



# Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme

## COP9 and Study Tour Summary

Nineteen senior officers from the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP) and government counterpart agencies attended the COP9 and study tour from 6 to 22 November 2005 at Kampala, Uganda. The purpose of these events was to discuss and contribute to the COP9 and learn about Uganda's efforts to manage its wetlands.

The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP9) to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was held from 8-15 November 2005, at the Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda. The theme of the Conference was "Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods." Around 1000 participants representing 120 Contracting Parties, as well as a number of observer states, UN agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations attended the meeting.

Of the 27 draft resolutions 25 were adopted during the conference. Some resolutions were withdrawn or deferred for COP10. The COP9 also adopted the Convention's budget, Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and Work Plan for the 2006-2008 and the COP10 will be hosted by South Korea in 2008. During the COP9, two technical sessions were organised to facilitate discussions about wise use of wetlands in integrated water management, and culture and knowledge in wetlands management.



During the study tour from 16 to 20 November 2005, MWBP staff and partners visited and discussed with many related offices and key persons about wetlands management. Key observations and lessons learnt included trans-boundary wetland management, wetland policy, legislation and institutional arrangement, community based wetland management and livelihoods, Ramsar site management, human resources and financing for wetland management.

Both the MWBP and Wetland Inspection Division were happy to identify focal points and develop a platform for information and experience sharing.

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