CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

50th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 9 June 2015

**SC50-02**

**Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework and Plan, to support implementation of the Ramsar Convention and its 4th Strategic Plan for 2016-21**

**Actions requested:**

* Standing Committee is invited to approve the Framework and Plan, subject to the deliberations of the COP.

**Background**

This document describes some key considerations and proposed actions for the Ramsar Convention in relation to partnerships and fundraising. It is a direct response to Draft Resolution 7 of COP 12, and anticipates that the 12th Conference of the Contracting Parties will approve the paragraph that states that it:

*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 50th meeting of the Standing Committee;*

The proposal builds on a long history of previous work, including:

* Convention documents, including COP11 Doc.18, *Strategic Framework for Ramsar partnerships: partnerships and fundraising; Resolution 11.6 Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions; Resolution 10.12 Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector.*
* Discussions for development of a first partnership and resource mobilization proposal, in late 2014, with International Organisation Partners (IOPs) and other key partners, Science and Technical Review Panel members (STRP), and Contracting Parties via Regional Meetings (with dedicated sessions at the Asia and Europe meetings).
* Review and feedback on a first proposal from members of Standing Committee 48.
* Direct outreach and contact with a number of Contracting Parties and Regional Initiatives to invite feedback on a re-formulated, second proposal. Twelve parties were contacted, and calls were held with seven (including Canada, China, Japan, Senegal, Uganda, USA and MedWet).
* Throughout, guidance has been provided from across the Ramsar Secretariat team.

The document is structured around three basic questions:

1. Why is there a need for a Resource Mobilisation and Partnership Framework and Plan?
2. What are the proposed areas of action?
3. How does the Ramsar Secretariat propose and plan to move forward in the proposed areas?
4. **Why is there need for a Resource Mobilisation and Partnership Framework and Plan ?**

The rationale and purpose of the Partnership framework and Resource Mobilization plan is to:

1. **Strengthen collaboration and engagement with Partners, for maximum impact:**

The *Ramsar Convention’s 4th Strategic Plan for 2016-21* will be the cornerstone of our shared efforts, with specific goals and targets that are the basis for the Convention’s contribution towards Sustainable Development. This framework proposes to promote, support and enhance implementation of the Fourth Strategic Plan by engaging, co-operating with, advocating to, and influencing a number of organisations and individuals across public and private sectors.

1. **Increase funding for the Strategic Plan:**

Implementation of the convention requires financial support at a number of levels – funding for the secretariat, longer term sustainability and success of regional initiatives, shifting capital towards better practices, projects that are carried out by partners, etc. The potential for successful fundraising and financial resource mobilisation depends in large part on the visibility and profile of the convention which is supported through communications, and is also dependent on a combined team effort.

1. **Strengthen synergies with other relevant organisations at an international and regional level:**

The framework seeks to support efforts to increase the synergies that exist across MEAs, and other institutions, to increase the overall effectiveness and impact within the ‘global system’.

1. **What are the proposed areas of action?**

There are three areas of proposed action:

**2.1. Strengthening collaboration and engagement with Partners, for maximum impact**

It may be useful to consider partners within different ‘concentric circles’ which surround the Contracting Parties and Secretariat of the Convention, as illustrated in the graphic below.

Friends of Ramsar

Key partners

IOPs and RIs

Contracting Parties

Friends of Ramsar

Key Partners

IOPs and RIs

Figure 1.

On its website, the Ramsar Convention currently categorizes partners as either IOPs, Private Sector, or Sustainable Development Partners. A full list of Current Partners and Regional Initiatives is available in Annex A.

Following the adoption of a new Strategic Plan for 2016 – 21, it will be possible to map and better define – at all levels - the contribution that each partner can make upon the vision, goals and targets of the Convention over the next two six years. A strategic mapping exercise could inform how best to modify, evolve and possibly expand the list of partners.

Based on this mapping, it would also be possible to expand the number of categories so that it separates organisations that are part of the United Nations System or River Basin Organisations or Specialist Wetland Groups or Capacity Building Networks or Conservation or Earth Observation communities. A category for financiers, who are providing funding support could also be added - including Multi-laterals, Bi-laterals, Foundations, Private Sector and High Net Worth Individuals.

It is also important to see how best to share knowledge within the Ramsar Community (e.g. Science and Technical Review Panel, International Organisation Partners, Regional Initiatives, Senior Regional Advisors, Key Partners, Ramsar Friends, etc.) so that momentum can build where opportunity exists around shared priorities. Some of the activities proposed at COP12, such as developing a virtual network for regional initiatives, will support this.

Together, the elements described in this section can support Target 17 of the proposed Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-21: ‘International cooperation is strengthened at all levels’.

**2.2 Increasing funding for the Convention**

There are two issues to consider when considering achievement of resource mobilisation for Parties and meeting the non-core budget needs.

*2.2.1 Financial resource mobilisation*

The aim here must be to promote the interests of all Parties, and help provide support to Parties and Partners seeking to access funds in line with the 4th Strategic Plan. This can best be achieved via actions that position Ramsar Convention constituencies to gain access to both existing and future financing mechanisms.

Wetlands are relevant to at least seven of the current Sustainable Development Goals because of the large variety of ecosystem services they provide to the world. Given their value and relevance for the global Sustainable Development agenda, there are potentially many avenues to pursue and explore when seeking funds for Parties’ ambitions on wetlands. Some examples are within the context of the carbon markets (e.g. Climate and Development Knowledge Network, Clean Development Mechanism), forestry (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation +, etc.), biodiversity (e.g. European Commission), green growth (e.g. Global Green Growth Institute), innovation (e.g. Global Innovation Fund), and resilience (e.g. The Global Resilience Partnership).

Within the framework, it is therefore proposed to give particular priority towards:

* The Global Environment Facility, which is the largest trust fund for supporting global environmental issues. The Ramsar Secretariat’s analysis indicates that since 1991 to the present,the GEF has allocated about 2 billion USD in grants and has leveraged over 11 Billion USD as cofinance towards wetlands either as projects entirely focused on wetlands or as part of projects with significant wetland components. The largest share towards wetlands has come in the GEF 5 phase (2010 to 2014) where GEF provided nearly 750 million USD in grants and about 4.5 billion USD were raised as cofinance. The GEF lists the Ramsar Convention as a partner to its International Waters activities, within its ‘GEF 6’ strategy, which also expands this area of opportunity for the Ramsar community. Given that the Ramsar Convention acts as the lead partner for wetlands in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, as described in a *Joint Program of Work for 2011 – 2020*, it is also proposed to develop specific guidance on wetlands related opportunities in GEF’s biodiversity area of work.
* Developing guidance to the donor community on wetlands requirements and opportunities based on the work of the Convention.

* Exploring the potential for, and working with the Ramsar Community and other wetland audiences to build a ‘Global Partnership on Wetlands Restoration’, with an aim to deliver multiple benefits for climate, food, DRR, livelihoods, and water security agendas. The goal would be to build an alliance between all those working on these issues and agree to set global targets that partners could commit to achieve. This partnership could also involve setting up systems to facilitate and enable projects by partners for action at national level.
* Exploring closer collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity’s online financing platform, ‘LifeWeb’, which promotes and acts as a clearing house for significant project investments/opportunities.

Together, all these activities can contribute to Target 16 of the proposed Fourth Strategic Plan for 2016 – 21, which is that “Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-21 from all sources are substantially increased”.

*2.2.2 Non-core budget*

The non-core budget table below summarises the fundraising priorities (see Annex B for fuller explanation on all listed items) and will be subject to necessary revision following feedback from the COP12. The table and explanatory text which follows at Annex B are as published in Ramsar COP12 DR1 Rev.1, Draft Resolution XII.1 on Financial and budgetary matters.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **NON-CORE FUNDS 2016 - 2018** | **Non-Core budget item** | **Three year funding requirement**  **CHF** |
| 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, aligned with the online portal on capacity building under regional initiatives, 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 |
| **COP 13 EXPENSES** |  |  |
| 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 |
| **TOTAL** | **CHF** | **10,655,000** |

**2.3 Strengthening synergies.**

The meaning of synergy is “*The interaction of two or more agents or forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects*.”[[1]](#footnote-1) With this definition in mind, the proposal is to explore and find ways to increase impact and efficiency through collaborations with the UN system, other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the World Bank Group and the Multilateral Development Banks, Regional Initiatives of the Ramsar Convention, Regional Conventions, Development Assistance Agencies, etc.

Two suggested priorities are:

* **Participating in and contributing to formal initiatives that build co-operation and synergies** among water and biodiversity-related MEAs.
* **Reinforcing the capacity of Ramsar Regional Initiatives** and supporting their growth in alignment with the strategic plan and opportunities for the Convention as a whole.

The activities proposed in this section also respond to concerns raised in COP12 DOC16: *“Considerations by the Strategic Plan Working Group on mechanisms to enhance the visibility and stature of the Ramsar Convention and increasing synergies with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other international entities”.*

1. **How does the Ramsar Secretariat propose and plan to move forward in the proposed areas?**

This section includes a list of actions that it is proposed the Secretariat would carry out. It is proposed that the Head of Partnerships, working with colleagues in the Ramsar Secretariat, co-ordinates, promotes and supports work in all of the areas listed, and provides regular reports on progress to Standing Committee. Work-plans and individual goals for staff will be set internally, in accordance with new IUCN HR policies, and will be available on request.

**To increase engagement and collaboration, the Secretariat proposes to:**

* Promote the convention’s interests through high profile and influential channels:
  + 1. Identify and make a list of key events, organisations and individuals with which to engage and a plan to guide our engagement (e.g. UN Financing for Development, UNFCCC COP21, UNCCD COP12, etc.)
    2. Participate and/or speak at events that promote the interests of the Ramsar Convention, especially if they could lead to funding opportunity (e.g. Consultative Group on Biological Diversity, GEF 7 planning workshops, etc.)
    3. Convene events if there is capacity (including financial) to do so, and it creates opportunity (e.g. via the Ramsar Culture Network on cultural aspects of wetlands such as art, food, leisure, etc.)
    4. Tailor key messages so that they are suitable to the interests of specific audiences, events, occasions, etc.
* Promote relationships around shared priorities:
  + 1. Maintain, and make available, a list of current partners
    2. Develop high level ‘relationship plans’ with each of the listed International Organisation Partners
    3. Strategically map potential new and priority partnerships to develop, based on the targets agreed in the Fourth Strategic Plan for 2016-21
    4. Convene an annual meeting of the Convention’s International Organisation Partners and/or Key Partners in order to strengthen joint collaboration
    5. Develop agreements with relevant organisations in order to support activities that enhance implementation of the convention
* Overall, seek to create and respond to opportunity

**To increase funding, the Secretariat proposes to:**

* Secure funds towards requirements of the non-core budget, by:

1. Developing and actively maintaining a list of funding prospects (foundations, high net worth individuals, corporations, and governments) specific to each item in the non-core budget list.
2. Developing short summary concept notes and materials to promote ideas and opportunities
3. Developing funding proposals that are relevant to the interests of the convention and matching them to specific funders
4. Securing donations, which substantially increases required funding
5. Providing timely verbal and written reports to funders of non-core activities

* Support mobilisation financial resources, by:

1. Expanding engagement with the Global Environment Facility, in particular via participation in Extended Constituency Workshops and providing feedback and support for the development of GEF projects to the extent possible
2. Positioning Ramsar within other significant current and future mechanisms for financing, such as the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Climate and Development Knowledge Network, Global Green Growth Institute, REDD+, etc.
3. Working with International Organisation Partners, Regional Initiatives, Contracting Parties, and other parties, to explore the case and potential for developing a ‘Global Partnership for Wetlands Restoration’ as a platform for those with the ability to take action, and those with the ability to provide funding, to connect.
4. Exploring opportunity for increased collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Life Web platform, via the sharing of ideas and project investment opportunities that the Secretariat is informed about.

**To strengthen synergies, the Secretariat proposes to:**

* Participate in the UNEP led ‘synergies’ initiative among MEAs
* Participate in the Biodiversity Liaison Group
* Partner with UNCCD for aspects of wetland and dryland restoration
* Co-ordinate closely with other water related conventions, including the UN [Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes](http://www.unece.org/env/water/text/text.html)
* Put emphasis on strengthening collaboration and increasing engagement between Ramsar Regional Initiatives.

**Annex A**

**Current Partners**

*(as listed on the Ramsar Convention Website)*

**International Organisation Partners**

Birdlife International

IUCN

IWMI

Wetlands International

WWF

**Private Sector**

Danone Group

Biosphere Connections

Sustainable Agriculture Initiative

Livelihoods Fund

**Sustainable Development partners**

African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs

Albertine Rift Conservation Society

ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

Barcelona Convention

Carpathian Convention

Cartagena Convention

Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS)

Conservation International

Convention on Biological Diversity

Convention on Migratory Species

Ducks Unlimited

European Environment Agency

Eurosite

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

Global Nature Fund

Global Programme for Protection of Marine Environment from land based activities

International commission for the protection of the Danube River

International Ocean Institutes

Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Lake Chad Basin Commission

Niger Basin Authority

Organization of American States

Senghor University

Society for Ecological Restoration

Society of Wetland Scientists

South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Stetson University College of Law

The Nature Conservancy

UN office of Humanitarian Affairs

UNCCD

UNCTAD (trade and dev)

UNECE

UNEP

UNESCO

UNFCCC

UNWTO (tourism)

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

The Nature Conservancy

The World Bank

**Regional Initiatives**

West African Coastal Zone Wetlands Network (WACOWet)

[Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA)](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/ramcea_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

[Niger River Basin Network (NigerWet)](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/nigerwet_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

[Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/americas_plata_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

[Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs Ecosystems](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/americas_mangroves_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

[Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW)](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/americas_haw_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

[Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO)](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/americas_creho_en.pdf)

Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (CARIWET)

[The Partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/asia_partnership_flyway_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

[Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative (NorBalWet)](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/europe_norbalwet_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

[Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet)](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/europe_medwet_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

[Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI)](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/europe_carpathian_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

[Black Sea Coastal Wetlands Initiative (BlackSeaWet)](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/europe_blacksea_en.pdf" \t "_blank)

Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia (RRC – CWA)

Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia (RRC – EA)

**Annex B**

**Non-Core Funds 2016-2018 Explanation of Items**

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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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).

1. 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.

1. 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)

1. 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 date 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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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

1. 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.

1. ‘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.

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. [www.thefreedictionary.com](http://www.thefreedictionary.com) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)