

**CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEPA Oversight Panel**  
**Bucharest, Romania, July 2012**

**5th Meeting of the CEPA Oversight Panel**  
**7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2012**  
**Report**

The Panel met on four occasions from 08.30-10.00 on the 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July. The first three meetings are collectively reported here as the '5<sup>th</sup>' meeting of the Panel. During the final meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> July, the Panel held a networking sessions with CEPA Focal Points attending COP11.

**Present:** James Clarke, Esther Koopmanschap, Amy Lecciones, Melissa Marin, Christine Prietto, Seung Suh Oh, Sandra Hails (*ex-officio*)

**Apologies:** Rebecca D'Cruz, Tiina Nikkonen, Nick Davidson (*ex-officio*)

**1. Welcome and opening remarks**

The CEPA Programme Officer opened the meeting welcoming those members of the Panel able to attend and in particular welcoming James Clarke from IWMI (International Water Management Institute). James replaces Tunde Ojei from Wetlands International with immediate effect and will carry on as the IOP representative on the CEPA Panel during the next triennium. The CEPA Programme Officer invited all present to briefly introduce him/herself. She also presented apologies for Panel members not in attendance because the meeting time unavoidably coincided with the meeting of the Conference Committee which included several Panel members.

**2. Adoption of the agenda**

The Panel adopted the agenda.

**3. Review of the 4th meeting report**

All Panel members had been asked to review this document before the meeting. No Panel members had any additional comments to make on the report so this was accepted.

**4. Review of the Panel's tasks during this triennium and the key tasks for the next triennium**

The Panel briefly reviewed the work plan which had guided the work of the Panel during the past triennium. To make the best use of limited time available, the Panel decided to focus on Tasks 3, 5, 10 and 11 as detailed in Doc3 of the meeting documents.

**Tasks 3 and 5 on Ramsar Regional Centres and the Advisory Board on Capacity Building, respectively.**

5. The Panel considered these two tasks together as there was potential for a coordinated response. For task 3, related to support for Ramsar Regional Centres, Panel members were referred to the text included in COP11 Draft Resolution 5: "REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to work with the representatives of the Ramsar Regional Centres to identify and advise on the capacity building needs for RRC staff to optimize their performance" and this was seen as an important task for the next triennium. While this Draft Resolution had not been adopted at the time of the meetings it seemed likely that this would be adopted\*.

[\* this was finally adopted as Resolution XI.5 without changes to this part of the text].

6. Task 5 relates to the work of the Advisory Board on Capacity Building. Following production of the Capacity Development Framework by the Advisory Board as an Information Paper at the COP, the Framework was formally launched in hard copy at a side event. The CEPA Programme Officer noted that the future of the Advisory Board at the time of the meeting was unclear. If the Board continues, the Panel would seek an opportunity to work with their representatives and Regional Centres staff (and

where possible STRP members) to identify and develop capacity development product ideas which could be delivered within regions by Regional Centres in the first instance, and other organisations.

7. It was noted that there are parallel discussions going on within the STRP on capacity building support for implementation, funding permitting, and it would be important to avoid duplication of effort. Since the STRP's CEPA expert member is automatically a CEPA Oversight Panel member this should not present any problems (the STRP representative on the Panel for the current triennium is Chris Prietto).
8. It was briefly noted that the future form of the Advisory Board, if indeed it continues, will be a matter for discussion between the Standing Committee, the Secretary General (currently Chair of the Board), and the Netherlands Government. Input from the Panel will be sought as necessary by the Secretariat and Standing Committee.

**Task 10: Review, consolidate and update the guidance adopted by Resolutions VII.8 and VIII.36**

9. The Panel agreed that there is a need to rationalize these two resolutions. The discussion on VII.8 noted:
  - the case studies upon which VII.8 was based were collected in the mid-90's and although they may be relevant in today's world this has not been fully assessed;
  - to replace the Resolution with a similar case study-based approach would be both time consuming and costly and would undoubtedly require expert assistance;
  - the Resolution only provides guidance on participatory skills for working with local and indigenous people in relation to wetland management yet it is clear that there is a need for effective participation in wetland management for **all** relevant stakeholders and that working with decision-makers and civil servants is also challenging for the Ramsar community.
10. The Panel noted the need to move forward with this task rather rapidly if anything is to be achieved by COP12 and that the Panel should work with STRP to try to resolve how to proceed with Resolutions VII.8 and VIII.36.

**Task 11: Review the current CEPA Programme (Resolution X.8) and its implementation and decide upon the form of the new programme for the period 2016-2022**

11. The Panel agreed on the following regarding the current CEPA Programme of work and its form to be considered at COP12:
  - the current programme of work is largely coherent but would benefit from some simplification without changing the overall direction in the new programme;
  - the new programme should reduce the emphasis on CEPA action planning and increase the emphasis on integrating CEPA into other actions plans and strategies at national and site level; there's a need to provide clear models of these approaches;
  - the Panel should review the current programme and remove unrealistic suggestions, e.g. the setting up of a CEPA Task Force;
  - the new programme needs to address the importance of participation in wetland management and perhaps provide some guiding principles for participation with examples for different stakeholder groups; this will have particular relevance for goal 3 of the programme;
  - to assist in the development of participation it could be helpful to collect information from the CEPA Focal Points on participation 'in the field'.
12. Taking the points under paragraph 11 into account, the Panel agreed on some overarching draft guiding objectives to be applied in the new CEPA Programme of Work:
  - Assure that tools for improving participation in Ramsar implementation are available for delivery at regional levels.
  - Assure that guidance for participation that has been approved by Parties at past COPs is fully integrated under the CEPA Programme of Work.
  - Assure that participation is fully integrated into the new CEPA Panel's work plan.

13. Panel members Chris Prietto and Esther Koopmanschap have volunteered to begin work on a scoping document for task 11 for the new Panel, taking into account the information in paragraphs 11 and 12 above. This will form the basis for discussion of the new programme for the new Panel and it was noted that a special workshop of the Panel would be necessary to produce a first draft and that funding should be sought for this.

**Tasks 2c and 12: Changing priorities for the new CEPA Programme & the new task suggested by Panel member on CEPA Focal Point network and CEPA FP needs**

14. Since Task 2c is effectively covered by the new task 11 it will be removed from the work plan for the new triennium. Task 12 was not discussed and will go forward to the first meeting of the new Panel.

**Review of the selection process for the CEPA Panel for 2012-2015**

15. For the next triennium a new Panel must be appointed. Although no time was available during the meeting to review the nomination process (or to discuss the need for any additional expertise on the Panel), the CEPA Programme Officer will send all Panel members the nomination forms used for the outgoing Panel for review.
16. In relation to the new panel, a possible location for its first meeting was discussed and several possibilities identified: at the Ramsar Secretariat; at an IWMI location in Sri Lanka where simple accommodation would be available free of charge or at modest cost; at a location in the Philippines with the help of outgoing Panel member Amy Lecciones. This needs to be processed with some haste since the new panel will likely meet in early January 2013.

**Any other business**

17. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.00 on the 10<sup>th</sup> July.

[Draft work plan to be considered by SC46 follows]

### Draft Work plan summary for 2012 -2015

This work plan is a continuation of the work plan from the 2009-2012 triennium. Completed tasks have been removed, on-going tasks retained, and new tasks generated during the 2009-2012 triennium included, as reviewed during the 5th Panel meeting.

Task	Task Description	Current status	Notes
2.	Advise the Secretariat on the indicators in the draft National Report to COP12 that assess the CEPA implementation component of the Strategic Plan		This task is repeated each triennium for the appropriate COP National Reporting Format
3.	Ramsar Regional Centres and their capacity building needs.		Resolution XI.5 "REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to work with the representatives of the Ramsar Regional Centres to identify and advise on the capacity building needs for RRC staff to optimize their performance". This task will respond to this request . Note also that this task is closely related to task 5 and the Panel will work on a coordinated response.
5.	Continue work with the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention on identifying priorities for capacity building for wetland management.	Future status of the Advisory Board and role of Panel an ongoing discussion with the Board and Secretariat	Related to this task, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has a special training and capacity building task in Draft Resolution 17 that will likely involve input from the CEPA Panel. Chris will be the link between the Panel and STRP: as the CEPA expert on STRP she is familiar with their new task in this area (DR17 <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/dr/cop11-dr17-e-priorities.pdf">http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/dr/cop11-dr17-e-priorities.pdf</a> ).
10.	Review the two Convention Resolutions relevant to participation, Resolutions VII.8 and VIII.36, and advise the Convention on whether there is value in consolidating their contents into one Resolution.		The Panel will develop a process, working with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the Secretariat, to review, consolidate and update the guidance adopted by Resolutions VII.8 and VIII.36 and to bring new or revised participatory management guidelines as a Draft Resolution to COP12". Two key docs: <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_vii.08e.pdf">http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_vii.08e.pdf</a> <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_viii_36_e.pdf">http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_viii_36_e.pdf</a>
11.	Review the content and implementation of the current CEPA Resolution X.8 and prepare a draft CEPA Resolution for the period 2016-2022	New task	
12.	Suggested new task by Panel member: Strengthening CEPA networks around the world, beginning with the Ramsar CEPA National Focal Points	Potential new task	Propose actions to strengthen the CEPA network around the world. A first step could be to contact the CEPA Focal Points (government and NGO) to know what is their role in wetland conservation, and identify their needs.