

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

The STRP developed the present 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 (24 to 27 November 2015), 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.

Note that in addition to the specific 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. These 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 (Resolution XII.10); and providing advice on emerging issues.

The indicative budget for the tasks generally assumes that the costs for layout, design, review, translation and publication are: CHF 6,000 for a Factsheet, CHF 9,000 for a Policy Brief, CHF 13,000 for a Briefing Note and CHF 33,500 for a Ramsar Technical Report.

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:	Max Finlayson (lead), Lars Dinesen, Roy Gardner, Vincent V. Hilomen, Jari Ilmonen, Laura Martinez, Dulce Infante Mata, Rubén Quintana, Lisa-Maria Rebelo, Matt Walpole
Secretariat contact:	Paul Ouédraogo
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	BirdLife International (Zoltan Waliczky), Wetlands International (WI) (Marcel Silvius), WWF International (Denis Landenbergue)/ CBD Secretariat (David Coates), European Space Agency (ESA) (Marc Paganini), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) (Ake Rosenqvist, Nobuyoshi Fujimoto), Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) (Nick Davidson), Tour du Valat (Christian Perennou), UNESCO-IHE (Anne van Dam), World Heritage Center (Tim Badman)/ STRP NFP Canada (Barry Warner), STRP NFP Malaysia (Abd Rahman Kassim), International Peatland Society (IPS) (TBC)

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
No.1.1 State of the World	Higher	XII.5, ¶25	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	250,000 (funding to be

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Wetlands and their Services to People (SoWWS)				<p>linking it to the Strategic Plan, CEPA, and to other international processes (i.e. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Aichi Targets, Global Biodiversity Outlook).</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: a global report with derived outputs for specific audiences (i.e. Policy Briefs/ Briefing Notes)</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: the flagship publication will be targeted to Contracting Parties and a broad audience, with derived outputs targeted to specific audiences.</p>	<p>raised)</p> <p>67,000 (without fund raising)</p>
No.1.2 Engagement with IPBES		XII.2, ¶ 24; XII.3, ¶¶ 48, 49	3.8; 4.18; 3.00	<p><u>Task description</u>: 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.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: advice to better link Ramsar and IPBES processes</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Contracting Parties</p>	STRP Chair travel fund to cover travel costs
No.1.3 Global Wetlands Observation System (GWOS)			3.8; 4.14; 4.18	<p><u>Task description</u>: provide advice to the development of GWOS and any other relevant earth observation system for potential contributions to Ramsar needs, as appropriate.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: gaining an overview as a basis for advice to inform global monitoring efforts</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: Ramsar Secretariat and practitioners in the Earth Observation community</p>	
No.1.4 Wetland Extent Trends (WET) Index		XII.3, ¶52	3.13; 4.18	<p><u>Task description</u>: periodic updating of the WET Index, identifying additional and new data sources in particular in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. The WET Index proof of concept paper has been accepted for publication in 2015 by Biological Conservation. This can play a key role in Ramsar's contributions to the SDGs.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: an index/internal report to feed into different outputs/processes (i.e. SoWWS, SDG targets 6.6 and 15.1)</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: policymakers, practitioners.</p>	50,000

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
No. 1.5 Earth Observation: Global Mangrove Watch			3.8, 3.12, 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> analyzing, ground truthing and using the data from the Global Mangrove Watch (produced by JAXA) for derived Ramsar outputs for policymakers.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> a Policy Brief on the change status of mangroves globally and regionally to facilitate prioritization for protection efforts and identification of restoration opportunities and one Factsheet for Global Mangrove Watch.</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> policymakers</p>	15,000
No. 1.6 Earth Observation: GlobWetland Africa			3.8; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> reviewing, analyzing and using the data from GlobWetland Africa (ESA), and its resulting toolkit and scientific articles, for derived Ramsar outputs for policymakers.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> a Policy Brief and one Factsheet for GlobWetland Africa</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> policymakers</p>	15,000
No. 1.7 Development of guidelines for inventories of peatlands: guidance		XII.11, ¶24	4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> review and draft guidance for tropical peatlands inventories, to include extension, depths, quality, elevation and survey methodologies (scientific approach).</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) a Briefing Note for practitioners (site managers) 2) a Policy Brief to highlight the importance of tropical peatland inventorying and mapping 3) provide inputs to the Secretariat, as needed, in the ongoing review and update of relevant Handbooks (i.e. Handbook 13 on Inventory, assessment and monitoring and Handbook 15 on Wetland inventory) <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> practitioners (particularly Ramsar Site managers), Contracting Parties and policymakers.</p>	22,000

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
1.8 Peatlands hotspot atlas project		XII.11	4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> provide input to the Peatlands Hotspot Atlas project, a collaborative project between WI, CBD, UNCCD and Ramsar, to be launched at the UNFCCC COP21.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> 1) a Peatlands Hotspot Atlas project that will assist policymakers in identifying priorities for interventions. 2) a Policy Brief on “Peatlands and climate change”</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> policymakers</p>	9,000 (for policy brief) [135.000 for Atlas book would be provided by other organizations]

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	Channa Bambaradeniya (lead), Susanna Aguilar, Ruth Cromie, Lars Dinesen, Jari Ilmonen, Guangchun Lei, Kassim Kulindwa, Ritesh Kumar
Secretariat contact	Lew Young
Contributing organizations [IOPs/observers/others]	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) (Stefano Barchiesi, William Darwall (TBC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) (Sanjiv de Silva), WI/ SWS (Nick Davidson), Tour du Valat/Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (Christian Perennou, Lisa Ernoul (TBC)), UNECE (Francesca Bernardini (TBC)), UNEP (Marisol Estrella), UN-Habitat (Robert McInnes), UNESCO-MAB (Marie Prchlova), World Heritage Center (Tim Badman)/ International Lake Environment Committee (M. Nakamura (TBC)), International Peatland Society (TBC), Society for Protection of PRESPA (Myrsini Malakou (TBC)), Mark Everard (TBC), IPS (TBC)

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task Description, Target audience & Expected outputs	Costs CHF
2.1 Ramsar wetland sites management toolkit		XII.13; ¶27 XII.13, ¶3; XII.11, ¶28	1.3 ; 2.5 ; 2.7 ; 3.8 ; 3.11 ; 4.16	<p><u>Task description:</u> production of a ‘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 / web portal that would contain existing STRP guidance and outputs on site management, including best practices on peatlands restoration to be compiled by the Secretariat, along with a list of international and/or regional initiatives and capacity development</p>	IT Costs

				resources and relevant reference sources. The site would be updated and maintained on a regular basis by the Secretariat. The STRP would provide relevant material with annotations to be included in this toolkit. <u>Target audience(s)</u> : practitioners (site managers)	
2.2. Wetland Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Disaster Risk Reduction	Higher	XII.13 ¶25	3.12	<u>Task description</u> : provide an overview of the existing knowledge of the role of wetlands in Disaster Risk Reduction, considering global environmental change. Also to include development of strategies for wetland conservation, restoration and wise use. <u>Expected output(s)</u> : 1) a Briefing Note on wetland Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Disaster Risk Reduction 2) a Provide advice, as needed, to the PEDRR network <u>Target audience(s)</u> : policymakers and practitioners	13,000
2.3. Transboundary wetland management			1.2; 2.5; 2.6	<u>Task description</u> : implications on water resources, basin management, and maintenance of ecological character of transboundary wetlands, including an introduction on relevant international/regional initiatives. <u>Expected output(s)</u> : a Policy Brief <u>Target audience(s)</u> : policymakers	9,000
2.4. Simplified Ramsar Site management manual	Higher	XII.15 ¶21	2.5; 2.6; 2.7; 4.5	<u>Task description</u> : a simpler document on site management and monitoring for a broad range of wetlands, including guidance on how to apply the Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) under the framework of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS). <u>Expected output(s)</u> : a manual on wetland management, to be field-tested at an upcoming workshop sponsored by the Ramsar Regional Centre in East Asia (RRC-EA) <u>Target audience(s)</u> : practitioners (site managers)	10,000 [additional support provided by RRC-EA]
2.5 Guidelines for peatlands for their designation as Wetlands of		XI.11, ¶24	4.14	<u>Task description</u> : development of guidelines for peatlands for their designation as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), especially with regards to Criterion 1 for the selection of Wetlands of International Importance and in particular paragraph 121 of Annex 2 to Resolution XI.8 (as pertinent to Resolution XI.11). Review of existing Ramsar guidance on peatlands inventory and	

International Importance (Ramsar Sites)				<p>the designation of peatlands as Ramsar sites. See Res.VIII.11.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: case study to be included in Handbook revision and revised guidelines 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), Contracting Parties</p>	
2.6 Assessment of the progress made with the implementation of the “Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP)”		XI.11, ¶24	4.14	<p><u>Task description</u>: development and dissemination of a questionnaire to selected Parties through their STRP National Focal Points, based on peatlands/other criteria as a pilot case.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: summary report on the progress in implementing the GAP. Consider recommending revision on National Ramsar Report format to ensure improved possibility for reporting progress.</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: policymakers and practitioners.</p>	9,000
2.7 Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and wetlands: a guide to available guidance		XII.2, ¶¶30,	1.04	<p><u>Task description</u>: complete draft Briefing Note started during the last triennium (2013-2015) that provides a guide to available guidance on wetlands and IAS.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: a Briefing Note</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: practitioners (site managers)</p>	5,500

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

Working Group lead(s) and participants	Ritesh Kumar (lead), Channa Bambaradeniya, Lars Dinesen, Siobhan Fennessy, Vincent V. Hilomen , Kassim Kulindwa, Guangchun Lei, Laura Martinez, Dulce Infante Mata, Matt Walpole
Secretariat contact	María Rivera
Contributing organizations [IOPs/observers/others]	IUCN (Stefano Barchiesi, William Darwall (TBC)), WI (Marcel Silvius), WWF International (Denis Landenbergue), IWMI (Sanjiv De Silva)/ Tour Du Valat/Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (Christian Perennou), SWS Society for Wetland Scientists (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), Mark Everard (TBC)

Task No.	Priority	Res.	SP goal &	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
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title			target		
3.1 Wetland ecosystem services assessment and valuation Briefing Note	Higher	XII.13	3.9; 3.11; 3.13; 1.1; 1.2	<p><u>Task description</u>: in the form of a Briefing Note, policy makers are informed about the state of art for recognizing and assessing multiple values of wetlands and their application for improved site management. Scope of the briefing note 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, using values to support integrated wetland management.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: a Briefing Note on recognizing, assessing and applying multiple values of wetlands for integrated wetland management</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: policymakers</p>	7,300
3.2 Protocol for assessing multiple values of wetlands – 5 step protocol	Higher	XII.13; XII.15	3.9; 3.11; 3.12; 3.13; 1.1; 1.2	<p><u>Task description</u>: existing IPBES (5 step) guide on assessing multiple values of nature, including Indigenous and Local Knowledge, adapted to assist wetland policy makers in recognizing and assessing multiple values of wetlands, and applying for integrated management.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: a stepwise protocol on recognizing and assessing multiple values of wetlands; communication and outreach product</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: policymakers</p>	CHF 9,000 (for a writing workshop) (5 persons + 1 IPBES member)
3.3 Protocol for assessing multiple values of wetlands – tool kit		XII.13; XII.15	3.11; 3.12; 3.13; 1.2	<p><u>Task description</u>: the method protocol developed under 3.2 translated into a toolkit for assist wetland practitioners in application of the guidance. (The toolkit be part of TWA No.2).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><u>Expected output(s)</u>: a toolkit on assessing multiple values of wetlands and applying them to integrated management</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: practitioners</p>	20,000
3.4 Case studies on 'wetland valuation and wise use'		XII.13; XII.15	3.11, 3.12; 3.13; 1.2	<p><u>Task description</u>: case studies are made available for policy makers and practitioners on using multiple values of wetlands in the planning and decision making contexts. Work to be carried out as part of TWA No.2.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: case studies (hosted within an online database, communication products)</p>	10,000 (cost of communication product to be finalized in consultation with CEPA)

				Target audience(s): policy makers and practitioners	expert)
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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:	Laura Martinez (lead), Roy Gardner, Peter Davies, Max Finlayson, Kassim Kulindwa, Dulce Infante Mata, Rubén Quintana
Secretariat contact:	Ania Grobicki
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	BirdLife International (Zoltan Waliczky), IUCN (Stefano Barchiesi), IWMI (Sanjiv da Silva), WWF International (Denis Landenbergue, Lifeng Li)/ FAO (TBC), SWS (Nick Davidson), TNC (Boze Hancock (TBC)) , UNESCO-IHE (Anne van Dam)/STRP NFP Malaysia (Abd Rahman Kassim), eFlowNet (TBC), SIWI (TBC)

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
4.1 Water requirements for wetlands	Higher	XII.12	1.1; 1.2; 2.5; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> to develop a Policy Brief on how to incorporate wetlands water requirements into national sectoral policies/plans and river basin plans. To develop a Technical Report for practitioners on a) how to incorporate wetlands water requirements into SDG target 6.3; b) how to assess wetlands water requirements; c) how to determine and apply strategies and tools for the determination and allocation of water to wetlands; d) how to develop a programme for monitoring the water requirements of wetlands. Based on case studies such as water reserves in Mexico and river basin plans in China, Australia, South Africa, Kenya, EU member countries and dam management in the US.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u></p> <p>1) a Policy Brief on incorporating wetlands' water requirement into national policies/plans and river basin plans</p> <p>2) a Technical Report for practitioners on assessing and implementing wetland water requirements</p> <p>3) a Factsheet(s)</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> policymakers and practitioners at the national, basin and local level</p>	20,000 [200,000 for technical report would be provided by WWF (100,000) and remaining funds by other partners]
4.2 Review and analysis of Ramsar Advisory	Higher		1.1; 1.3; 2.5; 2.7; 3.9; 3.13; 4.14	<p><u>Task description:</u> a review and analysis of all Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) reports. More than 80 RAMs have been conducted to date, and the reports provide a rich resource of potential case studies about Convention implementation, challenges and successes. STRP NFPs will be requested to provide feedback and assistance in this review process.</p>	66,000

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
Missions (RAMs) Reports				<p><u>Expected output(s)</u>:</p> <p>1) the comprehensive analysis would be posted on the RAM home page of the Ramsar website</p> <p>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)</p> <p>3) a Briefing Note (facilitating the understanding and the use of the RAM process to site managers) and simple Factsheets for general audiences that highlight case studies.</p> <p>4) webinars may also be conducted to reach a wider audience</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: policymakers (including Administrative Authorities and NFPs) and practitioners (site managers). Note that the outputs maybe be useful in resource mobilization for more RAMs</p>	
4.3 Aquaculture developments and wise use of wetlands			4.14	<p><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 policy makers in the conservation, aquaculture and finance sectors develop a more balanced view on the environmental and social impacts of aquaculture. The policy brief will demonstrate the potential of aquaculture to contribute to food security, wise use of wetlands and sustainable and equitable development.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: a Policy Brief on aquaculture development and wise use of wetlands</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: a policymakers in both conservation and aquaculture communities</p>	6,000

Thematic Work Area No. 5: best practices in wetland restoration for climate change mitigation and adaptation

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

Task No., Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
5.1 Promoting best practices in wetland restoration		XII.2	3.12	<p><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.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u></p> <p>1) building on Ramsar Briefing Note No.6, a new briefing note will highlight the potential for and reasons to conduct wetland restoration in the climate change context</p> <p>2) a Policy Brief will discuss best practices and policies in wetland restoration incentives and instruments (e.g. carbon fund\private sector\VCS\CCBA climate community biodiversity alliance) to explain why resources should be invested in these efforts</p> <p>3) a related Briefing Note will identify for wetland practitioners potential sources of funding for restoration activities (including microcredit programs), taking into account equity and gender issues</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> policymakers and practitioners</p>	55,000
5.2 The implications of REDD-plus for the wise use of wetlands		XII.2	3.12	<p><u>Task description:</u> a review of decisions made by multi-lateral environment agreements concerning REDD-plus and their implications for the wise use of wetlands. This would complete ongoing work from the previous triennium.</p> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u> a Briefing Note</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> practitioners and policymakers</p>	6,780

5.3 Advice for the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on practical methods for rewetting and restoring peatlands		XII.11	3.12	<p><u>Task description:</u> a Technical Report that reviews practical restoration and rewetting methods for peatlands produced by consultant in collaboration with the STRP.</p> <p><u>Expected outputs(s):</u> a Technical Report as an overview and with references to a compilation of experiences on methods of rewetting based on existing literature etc. c. 20 p.</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> practitioners (site managers)</p>	33,500
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