



Ramsar Convention Bureau  
**GENEVA**



Wetlands Management Department  
Ministry of Water and Environment  
**UGANDA**



Wildlife Division  
Ministry of Natural Resources & Tourism  
**TANZANIA**



Ministry of Forestry & Wildlife  
**KENYA**

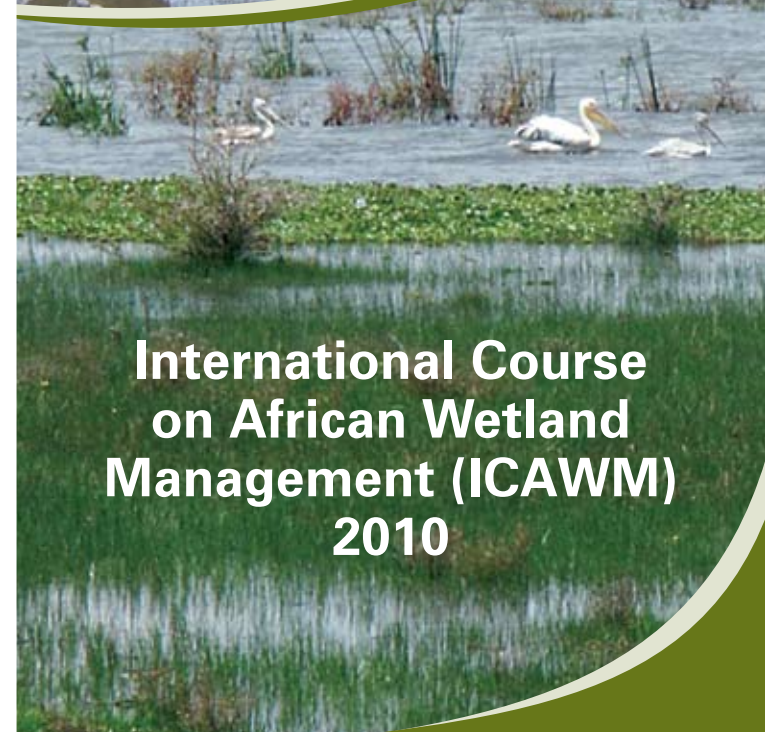
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**International Course  
on African Wetland  
Management (ICAWM)  
2010**

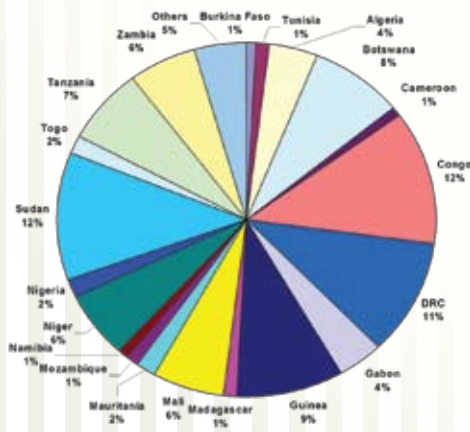


## Preface

The International Course on African Wetland Management (ICAWM) is a Ramsar Convention endorsed training initiative for Wetland Practitioners. It is designed within the premise of the current Guidelines for Management Planning for Ramsar Sites and other Wetlands.

The Convention Secretariat is hosted in Geneva, Switzerland with current contracting parties standing at 159, 46 of which are African member states including Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. As at March 2010, the Convention had designated 1887 sites as wetlands of international importance covering a total of 190,903,670 Ha. Africa hosts 294 of the sites corresponding to 69,962,013 Ha (36.65 %) with Congo, DRC and Sudan hosting the largest share (**Fig.1**). However, it is important to note that Uganda is the only country in Africa, and globally second to Canada who has put in place Wetlands Management Policy.

ICAWM is internationally instituted and collaboratively executed between Kenya wildlife Service through its Training



**Fig.1. Acreage Distribution of Ramsar Sites in Africa**

Institute (KWSTI) as the Secretariat, Wetlands Management Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda, the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism of Tanzania and Centre for Water Management of Rijkswaterstaat of the Netherlands. The training is aimed at enhancing capacity among wetland practitioners to enable them deal with contemporary Environmental as well as societal challenges of wetlands management in Africa.

It is delivered primarily through course work as well as intensive hands-on field practicals in Uganda (Freshwater wetlands) and Kenya (Marine & Coastal Wetlands). The Course takes participants through the process of developing Wetland Management Plans using biodiversity data, stakeholders' analysis, effective communication tools and skills, legal/Institutional frameworks and Ramsar Convention's wise use principles.

## Training needs and objectives

Wetlands are natural ecosystems with crucial social, economic, and ecological attributes both at local, regional and international scope through provision of goods and services. From eco-hydrological perspective, wetlands play a critical role in the regulation of water flow and dynamics thereby mitigating flood negative impacts. They also function as kidneys in water purification thereby sustaining the delicate ecological balance and habitats integrity.

However, due to their numerous direct livelihood values such as fisheries resources, African wetlands have particularly been overexploited and severely depressed. They currently constitute one of the world's most threatened habitats. To help check on this, and to ensure their sustainability, requires an improved continual human capacity development strategy, hence the rationale of this important Course.

A total of 149 middle level managers from 14 African countries (Burundi, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia) and Vietnam (Asia) have been trained through the Course since its inception in 2001.

## Beneficiaries of the Course

1. Middle-level practitioners who are actively involved in inland, coastal and marine wetland management,
2. Wildlife, environment, physical planners, fisheries officers, foresters, water resource managers in local and regional authorities as well as from relevant NGOs within and outside Africa,
3. Persons acquainted with skills on biodiversity and natural resource management training,
4. Persons with at least a Bachelors Degree or its equivalent in conservation biology, wildlife, fisheries, environmental science, water resources management, or their equivalent
5. Persons of strong command in English.

## Course Duration & Costs

ICAWM is a residential course that lasts 42 days (6 weeks). A commensurate fee of **US\$ 3,000** is levied to cover tuition, field training and full board accommodation. The fee does not however cover travel expenses (to and from the Institute), health cover or any personal expenses (DSA).

## Course Dates & Venue for 2010

This year's course is scheduled to run from **14th September to 26th October 2010** at the KWSTI in Naivasha. The strategic placement of KWSTI only about 90km from Nairobi at the shores of Lake Naivasha (a Ramsar Site) facilitates a perfect practical contribution in the execution of the Course. The rich avifaunal diversity and the complex stakeholders setups around the Lake is a golden learning opportunity for the course participants.