

Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and amended draft STRP 2016-2018 work plan

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the report of the STRP Chair;
- b) consider and approve the amended draft STRP 2016-2018 work plan (Annex); and
- c) consider possible ways of sourcing funding for the implementation of tasks contained in the approved STRP 2016-2018 work plan, if necessary.

Introduction

1. This report from the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) covers the amended draft work plan, including consultation efforts with National Focal Points and STRP National Focal Points, and provides an update on the work of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Consultation efforts on revising the draft STRP 2016-2018 work plan

2. Decision SC51-07 called for the presentation of an amended STRP work plan to SC52, after seeking further input from Contracting Parties and their STRP National Focal Points.
3. On 15 December 2015, the Secretariat sent a message to the Heads of Administrative Authorities, National Focal Points and STRP National Focal Points inviting comments on the draft STRP 2016-2018 work plan.
4. From 19-25 January 2016, the STRP held five webinars (one for each thematic work area) to provide an additional avenue to receive input from STRP National Focal Points.
5. STRP members were also asked to use their personal contacts to reach out directly to STRP National Focal Points to encourage them to provide input on the draft STRP 2016-2018 work plan.
6. We received comments during the consultation process from nine National Focal Points and nine STRP National Focal Points, representing a total of 14 Contracting Parties. The specific comments, with responses, are available in a table at http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/strp_draft_workplan_201618_cp_feedback.pdf. Certain responses are elaborated in more detail below.

Responses to input received during the consultation process

7. Each of the five STRP thematic work areas considered the inputs received and discussed electronically amendments in light of those comments. In some cases, the STRP received conflicting instructions. For example, for certain tasks, there was a split in opinion of

Contracting Parties on whether the tasks should remain in the work plan. In such cases, the STRP has decided to leave such tasks in the amended draft work plan for the Standing Committee's consideration and ultimate resolution.

8. A core function of the STRP involves providing advice that may not necessarily lead to a tangible published product. Within the framework of Resolution XII.5 (Annex I, paragraphs 2, 12(v), 15 and 38), these ad-hoc advisory functions include, *inter alia*: responding to requests for advice or input from the Secretariat (including on the CEPA Programme and the Fourth Strategic Plan indicators) and Standing Committee; drafting (at the request of Contracting Parties) or providing input on Draft Resolutions submitted by Contracting Parties; responding to specific requests for advice from Contracting Parties; participating in Ramsar Advisory Missions when requested; advising on requests to remove Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record; serving on the Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee; and providing advice on emerging issues. In response to comments we have reconfigured the work plan so that the tasks in the thematic work areas generally contain only items that result in a clear output. The advisory tasks are now highlighted at the front of the work plan.
9. We received several comments of concern about the number of tasks related to peatlands. We have amended the draft work plan so that the three proposed peatland tasks in the thematic work areas align more closely with the COP's requests in Resolution XII.11. (A fourth peatland-related task appears under the advisory tasks.) As a scientific matter, it should be noted that peatlands is a general term that encompasses many different types of wetlands. It is estimated that globally at least one-third of all wetlands are peatlands. In the Ramsar Wetland Classification for Wetland Type, peatlands are expressly listed under Type U — Non-forested peatlands, which includes shrub or open bogs and fens, and Type Xp — Forested peatlands, which includes peat swamp forests. In addition, other wetland types, such as Type Vt — Tundra wetlands, include wetlands with sufficient organic soil layers to be considered peatlands. Peatlands are found in almost every country. Thus, in this context, in the STRP's view, peatlands are not as overemphasized as they may have initially been seen in the initial draft work plan. This is particularly the case when considering that Task 1.3 specifically addresses tropical peatlands that are under immense pressure with regional implications for human wellbeing and biodiversity; Task 2.3 addresses the implementation of the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands; and Task 5.3 addresses restoration techniques.
10. Moreover, it may be helpful to note that that Task 2.3 addresses multiple peatland types and also has benefits unrelated to peatlands. To assess implementation of the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands, the task contemplates reaching out to 20 STRP National Focal Points for information. The task itself would result in greater engagement between the STRP and its National Focal Points, as well as greater engagement with the STRP National Focal Points and their network (as the task would require them to coordinate with others to collect that data). Nevertheless, the STRP welcomes clarification and instruction from the Standing Committee on which peatland-related tasks should move forward.
11. Several comments expressed support for greater inclusion of Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) in the draft work plan. The amended draft work plan now includes specific references to ILK in task 1.2 on cultural inventories; tasks 3.1 and 3.2 on wetland valuation; and task 4.2 on the Ramsar Advisory Mission reports review. The STRP appreciates the offer from New Zealand to provide ILK case studies and welcomes such case studies from other Contracting Parties. In addition, Resolution XII.5 provides a mechanism for further involvement of ILK experts. Contracting Parties may suggest experts to participate in meetings or intersessional processes of the STRP with the approval of the STRP Chair (see Resolution XII. 5, Annex 1, paragraphs 9-

- 10). Although the STRP budget could not cover the travel costs of such additional experts, they would be most welcomed if they can secure funding from other sources. Such experts could also participate in tasks electronically.
12. A question was raised about the Wetland Extent Trends (WET) Index and its relationship to the Ramsar Convention and other conventions, notably the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The WET Index was conceived as an indicator for the Ramsar Convention, filling a gap in the evidence base for Ramsar. Its first iteration was developed and tested by UNEP-WCMC, with funding from the Ramsar Convention and supported by in-kind time contributions from UNEP-WCMC. The WET Index does not belong to any other process and is not funded by the CBD or any other convention. We understand that it is listed in the CBD Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) report only to flag its existence and relevance as an indicator for Aichi Target 5. To be sure, the WET Index, as an ecosystem extent indicator, is relevant to the CBD and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) processes, and an early analysis was used in the Fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4). Nevertheless, the WET Index is and remains a Ramsar indicator of core relevance to the State of the World Wetlands and their Services to People (SoWWS) and for tracking implementation and impact of the Convention. Accordingly, in the amended draft work plan, the WET Index is now included as part of the SoWWS task.
13. A question was also raised about whether further work on the WET Index (and its proposed budget of CHF 50,000) was necessary in light of the methodology's publication in the journal *Biological Conservation* in 2015. It is important to note that the initial work was the first proof of concept establishing the methodology, and it only provided a trend analysis to 2008. Further investment will allow the index to be updated. Just as importantly, the first proof of concept had some geographic gaps and imbalances (most notably Latin America). Further work will help to fill these gaps to make it more representative as a global indicator, as well as enabling better sub-global/regional comparisons.
14. With respect to funding the SoWWS task, the initial draft work plan contained two budgetary options, which created an ambiguity. The higher figure (CHF 250,000) contemplated fundraising and reliance on paid consultants from each Ramsar region. At this point, however, we do not anticipate such funds being voluntarily provided. Thus, we propose to proceed with a smaller figure (CHF 137,000). The STRP would draft the SoWWS report, and funds would be used for an authors meeting (CHF 20,000), and layout, design, translation, and other publication costs (CHF 67,000). Including the proposed cost for the WET Index (CHF 50,000), the total estimated cost for the SoWWS task in the amended draft work plan is CHF 137,000. As a point of comparison, the estimated budget for the pollinators assessment by IPBES (Decision IPBES-2/5) was \$749,250.
15. A literature survey of all Ramsar guidance and IOPs' guidance was assembled prior to the 19th meeting of the STRP (STRP19), identifying more than 100 guidance documents relevant to the broad thematic work areas. The literature survey was provided to all STRP19 participants, and each thematic area working group was asked to consider the available guidance when developing recommendations. The 15 December 2015 message from the Secretariat sent to the Heads of Administrative Authorities, National Focal Points and STRP National Focal Points also asked for input on guidance to be added to the literature survey.

Amended draft STRP 2016-2018 work plan

16. The amended draft work plan, in the Annex to this report, is submitted for the approval of the Standing Committee at its 52nd meeting. The amended draft work plan takes into account the

five thematic work areas approved by Contracting Parties at COP12 (identified in Resolution XII.5, Annex 3), the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (Resolution XII.2), requests by Contracting Parties in COP12 Resolutions and the additional consultation conducted after SC51.

17. The amended draft work plan includes a new task related to advice on management of mosquito disease vectors in wetlands for site managers, health practitioners and policymakers as an emerging issue under thematic work area 2. We have also added a new task related to the Montreux Record, also under thematic work area 2.
18. With respect to funding for task implementation, there are currently three available sources from the Convention budget. First, approximately CHF 118,000 in non-time bound funds remain available from the previous triennium. Second, the budget for 2016-2018 allocates CHF 120,000 (CHF 40,000 per year) for work plan implementation. Third, because of prudent scheduling of STRP meetings, there is CHF 50,000 available from the 2016 budget allocated to STRP meetings. (STRP19 was held in 2015, using 2015 meeting funds; STRP20 will not be held until 2017 and will use 2017 meeting funds.) Assuming that the 2016 meeting funds may be devoted to authors meetings and workshops, there is approximately CHF 288,000 available for work plan implementation.
19. In addition, WWF may be in a position to fully fund Task 4.1 (CHF 100,000; Water Requirements for Wetlands) and partially fund Task 4.2 (CHF 22,000; Review and Analysis of Ramsar Advisory Mission Reports). STRP greatly appreciates WWF's strong support of the Convention.
20. In light of the resources available, the Panel recommends that particular attention be paid to the following ten proposed tasks, plus the SoWWS report, listed in order of their appearance in the work plan. The total estimated cost for these suggested higher priorities ("SoWWS + 10") is CHF 317,300, which results in a gap of CHF 29,300. Note, however, that the estimate generally assumes that the maximum cost for layout, design, review, translation and publication are: up to CHF 9,000 for a Policy Brief; up to CHF 13,000 for a Briefing Note; and up to CHF 33,500 for a Ramsar Technical Report. We expect that in some cases the actual costs will be less and thus we are relatively confident that the current resources available could support the "SoWWS + 10".

Task title	Task no.	Target audience(s)	Estimated cost (CHF)
State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People (SoWWS)		Policymakers and practitioners (wetland managers and stakeholders, including protected areas managers and wetland education centres)	137,000
Earth Observation as a "best practice" tool for inventorying, mapping and monitoring wetlands, including Ramsar Sites	1.1	Practitioners	33,500
Development of guidelines for inventories of peatlands for possible designation as Wetlands of International Importance	1.3	Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers) (Briefing Note) and policymakers (Annex to Draft Resolution)	13,000

Task title	Task no.	Target audience(s)	Estimated cost (CHF)
Ramsar wetland Sites management toolkit	2.1	Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers)	No cost implications for STRP budget. Advice provided on a voluntary basis
Management of mosquito disease vectors in wetlands	2.5	Practitioners (wetland managers and urban/peri-urban health practitioners) and policymakers	22,000
Wetland Ecosystem Services Assessment and Valuation Policy Brief with Annex	3.1	Policymakers (Policy Brief) and practitioners (annexed protocol)	25,300
Protocol for assessing multiple values of wetlands – tool kit (IPBES)	3.2	Practitioners (wetland managers)	33,500
Wetland Ecosystems and Disaster Risk Reduction	3.3	Policymakers	9,000
Water Requirements for Wetlands	4.1	Policymakers and practitioners at national, basin, and local level	No cost implications for STRP budget [100,000 to be provided by WWF]
Review and Analysis of Ramsar Advisory Mission Reports	4.2	Policymakers and practitioners (wetland managers).	22,000 [An additional 22,000 to be provided by WWF]
Promoting best practices in wetland restoration	5.1	Policymakers and practitioners (wetland managers)	22,000

21. With respect to Task 4.2, the funds provided by WWF must be committed prior to the Standing Committee's meeting in June 2016. Otherwise, these funds will no longer be available for these STRP tasks. Accordingly, the STRP Chair will work with the Acting Secretary General and the Chair of the Standing Committee to explore mechanisms by which the work on these tasks could progress prior to SC52.
22. Priorities in the category of ad-hoc advisory functions and collaboration with other international bodies include working with the Secretariat and the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia on a simplified manual for Ramsar Site managers and engaging in the IPBES process.

IPBES update

23. The Fourth Plenary Session of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-4) was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, from 22-28 February 2016. The STRP Chair, who is an observer to the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of IPBES, attended IPBES-4.
24. Significantly, IPBES's first thematic assessment – on pollinators, pollination and food production – was accepted by the Platform. One key message is that “the abundance, diversity and health of pollinators and the provision of pollination are threatened by direct drivers which generate risks to societies and ecosystems,” including land-use change. Wetlands are referenced in the assessment, including:

- i) A statement that the decrease of several bumble bee and butterfly species in Europe is probably attributable to the loss of unmanaged grasslands, heathlands, wetlands and bogs.
 - ii) A case example involving livelihoods through beekeeping in mangroves in Guinea Bissau.
 - iii) An observation that “large magnitudes of climate change will particularly affect species with spatially restricted populations, such as boreo-alpine relicts and those confined to small and isolated habitats (e.g., bogs), as they may no longer find suitable habitats, or mountain tops (no upwards move possible), even if the species has the biological capacity to move fast enough to track suitable climates.”
 - iv) A report from honey-harvesters in Sentarum Lake, Indonesia “that smoke coming from the deforestation for plantations has a direct negative impact on the arrival of the swarms in season and therefore on honey production.”
25. With respect to other thematic assessments of particular relevance to Ramsar, IPBES-4 welcomed the progress made in the land degradation and restoration assessment, which should be considered at IPBES-6 in 2018. The scoping report for the assessment on invasive alien species and their control was approved, but the decision on whether to undertake this assessment will be made at IPBES-5 in 2017. Similarly, a revised scoping report for the assessment on sustainable use and biodiversity also will be considered at IPBES-5.
26. IPBES-4 requested the IPBES Executive Secretary to finalize memoranda of cooperation with the secretariats of the individual biodiversity-related conventions, including the Ramsar Convention and the Secretariat of the Platform.
27. Members of the Ramsar community remain engaged in the work of IPBES, including STRP members Ritesh Kumar (expert group on valuation methodologies and regional/sub-regional assessments on biodiversity and ecosystem services) and Siobhan Fennessy (lead author for the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration), as well as Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, IWMI’s former representative to the STRP (Co-Chair of the Asia-Pacific regional assessment) and former STRP invited expert Susan Galatowitsch (review editor for chapter six of the thematic assessment on land degradation and restoration). In addition, Rashad Allahverdiev, the Ramsar National Focal Point for Azerbaijan, was elected to the IPBES Bureau at IPBES-4.

STRP20

28. Once the Standing Committee has formally approved the Work Plan, task leads intend to begin working electronically. It is anticipated that STRP20 will be held in early 2017 to assess progress on the approved Work Plan.

Scientific and Technical Review Panel Amended Draft Work Plan 2016-2018 triennium

The STRP developed its draft work plan for the 2016-2018 triennium at its 19th Meeting (2 to 6 November 2015) for approval by the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting, pursuant to Resolution XII. 5 (Annex 1, paragraph 49), taking into account the five Thematic Work Areas approved by Contracting Parties at COP12 (Annex 3), the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 (Resolution XII.2) and requests by Contracting Parties in COP12 Resolutions. In accordance with Decision SC51-07, the draft work plan has been revised after a broad consultation process with National Focal Points and STRP National Focal Points.

Note that in addition to the specific Thematic Work Areas and tasks outlined below, it is important to recall that, within the framework of Resolution XII.5, the STRP has a number of core ad-hoc advisory functions (set forth below).

The outputs proposed in this draft work plan are aimed at two target audiences, in line with Resolution XII. 5, Annex 1, paragraph 54, as follows:

- i) Policy-makers, including those from the environment and water sectors and other related sectors such as energy, health and sanitation, agriculture, infrastructure; and
- ii) Practitioners and in particular wetland managers and stakeholders, but also others from related fields, such as protected area managers and staff of wetland education centres.

Note, for clarity purposes, that for outputs seeking to target Ramsar Site managers, the target audience is specified as “Practitioners (Ramsar Site Managers)”. However, for outputs aimed at wetland managers in general, the target audience is specified as “Practitioners (wetland managers)”.

The indicative budget for the tasks generally assumes that the costs for layout, design, review, translation and publication are: up to CHF 6,000 for a Factsheet, up to CHF 9,000 for a Policy Brief, up to CHF 13,000 for a Briefing Note and up to CHF 35,500 for a Ramsar Technical Report. These estimates are based on the Secretariat’s publication guidelines and translation costs per page.

Ad-hoc Advisory Functions and collaboration with other International bodies and processes

Type of advice/collaboration	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Costs CHF
Ramsar Convention Processes				
Providing advice to Ramsar Contracting Parties and stakeholders on the State of the World Wetlands and their Services to People (SoWWS)	XII.5, ¶ 25	3.11, 4.14, 4.16	<u>Task description:</u> Producing a 2018 edition of the periodic flagship publication on the state of the world’s wetlands, drivers of wetlands loss and responses to promote the Convention’s objectives with links to the Strategic Plan and other international processes (i.e. Sustainable	137,000 [67,000 for layout, design, review, translation and publication costs; 20,000 for

			<p>Development Goals (SDGs), Aichi Targets, Global Biodiversity Outlook).</p> <p>As an important component of this task, the STRP in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC will update the Ramsar-led Wetland Extent Trends (WET) Index to provide a post-2008 trend analysis and correct geographic gaps and imbalances (most notably in the Latin America and the Caribbean region) from the initial proof of concept. In addition, analysis of data from the Global Mangrove Watch produced by JAXA and GlobWetland Africa produced by ESA (see also Task 1.1) will provide critical contributions to the SoWWS.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: A global report with derived outputs for specific audiences (i.e. Policy Briefs/Briefing Notes), resources permitting.</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Policymakers and practitioners (wetland managers and stakeholders, including protected areas managers and wetland education centres)</p>	<p>authors meetings; and 50,000 for updating the WET Index]</p>
Responding to requests for advice or input from the Secretariat and Standing Committee	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15	4.14	<p>These may include, inter alia, advice to the Secretariat on the CEPA Programme, the Fourth Strategic Plan indicators, the revision of the Ramsar Handbooks, engagement with the development of the Global Wetlands Observation System (GWOS), collaboration with the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), simplifying and repackaging existing guidance on Ramsar Sites management for the production of a simplified manual, etc.</p>	<p>No cost implications for STRP budget. Advice provided on a voluntary basis.</p>
Drafting or providing input on Draft Resolutions	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2, 12 (iii)	4.14	<p>The STRP may draft, at the request of Contracting Parties, a Draft Resolution or it may provide input to Draft Resolutions submitted to the COP by Contracting Parties.</p>	<p>No cost implications for STRP budget. Advice provided on a voluntary basis.</p>
Responding to national or regional relevant requests for advice from Contracting Parties	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 2, 59	4.14	<p>The STRP may, as appropriate, provide advice to Contracting Parties requesting it.</p>	<p>No cost implications for STRP budget. Advice provided on a voluntary basis.</p>
Ramsar Advisory Missions	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2, 12	2.5, 2.7, 4.14	<p>STRP experts may participate in RAMs when requested to do so and if funds are available within the Secretariat's budget to cover travel expenses.</p>	<p>No cost implications for STRP budget. Advice provided on a voluntary basis.</p>
Removals of Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record	XII.5, Annex 1,	2.5, 2.7,	<p>The STRP may respond to requests by Contracting Parties, as appropriate, concerning the removal of Ramsar Sites from the</p>	<p>No cost implications for STRP budget. Advice provided on a</p>

	¶¶ 1- 2, 12 (v), 15, 38	4.14	Montreux Record.	voluntary basis.
Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee	Res. XII.10, Annex, ¶ 16 (e)	3.11, 4.14, 4.16	An STRP expert will serve in the Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee.	No cost implications for STRP budget. Advice provided on a voluntary basis.
Providing advice on emerging issues	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶2, 15 (ii), 38	4.14	The STRP may, as necessary and appropriate, keep under review emerging and more strategic issues of relevance for the Convention which may require action or advice in the near- or medium-term future.	No cost implications for STRP budget. Advice provided on a voluntary basis.
Other international processes of relevance to the Convention and that contribute to implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan				
Engagement with IPBES	XII.2, ¶ 24; XII.3, ¶¶ 48, 49; XII.5, Annex 1, ¶ 13 (ix), 51	4.14, 4.18	Continue engaging in the work of IPBES through: participation of the STRP Chair in IPBES and MEP meetings, participation of STRP members and other Ramsar experts in global and regional assessments, review of requests to IPBES for thematic assessments, including a thematic assessment on the current status and trends of wetlands and the integration of outcomes from IPBES assessments (i.e. pollinators, land degradation and restoration) into the work of the STRP.	STRP Chair travel fund to cover travel costs
Peatlands Hotspot Atlas	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2	4.14, 4.18	Providing advice, as appropriate and as needed, to the Peatlands Hotspot Atlas project, a collaborative project between Wetlands International (WI), CBD, UNCCD and Ramsar, launched at the UNFCCC COP21. There may be potential for derived Ramsar products, resources permitting and contingent on the Standing Committee's approval.	No cost implications for STRP budget. Advice provided on a voluntary basis.

Thematic Work Area No. 1: Best practice methodologies/tools to monitor Ramsar Sites, including surveying, mapping and inventorying recognizing traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	Lars Dinesen, Roy Gardner, Max Finlayson (lead), Vincent V. Hilomen, Jari Ilmonen, Laura Martinez, Dulce Infante Mata, Rubén Quintana, Lisa-Maria Rebelo, Matt Walpole
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	Wetlands International (WI) (Marcel Silvius), WWF International (Denis Landenbergue)/ CBD Secretariat (David Coates), European Space Agency (ESA) (Marc Paganini), International Peatland Society (IPS) (Jack Rieley), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) (Ake Rosenqvist, Shizu Yabe ¹), Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) (Nick Davidson), TNC (Boze Hancock), Tour du Valat (Christian Perennou), UNESCO-IHE (Anne van Dam), WCMC (Diego Juffe-Bignoli), World Heritage Center (Tim Badman)/ STRP NFP Canada (Barry Warner), STRP NFP Malaysia (Abd Rahman Kassim), STRP NFP Portugal (Ana Mendes)

¹ On 14 March 2016 JAXA informed the Ramsar Secretariat that Ms Shizu Yabe would take over the duties of Mr Nobuyoshi Fujimoto as JAXA's representative to the STRP.

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, expected outputs & target audiences	Costs CHF
No. 1.1 Earth Observation as a “best practice” tool for inventorying, mapping and monitoring wetlands, including Ramsar Sites	Higher	XII.5, ¶ 25 (as a component of SoWWS)	2.5, 2.7; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> Reviewing and reporting on the role and use of earth observation for inventorying, mapping, and monitoring wetlands, including Ramsar Sites. The Global Mangrove Watch, GlobWetland Africa, and other earth observation efforts will be the focus of a Ramsar Technical Report (RTR). The RTR will discuss the use of radar imagery from satellites launched by JAXA as a “best practice” tool for mapping changes in global extent of mangroves over time, including seaward expansion as well as retreat. Mapping the change status of mangroves globally and regionally can facilitate prioritization for protection efforts and identification of restoration opportunities (See also, for example, the Monitoring System of Mangroves in Mexico (SMMM)). The RTR will also review the satellite-derived data from GlobWetland Africa (produced by the European Space Agency and national and local partners), and its resulting toolkit and scientific articles, highlighting earth observation as a “best practice” tool for inventorying, mapping, and monitoring African wetlands, including Ramsar Sites. The benefits of the Satellite-based Wetland Observation System (SWOS) to site management will also be examined.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> Ramsar Technical Report</p> <p><u>Target audiences:</u> Practitioners</p>	Up to 33,500
No. 1.2 Wetland cultural inventories implementation workshop		XII.5, Annex 3	2.5, 2.7; 3.10, 3.11; 4.14, 4.16, 4.19	<p><u>Task description:</u> In collaboration with the Ramsar Culture Network and the Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), convene a small capacity building workshop for Ramsar Site Managers and STRP National Focal Points to examine the practical application of cultural inventories. Compile a set of case studies illustrating the application of wetland cultural inventories, including examples incorporating indigenous and local knowledge.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> Capacity building workshop, a set of case studies to be published on the Ramsar website as part of the Ramsar Sites Management Toolkit (see task No. 2.1 below), and a webinar on cultural inventories.</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> Practitioners (Ramsar Site Managers)</p>	Up to 10,000
1.3 Development of guidelines	Higher	XII.11, ¶24 (a) and (b)	2.6; 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> Review and develop guidelines for tropical peatlands’ inventories for their designation as Wetlands of International Importance. The “best practice” scientific and technical guidelines will be discussed in a Briefing Note, covering extent, depth, quality, elevation and survey</p>	Up to 13,000

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, expected outputs & target audiences	Costs CHF
for inventories of peatlands for possible designation as Wetlands of International Importance				<p>methodologies. In addition, guidelines will be developed regarding designation of peatlands as Wetlands of International Importance, especially with regards to Criterion 1 and in particular paragraph 121 (vi) of Annex 2 to Resolution XI.8 (hydrological importance in the context of at least regional climate regulation or stability).</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> 1) Briefing Note for practitioners (Ramsar Site managers) to include extension, depths, quality, elevation and survey methodologies and 2) Revised guidelines as an Annex to a Draft Resolution to be submitted to Standing Committee and the 13th Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13)</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers) (Briefing Note) and policymakers (Annex to DR)</p>	

Thematic Work Area No. 2 : Best practices for developing and implementing management plans, action plans, and other tools for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands

Working Group lead(s) and participants	Susanna Aguilar, Channa Bambaradeniya (lead), Ruth Cromie, Lars Dinesen, Jari Ilmonen, Guangchun Lei, Kassim Kulindwa, Ritesh Kumar
Contributing organizations [IOPs/observers/others]	BirdLife International (Zoltan Waliczky), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (Stefano Barchiesi, William Darwall), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (Sanjiv de Silva), WI (Marcel Silvius), WWF (Rob Shore)/ AEWA Technical Committee (David Stroud), SWS (Nick Davidson), Tour du Valat/Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (Christian Perennou), UNEP (Marisol Estrella), UN-Habitat (Rob McInnes), UNESCO-MAB (Marie Prchlova), World Heritage Center (Tim Badman)/ International Peatland Society (Jack Rieley)

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, expected outputs & target audiences	Costs CHF
2.1 Ramsar wetland Sites management toolkit	Higher	XII.11 ¶128; XII.13; ¶¶ , 27, 28;	3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14,	<p><u>Task description:</u> Compilation of an online ‘Ramsar Sites Management Toolkit’, which consists of a dedicated page on the Ramsar website with appropriate translation into Ramsar languages</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> A web page that would contain existing STRP guidance and outputs on site management, including best practices and case studies on wetland restoration and traditional and</p>	No cost implications for STRP budget for providing

				<p>local knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities to be compiled by the Secretariat, along with a list of international and/or regional initiatives and capacity development resources and relevant reference sources. The site would be updated and maintained on a regular basis by the Secretariat. The STRP would provide relevant technical guidance and material with annotations to be included in this toolkit.</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers)</p>	<p>advice.</p> <p>Possible translation costs, to be determined.</p>
2.2 Transboundary wetland management		XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2	3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14,	<p><u>Task description</u>: Produce a Policy Brief that outlines approaches and best practices for developing and implementing transboundary wetland management plans and other tools, as well as lessons learned, with an emphasis on sharing water resources, basin management and maintenance of the ecological character of transboundary wetlands, including an introduction on relevant international/regional initiatives.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: Policy Brief</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Policymakers</p>	Up to 9,000
2.3 Assessment of the progress made with the implementation of the “Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP)”		XII.11, ¶24(c) and ¶27	2.6; 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14, 4.18	<p><u>Task description</u>: Development and dissemination of a questionnaire to selected Contracting Parties through their STRP National Focal Points, based on peatland area/other criteria, with a view to identifying best practices for implementing a wetland action plan.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: Summary report and webinar on the progress in implementing the GAP. Further outputs are dependent on findings.</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Policymakers and practitioners.</p>	Up to 9,000
2.4 Best practices for developing and implementing action plans to manage Invasive Alien Species in Ramsar Sites and other wetlands:		XII.2, Annex, ¶ 30	1.4; 2.5, 2.7; 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14,	<p><u>Task description</u>: Produce a Briefing Note that provides a guide to available guidance on best practices for developing and implementing action plans to manage Invasive Alien Species in Ramsar Sites and other wetlands (in collaboration with AEWA).</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: Briefing Note</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Practitioners (wetland managers)</p>	Up to 13,000

a guide to available guidance					
2.5 Management of mosquito disease vectors in wetlands	Higher	XII. 5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 15 (ii); 38	2.5, 2.7; 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> Provide advice on management of mosquito disease vectors in wetlands for site managers, practitioners and policy makers.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u></p> <p>1) Briefing Note for practitioners (wetland managers and urban/peri-urban health practitioners) and</p> <p>2) Policy Brief to set vector control in a broad health context, highlighting the value of health impact assessment processes to better understand likely health outcomes.</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> Practitioners (wetland managers and health practitioners) and policymakers</p>	Up to 22,000 [13,000 for a Briefing Note and 9,000 for a Policy Brief]
2.6 Montreux Record		XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (v); 15; 38	2.5, 2.7; 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> Provide advice on utility of the Montreux Record as a tool for Ramsar Sites.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> Publish the report on “Change in ecological character of wetland sites – a review of Ramsar guidance and mechanisms,” which discusses the Montreux Record, on the Ramsar website as part of the Ramsar Sites Management Toolkit (see task No. 2.1 above), and produce a webinar to discuss the possible utility of the Montreux Record to bring positive national and international conservation attention to Ramsar Sites.</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers) and policymakers</p>	No cost implications for STRP budget as the report has already been prepared and the Secretariat has the required webinar software

Thematic Work Area No. 3: Methods for economic and non-economic values of goods and services of wetlands

Working Group lead(s) and participants	Channa Bambaradeniya, Ruth Cromie, Lars Dinesen, Siobhan Fennessy, Max Finlayson, Vincent V. Hilomen , Kassim Kulindwa, Ritesh Kumar (lead), Guangchun Lei, Laura Martinez, Dulce Infante Mata, Matt Walpole
Contributing organizations	BirdLife International (Zoltan Waliczky), IUCN (Stefano Barchiesi), IWMI (Sanjiv De Silva), WI (Marcel Silvius), WWF International

[IOPs/observers/others]	(Denis Landenbergue), WWT (Rob Shore)/ Tour Du Valat/Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (Christian Perennou), SWS (Nick Davidson), UN-Habitat (Rob McInnes), UNESCO-IHE (Anne van Dam), UNESCO-MAB (Marie Prchalova), World Heritage Center (Tim Badman)/ STRP NFP Malaysia (Abd Rahman Kassim)
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Task No. title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, expected outputs & target audiences	Costs CHF
3.1 Wetland ecosystem services assessment and valuation Policy Brief with Annex	Higher	XII.13, ¶¶ 27; XII.15	1.1, 1.3; 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> Informing policymakers, through a Policy Brief, on the state of the art for recognizing, assessing and applying multiple values of wetlands for their integrated management. Scope of the Policy Brief to include: the case for integrating multiple wetland values and wise use, using multiple values in sectoral decision making, state of art on methods for recognizing and assessing multiple values, integrating indigenous and local knowledge in valuation; using values to support integrated wetland management. The Policy Brief would be annexed by a protocol for assessing multiple values of wetlands, which would be adapted from an existing IPBES (5-step) guide on assessing multiple values of nature. (The 5-step guide is an outcome of IPBES deliverable 3(d): Diverse conceptualization of multiple values of nature and its benefits, including biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, and is available online as Annex 2 of the working document for the 4th Plenary meeting.)</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> Policy Brief on recognizing, assessing and applying multiple values of wetlands for integrated wetland management, with an annexed protocol</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> Policymakers (Policy Brief) and practitioners (annexed protocol)</p>	Up to 25,300 [9,000 for layout, design, review, translation and publication costs; 6,300 for consultant; and 10,000 for a six-person writing workshop]
3.2 Protocol for assessing multiple values of wetlands – tool kit	Higher	XII.13, ¶¶ 27; XII.15, ¶ 21	1.1, 1.3; 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> Translating the method protocol developed as annex to task 3.1 into a toolkit for assisting wetland practitioners in application of the 5-step guidance. For each of the 5 steps in the multiple values protocol, guidance on tools, methods and case studies will be made available to assist with application.</p> <p>The toolkit will be included as part of a suite of wetland management tools proposed under Thematic Work Area 2 (above) (task No. 2.1).</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> Ramsar Technical Report and a toolkit on assessing multiple values of wetlands and applying them to integrated management</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> Practitioners (wetland managers)</p>	Up to 33,500

3.3 Wetland Ecosystems and Disaster Risk Reduction	Higher	XII.13, ¶¶25, 30	1.1, 1.3; 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14	<p><u>Task Description:</u> Provide an overview of current knowledge on the role of wetland ecosystem services in reducing disaster risk, opportunities and best practices for integrating wetland conservation and wise use and disaster risk reduction, and provide options for policy makers to consider in the two sectors (disaster risk reduction and wetland management) for joint action.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> Policy Brief on integrating wetlands in Disaster Risk Reduction</p> <p><u>Target audience:</u> Policymakers</p>	Up to 9,000
3.4 Case studies on 'wetland valuation and wise use'		XII.13, ¶ 27; XII.15, ¶ 21	1.1, 1.3; 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> Develop case studies and methods (including those provided by other biodiversity-related conventions and organizations) on using multiple values of wetlands in the planning and decision making contexts, which will be synthesized for policymakers.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> 1) Case studies and methods to be included as part of a suite of wetland management tools proposed under Thematic Work Area 2 (above) (task No. 2.1) and 2) Policy Brief</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> Practitioners (wetland managers) (case studies and methods) and policymakers (Policy Brief)</p>	9,000

Thematic Work Area No. 4: Balancing wetland conservation and development e.g. infrastructure, urbanization, forestry, extraction, industries and agriculture

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	Ruth Cromie, Peter Davies, Roy Gardner, Max Finlayson, Kassim Kulindwa, Dulce Infante Mata, Laura Martinez (lead), Rubén Quintana
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	BirdLife International (Zoltan Waliczky), IUCN (Stefano Barchiesi), IWMI (Sanjiv da Silva), WWF International (Denis Landenbergue, Lifeng Li)/ SWS (Nick Davidson), UNESCO-IHE (Anne van Dam)/STRP NFP Malaysia (Abd Rahman Kassim)

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, expected outputs & target audiences	Costs CHF
4.1 Water requirements for wetlands	Higher	XII.12, ¶ 24	1.1, 1.2, 1.3; 2.5; 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> A joint Technical Report with WWF that would discuss approaches to assess wetlands water requirements and how to determine and apply strategies and tools for the determination and allocation of water to wetlands. It will also include approaches for developing a programme to monitor the water requirements of wetlands. The Ramsar Technical Report will take</p>	No costs implications for STRP budget [100,000

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, expected outputs & target audiences	Costs CHF
				<p>into account the experiences of Mexico with the establishment of water reserves, the experiences of China, Australia, South Africa, Kenya and EU member countries with the creation of river basin plans, and the experience of the United States with dam management. A policy brief that would provide options on approaches for incorporating wetlands water requirements into national sectoral policies/plans and river basin plans (mindful that such approaches would be specific to the national context).</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> 1) Technical Report for practitioners on assessing and implementing wetland water requirements and 2) Policy Brief on incorporating wetlands water requirement into national policies/plans and river basin plans</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> Policymakers and practitioners (wetland managers) at the national, basin and local levels</p>	would be provided by WWF]
4.2 Review and analysis of Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) Reports	Higher	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4; 2.5, 2.7; 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> a review and analysis of all Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) reports to raise awareness about the role and utility of RAMs to improve management, monitoring mechanisms and address threats to Ramsar Sites. More than 80 RAMs, many of which have dealt with infrastructure, urbanization, forestry, extraction, industries and agriculture-related issues, as well as Indigenous and Local Knowledge systems, have been conducted to date, and the reports provide a rich resource of potential case studies about Convention implementation, challenges and successes in balancing wetland conservation and development. STRP NFPs will be requested to provide feedback and assistance in this review process.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> 1) A comprehensive analysis, which would be posted on the RAMs home page of the Ramsar website 2) The content from the analysis would be culled for a Policy Brief (facilitating the understanding and the use of the RAM concept and highlighting the value of RAMs to policy makers and lessons learned) 3) Briefing Note (facilitating the understanding and the use of the RAM process to Ramsar Site</p>	Up to 44,000 [Of which WWF would provide 22,000 to cover the costs for a consultancy to produce the comprehensive analysis; 9,000 of STRP funds for a Policy Brief and 13,000 for a Briefing Note. Please note that there are no costs to the

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, expected outputs & target audiences	Costs CHF
				managers), highlighting selected case studies and 4) Webinars may also be conducted to reach a wider audience <u>Target audience(s)</u> : Policymakers and practitioners (wetland managers). Note that the outputs maybe be useful in resource mobilization for more RAMs	STRP associated with the production of webinars, as the Secretariat has the required software]
4.3 Aquaculture developments and wise use of wetlands		XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4; 2.5, 2.7; 3.8, 3.9, 3.11, 3.12, 3.13; 4.14	<u>Task description</u> : Linking the main types of aquaculture production systems in the world to the Ramsar wetland classification system in the context of the interactive governance framework. This output would help inform policymakers in the conservation, aquaculture and finance sectors on the environmental and social impacts of aquaculture. The Policy Brief will discuss the risks of aquaculture and its potential to contribute to food security, wise use of wetlands and sustainable and equitable development. <u>Expected output(s)</u> : Policy Brief on aquaculture developments and wise use of wetlands <u>Target audience(s)</u> : Policymakers in both conservation and aquaculture communities	9,000 [possibility of holding a small writing workshop, linked to the SoWWS or other writing meetings]

Thematic Work Area No. 5: Climate change and wetlands: innovative methodologies for wetlands restoration

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	Susana Aguilar, Peter Davies, Lars Dinesen, Siobhan Fennessy (co-lead), Max Finlayson, Vincent V. Hilomen, Jari Ilmonen, Dulce Infante Mata, Kassim Kulindwa, Ritesh Kumar, Guangchun Lei (co-lead)
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	BirdLife International (Zoltan Waliczky), WI (Marcel Silvius)/ UNESCO-MAB (Marie Prchalova), SWS (Nick Davidson), Tour du Valat (Christian Perennou), UN Habitat (Rob McInnes)/ STRP NFP Canada (Barry Warner), STRP NFP Malaysia (Abd Rahman Kassim), STRP NFP Portugal (Ana Mendes), IPS (Jack Rieley)

Task No., Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, expected outputs & target audiences	Costs CHF
5.1 Promoting best practices in wetland	Higher	XII.2; XII.11, ¶ 28	1.3, 1.4; 2.5, 2.7; 3.8,3.9, 3.11, 3.12;	<u>Task description</u> : Compiling best practices in wetland restoration for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including policies, instruments, and incentives and technical innovations from different regions.	Up to 22,000 [13,000 for a Briefing Note

restoration			4.14,	<p><u>Expected output(s)</u>:</p> <p>1) Building on Ramsar Briefing Note No.5, a new Briefing Note will highlight the potential for and reasons to conduct wetland restoration in the climate change context</p> <p>2) Policy Brief will discuss best practices and policy options in wetland restoration incentives and instruments (e.g. carbon fund\private sector\VCS\CCBA climate community biodiversity alliance) to explain available approaches to invest in these efforts</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Policymakers and practitioners (wetland managers)</p>	and 9,000 for a Policy Brief; possibility of holding a small writing workshop, linked to the SoWWS or other writing meetings]
5.2 The implications of REDD-plus for the wise use of wetlands		XII.2; XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2	3.8,3.9, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14,	<p><u>Task description</u>: A review of decisions made by multilateral environment agreements concerning REDD-plus and their implications both for restoration (enhancement) and the wise use of wetlands.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: Policy Brief</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Policymakers</p>	Up to 9,000
5.3 Advice for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on practical methods for rewetting and restoring peatlands		XII.11, ¶24(d) and ¶28	1.1, 1.3; 2.5, 2.6; 2.7; 3.8,3.9, 3.11, 3.12; 4.14,	<p><u>Task description</u>: A Ramsar Technical Report that reviews the links between practical restoration and rewetting methods for peatlands in order to prevent carbon transfer from soils and vegetation to the atmosphere.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>:</p> <p>1) a Ramsar Technical Report as an overview and with references to a compilation of experiences on methods of rewetting based on existing literature and</p> <p>2) Guidance as an annex to a Draft Resolution, if desired by Contracting Parties, or as an Information Document for COP13</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers)</p>	Up to 35,500