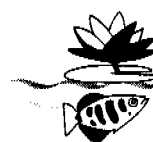




**The Ramsar
Convention and
wetland management
by local communities**

CM Finlayson

October 1998



supervising scientist

THE RAMSAR CONVENTION AND WETLAND MANAGEMENT BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES

CM Finlayson

Overhead sheets prepared for presentation* of this paper at the

INDIGENOUS USE OF WETLANDS WORKSHOP

Batchelor, NT

29 Sept – 1 Oct 1998

This workshop was organised by the Centre for Tropical Wetland Management and the Centre for Indigenous Natural & Cultural Resource Management at the Northern Territory University. The workshop was supported by a number of organisations, including eriss.

* Due to changes in the program and a time overrun this paper was not presented during the workshop.

**The Ramsar Convention
and
wetland management by
local communities**

Max Finlayson

**Environmental
Research Institute
Jabiru NT**

Contents

- **The Ramsar Convention -
background & obligations**
- **Local communities and
wetland management -
cooperative mechanisms
and guidelines**

Background

- **Inter agreement to protect wetlands - 1971**
- **Australia signed 1974**
- **Admin by Environ Aust and State agencies**
- **No external control**
- **Obligations to use wetlands wisely**
- **Guidelines to assist managers provided**

Obligations

- **Nominate wetlands of inter importance**
- **Make wise use of all wetlands**
- **Report successes and failures**
- **Take remedial action when needed**

What does Ramsar offer?

- **Not funding**
- **Recognition of natural and cultural values**
- **Recognition of managerial intent and integrity**
- **Provides guidance for**
 - **management plans**
 - **monitoring**
 - **wise use options**
 - **cooperative processes**

Cooperative processes

- **Guidelines for involving local communities in wetland management**
- **Based on recognition of past problems and value of involving such communities**
- **Guidance for agencies**
- **Based on global case studies and workshops**

The guidelines

- **Incentives for local involvement**
- **Trust between parties**
- **Flexibility**
- **Knowledge exchange and capacity building**
- **Continuity of resources and effort**
- **Monitoring & assurance**