

**Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**  
**19th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)**  
**2 to 6 November 2015, Gland, Switzerland**

**Report of the 19th Meeting of the STRP (STRP19)**

**Note**

Ramsar COP12 [Resolution XII.5](#), *Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*, requested the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to convene as soon as possible after the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP), after its members have been appointed by the Management Working group of the Standing Committee (Annex 1, paragraph 48). Seventeen of 18 STRP members were appointed in October 2015.

Accordingly, the 19th meeting of the STRP was held on 2 to 6 November, 2015, in Gland, Switzerland. The purpose of the meeting, the first of the 2016-2018 triennium, was to welcome the new Panel and to develop a draft work plan for 2016-2018, in consultation with the Secretariat. The draft work plan, based on the five thematic work areas in Annex 3 of Resolution XII.5, and aligned with the Fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention and ongoing scientific work in other international processes, was developed for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 51st Meeting (23 to 27 November 2015). It is attached as Annex 1 to this report.

The five STRP thematic work areas for the 2016-2018 triennium are:

- Thematic work area No. 1 (TWA 1): Best practice methodologies/tools to monitor Ramsar Sites, including surveying, mapping, and inventorying recognizing traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities;
- Thematic work area No. 2 (TWA 2): Best Practices for Developing and Implementing Management Plans, Action Plans, and Other Tools for Ramsar Sites and Other Wetlands;
- Thematic work area No. 3 (TWA 3): Methods for economic and non-economic values of goods and services of wetlands;
- Thematic work area No. 4 (TWA 4): Balancing wetland conservation and development e.g. infrastructure, urbanization, forestry, extraction, industries and agriculture; and
- Thematic work area No. 5 (TWA 5): Best practices in wetland restoration for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The draft work plan consists of these five thematic work areas and 25 proposed tasks, aimed at the following target audiences:

- Policy-makers, including those from the environment and water sectors and other related sectors such as energy, health and sanitation, agriculture, infrastructure; and

- Practitioners and in particular wetland managers and stakeholders, but also others from related fields, such as protected area managers and staff of wetland education centers.

Additionally, the Head of Communications met with STRP National Focal Points during the week to get their inputs on STRP outputs.

## Report

### Monday 2 November 2015

#### Agenda Item 1. Welcome and opening remarks

Ramsar **Secretary General (SG) Christopher Briggs** welcomed and thanked participants for their presence. He explained that the appointment process for the new triennium was nearly completed, except for a scientific expert from Africa which was in the process of being selected.

He introduced **STRP Chair Royal C. Gardner** and new **Deputy Secretary General (DSG) Ania Grobicki** and stressed the importance of providing materials responsive to the needs of the regions and building a network of practitioners (at the site level).

The **DSG** also welcomed participants and explained her role in overseeing the work of the STRP within the Secretariat.

#### Agenda item 2. Introductions

Secretariat staff and participants introduced themselves briefly.

The **STRP Chair** introduced **STRP Vice-Chair Channa Bambaradeniya** and thanked participants for their dedication and presence.

#### Agenda item 3. Adoption of the agenda

The **STRP Chair** introduced the agenda and emphasized that the goal of the meeting was to produce a draft work plan for approval of the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting (SC51).

<b>Decision STRP19-1:</b> the Panel adopted the agenda as presented in DOC. STRP19-01.
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#### Agenda item 4.1. Overview of the Convention and its processes

The **SG** provided a brief overview of the Convention, its bodies and processes, providing an overview of wetlands ecosystem benefits, trends and pressures. He emphasized the link and contribution of wetlands to sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the potential key role of the STRP in helping address wetland issues, and delivery of the Fourth Strategic Plan through their work. The SG then explained the different bodies of the Convention and their roles, as well as the roles of International Organization Partners (IOPs) and of Invited Observer Organizations (Resolution XII.5, Annex 2).

#### Agenda item 4.2 Overview of the STRP and expected outcomes for the triennium

The **STRP Chair** provided a brief overview of the composition, functions and cycle of work of the STRP. He explained the nomination process, per the terms of Resolution XII.5, stressing that the COP is the ultimate decision-making body of the Convention. He noted that STRP members were appointed in their independent capacity and do not represent the interests of their countries, regions or institutions. He added that the work of the Panel is supported by the IOPs, Invited Observer Organizations and STRP National Focal Points (NFPs), as well as additional experts invited by the STRP Chair as needed.

He explained that the role of the STRP is to provide scientific and technical advice (not to implement) to the other subsidiary bodies of the Convention and to Contracting Parties, clarifying the role of observers as active contributors to the work of the Panel.

He highlighted the difficulties in communicating with STRP NFPs, and the need to reach out and invigorate this network.

The **STRP Chair** listed the different target audiences and STRP outputs, including Briefing Notes, Policy Briefs, Ramsar Technical Reports, Draft Resolutions, guidelines annexed to Draft Resolutions and Factsheets, among others. He explained the importance of getting input from the Secretariat while developing the work plan, as mandated by the Resolution, noting that the Secretariat is responsible for adapting STRP outputs to reach out to policymakers.

The **STRP Chair** added that in addition to responding to specific Contracting Parties' requests in Resolutions, the STRP also provides ad-hoc advice, resources permitting, including advising on: Draft Resolutions submitted by Contracting Parties or the Secretariat for consideration of the COP; Secretariat's requests for advice; Ramsar Advisory Missions and removal of Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record. The STRP is also tasked with providing advice on emerging issues.

The **STRP Chair** stressed the need to have a draft work plan by the end of the week, the need to develop a draft work plan for the next triennium during the course of 2016-2018, as well as the timelines for delivering the STRP work plan by COP13, noting that by early 2018 any COP-related products, such as Draft Resolutions or Information Documents supporting Draft Resolutions would need to be ready. Other outputs should also be ready by early 2018 given the limited capacity of the Secretariat during the period leading up to the COP to deal with other matters.

The **SG** noted that the driving agent for approving Draft Resolutions and COP-related documents were the Contracting Parties. While an idea may originate within the STRP, it is up to Contracting Parties to consider and approve it.

**Marcel Silvius (Wetlands International)** asked how 'emerging issues' are defined and the mandate for the STRP to deal with those. The **STRP Chair** explained through an example that based on recommendations to STRP and working with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) a resolution on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza was produced in a past triennium. He would define emerging issues broadly.

**Nick Davidson (Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS))** distinguished between emerging and emergency issues. He explained that if the STRP sees an issue arising, it can bring the issue to the attention of Parties. If an emergency, unforeseen issue is identified immediately before a COP (once all papers have been produced), there is a provision in the Convention's Rules of Procedures for the Standing Committee to consider the issue and approve action as needed.

The **STRP Chair** also noted that there is a provision in Resolution XII.5 (Annex I, paragraph 4) on the ability of the STRP to amend its work plan through the triennium, which provides some flexibility to include emerging issues.

**Christian Perennou (Tour du Valat/Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory)** noted the importance of working with the Secretariat's Communications Team to be able to reach out to the desired target audiences, as this is something the STRP and the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory have been struggling with.

**Ritesh Kumar (STRP Technical Expert)** requested clarification on the changes to STRP operations arising from Resolution XII.5, especially considering the request in the Resolution to produce practitioner-oriented outputs.

**Tim Badman (World Heritage Center)** asked about how the STRP addressed the need for advocacy, if at all, regarding wetland loss and wetland related issues. The **STRP Chair** explained that the STRP does not generate its own work as it comes from the Parties. However, within the current Contracting Parties' requests to the STRP is the development and finalization of the State of the World Wetlands and their Services to People (SoWWS) report which can be a vehicle to address these challenges and provide suggested responses.

The **SG** noted the difficulties in getting the messages to the right audiences, emphasizing that it is not the job of the Convention's Secretariat to advocate. However, he stated that IOPs and partners are better positioned to carry out this task.

**Lars Dinesen (STRP Regional Technical Expert for Europe)** requested clarification on STRP-driven Draft Resolutions. The **STRP Chair** explained that based on Contracting Parties' requests, the STRP can identify and propose the format. He noted that Parties have expressed the desire for fewer scientific and technical Draft Resolutions

#### **Agenda item 4.3 The Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) programme and its relationship to the work of the STRP**

**Head of Communications Camilla Chalmers** explained the interaction between the work of the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) programme and the STRP. She noted that the Draft CEPA Action Plan for the Secretariat (COP12 DOC.26) contemplated having an STRP publications committee to respond to the request in Resolution XII.5 (paragraph 62) that the Secretariat works closely with the STRP in the development of STRP outputs. The committee would be composed by the STRP Chair and Vice-Chair, DSG, SG and Head of Communications.

She emphasized the importance of adhering to formatting and style guidelines for these products, providing a detailed overview of each STRP output. She also highlighted that Factsheets are broader outreach tools for less scientific and technical audiences and noted the need for more training and capacity development materials. She welcomed advice from the Panel on updating the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks and on future webinars.

In response to questions about remuneration of STRP members involved in the development of outputs, the **STRP Chair** clarified that an honorarium fee would only be paid to external authors or reviewers and not to STRP members, as they work on a voluntary basis. He noted that capacity building has been an area in which Parties want the STRP to be more involved with, inviting participants to keep this in mind throughout the week.

**Sanjiv De Silva (IWMI)** noted the limitations and realities of reaching out to policymakers and that expecting them to implement the scientific and technical work of the STRP would be an over simplification. He mentioned that NFPs have limited capacity and need additional support to carry out Ramsar messages (i.e. through NGOs and other external actors).

**Ritesh Kumar (STRP Technical Expert)** asked whether there was a mechanism in place to facilitate outreach. The Head of Communications provided an overview of the new Ramsar website as a mechanism to highlight STRP outputs and to make them more accessible to Ramsar constituencies. She also mentioned the capacity of the website to track how outputs are being used through Google analytics.

The **SG** mentioned that the Secretariat was working on reporting mechanisms with Contracting Parties (i.e. a new online national reporting format to reflect the Fourth Strategic Plan and the SDGs) and with other MEAs (i.e. through InforMEA—an information and knowledge management project for the development of harmonized MEAs information systems). He added that when considering policy-makers as a target audience, these should include actors influencing decision making, including donors funding projects related to or affecting wetlands at the national level.

#### **Agenda item 4.5 Regional priorities and the work of the STRP**

The four **Senior Regional Advisors (SRAs)** outlined the main scientific and technical priorities within their regions, identified at pre-COP12 regional meetings, in the framework of the five thematic areas adopted by resolution XII.5 as follows:

**Priorities in the Africa region (Paul Ouédraogo, SRA for Africa):** (1) Best practice methodologies/tools to monitor Ramsar sites, including surveying, mapping, and inventorying; (2) Climate change and wetlands: methodologies for carbon capture; (3) Balancing wetland conservation and development: infrastructure; (4) Balancing wetland conservation and development: extractive industries; (5) Legal biodiversity exploitation; (6) Balancing wetland conservation and development: urbanization; (7) Best practices in water management regimes; (8) Legal frameworks for conservation of wetlands; (9) Methodologies for valuation of wetlands goods and services; (10) Best practices and guidance on integrating wetlands valuation into policy; (11)

Best practices for developing and implementing management plans for protected areas/Ramsar sites.

The **STRP Chair** mentioned the difficulty of addressing the priority on ‘legal frameworks for wetland conservation’, because it is a very nationally relevant topic which is unique to each country’s political frameworks and processes. However, he stated that Resolution XII.5 provides a mechanism for Contracting Parties to request nationally relevant advice (see paragraph 12).

**The SRA for Africa** emphasized that citizen science would be a good mechanism to involve citizens and wetland stakeholders at the regional and national levels. The **STRP Chair** invited participants to consider this issue in the working group sessions.

**Marcel Silvius (Wetlands International)** expressed surprise that Disaster Risk Reduction and water management did not come up high as a priority in the Africa region. The **SRA for Africa** mentioned that one of the reasons could be the high turnover of government employees at the national level. Denis Landenbergue (WWF) stressed the seriousness of this problem.

**Sanjiv de Silva (IWMI)** asked whether through citizen data it would be possible to expand on what is happening to wetlands in a particular country rather than just a Site. The **SG** noted that Contracting Parties would need to develop the guidelines for this to take place.

**Priorities in the Americas Region (María Rivera, SRA for the Americas):** (1) National Wetland Policies; (2) Ramsar Sites designation, planning or management; (3) Wetland inventory and monitoring; (4) National Wetland Committees formation or strengthening; (5) Public awareness raising, including: communications, outreach and capacity building for wetlands managers; (6) Improving communications between Administrative Authorities, STRP National Focal Points, Ramsar Site managers and other wetland stakeholders. Additionally, distribution of guidance on the ground to practitioners and having more case studies were identified as priorities.

**Marcel Silvius (Wetlands International)** noted that a paradigm shift in the Convention was needed showing the Convention as a win-win for other sectors, such as development, rather than just an instrument that they need to take into account, a job for the Communications Team and the STRP through its outputs.

**Priorities in the Asia-Oceania Region (Lew Young, SRA for Asia-Oceania):** (1) Establish and update national wetland inventories; (2) National Wetland Policy; (3) Improve coordination and communication; (3) Ramsar Sites designation and (4) Ramsar Sites management.

**Lars Dinesen (STRP Regional Technical Expert for Europe)** explained that the new RIS has a field to collect information on ecosystem services and values of a Site. The **SRA for Asia-Oceania** noted that repeating this information would, even if already in the RIS, would be helpful.

**Priorities in the Europe Region (Tobias Salathé, SRA for Europe):** (1) Focussing on how the STRP can improve its operations (i.e. communicating to a broader audience-beyond scientists and members;

(2) Working with other institutions and actors (i.e. donors, institutions, etc.); (3) Sharing best practices and case studies in languages other than English only; (4) Producing easily accessible documents in a user-friendly language and shorter outputs for specific target audiences.

#### **Agenda item 4.6 Thematic Work Priority Areas, Fourth Strategic Work Plan, and Literature survey**

The **SG** introduced the five STRP Thematic Work Areas and noted that most of the existing guidance falls under Thematic Work Areas 1 and 2, with very little guidance on Indigenous and Local Knowledge.

The **STRP Chair** asked participants to keep in mind the literature survey on existing guidance, undertaken to respond to Resolution XII.5 and to guide the development of the tasks.

**Ritesh Kumar (STRP Technical Expert)** asked about the status of prior COP requests to the STRP. The **STRP Chair** explained that in his view Resolution XII.5 wiped the slate clean for the STRP. However, he mentioned that prior Resolutions would be informative, as they are still valid, but the Panel would not be bound by them in the development of its work plan.

#### **Agenda item 4.7 Briefing on correlation analysis of COP12 Resolutions' requests with the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan and Thematic Priority Areas**

The **DSG** gave a brief overview of global issues affecting wetlands (and currently discussed in the international context), such as climate extremes and integrated flood management. She also provided a status of the number of designated Ramsar Sites.

Additionally, she provided a summary of the Fourth Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and how its goals and targets link to the STRP thematic work areas, as well as the opportunities for linking them to the SDGs. She clarified the correlation between COP12 Resolutions with the thematic work areas, the Fourth Strategic Plan and existing guidance (as presented in Doc.STRP19-02).

#### **Agenda item 4.8. Overview of other international processes and their relevance to the work of the STRP (2016-2018), including the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), SDGs, and other MEAs**

The **DSG** explained the relationship between wetlands and the SDGs, highlighting Goal 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all [water goal]), Target 6.6 (By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes), as well as Goal 15 (Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss).

The **DSG** also made reference to an early proposal for a GWOS (Global Wetlands Observation

System) and the Secretariat's participation in ongoing discussions to revive this project. She highlighted the opportunities for cooperation with the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), as well as harmonization efforts between Ramsar and other MEAs. She also mentioned the importance of harmonizing integrated management systems in sites with overlapping designations.

The **STRP Chair** then summarized ongoing collaboration between Ramsar and other MEAs including:

- CBD through efforts such as SoWWS and
- CMS/AEWA through the waterbirds flyway initiatives, and other publications. He brought attention to some of the priority work areas of AEWA involving collaboration with Ramsar.

The **STRP Chair** gave a brief update on the work of IPBES as relevant to the Convention. He noted having attended IPBES plenary sessions, MEP meetings and provided an update on the status of the Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment (expected in March 2018) and Regional Assessments (March 2018). He emphasized that the pollinators' assessment, as well as the Invasive Alien Species and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity assessments, which will be considered at the 4th IPBES Plenary, are of relevance to the Ramsar Community. He mentioned that two STRP members, Ritesh Kumar and Siobhan Fennessy, are involved with IPBES assessments.

The **STRP Chair** concluded by explaining the role of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) as an international body to exchange information on the work of the scientific and technical subsidiary bodies of MEAs. However, he noted that in practice, the group has not been very active.

#### **Agenda item 4.9 Methodology and expected outcomes for the week and establishment of thematic working groups**

The **STRP Chair** outlined the different STRP Working Groups and their composition, as well as the methodology for developing the work plan, explaining that to be achievable and realistic the work plan should contain maximum three to four tasks per thematic work area. He stressed the importance of keeping in mind the timelines for delivering COP-related products, noting the deadlines for submitting the draft task templates to the Secretariat so that a work plan could be consolidated before the end of the meeting (and in time to be translated and formatted for the 51st meeting of the Standing Committee).

#### **Agenda item 5. Working groups sessions- in parallel**

Participants split into thematic working groups to further develop the task templates and make adjustments to the task descriptions as needed. The outcomes and adjustments resulting from these discussions are reflected in the draft STRP work plan 2016-2018 (Annex I).

#### ***Optional presentation: Overview of the Ramsar Sites Information Services (RSIS)***

The **DSG** introduced the Ramsar Sites Information Service and **IT Officer Manuel Kern** provided a general overview and demonstration of the new RSIS, with a focus on the public interface.



**Rob McInnes (UN-Habitat)** asked whether it was possible to track the most popular searches within the RSIS. **Manuel Kern (IT Officer)** mentioned that the Secretariat is currently working on this feature.

**STRP Vice-Chair** asked whether additional materials relating to socio-economic studies on a particular site could be searchable and downloadable. Manuel Kern (IT Officer) explained that if such information was provided along with the designation materials, then it should be visible in the Ramsar Site's identity card.

**Lars Dinesen (STRP Regional Technical Expert for Europe)** asked whether all of the previous Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for a site appear on the website. **Manuel Kern (IT Officer)** clarified that all the PDF history of a particular site is visible.

## **Tuesday 3 November 2015**

### **Agenda items 6-7. Working group sessions- in parallel**

Participants split into thematic working groups to further develop the task templates and make adjustments to the task descriptions as needed.

### **Agenda item 8. Reporting back on working groups' progress**

Each working group lead reported back on their discussions and progress during the working group sessions. Meeting participants reviewed the draft task templates under the five thematic work areas.

The **SG** mentioned that the Ramsar Handbooks would be updated to include COP11 and COP 12 resolutions and that this was a Secretariat-led task with STRP inputs, as needed.

Regarding discussions during the session on thematic work area 2, **Ritesh Kumar (STRP Technical Expert)** mentioned that limits of acceptable change and ecological character descriptions were issues that needed to be addressed, as there are gaps in existing guidance.

**Lars Dinesen (STRP Regional Technical Expert for Europe)** pointed out the need for clarity on the objectives for a Ramsar Site, once it has been designated.

## **Wednesday 4 November 2015**

### **Agenda items 10-11. Working groups sessions-parallel sessions**

Participants split into thematic working groups to further develop the task templates and make adjustments to the task descriptions as needed.

### **Agenda item 12. Virtual Presentation: *Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza***

**Ruth Cromie (STRP Technical Expert)** provided an overview and a general explanation of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the wetlands context, including social, economic and environmental impacts, and the Convention's responses and guidance on the matter, mainly through the STRP.

**Thursday 5 November 2015**

**Agenda item 13. Working groups sessions-parallel sessions**

Participants split into thematic working groups to further develop the task templates and make adjustments to the task descriptions as needed.

**Agenda item 14. Reporting back on working groups' progress and consolidation of work plan**

Each working group lead reported back on their discussions and progress. Meeting participants reviewed the draft task templates under the five thematic work areas.

The **STRP Vice-Chair** provided a summary of the tasks for thematic work area No.2, reporting that the group did not reach a consensus on a proposed task on pragmatic guidance on ecological character description, as well as on STRP's input to capacity development and training materials, as this is mainly a CEPA task.

Regarding proposed task 2.1, *Ramsar Wetland Site Management Toolkit*, there were questions about whether the group envisioned re-grouping or re-organizing existing content on wetland management on the website. The **STRP Vice-Chair** clarified that the STRP would be responsible for providing technical input, with CEPA providing the communications/capacity development input.

The **SG** mentioned that there were costs associated with re-organizing content which needed to be reflected in the task template, contingent on the input from an IT expert. There would be a cost for periodically updating the online toolkit, as well as its translation into the Conventions' languages and asked the group to capture the costs. The **Head of Communications** mentioned that she would provide provisional estimates in consultation with the Secretariat's IT officer.

The **DSG** mentioned that Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service (SWOS) could also be very valuable for thematic work area 1 and suggested inviting SWOS as an observer per the terms of Resolution XII.5.

**Dulce Infante (STRP Scientific expert)** noted that Mexico has a monitoring system for carbon capture in mangroves, which had been replicated in Latin America and suggested considering it within the thematic work area. The STRP Chair suggested possibly using this information as a case study for SoWWS.

The **DSG** wondered whether for proposed task 1.5 regarding Global Mangrove Watch Mexico would be interested in working with JAXA to ground truth data from the project.

In the context of thematic work area 1 and proposed task 1.4, Wetland Extent Trends (WET) Index, **Lifeng Li (WWF-International)** noted that there were some gaps with the Index, as currently it does not covers data for wetlands in all Ramsar Regions, and that if it is to be used for monitoring SDGs, some of these gaps will need to be addressed. He further added that for monitoring water withdrawal (in relation to SDGs monitoring) perhaps the Panel may want to consider raising this issue in SDGs monitoring discussions.

**Kassim Abdullah Rahman (STRP National Focal Point of Malaysia)** mentioned that Malaysia would be interested in assisting with the groundtruthing of data from the GMW.

**Lars Dinesen (STRP Regional Technical Expert for Europe)** noted that if there were data available on specific wetland types they could contribute to the SoWWS to cover different wetland types as the data emerges.

**Nick Davidson (SWS)** suggested creating a generic task to look at data sources feeding specific to other tasks. The STRP Chair welcomed any task descriptions on the matter for consideration.

**María Rivera (SRA for the Americas)** commented that the WET Index does not include information on the LAC region and wondered whether this had been contemplated within the proposed task. The **STRP Chair** mentioned that this had been considered and costings had been provided by WCMC to consider the expansion of the WET Index to fill such a gap. However, he noted that costs were significant. **Nick Davidson (SWS)** suggested that there may be a genuine gap in the availability of literature in the region.

**Marcel Silvius (Wetlands International)** noted that there are many novel and emerging tools on monitoring wetlands such as Wetland Vision, a Wetlands International project focussing on tropical wetlands. The **STRP Chair** suggested keeping a watching brief on this issue.

**Lars Dinesen (STRP Regional Technical Expert for Europe)** reported on discussions regarding the ongoing issue of burning peatlands and haze in Indonesia. The **STRP Chair** suggested the Secretariat to advise on current developments and actions, possible scientific and technical advice by the STRP, if appropriate, and the possibility of raising the issue with Standing Committee at its 51st meeting.

## **Friday 6 November 2015**

### **Agenda item 15. Review of consolidated work plan 2016-2018 and budget allocation priorities**

The **STRP Chair** clarified that the work plan needed to be approved for consideration by Standing Committee at its 51st meeting and that additional changes to the format of the document were needed. He mentioned that an item for discussion would be whether to raise the issue of peatlands in Indonesia with the Standing Committee.

The group reviewed each of the proposed tasks in plenary. Their inputs are reflected in the final draft work plan in Annex I.

**María Rivera (SRA for the Americas)** emphasized that the title of thematic work area 1 called for 'best practices' and suggested considering how to respond to this request (in the title) with the proposed tasks and outputs.

Regarding some of the outputs, **Lars Dinesen (STRP Regional Technical Expert for Europe)** noted that advice is a form of input not an output. He suggested adding an output to all of the tasks even if the output is not for Ramsar (and noting so).

There was a lengthy discussion on funding sources for translation. The **STRP Chair** added that while

the STRP was not responsible for translating materials, it was important to take into account of these costs and to translate materials to reach out to target audiences.

Regarding STRP's input to the update of the Wise Use Handbooks, the **SG** emphasized that this was a Secretariat task. **Rob McInnes (UN-Habitat)** also noted that in the past this sort of advice has not been part of the work plan as a standalone task, but rather as part of the STRP's ad-hoc advisory functions.

There was a discussion on whether updating guidance in the Wise Use Handbooks needed to go through COP approval. The **SG** noted that to be included in handbooks, guidelines must be approved by the COP, as existing guidelines have been approved by Parties. **María Rivera (SRA for the Americas)** mentioned that new guidance would need to be approved by the COP.

Mindful of the limited budget for the new triennium, the **STRP Chair** proposed prioritizing some tasks for delivery. He asked participants to list their priorities based on COP12 Resolutions' requests, the Fourth Strategic Plan and the five thematic work areas.

**Decision STRP19-02:** The STRP agreed on seven priority tasks for delivery, as follows:

- Task 1.4: Global Wetlands Outlook (State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People);
- Task 2.2: Wetland Ecosystem-based Adaptation for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Task 2.4: Simplified Ramsar Site Management Manual;
- Task 3.1: Wetland Ecosystem Services Assessment and Valuation Briefing Note;
- Task 3.2: Protocol for assessing multiple values of wetlands – 5-step Protocol (IPBES);
- Task 4.1: Water Requirements for Wetlands; and
- Task 4.2: Review and Analysis of Ramsar Advisory Mission Reports.

#### **Agenda item 16. Adoption of draft work plan 2016-2018**

**Decision STRP19-03:** The Panel adopted by consensus a draft work plan consisting of five thematic work areas and twenty five tasks, attached as Annex 1, for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting.

#### **Agenda item 17. Date and venue of next meeting (STRP20)**

**Decision STRP19-04:** the STRP agreed to hold STRP20 on January 2017.

#### **Agenda item 18. Any other business**

The **STRP Chair** raised the issue of peatland fires in Indonesia. The **SG** noted that there is a due process within the Secretariat and that as a first step the Secretariat must request an explanation from the Administrative Authority and if necessary consider additional steps. He thanked **Marcel Silvius (Wetlands International)** and **Lars Dinesen (STRP Regional Technical Expert for Europe)** for a draft letter provided to the Secretariat. The **SG** stressed the sensitive nature of the matter and the

limits on the actions that the Convention can undertake.

The **STRP Chair** noted that Resolution XII.5 requests the STRP to provide nationally relevant advice, which may provide an opportunity to advise the Indonesian government if they so request it. The **STRP Chair** added that he could reach out directly to the STRP National Focal Point. Another option would be to include a note in the STRP Chair's report to the Standing Committee offering assistance. There is precedent within the Standing Committee to request information from Contracting Parties on sensitive events such as this one.

**Ritesh Kumar (STRP Technical Expert)** mentioned that the STRP should address this urgent matter, keeping a watching eye on the matter.

Noting support by members, the **STRP Chair** asked for input to communicate the intent to provide support to the Indonesian government.

**Marcel Silvius (Wetlands International)** stressed that the statement or position of the STRP should not be to criticize but to offer technical support.

The **STRP Chair** proposed bringing the matter to the attention of the Standing Committee offering assistance on the ground, resources permitting. **Lars Dinesen (STRP Regional Technical Expert for Europe)** suggested asking the Standing Committee to directly contact the Administrative Authority, as an alternative.

**Ritesh Kumar (STRP Technical Expert)** added that another channel could be the IOPs. **Marcel Silvius (Wetlands International)** noted that IOPs are already involved in the matter and that the intent was for the Convention to get involved.

**Decision STRP19-05:** The Panel agreed that the STRP Chair would reach out to the National Focal Point of Indonesia to offer scientific and technical advice and prepare a statement in his report for consideration by the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting.

The **Head of Communications** provided a summary of the process for migrating the existing STRP workspace into the new Ramsar website. **Scientific and Technical Support Officer Marcela Bonells** explained that in the interim the STRP would continue using the current workspace and that member would receive a notification with the new log in credentials when the migration process is completed.

The **STRP Chair** reminded participants that a conflict of interest policy would be provided to appointed experts for their signing. He thanked IUCN staff, the Ramsar Secretariat staff and participants.

The **SG** gave a heartfelt thanks to participants.

**Agenda item 19. Closure of the meeting**

## Annex 1 STRP Draft Work Plan 2016-2018

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

<b>Working Group lead(s) and participants:</b>	Max Finlayson (lead), Lars Dinesen, Roy Gardner, Vincent V. Hilomen, Jari Ilmonen, Laura Martinez, Dulce Infante Mata, Rubén Quintana, Lisa-Maria Rebelo, Matt Walpole
<b>Secretariat contact:</b>	Paul Ouédraogo
<b>Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]</b>	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
<b>No.1.1 State of the World Wetlands and their Services to People (SoWWS)</b>	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 linking it to the Strategic Plan, CEPA, and to other international processes (i.e. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Aichi Targets, Global Biodiversity Outlook).	250,000 (funding to be raised)
				<u>Expected output(s)</u> : a global report with derived outputs for specific audiences (i.e. Policy Briefs/	67,000 (without fund)

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
				Briefing Notes)  <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.	raising)
<b>No.1.2 Engagement with IPBES</b>		XII.2, ¶ 24; XII.3, ¶¶ 48, 49	3.8; 4.18; 3.00	<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.  <u>Expected output(s)</u> : advice to better link Ramsar and IPBES processes  <u>Target audience(s)</u> : Contracting Parties	STRP Chair travel fund to cover travel costs
<b>No.1.3 Global Wetlands Observation System (GWOS)</b>			3.8; 4.14; 4.18	<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.  <u>Expected output(s)</u> : gaining an overview as a basis for advice to inform global monitoring efforts  <u>Target audience(s)</u> : Ramsar Secretariat and practitioners in the Earth Observation community	
<b>No.1.4 Wetland Extent Trends (WET) Index</b>		XII.3, ¶52	3.13; 4.18	<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.  <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)  <u>Target audience(s)</u> : policymakers, practitioners.	50,000
<b>No. 1.5 Earth Observation:</b>			3.8, 3.12, 4.14	<u>Task description</u> : analysing, groundtruthing and using the data from the Global Mangrove Watch (produced by JAXA) for derived Ramsar outputs for policymakers.	15,000

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
<b>Global Mangrove Watch</b>				<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>	
<b>No. 1.6 Earth Observation: GlobWetland Africa</b>			3.8; 4.14	<p><u>Task description</u>: reviewing, analysing 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
<b>No. 1.7 Development of guidelines for inventories of peatlands: guidance</b>		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"> <li>1) a Briefing Note for practitioners (site managers)</li> <li>2) a Policy Brief to highlight the importance of tropical peatland inventorying and mapping</li> <li>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)</li> </ol> <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></p> <p>1) a Peatlands Hotspot Atlas project that will assist policymakers in identifying priorities for interventions.</p> <p>2) a Policy Brief on “Peatlands and climate change”</p> <p><u>Target audience(s):</u> policymakers</p>	<p>9,000 (for policy brief)</p> <p>[135.000 for Atlas book would be provided by other organizations]</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**

<b>Working Group lead(s) and participants</b>	Channa Bambaradeniya (lead), Susanna Aguilar, Ruth Cromie, Lars Dinesen, Jari Ilmonen, Guangchun Lei, Kassim Kulindwa, Ritesh Kumar
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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)	
<b>2.2. Wetland Ecosystem Based Adaptation for Disaster Risk Reduction</b>	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
<b>2.3. Transboundary wetland management</b>			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
<b>2.4. Simplified Ramsar Site management manual</b>	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]
<b>2.5 Guidelines for peatlands for their</b>		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	

<b>designation as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)</b>				(as pertinent to Resolution XI.11). Review of existing Ramsar guidance on peatlands inventory and the designation of peatlands as Ramsar sites. See Res.VIII.11.  <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)  <u>Target audience(s)</u> : practitioners (Ramsar site managers), Contracting Parties	
<b>2.6 Assessment of the progress made with the implementation of the “Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GAP)”</b>		XI.11, ¶24	4.14	<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.  <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.  <u>Target audience(s)</u> : policymakers and practitioners.	9,000
<b>2.7 Invasive Alien Species (IAS) and wetlands: a guide to available guidance</b>		XII.2, ¶¶30,	1.04	<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.  <u>Expected output(s)</u> : a Briefing Note  <u>Target audience(s)</u> : practitioners (site managers)	5,500

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

<b>Working Group lead(s) and participants</b>	Ritesh Kumar (lead), Channa Bambaradeniya, Lars Dinesen, Siobhan Fennessy, Vincent V. Hilomen , Kassim Kulindwa, Guangchun Lei, Laura Martinez, Dulce Infante Mata, Matt Walpole
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Task No. title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
<b>3.1 Wetland ecosystem services assessment and valuation Briefing Note</b>	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
<b>3.2 Protocol for assessing multiple values of wetlands – 5 step protocol</b>	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)
<b>3.3 Protocol for assessing multiple values of wetlands – tool kit</b>		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
<b>3.4 Case studies on 'wetland valuation and</b>		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>	10,000 (cost of communication product to be

wise use'				<p><u>Expected output(s)</u>: case studies (hosted within an online database, communication products)</p> <p><u>Target audience(s)</u>: policy makers and practitioners</p>	finalized in consultation with CEPA expert)
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**Thematic Work Area No. 4: Balancing wetland conservation and development e.g. infrastructure, urbanization, forestry, extraction, industries and agriculture**

<b>Working Group lead(s) and participants:</b>	Laura Martinez (lead), Roy Gardner, Peter Davies, Max Finlayson, Kassim Kulindwa, Dulce Infante Mata, Rubén Quintana
<b>Secretariat contact:</b>	Ania Grobicki
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Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
<b>4.1 Water requirements for wetlands</b>	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>	<p>20,000</p> <p>[200,000 for technical report would be provided by WWF (100,000) and remaining funds by other partners]</p>

Task No. Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
<b>4.2 Review and analysis of Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) Reports</b>	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> <p><u>Expected output(s):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) the comprehensive analysis would be posted on the RAM home page of the Ramsar website</li> <li>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)</li> <li>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.</li> <li>4) webinars may also be conducted to reach a wider audience</li> </ol> <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>	66,000
<b>4.3 Aquaculture developments and wise use of wetlands</b>			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**

<b>Working Group lead(s) and participants:</b>	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
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Task No., Title	Priority	Res.	SP goal & target	Task description, target audience & expected outputs	Costs CHF
<b>5.1 Promoting best practices in wetland restoration</b>		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
<b>5.2 The implications of REDD-plus for the wise use of wetlands</b>		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
<b>5.3 Advice for the</b>		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>	33,500

<b>13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on practical methods for rewetting and restoring peatlands</b>				<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>	
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## Annex 2 List of Participants

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