

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

48<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 26-30 January 2015

SC48-12

## Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

### Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) note the STRP Chair's report; and
- b) consider possible ways of supporting translation of STRP products to be produced this triennium.

### Introduction

1. This report from the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) focuses on STRP activities and progress since the Standing Committee last met at its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting (SC47).
2. Other papers for the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC48) that are relevant to the work of the STRP include DOC. SC48-18 resulting from Resolution XI.16 on *Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention*.
3. Annex I provides a table that summarises the progress against the Ramsar STRP Work Plan 2013-2015 as of November 2014. The table includes the entire list of tasks in order under their work areas as they appear in the STRP Work Plan. Only nine tasks were designated as top priority tasks (by the Standing Committee) and were partially funded by the COP. However, in some cases lower priority tasks were also progressed through partnerships or through pro bono contributions from STRP members.

### Update on high priority tasks

In light of the limited STRP budget, Standing Committee 46 Decision 14 (SC46-14) called on the STRP to focus on nine high-priority tasks. Below is a summary of progress to date on these tasks.

4. *State of the World's Wetlands and their Services (Task No. 18)*: A Briefing Note, which will highlight recent scientific literature on the status and trends of wetlands, is being drafted. It will discuss assessments of global and regional wetland trends, as well as more limited assessments of Ramsar Sites. These studies have generally found that losses and degradation of wetlands continue, resulting in diminished ecosystem services for people. In addition, the Secretariat has published its first tranche of factsheets, for which the STRP provided comments, and which encompass information on the WCMC-produced Wetland Extent Index. Additional factsheets on wetland types and wetland-related indicators are contemplated as part of the Secretariat's communications strategy.
5. *Strategy for engaging Ramsar in the global water debate (Task No. 44)*: A paper, commissioned by the Secretariat and reviewed by STRP, on *Recommendations and opportunities for the Ramsar Convention to increase its impact within the global water debate* has been provided to

the Secretariat. Building on this paper, the STRP water resources working group is drafting a Briefing Note on the need to prioritise opportunities.

6. *Wetlands and poverty eradication—guidance and case studies* (Task No. 51): A Ramsar Technical Report, based on a report completed through an IWMI-sponsored internship on a structured guide to available guidelines and tools for addressing poverty eradication in relation to wetlands, is under preparation. A writing workshop was held at Lake Chilika, India in June 2014 to produce advice on *Mainstreaming the Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication into national policies and programmes for poverty eradication*. A Briefing Note on the subject is being prepared. Additionally, a report on case studies and best practices on the application of the Framework for assessing poverty in wetlands (also based on the internship's outputs) will be prepared for distribution at a planned COP12 side event.
7. *Wetlands and climate change: Advice on the implication of REDD+ decisions by other MEAs to the Ramsar Convention* (Task No. 41(iv) (c)): A writing workshop, hosted and sponsored by the Institute for Wetlands Research—Chinese Academy of Forestry, Beijing, China, was held in May 2014 to progress an STRP Briefing Note and review the potential to produce a Ramsar Technical Report. The Briefing Note is currently being prepared.
8. *Wetlands and ecosystem services—economics of wetland ecosystem services* (Task No. 59): An assessment of needs has been drafted to inform the development of guidance and is being finalized for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. The needs assessment has also benefited from interactive sessions and feedback from the 8<sup>th</sup> European Ramsar meeting and the STRP Asia Regional Workshop. A draft briefing note on a guide to guidance is being prepared but requires further work.
9. *Ecological character and change in ecological character—further guidance* (Task No. 20): A report, commissioned by the Secretariat and reviewed by the STRP, on aspects of Article 3.2, the Ramsar Sites Information Service and the Article 3.2 process, Article 2.5 and 4.2, the Montreux Record and the Ramsar Advisory Missions process was drafted for internal use of the Secretariat. A summary report was also produced. Annexed to the report is a consolidated re-packaging of key aspects of existing guidance and interpretations provided for internal reference.
10. *Wetlands and invasive species—guide to available guidance* (Task No.10): A Briefing Note is being prepared by an external consultant commissioned by the Secretariat.
11. *CEPA—assessing and supporting the capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties and wetland managers in applying Ramsar guidance* (Task No. 1): This task was discontinued at the request of Secretariat due to overlaps with the Resolution XI.16 review.
12. *Implementation of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision* (Task No. 25): STRP advice was provided to SC-46.

#### **Update on other tasks, including ad hoc advisory functions**

13. *Wetlands and agriculture—Wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture guidance* (Task No. 46): A draft Ramsar Technical Report on inland wetlands, capture fisheries and aquaculture is being produced with the support of IWMI and FAO.

14. *CEPA advice on guidance preparation* (Task No. 4): The working group has provided substantial CEPA advice on guidance preparation to the different working groups, in particular to the Poverty Eradication Working Group.
15. *Review of Draft Resolutions* (Task No. 8): As one of its core responsibilities, the STRP provided comments and advice on draft resolutions related to management effectiveness, disaster risk reduction, conservation of small Mediterranean islands, ecological flows, peatlands, and Ramsar communities accreditation. Outstanding STRP concerns with the Ramsar communities accreditation Draft Resolution include: the accreditation appears to be rewarding Ramsar Sites (or communities associated with these Sites) for actions they ought to be doing already; accreditation is not expressly linked to the principles articulated in Resolution XI.11; leaving out non-Ramsar Sites, or at least not explicitly considering them from inception, is a significant missed opportunity to advance the wise use agenda; and accreditation suggests a rigorous certification process, but many details are left uncertain or to be developed in the future.
16. *Strategic Plan Working Group* (Task No. 6): The STRP Chair served as a member of the working group, participating in its meetings (remotely) and providing consolidated comments from the STRP.
17. *Montreux Record* (Task No. 7): The STRP provided comments to the Secretariat concerning the removal of Bañados del Este (Uruguay) from the Montreux Record.
18. *Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)* (Task No. 13): The STRP also remains engaged in IPBES. For example, the STRP Chair attended the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel meeting in July 2014 and emphasized the need for the land degradation/restoration assessment to include experts with wetland and wetland restoration. Several of the experts selected for the scoping phase of this thematic assessment had freshwater expertise, as well as mangrove and freshwater wetland restoration experience. The STRP Chair will attend IPBES-3 in January 2015.
19. As previously reported, the STRP and the Secretariat may nominate expert candidates for appointment to IPBES processes. Thus far, however, the results of our internal nomination process have been tepid. We received primarily self-nominations (not from Contracting Parties or IOPs) and decided not to forward any of these names in the last call for nominations. Contracting Parties appear satisfied to submit names through their national processes. The fact that experts from developed countries must bear their own travel costs may be an additional reason for the low response rate.
20. *STRP webinars*: As part of its efforts to reach out to broader audiences, the STRP has produced six webinars in English, French and Spanish about different activities undertaken by Contracting Parties, partners and Ramsar-related bodies. The webinars can be accessed through the STRP Portal (<http://strp.ramsar.org/strp-publications/strp-webinars>).
21. *Training materials*: STRP observer Rob McInnes (representative for the Society of Wetland Scientists) has been engaged by the Secretariat to produce a series of practical learning materials (PowerPoints, fact sheets) with the Secretariat's communications team. The STRP Chair is also developing a week-long course for law and policy students to be held at Stetson University in January 2015. The PowerPoints developed for the course will be shared with the Ramsar community.

22. *Technical report on managing wetland protected areas*: STRP invited expert Max Finlayson has co-authored a proposed Ramsar Technical Report, an abridged version of which was published as part of an IUCN book for the World Parks Congress in Sydney, Australia, in November 2014.

### **STRP meetings and workshops**

23. The 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the STRP was held from 8-10 September at the Secretariat's headquarters. The objective of this meeting, which was the Panel's last before COP12, was to substantively progress high priority tasks and to map out a process for completion of tasks before the end of the triennium. Feedback on the highest priority tasks was collected during the working sessions, and the panel provided input to draft resolutions by Contracting Parties on management effectiveness, disaster risk reduction, Ramsar communities accreditation, conservation of small Mediterranean islands, and peatlands. The Panel confirmed, with input from the Secretariat, the format of expected outputs for the triennium, which can be consulted in Annex I.
24. Due to budget constraints, there was limited participation in regional pre-COP meetings. Nevertheless, two STRP members attended the Asia meeting, an STRP member and observer attended the European meeting, and the Chair, an IOP member, and an invited expert attended the Pan-American meeting.
25. As noted above, small STRP writing workshops tied to high-priority tasks were held in China in May 2014 and in India in June 2014.
26. STRP members, experts and observers also played notable roles in the following meetings and conferences: Society of Wetlands Scientists Annual Meeting (Joint Aquatic Sciences Meeting), May 2014, Portland, Oregon, USA; Society of Wetlands Scientists IX European Wetland Congress, September 2014, Huesca, Spain; Workshop on the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the CBD in Small Nordic States, September 2014, Tórshavn, Faroe Islands; and Australian Perspectives (a World Park Congress parallel event), November 2014, Sydney, Australia. Note that STRP funds were not used for participation at these events.

### **Resolution XI.16 review process**

27. The STRP Chair served on the Resolution XI.16 review committee. Throughout the process, the STRP Chair suggested that the overall objective should be the production of *scientifically rigorous guidance and advice that is responsive to the targeted audience and that is effective in promoting the wise use of wetlands*.
28. It is important to clarify (based on questions raised at regional meetings) that the STRP as a whole was not provided an opportunity to offer input on the draft resolution, *Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance to the Convention*, prior to its release to the regional pre-COP meetings. Nor did the STRP play a role in the development of the proposed list in Annex 3 of that document, *STRP priorities and thematic areas for 2016-2018*. The STRP does look forward, however, to working with the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to provide comments on the draft resolution to improve the delivery and uptake of scientific and technical advice. Items that the Contracting Parties may wish to consider include: whether strategic, emerging and ongoing issues (such as reviewing draft resolutions, providing advice to Secretariat, maintaining a watching brief on highly pathogenic avian influenza) should be an STRP priority and thematic area; whether the draft resolution provides any clear mechanism for the provision of locally- and regionally-specific scientific and technical guidance; and whether the distinction between scientific and technical roles is workable in practice.

## **Preparation for COP12**

29. The STRP Chair and Vice Chair are conferring with the Secretariat regarding STRP representation at COP12 to assist with and advise on revisions of draft resolutions, as well as STRP-related side events.

### Annex 1: Progress against the STRP Work Plan 2013-2015, as of November 2014

This table summarises the progress against the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel Work Plan 2013-2015 as of November 2014. The table includes the entire list of tasks, in order, under their work areas as they appear in the STRP Work Plan. Only nine tasks were designated as top priority tasks (by Standing Committee) and were partially funded by the COP. Top priority tasks are designated in comments table. However, in some cases other tasks were also progressed through partnerships or through pro bono contributions from STRP members.

Task No.	Short task title	Summary description	Status	Comments
	<b>CEPA</b>			
1	Assessing and supporting the capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties and wetland managers in applying Ramsar guidance	Develop effective ways of providing training and capacity-building, including through a 'training for trainers' programme, for relevant stakeholders in Contracting Parties (including Administrative Authorities & wetland managers) to assist with the interpretation and implementation of scientific and technical guidance and other materials adopted by the Convention, with the assessment and definition of future needs.	<b>No activities undertaken</b>	<b>Identified as a top priority by SC-46.</b>  Reported to SC-47 that the task is discontinued at request of Secretariat due to overlap with the XI.16 review.
2	Capacity-building support for STRP National Focal Points	Hold regional workshops for STRP National Focal Points (at least 1 per triennium).	<b>Completed</b>	Completed in conjunction with the Ramsar Regional Center—East Asia in October 2013.
2.2	Build a collection of practical learning materials for horizontal knowledge sharing using more dynamic and accessible delivery modes	Repackage existing guidance/other materials into smaller, more accessible, products using more dynamic mediums that can serve as a <i>second level</i> of Ramsar Guidance. It is also the intention to identify existing products that are already in use that are relevant to Ramsar end users and build links to these either informally or through partnerships.	<b>Ongoing</b>	Initiated in conjunction with the Secretariat. Secretariat's Communications Team leading. Products include PowerPoints, video, factsheets.
3a & 3b	STRP communication & dissemination support: a) web platform; and b) newsletters	Develop and maintain, and as necessary further develop, a new STRP web platform for input to and dissemination of STRP work by STRP NFPs and others.	<b>a) Completed</b> <b>b) Completed</b>	Web portal developed and workspace developed and in use by STRP members and NFPs.

		Produce regular STRP newsletters and seek to provide newsletters and key STRP documents in all Convention languages.		Three newsletters produced in 2013 and Secretariat is considering now how to integrate within its overall communications strategy.
3c	Plan for evaluating and reporting on the delivery of STRP-Participation at the COP	Use the COP as an opportunity to engage directly with Contracting Parties as STRP's primary audience	<b>Completed</b>	Completed at STRP18, to be discussed with Secretariat in advance of implementation at COP12.
3.3d	STRP communication & dissemination support		<b>Ongoing</b>	
4	CEPA advice on guidance preparation		<b>Ongoing</b>	Ongoing, significant hours have been provided to the poverty and ecosystems services groups on the products.
5	Waterbird flyway initiatives - knowledge sharing		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
	<b>Strategic, emerging &amp; ongoing issues</b>			
6	Strategic scientific & technical advice	Provide proactive and reactive advice to the Convention on relevant strategic scientific and technical matters, including overall progress with scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of COP Resolutions, trends, emerging issues, and other priority matters requiring expert review.	<b>Ongoing</b>	Ongoing on an ad-hoc basis
7	Ongoing ad hoc advisory functions	Provide advice to the Secretariat and Parties, including on Ramsar Site designation, article 3.2 issues, Montreux Record, Ramsar Advisory Missions, RSIS, wetland projects, participation in CSAB, and other issues.	<b>Ongoing</b>	Ongoing, dependent on funding from CPs, e.g. advice to Oman on development of a national wetland committee.  Additional ad hoc advice included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments to wetland inventories in the Pacific</li> <li>• Comments to GBO-4</li> <li>• Comments to Aichi Passport: Wetland</li> </ul>

				<p>Extent Index indicator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comments to GMO consultation</li> <li>• Comments to KBA report</li> <li>• Expert feedback on a policy analysis (Ramsar and Essential Biodiversity Variables) (WCMC)</li> <li>• Review of Guidance for Carbon Projects in Coastal Wetlands (UNEP)</li> <li>• Review of Guidelines on the Design and Management of Large-Scale MPAs (NOAA)</li> <li>• Comments to draft Description and Mapping Specifications for Australian Ramsar sites</li> <li>• Comments to United Arab Emirates water strategy</li> <li>• Comments to National Wetlands Policy Stakeholder Questionnaire and Forum (on a replacement national wetlands policy for Australia)</li> <li>• Comments to 2013 Wetlands Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories</li> </ul>
8	Review of COP Draft Resolutions from Parties	Advise the Standing Committee on proposals from Contracting Parties for COP Resolutions with scientific or technical content.	<b>Ongoing</b>	Ongoing, providing advice and comments related to management effectiveness, disaster risk reduction, wetland city/village accreditation, conservation of small Mediterranean islands, ecological flows, and peatlands.
9	Sectoral and/or emerging issues for possible future priority work	<p>Maintain rolling list of global and regional sectoral and/or emerging issues that have potential implications for the wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>Provide recommendations to Standing Committee and COP when any of these issues might need to be</p>	<b>No activities undertaken</b>	



		addressed by the STRP or other Convention bodies.		
10	Invasive species and wetlands	Develop a guide to guidance and available information related to alien invasive species in wetlands, for wetland managers and policy-makers.	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Identified as a top priority by SC-46.</b> Briefing Note in preparation
13	Engagement with IPBES	On behalf of the Ramsar Convention, maintain active participation in the development and execution of the scientific work programmes of the IPBES, in order to: support an effective science/policy interface for wetland biodiversity, and ensure that high-quality scientific information and understanding of wetlands is incorporated into policy-making.	<b>Ongoing</b>	STRP Chair attended IPBES 2 and MEP meeting, and will attend IPBES 3.
11	Reviewing topicality of adopted guidances		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
12	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza		<b>Ongoing</b>	Expert members maintaining watching brief on this area. See also progress under related task 15/33.
14 & 23	Harmonised MEA information systems and on-line Convention reporting mechanisms		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	No direct engagement by the STRP; role is handled by the Secretariat.
15	Input of Regional Initiatives experience to STRP work		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	Identified as high priority initiative under Secretariat's Strategy and Partnerships Programme.  Note also that the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (as a tool under the MedWet regional initiative) is a key partner in the just-launched project "Evaluation économique des services écologiques rendus par les zones humides dans le cadre du changement climatique en Méditerranée", led by the Plan Bleu and

				<p>due to last two years, and funded among others by the MAVA and Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundations.</p> <p>The aim is to assess and promote the role that wetlands can play in mitigating the impacts of climate change, in a sample of Mediterranean wetlands, and the MWO will report its results to the STRP.</p>
16	Exchange of information with other MEAs' subsidiary bodies, including through CSAB		<b>Ongoing</b>	<p>STRP Chair participated in SBSTTA 18 and CMS Scientific Council 18. Deputy Secretary General participated in CSAB 6. CSAB 7, scheduled for June 2014, was not held. STRP18 received a briefing on CSAB from David Morgan of CITES.</p> <p>STRP Chair has also initiated a discussion within CSAB concerning wildlife-related diseases such as Ebola.</p>
17	Review of available guidance on sustainable investment in relation to wetlands		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
	<b>Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring &amp; reporting</b>			
18	Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people, and the Convention's effectiveness	<p>a) Preparation and publication of 1<sup>st</sup> edition of a periodic <b>State of the World's Wetlands and their services (SoWWS)/Global Wetland Outlook (GWO)</b> reporting.</p> <p>b) further implementation of Resolution VIII.26 (2002) on developing <b>indicators</b> on the results of the Convention's activities, in collaboration with other</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<p>A Briefing Note, which will highlight recent scientific literature on the status and trends of wetlands, is being drafted.</p> <p>At the request of the Secretariat, factsheets will now be developed as Secretariat products and be delivered through the Secretariat's Communications Program. The</p>

		biodiversity MEAs so as to achieve a coherent approach to indicator development, such that the <b>evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention</b> may occur at least once in each reporting cycle; and advice on how reporting on these indicators may be incorporated into the National Reports of the Parties.		STRP is providing advice and recommendations on the scientific content of the factsheets.
19	Development and coordination of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership	Establishment of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership mechanism (and portal), designed to access data and information for and facilitate SoWWS/GWO reporting.	<b>Ongoing</b>	No new initiatives, however partnership is well-established and regularly renewed at STRP meetings, e.g. global mangrove watch offers significant opportunities for collaboration and investment in new projects. STRP 18 briefings by JAXA and ESA highlighted such opportunities, and STRP recommends that the Parties consider including this task in the future work programme as a high priority.
22	Maintaining an overview of the status of wetland inventory		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	STRP 18 recommended that Parties consider moving this to be a high priority task.
24	Enhanced support for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	No progress on delivering searchable web portal, but STRP Chair is a member of the Strategic Plan Working Group.
	<b>Wetlands of International Importance</b>			
25a	Implementation of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision	Develop streamlined tools and mechanisms for enhanced and streamlined Ramsar Site designation and data and information management, including redevelopment of the Ramsar Sites Database and on-line submission tools for RIS. [STRP advise]  Urgently consider scope for minor modifications to the RIS – 2012 revision to support monitoring at	<b>Completed</b>	<b>Identified as a top priority by SC 46.</b>  Provided advice to SC 46.

		Ramsar Sites through possible inclusion of sub-fields related to: change at the site, for example in fields 12a, 12c, and 16 relating to species composition and wetland type; identification of thresholds of change in ecological character; and monitoring indicators.		
25b	RIS and guidance – further development		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	Not required because Secretariat has taken the lead on this.
26	Ramsar Sites and ecosystem benefits/services		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	A proposal for collecting case studies was launched at a Nordic Baltic regional meeting, however, has failed to produce an output.  Next steps are to: Encourage the identification by Parties of case studies undertaking more thoroughly ecosystem services assessments including, whenever feasible, economic valuation of those services and start compiling such case studies.
27	Understanding national site designation processes and impediments to national Ramsar Site networks		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	SRA recommended at STRP18 that Parties consider moving this to be a high priority task.
28	Target development to support the objectives for the Ramsar List		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
29 & 30	Ramsar Site Criteria and identification of globally significant areas for biodiversity		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
	<b>Ramsar, wetlands and other sectors</b>			
	<b>A. Wetlands &amp; human health</b>			STRP 18 recommends that the CPs consider

				including wetland poisons in the future work programme of the STRP. Specific guidance for managing poisons in wetlands, and preventing them from entering wetlands, could be useful to ensure humans, livestock and wildlife are not adversely exposed. This is an issue being considered by other MEAs (e.g., lead poisoning has been considered by AEWA and CMS has a DR and guidelines regarding migratory bird poisoning, which references Ramsar Resolution XI.12).
31	Guidance on “Wetlands and Human Health” for the health sector	Prepare guidance on “Wetlands and human health” for the health sector	<b>No activities undertaken</b>	An important partnership was created through this work area, which can be further developed under the Secretariat’s Strategy and Partnerships Program.  Although no progress on the specific task, a book has been produced for publication in 2014/2015.
32	Wetlands and human health case studies	Presentation of case studies selected to demonstrate:  i) an evidentiary basis for the causal links between wetland management and improved health outcomes;  ii) wetland management is directed towards minimizing the trade-offs between regulating ecosystem services and provisioning ecosystem services;  iii) health outcomes are improved for one or each of the following categories: a) water borne diseases; b) vector borne diseases; c) exposure to toxic materials;	<b>No activities undertaken</b>	Although no progress on specific task, collaboration with partners has contributed a video, which can be used by Contracting Parties.

		d) improving access and utilisation for recreation and physical exercise; e) natural disaster event.		
33 & 39	Ramsar Wetland Diseases Manual tasks	<p>A. Further development of <i>Wildlife Diseases Manual</i>:</p> <p>a) promotion and dissemination of the existing Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual – essentially some targeted publicity and awareness raising of its availability as a resource;</p> <p>b) examine the feasibility of, and conduct if appropriate, a conversion of parts or all of the manual to a web-based product;</p> <p>c) further enhance its accessibility as a text for training purposes;</p> <p>d) translate existing materials into French and Spanish to enhance outreach.</p> <p>B. Using the views of wetland managers and other relevant stakeholders, expand the content of the <i>Ramsar wetland disease manual: Guidelines for assessment, monitoring and management of animal disease in wetlands</i> in its coverage, to include plant diseases and human diseases associated with wetlands. This will take two forms: a revision to the manual to ensure it deals with both human health and wildlife health; and factsheets on particular human diseases.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<p>This work provides an excellent opportunity for further development through the Secretariat’s Communication Strategy.</p> <p>Although the Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual is currently available as web-based PDFs, a dedicated website is under construction which will incorporate a hyperlinked and more searchable Manual plus training resource videos etc. to demonstrate and illustrate the Manual’s utility.</p> <p>The Manual has been promoted and disseminated at a variety of conferences and meetings.</p>
34	Development of wetland & health indicators		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
35 & 37	Combined Task under Ecosystem Services TWG: Guidance on health implications of ecosystem services		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	

	disruptions; with a view to being able to include health cost and benefit assessment in economic models and wetland valuation			
36 & 40	Conversion of previous triennium products into Ramsar materials: Review of Ramsar guidance in relation to human health and Encouraging ecosystem approaches to health issues		<b>Ongoing</b>	Production of book – submitted to Springer for publication 2014/2015. Chapter 11 provides a review of human health issues and Ramsar’s wetland guidance and handbooks
38	Guidance for wetland managers on human and animal health impact, burden of disease and community health assessments, in wetlands		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
	<b>B. Wetlands &amp; climate change</b>			
41	Advice on implications of climate change for Convention processes	<p>i) Continue to prepare advice on the implications of climate change for maintaining the ecological character of wetlands, including <i>inter alia</i> strategies for dealing with the emergence of novel or hybrid ecosystems as a consequence of climate change, the determination of appropriate reference conditions for assessing change in ecological character, determining specified limits of change, and the reporting of change in ecological character at Ramsar Sites, and how this can be reflected in Ramsar Information Sheets, and to collate information from such assessments for future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>ii) Collate and assess case studies and other information generated in response to Resolution XI.14 paragraph 32;</p> <p>iii) Working with interested Contracting Parties and</p>	<b>Ongoing/no activities undertaken</b>	<p><b>Subtask 41(iv)(c) Identified as a top priority by SC-46.</b></p> <p>Preparing BN on advice provided by other MEAs, in particular the outcomes of CBD COP-11</p> <p>No progress (on ecological character aspects)</p>

		<p>international organizations, to prepare advice on sustainable management of carbon stocks which enhances wetland biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services, thereby contributing to human well-being, with special attention to indigenous peoples and local communities;</p> <p>iv) In conjunction with the Secretariat and Ramsar Regional Initiative Networks and Centres, collaborate with relevant international organizations and conventions, within their respective mandates, to further investigate the potential contribution of wetland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation through:</p> <p>a) preparing advice on assessing social resilience and vulnerability of wetlands to climate change, to complement the existing advice on assessing the biophysical vulnerability of a wetlands to climate change (Ramsar Technical Report No. 5/CBD Technical Series No. 57);</p> <p>b) preparing advice on ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change for coastal and inland wetlands; and</p> <p>c) reviewing any relevant advice provide by other MEAs, in particular the outcomes of CBD COP-11.</p>		
41	<p>CC1-Implications of, and advice on, climate change for Convention implementation</p> <p>Sub Task CC1.1): Implications of climate change for maintaining the ecological character of wetland</p>		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
41	Subtask CC1.2): Case studies and other information generated in		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	



	response to Resolution XI.14 paragraph 32			
41	Subtask CC1.3 ): Advice on sustainable management of carbon stocks		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
41	Subtask CC1.4 ): Potential contribution of wetland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	As noted in task 15, the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (as a tool under the MedWet regional initiative) has launched a project to assess and promote the role that wetlands can play in mitigating the impacts of climate change.
42	Ramsar Sites boundary migration in response to sea level rise and other climate change effects		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	Briefing Note completed last triennium.
	<b>C. Wetlands &amp; water resource management</b>			
43	The role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle	Establish an expert group on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle (as requested by CBD COP10 Decision X/28 and approved by SC42), and communicate with Parties so that they can provide scientific inputs through their own experts.	<b>Ongoing</b>	A manuscript has been drafted and is being finalized.
44	Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of a strategy for engaging in the global water debate	Develop a strategy for Ramsar to engage fully in the global water debate, focusing on the role of wetlands as natural water infrastructure. This includes specifying aims, mechanisms for engagement, and products needed to support the engagement. [Note. The Secretariat's 2011 development of a "Vision 40+" for the Convention contributes to this strategy.]	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Identified as a top priority by SC-46.</b>  Paper commissioned by the Secretariat, reviewed by STRP and provided to the Secretariat.  Briefing Note addressing the need to prioritise opportunities is being drafted.

45	Environmental water allocation for wetlands - guidance	Work with Mexico and WWF to share approaches and experiences and to develop further guidance or tools for management and allocation of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands,.	<b>Ongoing</b>	STRP member has been working with the Government of Mexico on DR to COP12
	<b>Wetlands &amp; agriculture</b>			
46	Wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture guidance	Develop guidance for the wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture. (Building on lessons learnt from best practices on sustainable aquaculture, and recognizing that global dependence on aquaculture is growing, that wild stocks continue to be depleted, and that meeting the need for seafood is resulting in significant direct (habitat loss, wild harvest of species) and indirect impacts (pollution, contamination) on wetlands.)	<b>Ongoing</b>	RTR entitled: Inland wetlands, capture fisheries and aquaculture. Draft for peer review to be produced by end of November 2014. Likely to be ready post-COP12
47	Impacts of agricultural practices on rice paddies as wetland systems		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
48	Re-engineering agricultural landscapes		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
49	Wetlands and biofuels		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
	<b>Wetlands &amp; poverty eradication</b>			
50	Wetlands & poverty eradication – tools and case studies	Further tools and guidance to support the implementation of Resolutions IX.14, X.28 & XI.13, on:  i) advice on mainstreaming the “Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication” into national policies and programmes for poverty eradication; ii) development of structured ‘guide to available guidelines and tools’ for addressing poverty eradication in relation to wetlands; and	<b>i) Ongoing ii) Ongoing iii) Ongoing</b>	<b>Identified as a top priority by SC-46.</b>  i) Completion of Draft Briefing Note, to be presented at pre-COP meeting in Cambodia, in advance of submitting to COP12.  ii) RTR to be submitted to COP12.  iii) Preparation of report to be circulated at

		iii) case studies and best practices on the application of the Framework for assessing poverty in wetlands.		COP12 side event.
51	Supplementary guidance to support the Resolution XI.13 poverty eradication framework		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
	<b>Wetlands and urbanization</b>			
52	Planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands		<b>Ongoing</b>	Briefing Note published
53	Urban wetland management demonstration sites		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	Four workshops were held over the triennium in collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat (supported by the SRA for Africa), local Contracting Parties, IOPs and UN Habitat in Senegal (x2), Togo and Ghana. These explored how the principles adopted through Resolution XI.11 could be embedded into urban planning and management practices at a town or city level.
	<b>Wetlands and Tourism</b>			
54	Wetlands and tourism – development of guiding principles for tourism in and around wetlands		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	An important partnership was created through work done for COP11, which can be further developed under the Secretariat’s Strategy and Partnerships Program
	<b>Wetlands and energy</b>			
55	Managing energy sector activities in relation to wetlands: guide to guidance and case studies		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
56	Monitoring energy trends reported		<b>No activities</b>	

	in global assessments		<b>undertaken</b>	
57	Applying ecological impact criteria in the selection of energy generation sites		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
58	Capacity building for energy sector regulatory oversight		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
	<b>Wetlands &amp; ecosystem services</b>			
59 60	Economics of wetland ecosystem services/benefits AND Wetlands and disaster risk reduction	<p>Building on the work of TEEB and others (&amp; the TEEB water and wetland synthesis report):</p> <p>Conduct a user needs analysis for Ramsar Parties &amp; wetland (site) managers) on tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making;</p> <p>Conduct a scoping review of the advancements in ecosystem services (description / recognition, valuation, capture) to support wise use of wetlands, in particular cross sectoral integration;</p> <p>Develop a guide to guidance on best practices for integrating ecosystem services values within the response options for wetland management;</p> <p>Conduct a scoping review of technical aspects of relevance to the Ramsar Convention in the finance, banking, investment, insurance and other economic sectors;</p> <p>Develop an assessment mechanism for the contribution of wetland services/benefits to national GDPs.</p>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<p><b>Identified as a top priority by SC-46.</b></p> <p>A Briefing Note is anticipated.</p> <p>The user needs analysis task has been partially addressed through surveys of Asia and South East Asia site managers, and an analysis of COP 11 National Reports. A set of tools which help analyse ecosystem services have also been collated.</p> <p>A paper on Wetland ecosystem services and the Ramsar Convention: An assessment of needs has been drafted and was discussed at the European pre-COP regional meeting.</p>
	Ecosystem Services User Needs Analysis and Guide to Guidance		<b>Ongoing</b>	See above

	Ecosystem services, wetland wise use and cross sectoral integration		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
59	TEEB – Water and Wetlands Follow Up		<b>No activities undertaken</b>	
	<b>Ecological Character and Change in Ecological Character</b>			
20, 25 & 41	Ecological Character and Change in Ecological Character - further guidance	Advice and guidance on four aspects of wetland ecological character issues:  A. Describing ecological character;  B. Monitoring for change in ecological character;  C. Reporting change in ecological character; and  D. Responding to change in ecological character.	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Identified as a top priority by SC-46.</b>  At request of Secretariat, the document commissioned is now intended primarily for use by the Secretariat. The STRP was provided an opportunity to comment.