

## **PDF compilation of Draft Resolutions submitted to COP12**

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## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR1 Rev.1

### Draft Resolution XII.1

#### Financial and budgetary matters

1. RECALLING the budgetary provisions established by paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 6 of the Convention on Wetlands;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the prompt payment by the majority of Contracting Parties of their contributions to the core budget of the Convention, but NOTING WITH CONCERN that a number of Parties are still have significant outstanding contributions (COP12 DOC.15);
3. NOTING WITH GRATITUDE the additional voluntary financial contributions made by many Contracting Parties through their Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other agencies, including some development assistance agencies, and also the contributions made by non-governmental organizations and private companies for activities undertaken by the Secretariat, but NOTING WITH CONCERN the continuing decline in such voluntary contributions;
4. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the financial and administrative services provided to the Secretariat by IUCN, underpinned by the Services Agreement between Ramsar and IUCN revised in 2009;
5. NOTING that Contracting Parties have been kept informed of the financial situation of the Secretariat through the audited annual financial statements for the years from 2011 to 2014 and the reports of the Standing Committee meetings in 2012, 2013 and 2014; and
6. RECOGNIZING the need to continue to strengthen financial partnerships with relevant international organizations and other entities and to explore additional funding opportunities through their existing financial mechanisms;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. ACKNOWLEDGES that since the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in 2012 the Secretariat has managed the Convention's funds prudently, efficiently and openly;
8. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Contracting Parties that have served in the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee during the past cycle, and in particular to Canada, which has acted as Chair of the Subgroup;

9. DECIDES that the Terms of Reference for the Financial Administration of the Convention contained in Annex 3 to Resolution 5.2 (1993) shall be applied *in toto* to the 2016-2018 cycle;
10. FURTHER DECIDES that the Subgroup on Finance, as established by Resolution VI.17, is to continue to operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in that Resolution;
11. NOTES that the 2016-2018 budget includes a core element funded by contributions from Contracting Parties, prepared on the basis that there are no fundamental changes to the operation of the Secretariat during 2016-2018, and a non-core unfunded element to be financed by voluntary contributions, and APPROVES the combined budget for the 2016-2018 cycle as attached in Annex 1 and 2 to enable the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
12. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise core budgetary allocations between budget lines in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the cycle to costs, rates of inflation, interest and tax income projected in the budget, without increasing the contributions of Parties or increasing the charges paid to IUCN above the budgeted 13% maximum;
13. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise non-core budgetary allocations and priorities depending upon the success of the Parties and Secretariat in securing voluntary funding for these activities;
14. DECIDES that the contribution of each Contracting Party to the core budget (other than those making only voluntary contributions) should be in accordance with the scale of assessments for the contributions of Member States to the United Nations budget as approved by the UN General Assembly, which for those only paying voluntary contributions is applied on an indicative basis, and except in the case of Contracting Parties which, in applying the UN scale, could make annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention Core budget of less than CHF 1,000, in which case the annual contribution will be that amount;
15. NOTES WITH GRATITUDE that at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties the Contracting Parties of Africa contributing less than CHF 2,000 agreed to increase their payments to that level, and that the difference between CHF 2,000 and their assessment will form a voluntary contribution specifically earmarked for African Regional Initiatives;
16. URGES all Contracting Parties to pay their contributions promptly by 1 January of each year, or as soon thereafter as that country's budget cycle will permit;
17. URGES Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial sustainability of the Convention through contributions by all Contracting Parties, and REQUESTS the Secretariat to contact Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions in excess of three years and work with them to identify appropriate options and actions for addressing the situation and initiating a plan for making payment of contributions, and to report back to each Standing Committee meeting and meeting of the Conference of the Parties on activities taken in this regard and results achieved;
18. NOTES with concern the continued fall in voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties and URGES Contracting Parties and others to reverse this trend in order to fund the important non-core element of the 2016-2018 combined budget.

19. REQUESTS that the Secretariat continue to develop new approaches and tools, including signature initiatives, as appropriate, to secure voluntary financial support for priority projects;
20. REAFFIRMS its conviction that the Convention's grants programmes, including the Small Grants Fund, are of great value in terms of the implementation of the Convention, ACKNOWLEDGES Switzerland and the United States for their contributions, and URGES Parties and others to find CHF 700,000 per annum to secure the efficient operation of these programmes.
21. REQUESTS that the Standing Committee review the operation of the programme during the triennium and definitively conclude whether the Parties should continue or cease the Small Grants Fund for the consideration of the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
22. REQUESTS the Secretariat to endeavour to maintain the Reserve Fund over the 2016-2018 triennium in accordance with this budget and to report annually to the Standing Committee on the status and propose to its Subgroup on Finance for its concurrence prior to any uses of the Fund; and
23. AFFIRMS that the rate of increase of the Ramsar Convention budget for the 2016-2018 cycle shall not be considered as setting a precedent for the budget in subsequent years or that of any other international convention.

<b>Annex I</b>	<b>2016-2018 Core budget, Scenario A with 0% increase</b>
	<b>2016-2018 Core budget, Scenario B with 2% increase</b>
	<b>2016-2018 Core budget, Scenario C with 4% increase</b>
<b>Annex II</b>	<b>Non-Core Funds, 2016 - 2018</b>
<b>Annex III</b>	<b>Illustrative Contracting Parties' contributions 2016-2018 for 3 scenarios and change from 2015</b>

## Annex I

### Proposed budget scenarios for 2016-2018

#### Scenario A, 0% increase

0% Increase, 000'S	2016	2017	2018
	Core	Core	Core
<b>INCOME</b>			
Parties' Contributions	3,779	3,779	3,779
Voluntary contributions	1,065	1,065	1,065
Income Tax	225	225	225
Income Interest	12	12	12
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,081</b>	<b>5,081</b>	<b>5,081</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>A. Secretariat Senior Management</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>813</b>
Salaries and social costs	674	674	674
Other employment benefits	79	79	79
Travel	60	60	60
<b>B. Partnership Coordinator</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>
Salaries and social costs	188	188	188
Other employment benefits	52	52	52
Travel	20	20	20
<b>C. Regional Advice and Support</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>1,347</b>
Salaries and social costs	1,201	1,201	1,201
Other employment benefits	56	56	56
Travel	90	90	90
Ramsar Advisory Missions			
<b>D. Support to Regional Initiatives</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>
Regional networks and centers	120	120	120
<b>E. Scientific and Technical Services</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>212</b>
Salaries and social costs	110	110	110
Other employment benefits	2	2	2
Travel	10	10	10
STRP implementation	40	40	40
STRP meetings	50	50	50
<b>F. Communications</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>611</b>
Salaries and social costs	434	434	434
Other employment benefits			
Travel	15	15	15
CEPA Program	30	30	30
Comms, Translations, Publications and Reporting Implementation	132	132	132
<b>G. Administration/RSIS/Web</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>824</b>
Salaries and social costs	629	629	629
Other employment benefits	5	5	5
Staff hiring and departure costs	25	25	25
Travel			
Salary increase for merit			
Training			
Ramsar Sites Information Service, yearly maintenance and development	75	75	75
Web/IT support and Development	90	90	90
<b>H. Operating Costs</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>
General	80	80	80
Equipment/Office Supplies (inc. depreciation)	15	15	15
<b>I. Standing Committee Services</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>
Standing Committee delegates' support	45	45	45
Standing Committee meetings	10	10	10
SC translation	60	60	60
Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings	35	35	35
<b>J. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum)</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>540</b>
Administration, Human Resources, Finance & IT services	540	540	540
<b>K. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>
Reserve Fund			
Staff termination & repatriation provisions			
Provisions	50	50	50
Legal Services	60	60	60
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>5,081</b>	<b>5,081</b>	<b>5,081</b>
<b>TOTAL SALARY COSTS – staff salaries and related costs</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>3,429</b>
	67%	67%	67%
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>
	4%	4%	4%

Note: Total salary costs: adding the numbers manually gives CHF3,430 versus 3,429 stated on spreadsheet. This is due to rounding up.

## Scenario B, 2% increase

2% Increase, 000'S	2016	2017	2018
	Core	Core	Core
<b>INCOME</b>			
Parties' Contributions	3,855	3,855	3,855
Voluntary contributions	1,086	1,086	1,086
Income Tax	230	230	230
Income Interest	12	12	12
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,183</b>	<b>5,183</b>	<b>5,183</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>A. Secretariat Senior Management</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>813</b>
Salaries and social costs	674	674	674
Other employment benefits	79	79	79
Travel	60	60	60
<b>B. Partnership Coordinator</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>
Salaries and social costs	188	188	188
Other employment benefits	52	52	52
Travel	20	20	20
<b>C. Regional Advice and Support</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>1,347</b>	<b>1,347</b>
Salaries and social costs	1,201	1,201	1,201
Other employment benefits	56	56	56
Travel	90	90	90
Ramsar Advisory Missions	50	50	50
<b>D. Support to Regional Initiatives</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>
Regional networks and centers	120	120	120
<b>E. Scientific and Technical Services</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>212</b>
Salaries and social costs	110	110	110
Other employment benefits	2	2	2
Travel	10	10	10
STRP implementation	40	40	40
STRP meetings	50	50	50
<b>F. Communications</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>611</b>
Salaries and social costs	434	434	434
Other employment benefits			
Travel	15	15	15
CEPA Program	30	30	30
Comms, Translations, Publications and Reporting Implementation	132	132	132
<b>G. Administration/RSIS/Web</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>876</b>
Salaries and social costs	629	629	629
Other employment benefits	5	5	5
Staff hiring and departure costs	25	25	25
Travel			
Salary increase for merit	30	30	30
Training	22	22	22
Ramsar Sites Information Service, yearly maintenance and development	75	75	75
Web/IT support and Development	90	90	90
<b>H. Operating Costs</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>
General	80	80	80
Equipment/Office Supplies (inc. depreciation)	15	15	15
<b>I. Standing Committee Services</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>
Standing Committee delegates' support	45	45	45
Standing Committee meetings	10	10	10
SC translation	60	60	60
Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings	35	35	35
<b>J. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum)</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>540</b>
Administration, Human Resources, Finance & IT services	540	540	540
<b>K. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>
Reserve Fund			
Staff termination & repatriation provisions			
Provisions	50	50	50
Legal Services	60	60	60
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>5,183</b>	<b>5,183</b>	<b>5,183</b>
0			
<b>TOTAL SALARY COSTS – staff salaries and related costs</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>3,429</b>	<b>3,429</b>
0	66%	66%	66%
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>
0	4%	4%	4%

## Scenario C, 4% increase

4% Increase, 000'S	2016	2017	2018
	Core	Core	Core
<b>INCOME</b>			
Parties' Contributions	3,930	3,930	3,930
Voluntary contributions	1,108	1,108	1,108
Income Tax	234	234	234
Income Interest	12	12	12
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,284</b>	<b>5,284</b>	<b>5,284</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
<b>A. Secretariat Senior Management</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>813</b>
Salaries and social costs	674	674	674
Other employment benefits	79	79	79
Travel	60	60	60
<b>B. Partnership Coordinator</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>260</b>
Salaries and social costs	188	188	188
Other employment benefits	52	52	52
Travel	20	20	20
<b>C. Regional Advice and Support</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>1,470</b>	<b>1,470</b>
Salaries and social costs	1,324	1,324	1,324
Other employment benefits	56	56	56
Travel	90	90	90
Ramsar Advisory Missions	50	50	50
<b>D. Support to Regional Initiatives</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>120</b>
Regional networks and centers	120	120	120
<b>E. Scientific and Technical Services</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>212</b>
Salaries and social costs	110	110	110
Other employment benefits	2	2	2
Travel	10	10	10
STRP implementation	40	40	40
STRP meetings	50	50	50
<b>F. Communications</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>611</b>
Salaries and social costs	434	434	434
Other employment benefits			
Travel	15	15	15
CEPA Program	30	30	30
Comms, Translations, Publications and Reporting Implementation	132	132	132
<b>G. Administration/RSIS/Web</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>854</b>
Salaries and social costs	629	629	629
Other employment benefits	5	5	5
Staff hiring and departure costs	25	25	25
Travel			
Salary increase for merit	30	30	30
Training			
Ramsar Sites Information Service, yearly maintenance and development	75	75	75
Web/IT support and Development	90	90	90
<b>H. Operating Costs</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>
General	80	80	80
Equipment/Office Supplies (inc. depreciation)	15	15	15
<b>I. Standing Committee Services</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>150</b>
Standing Committee delegates' support	45	45	45
Standing Committee meetings	10	10	10
SC translation	60	60	60
Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings	35	35	35
<b>J. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum)</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>540</b>	<b>540</b>
Administration, Human Resources, Finance & IT services	540	540	540
<b>K. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>
Reserve Fund			
Staff termination & repatriation provisions			
Provisions	50	50	50
Legal Services	60	60	60
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>5,284</b>	<b>5,284</b>	<b>5,284</b>
0			
<b>TOTAL SALARY COSTS – staff salaries and related costs</b>	<b>3,552</b>	<b>3,552</b>	<b>3,552</b>
0	67%	67%	67%
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>195</b>
0	4%	4%	4%

## Annex II

### Non-Core Funds, 2016-2018

	Non-Core budget item	Three year funding requirement CHF
<b>NON-CORE FUNDS 2016 - 2018</b>		
1. Cost of three Regional Officers to support Parties requests for advice on: site updates and RSIS, Art 3.2 files, regional initiatives, project oversight, resource mobilization, indicators, etc.	A	900.000
2. Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties requiring assistance	B	620.000
3. Support for development of a Global Partnership for Wetland Restoration, facilitating focussed project support in line with SP4 goals via partnerships and Party support	C	500.000
4. Support the introduction of the Arabic language into all aspects of the website, RSIS, media, publications and support for Arabic speaking Parties	D	1.400.000
5. Setting up contacts with, and running a virtual network for wetland professionals to help deliver targeted materials, build capacity, exchange experiences and increase information flow across countries and people	E	360.000
6. Support new STRP programme of work for 2016-2018 with provisions to carry out review of process and products from STRP and align to new strategy and into delivery of tailored technical advice in response to identified needs	F	750.000
7. Support to Regional Initiative Networks and Centres. Funding for their priority activities.	G	820.000
8. Increase level of engagement with GlobWetlands, NASA, JAXA and ESA in order to provide benefits of earth observation and citizen engagement to Parties and use current progress to leverage further improvements in data set and availability of big Data	H	350.000
9. Support and co-funding for developing the Ramsar Culture Network and broader efforts to increase appreciation of 'Wetlands, Culture and Livelihoods', which is initially supported by Mava Foundation	I	400.000
10. CHF 700,000 per annum of resourcing for the Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands	J	2.100.000
11. Development of the online reporting systems and indicators for the Ramsar 4th Strategic Plan (2016-2021)	K	230.000
12. Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021 )	L	600.000
13. World Wetlands Day	M	150.000
14. Developing a 'Ramsar Sites Outlook' report, similar to the recently published 'IUCN Conservation Outlook' report	N	225.000
<b>COP 13 EXPENSES</b>		
15. Costs of Full pre-COP regional meetings to support delegates and meeting costs for COP13 preparatory meetings	O	650.000
16. Sponsorship to bring eligible delegates to COP13 in 2018	P	600.000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>10.655.000</b>

#### 1. Three Regional Officers (A)

**Estimated cost: CHF 900,000**

There is a clear need to increase capacity of regional teams within the Secretariat, given that the number of Contracting Parties, the number of regional initiatives, and the number of Ramsar sites,

have all increased over the last decade since the current regional teams (consisting of a Senior Regional Advisor and a Regional Assistant) were formed.

The volume of advice requested by contracting parties in connection with Article 3.2 cases, technical and financial resources needs has also increased significantly, which the positions of 'Regional Officers' could assist with. Providing more flexibility for Senior Regional Advisors to engage in wider issues connected to Sustainable Development and Green Economy would also help increase the Convention's overall impact.

The estimated full cost of three Regional Officers for three years at P1 level is CHF 900,000, and the Terms of Reference for the positions would be similar to those of the recently announced Regional Officer for Africa.

## **2. Ramsar Advisory Missions (B)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 600,000**

Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) are designed to bring top scientists and other advisors together to provide detailed and informed guidance to Contracting Parties and their partners, on how to better manage a wetland of international importance facing urgent challenges.

RAMs are a useful, effective and well tested 'tool' within the Ramsar Convention. The estimated costs of CHF 600k would make it possible to carry out a total of 31 missions, at an assumed cost of CHF 20k per mission. Another way of viewing it is to assume conducting two or three missions per region per year. It is noted, however, that different regions may require different levels of attention through RAMs in any one particular year.

## **3. Support for development of a Global Partnership for Wetland Restoration (C)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 500,000**

In order to convene a coalition of governments, private sector and civil society to explore and make a call for a Global Partnership on Wetlands Restoration, it would be necessary to secure funds for staffing the effort, convening and facilitation.

The costs are estimated to be CHF 500k over three years, based on one staff person at P2 level and at least one small workshop per year to move the effort forwards.

There has been some early interest from International Organisation Partners, Regional Initiatives and Contracting Parties to work together to design a platform for action and financing projects based on an initial concept note put together by the Secretariat. However, to build an inclusive, measurable, and action oriented agenda that is based on shared principles and is aligned with the shared interests of different parties, will take significant staff time and dedicated attention from the Secretariat, IOPs and other partners, in addition to the Parties.

## **4. Introduction of Arabic (D)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 1.4 million**

At COP5 (Recommendation 5.15), COP10 (Conference Report, para. 402) and COP 11 (Resolution XI.1), the Arabic speaking Contracting Parties have expressed their strong desire for the introduction

of the Arabic language as an official/working language of the Ramsar. In response, SC47 (2014) was presented with an estimate for the cost of providing Arabic into the work of the Convention (DOC. SC47-02). This estimate included provisions for the translation into Arabic of the Convention website, Ramsar Handbooks and Manual, and documents for the COP as well as for meetings of the SC and STRP. The estimate also cover the cost for interpretations during COP and SC meetings, and that to hire an Arabic speaking member of staff for the Secretariat to provide day to day support to Arabic speaking countries.

It is expected that Arabic would be introduced into the work of the Convention on a gradual basis and so voluntary contributions smaller than the amount indicated would be welcomed, e.g. to start work on translation of various key Convention documents into Arabic. Voluntary contribution would be welcomed, especially from Arabic speaking countries.

## **5. Virtual Network of Wetlands Professionals (E)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 360,000**

To achieve the goal of having a network of actively engaged wetlands professionals requires a dedicated system to be set up and outreach to find the relevant professional through means of the Parties, IOPs and other Partners. First, in importance, of these would be the AA FPs and then the IOPS. Reaching out to a large audience requires checking details, communications means such as emails and addresses. The task of finding people also implies the need to ensure set up of a modernized database that can adequately hold all data and maintain the information in different categories and be used to search, which would allow the Parties, through the Secretariat, to obtain relevant information on needs, stories, activities, successes and challenges, and this network can also be used to send messages to the target audience.

The estimated costs include an upgrade of the database software in order to bring together the complete Convention audience and be able to contact, question and request feedback from thousands of wetland professionals. The upgrade is expected to cost 45,000 CHF. A junior professional would be required to manage the input, results management and capacity building for the database at a cost of 105,000 CHF per year (total of 315,000 CHF).

## **6. STRP programme of work (F)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 750,000**

The Secretariat proposes to devote CHF 750,000 to support the new STRP programme of work for 2016-2018 with provisions to carry out a review of processes and products from the STRP and align it to a new strategy and into the delivery of tailored technical advice in response to identified needs. While the new Panel will be appointed after COP12, the Secretariat has produced the following estimate of external costs associated with the production of STRP products to facilitate the development and implementation of the next work plan.

Accordingly, out of this amount, the Secretariat proposes to allocate CHF 602,000 to cover the costs for producing and publishing the following STRP products, such as Scientific and Technical Briefing Notes and Ramsar Technical Reports, which correspond to the five thematic work areas within the work programme of the STRP for the next triennium and includes:

- Methodologies/tools to monitor Ramsar Sites including surveying, mapping and inventory

- Three Briefing Notes: one on policy measures and rationale for wetlands monitoring for policy-makers and two on surveying, mapping, inventorying and monitoring for practitioners;
- Training: four regional workshops and three webinars (English, French, Spanish)
- Best practices for developing and implementing management plans for protected areas/Ramsar Sites
  - A Briefing Note for practitioners derived from information in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 18, plus lifecycle management
  - Training: four regional workshops and three webinars (English, French, Spanish)
- Methodologies for valuation of goods and services of wetlands
  - One Ramsar Technical Report (RTR): Update and create a new layout for RTR No.3
  - Nine Briefing Notes: one for policy-makers on valuation of wetlands; eight for practitioners, including four for marine/coastal wetland types and four for inland wetland types
  - One factsheet on valuation of wetlands
  - Training: four regional workshops and two webinars (each in the three Convention languages)
- Balancing wetlands conservation and development: infrastructure, urbanization and agriculture
  - Four Briefing Notes:
    - Two for policymakers: One for urban policy-makers and another for agricultural policy-makers
    - Two for practitioners: How to of successful urban wetlands and how to of wetland and agriculture balance
  - Two factsheets: one on urban wetland and one on wetlands and agriculture
  - Training: four regional workshops and two webinars ((each in the three Convention languages)
- Climate change and wetlands: methodologies for carbon capture
  - One RTR: The why and how of carbon capture and storage
  - One Briefing note for practitioners on the how-to of carbon capture
  - One factsheet on wetlands and carbon capture
- Training: one webinar in the three Convention languages

In addition, the Secretariat proposes to devote CHF 148,000 to cover more general expenses (not directly related to the five thematic areas, but of relevance to the work of the STRP), associated with the production and overhaul of more communications-oriented scientific and technical products, including:

- The production of 18 Fact Sheets covering wetland services and ad-hoc requests;
- Overhauling the Ramsar Handbooks to convert into a more training-oriented format;
- Providing database services for guidance purposes, including integration of the STRP workspace into the Ramsar website and including a public-facing guidance section in the Ramsar website.

## **7. Support to Regional Initiative Networks and Centres. Funding for the priority activities (G)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 820,000**

There are 15 Ramsar regional initiatives as of the 2013-2015 triennium. They include four regional centres for training and capacity building: in East Africa (established in Kampala, Uganda), the Western Hemisphere (in Panama City, Panama), Central and West Asia (in Tehran, I.R. Iran) and East Asia (in Changwon, R.O. Korea). The Secretariat's role is to help them achieve strategic objectives such as:

- ensuring lasting support from the host country;
- developing substantial technical and financial support from all other countries concerned;
- developing robust, independent and transparent governance mechanisms; and
- developing and delivering a truly international capacity development programmes focusing on Ramsar's core objectives.

In addition to the four centres, there are 11 networks for regional cooperation in 2013-2015, focusing on the West African coast, Niger river basin, High Andean region, La Plata river basin, the Caribbean, mangroves and coral reefs, the East Asian-Australasian migratory birds flyway, the Mediterranean basin, the Carpathian region, the Nordic-Baltic region and the Black Sea and Azov Sea coasts. Here too, the Secretariat's role is to support efforts to obtain formal recognition and support by all countries concerned, to establish operational and transparent governance structures and to implement annual programmes of work which involve all relevant partners in addition to the Ramsar national administrative authorities.

In order to help streamline the approach of Regional Initiatives, support their alignment with the Ramsar Convention's Strategic Plan, and transition to self-sufficiency for long term success, the assumed costs for work to be carried out includes:

- a consultancy that reviews the current and past activities, and potential for maximising the future impact of the Regional Initiatives (CHF 60k),
- a part time support officer to support our full set of Regional Initiatives (CHF 70k per year),
- an annual meeting of the heads of Regional Initiatives in order to discuss and share learnings (CHF 60k per year)
- adequate funds to support joint activities to help in fundraising and supporting financial independence of the Regional Initiatives (CHF 370k).

## **8. Develop dedicated staff expertise on Earth Observation and Citizen Science (H)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 350,000**

The potential of satellite technology to deliver a step-change in knowledge about the condition and trends in the dynamics, the status and health of wetlands is enormous. The Ramsar Convention has a long and well-established track record in using satellite data to support and inform decisions on wetlands wise use, and promote international co-operation. The STRP work on 'State of the World's Wetlands' is one marker for future trends while European Space Agency's GlobWetland in both the Mediterranean region and in Africa makes better decision making for the future of wetlands possible.

For example, a global map of mangroves developed by the Japanese Space Agency can be used to inform how best to use the limited resources available to increase mangrove restoration and tackle wetland loss and degradation. Similarly, mapping of Africa's wetlands that is now being carried out by the European Space Agency, in support of the Ramsar Convention, will make it possible to be aware and proactive about their status and changes in condition, and we now need to target capacity building interventions that can help Parties to use the data and available analysis.

In order to help develop the capacity of Parties and partners to use modern data sets, and have access to the most modern data sets, it is proposed, via webinars, a global workshop (50,000 CHF) and detailed strategic and technical advice, we seek to increase Secretariat capacity with one junior level position (100,000 CHF per year) to contribute to this goal and provide support to Parties, and support the development of targeted products.

## **9. The Ramsar Culture Network: Celebrating Culture in Wetlands (I)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 400,000**

Through Resolutions VIII.19 in 2002 and IX.21 in 2005, the Contracting Parties of Ramsar Convention have moved to strengthen the role of culture in supporting wise use and international co-operation associated with wetlands, and is supported by a Guidance Document (2008). In order to help carry forwards and strengthen the appreciation of culture, wetlands and livelihoods, the Mava Foundation has provided initial funding towards a set of activities that will re-invigorate the Ramsar Culture Network – a growing network of individuals and organisations wishing to collaborate and share experiences on the topic.

There are five activity areas have been identified to focus on, which include strengthened international policy; well documented knowledge of the link that exists between culture and wetlands; building a community of organisations and individuals, globally, more deeply appreciating the cultural value and importance of wetlands; well managed and effective partnerships; and a vibrant and strong 'Ramsar Culture Network', which creates sustained impact over the long term. The five topical areas that have been selected to focus on within these areas include: i) Natural Heritage ii) Agriculture & Food iii) Leisure, Recreation & Tourism, iv) Art & Architecture, and v) Children's story-telling.

The estimated matched funding and support that is required to deliver significant progress is CHF 400,000 over the triennium.

## **10. Small Grants Funds (J)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 2.1 million**

For twenty five years, the implementation of the Ramsar convention by parties and partners has been enhanced through grants, facilitated by the Ramsar Convention, and supported by Parties. For example the Swiss Grants for Africa has provided financial support to ninety projects in over forty countries in Africa. The Wetlands for the Future fund, supported by the USA, has provided financial support to 290 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, 83 of which have supported activities within designated Ramsar Sites. Since 1991, a further Small Grants Fund mechanism has also been used to support a wide range of activities related to the convention. In 2014, the Norwegian government provided initial support to a portfolio of projects that restore wetlands that provide benefits to people in areas of high population density, which may lead to further opportunity. To replenish the existing funding support mechanisms listed above, and to respond to opportunities that arise, we aim to identify additional funders and funding opportunities. Preferably, new funds provided would be in excess of CHF 500,000 per year from a particular funder, to increase efficiency and a lower transaction cost burden on the Secretariat.

## **11. Online system for National Reports (K)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 230,000**

To share, transparently, data about implementation of the convention, it will be useful to develop an online reporting systems based on indicators developed for the 4th Strategic Plan 2016-21.

The level of CHF 230,000 to carry out this work includes assumed costs for updating the national report format for COP 13, sub-contracting UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre to assist in the development of suitable indicators and online reporting system, translation into French and Spanish, and review by relevant Secretariat staff.

**12. Ramsar CEPA programme (L)****Estimated cost: CHF 600,000**

The Ramsar CEPA Programme is important for the outreach that Parties wish to provide in relation to capacity development, increasing awareness and education, and participation in the business and process of wetlands management. Central amongst the immediate needs are a series of CEPA workshops to be able to share information within a region and on specific topics such as wetland education centres at a global level.

The capacity development that is required for the wetlands professionals is linked into the virtual network which will provide areas and topics for attention while the CEPA programme will assist in preparing the necessary training manuals, webinars, online virtual courses, written materials etc. The provision of such materials will be directly or externally sourced through bodies such as University technical college, UNESCO or other water based training centres. A scholarship system would greatly assist in outreach to LDC countries to increase their capacity to attend courses such as water and wetlands management course in Wageningen University and UNESCO Delft as examples of the many courses around the world.

The inter-relationship between CEPA, the virtual network and STRP will form a flow of information that will allow the Convention to be more effectively implemented through building knowledge in people and institutions.

Part of the progression from the current STRP to a more tailored and technical product requires the preparation of a large number of scientific documents in clear easily translatable language and this is essential for outreach on CEPA issues around the world. In addition the close relationships between CEPA and STRP require that the websites are unified into one database that responses to the needs of the 168 Parties and the 150,000 wetland professionals. Assumed costs include:

- 4 Regional Workshops: 30,000 CHF each (120,000 CHF)
- 4 Topic based workshops: 50,000 CHF each (200,000 CHF)
- Scholarship programme: 100,000 CHF
- Unification of materials into the Ramsar website: 70,000 CHF
- Production of STRP/CEPA materials: 110,000 CHF

**13. World Wetlands Day (M)****Estimated cost: CHF 150,000**

For the last 15 years the Convention has been fortunate to have consistent, considerable and sustained support from Danone for work related to World Wetlands Day (WWD) and Wetlands

communications. As we move into the next triennium, we also need to secure funds that will allow support for WWD, at least, to the same level as has been generously provided to date (150,000 euro). It is also to be hoped that a further increase may be secured by closer alignment between the ambitions and goals of the Convention and a global food and water industry.

In addition, it is considered to be strategic and necessary that Parties also provide support to this programme in order to increase their voice and relevance to the debate. The greater focus on a global audience of 7 billion people should attract interest from World Leaders who are interested in promoting wise use of wetlands and displaying best practice on communications around the world.

#### **14. 'Ramsar Sites Outlook' report (N)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 225,000**

In the SC 48 approved draft resolution on 'Status of the Ramsar List', the Contracting Parties *"REQUESTS the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of extending the IUCN World Heritage Outlook to another 100 Ramsar Sites which are under threat, to estimate the costs and propose financial mechanisms to support such actions, and to seek appropriate voluntary funding."*

In order to do so, it would be most efficient to sub-contract a project to IUCN. After discussion of the project with IUCN staff, it is considered that the project would include refining the Outlook methodology for Ramsar, preparation of an assessment (100+ prioritized sites), development of an online platform to host the assessments, translation of the assessments into relevant languages and preparation of a report. The estimated costs over a three year period are CHF 225,000.

#### **15. Pre-COP regional meetings (O)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 650,000**

The pre-COP regional meetings are working meetings designed to analyse the major issues and concerns that characterize the expansion of the Convention and its work. The agendas are designed carefully, to allow for reviewing progress and achievements, sharing experiences, tackling common problems, and of the needs for future actions. In order for such regional meetings to take place and be successful, it is necessary to secure sufficient financial support from Contracting Parties.

The estimated cost of CHF 650,000 is based on previous experience and includes the expected travel and per diems of participants from less developed countries to help ensure full participation, as well as costs associated with venue hire and equipment, where not provided by the host country.

#### **16. COP Sponsored delegates (P)**

**Estimated cost: CHF 600,000**

To ensure the effectiveness of the Conference of Parties requires full participation of all Contracting Parties, and the Secretariat always seeks some level of financial assistance from over 120 Member States which are on the OECD/DAC list of aid recipients.

Assuming participation of one delegate from each country, the funding required to cover travel related expenses is CHF 600,000.

## Annex III

## Illustrative Contracting Parties' contributions 2016-2018 for 3 scenarios and change from 2015

RAMSAR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2015	2016-2018 Contribution per Scenario			Contribution Increase from 2013-2015		
		Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C
		0%	2%	4%	0%	2%	4%
Estimates based on:		CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Membership as at 1 January 2015		CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
UN Scale of Assessments 2015*	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Albania	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Algeria	6,686	6,686	6,824	6,960	-	138	274
Andorra	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Antigua & Barbuda	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Argentina	21,082	21,082	21,518	21,947	-	435	865
Armenia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Australia	101,215	101,215	103,304	105,366	-	2,090	4,152
Austria	38,944	38,944	39,748	40,541	-	804	1,597
Azerbaijan	1,952	1,952	1,992	2,032	-	40	80
Bahamas	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Bahrain	1,903	1,903	1,943	1,981	-	39	78
Bangladesh	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Barbados	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Belarus	2,733	2,733	2,789	2,845	-	56	112
Belgium	48,704	48,704	49,709	50,702	-	1,005	1,998
Belize	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Benin	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Bhutan	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Bolivia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Botswana	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Brazil	143,184	143,184	146,140	149,057	-	2,956	5,873
Bulgaria	2,294	2,294	2,341	2,388	-	47	94
Burkina Faso	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Burundi	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Cambodia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Cameroon	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Canada	145,624	145,624	148,630	151,597	-	3,006	5,973
Cape Verde	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Central African Republic	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Chad	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Chile	16,300	16,300	16,636	16,968	-	337	669
China	251,231	251,231	256,417	261,536	-	5,187	10,305
Colombia	12,640	12,640	12,901	13,158	-	261	518
Comoros	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Congo	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Costa Rica	1,854	1,854	1,893	1,931	-	38	76
Côte d'Ivoire	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Croatia	6,149	6,149	6,276	6,401	-	127	252
Cuba	3,367	3,367	3,437	3,505	-	70	138
Cyprus	2,294	2,294	2,341	2,388	-	47	94
Czech Republic	18,837	18,837	19,226	19,610	-	389	773
Democratic Republic of Congo	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Denmark	32,941	32,941	33,621	34,292	-	680	1,351
Djibouti	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	2,196	2,196	2,241	2,286	-	45	90
Ecuador	2,147	2,147	2,192	2,235	-	44	88
Egypt	6,539	6,539	6,674	6,808	-	135	268
El Salvador	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-

\* Revised UN Scale will be applied, when released.

\*\* As previously, 22% of total contributions from Parties

RAMSAR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2015	2016-2018 Contribution per Scenario			Contribution Increase from 2013-2015		
		Scenario A 0%	Scenario B 2%	Scenario C 4%	Scenario A 0%	Scenario B 2%	Scenario C 4%
Estimates based on:							
Membership as at 1 January 2015							
UN Scale of Assessments 2015*	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	
Estonia	1,952	1,952	1,992	2,032	-	40	80
Fiji	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Finland	25,328	25,328	25,851	26,367	-	523	1,039
France	272,947	272,947	278,582	284,143	-	5,635	11,196
Gabon	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,016	-	-	16
Gambia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Georgia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Germany	348,492	348,492	355,687	362,787	-	7,195	14,295
Ghana	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Greece	31,135	31,135	31,778	32,413	-	643	1,277
Grenada	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Guatemala	1,318	1,318	1,345	1,372	-	27	54
Guinea	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Guinea-Bissau	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Honduras	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Hungary	12,981	12,981	13,249	13,514	-	268	532
Iceland	1,318	1,318	1,345	1,372	-	27	54
India	32,502	32,502	33,173	33,835	-	671	1,333
Indonesia	16,885	16,885	17,234	17,578	-	349	693
Iran, Islamic Republic of	17,373	17,373	17,732	18,086	-	359	713
Iraq	3,319	3,319	3,387	3,455	-	69	136
Ireland	20,399	20,399	20,820	21,236	-	421	837
Israel	19,325	19,325	19,724	20,118	-	399	793
Italy	217,069	217,069	221,551	225,973	-	4,481	8,904
Jamaica	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Japan	528,668	528,668	539,582	550,353	-	10,914	21,685
Jordan	1,074	1,074	1,096	1,118	-	22	44
Kazakhstan	5,905	5,905	6,027	6,147	-	122	242
Kenya	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Kiribati	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Kyrgyz Republic	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Lao Peoples Republic	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Latvia	2,294	2,294	2,341	2,388	-	47	94
Lebanon	2,050	2,050	2,092	2,134	-	42	84
Lesotho	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Liberia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Libya	6,930	6,930	7,073	7,214	-	143	284
Liechtenstein	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Lithuania	3,563	3,563	3,636	3,709	-	74	146
Luxembourg	3,953	3,953	4,035	4,115	-	82	162
Madagascar	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Malawi	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Malaysia	13,713	13,713	13,996	14,276	-	283	562
Mali	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Malta	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Marshall Islands	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Mauritania	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Mauritius	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Mexico	89,893	89,893	91,748	93,580	-	1,856	3,687
Monaco	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Mongolia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Montenegro	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Morocco	3,026	3,026	3,088	3,150	-	62	124
Mozambique	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Myanmar	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-

\* Revised UN Scale will be applied, when released.

\*\* As previously, 22% of total contributions from Parties

RAMSAR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2015	2016-2018 Contribution per Scenario			Contribution Increase from 2013-2015		
		Scenario A 0%	Scenario B 2%	Scenario C 4%	Scenario A 0%	Scenario B 2%	Scenario C 4%
Estimates based on:							
Membership as at 1 January 2015							
UN Scale of Assessments 2015*	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Namibia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Nepal	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Netherlands	80,718	80,718	82,384	84,029	-	1,666	3,311
New Zealand	12,347	12,347	12,602	12,853	-	255	506
Nicaragua	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Niger	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Nigeria	4,392	4,392	4,483	4,572	-	91	180
Norway	41,530	41,530	42,388	43,234	-	857	1,704
Oman, Sultanate of	4,978	4,978	5,081	5,182	-	103	204
Pakistan	4,148	4,148	4,234	4,318	-	86	170
Palau	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Panama	1,269	1,269	1,295	1,321	-	26	52
Papua New Guinea	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Paraguay	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Peru	5,710	5,710	5,828	5,944	-	118	234
Philippines	7,515	7,515	7,671	7,824	-	155	308
Poland	44,946	44,946	45,874	46,790	-	928	1,844
Portugal	23,132	23,132	23,610	24,081	-	478	949
Republic of Korea	97,310	97,310	99,319	101,302	-	2,009	3,992
Republic of Moldova	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Romania	11,029	11,029	11,257	11,482	-	228	452
Russian Federation	118,978	118,978	121,435	123,859	-	2,456	4,880
Rwanda	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Saint Lucia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Samoa	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Sao Tome and Principe	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Senegal	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Serbia	1,952	1,952	1,992	2,032	-	40	80
Seychelles	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Slovakia	8,345	8,345	8,517	8,687	-	172	342
Slovenia	4,880	4,880	4,981	5,080	-	101	200
South Africa	18,154	18,154	18,529	18,899	-	375	745
South Sudan, Republic of	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Spain	145,087	145,087	148,082	151,038	-	2,995	5,951
Sri Lanka	1,220	1,220	1,245	1,270	-	25	50
Sudan	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Suriname	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Swaziland, Kingdom of	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Sweden	46,850	46,850	47,817	48,771	-	967	1,922
Switzerland	51,095	51,095	52,150	53,191	-	1,055	2,096
Syrian Arab Republic	1,757	1,757	1,793	1,829	-	36	72
Tajikistan	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Thailand	11,664	11,664	11,904	12,142	-	241	478
The FYR of Macedonia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Togo	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	2,147	2,147	2,192	2,235	-	44	88
Tunisia	1,757	1,757	1,793	1,829	-	36	72
Turkey	64,809	64,809	66,146	67,467	-	1,338	2,658
Turkmenistan	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-

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\*\* As previously, 22% of total contributions from Parties

RAMSAR ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS	2015	2016-2018 Contribution per Scenario			Contribution Increase from 2013-2015		
		Scenario A 0%	Scenario B 2%	Scenario C 4%	Scenario A 0%	Scenario B 2%	Scenario C 4%
Estimates based on:							
Membership as at 1 January 2015							
UN Scale of Assessments 2015*	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF	CHF
Uganda	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Ukraine	4,831	4,831	4,931	5,030	-	100	198
United Arab Emirates	29,037	29,037	29,636	30,228	-	599	1,191
United Kingdom	252,743	252,743	257,961	263,111	-	5,218	10,367
United Republic of Tanzania	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Uruguay	2,538	2,538	2,590	2,642	-	52	104
Uzbekistan	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Venezuela	30,599	30,599	31,230	31,854	-	632	1,255
Viet Nam	2,050	2,050	2,092	2,134	-	42	84
Yemen	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Zambia	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,778,744</b>	<b>3,778,744</b>	<b>3,855,001</b>	<b>3,930,272</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>76,257</b>	<b>151,529</b>
<b>Other contributions</b>							
United States of America**	1,065,799	1,065,799	1,087,020	1,108,360	-	21,221	42,561
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>4,844,543</b>	<b>4,941,000</b>	<b>5,038,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,478</b>	<b>194,090</b>

\* Revised UN Scale will be applied, when released.

\*\* As previously, 22% of total contributions from Parties



## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR2

### Draft Resolution XII.2

#### The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2021

1. RECALLING the adoption of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 by Resolution X.1 as the basis for the implementation of the Convention during the previous two triennia;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING the need for continuing the implementation of the Convention under the direction of a renewed Strategic Plan that reflects the current wetland conservation challenges, and AWARE that indicators of current trends suggest pressures over biodiversity and other wetland services will increase over the next years;
3. RECOGNIZING the important contribution that the Ramsar Convention has made, in implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015, towards the achievement of the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
4. FUTHER RECOGNIZING that the implementation by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders of Strategic Plans has facilitated over time a progressive delivery of the goals of the Convention, but ALSO RECOGNIZING that, 44 years after the adoption of the Convention, many increasingly urgent challenges remain, to which the Convention will have to adapt and respond in order to consistently achieve wetland conservation and wise use across a changing world;
5. AWARE of an increasing sense of urgency amongst Contracting Parties in the face of accelerating degradation and loss of wetlands, and RECOGNIZING that more effective responses are needed to prevent, stop and reverse degradation;
6. NOTING that Contracting Parties have identified priority actions for the next six years to prevent, stop and reverse the loss and degradation of wetlands, by addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation, effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network, and the wise use of all wetlands and to foster accomplishment of these actions by further enhancing implementation of the Convention;
7. AWARE that Sustainable Development Goals are currently under discussion within the UN post-2015 Development Agenda and RECOGNIZING that all wetlands including the Ramsar Site network will have a direct relevance to the achievement of any Sustainable Development Goals which are related to water quality and supply, food and water security, adaptation to climate change, energy supply, healthy living, biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainable human settlements, poverty reduction, innovation and the development of appropriate infrastructure;

8. AWARE that National Reports provide the opportunity for Contracting Parties to report on implementation progress and any implementation difficulties, and THANKING all those Contracting Parties that have provided their National Reports to the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP12);
9. NOTING that the Contracting Parties differ substantially in their situations and in their capacity to implement the Convention;
10. FURTHER AWARE of the many challenges that still require urgent attention if the wise use of wetlands is to be achieved under the Convention; and
11. NOTING that the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 has been prepared by the Strategic Plan Working Group of the Standing Committee with the support of the Secretariat through a wide consultative process with Contracting Parties, the Convention's International Organization Partners and other stakeholders, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

12. APPROVES the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (hereafter "the Strategic Plan") as annexed to this Resolution as the basis for the implementation of the Convention during this period, and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to disseminate it widely to other stakeholders concerned with its implementation;
13. URGES all Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, The CEPA Oversight Panel, the Secretariat, the Convention's International Organization Partners, the regional initiatives to take on the renewed challenge of implementing the Strategic Plan through its goals and targets;
14. INVITES other stakeholders such as, *inter alia*, other multilateral environmental agreements, non-governmental organizations, scientific academies and research institutions, professional scientific and technical bodies, donors, and private companies to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
15. REQUESTS that the Secretariat structure the National Report Format for COP13 in line with the Goals and Targets of the new Ramsar Strategic Plan, and develop global wetland and wise use indicators in cooperation with other MEAs and UNEP agencies (such as UNEP-WCMC and UNEP-GRID) in order to assess its implementation, for Contracting Parties' consideration at the 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC51).
16. URGES Contracting Parties as appropriate to continuously monitor progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and communicate progress as well as any difficulties in implementing the Plan in their National Reports and to their regional representatives in the Standing Committee; and REQUESTS the Standing Committee on the basis of the information provided to assess progress and any difficulties in implementing the Plan at its meetings;
17. ENCOURAGES Parties to allocate from national budgets financial resources for the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan for wetlands and inform as appropriate in the National Report to COP13.

18. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to establish and submit to the Secretariat on or before December 2016 their own national targets in line with the targets set in the Strategic Plan according to their national priorities and capabilities, and to develop their own work plan and consider mechanisms for its implementation;
19. ENCOURAGES the Ramsar regional initiatives, including the Ramsar centres, to develop work plans for assisting the Parties in their respective regions to effectively implement the Strategic Plan.
20. REQUESTS the Standing Committee with the support of the Secretariat to make any adjustments to the Strategic Plan, especially those which may be necessary to align it more closely to the Sustainable Development Goals by COP13; and
21. FURTHER REQUESTS that SC53 in 2018 conclude a mid-term review of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan using Contracting Parties' National Reports and other information sources as available, to adjust the Strategic Plan as appropriate and report its findings at COP13.

## Annex

### 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat – the “Ramsar Convention”

#### **The Mission of the Ramsar Convention**

**Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.**

To achieve this Mission it is essential that the vital ecosystem services<sup>1</sup>, and especially those related to water and those that wetlands provide to people and nature through their natural infrastructure, are fully recognized, maintained, restored and wisely used.

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<sup>1</sup> The term "ecosystem services" refers to "provisioning, supporting, regulating and cultural" services (MEA 2005). Ramsar terms are "services", "benefits", "values", "functions", "goods" and "products" (source: Resolution IX.1 Annex A).

## Rationale

### A Vision for the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan

“Prevent, stop and reverse the degradation and loss of wetlands and use them wisely”

### Background

1. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, the first of which was prepared in 1997<sup>2</sup>. The work of the Convention has since 1997 been organised around three pillars: the wise use of all wetlands through national plans, policies and legislation, management actions and public education; the designation and sustainable management of suitable wetlands for inclusion on the list of Wetlands of International Importance; and international cooperation on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems, shared species and development projects that may affect wetlands.
2. The **wise use of wetlands** is the key concept orienting the work of the Ramsar Convention. “Wise use of wetlands” is defined as “the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development”. Wise use therefore has at its heart the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources, for the benefit of people and nature.

### Importance of Wetlands

3. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar Convention”) is the only ecosystem-focused convention. The Ramsar Sites network constitutes the largest network of officially recognised internationally important areas in the world. This network of wetlands, comprising 2,186 sites covering 208.5<sup>3</sup> million hectares, constitutes the backbone of a global network of wetlands providing life-sustaining services to people and nature. The identification and the management of these wetlands, for conservation and sustainability, is a core purpose of the Convention, essential for the realisation of long-term benefits for biological diversity and people.
4. Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.
5. Wetlands deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water supply, water purification, climate regulation, flood regulation, coastal protection, useful fibres, spiritual and cultural inspiration and tourism.
6. Wetlands play a key role in economic activity linked to transportation, food production, water risk management, pollution control, fishing and hunting, leisure and the provision of ecological infrastructure.

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<sup>2</sup> 1997 – 2014: During which 3 Strategic Plans have been implemented: SP1 (1997 – 2002); SP2 (2003 – 2008); SP 3 (2009 – 2015)

<sup>3</sup> see <http://www.ramsar.org/>

7. Most of the water we collect and use comes from wetlands<sup>4</sup>. However, water is unevenly distributed and today, over 700 million people live without access to safe drinking water. In addition 2.5 billion people lack sanitation impacting further on wetlands<sup>5</sup>.
8. Wetlands are too often equated with wastelands and there is little awareness of the vital services that wetlands bring.

### Trends in Wetlands

9. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) identifies four classes of ecosystem services<sup>6</sup>. These are: Supporting, Provisioning, Regulating, and Cultural. These classes<sup>7</sup> will be taken into account, inter alia, for considering ecosystem services within this Strategic Plan, respecting the different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country for the consideration and management of ecosystems functions.
10. At a global level, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment<sup>8</sup> found that inland and coastal wetland ecosystems were (in 2005) being lost at a rate faster than that of any other ecosystem, and the trend towards loss of wetlands resources has not been reversed since. The primary indirect drivers of this degradation and loss are identified as population growth and increasing economic development; the primary direct drivers of degradation and loss are identified as infrastructure development, land conversion, water withdrawal, eutrophication and pollution, overharvesting, overexploitation of wetland resources, and invasive alien species.
11. A recent study<sup>9</sup> of long-term and recent trends in global wetland area, based on a review of 189 reports of change in wetland areas finds that the reported long-term loss of natural wetlands averages between 54 – 57% but that loss may have been as high as 87% since 1700 AD. There has been a much (3.7 times) faster rate of wetland loss during the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, with a loss of 64-71% of wetlands since 1900. The study further notes that conversion of coastal natural wetlands accelerated more than that of inland natural wetlands in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and that conversion and loss is continuing in all parts of the world, and particularly rapidly in Asia.
12. The costs of loss of freshwater wetlands worldwide from 1997 to 2011 has been valued at US\$2.7 trillion per year, the costs of loss of tidal marshes / mangroves has been estimated at US\$7.2 trillion per year and the loss of coral reefs has been estimated at US\$11.9 trillion<sup>10</sup>.
13. The Report “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands”<sup>11</sup> notes that values of inland and coastal ecosystem services are typically higher than for other ecosystem types, that the “nexus” between water, food and energy is one of the most fundamental relationships – and increasing challenges – for societies, that wetlands provide ecological infrastructure that can help to reach a range of policy objectives, that wetland loss

<sup>4</sup> Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, UNICEF, WHO, 2012

<sup>5</sup> See [http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash\\_statistics.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash_statistics.html)

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.356.aspx.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Further definition is given to these classes in the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) at [www.nottingham.ac.uk/cem](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cem)

<sup>8</sup> See <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.358.aspx.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> N. Davidson, How much wetland has the world lost? Long-term and recent trends in global wetland area, CSIRO Publishing, Marine and Freshwater Research, 2014, **65**, 934 – 942, September 2014

<sup>10</sup> R. Costanza et al., Changes in the Global value of ecosystem services, *Global Environmental Change* 26 (2014) 152 - 158

<sup>11</sup> The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands, IIEP; Ramsar, 2013

can lead to significant loss of human well-being and have negative economic impacts on communities, countries and businesses, and that wetlands-related and water-related ecosystem services need to become an integral part of water management in order to make the transition to a resource-efficient, sustainable economy.

14. The Global Biodiversity Outlook 4<sup>12</sup> also indicates that the trend of wetland loss and degradation is worsening. In contrast to natural wetlands however, it notes that the area of human-made wetlands tends to be increasing. Despite the partly good progress, additional action is required to achieve global Aichi targets for 2020. For achieving the 2050 vision for an end to biodiversity loss in conjunction with key human development goals for climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, requires changes in society including much more efficient use of land, water, energy and materials, rethinking our consumption habits and in particular major transformations of food systems.

### **Global Context**

15. Sustainable Development Goals are currently under discussion. It is anticipated that all wetlands and the Ramsar Site network will have a direct relevance for any Sustainable Development Goals that emerge which are related to water quality and supply, food and water security, adaptation to climate change, energy supply, healthy living, biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainable human settlements, poverty eradication, innovation and the development of appropriate infrastructure
16. The Ramsar Sites network, and the effective management of the 208.5 million hectares of Ramsar sites and more widely of the world's wetlands could make a major contribution to the work of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including those related to water and / or biodiversity such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Targets, the Convention on Migratory Species, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

### **Review<sup>13</sup> of Progress in the Implementation of the Third Strategic Plan**

17. A review of progress with implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan was made on the basis of National Reports to COP 11 and responses by Contracting Parties and Ramsar partners to a questionnaire on the Strategic Plan in 2014.
18. The main conclusion of the review of implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan was that at an overall, global level, the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan can be characterised as a work in progress. It is noted that a number of core aspects of the Convention, such as identification of potential Ramsar Sites, inventories, preparation of management plans, monitoring of Site status and ecological character, and reporting under the Convention continue to require regular attention and action.
19. The other main finding is that there is an increasing sense of urgency amongst Contracting Parties in the face of accelerating degradation and loss of wetlands and that responding to this requires enhanced engagement with drivers of loss and degradation in order to prevent, stop

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<sup>12</sup> Report "Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An Assessment of Biodiversity Trends, Policy Scenarios and Key Actions" available at <https://www.cbd.int/gbo4advance>.

<sup>13</sup> A review of the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan has been completed and is available at [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605\\_4000\\_0](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605_4000_0).

and reverse degradation through a mainstreaming of wetland values in public and private investments and management of wetlands.

### Priority Areas of Focus<sup>14</sup> for the Convention in the Next Six Years

20. This summary of priority concerns of the Ramsar Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Convention in the 2016 – 2021 period is drawn from National Reports to COP 11, from the questionnaire on the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan completed by many Contracting Parties and partners in 2014, and from Regional Consultations held during the Pre-COP regional consultations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe in October and November 2014.
21. **Preventing, stopping and reversing the loss and degradation of wetlands:** The largest changes in loss of wetlands continue to be from unsustainable agriculture and extractive industries, especially oil and gas, the impacts of population growth (including migration and urbanisation) and changes in land use that over-ride environmental considerations. Addressing and engaging the drivers behind these pressures on wetlands is a condition for limiting, adapting to, and mitigating their impacts. Realization of this fact and its consideration in planning and decision-making requires that wetland resources and wetland ecosystem benefits are measured, valued and understood widely within societies.
22. **Science based advice and guidance:** Enhancing the generation and delivery of science based advice and guidance to practitioners and policy makers through the STRP and CEPA processes.
23. **Climate change and wetlands:** Understanding the critical importance of wetlands for mitigating the effects of climate change and adaptation to climate change, in particular for its impacts on small island states<sup>1516</sup>.
24. **Information on wetlands' services and benefits:** The values (support, provision, regulation, cultural) offered by wetlands are still not well understood outside of specialised circles and are not taken account of in planning of public and private investments and initiatives that impact on the ecological character of wetlands. The lack of recognition of wetland values – including for poverty alleviation and in the provision of ecosystem services – is a major factor in both their decline and in the modesty of wetland restoration efforts.
25. **Communicating wetland services and benefits:** Mainstreaming wetland values and enhancing the visibility of the Convention through reaching out with effective communications to decision makers and the wider public. This should contribute to an enhanced understanding of the contribution of wetland values (supporting, provisioning, regulating, cultural) to people's livelihoods and health, economic development and biodiversity and water.
26. **Enhancing cooperation:** Coordinating / participating in cooperation platforms<sup>17</sup> (site level, city, river basin, national, regional and global levels) bringing together site and other managers, key

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<sup>14</sup> Particular challenges and conditions are described for each region in the COP 11 Regional Overviews and in the responses to the Questionnaires to Contracting Parties and partners (see [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605_4000_0__)

<sup>15</sup> The impacts of climate change induced sea-level rise, changes in hydrology and temperature of water bodies, coral bleaching in turn reduce the capacity of wetlands to mitigate the impacts of climate change, especially in small island states.

<sup>16</sup> Briefing note from the STEP and Secretariat to Contracting parties, UNFCCC Climate Change Meeting, Copenhagen, 7-18 December 2009; STRP Briefing Note No. 5: Evaluating the Risk to Ramsar Sites from climate change and sea level rise.

private and public stakeholders, to promote mainstreaming of wetland values (supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural) within water and biodiversity management and public and private investments.

27. **Implementing the Convention:** Improving compliance with Ramsar provisions concerning Ramsar Site updates, inventories of all wetlands and Wetlands of International Importance, maintenance of ecological character and management of sites especially on the Montreux Record, the preparation of management plans for all Ramsar sites, and implementation of these management plans on the ground through the presence of staff, appropriate infrastructure and other resources.
28. **Invasive alien species:** Acting to limit and eradicate invasive species in wetlands.
29. **Identifying and designating, the most important wetlands as Ramsar Sites,** based on national inventories to ensure their protection for the future and the inclusion of under-represented wetland types in the Ramsar Site network.
30. **Wise use of wetlands:** Wetlands that are providing local, basin-level, national, regional and global benefits, are well and actively managed to ensure that the ecological functions are maintained.
31. **Synergies<sup>18</sup>:** Enhancing efforts to streamline procedures and processes and to facilitate data sharing amongst parties responsible for – or cooperating in – the implementation of this and other MEAs and related agreements. Through cooperation, aim to increase the identification of synergies with collaborating MEAs and agreements at national and global levels.
32. **Financing:** Funding is needed to manage wetlands. Adequate financing is a particular challenge in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and Small Island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition.
33. **River Basin perspective:** Analysing and expressing wetland services and benefits at river basin level, taking into account the connection between upstream water use and downstream water requirements, engaging with the stakeholders is necessary to recognise wetlands as part of a wider water cycle.

#### Implementing the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan

34. The 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 calls for actions to be undertaken by the Contracting Parties, supported by the Secretariat, the Ramsar regional initiatives, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the CEPA (Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness) network, and in collaboration with International Organization Partners (IOPs) and partner intergovernmental organisations and MEAs.
35. Contracting Parties promote implementation of the Strategic Plan at national and regional levels by developing National Wetlands policies, strategies, action plans, projects and programmes or other appropriate ways to mobilise action and support for wetlands.
36. It is understood that the Contracting Parties differ substantially in their situations and in their ability to implement the Convention. Each Party is encouraged to establish its own priorities

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<sup>17</sup> National Wetland Committees; biodiversity, water, regional bodies ...

<sup>18</sup> Annex 2 shows convergence between Ramsar Strategic Plan and Aichi targets.

within the Strategic Plan, develop its own work plan for implementing them, and consider its own use of its own resources. When reporting each Party will be requested to explain its results in implementing the Strategic Plan.

37. Contracting Parties may wish to synergize their efforts aimed at implementing the Convention with measures that they take to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and other regional and global MEAs as they deem appropriate.

### **Enabling Conditions for Implementation**

38. The successful achievement of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan depends on the commitment and engagement of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders. Based on views expressed by Contracting Parties during the consultative process for the preparation of this Strategic Plan, a certain number of factors that will enable and facilitate implementation have been identified. Contracting Parties and Convention partners are urged to cooperate in the implementation of these measures.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

39. Global and national funds currently committed to the conservation and wise use of wetlands are insufficient to achieve the full suite of goals and targets expressed in this plan. Creative mobilisation of additional resources for wetland conservation and wise use, and for engaging with drivers of wetland degradation and loss, is required at local, national, regional and global levels. This mobilisation can be achieved through the Resource Mobilisation and Partnership Framework and the efforts of Contracting Parties, Ramsar regional initiatives, IOPs and the Secretariat's Partnership Unit.

### **Outreach and Promotion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan**

40. The Secretariat's activities in Communications will be enhanced, including CEPA (communications, education, participation and awareness raising), to enable the Convention to be better known and its brand recognized as well as increasing involvement of the target audience in wetlands issues. These efforts will support the CEPA focal points network and the outreach and promotion activities of Contracting Parties.

### **Partnerships**

41. The wise use of wetlands and their resources will ultimately involve a range of actors well beyond those responsible for the management and maintenance of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. This holds at local, national, regional and global levels where existing partnerships with Ramsar regional initiatives, IOPs and MEAs should be strengthened and new partnerships with civil society and the business sector forged in order to enhance Convention implementation and reverse the rates of loss and degradation of wetlands.

### **International Cooperation**

42. The Ramsar Convention has put in place a series of arrangements for international cooperation in order to link Ramsar with global debates and processes related to sustainable development including water, livelihoods, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, resilience and carbon sinks. These relationships will be consolidated over the coming period.

- The Ramsar Convention is the lead partner in the implementation of the Inland Waters Biodiversity programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The Parties to the Ramsar Convention have granted IOP status to five leading organisations (Birdlife International, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International, and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)) which are actively contributing in all the regions and on a regular basis to the further development of policies and tools of the Convention and their application at the national and local levels, particularly by assisting Contracting Parties to deliver conservation and wise use on the ground and meet their obligations under the Convention.
- The Ramsar Convention participates in the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) bringing together the heads of the Secretariats of six biodiversity-related conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species and Wild Animals (CMS); the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC); the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)).
- Memorandums of understanding and cooperation have been signed<sup>19</sup> with forty eight partners ranging the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species, to UNESCO, UNCTAD and the World Bank and including the UN World Tourism Organization (WTO), the Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Ramsar International Organization Partners; the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA); the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the Society of Wetland Scientists, Ducks Unlimited (USA); the Stetson University College of Law (Florida, USA); the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

#### Regional Cooperation

43. Regional cooperation, at transboundary and regional levels should be strengthened both for cooperation in the management of shared wetland and water resources and in the development of enabling conditions. Regional Initiatives (Regional Centres and networks) are effective mechanisms for regional cooperation in specific regions or sub-regions. Ramsar's 15 regional initiatives will support regional and transboundary cooperation, capacity-building, technology and knowledge exchanges, wetland related communications and mobilisation of financial resources for on the ground wetland activities.

#### Bilateral Cooperation

44. Bilateral cooperation between Contracting Parties aimed at knowledge and technology sharing, transboundary collaboration in managing shared wetland ecosystems, and in financing wetland conservation and wise use will be promoted and supported by all actors, including the Ramsar Secretariat, Ramsar regional initiatives and IOPs, especially in transboundary wetland basins.

#### Capacity Building

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<sup>19</sup> The full list of the 48 memorandums of understanding / cooperation signed by the Convention can be found at [http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-mous/main/ramsar/1-31-115\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-mous/main/ramsar/1-31-115_4000_0__)

45. Contracting Parties, Ramsar regional initiatives, IOPs and other partners need to address capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in a range of fields, including inventory, wetland management, wetland status monitoring and assessment, communications and promotion of wetlands and wetland values, scientific and technical knowledge and guidance, knowledge and technology exchange.

#### Languages

46. The use of additional languages by the Convention may constitute an important means for extending its reach and visibility in regions of the world where understanding of the work and value of the Convention is currently not well known.

### **Goals and Targets 2016 – 2021**

The Goals of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan have been formulated in recognition of the fact that a new approach is needed in order to change the negative direction of the trends described in paragraphs 13 – 18 above.

These Goals constitute the four priority areas for the Ramsar Convention for the 2016 – 2021 period. They include three Strategic Goals and one Operational Goal which supports them.

The Table in Annex presents more details about the goals, including the tools, lead actors, indicators, and baselines for the Goals and Targets outlined below.

#### ***Strategic Goals***

##### **Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation**

The impacts on wetlands of unsustainable agriculture, changing land use and extractive economic activities, population increase, migration and urbanisation are growing. Influencing the drivers of wetland degradation and loss and the integration of wetland values into planning and decision making require that wetland resources and ecosystem benefits be measured, valued and understood widely within societies. Contracting parties, the Secretariat, Regional Initiatives and IOPs will enhance their engagement with relevant stakeholders in order to diminish threats, influence trends, restore wetlands and communicate good practices.

- Target 1: Wetland benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure at the national and local level
- Target 2: Water use sustainability is improved while respecting ecosystem and basin requirements
- Target 3: Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands
- Target 4: Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

## **Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network**

Ramsar Sites constitute the largest network of officially recognised internationally important areas in the world. This network constitutes the backbone of a larger network of wetlands providing life-sustaining services to people and nature. Parties must recommit themselves to efforts to protecting and effectively managing the existing Ramsar Sites, as well as to expanding the reach of the Convention by continuously working to add more sites and areas of wetlands recognized under the Convention.

Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained, through effective planning and management.

Target 6: There is a significant increase in the Ramsar site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands and transboundary sites

Target 7: Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed.

## **Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands**

The wise use of all wetlands requires that Parties ensure they are addressing wetlands beyond those currently included in the Ramsar Site network. This work will necessarily occur at the national, subnational, regional, and transboundary levels, including at basin level. Mainstreaming recognition of ecosystem services and benefits into a wide range of sectors and with a broad array of actors will help ensure the success of this effort.

Target 8: National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.

Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the scale of the basin.

Target 10: Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented.

Target 11: Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Target 12: Sustainable fishery, agriculture and ecotourism are expanded, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.

### ***Operational Goal***

## **Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation**

It will be vital for the survival of wetlands and the success of the Convention for Parties to enhance their implementation. Various approaches will help strengthen the implementation of the three Strategic Goals, and ultimately of the Convention itself. They involve critical actions to be undertaken by Contracting Parties themselves, and in partnership with other Parties and other entities, in particular with regard to scientific and technical advice and guidance, resource mobilization, public awareness, visibility and capacity building. The Ramsar Secretariat will also play

a vital role in raising awareness and visibility for the Convention, as well as mobilizing resources to support enhancing implementation.

- Target 13: Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language
- Target 14: Ramsar regional initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.
- Target 15: Wetland values are mainstreamed through communications, education, public participation and awareness.
- Target 16: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 from all sources are substantially increased
- Target 17: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels
- Target 18: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 is enhanced.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

1. The Table showing Goals, targets, tools, indicators and baseline in Annex 1 can be used as a basis for organising the implementation of the Strategic Plan at national and other levels.
2. Global indicators<sup>20</sup> of wetland status will be developed in cooperation with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and agencies (e.g. UNEP-WCMC) and wetland research centres. These global indicators will assist Contracting Parties in assessing progress in the achievement of the 3 strategic Goals of this plan.
3. Specific indicators are identified in the accompanying table (Annex 1) for each of the targets identified. These indicators will be monitored by Contracting Parties as appropriate, for example through national targets, and will provide the basis for a revision of the National Reporting format to be used for the 2016 – 2021 period.
4. The Standing Committee will keep the implementation of the Strategic Plan under review, based on regular reports from the Secretariat and the STRP, and based on National Reports prepared for each reporting cycle.
5. A mid-term review to be concluded in 2018 of the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> strategic plan will make recommendations for adjustment to be considered in SC53 to be submitted to COP13.

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<sup>20</sup> It is recalled that COP XI.6 :47 urges the Secretariat to support the STRP in developing biological indicators on the results of the Convention's activities, in collaboration with other biodiversity MEAs so as to achieve a coherent approach to indicator development, so that an evaluation of the effectiveness of Convention implementation can take place at least once in each reporting cycle.

## Annex 1: Ramsar Goals and Targets with Relevant Tools, Actors, Baselines and Indicators

<b>Strategic Goals</b>				
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b>				
<b>No</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Tools</b>	<b>Key Actors</b>	<b>Indicator(s) Baseline</b>
1	Wetland benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure at the national and local level.	Engage with natural resource users at river basin and national level to integrate wetland contributions to water, biodiversity and sustainable development targets of the international community	Contracting Parties, with support of Secretariat, IOPs, key sectors (water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure)	<p><b>Base line</b></p> <p>19% of Contracting Parties have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar sites (National Reports to COP12<sup>21</sup>)</p> <p>70% of Contracting Parties have included wetland issues into national strategies and planning process such as water resource management and water efficiency plans and 47% of Contracting Parties into National Policies or measures on agriculture. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar sites</p> <p>% of national policy strategies and plans from key sectors include considerations of wetlands benefits and ecosystem services</p>
2	Water use sustainability is improved while respecting ecosystem and basin requirements.	Understand the water requirements of wetland ecosystem services, and engage with water users at site and river basin and national level to maintain / restore necessary water allocations.	Contracting Parties, with support of Secretariat, IOPs, productive sectors.	<p><b>Base line:</b> e.g. demands of water from productive sectors.</p> <p>70% of Contracting Parties have included wetland issues into national strategies and planning process such as water resource management and water efficiency plans and 47% in National Policies or measures on agriculture. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>70% - Percentage of all withdrawals from surface water and</p>

<sup>21</sup> Information based on 131 National Reports received to COP 12.

				<p>groundwater is used for agricultural purposes. (Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (2007).</p> <p>Agriculture accounts for 70% of all water withdrawn by the agricultural, municipal and industrial (including energy) sectors. (The United Nations World Water Development Report 4, Volume 1, Unesco 2012)</p> <p>Worldwide industry accounts for 19% of all water withdrawal (The UN World Water Development Report 2014).</p> <p>15% of world's water withdrawal is for energy production (estimation in 2010). (The UN World Water Development Report 2014).</p> <p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have included wetland issues into national strategies and in the planning process for water resource management and water efficiency plans and in National Policies or measures on agriculture and industrial sector.</p>
3	Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands.	Engage with business sector/private sector	Contracting Parties, with support of Secretariat, IOPs, business/public private sector.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>Currently 50% of Parties report actions taken to implement incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>37% of Parties report actions taken to remove perverse incentive measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>45% of CPs have encouraged the private sector to apply the Ramsar wise use principle guidelines in its activities and investments concerning wetlands . (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>62% of CPs report private sector undertaking activities for the wise use and management of Ramsar sites and 60% in wetlands in general. (National Reports to COP12).</p>

				<p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% incentive measures have been implemented to encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands or remove perverse incentive measures.</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have encouraged the private sector to apply the Ramsar wise use principle guidelines.</p> <p>% of private sector undertaking activities for the wise use and management of Ramsar sites.</p> <p>Pollution levels, including from excess nutrients, waste water, solid waste, have been brought to levels that are not detrimental to delivery of wetland services</p>
4	Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<p>Complete inventory for all sites</p> <p>Prepare management response as appropriate (national policies or guidelines).</p> <p>Trends in invasive alien species</p>	Contracting Parties (MEA; IGOs, WCMC)	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>20 % of Contracting Parties have a national inventory of invasive alien species. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>36 % of Contracting Parties have established national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties having a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands.</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have established national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management.</p> <p>% of invasive species that have been eradicated per country.</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have controlled or eradicated invasive species.</p>

<b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>				
5	The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained, through effective planning and management.	<p>Improved management of Ramsar sites and wetlands through managements plans and enhanced resources</p> <p>The Secretariat will compile a comprehensive database of all relevant contacts including site managers, focal points, administrative authorities, and other sector actors</p>	<p>Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat, IOPs.</p> <p>(cross sectoral committees, NWC, Watershed Committees)</p>	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>Currently 1,107 sites have a management plan and 973 sites have management plans that are being implemented. (National Reports to COP12)</p> <p>27% of Contracting Parties have made assessments of effective management of Ramsar sites. (National Reports to COP12)</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Ramsar sites in the Ramsar Sites network that have management plans under implementation</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have made assessments of effective management of Ramsar sites.</p> <p>% of Ramsar sites that have updated RIS.</p> <p>% red list species loss and % of water birds population estimates and trends.</p>
6	There is a significant increase in the Ramsar site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands and transboundary sites.	<p>Strengthen the list of Ramsar sites with under-represented wetland types or transboundary sites.</p> <p>Wetlands inventories, Red List Index, Living Planet Index, Wild Bird Index.</p>	<p>Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat, IOPs.</p>	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>In current SP: By 2015 at least 2,500 Ramsar sites designated worldwide covering at least 250 million hectares.</p> <p><b>3 Indicators</b></p> <p>Number of Ramsar sites that have been designated</p> <p>Ha of Ramsar sites designated</p> <p>% of underrepresented types of wetlands and transboundary sites.</p>
7	Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have	<p>Identification and implementation of measures to</p>	<p>Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat</p>	<p><b>Baseline</b></p>

	threats addressed.	remove sites from Article 3.2 or Montreux Record.  Ramsar Advisory missions.		<p>Currently 2.24 % of Ramsar Sites are in the Montreux Record.</p> <p>21% of Contracting Parties have reported to the Ramsar Secretariat all cases of negative human- induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites pursuant to Article 3.2. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>16% of Contracting Parties have taken actions to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>No. of Ramsar Sites listed in the Montreux Record removed.</p> <p>% of parties reporting to secretariat potential risks to ecological character of Ramsar Sites pursuant to Article 3.2.</p> <p>% of Parties responding to secretariat queries regarding potential risks to ecological character of Ramsar Sites</p> <p>Number (%) of Sites listed under Article 3.2 or Montreux Record.</p>
<b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b>				
8	National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	Red List Index, Living Planet Index, Wild Bird Index, Ramsar Handbooks, remote sensing data on wetlands.	Contracting Parties (Secretariat).	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>Currently 47% of Contracting Parties at the global level have a complete national wetlands inventory (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>% of National wetlands inventories that have been completed or updated.</p>
9	The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the scale of the basin.	Promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in other sectoral policies, plans or strategies	Contracting Parties, national and local stakeholders.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>55 % of Contracting Parties have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote wise use of wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p>

		<p>Participatory platforms at wetland, river basin, national and other appropriate levels are joined or created to engage with concerned stakeholders</p> <p>Wetland/ wetland related governance platforms at basin level are in place.</p>		<p>71% of Contracting Parties consider wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basin. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of CP with <b>Wetland or wetland-related coordination mechanisms</b> at basin level in place</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote wise use of wetlands</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that consider wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of basin.</p>
10	Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented	<p>Promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in other sectoral policies, plans or strategies</p> <p>TEEB report, assessment of ecosystems services.</p> <p>Implementation of programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation.</p>	Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat, IPBES, IOPs.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>19% of Contracting Parties have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar sites. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>39% of Contracting Parties have incorporated wetlands issues into poverty eradication strategies. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>42% of Contracting Parties have implemented programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar sites</p> <p>No. of case studies related to services and benefits of wetlands for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poverty reduction and livelihoods</li> <li>2. Disaster risk reduction</li> <li>3. Leisure and recreation</li> </ol> <p>are widely demonstrated and documented</p>

11	Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands , with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.	Restoration initiatives taken, projects, programmes implemented.	Contracting Parties (STRP; Secretariat).	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>68% of Contracting Parties have identified priority sites for restoration. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>70% of Contracting Parties have implemented restoration or rehabilitation programmes. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have established priority sites for restoration.</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have implemented restoration or rehabilitation projects.</p> <p>No of hectares of wetlands restored.</p>
12	Sustainable fishery, agriculture and ecotourism are expanded, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.	As a new target agreed during SC48, tools, key actors and indicators will be prepared for SC51 consideration.		
<b>Operational Goal</b>				
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>				
13	Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.	STRP leads with support from Secretariat in producing guidance Guidance is adopted by COP and used by Contracting parties and other stakeholders	STRP	<p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>% of contracting parties reporting on use of Ramsar guidance.</p> <p>Number of times STRP briefing papers and technical papers referenced in the media</p>
14	Ramsar regional initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in	As a new target agreed during SC48, tools, key actors and indicators will be prepared for SC51 consideration.		

	each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.			
15	Wetland values are mainstreamed through communications, education, public participation and awareness.	<p>The Secretariat's CEPA programme will deliver high profile media and public awareness placements and programs to raise the convention's image.</p> <p>CEPA and capacity development programmes implemented</p>	Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat and IOPs	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>89% of Contracting Parties have branded World Wetlands Day activities. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>27% of Contracting Parties have established action plans for wetland CEPA at the national level (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>636 centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established in Ramsar sites and 309 centres at other wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of CP recognizing WWD and actively celebrating it, with number of participants and number of activities.</p> <p>Number of mentions in media and press on world wetlands day</p> <p>Number of pledges to support wise use of wetlands on World Wetlands Day</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties implementing CEPA plans.</p> <p>No. of education centers at Ramsar sites and number of people reached (e.g. visitors).</p>
16	Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 from all sources are substantially increased	The Secretariat's Partnership team will raise non core funds to fund priority convention activities.	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, development assistance agencies.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>21% of Contracting Parties have provided additional financial support through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>40% of Contracting Parties have received funding support from</p>

				<p>development assistance agencies for national wetlands conservation and management. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>47% of Contracting Parties have received assistance from one or more of the Convention's IOPs in their implementation of the Convention. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% increase in international financial resources made available for wetland related activities in particular for developing countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition.</p> <p>No. of Parties reporting an increase in domestic financial resources for the implementation of the Strategic Plan</p> <p>No of Parties reporting an increase in domestic non financial resources for the implementation of the Strategic Plan</p> <p>% increase in non financial resource availability from other sources. (from NR, IOPs, etc)</p> <p>% increase in non core contributions to Ramsar.</p>
17	International cooperation is strengthened at all levels	Regional initiatives, multilateral and bilateral agreements, Memorandums of Understanding.	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, Regional Centres, MEAs.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>35% of Contracting Parties have established networks including twinning arrangements nationally or internationally for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>33% of Contracting Parties have effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example in shared river basins and coastal zones). (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>68% of Contracting Parties have been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiatives under the framework of the Convention (National Reports to COP12).</p>

				<p>7 Memoranda of Understanding signed with other Global and Regional Conventions. (Ramsar Secretariat).</p> <p>40 Memoranda of Understanding signed with International Organizations, global and regional intergovernmental organisations and processes and with other non-intergovernmental organizations. (Ramsar Secretariat).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>No. of Ramsar sites partnering to share information and experience</p> <p>No. of MEAs collaborating with the Ramsar Convention with practical outputs.</p> <p>No. of partnerships undertaken by the Ramsar Convention with stakeholders and other international organizations and international financial institutions</p> <p>No. of Regional Initiatives successfully implemented.</p> <p>No. of partnership including south-south, north-south and triangular among Ramsar Contracting Parties.</p> <p>No. of new countries becoming Parties to the Ramsar Convention.</p>
18	Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 is enhanced.	<p>Projects, programmes and events that promote wise use of wetlands with the active involvement of wetland managers and users.</p> <p>CEPA plans, World Wetlands Day, training courses.</p>	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, Regional Initiatives, Regional Centres, wetland managers and users, MEAs.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>20% of Contracting Parties have made an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% increase in training activities and educational programmes related to strategic goals 1 and 2 for the implementation of the Convention.</p> <p>No. of Parties reporting knowledge and technology transfer activities relating to the strategic goals.</p>

## Annex 2: Synergies between CBD Aichi Targets and Ramsar Targets

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016 - 2021			Aichi Targets 2010 - 2020
<b>Ramsar Strategic Goals</b>			
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b>		<b>Aichi Target # 5</b>	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
<b>Target 1</b>	Wetlands benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure at the national and local level	<b>Aichi Target # 2</b>	By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
<b>Target 2</b>	Water use sustainability is improved while respecting ecosystem and basin requirements	<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
		<b>Aichi Target # 8</b>	By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
<b>Target 3</b>	Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands	<b>Aichi Target # 4</b>	By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
		<b>Aichi Target # 3</b>	By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.
		<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 8</b>	same as above
<b>Target 4</b>	Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment	<b>Aichi Target # 9</b>	By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

<b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>		<b>Aichi Target # 11</b>	same as above
<b>Target 5</b>	The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained, through effective planning and management	<b>Aichi Target # 11</b>	By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
		<b>Aichi Target # 12</b>	By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
		<b>Aichi Target # 6</b>	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
<b>Target 6</b>	There is a significant increase in the Ramsar site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands and transboundary sites	<b>Aichi Target # 11</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 10</b>	By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.
<b>Target 7</b>	Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed.	<b>Aichi Target # 12</b>	Same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 5</b>	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
		<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 11</b>	same as above

<b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b>			
<b>Target 8</b>	National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	<b>Aichi Target # 14</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 18</b>	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
		<b>Aichi Target # 19</b>	By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
		<b>Aichi Target # 12</b>	same as above
<b>Target 9</b>	The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the scale of the basin.	<b>Aichi Target # 4</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 6</b>	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
		<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	same as above
<b>Target 10</b>	Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented	<b>Aichi Target # 13</b>	By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.
		<b>Aichi Target # 1</b>	By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps taken to conserve and use it sustainably.
		<b>Aichi Target # 2</b>	same as above

		<b>Aichi Target # 14</b>	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
<b>Target 11</b>	Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.	<b>Aichi Target # 15</b>	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
		<b>Aichi Target # 14</b>	same as above
<b>Target 12</b>	Sustainable fishery, agriculture and ecotourism are expanded, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.	<b>Aichi Target # 6</b>	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
		<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
<b>Operational Goal</b>			
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>			
<b>Target 13</b>	Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language	<b>Aichi Target # 19</b>	same as above
<b>Target 14</b>	Ramsar regional initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.		
<b>Target 15</b>	Wetland values are mainstreamed through communications, educational participation and awareness.	<b>Aichi Target # 1</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 18</b>	same as above
<b>Target 16</b>	Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 from all sources are substantially increased	<b>Aichi Target # 20</b>	By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy

			for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.
<b>Target 17</b>	International cooperation is strengthened at all levels		
<b>Target 18</b>	Capacity building for implementation of the Convention/ fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 is enhanced.	<b>Aichi Target # 17</b>	By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
		<b>Aichi Target # 1</b>	same as above





## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR3

### Draft Resolution XII.3

#### **Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions**

1. RECALLING that Resolution XI.1 in paragraphs 17 and 18 instructed the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties to develop strategies that explore the accommodation of UN languages into the Convention, the elevation of the Convention's visibility and stature, including *inter alia* through enhancing high-level political engagement in its work at national, regional, and global levels, the enhancement of synergies with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other international entities including through regional initiatives, and the increased involvement in the initiatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
2. FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution XI.1 called for the establishment of a working group to develop such strategies and report on its progress to each Standing Committee meeting including any implications such as financial ones and recommendations, and also requested that the Standing Committee submit a report including its recommendations to the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12);
3. ACKNOWLEDGING the reports of the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee on the above matters and EXPRESSING APPRECIATION for the significant work carried out during the triennium;
4. APPRECIATING the work of the Strategic Plan Working Group in ensuring that the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan presents strategies on these issues for Parties' consideration;
5. NOTING the interest of all Parties in enhancing the visibility and stature of the Ramsar Convention and increasing synergies with other MEAs and with UNEP, and in supporting the development and implementation of the Convention, including *inter alia* by potentially introducing other official UN languages into its operations;
6. ACKNOWLEDGING that the accommodation of additional languages into the daily work of the Convention could foster the engagement of more Contracting Parties to the Convention;
7. NOTING the expressed interest in accession to the Ramsar Convention by a growing number of Arabic-speaking countries and the increasing interest in implementation of the Convention by Arabic-speaking Contracting Parties;

8. APPRECIATING the range of distinct wetland types such as wadis, sabkhas and oases in Arabic-speaking countries and their under-representation among Ramsar Sites in the network, and the presence of organizations and individuals in the region with expertise in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, whose contribution would be beneficial to the further implementation of the Convention;
9. UNDERSTANDING the range of pressing wetlands issues in Arabic-speaking and other countries, relating to national and transboundary water resources, in light of the increasing demand from the region's growing population and changes in water availability due to changing rainfall and unsustainable use patterns;
10. RECALLING that the Standing Committee in Decision SC47-07 instructed the Secretariat to prepare a draft text for a Resolution in response to Resolution XI.1 for its consideration at the 48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee, addressing accommodation of the Arabic language into the Convention, to be supported by an analysis of legal considerations in relation to the Convention text as well as existing COP Resolutions and the Rules of Procedure, and options for a phased introduction of Arabic into the work of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources;
11. NOTING the need to address the longstanding differences in treatment of the three official Convention languages;
12. WELCOMING the Secretariat's progress in preparing a memorandum of understanding with UNEP to enhance collaboration on areas of common interest;
13. NOTING the project undertaken by UNEP "Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies" and its results inter alia the source book; and
14. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION for the quality of the cooperation between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Secretariat as part of the Ramsar-IUCN Task Force, and progress which they have together made in enhancing support to the operations of the Secretariat and thus the implementation of the Convention;

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Concerning accommodation of UN languages:

15. INVITES the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention to develop a strategy, subject to the availability of resources, outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention, which:
  - i. Classifies the language needs of the Convention according to the short-, medium- and long-term work of the Convention;
  - ii. Identifies barriers to effective translation, publishing and interpreting, and actions needed to overcome them including identification of resources needs and sources to accommodate inclusion of additional languages;
  - iii. Proposes a potential timeline for phased integration of procedural changes, key indicators, and milestones for any UN languages added;

- iv. Outlines the financial implications of further phased integration of existing Convention languages in line with the scale of existing resources;
  - v. Prepare a draft text for a Resolution addressing accommodation of the Arabic Language into the Convention, supported by Financial Mechanism and options for a step-by-step introduction of Arabic into the work of the Convention subject to the availability of resources;
16. RECOGNIZES that a phased approach would be needed to integrate any new language into the Convention as an “official” and “working” language, with a related need for identification of sources for gradual increase in funding, capacity and outputs and address potential resulting impacts on funding for other budgetary items in order to accommodate any new language(s);
  17. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee, through an appropriate working group of representatives of the Parties, to monitor the progress made in consideration of the Secretariat’s proposal for a phased approach to language integration, including efforts to fully integrate Spanish and French, and report its findings for consideration by the Parties at COP13;

Concerning visibility and stature, and increasing synergies:

18. NOTES that one way to increase the global, regional, and national profiles of the Ramsar Convention could be the establishment of a high-level ministerial segment at the COP addressing clearly defined topics in support of the agenda of the COP;
19. INVITES all Parties which are considering hosting meetings of the COP to consider including a high-level ministerial segment in the latter half of the Conference addressing clearly defined topics in support of the agenda of the COP as a possible means to improve the visibility, political support and impact of the Convention;
20. RECOGNIZING that wetlands related activities also relates to transboundary as well as municipal areas, Parties which are considering hosting meetings of the Conference of the Parties are therefore also invited to consider including transboundary cooperation as well as “Cities and Wetlands” round tables and/or Summits in support of the implementation of the wetland conservation activities;
21. FURTHER INVITES all PARTIES to work to raise the visibility of the Convention at the national, sub-national, and regional level, *inter alia* through invitations at global or regional levels, invitations to ministers as keynote speakers, or convening of round-table discussions;
22. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to explore other means to increase the visibility of the Convention;
23. RECOGNIZING the role of communities in the wise use of wetlands and reliance of such communities particularly in developing countries on wetlands natural resources and the importance of conservation activities undertaken by such communities, URGES Parties to take account of, and where appropriate incorporate traditional knowledge, available in their respective countries in implementing the Strategic Plan and encouraging the active participation of such communities in the conservation of wetlands;

24. INVITES Contracting Parties to take into account the project undertaken by UNEP “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies” and its results, through *inter alia* the *Sourcebook*, and CALLS UPON the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to implement as appropriate its important recommendations for promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements;
25. ENCOURAGES all Ramsar National Focal Points to increase their efforts to coordinate with their national counterpart Focal Points of other Conventions, and with all wetland practitioners including Ramsar Site managers, to inform them of Ramsar activities and learn from them about processes and issues of common interest;
26. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to activate and develop networking mechanisms, including Ramsar National Wetlands Committees, to ensure collaboration with national ministries, departments and agencies, and global and regional bodies including UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and other Regional Economic Commissions of the UN, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Global Environment Fund (GEF), to enhance the wise use of wetlands;
27. REQUESTS Contracting Parties to continue to implement the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19), including by establishing cooperative mechanisms for the management of transboundary shared wetlands and hydrological basins;
28. URGES Contracting Parties, International Organization Partners and global and regional partners to continue supporting Ramsar regional initiatives and applying the *Operational Guidelines 2016-2018 for regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands* (approved through Resolution XII.xx *Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention*) to foster increased national- and regional-level political engagement and implementation of the Convention;
29. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to regularly report on progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions* to the Standing Committee;
30. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, UNECE and other Regional Economic Commissions of the UN, the World Bank, WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), FAO, GEF and others, and report on progress to the Standing Committee on a regular basis;
31. REQUESTS the Secretariat to work with UNEP on the implementation of their memorandum of understanding and report to the Standing Committee on the progress of the activities concerned;
32. RECOGNIZES that the Ramsar Convention is a biodiversity Convention as well as a water Convention which contributes to the implementation of sustainable development through the wise use of wetlands;
33. REQUESTS that the Secretariat, under the Joint Work Plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Ramsar Convention, continue their cooperative partnership to

promote awareness of, and capacity-building for, ecosystem-based solutions for water management as a contribution to sustainable development in line with CBD Decision XI/23.

34. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to implement the *Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands* (Resolution IX.1 Annex A) the *Integrated Framework for the Convention's water-related guidance* (Resolution IX.1 Annex C) and Resolution XI.21 *Wetlands and sustainable development*, and INVITES the Convention's partners and other interested stakeholders to support implementation of these resolutions as well;
35. REQUESTS Contracting Parties to contribute to implementing the CBD's Aichi Targets.
36. ENCOURAGES Parties and other stakeholders to increase their efforts to integrate wetland management plans into integrated water resources management plans and efficiency plans at basin level, as well as into spatial planning/land-use plans;
37. FURTHER ENCOURAGES the Parties and other stakeholders to increase their efforts to communicate on wetland values in other sectors' strategies, plans and regulations, and integrate them into a basin approach to land-use plans and other relevant local, national and global decisions;
38. NOTES the references to wetlands contained in the proposals of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, and URGES Contracting Parties to include, under their own national targets, priorities for management, restoration and repair of wetlands in line with sustainable development; and
39. RECOGNIZES the collaboration between the Secretariat and IUCN and the progress made to evaluate the work already achieved, and URGES the Secretariat to update all agreements and guidelines with IUCN in cooperation with the Management Working Group and in line with Resolution IX.24 on *Improving management of the Ramsar Convention*; and ENCOURAGES them to collaborate further to continue to enhance the implementation of the Convention.





## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR4

### Draft Resolution XII.4

#### **The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention**

1. RECOGNIZING the value of keeping under periodic review the terms of Resolution XI.19 (2012) so as to ensure that the work of the Standing Committee continues to be delivered in as effective and cost-efficient a manner as possible;
2. RECALLING that Resolution IX.24 (2005) established a Management Working Group reporting to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties and that Resolution X.4 (2008) also established a Transition Committee of the Management Working Group;
3. RECOGNIZING that aspects of the work of these groups are also embodied in the roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee itself;
4. AWARE of the intersessional Standing Committee oversight of the Secretariat, which is now conducted on its behalf between meetings of the Standing Committee by its Executive Team (Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair of Subgroup on Finance) with the Secretary General; and
5. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION to the members of the Management Working Group for their work;

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6. ADOPTS the text in Annexes 1-4, based upon amendments that update Resolution XI.19 (2012) on the responsibilities, roles and composition of the Ramsar Standing Committee and its appended list of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties belonging to the six Ramsar regional groups; and
7. CONFIRMS that this updated text and its annexes supersede those adopted as Resolution XI.19, which is retired.

## Annex 1

### The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention

1. Considering that it is useful for the effective functioning of the Ramsar Convention that Contracting Parties should have a clear process for the operation of its Standing Committee, in Resolution VII.1 (1999) the Conference of the Contracting Parties adopted guidelines on the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the Standing Committee and the regional categorization of countries under the Convention. In Resolution XI.19 (2012), the Parties amended that text and the list of countries and Contracting Parties assigned to each of the six Ramsar regions in order to bring them up to date.
2. The Ramsar Convention will have the following regional groups:
  - Africa (50 Contracting Parties)
  - Asia (32 Contracting Parties)
  - Oceania (8 Contracting Parties)
  - Europe (48 Contracting Parties)
  - Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>1</sup> (27 Contracting Parties)
  - North America (3 Contracting Parties)
3. Contracting Parties and those countries that are eligible to join the Convention are assigned to the above regional groups.
4. The composition of the Standing Committee will be determined by means of a proportional system, by which each regional group in paragraph 2 above will be represented by voting members in the Standing Committee according to the following criteria:
  - a) one representative for regional groups with 1 to 12 Contracting Parties;
  - b) two representatives for regional groups with 13 to 24 Contracting Parties;
  - c) three representatives for regional groups with 25 to 36 Contracting Parties;
  - d) four representatives for regional groups with 37 to 48 Contracting Parties; and
  - e) five representatives for regional groups with 49 to 60 Contracting Parties.
5. Each region can decide to appoint an Alternate Member or Members pro rata with their appointed Members with full power to represent the region, if the representative member is unable to participate in a meeting of the Standing Committee;
6. The host countries of the most recent and the next meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) are also voting members of the Standing Committee.
7. The regional representatives and their alternate Party representatives will be elected by the Conference of the Contracting Parties on the basis of nominations received from the regional groups established in paragraph 2 above. Initial consideration of nominations by regional groups will be undertaken at any intersessional regional COP preparatory meetings which may take place, and finalization of nominations will be made by regional groups in their regional meetings at the COP venue immediately prior to the opening of the COP, so that appointments of the new members of the Standing Committee can be made as early as

<sup>1</sup> Note by the Secretariat: The amending of the text to include renaming of the “Neotropics” Ramsar region as “Latin America and the Caribbean” (see *Report of the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee* para.196) was approved by Standing Committee through Decision SC48-19. This change is also reflected on page 7 in Annex 2 *Allocation of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties to the six Ramsar regional groups*.

possible in the COP proceedings, thus permitting the members of the new Committee to participate in Conference Committee meetings during the COP.

8. The terms of office of the regional representatives will commence at the close of the meeting of the COP at which they have been elected and will expire at the close of the next ordinary meeting of the COP, and each Contracting Party may serve on the Standing Committee for a maximum of two consecutive terms;
9. Contracting Parties that are voting members of the Standing Committee will convey to the Secretariat, through their diplomatic channels, the name of the officer(s) in the designated national Ramsar Administrative Authority who act as their delegates on the Standing Committee, as well as the name of their substitutes, should they be needed;
10. The Contracting Party acting as host country of the institutional host of the Secretariat will continue to have the status of permanent observer in the Standing Committee. If the host country of the institutional host of the Secretariat stands for, and is elected as, a member of the Standing Committee representing its regional group, it will have voting status for that triennium in lieu of its permanent observer status.
11. The Secretariat will continue to notify all Contracting Parties of the date and agenda of meetings of the Standing Committee at least three months in advance of each meeting, so that they may, as appropriate, make arrangements to be represented at the meeting as observers.
12. Countries that are not Contracting Parties but have expressed an interest in joining the Convention may be also admitted as observers at meetings of the Standing Committee.
13. The Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel will be invited as an observer to Standing Committee meetings, as well as other experts and/or institutions that the Standing Committee may deem appropriate for assisting in its consideration of particular agenda items.
14. International organizations which are official International Organization Partners in the work of the Convention will be invited to participate as observers in meetings of the Standing Committee.
15. If an extraordinary meeting of the COP is held between two ordinary meetings, the host country will participate as an observer in the work of the Committee on matters related to the organization of the meeting, provided that the country in question is not already present in the Committee as a member or permanent observer.
16. The Contracting Parties in regional groups with one representative in the Standing Committee will use a rotation system for the nomination of the regional representative, and in regional groups with two or more representatives the selection will be made in such a manner as to achieve a balance in relation to biogeographical, geopolitical, and cultural considerations.
17. At its first meeting immediately after the close of the COP the Standing Committee will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as the members and Chair of the Subgroup on Finance established by Resolution VI.17 of 1996.
18. The Standing Committee will meet once each year, normally at the seat of the Convention Secretariat, according to the indicative schedule provided as the Annex 4 to this Resolution. A

further meeting of the Subgroups on COP and Finance may be envisaged during the year before COP, if required and if sufficient funds are available, in order to ensure the timely and efficient preparation of the COP. The costs of participation of Committee members eligible for sponsorship will be borne by the Convention.

19. Within the policies agreed by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the functions of the Standing Committee will be to:
  - a) carry out, between one ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and the next, such interim activity on behalf of the Conference as may be necessary, giving priority to matters on which the Conference has previously recorded its approval;
  - b) make preparations on issues, including inter alia draft Resolutions and Recommendations, for consideration at the next COP;
  - c) supervise, as a representative of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the implementation of activities by the Secretariat, the execution of the Secretariat's budget, and conduct of the Secretariat's programmes;
  - d) provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Convention, on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters relating to the exercise of its functions brought to it by the Secretariat;
  - e) act as Conference Committee at COPs in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;
  - f) establish subgroups as necessary to facilitate the carrying out of its functions;
  - g) promote regional and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
  - h) approve the work plan of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) on the basis of the decisions of the COP, receive the reports of the STRP on the progress made with its implementation, and provide guidance for its future development;
  - i) adopt for each triennium the Operational Guidelines for the Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use and decide on the allocation of funds;
  - j) review each triennium the criteria for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award established by Resolution VI.18 and select the laureates; and
  - k) report to the COP on the activities it has carried out between ordinary meetings of the Conference.
  
20. The tasks of the regional representatives elected to serve in the Standing Committee will be those contained in Annex 3 of this document.
  
21. The Standing Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, is to take into consideration, within available resources, the need to have interpretation for its Subgroup meetings when it is requested by its members.
  
22. The Contracting Parties and the Secretariat will endeavour to secure additional voluntary funding to enable simultaneous interpretation at meetings of the Subgroup on Finance and Subgroup on COP.
  
23. The Standing Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, will be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Convention (see COP12 DOC3).

## Annex 2

### Allocation of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties to the six Ramsar regional groups

*NOTE:* Names of countries in capital and bold letters denote Contracting Parties to the Convention at the time of approval of this Resolution.

#### **AFRICA**

**ALGERIA**

Angola

**BENIN**

**BOTSWANA**

**BURKINA FASO**

**BURUNDI**

**CAMEROON**

**CABO VERDE**

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC**

**CHAD**

**COMOROS**

**CONGO**

**CÔTE D'IVOIRE**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**DJIBOUTI**

**EGYPT**

**EQUATORIAL GUINEA**

Eritrea

Ethiopia

**GABON**

**GAMBIA**

**GHANA**

**GUINEA**

**GUINEA-BISSAU**

**KENYA**

**LESOTHO**

**LIBERIA**

**LIBYA**

**MADAGASCAR**

**MALAWI**

**MALI**

**MAURITANIA**

**MAURITIUS**

**MOROCCO**

**MOZAMBIQUE**

**NAMIBIA**

**NIGER**

**NIGERIA**

**RWANDA**

**SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE**

**SENEGAL**

**SEYCHELLES**

**SIERRA LEONE**

Somalia

**SOUTH AFRICA**

**SUDAN**

**SOUTH SUDAN**

**SWAZILAND**

**TOGO**

**TUNISIA**

**UGANDA**

**UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**ZAMBIA**

**ZIMBABWE**

#### **ASIA**

Afghanistan

**BAHRAIN**

**BANGLADESH**

**BHUTAN**

Brunei Darussalam

**CAMBODIA**

**CHINA**

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

**INDIA**

**INDONESIA**

**IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF**

**IRAQ**

**JAPAN**

**JORDAN**

**KAZAKHSTAN**

Kuwait

**KYRGYZSTAN**

**LAO, PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**LEBANON**

**MALAYSIA**

Maldives

**MONGOLIA**

**MYANMAR**

**NEPAL**

**OMAN**

**PAKISTAN**

**PHILIPPINES**

Qatar

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA**

Saudi Arabia

Singapore

**SRI LANKA****SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC****TAJKISTAN*****OCEANIA*****AUSTRALIA**

Cook Islands

**FIJI****KIRIBATI****MARSHALL ISLANDS**

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Nauru

**NEW ZEALAND**

Niue

**THAILAND****TURKMENISTAN****UNITED ARAB EMIRATES****UZBEKISTAN****VIETNAM****YEMEN****PALAU****PAPUA NEW GUINEA****SAMOA**

Solomon Islands

Timor-Leste

Tonga

Tuvalu

Vanuatu

***EUROPE*****ALBANIA****ANDORRA****ARMENIA****AUSTRIA****AZERBAIJAN****BELARUS****BELGIUM****BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA****BULGARIA****CROATIA****CYPRUS****CZECH REPUBLIC****DENMARK****ESTONIA****FINLAND****FRANCE****GEORGIA****GERMANY****GREECE**

Holy See

**HUNGARY****ICELAND****IRELAND****ISRAEL<sup>2</sup> (formerly within the Asia regional group)****ITALY****LATVIA****LIECHTENSTEIN****LITHUANIA****LUXEMBOURG****MALTA****MOLDOVA, Republic of****MONACO****MONTENEGRO****NETHERLANDS****NORWAY****POLAND****PORTUGAL****ROMANIA****RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

San Marino

**SERBIA****SLOVAK REPUBLIC****SLOVENIA****SPAIN****SWEDEN****SWITZERLAND****THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF****MACEDONIA****TURKEY****UKRAINE****UNITED KINGDOM**

<sup>2</sup> Note by the Secretariat: Through Decision SC47-05, the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to prepare a Draft Resolution amending the status of Israel within the Ramsar regional groupings.

***LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN*****ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA****ARGENTINA****BAHAMAS****BARBADOS****BELIZE****BOLIVIA****BRAZIL****CHILE****COLOMBIA****COSTA RICA****CUBA**

Dominica

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC****ECUADOR****EL SALVADOR****GRENADA****GUATEMALA**

Guyana

Haiti

**HONDURAS****JAMAICA****NICARAGUA****PANAMA****PARAGUAY****PERU**

Saint Kitts and Nevis

**SAINT LUCIA**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

**SURINAME****TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO****URUGUAY****VENEZUELA*****NORTH AMERICA*****CANADA****MEXICO****UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **Annex 3**

#### **Tasks of Contracting Parties elected as Regional Representatives in the Standing Committee**

The Contracting Parties that have accepted to be elected as Regional Representatives on the Standing Committee will have the following tasks:

1. To designate their delegates to the Standing Committee taking into account their significant responsibilities as Regional Representatives, according to paragraph 9 of this Resolution, and to make every effort that their delegates or their substitutes attend all meetings of the Committee.
2. When there is more than one Regional Representative in a regional group, to maintain regular contacts and consultations with the other regional representative(s).
3. To maintain regular contacts and consultations with the Contracting Parties in their regional group, and to use the opportunities of travel within their regions and of attending regional or international meetings to consult about issues related to the Convention and to promote its objectives. To this effect, when there is more than one regional representative, they will agree among themselves which Contracting Parties will be the responsibility of each regional representative.
4. To solicit the opinions of the Contracting Parties in their regional group before meetings of the Standing Committee.
5. To advise the Secretariat in setting the agenda of regional meetings.
6. To assume additional responsibilities by serving as members of the subgroups established by the Standing Committee.
7. To provide advice as requested by the Chairperson and/or the chairs of subgroups and/or the Secretariat of the Convention.
8. In the regions concerned, to make deliberate efforts to encourage other countries to join the Convention.

#### Annex 4

#### Indicative schedule for Standing Committee intersessional meetings post-2015, and for the 2016-2018 triennium

**Note.** This schedule is predicated on future cycles being three calendar years, with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties in May/June of the final year of each cycle.

	<b>General timelines, post-2015</b>	<b>2016-2018 triennium</b>
<b>First full meeting</b>	8 months after COP	<b>SC51</b> – February 2016
<b>Second full meeting</b>	20 months after COP	<b>SC52</b> – February 2017
<b>Subgroup on COP</b> (if required)	1 year before COP	<b>Subgroup on COP13</b> (if required) – June 2017
<b>Third full meeting</b>	5 months before COP	<b>SC53</b> – January 2018
<b>Pre-COP meeting</b>	Immediately prior to COP, at COP venue	<b>SC54</b> – June 2018





## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR5

### Draft Resolution XII.5

#### Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention

1. RECALLING the establishment by Resolution 5.5 (1993) of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention as a subsidiary body of the Convention to provide scientific and technical guidance to the Conference of the Parties, to the Standing Committee, and to the Ramsar Secretariat;
2. ALSO RECALLING Resolutions VI.7, VII.2, VIII.28, IX.11, X.9, and XI.18 on this same matter, which made successive modifications to the way in which the STRP and its work were organized;
3. THANKING all members of the STRP and its observer organizations and invited experts for their contributions since the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and for their expert advice on numerous scientific and technical issues of importance to the implementation of the Convention;
4. ALSO THANKING the many governments which have supported the work of the STRP with financial contributions, and EXPRESSING GRATITUDE to observer organizations and the Convention's International Organization Partners for their sustained contributions to the work of the Panel;
5. RECALLING that through Resolution XI.16 the Contracting Parties agreed to undertake a review of the delivery, uptake and implementation of scientific and technical advice and guidance to the Convention, for consideration by the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
6. WELCOMING the report of the review committee established by Standing Committee in its Decision SC46-25 and the findings of the review which it undertook and which is posted in Ramsar web site (at [http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/final\\_report\\_and\\_components\\_ramsar\\_scientific\\_technical\\_advice.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/final_report_and_components_ramsar_scientific_technical_advice.pdf));
7. RECOGNIZING that the review and the recommendations of the review committee revealed that, while Ramsar scientific and technical guidance is well appreciated and has contributed to scientific and technical knowledge on wetlands, it does not reach all of its intended audiences, and therefore does not fully respond to the needs of Contracting Parties and people in their countries who may contribute to the implementation of the Convention;

8. NOTING the ten specific challenges which were identified through the review process and the 29 recommendations proposed to respond to these challenges; and
9. Further RECOGNIZING the recommendations of the review committee to amend the structure and processes of the STRP and thereby make it more responsive to the current and future needs of Contracting Parties;

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10. DECIDES to restructure the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) as established by Resolution V.5 and amended by successive Resolutions, to further help Contracting Parties respond to challenges of wetland conservation and wise use, by providing regionally and as appropriate nationally-specific scientific and technical guidance in an efficient, timely and effective manner, following the processes described in Annex 1;
11. REAFFIRMS the critical importance to the Convention of the work of the STRP in developing and providing scientific and technical guidance, linking wetland science to effective technical communications, and building understanding of the guidance needs of regional and national audiences;
12. AFFIRMS that this Resolution supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP and the successive modifications on the way in which the STRP and its work have been organized;
13. CONFIRMS that the organization and the processes of the STRP adopted by this Resolution will apply for the 2016-2018 triennium and beyond unless amended by subsequent COP decisions as a result of a future review;
14. Further CONFIRMS that the Conference of Parties will approve the STRP's thematic work areas for each triennium, that the Standing Committee will continue to have overall responsibility for the delivery of this programme, and that the Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on the Panel's progress with tasks, and propose for the consideration of the Standing Committee any adjustments to the programme which the Panel considers necessary.
15. DECIDES to dissolve the STRP Oversight Committee and INSTRUCTS the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee to take over the role of the STRP Oversight Committee which was established in Resolution IX.11, and to oversee the work of the STRP as indicated in Annex 1 to this Resolution;
16. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue to provide support to the STRP;
17. RECOGNIZES the continuing need to ensure both that the Panel has the resources to undertake its work effectively and that the Secretariat has sufficient capacity to support this work, and URGES Contracting Parties and others to assist in securing continuity of such funding;
18. APPROVES the list, at Annex 2 of this Resolution, of bodies and organizations which may be invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP and INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to amend the list during the triennium as appropriate; and

19. INVITES the bodies and organizations listed at Annex 2 to consider establishing close working arrangements with the STRP on matters of common interest, particularly in relation to themes identified for action at Annex 3 during the 2016-2018 triennium.

## Annex 1

### How the Scientific and Technical Review Panel works

#### Purpose of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

1. The purpose of the STRP is to provide scientific and technical guidance and advice to the Ramsar Contracting Parties, the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the Ramsar Secretariat and to other wetland users working on wetlands issues, in order to foster the implementation of the Convention.
2. The STRP should provide in an efficient, timely and effective manner, regional and as appropriate national specific scientific and technical advice, guidance and tools to enable these audiences to respond to the opportunities, challenges and emerging issues of wetland conservation and wise use.

#### Oversight of the STRP

3. The thematic work areas of the STRP and the budget to implement the work planned will be approved at each meeting of the COP. The Standing Committee at a subsequent meeting will approve the STRP work plan for the coming triennium. The work plan will be built around the priority thematic work areas determined and approved by the Conference of the Parties, in line with the current Strategic Plan.
4. Between the COPs, the Standing Committee and Management Working Group will continue to direct and oversee the implementation of the programme, review priority tasks and amend them as necessary, and approve the allocation of funds. The Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on the Panel's progress and recommend for the consideration of the Standing Committee any adjustments as necessary.
5. The Standing Committee's Management Working Group will oversee the work of the STRP, replacing the STRP Oversight Committee, according to the terms defined for that Committee in Resolution IX.11 and with the following responsibilities:
  - i) to appoint the members of the STRP and appoint the Chair and Vice-chair from among them;
  - ii) to oversee the implementation of the STRP's programme, and report progress to each Standing Committee with recommendations for action as required;
  - iii) to guide and support the Panel as required;
  - iv) to recommend the allocation of funds for STRP tasks to the Standing Committee Sub-group on Finance; and
  - v) to work with the Secretariat to oversee STRP expenditures.
6. The Secretariat will continue to support the STRP. Relevant staff includes the Deputy Secretary General, Senior Regional Advisors, the Head of Communications and the Scientific and Technical

Support Officer. The Head of Communications will serve as the CEPA expert defined in Resolution IX.11. The Secretariat's responsibilities include:

- i) facilitating the work of the STRP, including by organizing and administering its meetings and maintaining the STRP Workspace;
- ii) fostering opportunities for collaboration with other conventions, intergovernmental institutions, and national and international NGOs, and facilitating such collaboration as required;
- iii) facilitating linkages between potential collaborators within countries, regions and globally;
- iv) identifying the needs of potential audiences and thematic priorities in different countries or regions to suggest to the Parties for their consideration;
- v) creating a comprehensive database of contacts including Administrative Authorities, STRP CEPA and general National Focal Points, National Ramsar Committees, managers of Ramsar Sites, wetland organizations, past STRP members and other relevant contacts and other relevant organizations and conventions and disseminating to them Ramsar decisions, Resolutions and Recommendations of the COP and the Standing Committee;
- vi) keeping the Contracting Parties, the Ramsar community, and the public informed of developments related to the Convention, including the availability of finalized STRP products;
- vii) ensuring all materials from the STRP are developed for target audiences as clear, readable materials;
- viii) supporting modification of technical and scientific products for communication to targeted audiences;
- ix) publishing and disseminating the guidance and products of the STRP, ensuring that policy-makers and other identified audiences have timely and accessible guidance they need on identified priority issues; and
- x) monitoring the application of the guidance.

### **Structure of the Panel**

7. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel will be made up of 18 members with appropriate scientific and technical knowledge, plus observers representing the International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other organizations recognized by the COP. They will include:
  - i) six scientific members<sup>1</sup>;
  - ii) 12 technical expert members<sup>2</sup>, including six regional expert representatives and six other experts on issues identified for action during the triennium;

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<sup>1</sup> Responsible to provide advice on the strategic direction of scientific work needed to enhance the development of STRP products, and ensure the scientific quality of the finished products.

- iii) one observer representative of each of the Convention's International Organization Partners; and
  - iv) a small number of observer experts from scientific and technical organizations and networks recognized by the COP (and listed in Annex 2), who may be invited to support the work of the Panel as appropriate.
  - v) The chairs of scientific and technical subsidiary bodies and relevant secretariat staff of other environmental agreements will continue to be invited to participate as observers.
8. Organizations will be asked to nominate a representative who is able to access the organization's national, regional and international networks of wetland experts and who is committed to serve for the entire triennium to ensure continuity of participation.
- 8.bis Contracting Parties may suggest scientific and technical experts to participate as observers in meetings or intersessional processes of the STRP with the approval of the STRP chair.
9. Representatives of other organizations requesting to participate as observers in meetings or intersessional processes of the STRP may do so with the approval of the STRP Chair.
10. The Chair and Vice-chair will be selected from among the appointed members to the Panel.

#### **Role and responsibilities of the STRP members**

11. The main collective responsibilities of the Panel members are to:
- i) establish the scope, deliverables and approach to delivery for each assigned task, including through scoping workshops as appropriate, and in so doing ensure input from the network of STRP National Focal Points, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, and any other relevant organizations;
  - ii) ensure appropriate peer review of draft materials, and consult with peers and the Communications team of the Secretariat on how best to ensure their effective communication and implementation;
  - iii) review all scientific and technical materials drafted by Convention bodies, consulting with STRP Focal Points as required, before they are shared with Parties and the Conference of the Parties and thereafter, in line with the terms of Resolution VIII.45; and
  - iv) encourage their own national and international networks of wetland experts to contribute more widely to the work of the Panel and disseminate its final products.
  - v) Assist the Ramsar Secretariat with scientific and technical issues upon request and on Ramsar Advisory Missions, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources;
  - vi) To avoid any conflict of interest, STRP members may not be compensated for their contributions to the STRP. Members preparing substantive work should not be involved in

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<sup>2</sup> Responsible for preparation of technical products in the form of guidance, technical briefing notes, Ramsar Technical Reports, etc., and solicit input and feedback on these from stakeholders and partners in all the Ramsar regions.

reviewing it. All members should sign a “conflict of interest” declaration when they accept the nomination to the panel.

12. The STRP Chair must have broad knowledge of wetland issues and be familiar with the work of the Panel and the Convention. He or she will:
  - i) prepare the agendas for STRP meetings with the assistance of the Secretariat and Vice-Chair, and approve it and other relevant meeting papers;
  - ii) chair plenary sessions of STRP meetings and oversee the conduct of all aspects of those meetings;
  - iii) manage the implementation of the STRP work plan and ensure timely delivery of the STRP’s products;
  - iv) lead the STRP’s work and coordinate the Panel’s advice to the next COP concerning new and emerging priorities the Parties may wish to consider for the Panel’s work in the next triennium;
  - v) appoint leads and co-leads of any thematic working groups established by the Panel, and advise them on the membership of groups;
  - vi) with the STRP Vice-Chair, agree upon the division of responsibilities regarding oversight of the thematic working groups or specific task groups established by the Panel;
  - vii) coordinating inputs from the Panel, its thematic working groups and the Secretariat on new and emerging priorities and with the assistance of the panel, identify priority tasks and draft the STRP work plan for the coming triennium, for approval by the COP;
  - viii) report to each meeting of the COP and the Standing Committee the progress of the STRP work plan and the priority tasks included in it, and STRP-related matters, and provide feedback and guidance to the STRP;
  - ix) resources permitting, represent the STRP at meetings of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other processes and initiatives relevant to the STRP’s work, such as meetings of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
  - x) at the request of the Secretary General represent the Convention’s scientific and technical work externally by maintaining relationships with partner organizations and, resources permitting, by participating in scientific forums and conferences;
  - xi) recommend to the Standing Committee Management Working Group for its consideration the names of three members eligible for reappointment for a subsequent triennium based on their contributions to the STRP’s work and the relevance of their expertise to the COP-assigned priority tasks; and
  - xii) maintain records of the hours devoted to contributing to the work of the Panel, to facilitate reporting of inputs.

13. The STRP Vice-chair must also have broad knowledge of wetland issues and be familiar with the work of the Panel and the Convention. He or she will:
- i) help the Secretariat and STRP Chair prepare agendas and other papers for STRP meetings;
  - ii) substitute for the STRP Chair in chairing plenary sessions of STRP meetings and overseeing the conduct of all aspects of STRP meetings;
  - iii) advise, along with the STRP Chair and the Secretariat, the leads and co-leads of working groups on the membership of groups;
  - iv) with the STRP Chair, agree upon the division of responsibilities regarding oversight of the thematic working groups or specific task groups established by the Panel;
  - v) resources permitting, substitute for the Chair in representing the STRP at meetings of other MEAs and relevant processes and initiatives;
  - vi) represent the Convention's scientific and technical work externally, through maintaining relationships with partner organizations and, resources permitting, by participating at scientific forums and conferences; and
  - vii) when requested, substitute for the STRP Chair in any other of his or her functions; and maintain records of the hours devoted to contributing to the work of the Panel, to facilitate reporting of inputs by the STRP Chair.
14. The members will:
- i) ensure the scientific quality of finished products;
  - ii) provide independent advice to the Secretary General and STRP Chair on emerging scientific issues;
  - iii) support and champion the STRP and its work;
  - iv) prepare technical guidance to inform policy-makers and practitioners, and seek input and feedback on these from stakeholders and partners in all the Ramsar regions; and
  - v) assist with the dissemination, promotion and implementation of guidance in relevant networks, countries and regions.
15. IOP nominees should be wetland experts and have a role within their IOPs for maintaining and accessing the wetland conservation and wise use expertise of their organization's regional and global networks. The STRP's IOP observers are expected, in addition to the role for all STRP Members (above), to:
- i) seek the views of experts within their organizations (including relevant specialist groups and networks) of the work plan of the STRP;
  - ii) participate in working groups and task forces established by the Panel;

- iii) ensure that the scientific and technical capacity of their organization's networks of wetland experts is available to the Panel, and establish mechanisms to identify and engage experts from their networks in the work of the STRP;
  - iv) leverage the outreach capacity of their organization to promote and disseminate the outputs of the STRP;
16. Representatives of Observer Organizations are expected to:
- i) ensure that the scientific and technical capacity of their organizations' national, regional and international networks of wetland experts (where applicable) are available to the Panel, and establish mechanisms to identify and engage experts from their networks in the work of the STRP;
  - ii) identify to the Panel and its working groups any work relevant to STRP tasks already in existence or underway through their processes and initiatives;
  - iii) advise on emerging and priority development issues and trends;
  - iv) participate in any relevant working group and tasks forces established by the Panel;
  - v) support and promote the STRP's work;
  - vi) create opportunities for partnerships, collaborations and financing; and
  - vii) leverage the outreach capacity of their organization to share information about and help disseminate STRP products after they are finalized.
17. The STRP National Focal Points of each Contracting Party act as a liaison between their national wetland practitioners and the STRP. They are appointed to the role for their scientific and technical expertise in wetland conservation, management and wise use. They will represent their organization or government in undertaking their liaison role in the work of the STRP, and are expected to:
- i) provide input and support to the implementation of the work plan of the STRP;
  - ii) maintain regular contact with other Ramsar National Focal Points in their country (Ramsar Focal Point and CEPA Focal Points);
  - iii) mobilize local capacity and, to the extent possible, consult with and seek input from other experts and bodies and wetlands centres in their country, including focal points of other MEAs;
  - iv) the STRP NFPs should provide advice to, and participate in, meetings of the National Wetland/Ramsar Committee or similar bodies (e.g., National Biodiversity Committees) where they exist, and provide advice in the preparation of National Reports to Conferences of Contracting Parties. They should also assist in disseminating information on the work of the STRP, interpreted as appropriate to the national context, to relevant individuals and bodies in their countries;

- v) provide technical support to national wetland activities such as the preparation of wetland inventory; and
- vi) help disseminate STRP products and information on its work, adapted as appropriate to the national context.

### **Selection of Panel members**

18. Immediately after the COP, the Secretariat will make a call for nominations of the STRP members for the coming triennium, which includes information on the specific profiles required for the technical and scientific members.
19. The members and observer representatives for each triennium will be appointed by the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee as soon as possible after the COP, from the candidates nominated according to the process below.
20. Administrative Authorities from each region will reach agreement internally and nominate one technical expert who will be accepted automatically.
- 20.bis Administrative Authorities of Contracting Parties will also make nominations for the six scientific members and six technical members, and may identify candidates for STRP Chair and Vice Chair, including from candidates nominated under paragraph 21.
21. IOPs and observer organizations will make nominations for the six scientific and six technical members.
22. STRP members will be appointed in their personal capacity for their scientific and technical expertise, and will not represent any organization or government in their interaction with the STRP. Selections will be made to secure the scientific and technical expertise required for the STRP's work during the triennium, and ensure regional and gender balance.
23. Each International Organization Partner will nominate its representative member. IOP observers may serve for more than one triennium.
24. Any observer organization may nominate a representative as observer to the Panel. Observer organizations may serve for more than one triennium.
25. Organizations nominating members or observers must provide a letter of recommendation summarizing the expertise of the candidate and the relevance of their work to the Panel's work plan.
26. Nominees will provide a curriculum vitae and a declaration that they are willing to be considered for appointment to the Panel and that they have, where relevant, the required support of their organizations on a voluntary basis to deliver the work expected of Panel members and the time and availability for meetings. They will note whether they will need any financial support to participate in meetings and will provide a brief summary of how their skills and expertise might contribute to the Panel's work.
27. The Secretariat will assess the nominations and make recommendations for appointments for consideration by the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee, which will reach

its decisions through electronic communication and teleconferences as soon as possible after each COP, to enable the Panel to start work as early as possible.

28. If a vacancy for a member of the Panel arises between COPs, the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee will review other nominations and appoint a replacement member as soon as practicable.
29. Candidates for appointment as members of the STRP must have the following:
  - i) capacity and experience in local, national and international networking with wetland conservation and wise use experts, including when appropriate STRP National Focal Points;
  - ii) recognized experience and expertise in one or more aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, particularly those relevant to the identified priorities for the forthcoming work of the Panel;
  - iii) full access to electronic mail and the online systems which the Panel will use;
  - iv) proficient comprehension of English; and
  - v) commitment to undertake the work of the Panel and its working groups, and the support, where relevant, of their organization, enabling them to deliver the work expected of Panel members on a voluntary basis.

#### **Term of Panel membership**

30. Membership to the panel will not in principle be for more than one triennium, to allow rotation in the panel composition. The maximum tenure of any member including the Chair and Vice-chair will be two triennia (six years).
31. For each triennium, three members of the outgoing STRP will be retained to ensure continuity. On each occasion, the STRP Chair and Vice-chair and the Secretariat will propose STRP members for reappointment, for endorsement by the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee.
32. Members being proposed for reappointment must have demonstrated the ability to contribute effectively to the work of the Panel and must confirm their willingness to be reappointed.

#### **Operation of the STRP**

33. The STRP will develop collaborative relationships with the International Organization Partners, thematic experts and regional organizations relevant to its priority work areas, and where feasible, directly with wetland managers and users of wetlands.
34. The STRP and the communications team of the Secretariat will also work with Administrative Authorities and CEPA Focal Points, with IOPs and other bodies, to build up a network of wetland practitioners and users, and the Secretariat will maintain regular contact with them.
35. The STRP will meet face-to-face annually to review progress on identified tasks, to consider urgent emerging issues and, in the year leading up to the COP, to discuss the areas of work to recommend to the Conference of Parties for its consideration for the next triennium.

36. The appointed STRP members will, where appropriate and with the assistance of the Secretariat, establish working groups at the start of each triennium and lead or co-lead them as appointed by the STRP Chair.
37. Meetings of the STRP will operate in the three official Convention languages and meeting documents will be made available in the three Convention languages, subject to the availability of resources.

### **The STRP's three-year cycle of work**

38. There are six stages in the STRP's triennial cycle of work. Each has specific targets to be met before the STRP can progress to the next stage.

#### **Stage 1: Setting the Priorities for the coming triennium**

39. The STRP will report to the final full meeting of the Standing Committee before each COP on the status of issues addressed in the triennium, including all tasks agreed by Contracting Parties in previous COPs.
40. The STRP will propose how it will complete any remaining tasks, or propose alternative solutions if necessary.
41. The STRP, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Standing Committee, will recommend scientific and technical priorities for the coming triennium, identify anticipated associated funding needs, and indicate potentially relevant partner organizations, for the consideration of the Conference of Parties.
42. The list of priorities will reflect the content of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for the coming triennium, resolutions of the last COP, and other priority issues which have been identified by regional or global wetland networks.

#### **Stage 2: COP approval of priorities for STRP programming**

43. A draft resolution will be presented to the COP which reports on the products delivered during the last triennium, and proposes a list of potential themes for the coming triennium and a revised list of potential observer organizations (Annex 3).
44. The COP will approve a maximum of five thematic work areas for each triennium, and approve an appropriate allocation of core funds. Selection of these five areas of work will take into account their relationship and alignment with the Strategic Plan and tasks already assigned by the previous COP.

#### **Stage 3: Convening the STRP**

45. The STRP will convene as soon as possible after the COP. The Management Working Group of the Standing Committee will select the STRP members intersessionally, as soon as possible after receiving the nominations from the Secretariat. The Management Working Group will first select the Chair and Vice-chair, who will participate in the selection of the other members.

#### **Stage 4: Developing the STRP work plan**

- 45.bis The STRP will examine the table in Annex 3 and make recommendations on specific tasks to facilitate Parties' implementation of the actions identified in the related Strategic Plan goal /

target / indicator. The resulting products will be aimed at target audiences identified in this Annex paragraph 50 and produce the types of guidance identified in this Annex para 51.

45.ter In developing these recommendations the STRP will (1) undertake a literature survey of available STRP guidance and other relevant information and (2) consult with STRP National Focal Points, the Secretariat CEPA programme and the Senior Regional Advisors, who will be responsible for securing data and information from their respective regions' Administrative Authorities and National Focal Points.

46. The first task of the new STRP will be to develop the work plan, in consultation with the Secretariat (Secretary General / Deputy SG, Senior Regional Advisors and communications team), based on the thematic work areas selected by the Contracting Parties and taking into account ongoing scientific work in other international processes, in particular IPBES.

**Stage 5: Approval by the Standing Committee of the work plan**

47. The STRP Chair will present the work plan to the Standing Committee at its first full meeting after the COP.

**Stage 6: Deliver and disseminate the products**

48. The various scientific and technical products will be prepared and communicated to target audiences during the triennium, with assistance from the Secretariat's communications team.

**Target audiences and the process of developing guidance materials**

49. Two target audience categories have been identified for the materials to be developed by the STRP for the 2016-2018 triennium (subject to future review):

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

50. The STRP will produce the following types of guidance:

- i) Scientific guidance, which provides the basis for technical guidance for policy makers and practitioners.
- ii) Science-Based technical guidance, which responds to specific methodological needs of policy-makers and practitioners with each receiving a different type of technical guidance.

51. The main audience for the scientific guidance will be practitioners. The guidance will draw on published peer-reviewed research and other scientific sources to help advance implementation of the Convention.

52. Technical guidance will be the main focus for STRP products. Scientific guidance will primarily serve to underpin the technical guidance.

53. The main audience for the technical guidance will be policy-makers and practitioners, while users of wetlands may also benefit from it. It will be delivered through formats including handbooks, manuals, fact sheets, webinars and videos.

54. The approach to the development of guidance will reflect national needs but also seek a regional approach. Senior Regional Advisors and the STRP National Focal Points will collaborate to define national and regional priorities and needs.
55. The Secretariat's communications team will ensure all materials are clear and accessible, and relevant to targeted audiences. It will monitor and evaluate the reach and impact of the products, and report its findings to the STRP.
56. The process for developing guidance will be as follows:
  - i) The Contracting Parties will identify the audience for each of the proposed technical products, and the Secretariat will help to define the needs of each audience group.
  - ii) The Secretariat will work with the STRP members to determine the type, content, format and design for each technical product.
  - iii) The STRP members will identify sources of information and existing guidance, and then develop the guidance, in line with the thematic priorities and the current Strategic Plan.
  - iv) Additional explanatory summaries, and interpretive information related to the technical guidance directed at policy-makers will be developed by the Secretariat's communications team.
  - v) The Secretariat will communicate and distribute the guidance, with assistance from STRP members, International Organization Partners, STRP National Focal Points and other partners.
  - vi) The Secretariat will lead on monitoring the application of the guidance and report on this to the STRP and the Standing Committee.
  - vii) The Secretariat will commission a periodic review of the use of the guidance and report on this to the Standing Committee.

## Annex 2

### **Bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP for the 2016-2018 triennium**

Observer organizations are defined as global and regional multilateral environmental agreements, global intergovernmental organizations and processes (IGOs), regional intergovernmental organizations and processes (IROs), international organization and other NGOs and organizations devoted to wetlands.

They include:

- Conservation International (CI)
- Consultative Group on Biological Diversity
- Ducks Unlimited (DU)
- Environmental Law Institute
- Group on Earth Observation – Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON)
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability {Reserve made by Argentina}
- Inter American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)
- Flora and Fauna International {Reserve made by Argentina}
- NatureServe
- The Business and Biodiversity Offsets Program (BPOP)
- The Committee on Science and Technology of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- The Coordinating Committee for the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP-coco)
- The European Space Agency – ESRIN (ESA-ESRIN)
- The Global Water Partnership (GWP) {Reserve made by Argentina}
- The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
- The International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE)
- The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility
- The Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (SC of CMS)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- The Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the World Heritage Convention (WHC); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) “Water Convention”, and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group of the Arctic Council
- The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
- The Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
- The Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- The Technical Committee of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
- The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
- The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)
- The World Bank
- The World Health Organization (WHO)
- Tour du Valat Research Centre for the Conservation of Mediterranean wetlands
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- United Nations Regional Economic Commissions

### Annex 3

#### STRP priorities / thematic work areas for 2016-2018

STRP priorities were selected based on the following criteria (a) the ones with the most overlap in prioritization across regions that provided views (Africa, Americas and Asia) combined with (b) the strongest case vis-à-vis matching the strategic plan goals and targets.

STRP Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2021	Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2021
<p>Best practice methodologies / tools to monitor Ramsar sites, including surveying, mapping, and inventorying.</p>	<p><b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b></p> <p><b>Target 5</b> The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained, through effective planning and management.</p> <p><b>Target 7</b> Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed.</p> <p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 13</b> Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Best practices for developing and implementing management plans for Ramsar sites and other wetlands.</p>	<p><b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Target 8</b> National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p><b>Target 9</b> The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the scale of the basin.</p> <p><b>Target 10</b> Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented.</p> <p><b>Target 11</b> Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant</p>

	<p>for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 13</b> Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Methodologies for valuation of goods and services of wetlands.</p>	<p><b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b></p> <p><b>Target 1</b> Wetlands benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure at the national and local level.</p> <p><b>Target 3</b> Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands.</p> <p><b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Target 8</b> National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p><b>Target 9</b> The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the scale of the basin.</p> <p><b>Target 10</b> Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented.</p> <p><b>Target 11</b> Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>

	<p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 13</b></p> <p>Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Balancing wetland conservation and development – infrastructure, urbanization and agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b></p> <p><b>Target 1</b></p> <p>Wetlands benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure at the national and local level.</p> <p><b>Target 3</b></p> <p>Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands.</p> <p><b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Target 8</b></p> <p>National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p><b>Target 9</b></p> <p>The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the scale of the basin.</p> <p><b>Target 10</b></p> <p>Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented.</p> <p><b>Target 11</b></p> <p>Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><b>Target 12</b></p> <p>Sustainable fishery, agriculture and ecotourism are expanded, contributing to biodiversity conservation</p>

	<p>and human livelihoods.</p> <p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 13</b> Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Climate change and wetlands: methodologies for carbon capture.</p>	<p><b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Target 8</b> National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p><b>Target 9</b> The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the scale of the basin.</p> <p><b>Target 10</b> Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented</p> <p><b>Target 11</b> Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 13</b> Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>



## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR6

### Draft Resolution XII.6

#### The status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance

1. RECALLING Article 8.2 of the Convention on the duties of the Secretariat concerning reporting on the status of Ramsar Sites for the consideration and recommendations by the Parties at ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on these matters, and Article 6.2(d) concerning the competence of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to make general or specific recommendations to the Contracting Parties regarding the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands;
2. CONGRATULATING the Contracting Parties on the designation, between 13 July 2012 and 28 August 2014, of 149 new Ramsar Sites;
3. CONCERNED that for 1,238 Ramsar Sites, representing 57% of 2,188 Sites, either Ramsar Information Sheets or adequate maps have not been submitted, or relevant Ramsar Information Sheets or maps have not been updated for over six years, such that information on the current status of these Sites is not available;
4. NOTING that changes to Ramsar Site boundaries and areas reported to the Secretariat in updated Ramsar Information Sheets can only include extensions or recalculations of areas including through more precise boundary delineations;
5. RECALLING that in Resolution VIII.8 (2002) the COP expressed concern that many Contracting Parties do not have in place the mechanisms to fulfil Article 3.2 of the Convention, and urged Contracting Parties to promptly “put in place mechanisms in order to be informed at the earliest possible time, including through reports by national authorities and local and indigenous communities and NGOs, if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory included in the Ramsar List has changed, is changing or is likely to change, and to report any such change without delay to the Ramsar Bureau so as to implement fully Article 3.2 of the Convention”;
6. NOTING that 73% of the Contracting Parties reported to COP12 that they have arrangements in place to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites in their territories in line with Article 3.2, but AWARE that fewer than 21% have submitted reports of all instances of such changes or likely changes;
7. FURTHER NOTING that Contracting Parties have placed no further Ramsar Site on the Montreux Record since COP11;

8. CONCERNED that of all Ramsar Sites included in the Montreux Record as of 28 August 2014, only one Site has been removed from the Record since COP11; and
9. CONCERNED about the average four years that it has taken to close Article 3.2 files, the continuing lack of information on the status of many open Article 3.2 files, and the lack of response by numerous Contracting Parties to reports by third parties of potential threats to Sites;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

10. EXPRESSES APPRECIATION to those Contracting Parties that have brought their Ramsar Information Sheets up to date for all the Ramsar Sites within their territory;
11. STRONGLY URGES the Parties listed at Annex 3a of the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2, in whose territories lie Ramsar Sites for which the Ramsar Information Sheet or map have not been submitted since the time of designation, to provide such information as a matter of urgency and in advance of the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, and INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to contact the Contracting Parties listed in Annex 3a and request them to do so;
12. REQUESTS Contracting Parties listed in Annex 3b of the report of the Secretary General to fulfil, as a matter of urgency, the terms of Resolution VI.13 and submit updated information of Ramsar Sites at least every six years using the most up-to-date format of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS), now available online through the new Ramsar Sites Information Service, also for designating new Sites and extending existing Sites;
13. REAFFIRMS the commitment made by the Parties in Resolution VIII.8 to implement fully the terms of Article 3.2 on reporting change, and to maintain or restore the ecological character of Ramsar Sites by employing all appropriate mechanisms to address and resolve as soon as possible any matters leading to Article 3.2 reports; and subsequently to submit a further report on the outcomes of those mechanisms, so that both positive outcomes and changes in ecological character may be fully reflected in reports to meetings of the Conference of the Parties in order to establish a clear picture of the status and trends of the Ramsar Site network;
14. CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE Contracting Parties to adopt and apply, as part of their management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, a suitable monitoring regime, such as that outlined in the annex to Resolution VI.1 (1996), which incorporates the Convention's Wetland Risk Assessment Framework (Resolution VII.10), in order to be able to report change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites in line with Article 3.2;
15. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to those Contracting Parties which have provided Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat about Ramsar Sites where human-induced changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or may occur, as listed in Annex 4a of the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2;
16. REQUESTS those Contracting Parties with Ramsar Sites for which the Secretariat has received reports of change or likely change in their ecological character (listed in Annexes 4a and 4b of the Report of the Secretary General) to submit information to the Secretariat, in response to such reports, including as appropriate information, on steps taken or to be taken to address these changes, or likely changes, in ecological character in advance of the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee and each subsequent Standing Committee meeting;

17. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to consider options for assisting and encouraging Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in the ecological character of Sites, such as direct advice on the application of the wise use principles, or, when relevant, proposing to Parties to add the Site(s) to the Montreux Record or to invite a Ramsar Advisory Mission;
18. REITERATES ITS ENCOURAGEMENT to Contracting Parties, when submitting a report in fulfilment of Article 3.2, to consider whether the Site would benefit from listing on the Montreux Record, and to request such listing as appropriate;
19. RECOGNIZING the need to redesign the Montreux Record questionnaire to ensure its effective operation after 18 years, REQUESTS the Contracting Parties to use the redesigned Montreux Record questionnaire at Annex 1 of the present Resolution to determine the inclusion or removal of a listed site in the Montreux Record;
20. REQUESTS Contracting Parties with Sites on the Montreux Record to report to each Standing Committee with an update on progress in addressing the issues for which those Ramsar Sites were listed on the Record, and report on these matters in their National Reports to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
21. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue to work with Contracting Parties to assess and monitor the status of Ramsar Sites and to consider options for collecting timely information on the evolution of the status of Ramsar Sites, for example by investigating the potential value and feasibility of gathering satellite data on changes to Sites;
22. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to estimate the costs of options for working with relevant partners (e.g. UNEP-GRID) and for strengthening Parties' access to such data and monitoring tools;
23. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to work with the IUCN World Heritage Outlook to gather timely and independent information on Ramsar Sites which are also recognized as World Heritage Sites; and
24. REQUESTS the Secretariat to investigate the possibility of extending the IUCN World Heritage Outlook to another 100 Ramsar Sites which are under threat, to estimate the costs and propose financial mechanisms to support such actions, and to seek appropriate voluntary funding.

## **Annex 1: Montreux Record – Questionnaire content**

### **Section One:**

Information for assessing possible inclusion of a listed Ramsar Site in the Montreux Record

Nature of the change

1. Name of Site.
2. Ramsar Criteria for listing the Site as internationally important.
3. Summary statement of ecological character description.
4. Ecological components, processes and services affected by adverse human-induced change/likely change (list relevant code numbers from the ecological character description).
5. Nature and extent of the change / likely change to ecological character (use threat categories in RIS Guidance Appendix F, COP11 Resolution XI. 8 Annex2).
6. Reason(s) for the change / likely change described above.

Management measures in place

7. Date when the latest Ramsar Information Sheet was submitted.
8. Monitoring programme in place at the Site, if any (description of technique(s), objectives, and nature of data and information gathered) – refer to section 5.2. 7 RIS (COP11 Resolution XI. 8 Annex1 RIS field 34).
9. Assessment procedures in place, if any (how is the information obtained from the monitoring programme used).
10. Ameliorative and restoration measures so far in place or planned, if any.
11. Any other analogous or linked Site intervention processes activated or planned, e.g. under other multilateral environmental agreements.
12. List of attachments provided by the Contracting Party (if applicable).
13. List of attachments provided by the Ramsar Secretariat (if applicable).

### **Section Two:**

Information for assessing possible removal of a listed site from the Montreux Record

1. Success of ameliorative, restoration or maintenance measures (if different from those covered in Section One of this questionnaire).
2. Proposed monitoring and assessment procedures (if different from those in Section One of this questionnaire).
3. Extent to which the ecological components, processes and services of the Site have been restored or maintained (provide details).
4. Rationale for removing the site from the Montreux Record (refer to Guidelines for Operation of the Montreux Record, the specific issues identified in Section One of this questionnaire, and any advice given by the STRP or arising from a Ramsar Advisory Mission, where applicable).
5. Status of any other analogous or linked Site intervention processes, e.g. under other multilateral environmental agreements, and details of how Montreux Record removal will be harmonized with these.
6. Measures that the Contracting Party will implement to maintain the ecological character of the site with clear indicators for follow up.
7. List of further attachments (if applicable).



## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR7

### Draft Resolution XII.7

#### Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention, and proposal to add Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) as an International Organization Partner

1. WELCOMING the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2021 and the *Strategic Framework for Ramsar Partnerships* presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP11) in 2012 (COP11 DOC.18); and NOTING the needs and interests expressed by Contracting Parties;
2. RECALLING that Contracting Parties sought through Resolution XI.3 on *Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 Triennium* and Resolution XI.6 on *Partnerships and Synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other Institutions* to support effective collaboration with related Conventions and organizations;
3. ALSO RECALLING that Resolution X.12 on *Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector* establishes principles and criteria for due diligence;
4. ALSO RECALLING that Resolution XI.20 on *Promoting sustainable investment by the public and private sectors to ensure the maintenance of the benefits people and nature gain from wetlands* calls for Contracting Parties to promote investment and policy decisions which encourage the wise use of wetlands;
5. UNDERSTANDING the importance of focusing on priorities, raising funds and also responding to the interests of partners and funders;
6. GUIDED by the feedback, suggestions and support of Contracting Parties including during the Ramsar Regional Meetings held in October and November 2014;
7. WELCOMING the feedback, suggestions and support which Contracting Parties, the International Organization Partners and other key partners provided during the preparation of the framework and work-plan via regional meetings in 2014 and the 48<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee in 2015;
8. RECOGNIZING the importance of actively supporting efforts to mobilize financial resources in support of the successful implementation of the Convention's objectives;
9. REAFFIRMING the commitment of Parties to meet their obligations to pay their annual contributions;

10. RECALLING that a number of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) played a significant role in the inception of the Convention, and AWARE that these and an increasing number of other INGOs and intergovernmental organizations are contributing to, or have the potential to contribute to, the development and implementation of the Convention's mission at local, national and global scales;
11. ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution VII.3 *Partnerships with International Organizations*, the Contracting Parties established rules for conferring the status of International Organization Partner of the Convention, and conferred this status on BirdLife International, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Wetlands International, and WWF, and that in Resolution IX.16, the Parties recognized the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) as the fifth International Organization Partner;
12. FURTHER RECALLING that in Resolution VII.3 the Parties decided that further international non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations meeting the criteria established by those rules and interested in formal recognition as International Organization Partners of the Convention should present an application to the Ramsar Secretariat, to be submitted to the Standing Committee for consideration and recommendation to the Conference of the Contracting Parties for its final decision; and
13. NOTING that the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) has applied for International Organization Partner status, and that the Standing Committee asked the Secretariat in Decision SC47-21 to prepare a draft resolution on WWT's application, to present to Contracting Parties at COP12;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

14. REQUESTS a revised draft of the Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework and associated work-plan for the period 2016-2021 for consideration at the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee;
15. URGES Parties to allocate from national budgets financial resources for the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan and provide information as appropriate on how much has been allocated for the triennium in their National Reports to COP13 and in subsequent reports;
16. URGES Parties in a position to do so, and INVITES donor agencies, to provide significant new and additional financial resources including by facilitating funding from private sector sources to support and enhance the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan, in particular by developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition;
17. ENCOURAGES developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing states and countries with economies in transition to enter into south-south, north-south and triangular cooperation for the successful implementation of the 4th Strategic Plan;
18. REQUESTS the Secretariat to ensure the inclusion of reporting sections on voluntary contributions from national budgets, and on the status of annual core budget contribution payments, in the questionnaires in the National Reports;
19. REQUESTS the Secretariat to strengthen partnerships with other MEAs such as inter alia the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological

Diversity (CBD) and others, in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation;

20. REQUESTS Parties and invites other governments, non-governmental organizations, and other financial institutions in a position to do so, in a manner that does not impact the core budget of the Convention, to provide voluntary contributions to support the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan and other Convention activities;
21. URGES Parties to explore innovative and creative funding opportunities to enhance the national implementation of the Convention; and
22. APPROVES the status of International Organization Partner for the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT).





## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR8

### Draft Resolution XII.8

#### Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention

1. RECALLING that regional initiatives under the Ramsar Convention, which include centres for training and capacity building or networks which facilitate cooperation, are intended as operational means to provide effective support for an improved implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in specific geographic regions, through international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern;
2. NOTING that the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19, 1999) provide the appropriate framework for promoting international collaboration between Contracting Parties and other partners;
3. ALSO RECALLING that the Contracting Parties recognized the importance of regional initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Convention in Resolution VIII.30 (2002), and subsequently through Resolutions IX.7 (2005), X.6 (2008) and XI.5 (2012), and endorsed a number of regional initiatives as operating within the framework of the Convention in 2013-2015;
4. FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution X.6 (2008) adopted *Operational Guidelines 2009-2012 for regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands* to support the implementation of the Convention, and that these *Operational Guidelines* as subsequently amended by Standing Committee for the triennium 2013-2015 serve as a reference for assessing the operation and effectiveness of Regional Initiatives, replacing the *Guidelines for the development of Regional Initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands* annexed to Resolution VIII.30;
5. NOTING that during the years 2013-2015, the Standing Committee approved a number of active regional initiatives as fully meeting the *Operational Guidelines*, and noted the substantial progress made by many of the initiatives, based on the annual reports which they submitted during those years; and
6. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the experience gained through the operational years of those Regional Initiatives, the application of the *Operational Guidelines* in selecting and supporting Initiatives, and the conclusions derived from the review of their effectiveness;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. REAFFIRMS the effectiveness of regional cooperation, through networks and centres, in supporting improved implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan;

8. APPROVES the continued validity and use of the *Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention*, as adopted for 2013-2015 through Standing Committee Decision SC46-28 and published on the Ramsar website, for the period 2016-2018;
9. INSTRUCTS all regional initiatives endorsed by the Convention to continue to submit to the Standing Committee annual reports on their progress and operations, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the *Operational Guidelines*, and to continue to submit annual plans according to the timetable and format adopted by the Standing Committee;
10. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to continue to assess annually, based on the reports submitted, according to the format adopted through Standing Committee Decision SC41-21, the extent to which regional initiatives continue to meet the standards of the *Operational Guidelines* and contribute to the implementation of the Convention;
11. EMPHASIZES the importance for regional initiatives to establish governance and financial structures which are transparent, accountable, and representative of all relevant parties including government agencies and non-governmental organizations;
12. DECIDES to include financial support in the Convention core budget line "Support to Regional Initiatives", as listed in Resolution XII.1 on financial and budgetary matters, to support the start-up activities of operational regional initiatives during the period 2016-2018 which fully meet the *Operational Guidelines*;
13. FURTHER DECIDES that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to individual regional initiatives for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 will be determined annually by the Standing Committee, based on updated work plans to be submitted according to the required format and timetable, and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance;
14. STRONGLY URGES those regional initiatives that receive initial financial support from the core budget to use part of this support to seek sustainable long-term funding from other sources, particularly during the second triennium in which they qualify for such support;
15. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other potential donors to support regional initiatives, whether or not they are also receiving funding through the Convention's core budget, and URGES Contracting Parties geographically related to a regional initiative that have not yet done so to provide formal letters of support as well as financial support;
16. INSTRUCTS regional initiatives to publicize themselves as an operational means to provide support for the implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention, in addition to the Ramsar Administrative Authorities at national level and the Ramsar Secretariat at global level;
17. REQUESTS the regional initiatives to maintain active and regular contact with the Secretariat, to ensure that the global Ramsar guidelines are applied and that the strategic and operational objectives of regional initiatives are in full harmony with the Convention's Strategic Plan, and ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to support and advise regional initiatives, according to its means, to reinforce their capacity and effectiveness;

18. URGES STRP members and national focal points to apply experiences of regional initiatives in their work;
19. REQUESTS that the Standing Committee assess the functioning of Ramsar regional initiatives in relation to the Operational Guidelines and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2021, seeking support from the CEPA Oversight Panel as required;
20. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and INVITES international organizations, regional and subregional multilateral agreements, to identify, for possible inclusion among regional initiatives, transboundary river/groundwater basin organizations; and
21. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to prepare a summary of its annual assessments, which reviews the operations and success of the regional initiatives operating during the period 2016-2018, for Contracting Parties' consideration at the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties.





## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR9

### Draft Resolution XII.9

#### **The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2021**

1. RECALLING that the Contracting Parties through Resolution X.8 adopted the third CEPA Programme for the Convention (for the term 2009-2015) and introduced participation as an important component of CEPA programmes in recognition of the role that participation can play in building awareness, engagement and capacity;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING that the Ramsar Convention's stakeholders recognize that CEPA has an important role to play in the implementation of the Convention at all scales;
3. RECOGNIZING that as of 1 June 2014, 129 Contracting Parties had designated Government CEPA Focal Points and 98 Parties had designated national Non-governmental Organization CEPA Focal Points, but CONCERNED that that this represents a reduction in designations since the last triennium, and so limits the opportunities for coordinating CEPA delivery, and indeed broader implementation of the Convention;
4. CONGRATULATING the 30% of Contracting Parties which have reported carrying out CEPA activities at Site level and particularly those which have incorporated these into wetland management plans, the 66% of Parties which have developed wetland centres at some Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, the 70% of parties which promote participation in wetland planning and management, and the 90% of Parties which reported celebrating World Wetlands Day, but NOTING the number of Parties that still have to make significant progress in many of these areas.
5. EXPRESSING GRATITUDE to the Danone Group for its continuing sponsorship of outreach activities under the Convention, and particularly the support for the annual World Wetlands Day campaign; and
6. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION for the work done by the Ramsar Secretariat and the CEPA Oversight Panel in developing the new programme and the Panel's oversight of the implementation of the CEPA Programme since 2005;

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7. ADOPTS the Convention's *Programme on Communication, Capacity Development, Education, Participation and Awareness 2016-2021* which is at Annex 1 to this Resolution, as an instrument to provide guidance to Contracting Parties, the Ramsar Secretariat, the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs), NGOs, community-based organizations, and other

stakeholders in the development of appropriate actions to engage, enlist and enable people to act for the wise use of wetlands;

8. CONFIRMS that this Resolution and its Annex incorporates the key recommendations from Resolutions VII.9, VIII.31, and X.8;
9. CONFIRMS that this Resolution incorporates advice on participation provided in Resolutions VII.8 and VIII.28;
10. REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to continue to monitor and report on CEPA issues within the Convention and the progress of implementation of the CEPA Programme as established by this Resolution, and to advise the Standing Committee and the Secretariat on the CEPA work priorities at the national and international levels;
11. URGES all Contracting Parties that have yet to do so to nominate as a matter of priority suitably qualified Government and Non-governmental Organization Focal Points for wetland CEPA and to inform the Ramsar Secretariat accordingly, and URGES Parties to ensure that the CEPA Focal Points are members of the National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee where these exist;
12. URGES all Contracting Parties, as suggested in Resolutions VII.9, VIII.31 and X.8 in the CEPA Programme 2016-2021, to formulate their Wetland CEPA Action Plans (at national, subnational, catchment, or local levels) for priority activities that address international, regional, national, and local needs, and as appropriate to provide copies of these to the Ramsar Secretariat to make available to other Contracting Parties and organizations;
13. STRONGLY URGES all Contracting Parties to seek to develop and implement their Wetland CEPA Action Plans and planning as integrated components of their broader environment, biodiversity, wetland and water management, education, health, and poverty reduction policy instruments and mainstreamed in relevant programmes, at decentralized level where appropriate, and to ensure that CEPA is recognized as underpinning the effective delivery of these activities;
14. CALLS UPON those Contracting Parties with wetland CEPA plans to evaluate the effectiveness of those plans on a regular basis, to amend their priority actions where necessary;
15. REITERATES the call to multilateral and bilateral donors and private sector sponsors to support appropriate actions as set out in the Ramsar CEPA Programme 2016-2021;
16. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat subject to available resources to assist in strengthening the capacity of the CEPA Focal Points and others by the provision of training, toolkits, and templates, for example for CEPA action planning and CEPA training;
17. RECOGNIZES the growing celebration of World Wetlands Day in a large number of countries, and URGES Contracting Parties to continue, or to begin, to use this occasion to bring attention to their achievements and continuing challenges in wetland conservation and wise use;
18. ENCOURAGES those Contracting Parties with established, or proposed, wetland education centres and related facilities to support the development of those centres as key places of learning and training about wetlands and wetland-related CEPA and to support their participation in the global network of such centres under the Wetland Link International programme of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, WWT (UK);

19. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to utilize and support the capacity of the Ramsar Regional Centres in wetland training in their respective regions both for their staff, other wetland professionals and a wider public audience;
20. INVITES the Ramsar International Organization Partners (IOPs), Ramsar Regional Initiatives and other organizations with which the Ramsar Secretariat has collaborative agreements to support the implementation of the Ramsar CEPA Programme at the global, regional, national or local levels, as appropriate, with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal;
21. Invites the Ramsar CEPA National Focal Points and the CEPA Oversight Panel to promote synergies with other Conventions' CEPA programmes; and
22. URGES those Parties with other national and local languages than the three official languages of the Convention to consider translating key Ramsar guidance and guidelines into those languages in order to make them more widely available.

## Annex 1

### **The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2021**

#### **Background**

This is the Convention's fourth CEPA Programme and it will operate for a six-year period. It has been developed in conjunction with the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention adopted at COP12 and is consistent with this document. It replaces the annexes to Resolutions VII.9, VIII.31 and X.8. An explanation of the key terms associated with this Programme, including communication, education, participation, awareness, and capacity development, is available in Appendix 1.

Promoting the value of wetlands and their ecosystem services and supporting Contracting Parties with high quality guidance to manage wetlands wisely are central to the Ramsar Convention. The Convention considers communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness as key processes to build an informed constituency, increase the number of advocates, and build the capacity of key stakeholders to participate in the wise use of wetlands. The commitment of the Contracting Parties in the last triennium is reviewed in some detail in Ramsar COP11 DOC.14. The Convention recommends that communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness are employed in all areas and at all levels: this programme provides a set of strategies to guide the delivery of that recommendation.

A fundamental assumption of the CEPA Programme is that the actions taken in response to it will result in an increasing number of "actors" who become agents, ambassadors or advocates for the Convention on Wetlands and its principles. Support for the CEPA Programme should therefore be seen as an investment which aims to help decision-makers and mobilise local and national-scale actions directed at achieving the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

#### **Vision**

The vision of the Ramsar Convention's CEPA Programme

"Prevent, stop and reverse the degradation of wetlands and use them wisely"

The over-arching Goal of the Ramsar Convention's CEPA Programme

"People taking action for the wise use of wetlands"

#### **Strategies and Strategic Objectives**

The Programme identifies what needs to be achieved to realize the vision through nine Strategies and the results that should be achieved by means of 42 Strategic Objectives:

- Strategy 1 Ensure leadership to support effective implementation of the Programme by providing institutional mechanisms, building a National implementation team, and establishing and supporting relevant networks.
- Strategy 2 Integrate CEPA processes into all levels of policy development, planning and implementation of the Convention.

- Strategy 3 Provide support for Ramsar implementers, especially those with a direct role in site management by developing and making accessible guidance materials and expertise on wetlands and their ecosystem services.
- Strategy 4 Build the individual and collective capacity of people with a direct responsibility for Ramsar implementation.
- Strategy 5 Develop and support mechanisms to ensure multi-stakeholder participation in wetland management.
- Strategy 6 Implement programmes, projects and campaigns targeting diverse sectors of society to increase awareness, appreciation and understanding of wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide.
- Strategy 7 Recognize and support the role of wetland centres and other environmental centres as catalysts and key actors for activities that promote Ramsar objectives.
- Strategy 8 Support the development and distribution of education materials that build awareness of the values of wetlands and their ecosystem services for use in formal education settings, at Ramsar Sites and by all Ramsar actors.
- Strategy 9 Ensure that the guidance and information provided by the STRP is developed in close collaboration with the CEPA programme and dissemination is ensured to the identified target audiences through the most effective communications channels.

Implementation of the Programme must be undertaken by a number of responsible bodies and partners of the Convention including, *inter alia*:

- AA: Administrative Authority in each country, including the AA National Focal Points
- CEPA: Convention's CEPA National Focal Points, both government and NGO
- NRC: National Ramsar Committees / National Wetlands Committees (or equivalent bodies), where they exist
- RamSec: Ramsar Convention Secretariat
- STRP: Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel
- IOPs: International Organization Partners, at present BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN, Wetlands International, and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- RRCs: Ramsar Regional Centres endorsed by the Convention as Ramsar Regional Initiatives
- SM: Site managers
- WEC: Wetland education/visitor centres
- PS: Private sector organizations whose activities directly or indirectly affect wetlands
- CSO: Civil Society Organizations such as national and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs)
- RRI: Ramsar Regional Initiatives

This is an indicative list of key actors that may change during the life of the Programme and will undoubtedly vary to some extent from one country to another. As a broad guide to actors that could contribute to achieving the results, suggested implementers of each Strategy and Strategic Objective are indicated below using the abbreviations above, for example {AA}.

## Strategies and Strategic Objectives

Strategy 1 Ensure leadership to support effective implementation of the Programme by providing institutional mechanisms, building a qualified implementation team and establishing and supporting relevant networks.

- 1.1 Appropriately qualified persons to fulfill the roles of National Government and Non-governmental Organization CEPA Focal Points (see Appendix 2) nominated by Contracting Parties and communicated to the Ramsar Secretariat. {AA }
- 1.2 National Ramsar/Wetland Committees established to collaborate with relevant government departments and institutions to mainstream wetlands and their ecosystem services. {AA }
- 1.3 National Focal Points (AA, CEPA and STRP) included as members of National Ramsar/Wetland Committees where these exist. {AA, NRC }
- 1.4 Email networks that connect and support Administrative Authorities, National Focal Points, Site managers and other Ramsar implementers established and supported at global and national levels. {RamSec, AA, STRP, IOPs }
- 1.5 Relationships developed and maintained with those organizations that can support Ramsar objectives through their expertise, their human resources or through funding. {RamSec, AA, IOPs }
- 1.6 Effectiveness of strategies, especially regarding development and distribution of materials on wetland education and management, the success of campaigns under WWD in engendering a change in behaviour, policy, and practice are regularly evaluated. {RamSec, AAs, NRC, NFPs }

Strategy 2 Integrate CEPA processes into all levels of policy development, planning and implementation of the Convention.

- 2.1 CEPA expertise involved in the development of guidance by the Convention's bodies including the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and Standing Committee (SC). {RamSec, STRP }
- 2.2 Wetland communication (CEPA) plans developed at the appropriate level (national, basin or site) to support Ramsar implementers. {AA, NRC, CSO }
- 2.3 Where appropriate, wetland CEPA integrated into national policy and planning relevant to wetlands. {AA, CEPA, NRC }
- 2.4 CEPA strategies included in basin and site level management planning. {STRP, AA, NRC, CEPA, SM, CSO }

Strategy 3 Provide support for Ramsar implementers, especially those with a direct role in site management by developing and making accessible guidance materials and expertise on wetlands and their ecosystem services.

- 3.1 Appropriate guidance materials that support and encourage the wise use of wetlands produced for use at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands and by wetland networks. {RamSec, STRP, IOPs, CSO }

- 3.2 Websites, including the Convention's website, maintained for sharing information and resources, including an online platform for sharing information and experiences among CEPA National Focal Points. {RamSec, STRP, AA}
- 3.3 Appropriate Ramsar Sites and other wetlands promoted as 'demonstration sites' for the wise use principle, and these sites suitably equipped in terms of capacity, signage, and interpretive materials {AA, CEPA, IOPs, CSO}
- 3.4 CEPA stories and materials collected and shared through the Secretariat to illustrate how CEPA activities improve wetland management. {RamSec, CEPA}
- 3.5 Collaboration on CEPA with other Conventions, Ramsar's IOPs, other NGOs, UN agencies and others ensured through sharing of CEPA experiences and the encouragement of synergies. {RamSec, IOPs, CSO}

Strategy 4 Build the individual and collective capacity of people with a direct responsibility for Ramsar implementation.

- 4.1 Site managers supported to build communication, education, participation and awareness into their management plans. {RamSec, STRP, AA, CEPA, SM, RRCs, CSO}
- 4.2 Current needs and capacities of wetland site managers and National Focal Points assessed and the results used to define training and capacity-building priorities at regional and national levels. {RamSec, STRP, AA, CEPA, SM, RRCs}
- 4.3 Resources provided to produce appropriate wetland management training and capacity building materials and carry out the prioritised training and capacity building as identified in 4.2. {RamSec, AA, CEPA, STRP, SM, RRCs, CSO}
- 4.4 A network of Ramsar Regional Centres working to agreed standards (such as peer reviewed materials) supported to deliver capacity building to site managers, National Focal Points and other relevant stakeholders. {RamSec, RRCs, STRP}
- 4.5 Partnerships with tertiary education institutions and other relevant organisations are developed to support the production and delivery of wetland management training and capacity building materials and programmes. {RamSec, STRP, RRCs, CSO, PS}

Strategy 5 Develop and support mechanisms to ensure multi-stakeholder participation in wetland management.

- 5.1 Participation of major stakeholders used by site managers and others as an effective process for selection of Ramsar Sites and management of all wetlands, including at basin level. {AA, SM, CEPA, CSO}
- 5.2 Participation in wetland management of stakeholder groups with cultural, spiritual, customary, traditional, historical and socio-economic links to wetlands or those communities who depend on wetlands for their livelihoods is given a high priority {AA, SM, CEPA, CSO, RRI }
- 5.3 Wetland knowledge held by indigenous and local communities respected and integrated into site management plans. {AA, SM, CSO}

- 5.4 Encourage community participation in wetlands through volunteer programmes which support the delivery of management objectives. {AA, SM, CSO}
- 5.5 Partnerships with the private sector are sought and developed, including non-traditional sectors and those sectors whose activities have a major impact on wise use of wetlands. {AA, NRC, SM, PS}

Strategy 6 Implement programmes, projects and campaigns targeting diverse sectors of society to increase awareness, appreciation and understanding of wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide.

- 6.1 Programmes, projects and campaigns, including World Wetlands Day, undertaken with diverse partners to raise awareness, build community support, and promote stewardship approaches and attitudes towards wetlands. {RamSec, AA, NRC, CEPA, SM, IOPs, RRCs, PS, CSO}
- 6.2 Awareness enhanced on the monetary and non-monetary values of wetlands and their ecosystem services to improve understanding of the benefits which wetlands provide. {RamSec, STRP, AA, CEPA, SM}
- 6.3 Photo libraries, promotional videos and other similar tools developed and/or maintained to support awareness raising and appreciation of wetlands and their ecosystem services. {RamSec, AA, CEPA}
- 6.4 Collaboration with the media, including social media, carried out to promote the wise use of and recognition of their ecosystem services to decision-makers, key wetland users and the broad public. {RamSec, AA, CEPA}

Strategy 7 Recognize and support the role of wetland centres and other environment centres as catalysts and key actors for activities that promote Ramsar objectives.

- 7.1 Wetland education/visitor centres established in all countries. {AA, IOPs, WEC}
- 7.2 National CEPA Focal Points communicating directly with wetland education/visitor centres to support their delivery of Ramsar messages. {AA CEPA, WEC}
- 7.3 Wetland education/visitor centres linked nationally and internationally through Wetland Link International (WLI) and other mechanisms as a means for gaining access to global and national expertise in CEPA and sharing of experience and resources. {AA, CEPA, WEC}
- 7.4 Partnerships established with other education centres that could play a role in promoting wetlands and Ramsar objectives. {AA, CEPA, WEC}
- 7.5 Set up a comprehensive database of wetland education centres, to be managed through the WLI network. Contracting parties to be encouraged to provide information on wetland centres as part of their national reporting.

Strategy 8 Support the development and distribution of wetland education materials that build awareness of the values of wetlands and their ecosystem services for use in formal education settings, at Ramsar Sites and by all Ramsar actors.

- 8.1 Wetland education materials that build awareness of the values of wetlands and their ecosystem

services developed, promoted and distributed among relevant target audiences. {STRP, AA, CEPA, WEC}

- 8.2 Tertiary education institutions, especially those with water and wetland programmes, contributed to the production of targeted wetland education materials. {STRP, AA, CEPA, WEC}
- 8.3 Cultural and traditional wetland knowledge and practices are incorporated into wetland education materials. {WEC, CEPA}
- 8.4 Key messages about wetlands and their ecosystem services regularly reviewed through dialogue and feedback with all Ramsar actors.

Strategy 9 Ensure that the guidance and information provided by the STRP is developed in close collaboration with the CEPA programme and dissemination to the identified target audiences is ensured through the most effective communications channels

- 9.1 Develop a series of information fact sheets based on identified and agreed large scale questions as key awareness raising outreach tools.
- 9.2 Utilise the Ramsar Briefing Notes and Ramsar Technical Reports as pragmatic, working advisory documents targeting policy-makers or wetland practitioners and edit contents to ensure consistency in format and Ramsar branding.
- 9.3 Reconfigure the content of Wise Use Handbooks as training resource materials that summarize wise use site management and effective policy-making.
- 9.4 Integrate the current STRP website into the Ramsar website.

## Appendix 1

### Definitions and principles underpinning CEPA

In applying this Programme, it is important that Contracting Parties and other interest groups share a common understanding of what is meant by the concepts that underpin the acronym CEPA.

**Communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness** are all processes that can be used for specific purposes and specific target audiences to deliver CEPA aims.

Definitions and principles provided here have been used in formulating this programme and are drawn from recognised sources and practitioners in this field. The sources are provided at the end of the document.

#### *Definitions*

**Communication** under the Ramsar Convention can be defined as the interactive process between stakeholders to exchange information, knowledge and skills on the wise use of wetlands to ensure that all stakeholders are able to make informed decisions.

**Capacity development**, also referred to as **Capacity building** concerns institutional change. It is a process by which individuals, groups and organisations, institutions and countries develop, enhance and organise their systems, resources and knowledge to improve their ability, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives (OECD, 2006).

**Education** is a process that can inform, motivate, and empower people to support wetland conservation, not only by fostering changes in the way that individuals, institutions, businesses and governments operate, but also by inducing lifestyle changes. It may take place in both formal and informal settings. Education in its broadest sense is a life-long learning process.

**Training** is the process of increasing or strengthening an individual's specific knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours that can be taken back to the workplace. It may take place in both formal and informal settings.

**Awareness-raising** is an agenda-setting and advocacy exercise that triggers your target group to understand why wetland issues are important to address and what they can do to improve the situation at stake. It is a constructive and potentially catalytic force that is ultimately aimed at stimulating your target group (which could include a multitude of stakeholders) to take action for the wise use of wetlands (based on Sayer, 2006).

**Participation** is the involvement of "stakeholders" in the common development, implementation and evaluation of strategies and actions for the wise use of wetlands. Levels of involvement and kinds of participation can be highly variable, depending upon both the specific context and the decisions of the individuals, groups and institutions leading the process. An indicative list of the range of possible levels and kinds of participation is shown in Box 1 below.

## **Box 1: Levels of participation**

### **Self-Mobilization**

In this model, people participate by taking initiatives to change systems independently of external institutions. They develop contacts with external institutions for the resources and technical advice they need, but retain control over how resources are used. Self-mobilization can spread if governments and NGOs provide an enabling framework of support. Such self-initiated mobilization may or may not challenge existing distributions of wealth and power, but they do tend to foster the most long-lasting sense of “ownership” in the outcomes.

### **Interactive Participation**

People participate in joint analysis, development of action plans, and formation or strengthening of local institutions. Participation may be seen as an inherent right, not just as a means to achieve project goals. The process involves interdisciplinary methodologies that seek multiple perspectives and make use of systemic and structured learning processes. As groups take control over local decisions and determine how available resources should be used, they often feel an increasing stake in maintaining structures or practices.

### **Functional Participation**

Participation is sometimes seen by the relevant authorities chiefly as a means to achieve project goals, especially reduced costs. People may participate by forming groups to meet predetermined objectives related to the project. Such involvement may be interactive and involve shared decision making, but it frequently tends to arise only after the most important decisions have already been made by the authorities.

### **Participation for Material Incentives**

People can participate by contributing resources, for example labour, in return for food, cash or other material incentives. Farmers may provide the fields and labour, for example, whilst not being directly involved in experimentation or the process of learning. It is not uncommon to see this called ‘participation’ in a full sense, but in this case people typically have no stake in prolonging technologies or practices when the incentives end.

### **Participation by Consultation**

People participate by being consulted or by answering questions. Project authorities define problems and information-gathering processes, and thus tend to control analysis of the responses. Such a consultative process often does not imply a share of participants in decision making, and project staff are not under an obligation or do not feel obliged to take people’s views on board.

### **Passive Participation or Participation by being given Information**

People participate by being informed on what has been decided or has already happened. It tends more to involve announcements by an administration or project management than to reflect active attention to other people’s ideas and responses. The information being shared tends to belong only to project staff

### **Manipulative Participation**

At this extreme, participation is simply a pretence, with ‘people’s’ representatives on official boards but who are unelected and have no power.

Adapted from: *Participation in Strategies for Sustainable Development*, Environmental Planning Issues No. 7, May 1995 by Stephen Bass, Barry Dalal-Clayton and Jules Pretty, Environmental Planning Group, International Institute for Environment and Development.

## Principles

The CEPA Toolkit developed for CBD National Focal Points introduces CEPA as a tool to effectively engage and manage multi-stakeholder dialogue to plan and implement policy. With appropriate handling (i.e. actively and effectively applying communication, education, participation and awareness principles), these processes develop a sense of ownership of problems. The principles listed below do not forming an all-inclusive list but are provided to assist you in developing strategies in your own context.

### Communication principles

Some general essential principles on communication:

- Effective communication requires trust between parties or at least mutual respect, therefore, first of all know your audience.
- Effective communication depends on clarity and simplicity: avoid the use of jargon and buzz words; communicate a little at a time; present information in several ways and use multiple communication techniques.
- Know your purpose and know your topic and be prepared to back up with stories or facts.
- One of the major barriers to communication is our own ideas and opinions: listen to the actual message rather than to your own assumptions;
- The meaning of the message is 'in the receiver' not in the sender.
- Getting and giving feedback is one of the most crucial parts of effective communication. Like any other activity, there are specific skills that can enhance feedback and listening is a key skill
- Develop practical and useful ways to get feedback;
- Selling new ideas takes a lot of time and a lot of effort before they can be implemented.

### Principles on capacity development and education

- Capacity development takes place within individuals or groups of people and cannot be forced upon them: you cannot 'do' capacity development for others, it is an internal process.
- Adults are far more likely to reject information that contradicts their own life experiences or beliefs (Sayers, 2006).
- Everybody learns differently: capacity development requires multiple strategies, methods and techniques to serve multiple needs.
- Developing capacity is impacted significantly by the learning environment: create a stimulating learning environment.
- Adults especially need to understand the big picture to recognize the value of each piece of information they encounter.
- Establish connections between information received and knowledge already possessed.
- Participants' feedback is vital for the effective building of capacity.

### Participation Principles

- Encourage active participation of stakeholders in selection and management of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands.
- In considering participation of stakeholders, it is recommended to carefully consider the appropriate level of participation. See Levels of participation, Box 1.
- Create, as appropriate, the legal, policy and institutional system to facilitate stakeholder involvement in national and local decision-making for the wise use of wetlands.
- Wise use of wetlands is synonymous with mutual benefits for the wetlands and for human well-being; this cannot be achieved without participation of stakeholders.

- Traditional knowledge and experience of wetland systems should be used to assist in management of wetlands and complements scientific knowledge.
- Participation of indigenous and local communities with a cultural, spiritual, historical and/or economic interest in a particular wetland is integral to the development of sustainable management systems.
- Participation supports building awareness, knowledge and management skills over time.
- Ensuring participation of stakeholders increases commitment and ownership.

### Principles on Awareness-raising

- Ensuring that awareness is raised on a certain wetland issue or challenge does not simply mean to inform people, it means addressing people's beliefs and convictions.
- If awareness is raised it does not necessarily lead to people taking action for the wise use wetlands. Long lasting change requires skills and incentives to change.
- People taking action for the wise use of wetlands requires 7 steps:
  - a. Knowledge: your target group knows there is an issue;
  - b. Desire: your target group imagines a different future;
  - c. Skills - your target group knows what to do to achieve that future;
  - d. Optimism - your target group has confidence or belief in success;
  - e. Facilitation - your target group has the resources and supportive infrastructure to take action;
  - f. Stimulation - your target group receives compelling stimuli that promote action;
  - g. Reinforcement - your target group receives messages regularly that reinforce the original message or messages (Robinson (1998), cited in: (Sayers, 2006).
- Keep the target group you wish to address as specific as possible: more focus often has more impact.
- From awareness-raising to people taking action for the wise use of wetlands requires continuous planning, monitoring, evaluation and facilitation.

### Principles are based on:

Castello, Riccardo Del and Paul Mathias Braun, (2006). Framework on Effective Rural Communication for Development. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). Rome, 2006.

CBD, UNESCO, Commission on Education and Communication, IUCN, (no year). Mainstreaming Biological Diversity. The role of communication, education and public awareness.

[http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/cec\\_mainstreaming\\_biological\\_diversity\\_cepa\\_eng.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/cec_mainstreaming_biological_diversity_cepa_eng.pdf).

Hesselink, Frits, Wendy Goldstein, Peter Paul van Kempen, Tommy Garnett and Jinie Dela, (2007). Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA). A toolkit for National Focal Points and NBSAP coordinators (Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and IUCN: Montreal, Canada.

Gevers, Ingrid and Esther Koopmanschap, (2012). Enhancing the Wise Use of Wetlands. A Framework for Capacity Development. Centre for Development Innovation, Wageningen University & Research centre. ISBN 978-94-6173-406-8. <http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/doc/cop11-doc34-e-capacity.pdf>

Lucas, Robert W. (2003). The creative training idea book: inspired tips and techniques for engaging and effective learning. Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data. ISBN 0-8144-

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OECD, (2006). DAC Guidelines and Reference Series Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment: Good Practice Guidance for Development Co-operation, OECD, Paris.

Sayers, Richard.(2006). Principles of awareness-raising: Information literacy, a case study. Bangkok: UNESCO Bangkok, 2006. 124 pages. 1. Information literacy. 2. Public awareness. ISBN 92-9223-082-4. Available at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001476/147637e.pdf>

## Appendix 2

### Roles and responsibilities of the CEPA National Focal Points

1. In Resolution IX.18 adopted at COP9 in November 2005, the Parties instructed the Standing Committee at its 34th meeting to establish a CEPA Oversight Panel, one of the key tasks of which would be to clarify the broad roles of the two Government and Non-governmental CEPA National Focal Points (NFPs) nominated by each Party. (Full details on the task of the CEPA Oversight Panel are available at [http://www.ramsar.org/outreach\\_oversight\\_panel.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/outreach_oversight_panel.htm).)
2. The roles and responsibilities of the CEPA NFPs were discussed at the first meeting of the CEPA Panel in May 2006 and endorsed by SC35. The text below reflects their deliberations and should be used by Parties to guide their decisions on the nomination, roles, and responsibilities of their CEPA NFPs.
3. The rationale for the nomination of CEPA NFPs and key factors to be taken into consideration by Contracting Parties:
  - It is important that both CEPA NFPs be nominated since they bring different skills to the CEPA Programme, with the NGO NFP in many cases more actively engaged at the grass roots level.
  - Nominating a representative of an active NGO engages the NGO members in the CEPA Programme, gives recognition to their work, and can often bring additional funding to a CEPA programme.
  - While it is preferable that the Government NFP should be a CEPA expert, it is recognized that many Parties may not be willing to nominate a person outside of their Administrative Authority, which frequently means that the nominated person will not be a CEPA expert per se.
  - Some Government NFPs are nominated from within their Administrative Authority and are not necessarily CEPA experts, which allows for the inclusion of broader skill sets and knowledge.
  - Maintaining continuity in the national CEPA programmes is important, and with frequent Government NFP changes, the less frequent changes in the NGO NFP representation could help provide some continuity.
  - Collaboration between the two NFPs on their country's CEPA programme is actively encouraged.
  - The NFPs have a key role as members of the National Ramsar/ Wetland Committee, where these exist, promoting close contact with other key Administrative Authority personnel (such as the Daily Contact and the STRP NFP).
  - Close consultation is desirable between the CEPA NFPs and the Administrative Authority during the completion of the CEPA-related questions in the National Reports to the COPs.
4. It is ultimately the task of each Contracting Party to agree precise roles and responsibilities for their nominated CEPA National Focal Points (NFPs). These roles and expectations must reflect the capacity to operate at different levels and the resourcing of the individuals filling the positions. The Contracting Parties should provide some information to potential NFPs of the expected time required to fulfill their role and responsibilities.
5. **Suggested major roles and responsibilities of the CEPA NFPs.** In providing a supportive environment in which wetland CEPA planners and practitioners can develop their work, NFPs should:

- provide leadership for the development and implementation of a wetland CEPA Action Plan at an appropriate level (national, subnational, local) as described in this Resolution and annexed Programme;
- be the main points of contact on CEPA matters between a) the Secretariat and the Contracting Party and b) between Contracting Parties;
- be key members of the National Ramsar/Wetland Committees (if such a body exists) or similar national structures;
- assist in the practical CEPA implementation at the national level and in national reporting on CEPA activities to the Ramsar Conference of the Parties;
- ensure a high, positive public profile for the Ramsar Convention and its conservation and wise use goals;
- be active spokespersons for wetland CEPA; and
- establish and maintain any contacts, networks, structures and mechanisms necessary to ensure the effective communication of information between relevant actors at all levels and in all sectors.

### Appendix 3

#### **Possible target groups and stakeholders of the Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2021**

1. There are a large number of possible target groups for this CEPA Programme which fall within the broadest category of the general community or civil society. This Appendix identifies 27 subgroups of civil society which can make a significant and immediate difference in the status and long-term sustainability of wetlands.
2. Contracting Parties and others are urged to take this Appendix into consideration for their own situations in determining which of these are their highest priority target groups in developing CEPA planning and action.
3. A fundamental assumption of the CEPA Programme is that the actions taken in response to will result in an increasing number of "actors" who become agents, ambassadors or advocates for the Convention on Wetlands and its principles. Support for the CEPA Programme should therefore be seen as an investment which aims to help decision-makers and mobilise local and national-scale actions directed at achieving the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

#### **A. GOVERNMENTS AT ALL LEVELS**

<b>Target Group/Individuals</b>	<b>Rationale for engagement</b>
Environmental policy makers and planners within local administrations, provincial/ state and national government administrations	As key decision-makers at the local, sub-regional and national scales their actions can impact wetlands positively or negatively at the local level or catchment/river basin scale.
Wetland site managers (wardens, rangers, etc.) within local, provincial/state, national government administrations, including catchment or river basin authorities	These individuals are key to effective management and to gaining local support and participation.
National Administrative Authorities of the Ramsar Convention	They take the lead at the national level in implementing the Convention.
National Administrative Authorities and Focal Points for other environment-related conventions	They have the capacity to help deliver a more integrated approach to managing land and water resources, including wetlands.
National Ramsar Committees and other similar consultative and advisory committees for Ramsar	They have an important role in advising governments on implementation of Ramsar and the other conventions.
Ministers responsible for sustainable development and education portfolios and environment-related conventions as well as Members of Parliament - National, State/Provincial and local.	Their direct input to policy setting, budget allocation, etc. can be important for supporting Ramsar implementation. Members of Parliament in the opposition parties may be in this position in the future.
National aid agencies, bilateral donors	They deal with governments on a range of sustainable development issues.
Ambassadors and the staff of overseas missions.	They can assist in ensuring that national governments are better informed about Ramsar.

## B. THE EDUCATION SECTOR AND LEARNING INSTITUTIONS

Target Group/Individuals	Rationale for engagement
Education ministries, curriculum development authorities, examination boards and universities, in-service trainers, etc.	All these sectors in education can assist in including wetland conservation and wise use issues in school and other formal curricula.
National and international teachers' associations	In some countries the incorporation of Ramsar/ wetland principles into curricula and learning programmes generally can be accelerated through working collaboratively with teacher associations.
National and international networks, associations and councils of environmental education	Wetlands and water issues can be incorporated into the curricula and other materials being developed by these organizations.
Wetland/ Environment Centres, Zoos, Aquaria, Botanic Gardens, etc.	These institutions have the capacity to promote the Ramsar message to a broad range of visitors.
National and international networks of libraries	Library networks provide an excellent avenue for making information on Ramsar and wetlands more accessible to the general community.

## C. CIVIL SOCIETY

Target Group/Individuals	Rationale for engagement
Landowners (especially those who are responsible for managing wetlands)	They make decisions which impact directly upon wetlands.
National and local non-government organizations	They can be vital for achieving action at national and local level.
Indigenous people and local communities	They may have useful knowledge of sustainable wetland management and may have an ongoing cultural association with wetlands.
Women	In many cultures women tend to be more entrepreneurial in the family unit, more amenable to changing lifestyle habits, and may communicate more often with the children within the family.
Children	Children are the next generation of environmental managers and caretaker; they can also become teachers of their parents through their own education.
Those responsible for electronic and print media	They have the capacity to convey positive and informative messages about wetlands at local, national or international levels.
Community leaders and prominent people – athletes, sports people, religious leaders, artists, royalty, teachers, opinion leaders, etc.	Community leaders can use their public profile to draw attention to issues; and celebrity figures may be ideal ambassadors to promote the Ramsar message.

**D. THE BUSINESS SECTOR**

<b>Target Group/Individuals</b>	<b>Rationale for engagement</b>
Potential sponsors, supporters	Business sponsors and supporters can assist the Convention develop wise use materials and activities at international, national and local levels and also ensure that their business activities are not contrary to the objectives of the Convention.
Key business sectors such as water and sanitation; irrigation and water supply; agriculture; mining; forestry; fishing; tourism; waste disposal; energy	They have the potential to have significant negative impacts on wetlands.
Professional Associations	Some of these will have the potential to have major negative impacts on wetlands.

**E. INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

<b>Target Group/Individuals</b>	<b>Rationale for engagement</b>
Global organizations – World Bank, Global Environment Facility, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme, Global Water Partnership, etc.	They work with governments on a range of sustainable development issues and may have access to funding programmes.
Regional organizations – South Pacific Regional Environment Program, European Commission, Southern Africa Development Community, Regional Development Banks, ASEAN Environmental Programme, etc.	As above.
Global NGO partners (BirdLife, IWMI, IUCN, Wetlands International, and WWF) and other international and regional NGOs	While Ramsar's five official NGO partners are active in promoting the Ramsar Convention, there is a need to involve more regional and international NGOs in communicating the Ramsar message.
The secretariats of other environment-related instruments (CBD, UNCCD, CMS, UNFCCC, CITES, World Heritage, MAB)	Working with selected Secretariats can increase synergy among the conventions at the global and national scales bringing benefits for Ramsar.





## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR10

### Draft Resolution XII.10

#### Ramsar Wetland City<sup>1</sup> Accreditation (RWCA)

*Submitted by Tunisia and the Republic of Korea*

1. RECALLING the commitments made by Contracting Parties to achieving the wise use of all wetlands in their territory and to maintaining the ecological character of designated sites for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance;
2. RECALLING also that Resolution X.27 on *Wetlands and urbanization* underlined the importance of wetlands in urban and peri-urban environments, and of their wise use;
3. FUTHER RECALLING that Resolution XI.11 on *Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands* requested the Convention to explore establishing a “wetland city accreditation” scheme, which may in turn provide positive branding opportunities for cities that demonstrate strong and positive relationships with wetlands;
4. RECALLING that the Information Document 23 submitted to the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties entitled *Background and context to the development of principles and guidance for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands* noted that more than 50% of the Earth’s population now resides in cities, towns and urban settlements; that this shift to a predominantly urban population is predicted to continue at rates up to almost 4% per annum, with the rate of increase in urban populations being greatest in the least developed nations; that some estimates suggest that by 2030 80% of the human population will dwell in urban areas; and that whilst cities currently only occupy 2% of the Earth’s surface, they use 75% of the world’s natural resources and generate 70% of all the waste produced globally;
5. NOTING also that with the increasingly rapid urbanization, wetlands are being threatened in two principle ways:
  - i. through direct planned or unplanned conversion of wetlands to urban areas, leading to acute problems associated with polluted drainage, direct habitat loss, overexploitation of wetland plants and animals by urban and peri-urban residents, and the increased prevalence of non-native invasive species, uncontrolled waste disposal etc.; and
  - ii. through the watershed-related impacts of urban development, including increased demands for water, increased diffuse and point source pollution, the need for greater

<sup>1</sup> A city as defined in this draft resolution refers to a town or a village which has its own governing system (i.e. municipal authorities).

agricultural production, demands on the extractive industries to supply materials to support the development of urban infrastructure, and the water requirements of energy production to support the burgeoning urban population;

6. CONSIDERING that with the growing impact of urbanization on wetlands the importance of urban and peri-urban wetlands for biodiversity as well as the quality of urban life becomes even more significant;
7. AWARE of the huge potential of urban areas in terms of education and public awareness related to wetlands conservation, including through wetland education centres, guided tours for the public in general and schools in particular, and various communication means such as World Wetlands Day celebration, production of film documentaries, media events, etc.; and
8. TAKING into account the recommendations of workshops considering a city accreditation mechanism held in Morocco in 2012 and in the Republic of Korea and in Tunisia in 2014;

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9. APPROVES the development of a voluntary Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation (RWCA) system, which is attached as Annex 1 of this Resolution;
10. INVITES Contracting Parties to encourage Cities in their territories which are close to Ramsar Sites and request them to voluntarily submit nominations to the Ramsar Administrative Authority, who will review the nominations and select one per triennium to submit to the Ramsar Secretariat. The Ramsar Secretariat will then forward the nomination to the Independent Advisory Committee for assessment;
11. INVITES the Standing Committee to approve the detailed accreditation procedures and documentation to be proposed by the Independent Advisory Committee, including the application form to be completed by candidates for the RWCA at the 51<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee;
12. REQUESTS Contracting Parties interested to submit a nomination to follow the attached framework for the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation ;
13. INSTRUCES the Ramsar Secretariat, through their relevant Senior Regional Advisors, to assess the eligibility of the nominations received and submit them to the Independent Advisory Committee for consideration by the Standing Committee;
14. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to decide on the recommendations put forward every three years by the Independent Advisory Committee, including on eventual proposals for withdrawal of the RWCA;
15. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and their agencies including the local governments, non-governmental organizations and other partners to disseminate information on the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation through communication and awareness materials, events, celebrations and media channels; and INSTRUCES the Ramsar Secretariat to, in a step by step process, set up a global online network of Cities having obtained the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation; and

16. INVITES, on request of Contracting Parties, the Convention's International Organization Partners and other partners to encourage Cities to promote their branding through the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation, and promote local efforts to gain and maintain it, including through participation in and support to local management committees, subject to availability of resources.

## Annex 1

### Framework for Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation (RWCA)

#### Introduction

1. At COP 11 Resolution XI.11 was adopted on the *Principles for the sustainable planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands* which recognizes that the Principles can also be applied to spatial planning and management in rural areas, as appropriate, and it urges Contracting Parties and other governments to act upon these Principles, further disseminate them to other interested parties (including through translation into local languages), and seek to ensure that they are taken up by the sectors and levels of government responsible for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban environments.
2. Resolution XI.11 also asked the Convention to explore establishing a “Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation” system, which may in turn provide positive branding opportunities for cities that demonstrate strong and positive relationships with wetlands.
3. During the 47th meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, the Republic of Korea presented a report on the workshop it organized on Ramsar city accreditation. Through Decision SC47-27, the Standing Committee asked the Secretariat to prepare a document for the 48th Meeting of the Standing Committee taking into account this report. In addition, it invited Tunisia, WWF, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the Republic of Korea to prepare a draft resolution related to wetland city accreditation.
4. It is within this context that this Framework for the Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation was developed.
5. This accreditation would encourage cities that are close to and depend on wetlands, primarily Wetlands of International Importance, as well as other wetlands, to establish a positive relationship with these wetlands through increased participation and awareness and consideration of wetlands in local planning and decision making.

#### Ramsar Wetland City

6. The Ramsar Wetland City is so labelled in order to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands and regional and international co-operation, as well as to generate sustainable socio-economic benefits for the local populations.
7. A candidate City for the RWCA would be approved as a ‘Ramsar Wetland City’ by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention, following nomination by the Contracting Party on whose territory it stands, after passing the accreditation procedure described below. The new Ramsar Wetland City joins the global network of Ramsar Wetland Cities established by this framework. The Ramsar Wetland City continues to come under the sole sovereignty of the Contracting Party in which it is located, and is thus subject to the legislation of that Party alone.
8. The aim of this Framework for the RWCA is:

- a) To improve the effectiveness of the management of wetlands in the proximity of each Ramsar Wetland City and to reinforce mutual understanding, communication and cooperation at regional and international levels on wetlands; and
  - b) To contribute to the broad recognition of the links between Cities, local governments and wetlands, and to encourage and increase the number of examples of positive connections between human settlements and their wetlands.
9. This framework establishes the procedure for the RWCA and for the support and promotion of the Ramsar Cities. Each Contracting Party, as appropriate, is encouraged to develop and apply national criteria for the RWCA, which take their particular situation into account.
10. The recognized Ramsar Wetland Cities are intended to act as models for the study, demonstration and promotion of the Ramsar Convention objectives, approaches, principles and resolutions.

### **Definition**

11. The RWCA is assigned to a City (urban or rural) which, through its inhabitants, its local government and its resources, continuously promotes the conservation and wise use of any Ramsar Site(s) and other wetlands within or nearby the limits of the City, respecting its physical and social environment and its heritage, while supporting the development of a sustainable, dynamic and innovative economy as well as educational initiatives in connection with these wetlands.
12. An eligible City for the RWCA may be a city, village, and other type of human settlement according to the definitions given by the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, with its own governance system.

### **Criteria**

13. To be formally accredited, a candidate for the RWCA must meet all of the following seven criteria:
- a) To have one or more Ramsar Sites fully or partly situated in their territory or in its close vicinity, and to be able to demonstrate how it depends on those wetlands;
  - b) To have established an operational interpretation/information centre or equivalent system with sufficient information or activities about wetlands and their resources, open to both the local population and visitors;
  - c) To have created a Local Management Committee (minimum 4 persons from institutions dealing with wetlands) to support the RWCA submission;
  - d) The Ramsar Site(s) related to the candidate Ramsar Wetland City must have an up-to-date Ramsar Information Sheet and must not be listed on the Ramsar Convention's Montreux Record;
  - e) Each of the concerned Ramsar Sites must have a management plan which has been prepared using a participatory approach, and which is being actively implemented;

- f) The candidate Ramsar City must have a land-use plan or its equivalent which ensures the long-term conservation of the Ramsar Site(s) and of other wetlands situated fully or partly on its territory; and
  - g) The candidate Ramsar City must justify that in at least the two years before its request for RWCA, it has celebrated the World Wetlands Day or organized a public information event on wetlands
14. In addition, a candidate Ramsar Wetland City is to commit itself to maintain, or develop in the near future (preferably within a 3 year period):
- a) Appropriate standards regarding water quality , sanitation and management in the entire area under its jurisdiction;
  - b) Sustainable agricultural, forest, fish and pastoral production systems contributing to the conservation of the Ramsar Site(s);
  - c) Methods to evaluate the socio-economic and cultural values as well as the ecosystem services of the Ramsar Site(s), and good practices to conserve them; and
  - d) Where appropriate, a plan for disaster prevention and management which addresses hazards which relate to the Ramsar Site(s) such as accidental pollution or flooding.

#### **Accreditation procedure**

15. A City is accredited as a “Ramsar Wetland City” by the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention, at its final full meeting prior to each Conference of the Parties. Candidate Cities for accreditation are recommended by the Independent Advisory Committee, in accordance with the following procedure:
- a) The accreditation request must be submitted, after consultation with local populations, by the Local Management Committee for the RWCA (see paragraph 13.c above) to the Head of the Ramsar Administrative Authority of the Contracting Party concerned;
  - b) Each Contracting Parties can submit no more than one Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation request per triennium, i.e the one they consider the best candidate;
  - c) After reviewing whether the City meets the criteria above, the Head of the Ramsar Administrative Authority submits to the Ramsar Secretariat the accreditation request, (in the format approved by the Standing Committee and supported by the appropriate documentation) not later than one year before each Conference of the Parties;
  - d) The Independent Advisory Committee studies their validity and submits its recommendations to the final full meeting of the Standing Committee prior to the Conference of the Parties, at least 60 days in advance;
16. If the Standing Committee approves the accreditation, the Secretary General informs the relevant Contracting Party of the decision. The Contracting Party receives an accreditation certificate for the Ramsar Wetland City, which is valid for six years. The status of each Ramsar City is reviewed by the Independent Advisory Committee every six years for renewal if the Cities wish to do so.

### **Independent Advisory Committee**

17. It is proposed that the composition of the Independent Advisory Committee shall be as follows:
- a) A representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), who shall act as Chair of the Committee;
  - b) A representative of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) ;
  - c) A representative of the Ramsar Convention's International Organization Partners;
  - d) A Standing Committee member representative from each of the five Ramsar regions, selected by the Standing Committee;
  - e) One representative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention;
  - f) A representative of the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel of the Ramsar Convention;
  - g) The Ramsar Secretary General or his/her designated representative; and
  - h) The Ramsar Senior Advisor for the concerned region (rapporteur).
18. The Committee must develop its own rules and regulations, terms of reference, roadmap, and monitoring and evaluation system, subject to the approval of the Standing Committee.

### **Publicity**

19. The Ramsar Wetland City, the Contracting Party concerned, the Ramsar Secretariat, non-governmental organizations and any relevant partners (social, economic and commercial, tourist, cultural etc ...) are encouraged to disseminate information on the RWCA, both locally and more widely, through events or national or international celebrations (World Wetlands Day, World Water Day, International Day for Biological Diversity, etc.) and through diverse media channels.
20. The Ramsar Secretariat will, in a step by step process, set up a global network of Ramsar Wetland Cities, managed via the Internet, subject to availability of resources.

### **Accreditation costs**

21. The Local Management Committee for the RWCA of Ramsar Wetland Cities which are in a position to do so should contribute towards the costs of the Ramsar accreditation, using either their own resources or those obtained by themselves for this purpose, in accordance with the criteria adopted by the Ramsar Standing Committee.





## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR11

### Draft Resolution XII.11

#### Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention

*Submitted by Denmark and supported by Finland*

1. RECOGNIZING that the ecosystem services performed by peatlands, which contribute to human well-being, including climate change mitigation and adaptation, can be seriously degraded if the ecosystem is not managed wisely and AWARE that increased attention of the Ramsar Convention may be required to address this threat;
2. RECALLING that paragraph 13 of Resolution XI.14 recognized that scientific reports indicate the continuing degradation and loss of many types of peatlands cause the release of large amounts of stored carbon and thus exacerbate climate change, and that the designation and effective management of Ramsar Sites can, in some regions, play a vital role in carbon sequestration and storage and therefore in the mitigation of climate change;
3. RECALLING that paragraph 29 of Resolution XI.14 encouraged Contracting Parties and their representatives to reach out to their counterparts in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its relevant subsidiary bodies, in order to initiate and foster greater information exchange on the actual and potential roles of wetland conservation, management, and restoration activities in implementing relevant strategies, as appropriate, in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions through enhancing carbon sequestration and storage in wetlands;
4. ALSO RECALLING paragraph 35 of Resolution X.24 calling on Ramsar Administrative Authorities to provide expert guidance and support to national UNFCCC focal points on policies and measures to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands, and urged relevant Contracting Parties to reduce the degradation, promote restoration, and improve management practices of peatlands and other wetland types that are significant greenhouse gas sinks, and to encourage expansion of demonstration sites on peatland restoration and wise use management in relation to climate change; and encouraged Contracting Parties to utilize peatlands to showcase the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness activities for implementation of the Convention in the context of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change;
5. FURTHER RECALLING that paragraph 4 of Resolution VIII.17 stressed the importance of peatlands for global biodiversity and for the storage of the water and carbon that is vital to the world's climate system;

6. RECALLING that paragraph 3 of Resolution VIII.3 welcomed the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC at its eighth session to share information;
7. NOTING that paragraph 17 of Resolution X.25 encouraged Contracting Parties to consider the cultivation of biomass on rewetted peatlands (paludiculture), and AWARE that since this Resolution the rewetting of peatlands, while maintaining their productive use, has been widely recognized as a promising option to enhance the climate change mitigation option of peatlands;
8. ALSO NOTING that in its Fifth Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concluded that most global estimates do not include emissions from peat burning or decomposition after a land use change; and that particularly, the decomposition of carbon in wetlands and peatlands is not reflected in models despite the large amount of carbon stored in these ecosystems and their vulnerability to warming and land use change;
9. AWARE that the IPCC has completed the *2013 Supplement to the IPCC 2006 Guidelines on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands* and the *2013 Revised Supplementary Methods and Good Practice Guidance Arising from the Kyoto Protocol*, providing detailed guidance for reporting and accounting for greenhouse gas emission reductions by rewetting of drained peatlands; and ALSO AWARE that the IPCC refers to the Ramsar Convention as a global and regional resource for data for developing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions and removals from wetlands and organic soils;
10. AWARE of the adoption by the UNFCCC through Decision 2/CMP.7 of a new activity "*Wetland Drainage and Rewetting*" for the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, which enables Annex I Parties to the Kyoto Protocol to account for reductions in anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the rewetting of drained peatlands;
11. NOTING Decision 12CP.17 of the UNFCCC that in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation in developing countries (REDD+) "significant pools" including peat soils in peat swamp forests "should not be excluded";
12. NOTING that the disproportionately large emissions from drained peatlands require special attention when including the land sector in "a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties" (UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.17), which the UNFCCC is currently developing;
13. AWARE that the Verified Carbon Standard has approved Wetland Rewetting and Conservation (WRC) under the Verified Carbon Standard Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (VCS-AFOLU) programme for crediting climate benefits from all wetland areas, including peatlands;
14. FURTHER NOTING Decision X/2 adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD – Aichi Target 15): "*By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks have been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification*";
15. RECOGNIZING that peatlands drainage may lead to rapid soil degradation and the loss of productive land;

16. ACKNOWLEDGING that drained peatlands contribute disproportionately to global anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from land use and land use change and that rewetting of drained peatlands may contribute substantially to reducing these emissions; and AWARE that the climate effect of these emissions is independent of where emissions or emission reductions take place due to the fast mixing of gases in the atmosphere; and
17. FURTHER AWARE that the acknowledgement of peatlands' "capacity to regulate local and regional climates" in Paragraph 10 of the Ramsar *Guidance for identifying and designating peatlands, wet grasslands, mangroves and coral reefs as Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VIII.11), see also Paragraph 139, Ramsar Handbook 17: *Designating Ramsar Sites* (Ramsar Handbooks 4th edition 2010) refers to the hydrologic role of wet peatlands in regulating the local and regional climate via evapo-transpiration cooling;

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18. ACKNOWLEDGES the distinct mandates, principles and provisions and independent legal status of Conventions and AFFIRMS that the UNFCCC and IPCC are the key references for the terms *mitigation, adaptation, carbon sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon storage* used in this Resolution, as they pertain to climate change;
19. REAFFIRMS the mandate of UNFCCC and IPCC in climate change;
20. ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties as appropriate to designate as Wetlands of International Importance at least one peatland area that has a special suitability for communication, education and public awareness raising with respect to the climate impact of peatlands and their necessary conservation and wise use;
21. ENCOURAGES Parties, the Secretariat and other organizations to facilitate information exchange and cooperation among these sites;
22. REQUESTS that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) with respect to its Work Plan related to the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016 - 2021, consider in conjunction with interested Contracting Parties and Ramsar IOPs:
  - developing guidelines for designation of these peatland sites as Wetlands of International Importance,
  - evaluating the progress made with the implementation of the "Guidelines for Global Action for Peatlands" and
  - advising the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties on further steps to be taken to enhance the role of peatland conservation and rewetting in climate change mitigation and adaptation including water resource implications;
23. INVITES the STRP National Focal Points to contribute to this work of the STRP in order to provide national and regional perspectives and contribute expertise from their in-country networks of peatland scientists and other experts;
24. FURTHER REQUESTS that the Ramsar bodies collaborate with relevant international conventions and organizations including UNFCCC bodies, within their respective mandates, to further investigate the potential contribution of peatland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to develop policies and measures that are aimed to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions from peatlands; and

25. INVITES the Ramsar Administrative Authorities to bring this Resolution to the attention of the national focal points of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), and ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to promote collaborative work among the national focal points of these MEAs in support of its implementation.



## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR12

### Draft Resolution XII.12

#### Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future

*Submitted by Mexico*

1. RECALLING the Preamble of the Convention, which recognizes the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats supporting a characteristic fauna and flora, especially waterfowl;
2. RECOGNIZING that wetlands provide a wide range of ecosystem services, which contribute to human well-being and the state of the environment, and that consequently their conservation and wise use are fundamental in order to continue to offer these services, and moreover that wetlands are both a source and consumer of water;
3. BEARING IN MIND that the report *The Economics of Ecosystem and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands* highlights the urgent need to focus on wetlands as natural solutions to the global water crisis and SIMILARLY, it urges a major shift in our attitudes to wetlands, to recognize both their value in delivering water, raw materials and food which are essential for life, and the crucial role they play in maintaining people's livelihoods and the sustainability of the world's economies;
4. NOTING Decision X/28 of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) on *Inland waters biodiversity*, and, in particular, AWARE of the concern regarding major anthropogenic changes that are ongoing in the Earth's water cycle on global, regional and local scales, due to the direct use of water and land-use change; that the limits of sustainability of both surface water and groundwater resources have already been reached or surpassed in many regions; that these trends are becoming more pronounced in some areas through climate change; and that the water-related stresses on biodiversity and ecosystem changes are rapidly escalating;
5. RECALLING the Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands (Resolution X.3), which recognizes explicitly that the increasing demands for, and over-use of, water jeopardize human well-being as well as the environment, and that there is often not enough water to meet our direct human needs or to maintain the wetlands we require, and ALSO RECALLING the issues of fundamental importance for the future of the Convention indicated in Resolution X.1, which identifies the lack of water resources for wetlands and the increasing demand for water extraction as the main factors that generate continuous change and lead to the deterioration and disappearance of wetlands and their services;

6. AWARE of Resolution XI.10 that revealed concern on a regional and global scale over the increase in public works, and in particular hydroelectric power generation projects, which by modifying water flow and the transportation of sediments, interrupt connectivity and create barriers that prevent species migrating, as well as having a negative impact on the ecological characteristics of wetlands, in particular on species and ecosystems, and on their potential to produce a wide range of ecosystem services, on their biodiversity and on the quantity and quality of the water;
7. CONSIDERING Resolution VIII.34, which URGES the Contracting Parties to ensure that management plans for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands are developed within wider integrated management approaches, which duly acknowledge the need for the appropriate implementation of practices and policies that are compatible with wetland conservation and sustainable use goals;
8. ALSO CONSIDERING Resolution VI.23 and Resolution VIII.1, which explicitly recognize that wetland ecosystems require a certain volume of water in order to maintain their ecological characteristics and establish guidelines for the process of allocating and managing water resources to this end, and ALSO AWARE of Resolution VIII.40, which recognizes that maintenance of the ecological integrity of most wetlands, especially those located in arid or semi-arid zones, is closely linked to the supply of groundwater;
9. HIGHLIGHTING the fact that ensuring the availability of the water required by wetlands will promote both their biodiversity and the sustainable use of their components, in addition to achieving the targets of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (Aichi Targets). STRESSING, in particular, that knowing wetlands' water requirements will favour the integration of biodiversity values into development planning processes and strategies, contribute to the sustainable management of water in agricultural areas, and maintain the impacts of the use of natural resources within ecological limits in order to guarantee biodiversity conservation;
10. RECOGNIZING that the allocation and protection of the water requirements of wetlands will help improve the integrated management of water resources (Resolution VII.18<sup>1</sup>), and in particular river basins, by harmonizing water-use and land-use strategies, maintaining the renewal of the water cycle and the link existing between ground and surface water, both enabling their management, and helping to establish adaptation conditions that allow climate variability to be mitigated;
11. RECALLING that Resolution X.24 on *Climate change and wetlands* (2008) recognizes the potentially serious impacts of climate change for ensuring the continued conservation and wise use of wetlands and similarly, it calls on the Contracting Parties to manage their wetlands in such a way as to increase their adaptation to climate change and extreme climatic events, and to ensure that in their climate change responses, such implementation does not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands;
12. NOTING Resolution VII.7 on *Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote conservation and the wise use of wetlands*, which URGES each Contracting Party to review its laws and institutions to ensure they are aimed not only at the wise use of wetlands and eliminating obstacles to conservation, but also at adopting measures that can serve as positive incentives for the effective implementation of the wise use obligation, such as the allocation of water to wetlands;

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<sup>1</sup> Replaced by Resolution X.19

13. ALSO RECOGNIZING the need for the Contracting Parties to replicate successful examples of the determination, allocation and protection of wetlands' water requirements in order to maintain their ecological functions, enhance cooperation on water issues, improve the resilience of wetlands to climate change, and to safeguard the ecosystem services that wetlands offer society;
14. NOTING Resolution IX.3 on the *Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water*, which AFFIRMS that the conservation and wise use of wetlands is critical for the provision of water for people and nature, and that wetlands are a source, as well as a user, of water, as well as supplying a range of other ecosystem benefits/services;
15. NOTING that the Sustainable Development Goals are currently under discussion and aware of the role water will likely play in the Goals eventually agreed for improving the sustainable use and development of water resources and the conservation of wetland ecosystems, in order to promote decisions and actions that take into account both human and environmental water requirements, as well as the need to increase the long-term viability of natural supply systems;
16. RECALLING THAT the need to guarantee a volume of water is established in the local laws of several of the world's nations, and is thus currently emerging as an international principle in the areas of environmental and water legislation; and
17. ECHOING the Changwon Declaration's call to action, which presents an overview of the priority action steps that together show how to deliver some of the world's most critical environmental and sustainability goals, including the wise use and protection of our wetlands – always ensuring that the latter have enough water for them to continue to be the source of the quantity and quality of water we need for food production, drinking water and sanitation;

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18. RECOGNIZES AND REITERATES that the lack of water in wetlands is a far-reaching global problem with serious consequences for ecosystems and people's livelihoods, in particular in vulnerable situations communities that depend on wetlands, and that this problem has not yet been solved, but that on the contrary it will increase in the future due to the growing demand for water and the effects of climate change;
19. WELCOMES the process carried out in Mexico for the creation of water reserves for wetlands, described in the annex to this Resolution, and ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to consider the possibility of using Mexico's model, as appropriate, to identify the opportunities to act preventatively, and adapting it as necessary in order to address national and regional conditions and circumstances, within the framework of existing regional initiatives and commitments and within the context of sustainable development;
20. ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties, and invites other governments and other stakeholders, to increase their efforts in order to ADDRESS water requirements of wetlands, in particular identifying opportunities to anticipate the negative impacts of projects and infrastructure related to the use of water on wetlands, their biodiversity and the services they provide;and
21. REQUESTS that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel consider drawing up a global action plan to conserve water necessary to maintain the wise use of wetlands in their programme of

work in line with the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan, and ENCOURAGES the 'Secretariat and the interested Contracting Parties to draw up this action plan, taking in to account:

- a. Integration with other global initiatives, in particular on the contribution of wetlands to any Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) eventually agreed;
- b. Assessment of the global situation regarding wetland water requirements;
- c. Strategies and tools for the determination and allocation of water to wetlands on national scale;
- d. A programme for monitoring the water requirements of wetlands on national scale;
- e. International cooperation for the creation of research networks and specialized regional centres and for institutional capacity building;
- f. Communication, education and raising public awareness about the need to consider ecological flows in the sustainable use of natural resources, as well as the benefits for the environment and human health that these wetlands offer.

## Annex

### WATER IS REQUIRED FOR THE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS

1. The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands" understood in general terms<sup>2</sup> as "the maintenance of their ecological character", which involves conserving interactions between the various individual processes, functions, attributes and values of the ecosystems.
2. From an ecological perspective, there is no doubt that the processes that govern wetlands (including the recycling of nutrients, productivity, succession processes, competition between species, etc.) are to a large extent controlled by their water regime. Without a doubt, it can be said that Convention's key mission is to guarantee the conservation or restoration of water regimes in accordance with the maintenance of the biological, chemical and physical components characteristic of each wetland.
3. The Convention's definition of wetlands encompasses a large number and wide variety of ecosystems across the globe, since it includes "areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres".
4. Naturally, with its respective location and characteristics, each wetland has its own individual water regime, which is variable over time but with variability patterns and ranges that condition its evolution. The conservation of the water regimes characteristic of each wetland thus becomes of key importance for their conservation and wise use, something that the COP itself has recognized. Thus, for example, Resolution VIII.33 protects the maintenance of the specific hydrological functioning upon which temporary pools depend, including their dependence on permanent surface waters, in order to ensure the sustainable management of the temporary pools.
5. The importance of the natural water regime as a benchmark for the conservation of wetlands has been highlighted in several Resolutions. The Annex to Resolution VIII.1 indicates that "to maintain the natural ecological character of a wetland, it is necessary to allocate water as closely as possible to the natural regime". In the guidelines for Contracting Parties for the integration of conservation and wise use of wetlands into river basin management (Resolution X.19), it is also recommended that the precautionary principle be used to maintain the natural state as closely as possible in situations where available information on the environmental water requirements of wetlands is inadequate.
6. Despite the fact that the natural water regime constitutes a benchmark for conservation and wise use, it is important to bear in mind that the Convention aims at listing natural or semi-natural wetlands. Thus, the Ramsar wetlands encompass a wide range of ecosystems and management approaches, from extremely natural areas where the aim is to protect their ecological integrity, to semi-natural or artificial wetlands whose conservation is integrated into traditional lifestyles. Along these lines, it should be pointed out that wetlands' water requirements are not all identical, and we should be aware of this in order to maintain their individual ecological character. In general terms, wetlands listed due to the fact they are very

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<sup>2</sup> According to the definition at Annex A of Resolution IX.1

natural, should have natural or almost natural water regimes, whilst semi-natural or artificial wetlands may have regimes that involve the sustainable extraction of resources.

### SEVERAL CHALLENGES FOR GUARANTEEING THAT WETLANDS HAVE ALL THE WATER THEY NEED

7. According to the Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management, over 75% of the countries studied considered that “Water for environment” was a priority in their respective countries, whilst only 5% of the countries considered that this issue was “not a problem”.
8. Water use trends and concern about water issues contrast with the major challenges involved in ensuring ecosystems have all the water they require. In this respect, there are at least four major factors that allow us to visualize these great challenges:
  - a. **Most wetlands have no water monitoring system to assess changes in their functioning.**
9. The monitoring of water resources and their use is an enormous challenge, especially given the renewable character and the general complexity of knowledge about the water cycle. This great challenge contrasts with the fact that our knowledge of water resources and the use of water is probably diminishing due to the decrease in the availability of data on national water services (Figure 1). A similar situation occurs with the monitoring of groundwater, despite its importance for the world’s supply of fresh water and the maintenance of ecosystems.

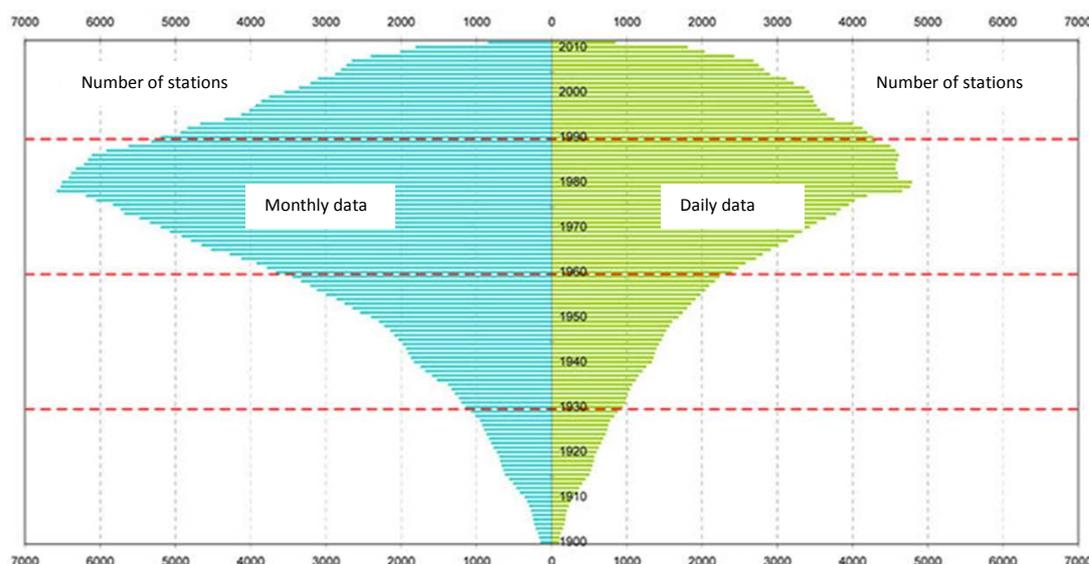


Figure 1. Availability of historical discharge data in the Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC) database at the German Federal Hydrology Institute, Koblenz, Germany, 2012. Source: GRDC available at <http://grdc.bafg.de>

10. According to the UN Status Report of the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management (2012), only 22.5% of all countries studied have fully implemented a monitoring programme on the use of water, and around 30% have not begun to implement one. Due to a lack of data on water monitoring in wetlands (flow, groundwater levels, extraction, etc.) and the abstractions that affect them, it is impossible to know whether wetlands have all the water they require. One particular challenge is the maintenance of a

regular comparable database for monitoring changes and trends in the different water parameters (flow, groundwater levels, etc.) over time.

**b. The scientific methods for determining the water needs of wetlands are very limited, bearing in mind the broad range of both Ramsar wetlands and biological groups requiring water.**

11. Most methods for calculating environmental flow focus basically on flowing water ecosystems (rivers), whilst these systems only represent 10% of all Ramsar wetlands (see Figure 2). Moreover, in many cases the methods used to calculate the water requirements of the ecosystems have been designed to determine river types, and are not suitable for other regions (for example the habitat simulation models frequently used in some countries are extremely limited in the case of large tropical rivers).

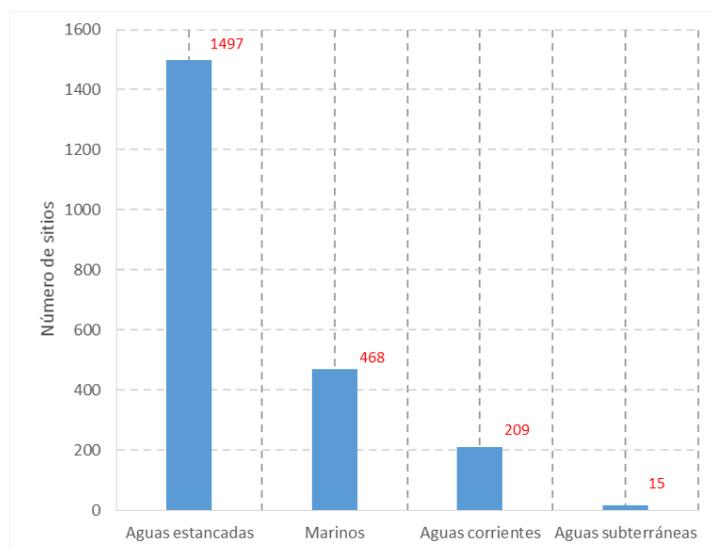


Figure 2. Wetland types in accordance with their general water characteristics. Source: Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) available at: <http://ramsar.wetlands.org/>

12. Moreover, most methods used to calculate environmental flow are fundamentally based on the water requirements of fish, and in many cases only the species of greatest economic interest. However, there are other biological groups that justify the designation of wetlands as sites of international importance. For example, 92% of the sites have been added to the Ramsar List because of the birds that use these wetlands. One major challenge is to increase scientific knowledge in order to obtain more detailed information about the water requirements of different types of Ramsar Sites and all the species that justify their designation.

**c. For most of the Contracting Parties, the legal frameworks do not recognize explicitly the need to allocate water to wetlands and/or provide the legal mechanisms to do so effectively**

13. As recognized by the Annex to Resolution VIII.1, in order to make decisions on the water allocations for wetland ecosystems, an enabling policy environment is required, supported both by adequate and appropriate legal tools, which clarify the legal situation of water and water resources, and by a framework for assessing the merits of different allocation options.
14. The legal allocation of water resources to wetlands requires far-reaching reforms for many countries, with changes in both environmental and water policies, legislation and planning. For

some countries this is complicated by the fact that water resources are the responsibility of lower administrative levels such as the state, province or municipality. In these cases, it is essential that the countries identify alternatives to rectify this situation and to be able to plan for water allocation/demand processes.

15. According to the Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management (2012), 45.4% of the countries surveyed implement to some extent programmes for the allocation of water resources, which take environmental considerations into account. However, only 12.3% have fully completed this type of programme. Moreover, in the countries that have introduced environmental flow programmes, there is little information on how successful they have been, since there are no clear assessment criteria.
- d. The Contracting Parties are still a long way from adopting the Integrated Water Resources Management tools. These are the very tools that can allow for the proper integration of wetland water requirements into resource management.**
16. Strategy 1.7 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 consists of ensuring “that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management”, and includes the Key Result Area 1.7ii (planned for 2015), which states: “All Parties, in their water governance and management, to be managing wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins”.
  17. Resolution X.19 highlighted the fact that in the longer term it is not sufficient to integrate wetland management objectives into land use management plans. In turn, land and water resource management plans need to be integrated to ensure that these plans reflect common, agreed management objectives for the wetlands in a river basin. The aim should be to match water resources strategies with land use strategies, so that these can be implemented jointly to support the maintenance of healthy, functional wetlands that provide a range of benefits for people (including water supply).
  18. According to the results of the survey on the application of IWRM, clear progress has been made in the adoption of integrated approaches to water resources on a global scale. Water resource management programmes (including allocation systems, groundwater management, environmental impact assessment, demand control, etc.) are being applied in 84% of the countries with the highest Human Development Index, though only in around 40% of the other countries. This same survey reveals that 50% of the countries have implemented neither an integrated water resources management plan at a national or federal level nor any equivalent strategic plan.

#### **NEED FOR GLOBAL ACTION AND ITS STRATEGIC GUIDELINES**

19. According to the United Nations 5<sup>th</sup> *World Water Development Report* (WWDR), global water demand (in terms of water withdrawals) is projected to increase by some 55% by 2050. As a result, freshwater availability will come under increasing strain over this period, with 40% of the global population projected to be living in areas of severe water stress by 2050. There is also clear evidence that groundwater supplies are diminishing, with an estimated 20% of the world’s aquifers being over-exploited, some critically so.

20. The enormity of this challenge calls for urgent coordinated global action, in preparation for the growing pressure for this resource, in order to guarantee the water required by wetlands, including strategic guidelines on:
- Legal and institutional frameworks: to develop legal and institutional tools that are in line with the urgent need to ensure the water requirements of the ecosystems and capable of anticipating the growing demand for this resource.
  - Monitoring: to generate basic information to support the making and supervision of decisions with regard to wetlands.
  - Tools: to support the knowledge and development of tools for calculating and allocating the water required by ecosystems and suitable for its rapid use.
  - Education, awareness raising and capacity building: to promote the importance of the allocation of water to wetlands through education, the public media and capacity building.
21. A series of actions on these strategic areas could create the right environment for taking urgent action and generating the changes required to promote sustainable development compatible with water, fulfil basic human activities and guarantee the protection of wetlands.

#### **INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO GUARANTEE THE WATER REQUIRED BY WETLANDS**

22. Mexico has been a Contracting Party of the Ramsar Convention since 1986, and to date has 142 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, which cover a total area of 8.4 million hectares, making it the contracting country with the second highest number of designated Ramsar Sites in the world. In Mexico, the management of wetlands is the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, SEMARNAT) and its decentralized bodies: the National Commission of Protected Natural Areas (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, CONAP), focal point for the Ramsar Convention and the body that coordinates the execution of actions involved in complying with the Convention's commitments; and the National Water Commission (Comisión Nacional del Agua, CONAGUA) the federal body responsible for the administration of Mexico's water resources.
23. In Mexico, the allocation of water for the environment has been recognized since the publication of the National Water Law (Ley de Aguas Nacionales, LAN) in 1992. However, it was not until recently that two national initiatives were undertaken that represent major progress in guaranteeing the water resources required by wetlands: the publication of the "Mexican law for the determination of environmental flow" and the "National Water Reserve Programme" (Programa Nacional de Reservas de Agua, PNRA).

#### **The Mexican Environmental Flow Standard**

24. With the publication of the LAN, the Mexican water administration took on the challenge of building the water concession administration system, which is based on establishing the water balance in each river basin or administrative unit, and granting concessions to each water user, recognizing in advance the various documents issued by the competent authority, authorizing the use of water. In this process, the requirement for allocating water to the environment was postponed, since it was claimed that insufficient information on water requirements was available, and that there was uncertainty over the application of scientifically appropriate and economically accessible methodologies for determining a reliable ecological flow. As a result, in many of the country's basins, water concessions have been granted for 100% or more of the measured or estimated mean annual runoff, and without considering water allocated to the

environment. This situation has constituted one of the causes of the severe over-use of water resources in 8 out of 13 hydrological regions, in which 75% of the country's gross domestic product is produced.

25. Concern over this situation led to a long participatory process aimed at establishing the means of calculating the water requirements of ecosystems. The process was enhanced by the practical experiences of World Wildlife Fund (WWF) in association with the Gonzalo Río Arronte Foundation, which allowed the bases and methods for calculating environmental flows to be established, an action essential for protecting the country's water security. The Mexican Environmental Flow Standard was approved in 2012, establishing the methodologies for determining environmental flow, as a means of regulating the exploitation, use and conservation of water to protect ecosystems and favour sustainable development.
26. The importance of this tool consists of integrating the ecological, social and economic significance into the determination of the flow in the following terms.
  - It establishes the scientific bases that should guide all environmental flow proposals. It is explicitly recognized that a variable water regime is necessary (beyond minimum flows), with different components (low flows, flood regime, etc.) responsible for the ecosystem dynamics. Some of the basics mentioned explicitly as guiding principles are the paradigm of the natural flow regime<sup>3</sup> and the biological condition gradient<sup>4</sup>.
  - It recognizes that there are very diverse situations in the country where we need to find a balance between the pressure caused by the extraction of water and the conservation of environmental conditions. This leads to the establishment of environmental objectives, which allow environmental flows to be adjusted in accordance with the ecological importance of the sites and the pressure created by water use.
  - It integrates social assessment of water in the environment and ensures its availability for consumption by and the well-being of rural communities.
  - It establishes a hierarchical condition for the application of methodologies in accordance with pressure due to water use, and a reference framework for the assessment of large projects, such as hydroelectric power generation, within the scope of environmental impact assessment.

### **The National Water Reserve Programme**

27. The National Water Reserve Programme (Programa Nacional de Reservas de Agua, PNRA) is an initiative undertaken by CONAGUA in collaboration with the WWF-Gonzalo Río Arronte Foundation Alliance and supported by the Inter-American Development Bank, in which academic institutions and civil society organizations have participated actively.
28. The PNRA's objective is to establish water reserves for the environment legally, so that this volume of water is excluded from the total amount liable to be allocated in concessions. The water reserve is a legal figure provided for by the LAN, for the conservation or restoration of vital ecosystems. The Programme's additional objectives include proving the benefits of water reserves as a tool to guarantee the functionality of the water cycle and its environmental services, and its application as a means of adapting to climate change and creating the capacities in the country for the determination, implementation and monitoring of environmental flows.

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<sup>3</sup> Poff N.L., J.D. Allan, M.B. Bain, J.R. Karr, K.L. Prestegard, B. Richter, R. Sparks and J. Stromberg. 1997. The natural flow regime: a new paradigm for riverine conservation and restoration. *BioScience* 47:769-784.

<sup>4</sup> Davies S.P. and Jackson S.K. 2006. The Biological Condition Gradient: A Descriptive Model for Interpreting Change in Aquatic Ecosystems. *Ecological Applications*: Vol. 16, No. 4 pp. 1251–1266.

29. In Mexico, the main obstacle hindering the implementation of an environmental flow proposal is the lack of water; in other words when what remains after the water concessions already granted is zero or when it does not comply with the requirements corresponding to the ecological importance of the area. The still-developing institutional capacities for determining environmental flow with sufficient ecological and economic support constitute another obstacle. In order to remove these obstacles, work was carried out to identify those river basins with sufficient water and of clear environmental importance, in order to develop the necessary capacities and learn to deal with more complex river basins. Thus, 189 of the country's 731 river basins were identified as potential water reserves. The PNRA's initial strategy<sup>5</sup> focused on these 189 river basins, which were not subject to a great deal of pressure from water use and benefited from the presence of protected natural areas, Ramsar Sites, or another officially recognized ecological value (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Potential water reserves and pilot working zones

30. The aim of the first phase of the Programme is to ensure that by 2018 reserve decrees have been issued for the 189 river basins identified as priority. The direct benefits of the PNRA for the whole country include guaranteeing the water required by 97 protected natural areas, 55 Ramsar Sites and over 78,500 km<sup>2</sup> of zones that enjoyed no official protection and had hydrological conditions that were unaltered or virtually unaltered. These figures reveal the great strategic value of the integrated management of water resources, and water reserves, for biodiversity protection in Mexico, and its potential for integrating water and land-use management policies.
31. In a second phase, based on this experience, there are plans to tackle the allocation of water to the river basins with highest pressure, in which the remaining 87 Ramsar wetlands are located, and where the strategy will be to determine the water requirements as environmental flow and to proceed to rescue the volumes earmarked for other uses.

<sup>5</sup> UNEP 2012. The UN-Water Status Report on the Application of Integrated Approaches to Water Resources Management

32. Studies started in six pilot working areas (Figure 3) present the following scope and results:
- They include 43 river basins with a total surface area of 92,000 km<sup>2</sup> (4.5% of the national territory) in which the longitudinal, vertical and lateral connectivity will be maintained for 4,500 km of main water channels, 31 aquifers, 17 Protected Natural Areas and 13 Ramsar Sites.
  - On average, the reserve water volume represents 53% of the mean annual runoff, and in total amounts to 49,000 hm<sup>3</sup> per annum, which represents around 11% of the mean annual national runoff.
  - In terms of their biological significance, these water reserves will guarantee the water requirements of 546 species that enjoy some kind of protection category, and 99 of these species will be used directly in the analyses to determine environmental flows.
  - The capacity of 58 institutions will be strengthened, including government agencies, academic institutions and civil society organizations, and a total of 138 experts will participate in the development of studies and proposals on environmental flow.
33. On 15 September 2014, the first reserve decree was signed by the President of Mexico, including 11 river basins in the river San Pedro Mezquital hydrologic subregion, which supplies water to the Marismas Nacionales Biosphere Reserve and Ramsar Site. This decree establishes the reserves for the environment, domestic and urban public use, and the generation of electricity for public use, for the next 50 years. It sets out the conditions for authorizing these uses and to guarantee that they act in a complementary and synergistic manner.

### **Recommendations and lessons learned**

34. Mexico's creation and consolidation of its own IWRM, and in particular the process of ensuring that water is available for the environment and wetlands, has given rise to a series of experiences leading to the following recommendations.
35. To date, the PNRA as a Mexican strategy for guaranteeing the water required by wetlands has made it possible:
- To understand the validity of different methodologies for determining environmental flow and to develop a reference framework for their application on a national level.
  - To establish a gradual capacity-building process for each of Mexico's regions.
  - To act immediately in those river basins where the water regime is currently conserved in its natural state, or with few changes, and where the establishment of an environmental flow does not create conflict.
  - To understand that the real impact of environmental flow on water availability for other uses is minimized by water commitments with users downstream, due to adjustments in the operation of infrastructure, or to the synergy with reserves for domestic use and energy generation.
  - To establish a reference framework for the objective discussion of projects that alter the water regime, in particular hydroelectric projects.
36. In regions unaffected by development or in those where development is just starting, it is very important to take preventative action in order to avoid future conflict over demands for this resource, in particular disputes between potential users over water allocated to the environment. Many of these sites coincide with regions of great ecological value, due to their biodiversity and the environmental services they provide. This is a great opportunity for establishing sustainable limits for water extraction, for conserving biodiversity and its services and guaranteeing water security conditions in the future.

37. The permanence of water in the environment ensures the supply of services of use to IWRM, such as the replenishing of aquifers, the fertility of flood plains and agricultural land, the conservation of the hydraulic capacities of water channels, the improvement in water quality, etc. The IWRM has great potential for biodiversity conservation if it internalizes these services.
38. Water reserves have turned out to serve as a measure for adaptation to climate variability. The percentage of the mean annual runoff which a reserve represents buffers the impacts, helps manage the risks of climate uncertainty and creates conditions of resilience.
39. For developing countries, the challenge of the implementation of environmental flows is not a matter of capacities, but instead one of water security, of the future and the safeguarding of the national heritage.
40. In the development of this initiative, the creation of a relationship of trust between government, civil society and academia has been decisive. Civil society organizations are IWRM's ally in the recognition of the needs for allocating water for the environment, and thus in the strengthening of the management.





## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR13

### Draft Resolution XII.13

#### Wetlands and disaster risk reduction

*Submitted by the Philippines*

1. RECALLING Resolution VIII.35 on *The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems* and Resolution IX.9 on *The role of the Ramsar Convention in the prevention and mitigation of impacts associated with natural phenomena, including those induced or exacerbated by human activities* which, respectively, recognized the role of wetlands in providing water during times of drought and in preventing and mitigating the impacts from natural phenomena, including those induced or exacerbated by human activities, but RECOGNIZING that there exists no specific framework to operationalize this urgent role;
2. RECALLING Resolution X.24 on *Climate change and wetlands*, that affirmed the role of healthy wetlands in increasing resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, as well as ensuring climate change responses that would not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands;
3. FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution X.3 on *The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands* and Resolution X.23 on *Wetlands and human health and well-being* emphasized the importance of sustainable wetland management and the restoration of wetlands to ensure future human well-being and security;
4. AWARE of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), and RECALLING Resolution VII.8 on *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation on the management of wetlands* that recognized the contributions of indigenous people and local communities in the management and wise use of wetlands;
5. ACKNOWLEDGING the vital role of healthy and well-managed wetland ecosystems in reducing disaster risk, by acting as natural buffers or protective barriers, for instance through mitigating, for example, the impact of floods, tidal surges, tsunamis and landslides, and by storing large volumes of water, thereby reducing peak flood flow during the wet season, while maximizing water storage during the dry season; and FURTHER RECOGNIZING that fully functioning wetland ecosystems enhance local resilience against disasters by providing water supply and important products and by sustaining the lives and livelihoods of local populations and biodiversity;
6. AWARE that the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment recognizes the significant services that ecosystems, including wetlands, provide to human communities in regulating the frequency and magnitude of hazard events such as floods, fires and droughts, and in providing natural barriers

that can mitigate the adverse impacts of hazards and protect communities, but also recognizes that there is accelerated loss of these vital ecosystem functions and services, including in wetlands;

7. AWARE that the 2011 *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*, the 2012 RIO+20 Declaration "The Future We Want", and similar UN and global coordinating bodies call for addressing disaster risk reduction in the context of sustainable development and for increased coordination at national, regional and international levels to enable a robust response to environmental emergencies and improved forecasting and early warning systems;
8. NOTING that the future post-2015 Hyogo Framework of Action may emphasize that ecosystem degradation amplifies disaster risk and that greater focus needs to be placed on anticipating long-term risk scenarios and implementing concrete measures to prevent the creation of new risk, such as investing in strengthening the sustainable use and management of ecosystems;
9. CONCERNED that the devastating impacts of natural and human-related disasters on the delivery of ecosystem benefits and services, and thus on the maintenance of the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) and other wetlands in affected countries, have had serious effects on the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and on biodiversity, and have caused major environmental, social and economic impacts;
10. AWARE that disaster risk reduction requires reducing exposure and vulnerabilities through enhancing the capacities of people to cope or recover from disasters and through sustainable management and use of land and water resources to reduce, buffer and in certain circumstances to mitigate disaster risk; and
11. RECOGNIZING that the global network of Ramsar Sites can play an important role in disaster risk reduction if the Sites are effectively managed and restored where necessary;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

12. AFFIRMS the need to develop and implement management plans for wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites, that integrate the principles of ecosystem-based management and adaptation against natural hazards such as floods, droughts, fires, landslides, tsunamis, and storm surges, and also against accelerated sea level rise, and STRONGLY ENCOURAGES the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction measures in these management plans and other such policies, action plans and programmes;
13. REQUESTS the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to consider reviewing Resolution X.24 on *Climate change and wetlands* and Resolution XI.14 on *Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands* for possible amendments on the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in the development of their programme of work in line with the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan;
14. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to integrate wetland-based disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into development policies and planning at all levels of government, including in vulnerability analysis, poverty reduction strategies and natural resource management plans (including land-use and water-use plans) and sectors, and in multi-sector policies and plans;
15. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to integrate wetland management plans, or other broader water and landscape management plans, into land-use and development plans, and FURTHER

- ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to integrate ecosystem management related considerations, in particular relating to wetland and water management, in their national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies;
16. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to assess disaster risk at the appropriate landscape scale (for example, within a river basin or along a coastal zone) to enable the designing of effective disaster risk reduction interventions to reduce the vulnerability and exposure of people;
  17. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to avoid, as far as possible, activities in and adjacent to wetlands, such as in-filling, reclamation and the construction of seawalls and dikes, which might reduce the role that the wetlands play in reducing the impact of disasters;
  18. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to incorporate financial and other resource requirements for wetland conservation, restoration and management activities related to disaster risk reduction into long-term investment programming, while ensuring the inclusion of measures to prevent adverse environmental or social impacts;
  19. INVITES Contracting Parties and partners to ensure that the implementation of wetland ecosystem-based management and restoration projects and programmes, such as the planting of mangroves on tidal flats, does not compromise the functioning of the ecosystems;
  20. NOTING that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 Hyogo Framework for disaster risk reduction are currently under discussion, ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties and the Ramsar Secretariat to emphasize the importance of conserving and restoring wetlands for disaster risk reduction in these discussions;
  21. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to recognize the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and their experience, knowledge, methods and approaches in wetland management and disaster risk reduction;
  22. ALSO URGES the Contracting Parties to adopt approaches to disaster risk reduction to ensure the rights of wetland dependent displaced persons;
  23. REQUESTS the STRP to consider reviewing and compiling existing guidance on wetland ecosystem-based adaptation concerning disaster risk reduction in the development of their programme of work in line with the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan in order to present a set of practical policies and guidance which can be initiated by governments, for the management and wise use of wetlands to build resilience to natural hazards, especially floods, drought, fire, landslides, tsunamis and storm surges, as well as to accelerated sea level rise, and which include the use of risk-based approaches in line with the *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* approved through Resolution VII.10, and to develop appropriate indicators and baseline information for demonstrating progress towards the integration of wetland management in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies;
  24. FURTHER REQUESTS the STRP to consider the role of wetland conservation and rehabilitation in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation as well as identify economic valuation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the development of their programme of work in line with the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan;
  25. REQUESTS the STRP to consider monitoring the discussions, developments and trends in international fora on the role of wetland conservation and rehabilitation in disaster risk

reduction and climate change adaptation in the development of their work in line with the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan;

26. FURTHER REQUESTS the STRP, if this work is approved by the Standing Committee, to keep Contracting Parties informed of these discussions, developments and trends through the STRP report at future Standing Committees;
27. FURTHER REQUESTS the STRP to consider supporting the capacity-building activities of wetland managers on disaster risk reduction in the development of their programme of work in line with the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan;
28. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, especially their Ramsar CEPA National Focal Points, to establish or strengthen CEPA programmes and increase awareness on the role of wise use, management, conservation and restoration of wetlands in disaster risk reduction and on the role of wetlands in contributing to reducing vulnerabilities and mitigating disasters;
29. ENCOURAGES governments to integrate ecosystem-based approaches with traditional approaches to disaster risk reduction so as to address the underlying drivers of water related risks in the landscape alongside measures for preparedness and early warning;
30. ENCOURAGES national disaster management agencies and river basin authorities to collaborate as appropriate, with coastal managers and other authorities responsible for natural resource management and national and, as appropriate, international humanitarian organizations, when developing and implementing laws, policies and plans, including contingency plans, to integrate ecosystem-based approaches, including infrastructure with low levels of pollution, in disaster risk reduction, in accordance with national laws and legislations;
31. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to collaborate with universities and research institutions to carry out long-term research on wetlands and disaster risk management in the face of climate change; and
32. REQUESTS that the Ramsar Secretariat liaise with the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in highlighting the importance of wetlands in climate change adaptation, especially for countries identified vulnerable situations to climate change; and ALSO REQUESTS that the Ramsar Secretariat establish strategic partnerships to ensure collaboration and access to global trust funds.



## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR14

### Draft Resolution XII.14

#### Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands

*Submitted by Greece*

1. AWARE that the Mediterranean Basin is a global biodiversity hotspot and hosts one of the largest groups of islands in the world with a rich history and varied cultural values;
2. ALSO AWARE that the Mediterranean Basin is one of the leading tourist destinations in the world and that its coastal and island ecosystems are facing intense and multiple pressures from this sector;
3. ACKNOWLEDGING the crucial role of Mediterranean island wetlands in protecting these islands against the impacts of climate change and desertification, and their critical significance for a variety of threatened and endemic species of flora and fauna and an important number of migratory birds;
4. CONCERNED that Mediterranean island wetlands increasingly face serious pressures, such as the spread of urban and coastal developments that threaten to undermine their ecological character and lead to the increased degradation of wetland areas and, subsequently, to ecosystem fragmentation;
5. AWARE of the fact that small island wetlands are extremely vulnerable and could be easily destroyed, including by non-intentional actions and/or lack of awareness of their significance;
6. ALSO CONCERNED that several Mediterranean island wetlands have already been partly or fully drained, or are increasingly water-stressed, and AWARE that the demand for fresh water for human use on these islands continues to grow;
7. RECALLING the commitments made by the Contracting Parties to achieving the wise use of all wetlands in their territories;
8. ALSO RECALLING Recommendation 6.11, which encouraged continuing collaboration for Mediterranean wetlands and urged all government and non-government organizations and individuals concerned with wetlands in the Mediterranean to commit their best efforts for the preparation and implementation of a concerted Mediterranean Wetlands Strategy;
9. NOTING that the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) has successfully contributed to the protection of Mediterranean wetlands for more than 20 years and it is anticipated that it will continue to do so;

10. ALSO NOTING the efforts made by organisations and initiatives directly focusing on the Mediterranean, such as the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (the Barcelona Convention) and its Mediterranean Action Plan, the Union for the Mediterranean and others;
11. FURTHER RECALLING that the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (as adopted through Resolution VII.11 (1999) and amended through Resolution XI.8 *Streamlining procedures for describing Ramsar Sites at the time of designation and subsequent updates* (2012) indicates that smaller wetlands should not be overlooked for designation as Wetlands of International Importance and that such wetlands may be especially important in maintaining habitat or ecological community-level biological diversity; and
12. ALSO RECALLING Recommendation 5.3 (1993), which called for the establishment of strict protection measures for Ramsar Sites and wetland reserves of small size or particular sensitivity;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

13. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties in and around the Mediterranean to address urgently the significant human-induced pressures threatening island wetlands through effective and decisive legislative or executive measures and other actions which apply a precautionary approach that would prevent the destruction of island wetlands, while developing more long-term and integrated strategies or plans;
14. ALSO CALLS UPON Mediterranean Contracting Parties to grant clear and effective legal protection to Mediterranean island wetlands, so as to ensure the conservation of their biodiversity, and the maintenance of their hydrological, cultural and social values;
15. REQUESTS that Mediterranean Parties continue to designate under-represented types of wetlands as additional Wetlands of International Importance;
16. URGES Mediterranean Contracting Parties in the framework of the MedWet Initiative, to produce or update as a matter of high priority a complete, science-based inventory of their island wetlands, based on appropriate methodologies, such as the one developed for Greek island wetlands, and to share it through a MedWet database;
17. REQUESTS Mediterranean Contracting Parties to ensure effective and long term conservation and whenever applicable the restoration of their island wetlands, including by incorporating them in territorial planning and/or land use and development plans, as well as in their integrated water resources plans and water efficiency plans, and by considering designating key small island wetlands for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance;
18. ALSO REQUESTS that Mediterranean Contracting Parties provide the Ramsar Secretariat with regular updates on all Mediterranean island wetlands, whether or not they have been designated as Ramsar Sites, through the triennial National Reports, including information on their number, extent, biodiversity, current conditions and protection status, and where possible on the ecosystem services which they perform;
19. INVITES the Contracting Parties in and around the Mediterranean, with the support, as appropriate, of the Ramsar Secretariat, to:

- a) further promote the importance of the conservation and restoration needs of the Mediterranean island wetlands to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and to global trade, tourism and transport organisations and other relevant international institutions, organisations and initiatives, so as to ensure that the degradation of these fragile aquatic ecosystems is stopped and reversed;
  - b) share this Resolution with Conventions, organisations and initiatives directly focusing on the Mediterranean, such as the Barcelona Convention and its Mediterranean Action Plan, the Union for the Mediterranean and others, to ensure cooperation with existing programmes and to initiate new partnerships;
  - c) develop, share and disseminate case studies, with the help of the MedWet Initiative and other partners, where Mediterranean island wetlands have been:
    - i) negatively affected by human interventions, including through the spread of invasive species; and
    - ii) effectively protected or restored, through particular measures and through their designation as Ramsar Sites and/or other forms of protection;
20. INVITES non-Mediterranean Contracting Parties to give also special attention to their own island wetlands, taking into account their regional specificities, in recognition of their fragility and special conservation and management needs; and
21. INVITES all Contracting Parties to report on their island wetlands conservation results in their National Reports.





## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR15

### Draft Resolution XII.15

## Evaluating and ensuring the effective management and conservation of Ramsar Sites

*Submitted by Thailand*

1. THANKING the Government of Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Gyeongnam Province (R.O. Korea) and the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia for their generous sponsorship and organization of a workshop in Bangkok in June 2014 that laid the ground for the text of this Resolution;
2. RECALLING Article 3.1 of the Convention, which states that “Contracting Parties shall formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List [of Wetlands of International Importance]”;
3. RECALLING that the designation of a wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) is one of the various components of a long-term international commitment to its conservation and wise use, in order to maintain its ecological character as well as the ecosystem services and benefits it provides;
4. RECALLING that Resolution 5.7 *Management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* called for Contracting Parties to establish appropriate legal and administrative structures for the application of management plans, funding for the implementation of the plans, and training of the necessary staff;
5. APPRECIATING the guidance detailed in Resolution VIII.14 *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands*, which calls for the development of management plans with clear objectives using simple and measurable indicators for each Ramsar Site, and which also highlights the importance of adaptive management, including both planning and evaluation, to create effective management outcomes;
6. RECALLING that Strategy 2.5 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009 – 2015 (Resolution X.1) called on Contracting Parties to “Review existing Ramsar Sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance*”;
7. NOTING however that not all Contracting Parties have in place tools for effective management planning;

8. RECALLING that Annex E of Resolution IX.1 provided an integrated framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring, but AWARE that there is currently no agreed process for evaluating the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management and its outcomes;
9. NOTING the adoption and use of Protected Area Management Evaluation (PAME) tools by networks of protected areas such as World Heritage Sites and ASEAN Heritage Parks, and by institutions with a role in supporting their effective management, such as the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility;
10. FURTHER NOTING the Convention on Biological Diversity's Decision X/31 of 2010, that called for the institutionalization of management effectiveness assessment, for 60% of the total area of protected areas to be assessed by 2015, and for the results of the assessments to be implemented; and
11. ALSO RECALLING CBD Decision XI/24 which invited the Ramsar Convention and other partners to align their activities to best support the implementation of national work programmes on protected areas, including the development and implementation of management effectiveness evaluations for protected areas and ecological networks;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

##### Ramsar Site management planning:

12. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to ensure that the Ramsar Site management authority and managers develop and maintain an integrated system of planning, management and evaluation which promotes the wise use of all their Sites;
13. INVITES Ramsar Site management authorities and managers to assess and measure the full range of services that their Site provides (such as the storage, treatment and provision of water, support to the livelihoods and health of human communities, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity conservation, tourism and education) and to prioritize the maintenance of these services in their management processes;
14. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat and its scientific and technical bodies and officers to consider, within available resources, to summarize the management planning guidelines adopted in Resolution VIII.14 for wide distribution and INVITES Contracting Parties to support the translation of the summary into languages which are not official languages of the Ramsar Convention;
15. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to support mechanisms such as networks of Site managers that communicate among themselves virtually and where possible in regular meetings, and establish such networks where they are not already in place, to enable Ramsar Site managers to share experiences and discuss issues of common concern;
16. URGES Contracting Parties to encourage Ramsar Site managers to use Ramsar communication tools including websites and social media to exchange and promote good practice on wetland management practice more widely;

##### Evaluating the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management:

17. EMPHASIZES the importance of evaluating the management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites and, where mechanisms are not already in place, that some Contracting Parties may find it useful to adopt appropriate Protected Area Management Evaluation (PAME) tools for effective management; and URGES the Ramsar Secretariat, Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), International Organization Partners (IOPs), Ramsar Regional Centres and other Partners to consider supporting the Contracting Parties in their efforts;
18. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties that do not already have effective mechanisms in place for effective management planning of their Ramsar Sites to consider using the Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT), which has been developed by the Ramsar Convention and which is annexed to this Resolution;
19. ENCOURAGES Ramsar Site managers to evaluate the effectiveness of the management of each of their Ramsar Sites in collaboration with relevant stakeholders as appropriate; and
20. ENCOURAGES Site managers who use R-METT to complement their use of the R-METT by monitoring and evaluating management outcomes in line with the *Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring* approved as Annex E of Resolution IX.1, and relevant guidelines and good practices identified by Ramsar partners.

## Annex 1

### Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT)

1. The process by which Ramsar Contracting Parties identify wetlands within their territories for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and then ensure the long-term management and conservation of those 'Ramsar Sites', is one of the cornerstones of the implementation of the Convention. As of 2014, over 2,100 Sites had been designated, making this the largest network of wetland conservation areas worldwide.
2. For the wise use of Ramsar Sites to be ensured, Site managers must be able to anticipate new issues and to respond to them rapidly and effectively. To make this possible, they should conduct regular and open assessments of the effectiveness of the management of the Site, and learn from both successes and failures. The Ramsar Convention acknowledges the importance of management effectiveness evaluation through Resolution IX.1 Annex D, which provides ecological 'outcome-oriented' indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Convention.
3. A range of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessment tools are available. One of the longest-serving of these is the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) published by WWF and the World Bank in 2003<sup>1</sup>. In 2005<sup>2</sup> and 2008<sup>3</sup>, studies found the METT suitable to evaluate the management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites.
4. In June 2014, a workshop was held in Bangkok, Thailand, to look further into the Ramsar Convention adopting a PAME tool for use at Ramsar Sites. It was hosted by the Government of Thailand and supported by the Government of the R.O. Korea, Gyeongnam Province (R.O. Korea) and the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia; participants included National Focal Points from each of the Ramsar regions as well as STRP Focal Points and other Ramsar partners. They acknowledged that certain Contracting Parties had already adopted a PAME tool, and recommended that others adopt a Ramsar-adapted version of the METT for use at their Ramsar Sites.
5. The Ramsar-adapted METT, or R-METT, comprises the following sections:
  - *Data Sheet 1a: Reporting Progress at Ramsar Sites.* This records basic information about the Site, such as its name, size and location.
  - *Data Sheet 1b: Identifying and describing values from the Ecological Character Description and the Ramsar Information Sheet.* This provides information on the ecological character of the Site including the ecosystem services that it provides, and the Criteria under which the Site qualifies as a Wetland of International Importance.

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<sup>1</sup> Anon., 2007. *Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool Reporting Progress at Protected Area Sites: Second Edition.* WWF International and World Bank.

<sup>2</sup> Chatterjee, A. and Pittock, J. 2005. *Piloting the management effectiveness tracking tool in Ramsar sites. A report from WWF to the Ramsar Convention and its Scientific and Technical Review Panel.* WWF, Gland, Switzerland.

<sup>3</sup> UNEP-WCMC, 2008. *Effectively managing the world's wetlands: An analysis of applications of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool in Ramsar sites.* UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, U.K.

- *Data Sheet 2: National and International Designations.* This records information on international designations: i.e. UNESCO World Heritage, Man and Biosphere sites and Ramsar wetland sites.
  - *Data Sheet 3: Ramsar Sites Threats.* This provides a generic list of threats which Ramsar Sites can face.
  - *Data Sheet 4: Assessment form.* The assessment is structured around 35 questions presented in table format which includes three columns for recording details of the assessment, all of which should be completed.
  - *Data Sheet 5: Trends in Ramsar Ecological Character (including ecosystem services and community benefits)*<sup>4</sup> This section provides information on trends over the past five years in the ecological character of the Site including the ecosystem services that it provides, and the Criteria under which the Site qualifies as a Ramsar Site.
6. Data Sheets 1 to 4 are adapted from the METT<sup>1</sup>, but Data Sheet 5 is adapted from the IUCN Conservation Assessment<sup>4</sup> for World Heritage Sites. While Data Sheets 1 to 4 focus mainly on the **context, planning, inputs, process** and **outputs** sections of the management effectiveness cycle<sup>5</sup>, Data Sheet 5 focuses on **outcomes**.
7. Ramsar Contracting Parties are invited to use this R-METT to evaluate the management effectiveness of their Ramsar Sites if they have not already adopted a PAME tool;

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<sup>4</sup> IUCN, 2012, *IUCN Conservation Outlook Assessments - Guidelines for their application to natural World Heritage Sites. Version 1.3.* IUCN. Gland, Switzerland.

<sup>5</sup> Hockings, M., Stolton, S., Dudley, N., Leverington, F. and Courrau, J., 2006. *Evaluating effectiveness: a framework for assessing the management of protected areas.* Second edition. IUCN, Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.

### Data Sheet 1a: Reporting Progress at Ramsar Sites

Name, affiliation and contact details for person responsible for completing the METT (email etc.)				
Date assessment carried out				
Name of Ramsar Site		Country:		
Date when Ramsar Site listed:		Total Area of Ramsar Site (ha):		
Ramsar Site number (see <a href="http://ramsar.wetlands.org/Database">http://ramsar.wetlands.org/Database</a> )		WDPA Ramsar Site code (see <a href="http://www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/">www.unep-wcmc.org/wdpa/</a> )		
Location of Ramsar Site (province and if possible map reference of centre point)				
List any other International Designations e.g. World Heritage (and fill in section 2 where relevant):				
Ownership details (please tick all that apply):	State	Private	Community	Other
Management Authority:				
Number of staff:	Permanent		Temporary	
Total annual budget (US\$) for Ramsar Site– excluding staff salary costs:	Recurrent (operational) funds:		Project/ other supplementary funds:	
Under which Ramsar criteria was the site designated?				
List the management objectives of the Ramsar Site	Management objective 1:  Management objective 2:  etc.			
No. of people involved in completing assessment				
Including: (tick boxes)	PA manager <input type="checkbox"/>	PA staff <input type="checkbox"/>	Other PA agency staff <input type="checkbox"/>	NGO <input type="checkbox"/>
	Local community <input type="checkbox"/>	Donors <input type="checkbox"/>	External experts <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>
	Ramsar Site manager <input type="checkbox"/>		Government representative <input type="checkbox"/>	
Please note if assessment was carried out in association with a particular project, on behalf of an organisation or donor.				

## Data Sheet 1b: Identifying and describing values from the Ecological Character Description and the Ramsar Information Sheet

PART A: RAMSAR CRITERIA – reflects the criteria used for site designation			
No.	Key values	Description	Ramsar Criterion
li	e.g. Only known breeding area for the New Zealand crane	e.g. Large freshwater wetland areas immediately above high tide provide nesting sites and food for rearing chicks. Island location means no interference from feral animals or from vehicles.	e.g. Criterion 2
PART B - OTHER IMPORTANT FEATURES – from the Ecological Character Description or other knowledge of site managers.			
Vn°	Key values	Description	ECD group
Vx	Key area for community- based fishing industry	Provides primary food source for local population of approx. 2000 villagers	Ecological services and benefits

**Data Sheet 2: National and International Designations**

Nationally designated Protected Areas which fall within the boundaries of the Ramsar Site (add extra columns as required):					
Name	Designation	IUCN category	Area (ha)	Date of Establishment	WDPA code

UNESCO World Heritage site (see: <a href="http://whc.unesco.org/en/list">whc.unesco.org/en/list</a> )				
Site name	Site area (ha)	Date Listed	Geographical co-ordinates	WDPA Code
Criteria for designation (i.e. criteria i to x)				
Statement of Outstanding Universal Value				

UNESCO Man and Biosphere Reserves (see: <a href="http://www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml">www.unesco.org/mab/wnbrs.shtml</a> )						
Site name	Date listed	Site area (ha):				Geographical co-ordinates
		Total:	Core:	Buffer:	Transition	
Criteria for designation						
Fulfillment of three functions of MAB (conservation, development and logistic support.)						

Please list other designations (i.e. ASEAN Heritage, Natura 2000) and any supporting information below	
Name:	Details:

### Data Sheet 3: Ramsar Sites Threats

Please tick all relevant existing threats as either of high, medium or low significance. Note that some of the activities listed are not always threats – only tick them if they threaten the site’s integrity in some way. Threats ranked as of high significance are those which are seriously degrading values; medium are those threats having some negative impact and those characterized as low are threats which are present but not seriously impacting values or N/A where the threat is not present or not applicable in the Ramsar Site.

#### 1. Residential and commercial development within a Ramsar Site

Threats from human settlements or other non-agricultural land uses with a substantial footprint

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				1.1 Housing and settlement	
				1.2 Commercial and industrial areas	
				1.3 Tourism and recreation infrastructure	

#### 2. Agriculture and aquaculture within a Ramsar Site

Threats from farming and grazing as a result of agricultural expansion and intensification, including silviculture, mariculture and aquaculture

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				2.1 Annual and perennial non-timber crop cultivation	
				2.1a Drug cultivation	
				2.2 Wood and pulp plantations	
				2.3 Livestock farming and grazing	
				2.4 Marine and freshwater aquaculture	

#### 3. Energy production and mining within a Ramsar Site

Threats from production of non-biological resources

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				3.1 Oil and gas drilling	
				3.2 Mining and quarrying	
				3.3 Energy generation, including from hydropower dams, wind farms and solar panels	

#### 4. Transportation and service corridors within a Ramsar Site

Threats from long narrow transport corridors and the vehicles that use them including associated wildlife mortality

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				4.1 Roads and railroads (include road-killed animals)	
				4.2 Utility and service lines (e.g. electricity cables, telephone lines,)	
				4.3 Shipping lanes and canals	
				4.4 Flight paths	

#### 5. Biological resource use and harm within a Ramsar Site

Threats from consumptive use of "wild" biological resources including both deliberate and unintentional harvesting effects; also persecution or control of specific species (note this includes hunting and killing of animals)

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				5.1 Hunting, killing and collecting terrestrial (native) animals (including killing of animals as a result of human/wildlife conflict)	
				5.2 Gathering terrestrial (native) plants or plant products (non-timber)	
				5.3 Logging and wood harvesting	
				5.4 Fishing, killing and harvesting (native) aquatic resources	

## 6. Human intrusions and disturbance within a Ramsar Site

Threats from human activities that alter, destroy or disturb habitats and species associated with non-consumptive uses of biological resources

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				6.1 Recreational activities and tourism	
				6.2 War, civil unrest and military exercises	
				6.3 Research, education and other work-related activities in Ramsar Site	
				6.4 Activities of site managers (e.g. construction or vehicle use, artificial watering points and dams)	
				6.5 Deliberate vandalism, destructive activities or threats to protected area staff and visitors	

## 7. Natural system modifications

Threats from other actions that convert or degrade habitat or change the way the ecosystem functions.

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				7a1 Habitat clearing	
				7.1 Fire and fire suppression (including arson)	
				7.2 Dams, hydrological modification and water management/use	
				7.3a Increased fragmentation within Ramsar Site	
				7.3b Isolation from other natural habitat (e.g. deforestation, dams without effective aquatic wildlife passages)	
				7.3c Other 'edge effects' on park values	
				7.3d Loss of keystone species (e.g. top predators, pollinators etc)	

## 7a. Hydrological change

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				13.1 Dams within or upstream of site altering hydrological regime	
				13.2 Water extraction/diversion within site or catchment	
				13.3 Excess ponding of water in site (e.g. for flood storage)	
				13.4 Loss of hydrological connectivity (e.g. via stop banks)	
				13.5 Drought conditions	

## 8. Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Threats from terrestrial and aquatic non-native and native plants, animals, pathogens/microbes or genetic materials that have or are predicted to have harmful effects on biodiversity following introduction, spread and/or increase

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				8.1 Invasive non-native/alien plants (weeds)	
				8.1a Invasive non-native/alien animals	
				8.1b Pathogens (non-native or native but creating new/increased problems)	
				8.2 Introduced genetic material (e.g. genetically modified organisms)	

### 9. Pollution entering or generated within Ramsar Site

Threats from introduction of exotic and/or excess materials or energy from point and non-point sources

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				9.1 Household sewage and urban waste water	
				9.1a Sewage and waste water from Ramsar Site facilities (e.g. toilets, hotels etc)	
				9.2 Industrial, mining and military effluents and discharges (e.g. unnatural temperatures, de-oxygenated, higher salinity, other pollution)	
				9.3 Agricultural and forestry effluents (e.g. excess fertilizers or pesticides)	
				9.4 Garbage and solid waste	
				9.5 Air-borne pollutants	
				9.6 Excess energy (e.g. heat pollution, lights etc)	

### 10. Geological events

Geological events may be part of natural disturbance regimes in many ecosystems but they can be a threat if a species or habitat is damaged and has lost its resilience and is vulnerable to disturbance. Management capacity to respond to some of these changes may be limited.

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				10.1 Volcanoes	
				10.2 Earthquakes/Tsunamis	
				10.3 Avalanches/ Landslides	
				10.4 Erosion and siltation/ deposition (e.g. shoreline or riverbed changes)	

### 11. Climate change and severe weather

Threats from long-term climatic changes which may be linked to global warming and other severe climatic/weather events outside of the natural range of variation

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				11.1 Habitat shifting and alteration	
				11.2 Droughts	
				11.3 Temperature extremes	
				11.4 Storms and flooding	

### 12. Specific cultural and social threats

High	Medium	Low	N/A	Threat	Notes
				12.1 Loss of cultural links, traditional knowledge and/or management practices	
				12.2 Natural deterioration of important cultural site values	
				12.3 Destruction of cultural heritage buildings, gardens, sites etc	

### Data Sheet 4: Assessment form

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
1. Legal status  Does the Ramsar Site have legal status (or in the case of private reserves is covered by a covenant or similar)?  <i>Context</i>	The Ramsar Site is not gazetted/covenanted	0			
	There is agreement that the Ramsar Site should be gazetted/covenanted but the process has not yet begun	1			
	The Ramsar Site is in the process of being gazetted/covenanted but the process is still incomplete (includes sites designated under international conventions, such as Ramsar, or local/traditional law such as community conserved areas, which do not yet have national legal status or covenant)	2			
	The Ramsar Site has been formally gazetted/covenanted	3			
2. Ramsar Site regulations  Are regulations in place to control land use and activities (e.g. hunting)?  <i>Planning</i>	There are no regulations for controlling land use and activities in the Ramsar Site	0			
	Some regulations for controlling land use and activities in the Ramsar Site exist but these are major weaknesses	1			
	Regulations for controlling land use and activities in the Ramsar Site exist but there are some weaknesses or gaps	2			
	Regulations for controlling inappropriate land use and activities in the Ramsar Site exist and provide an excellent basis for management	3			
3. Law enforcement  Can staff (i.e. those with responsibility for managing the site) enforce Ramsar Site rules well enough?  <i>Input</i>	The staff have no effective capacity/resources to enforce Ramsar Site legislation and regulations	0			
	There are major deficiencies in staff capacity/resources to enforce Ramsar Site legislation and regulations (e.g. lack of skills, no patrol budget, lack of institutional support)	1			
	The staff have acceptable capacity/resources to enforce Ramsar Site legislation and regulations but some deficiencies remain	2			
	The staff have excellent capacity/resources to enforce Ramsar Site legislation and regulations	3			
4. Ramsar Site objectives  Is management undertaken according	No firm objectives have been agreed for the Ramsar Site	0			
	The Ramsar Site has agreed objectives, but is not managed according to these objectives	1			
	The Ramsar Site has agreed objectives, but is only partially managed according to these objectives	2			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
to agreed objectives? <i>Planning</i>	The Ramsar Site has agreed objectives and is managed to meet these objectives	3			
5. Ramsar Site design  Is the Ramsar Site the right size and shape to protect species, habitats, ecological processes and water catchments of key conservation concern?  <i>Planning</i>	Inadequacies in Ramsar Site design mean achieving the major objectives of the Ramsar Site is very difficult	0			
Inadequacies in Ramsar Site design mean that achievement of major objectives is difficult but some mitigating actions are being taken (e.g. agreements with adjacent land owners for wildlife corridors or introduction of appropriate catchment management)	1				
Ramsar Site design is not significantly constraining achievement of objectives, but could be improved (e.g. with respect to larger scale ecological processes)	2				
Ramsar Site design helps achievement of objectives; it is appropriate for species and habitat conservation; and maintains ecological processes such as surface and groundwater flows at a catchment scale, natural disturbance patterns etc	3				
6. Ramsar Site boundary demarcation  Is the boundary known and demarcated?  <i>Process</i>	The boundary of the Ramsar Site is not known by the management authority or local residents/neighbouring land users	0			
The boundary of the Ramsar Site is known by the management authority but is not known by local residents/neighbouring land users	1				
The boundary of the Ramsar Site is known by both the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users but is not appropriately demarcated	2				
The boundary of the Ramsar Site is known by the management authority and local residents/neighbouring land users and is appropriately demarcated	3				
7. Management plan  Is there a management plan and is it being implemented?  <i>Planning</i>	There is no management plan for the Ramsar Site	0			
A management plan is being prepared or has been prepared but is not being implemented	1				
A management plan exists but it is only being partially implemented because of funding constraints or other problems	2				
A management plan exists and is being implemented	3				
Additional points: <i>Planning</i>					

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
7a. Planning process	The planning process allows adequate opportunity for key stakeholders to influence the management plan	+1			
7b. Planning process	There is an established schedule and process for periodic review and updating of the management plan	+1			
7c. Planning process	The results of monitoring, research and evaluation are routinely incorporated into planning	+1			
8. Regular work plan	No regular work plan exists	0			
Is there a regular work plan and is it being implemented  <i>Planning/Outputs</i>	A regular work plan exists but few of the activities are implemented	1			
	A regular work plan exists and many activities are implemented	2			
	A regular work plan exists and all activities are implemented	3			
9. Resource inventory	There is little or no information available on the critical habitats, species and cultural values of the Ramsar Site	0			
Do you have enough information to manage the area?  <i>Input</i>	Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the Ramsar Site is not sufficient to support planning and decision making	1			
	Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the Ramsar Site is sufficient for most key areas of planning and decision making	2			
	Information on the critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values of the Ramsar Site is sufficient to support all areas of planning and decision making	3			
10. Protection systems	Protection systems (patrols, permits etc) do not exist or are not effective in controlling access/resource use	0			
Are systems in place to control access/resource use in the Ramsar Site? <i>Process/Outcome</i>	Protection systems are only partially effective in controlling access/resource use	1			
	Protection systems are moderately effective in controlling access/resource use	2			
	Protection systems are largely or wholly effective in controlling access/resource use	3			
11. Research	There is no survey or research work taking place in the Ramsar Site	0			
Is there a programme	There is a small amount of survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of Ramsar Site management	1			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
of management-orientated survey and research work? <i>Process</i>	There is considerable survey and research work but it is not directed towards the needs of Ramsar Site management	2			
	There is a comprehensive, integrated programme of survey and research work, which is relevant to management needs	3			
12. Resource management  Is active resource management being undertaken? <i>Process</i>	Active resource management is not being undertaken	0			
	Very few of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and cultural values are being implemented	1			
	Many of the requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being implemented but some key issues are not being addressed	2			
	Requirements for active management of critical habitats, species, ecological processes and, cultural values are being substantially or fully implemented	3			
13. Staff numbers  Are there enough people employed to manage the Ramsar Site? <i>Inputs</i>	There are no staff	0			
	Staff numbers are inadequate for critical management activities	1			
	Staff numbers are below optimum level for critical management activities	2			
	Staff numbers are adequate for the management needs of the Ramsar Site	3			
14. Staff training  Are staff adequately trained to fulfil management objectives? <i>Inputs/Process</i>	Staff lack the skills needed for Ramsar Site management	0			
	Staff training and skills are low relative to the needs of the Ramsar Site	1			
	Staff training and skills are adequate, but could be further improved to fully achieve the objectives of management	2			
	Staff training and skills are aligned with the management needs of the Ramsar Site	3			
15. Current budget  Is the current budget sufficient?	There is no budget for management of the Ramsar Site	0			
	The available budget is inadequate for basic management needs and presents a serious constraint to the capacity to manage	1			
	The available budget is acceptable but could be further improved to fully achieve effective management	2			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
<i>Inputs</i>	The available budget is sufficient and meets the full management needs of the Ramsar Site	3			
16. Security of budget	There is no secure budget for the Ramsar Site and management is wholly reliant on outside or highly variable funding	0			
Is the budget secure?	There is very little secure budget and the Ramsar Site could not function adequately without outside funding	1			
	There is a reasonably secure core budget for regular operation of the Ramsar Site but many innovations and initiatives are reliant on outside funding	2			
<i>Inputs</i>	There is a secure budget for the Ramsar Site and its management needs	3			
17. Management of budget	Budget management is very poor and significantly undermines effectiveness (e.g. late release of budget in financial year)	0			
Is the budget managed to meet critical management needs?	Budget management is poor and constrains effectiveness	1			
	Budget management is adequate but could be improved	2			
<i>Process</i>	Budget management is excellent and meets management needs	3			
18. Equipment	There are little or no equipment and facilities for management needs	0			
Is equipment sufficient for management needs?	There are some equipment and facilities but these are inadequate for most management needs	1			
	There are equipment and facilities, but still some gaps that constrain management	2			
<i>Input</i>	There are adequate equipment and facilities	3			
19. Maintenance of equipment	There is little or no maintenance of equipment and facilities	0			
Is equipment adequately maintained?	There is some <i>ad hoc</i> maintenance of equipment and facilities	1			
	There is basic maintenance of equipment and facilities	2			
<i>Process</i>	Equipment and facilities are well maintained	3			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
20. Education and awareness  Is there a planned education programme linked to the objectives and needs?  <i>Process</i>	There is no education and awareness programme	0			
	There is a limited and <i>ad hoc</i> education and awareness programme	1			
	There is an education and awareness programme but it only partly meets needs and could be improved	2			
	There is an appropriate and fully implemented education and awareness programme	3			
21. Planning for land and water use  Does land and water use planning recognise the Ramsar Site and aid the achievement of objectives?  <i>Planning</i>	Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the needs of the Ramsar Site and activities/policies are detrimental to the survival of the area	0			
	Adjacent land and water use planning does not take into account the long term needs of the Ramsar Site, but activities are not detrimental the area	1			
	Adjacent land and water use planning partially takes into account the long term needs of the Ramsar Site	2			
	Adjacent land and water use planning fully takes into account the long term needs of the Ramsar Site	3			
Additional points: Land and water planning					
21a: Land and water planning for habitat conservation	Planning and management in the catchment or landscape containing the Ramsar Site incorporates provision for adequate environmental conditions (e.g. volume, quality and timing of water flow, air pollution levels etc) to sustain relevant habitats.	+1			
21b: Land and water planning for connectivity	Management of corridors linking the Ramsar Site provides for wildlife passage to key habitats outside the Ramsar Site (e.g. to allow migratory fish to travel between freshwater spawning sites and the sea, or to allow animal migration).	+1			
21c: Land and water planning for ecosystem services & species conservation	"Planning addresses ecosystem-specific needs and/or the needs of particular species of concern at an ecosystem scale (e.g. volume, quality and timing of freshwater flow to sustain particular species, fire management to maintain savannah habitats etc.)"	+1			
22. State and commercial neighbours	There is no contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users	0			
	There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users but little or no cooperation	1			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
Is there co-operation with adjacent land and water users?  <i>Process</i>	There is contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, but only some co-operation	2			
	There is regular contact between managers and neighbouring official or corporate land and water users, and substantial co-operation on management	3			
23. Indigenous people  Do indigenous and traditional peoples resident or regularly using the Ramsar Site have input to management decisions?  <i>Process</i>	Indigenous and traditional peoples have no input into decisions relating to the management of the Ramsar Site	0			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management	1			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved	2			
	Indigenous and traditional peoples directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management	3			
24. Local communities  Do local communities resident or near the Ramsar Site have input to management decisions?  <i>Process</i>	Local communities have no input into decisions relating to the management of the Ramsar Site	0			
	Local communities have some input into discussions relating to management but no direct role in management	1			
	Local communities directly contribute to some relevant decisions relating to management but their involvement could be improved	2			
	Local communities directly participate in all relevant decisions relating to management, e.g. co-management	3			
<i>Additional points Local communities/indigenous people</i>					
24 a. Impact on communities	There is open communication and trust between local and/or indigenous people, stakeholders and Ramsar Site managers	+1			
24b. Impact on communities	Programmes to enhance community welfare, while conserving Ramsar Site resources, are being implemented	+1			
24c. Impact on communities	Local and/or indigenous people actively support the Ramsar Site	+1			
25. Economic benefit  Is the Ramsar Site	The Ramsar Site does not deliver any economic benefits to local communities	0			
	Potential economic benefits are recognised and plans to realise these are being developed	1			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
providing economic benefits to local communities, e.g. income, employment, payment for environmental services?  <i>Outcomes</i>	There is some flow of economic benefits to local communities	2			
	There is a major flow of economic benefits to local communities from activities associated with the Ramsar Site	3			
26. Monitoring and evaluation  Are management activities monitored against performance?  <i>Planning/Process</i>	There is no monitoring and evaluation in the Ramsar Site	0			
	There is some <i>ad hoc</i> monitoring and evaluation, but no overall strategy and/or no regular collection of results	1			
	There is an agreed and implemented monitoring and evaluation system but results do not feed back into management	2			
	A good monitoring and evaluation system exists, is well implemented and used in adaptive management	3			
27. Visitor facilities  Are visitor facilities adequate?  <i>Outputs</i>	There are no visitor facilities and services despite an identified need	0			
	Visitor facilities and services are inappropriate for current levels of visitation	1			
	Visitor facilities and services are adequate for current levels of visitation but could be improved	2			
	Visitor facilities and services are excellent for current levels of visitation	3			
28. Commercial tourism operators  Do commercial tour operators contribute to Ramsar Site management?  <i>Process</i>	There is little or no contact between managers and tourism operators using the Ramsar Site	0			
	There is contact between managers and tourism operators but this is largely confined to administrative or regulatory matters	1			
	There is limited co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences and maintain Ramsar Site values	2			
	There is good co-operation between managers and tourism operators to enhance visitor experiences, and maintain Ramsar Site values	3			
29. Fees  If fees (i.e. entry fees)	Although fees are theoretically applied, they are not collected	0			
	Fees are collected, but make no contribution to the Ramsar Site or its environs	1			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
or fines) are applied, do they help Ramsar Site management? <i>Inputs/Process</i>	Fees are collected, and make some contribution to the Ramsar Site and its environs	2			
	Fees are collected and make a substantial contribution to the Ramsar Site and its environs	3			
30. Condition of key management targets  What is the condition of the important values of the Ramsar Site as compared to when it was first designated? (this answer should be a conclusion from datasheet 5) <i>Outcomes</i>	Many important biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded	0			
	Some biodiversity, ecological or cultural values are being severely degraded	1			
	Some biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are being partially degraded but the most important values have not been significantly impacted	2			
	Biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are predominantly intact	3			
<i>Additional Points: Condition of values</i>					
30a: Condition of values	The assessment of the condition of values is based on research and/or monitoring	+1			
30b: Condition of values	Specific management programmes are being implemented to address threats to biodiversity, ecological and cultural values	+1			
30c: Condition of values	Activities to maintain key biodiversity, ecological and cultural values are a routine part of management	+1			
<b>Additional questions specific to Ramsar Sites:</b>					
31: Ecological Character Description	Work on the description of the ecological character of the Ramsar Site has not begun	0			
	Work has begun to create a description of the ecological character of the Ramsar Site, but no draft is yet available	1			
	A description of the ecological character of the site has been drafted, but is incomplete or out of date	2			
	A description of the ecological character of the site has been completed	3			
32: Cross sectorial	No cross-sectorial management committee is in place	0			

Issue	Criteria	Score: Tick only one box per question		Comment/Explanation	Next steps
Management Committee	Potential stakeholders for the creation of a cross-sectorial management committee have been identified, but no management committee has been established	1			
	A management committee has been established, but is not significantly involved in the management of the site	2			
	A functioning cross-sectorial management committee is in place	3			
33. Communication mechanisms with Ramsar administrative authority	There are no mechanisms in place for communication between the Ramsar Administrative authority and site managers	0			
	Communication between the Ramsar Administrative authority and site managers exists but is ad-hoc and poorly developed	1			
	Communication mechanisms are in place but could be improved	2			
	Mechanisms are in place for communication between the Ramsar Administrative authority and site managers and function well	3			

34. Of the 33 questions above, please list in order of importance the five that reflect the major constraints to effective management of your Ramsar Site	Question number	Why is this a major constraint to effective management

<p>35. Of the 33 questions above, please list in order of importance the five greatest strengths of your current management of your Ramsar Site</p>	<p>Question number</p>	<p>Why do you think this has become a strength of current management? (e.g. due to manager's efforts or government commitment?)</p>

**Data Sheet 5: Trends in Ramsar Ecological Character (including ecosystem services and community benefits)**

Key values for the Ramsar Site should be copied from Datasheet 1a., then indicate the current condition of the value and the trend over the past five years

Note: The current state of values is assessed against five ratings: **Good, Low Concern, High Concern, Critical** and **Data Deficient**. The baseline for the assessment should be the condition at the time of designation, with reference to the best-recorded historical conservation state. Trend is assessed in relation to whether the condition of a value is **Improving, Stable, Deteriorating** or **Data Deficient**, and is intended to be snapshot of recent developments over the last three years.

PART A: RAMSAR CRITERIA – reflects the criteria used for site designation		Assessment					Trend			
Values	Justification of assessment	Good	Low Concern	High Concern	Critical	Data deficient	I ↑	S ↔	D ↓	DD
<b>PART B - OTHER IMPORTANT FEATURES – from the Ecological Character Description or other knowledge of site managers.</b>										
<b>Assessment of the overall current state and trend of Ramsar Site ecological character:</b>										