

THE RAMSAR CONVENTION BEYOND 50 – UNWAVERING VISION, OR PARADIGM SHIFT?

Presented by Dr. Dave Pritchard

April 7, 2022 at noon in the Great Hall



As the oldest of the global environmental treaties, the 1971 Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) has seen many reappraisals of received wisdom on how best to cooperate internationally on conserving wetlands. At its heart are some basic principles and concepts designed to endure for generations, yet even these can be cause for deep interpretation debate. Beyond this, a changing world has heaped many new adaptation challenges onto the Convention's agenda. This lecture will examine some of the ways in which Ramsar has responded, across science, law, governance and philosophy, and touching on assessment of outcomes, revised ecological understandings, cultural diversity, Earth jurisprudence and ecocide. As governments prepare to adopt a new Global Biodiversity Framework, in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and amid climate and biodiversity crises, what strategies will keep the Ramsar Convention relevant and effective in future?



Dr. Pritchard has worked for almost 40 years in research, policy, legal, management and governance roles in the fields of environment, culture, heritage and the arts, and has held several non-executive directorships. He is now an independent consultant for bodies including the UN Environment Programme and the Council of Europe, has academic involvements at several universities, and serves on a variety of national and international advisory boards.

Lunch will be served. RSVP to biodiversity@law.stetson.edu by April 1