP Chair</i></p> <p>Dr MacKay is a citizen of Zimbabwe and South Africa, currently residing and working in the USA. In 1999, Dr MacKay attended her first Ramsar Conference of Parties as a member of the South African delegation. Since 2006 she is Chairing the Convention's Scientific &amp; Technical Review Panel. Heather served as Assistant Director: Water Policy and Senior Specialist Scientist in the South African Department of Water Affairs and Forestry. She was subsequently appointed to the Water Research Commission of South Africa, where she managed national research portfolios related to water policy and law, institutional development for water management, transboundary river basin management, environmental governance and biodiversity conservation. Her research publications include work on marine and estuarine hydrodynamics and ecology, water quality criteria for both coastal and inland wetland ecosystems, and river basin management.</p>
	<p><i>Dr Paul Ouedraogo, Senior Adviser for Africa, Ramsar Convention Secretariat</i></p> <p>A citizen of Burkina Faso, Paul has many years' experience in working on environmental matters, including forest and wildlife management as well as wetland conservation and sustainable use, both at local level and nationally. He served for some years in the National Centre for Research of Burkina and at the University of Ouagadougou. He also served as Executive Director of Naturama, a national NGO. Dr Ouedraogo worked for IUCN as Senior Technical Advisor for the Benin Wildlife Centre and as coordinator for a Wildlife Corridor Programme for Ghana's Northern Savanna Biodiversity Conservation; He also became a Senior Technical Advisor for the Integrated Management of Critical Ecosystems Project under the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA). Paul joined the Ramsar Secretariat early November 2010 taking up the lead of the Africa Region.</p>
	<p><i>Ms Cathleen Cybele, Assistant Adviser for Africa, Ramsar Convention Secretariat</i></p> <p>Ms Cybele is citizen of Mauritius currently residing in Switzerland. She is a graduate of the University of Lille in France and the University of Kent in the UK and has served as the manager of a national awareness campaign for Rare Pride in Mauritius and, most recently, as a conservation educator for the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation. Cathleen joined the Ramsar family in January 2010.</p>
	<p><i>Ms Monica Zavagli, Scientific &amp; Technical Officer, Ramsar Convention Secretariat</i></p> <p>Monica is Italian citizen. She joins the Ramsar Secretariat in 2007 working for two years as Assistant Adviser for Europe and then progressing as Scientific &amp; Technical Officer working closely with the members of the Convention's Scientific Panel (STRP). Ms Zavagli has previously gained international experience on coastal and inland wetland conservation and environmental affairs by working with the Royal Society for Marine Conservation in Jordan, in National Parks in Costa Rica and at the Italian Permanent Mission to the UN offices in Geneva. Since 2007 Monica has been also involved in several coral reef resilience assessments with WWF and IUCN in Tanzania and Seychelles.</p>
	<p><i>Professor Kassim Kulindwa, STRP invited Expert</i></p> <p>Professor Kulindwa is Associate Professor Economics, University of Dar es Salaam and Visiting Professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Aas, Norway, August 2010 to 2011. He is an economist and senior researcher employed by the University of Dar es Salaam. He is educated in Tanzania (University of Dar es Salaam), Canada (University of British Columbia) and Sweden (Gothenburg University). He has more than 27 years' work experience and has done extensive research on natural resources and the environment with a focus on sustainable development issues, poverty reduction and livelihood issues in Tanzania. These include sustainable resources use and resources management of fisheries, water resources, wildlife and minerals. Environmental issues including wetland valuation and climate change.</p>

	<p><i>Mr Denis Landenbergue, Wetland Conservation Manager, WWF International</i> Mr Landenbergue is a Swiss citizen currently working for WWF international where throughout his long career in wetlands management, he has played a key role in worldwide efforts to designate millions of hectares of freshwater areas as Wetlands of International Importance and has assisted many countries, particularly developing countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia, in joining the Ramsar Convention.</p>
	<p><i>Mr Rob McInnes, STRP expert</i> Rob has over 18 years experience in environmental research, consultancy and conservation. He possesses specialist knowledge on the restoration, eco-hydrology and management of wetland systems. He has worked on over 400 wetland-related projects both within the UK and overseas and has knowledge extending across a range of wetland types. He is currently a Director of Bioscan (UK) Ltd, a small specialist ecological and environmental consultancy. Previously he was Head of Wetland Conservation at a UK-based NGO, the Wildfowl &amp; Wetlands Trust (WWT), Senior Wetland Specialist at Penny Anderson Associates ecological consultancy; and employed by the Wetlands Ecosystems Research Group, based at Royal Holloway, University of London. Rob has represented the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) on the STRP since 2005.</p>
	<p><i>Dr Jonas Chafota, WWF-East and Southern Africa</i> Dr Chafota is citizen of Zimbabwe based in Malawi. He currently works as Project Coordinator at WWF-East and Southern Africa Regional Programme Office for the Songwe River Transboundary Catchment Management Project supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation Agency.</p>
	<p><i>Dr Lisa Rebelo, International Water Management Institute - IWMI</i> Dr Rebelo is citizen of Kenya and currently working as a Researcher at the IWMI regional office for the Nile Basin and East Africa based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. She is a remote sensing specialist with expertise in wetlands. Lisa has been involved in the work of STRP for many years, particularly for the Thematic Work Area on Wetland Inventory, Assessment, Monitoring and Reporting.</p>
	<p><i>Dr Heather Malan, University of Cape Town</i> Dr Malan is a senior environmental research scientist at the University of Cape Town in South Africa where has been working for the past 16 years. Her interests are in aquatic pollution/environmental water quality and management of aquatic ecosystems. She became interested in wetlands when working on a Water Research Commission project which examined wetlands, water quality and implementation of the South African National Water Act. The work was published in 2005. From 2006 to early 2010, she was project manager for Phase II of the Wetland Health and Importance (WHI) Research Programme which was completed this year. She is currently researching aspects of wetlands and water quality as part of a Water Research Commission-funded project.</p>
	<p><i>Ms Namhla Mbona, South African Institute of Biodiversity - SANBI</i> Namhla is Project Manager for the National Wetlands Inventory, and works specifically on GIS and spatial analysis on the national wetland map. She is significantly enhancing the database, adding new data as it becomes available and cleaning up glitches in existing data for the wetland inventory. She acts as the main technical support for WfWet Provincial Coordinators and other users, plotting data that is supplied to her and providing maps and other data as required. She has been involved in other biodiversity projects like the National Freshwater Priority Area and the National Spatial Biodiversity assessment for 2010/11. Namhla holds a Bsc from the University of Fort Hare and a BSc Honours in Geography (GIS) from the University of Pretoria. She is currently working on her M.Sc with Centre for Geoinformatics (ZGIS) - Salzburg University Port Elizabeth, Southern Africa Office.</p>



*Ms Evelyn Moloko, African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) Secretariat*

Ms Moloko is citizen of Cameroon, currently based in Germany where she works as Coordinator for the African Initiative at the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

Evelyn has strong bounds with the Ramsar Convention, not only because of the relevance of wetlands for migratory waterbirds, but also because she served for two year as Assistant Adviser for the Africa Region at the Ramsar secretariat before joining AEWA.

She holds an MSc in Agricultural Engineering/Natural Resources Management with a focus on wise use of water resources.



*Mr Oliver Nasirwa, Wetland International*

Mr. Nasirwa is citizen of Kenya. He currently works as Subregional Waterbird Officer for Wetlands International coordinating the African Waterbird Census. Oliver's roles, among other things, include working closely with secretariats of many environmental Conventions including Ramsar. He holds a BSc in Wildlife Management and a MSc in Applied Ecology and Conservation. He has expertise and strong interest in in Wetland Biodiversity Research, Conservation and Management. He participates in capacity building activities in his areas of work.