



Amended Agenda: Collaborative Workshop of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Together with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Sunday, 22 November 2015 – Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland

Effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention and its 4th Strategic Plan 2016-2024

Objectives

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands recognizes the importance of Regional Initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Convention and providing increased capacity for the implementation of its Strategic Plan since 2002 (COP8). This was most recently reinforced by Resolution XII.8 of the Conference of the Parties held in Uruguay in June 2015 (COP12). The objectives of this meeting are:

- To strengthen the linkages among the Regional Initiatives, promoting regional and international cooperation and collaboration, together with the Ramsar Secretariat.
- To review and revise the *Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention*, as adopted for 2013-2015 through Standing Committee Decision SC46-28, taking into account issues of governance, capacity, fundraising, and programmatic approach in alignment with the Ramsar Strategic Plan (Resolution XII.8 para.9).
- To publicize Regional Initiatives as an operational means to provide support for the implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention, to complement the efforts of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities at national level, and the Regional Initiatives themselves and to develop a communications strategy for this purpose (Resolution XII.8.para.18).
- To assess in a collaborative way the achievements of Regional Initiatives in delivering technical, administrative and collaborative benefits to the Parties in their regions, as well as their effectiveness and efficiency, and to analyse weaknesses, strengths and difficulties of Regional Initiatives' implementation and management (Resolution XII.8.para.21).

Outputs and outcomes of the meeting

1. Increased collaboration and information-sharing.
2. Revision of the Operational Guidelines.
3. Development of a proposed communication strategy to publicize the work of the RIs.
4. Preparation of an assessment report on the achievements and lessons learned in the implementation and management of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives.

Proposed Agenda

09:00 Welcome

Welcome by the Secretary General
Participants introduce themselves briefly – Deputy Secretary General
Presentation and approval of the programme of the day – Secretary General

9:30 Improved Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives

Presentation of the proposed revised Guidelines – DSG and Tobias Salathé

10:00 Presentation of elements of a proposed communications plan for Regional Initiatives –
Camilla Chalmers

10:30 Coffee/tea break

10:45 **Brainstorming in small groups** – reconvene in plenary first, before splitting up into groups
(see attached Annex for groups and venues)

- a. Outstanding issues regarding the Operational Guidelines
- b. How to better communicate the work of the Regional Initiatives regionally and globally

12:30 Lunch (optional side-event: Wageningen University “Capacity building for and with Ramsar
and the Regional Initiatives - Example of Dutch support and ideas for the future”)

13:30 **Report-back from the small group session** – reconvene in plenary

Each Rapporteur reports back the main points from the group session (5 minutes each)
Plenary discussion facilitated by the DSG

14:10 **Assessment Report on achievements and lessons Learned**- Tobias Salathé

Summary of the Assessment Report and its main conclusions
Feedback to improve the report

14:40 **Brainstorming in small groups (same groups and venues as for morning session)**

- c. Comments on the assessment report
- d. Organization of future coordination and collaboration among RIs, the Ramsar Secretariat, the STRP and the CEPA Working group and the CEPA Oversight Panel.

16:00 Coffee/tea break

16:30 **Report-back from the small group session**

Each Rapporteur reports back the main points from the group session (5 minutes each) on
proposals for concrete steps to be undertaken

17:30 **Elaboration and adoption of conclusions** – Secretary General

Identification of next steps and concrete proposals for follow-up or future meeting

18:00 **Closure of the meeting**

Background documents:

1. Resolution XII.8 *Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention*

2. Resolution XII.2 *Strategic Plan 2016-2024*
3. Operational Guidelines 2013-2015 for Regional Initiatives (approved by SC46 in April 2013)
4. (new) Proposed Operational Guidelines 2016-2024 for Ramsar Regional Initiatives
5. Questionnaire to analyse the achievements of Regional Initiatives until 2015
6. CEPA action plan (in SC51 version)
7. STRP work plan

Annex: Small groups and venues

<p>GROUP A (Room : Red List A) Facilitator : Lew Rapporteur : TBD RAMSAR REGIONAL CENTRES RAMCEA RRC-CWA RRC-EA CREHO</p>	<p>GROUP B (Français) (Room : Red List B) Facilitator : Paul Rapporteur : TBD French-speaking without interpretation WacoWet NigerWet MedWet</p>
<p>GROUP C (Español) (Room : Wetlands) Facilitator : Maria Rapporteur : TBD Spanish-speaking without interpretation High Andean La Plata Mangroves & Coral Reefs</p>	<p>GROUP D (Main Plenary Room) Facilitator : Tobias Rapporteur : TBD English-speaking without interpretation CariWet CWI NordBalWet Black & Azov Sea</p>