

**Second Meeting of the Ramsar Convention CEPA Oversight Panel
Gland, Switzerland, 20-21 June, 2007**

Summary report

Present: Charles Amankwah, Stefan Bohórquez, John Bowleg (Chair), Nick Davidson (*ex-officio*), Rebecca D’Cruz, Asghar Fazel (Observer), Ingrid Gevers, Sandra Hails (*ex-officio*), Valerie Higgins (*ex-officio*), Esther Koopmanschap, Rosa Montañez, Tunde Ojei, George Otiang'a-Owiti (Observer), Chris Prietto, Gerhard Sigmund.

Apologies: Herb Raffaele.

Note: Esther Koopmanschap and Ingrid Gevers replaced Petra Spliethoff as the Advisory Board representative at this meeting.

Welcome and introduction (Agenda item 1)

1. John Bowleg (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Asghar Fazel representing the Ramsar Regional Centre for Central and West Asia, and George Otiang'a-Owiti from the Kenyan Wildlife Service Institute, and the Panel agreed to admit them as observers. The Chair invited Panel members to briefly introduce themselves, noting that Ingrid Gevers and Esther Koopmanschap from Wageningen International were replacing Panel member Petra Spliethoff who represents the Advisory Board on Capacity Building.

Adoption of the agenda (Agenda item 2)

2. The Chair drew attention to proposed changes in the order of the agenda items and this amended agenda was adopted.

CEPA questions for the National Report format for COP10 (Agenda item 8)

3. Nick Davidson introduced this item focusing on Strategy 4.4, Implementation of the CEPA Programme. He noted that the original draft included only four indicators and that the Panel had agreed at its first meeting in May 2006 to suggest an additional six indicators to Standing Committee (SC) 35. While agreeing on the utility of the indicators, SC had asked the Secretariat to rationalise the CEPA indicators so that they would be in balance with the other strategies. It was also noted that it is intended that one text field for each strategy will be available for Parties to provide more detailed textual answers.
4. The Panel considered a rationalized set of indicators and agreed on the following:
 - A. Has a mechanism for planning and implementing wetland CEPA (such as a National Ramsar Committee) been established with both CEPA Government and NGO National Focal Point (NFP) involvement?

- B. Has a National Action Plan (or plans at the sub-national, catchment or local level) for wetland CEPA been developed? [Even if a National Action Plan has not yet been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for national CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the additional information section for Strategy 4.4]
- C. Have actions been taken to communicate and share information cross-sectorally on wetland issues amongst relevant ministries, departments and agencies?
- D. Have national campaigns, programmes, and projects been carried out to raise community awareness of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands? [If a) support has been provided for the delivery of these and other CEPA activities by other organisations; and/or b) these have included awareness-raising for social, economic and/or cultural values, please indicate this in the additional information section for Strategy 4.4]
- E. Have World Wetlands Day activities in the country, both government and NGO-led, been carried out?
- F. Have education centres been established at Ramsar sites and other wetlands? [If any such centres are part of the Wetland Link International Programme of the Wildfowl & Wetland Trust, UK, please indicate this in the additional information section for Strategy 4.4]

It was agreed that:

- i) The edited CEPA indicators should go forward to the drafting sub-group of SC after some re-drafting of indicator A by the Secretariat.***

Regional Initiatives and CEPA reporting (Agenda item 7)

- 5. Sandra Hails introduced this item, reminding the Panel that it had suggested to SC35 that regional initiatives with a financial reporting requirement to the Convention should also provide a report to the Panel on their CEPA activities. Following discussion, the Panel agreed that this suggestion was not practical. The considerable diversity of the current regional initiatives, the fact that any funding from the Convention is only seed funding, the potential burden of reporting to both the Secretariat and the Panel, were some of the reasons for reconsidering this proposal. Concerning its role in relation to the regional initiatives, the Panel agreed that it should have a ‘monitoring’ role related to identifying the extent to which the regional initiatives deliver against CEPA objectives but that there was no mandate for the Panel to have an ‘assessing’ or ‘approving’ role regarding regional initiatives. Panel members were informed that SC has required six-monthly reports for those receiving funding, with the first reports due at the end of July 2007, while non-funded initiatives are required to report annually (mid-January 2008 for 2007).

It was agreed that:

- ii) The Secretariat should send the reports received from the regional initiatives at the end of July to the Panel; the Panel should exchange comments on the information provided regarding the adequacy and utility of the CEPA content of the reports and the extent to which activities of the regional initiatives deliver CEPA outcomes.***

- iii) *The second set of reports due in mid-January 2008 will be forwarded to the Panel. The Panel will consolidate its comments on all reports, possibly suggesting modifications to the pro-forma to enable improved CEPA reporting if this is thought necessary. A consolidated suggestion on CEPA reporting in the regional initiatives reports will be made to SC36 in February 2008.*
- iv) *Following the analysis of the regional initiative reports, the Panel will need to consider whether regional centres and/or other regional initiatives are adequately addressed as CEPA implementers in the draft CEPA Programme.*

Review of the Joint workshop between the CEPA Panel and the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention (Agenda item 4)

6. Chris Prietto gave a brief summary of the outcome of the joint workshop held on the 19th June, highlighting the following points:
 - The CEPA Panel and the Advisory Board have been set up independently with initially complementary roles, the former charged with overseeing and monitoring and advising on the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme, the latter set up to advise the Convention on capacity building.
 - The workshop looked at the terms capacity building, communication, education and public awareness to try to arrive at a common understanding of their breadth and the overlap between the different processes.
 - The participants agreed upon the interest in, and potential for, cooperation between the Panel and the Board, with an understanding that both can assist Parties in achieving the Convention's mission.
 - Members of both bodies expressed the need to more clearly define the relationship between the Panel and the Board, and there was considerable discussion on the potential for the two bodies to operate under a shared umbrella. It was agreed at this stage that as the Panel responds directly to the CEPA Resolution and the Strategic Plan and that it should operate around the terms awareness, education, communication, training, and participation, while the Board's focus is on enhancing the capacity of Ramsar stakeholders to implement the Convention.
 - There was useful discussion during the workshop of the desirability of replacing the term 'public' in the acronym CEPA with 'participation', thus *communication, education, participation and awareness*, and it was agreed that the Panel would discuss this further during their meeting.
 - The workshop organisers noted they would be preparing a report on the workshop to be circulated to all participants for comment in due course.

7. The Panel continued the discussion on the relationship between the two structures, and the following suggestions were made:
 - The Panel could provide to the Board:
 - a. feedback from Contracting Parties through the National Reporting process on trends in training needs or gaps in capacity that could be filled by new training products;
 - b. feedback on Ramsar Convention priorities that have relevance to the work of Board members;
 - c. a channel for feeding Board issues into the COP process.

 - The Board might consider providing:

- d. advice to the Parties on training opportunities and mechanisms that arise from members or other organisations that could meet the needs of Parties or other Convention stakeholders;
 - e. advice to Parties on how they can best approach the assessment of training needs for wetland management;
 - f. regular reporting to the Panel and thence to the Parties on training products and initiatives developed by members of the Board;
 - g. assistance with the development of guidelines and requirements, in collaboration with the Ramsar Senior Regional Advisors and with input from CREHO, for the development and operation of new Ramsar Regional Centres; and, related to this, monitoring and assessment of these Centres.
8. The Panel briefly discussed a draft Wetlands Capacity Building Framework aimed at supporting Ramsar and currently under development by the Board. The Framework was briefly introduced by Ingrid Gevers who noted that the drafting group had considered Ramsar's CEPA Programme and its goals to see how these are linked to this broader capacity-building framework. She emphasized that input from the Panel would be appreciated before their Board meeting in December and that a new draft would be circulated to Panel members for their comments around the end of October. Assuming agreement on the text is finally reached at the December meeting, this document would be sent for consideration by SC36 in February 2008.

It was agreed that:

- v) ***The Panel will to continue to work with the Advisory Board to pursue the development of advisory products and services to assist Parties in implementing the new CEPA Programme.***
- vi) ***The Panel should provide suggestions to the Board (as detailed in paragraph 7) on the 'deliverables' of the Panel and the Board to assist in more clearly defining the relationship between the two structures.***
- vii) ***Ingrid Gevers will send the 2nd draft of the Capacity Building Framework by the end of October to the Panel for their comment so that a final draft could be presented to the Board in their December meeting. A final product may be ready in time to be presented to SC36.***

Draft CEPA Programme for COP10 approval (Agenda item 5)

9. Sandra Hails introduced this item and reminded the Panel that there had been a general call from the 1st CEPA Panel meeting that the new programme should not be significantly changed in the new draft so that Parties would be able to recognise it as an iteration of the current programme. The current draft for discussion has already been circulated and Panel members should be familiar with this current version and aware of the comments in this draft that still require discussion.
10. The Panel noted that training, participation and capacity building need to be clearly defined in the Annex and reflected in the text. In particular, participation must be carefully defined so that the full breadth of meaning is clear. Its definition and textual references should not convey the notion that there is necessarily a direct association between participation and decision-making since this could present problems at COP10 for some Parties.

11. There was discussion on the proposed change in the acronym CEPA with the term *participation* representing the 'P' instead of *public*. There was general agreement on the utility of CEPA representing Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness, reflecting more broadly the processes the Programme of work covers. It was noted that IUCN's Commission on Education and Communication has already altered their interpretation of the acronym so that *public* is now replaced by *participation*. There was, however, some discussion on whether such a change in the terms of the acronym would risk causing confusion with the other MEAs with CEPA Programmes such as the CBD and UNFCCC. There were suggestions that the idea should be presented to CBD SBBSTA meeting on July 1st, at the Climate Change meeting in Rome, and at the CBD's CEPA Informal Advisory Committee meeting that Sandra Hails would be attending on July 8th.
12. There was considerable discussion of the goals and strategies in the current draft and a further rearrangement of them was provided by Stefan Bohóroquez at the request of the Panel, and this was further edited. It was recognized that the Panel would need to look at these again to make sure they were adequate and that the Key Results Areas (KRAs) associated with them also adequately covered the goal, especially under Goal 3. There was discussion on the identification of the key actors/implementers in the KRAs and a broad agreement that it was important that all potential actors could see themselves identified under the KRAs to encourage their involvement in implementation. It was suggested that a check list approach in an appendix might provide the solution and this could dispense with the need for Key Performance Measures (KPMs) in the main body of the text. This check list would include the key KRAs and reflect implementation at different levels (local, state, national), whether done or not done, and who the implementer was (National Wetland/Ramsar Committee; NGO; CEPA NFP; Ramsar Regional Centre etc).

It was agreed that:

- viii) In the new CEPA Programme the acronym CEPA will stand for communication, education, participation and awareness.*
- ix) The Secretariat will:*
- *send the latest version of the edited Goals to the Panel as soon as possible after the meeting;*
 - *regroup the KRAs under this new arrangement of Goals;*
 - *include the explanations of the goals in the original draft to ensure that the logic in structuring the goals still made sense when revisited by the Panel;*
 - *follow-up on the checklist approach and include a draft of what this might look like;*
 - *circulate the new draft to Panel members by early August.*
- (x) The Panel members will:*
- *revisit the edited Goals and send comments to the Secretariat by the end of July;*
 - *revisit the new draft Programme once the goals have been finalised, paying special attention to: the adequacy of the KRAs especially under Goal 3; the defining of training, participation and capacity building in the Annex and their adequate reflection in the text. Comments should be sent to the Secretariat by mid-September.*

Communication activities of the Secretariat (Agenda item 6)

13. Nick Davidson introduced this item, noting the concerns within the Secretariat in terms of staffing in the area of Communications and IT. He drew attention to paragraph 8 in meeting document 3 which detailed particular areas of concern in terms of capacity to deliver in a timely manner the Ramsar handbooks, WWD preparations and reporting, and facilitation of national CEPA implementation, and mentioned other developing projects, particularly the Danone bottling project which is underway now.
14. The Panel made several suggestions:
- The IOPs may be able to help out in various ways with the work overload and this could be discussed at the next IOPs meeting later this year;
 - It was variously suggested that WWD could be outsourced since it is now well established; someone could be seconded from an IOP to assist; the Ramsar Regional Centres could possibly take on some WWD responsibility in their regions; the Secretariat could set the theme and individual actors could prepare their own materials; a competition to design a calendar could be a useful WWD approach; the Convention's branding of WWD is very important and thus it should be retained as a global event.

It was noted by the Secretariat that there are plans to contract a consultant to assess WWD as a campaign, to look at the breadth of impact, the diversity of activities and targets, and to seek input from selected actors on the utility of the materials produced by the Secretariat.

- There is a need to have a clear picture of whether the communications materials produced by the Secretariat are useful to the Parties.

It was noted by the Secretariat that a consultant is looking at the usage and utility of our wise use handbooks and Resolutions under the work programme of STRP and that the final report should give some useful insights into these particular communication materials.

It was agreed that:

- xi) The need for some assistance in certain areas of Secretariat communication work should be put on the agenda for the IOPs meeting scheduled for September 2007.***
- xii) The Panel should wait for the WWD analysis to be completed since this may assist any final decision on outsourcing.***
- xiii) The Panel should express its concern to the SC about the increasing communications workload within the Secretariat and resultant delays in delivery of materials (e.g. the handbooks and the difficulties with the timely delivery of WWD materials). The Panel was also aware of the additional workload imposed on the Secretariat in supporting the Panel's work.***

CEPA Oversight Panel's reporting to Standing Committee meeting 36 (Agenda item 9)

15. Chris Prietto produced a timetable for action for the Panel and this was further edited and expanded by the Panel. The Secretariat will draft the meeting report for the Chair's initial approval and it will be sent to the Panel for comment and final approval. A brief report

will be constructed from this by the Secretariat for approval by the Panel for transmission to SC36.

It was agreed that:

(xiv) The Panel's timetable for action should be circulated to Panel members by the Secretariat immediately after this meeting.

Any other business (Agenda item 10)

16. **The Strategic Plan 2009-2014.** At the request of the Secretary General, the Chair circulated hard copies of the latest draft of the Convention's Strategic Plan for the Panel's input/comment. It was noted that training and participation are mentioned under Strategies 4.5 and 1.7 respectively while CEPA is considered under Strategy 4.1. Considering the draft CEPA Programme the Panel is developing, this requires rationalisation. The Panel will consider its input by email.

It was agreed that:

xv) The Panel will consolidate its input to SC on the draft Strategic plan for 2009-2014 by the end of July.

17. **Future of the Panel post-COP10.** The Panel briefly discussed the future of the Panel once Resolution VIII.31 is superseded at the end of 2008, what form a report to SC on the work and utility of the Panel in this triennium might take, and when it should be delivered (SC36 or 37). Due to the lack of time, the Panel agreed to continue this discussion by email.

It was agreed that:

xvi) The Panel will make recommendations to SC (either 36 or 37) on the future of the Panel post-COP10.

18. **Composition of the Panel.** Potential changes in the composition of the Panel in the future were discussed and the Panel noted that the utility of having four CEPA Focal Points on the Panel, two Government and two NGO, has been clearly illustrated in the Panel's first two meetings yet the structure of the Panel as established by Standing Committee under document SC34-11 only identifies one of each. The Panel also discussed the need to have a participatory expert appointed to the Panel. The recommendations on changes in the composition of the Panel will be discussed further by email and included in the report to SC on the future of the Panel post-COP10.

It was agreed that:

xvii) The Panel will make recommendations to SC (either 36 or 37) on the Panel's composition post-COP10.

Next meeting of the CEPA Panel

19. The possibility of a 3rd meeting of the Panel in 2008 was discussed and it was agreed that the decision on this will be taken later in the year by email. Dr Asghar Fazel generously

proposed that, if a meeting was thought to be necessary, it could be hosted at the Ramsar Regional Centre for Central and West Asia in Iran, perhaps back-to-back with the centre's Board meeting scheduled for May 2008.

It was agreed that:

xviii) The Panel will consider the need for a meeting in 2008.

Close of meeting

20. The Chair closed the meeting, thanking UNESCO-IHE for organizing the joint workshop between the CEPA Panel and the Advisory Board, and for their hospitality in hosting the CEPA Panel meeting, particularly Anne van Dam and Vera Schouten for their logistical help. He thanked the CEPA Panel members and the two observers for their hard work over the two-day Panel meeting. He instructed the Secretariat to thank the outgoing Secretary General for his work with the Panel and noted that the Panel looked forward to working with the new Secretary General. He reiterated that the Standing Committee and the CEPA Panel will try to address concerns about the capacity of the Secretariat's communications team.