

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
51st Meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland, 23-27 November 2015

SC51-08

Ramsar Convention Secretariat Work Plan for 2016

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of and approve the Ramsar Convention Secretariat Work Plan for 2016.

1. The 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concluded with 16 Resolutions, containing decisions and specific instructions to the Secretariat.
2. The activities of the Secretariat have been defined for each of the decisions derived from the COP12 Resolutions, and then mapped against the goals and targets of the Ramsar 4th Strategic Plan, to develop the Work Plan for the 2016-2108 triennium.
3. This work planning was done in a collaborative workshop involving the participation of all staff members of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, from 21-24 July 2015. Individual staff members planned their tasks for 2016 against each of the actions defined for the triennium.
4. The actions identified as priorities for the first year of the triennium are listed in the Secretariat Work Plan for 2016 annexed to this document.

Annex 1

Secretariat Work Plan for 2016

Goal 1

Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
<p>Target 1: Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.</p>	<p>Support Contracting Parties to increase attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands benefits in order to diminish threats, influence trends, restore wetlands and communicate good practices by the dissemination of relevant frameworks and guidelines. Develop best practice examples targeted towards specific sectors.</p>	<p>Dissemination of relevant guidance (e.g. TEEB report, Ramsar handbooks) and case studies to CPs and water users. Practical examples of influence and actions to reverse loss and degradation compiled and disseminated. Individual sectors targeted with specific examples and best practices, starting with the water sector, aquaculture and fisheries.</p>	<p>SG/DSG/SRAs/ Head of Comms</p>	<p>by end 2016</p>
<p>Target 2: Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.</p>	<p>Dissemination of Ramsar Handbooks, Factsheets, Briefing Notes and other products on water related guidance, river basin management, water allocation and management, managing groundwater as well as other related guidance in IWRM and good practices to CPs and water users to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are applied.</p>	<p>All Parties to have made available the Ramsar guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision-making on water resource management, as a contribution to achieving water resources management and water efficiency plans.</p>	<p>SG/Head of Comms/SRAs</p>	<p>by end 2016</p>
<p>Target 3: The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.</p>	<p>Promote the involvement of the public and private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Prepare and apply a strategy for working with business sector; identify potential partners in the business sector; prepare due diligence studies and make proposals to Standing Committee.</p>	<p>Increased private sector engagement in the wise use of wetlands and applying the concepts and approaches for conservation and wise use of wetlands contained in Ramsar guidance (Ramsar Handbooks 1 to 17) and other relevant guidelines in their activities and investments affecting wetlands.</p>	<p>Head of Partnerships/ Head of Comms/SRAs</p>	<p>by end 2016</p>
	<p>In line with Resolution X.12, work with Contracting Parties and Ramsar partners to</p>	<p>Projects developed and funds raised for private sector support to improving wetland site</p>	<p>SG/Head of Comms/SRAs/</p>	<p>End 2016</p>

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
	make good use of the <i>Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector</i> , including within the frameworks of existing national, regional, and global initiatives and commitments.	management.	Head of Partnerships	
	Continue existing Partnership between Ramsar and Danone and “Biosphere Connections” partnership with Star Alliance.	MOU negotiated with Danone and Annual Danone work plan and budget approved; work plan and budget fully implemented.	SG/Head of Comms	by early 2016
		Ramsar experts supported to attend meetings on wetlands with Star Alliance help. Contributions to the Biosphere Connections e-newsletter ensured, including their travel reports and general Ramsar news.	Head of Comms	2016
Target 4: Invasive alien species (IAS) and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.	Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites.	Disseminated up-to-date global guidance (e.g. Red List indicator) on invasive species made available to all stakeholders; Good practices in combatting IAS compiled and provided to wetland practitioners.	Head of Comms/DSG/SRAs	End 2016

Goal 2

Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
<p>Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.</p>	<p>Manage and process Ramsar Site designations and updates. Promote and explain use of R-METT through CEPA actions.</p>	<p>All RIS duly completed and updated; information on Ramsar Sites summarized and made available; letters and certificates delivered. Report to SC52 on the Status of Ramsar Sites. A list of available tools/toolkits and information provided by technical partners in assessing changes to the ecological character of Ramsar Sites compiled, periodically updated and made available to CPs.</p>	<p>SRAs/DSG/ Head of Comms</p>	<p>Daily basis. 3 months in advance to SC52.</p>
<p>Target 6: There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and Transboundary Sites.</p>	<p>Ensure the maintenance and operation of the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS). The Ramsar Sites Information Service delivering a range of tools and support to Contracting Parties to aid their identification of gaps and priorities for further Ramsar Site designation.</p>	<p>Effective and efficient services to Parties dealing with Ramsar Sites designation and updates; improved worldwide communication on Ramsar Sites. Better understanding of the conservation status of Ramsar Sites and integration of Ramsar Sites into worldwide networks of Protected Areas.</p>	<p>RSIS Core Team</p>	<p>Daily basis. 3 months in advance to SC52.</p>
<p>Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.</p>	<p>Advise Parties on Article 3.2, Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) issues; follow up on regular basis with Parties with all cases of potential risk and work towards resolution of problems.</p>	<p>Reports to SC made by Secretariat; Parties are addressing challenges and reporting to Secretariat; threats to specific wetlands are addressed.</p>	<p>DSG/SRAs</p>	<p>3 months before SC52</p>

Goal 3

Wisely Using All Wetlands

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
<p>Target 8: National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p>	<p>Develop a global wetland information system, through partnerships, to be covered by voluntary contributions, to increase accessibility of data and information on wetlands; build up global knowledge on state and extent of wetlands under SOWWS and other means in order to support monitoring of SDG and Aichi targets.</p>	<p>An easily accessible Web-based metadatabase in place, managed by the Secretariat, populated with information on all national wetland inventories, and linked to national and other international relevant databases. Global wetland distribution and status data and information available through Web-portal mechanisms, derived from satellites and other sources.</p>	<p>SG/Head of Comms/DSG/ Head of Partnerships</p>	<p>2016</p>
<p>Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p>	<p>Support Contracting Parties in promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in other sectoral policies, plans or strategies.</p>	<p>Preparation of toolkit with Ramsar handbooks on water related guidance, river basin management, water allocation and management, groundwater, wise use of wetlands (Resolution IX. 1 Annex A and C, Resolution XI.21), IWRM and good practices (<i>ibidem</i> target 2).</p>	<p>Head of Comms/DSG/ SRAs</p>	<p>end 2016</p>
<p>Target 10: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.</p>	<p>Support Contracting Parties to encourage active and informed participation of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands; commission compilation of knowledge and guidance and share with CPs on engaging indigenous peoples and local communities.</p>	<p>Dissemination of Ramsar guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands as well as relevant case studies.</p>	<p>Head of Comms/SRAs/ STRP/Head of Partnerships</p>	<p>2016 through 2017</p>
<p>Target 11: Wetland functions, services and</p>	<p>Support Contracting Parties to increase recognition of and attention in decision-making</p>	<p>Dissemination of relevant guidance (e.g. TEEB report, Ramsar handbooks) and case studies to</p>	<p>Head of Comms/DSG/</p>	<p>end 2016</p>

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.	to the significance of wetlands benefits in order to diminish threats, influence trends, restore wetlands and communicate good practices by the dissemination of relevant frameworks and guidelines (ibidem target 1).	CPs and water users.	SRAs	
Target 12: Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.	Support Contracting Parties to Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social, or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems; Support Parties in accessing resources for restoration and, with UNCCD build up global alliance to achieve wetland/dryland restoration.	Case studies and methods disseminated to Contracting Parties and added to Ramsar wetland restoration pages on the web site; logging of actions and progress made globally in restoration of wetlands.	Head of Comms/DSG/ SRAs	end 2016
Target 13: Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.	Dissemination of Ramsar handbooks on water related guidance, river basin management, water allocation and management, managing groundwater as well as other related guidance in IWRM and good practices to CPs and waters users to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are applied (ibidem target 2).	All Parties to have made available the Ramsar guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision-making on water resource management, as a contribution to achieving water resources management and water efficiency plans.	Head of Comms/DSG/ SRAs	end 2016

Goal 4
Enhancing Implementation

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
<p>Target 14: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>	Support STRP as detailed in Annex 1 of Resolution XII.5.	STRP supported in preparation and implementation of its work plan and thematic areas in 2016 according to Annex 3 of Resolution XII.5 and other relevant Resolutions (Xii.13 paras 25-27, XI.20 on peatlands)). STRP and CEPA Oversight Panel to work with networks and initiatives to draft guidelines for the elaboration of national action plans, to conserve the water necessary to maintain the wise use of wetlands for regional and/or national implementation.	DSG/SG/STRP Chair/STRP Support Officer/SRAs	2016
	Organise and hold STRP meeting in 2016.	STRP meeting in 2016 and report prepared for SC52.	DSG/SG/STRP Chair/STRP Support Officer/SRAs	SC52
	Subject to the availability of resources, finalize the production of the current version of <i>The State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People</i> and to explore modalities for its subsequent improvement and updating as a periodic flagship report of the Convention and thereby also contributing to the <i>Global Biodiversity Outlook</i> of the Convention on Biological Diversity and report on progress in this matter to the 13 th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.	Continue to prepare the State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People and progress report presented at SC52.	DSG/STRP chair/Head of Partnerships	SC52
	Mobilize additional resources for implementation of technical guidance and advice, and including for supporting Contracting Parties' implementation of recommendations for conservation and wise use of Ramsar wetlands.	Financial resource available and STRP work plan implemented in 2016. Progress report to be presented to SC52.	DSG/STRP Chair/Head of Partnerships	SC52

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
Target 15: Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.	Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements with new regional initiatives (Resolution XII.8).	Report to SC52 on revised operational guidelines and secure approval of allocation of funding and listing of approved initiatives for 2016. Approved funds transferred to regional initiatives and monitored. Subject to resources, publish and disseminate new brochure to promote added value for Ramsar implementation provided by RIs.	DSG/SRA Europe/SRAs/ Head of Comms	SC52
Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.	CEPA Programme implemented, with input of the CEPA Oversight Panel, CEPA Working Group and Secretariat CEPA implementation plan prepared and disseminated.	Increased capacity of CEPA focal points; increased awareness about wetlands at local, national, regional and global levels (including networks as indicated in Res.XII.9); Better integration of wetland issues into national planning and priorities. Better perception of wetland values at global level.	SG/Head of Comms/SRAs	SC52
	Maintenance and improvement of Ramsar web site.	New web site fully operational in line with needs of users; better public access to wetland-related information.	SG/Head of Comms	SC52
	Preparation and follow up of WWD materials for the triennium. 2016 follow up of WWD materials, and preparation for 2017.	Follow up to WWD materials and events in 2016 and report to SC52. Preparation of materials for 2017.	SG/Head of Comms	SC52 and end 2016
Target 17: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.	Implement Resolution XII.1 on <i>Financial and Budgetary Matters</i> .	All requests by COP12 on financial matters addressed as needed for SC52. Satisfactory reports made to SC 52 on effective financial management, including core budget and voluntary funding. Follow decisions of SC51.	SG/Finance Officer	SC52
	The Secretariat's Partnerships team will raise non-core funds to fund priority Convention activities.	Stronger and effective increased voluntary funding for 2016 priorities. Progress report to SC52.	Head of Partnerships	SC52
	Explore alternatives and seek funding for SGF.	Countries' access to funding facilitated by a more efficient Small Grants Fund. Follow up on decision of SC51 and progress report to SC52.	Head of Partnerships	SC52
	Evaluation and follow up process of WFF projects and SGA.	On time technical and administrative follow up of funded projects in 2016.	SRA Americas and Africa	2016

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
	Manage the Convention budget in a timely and efficient manner.	Efficient financial management undertaken. All financial reports satisfactory and approved by SC52.	SG/Finance Officer	SC52
Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.	Implement Resolution XI.6 on Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions and work plan on line to Resolution XII.3.	Implement 5th Joint Work Plan with CBD MOU and report to SC52. Take action jointly with CBD and other MEAs focal points and Ramsar AA. Report on MOU with UNEP.	SG/DSG/SRAs/ Head of Partnerships	SC52
		CMS/AEWA and UNESCO-World Heritage joint work plans followed up. Progress report to SC52.	SG/DSG/SRAs/ Head of Partnerships	SC52
		BLG meetings attended in 2016. Effective communication of Ramsar's views on key issues; Ramsar's achievements and future actions recognized and supported by all Biodiversity-related Conventions. Progress report to SC52.	SG/DSG	SC52
	Align, where possible, the Strategic Plan indicators with the approved Sustainable Development Goals; stay involved with the process and monitoring of indicators of the relevant SDGs and seek alignment of the collection of data for Ramsar and SDGs.	Sustainable Development Goals, as they relate to wetlands, are fully supported by the Convention, which is tasked with monitoring one or more of the SDG indicators to be agreed.	SG/DSG/SRAs/ STRP	SC52
	Potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Ramsar Convention (Resolution XII.3 para. 26), subject to the availability of resources.	Strategy developed, outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Ramsar Convention (Resolution XII.3 para. 26).	SG/SRA Asia	SC52
	The Secretariat and the Chair of the STRP to continue to engage in IPBES process and explore further ways of collaboration as appropriate. Draft and submit to the IPBES Secretariat a request for a thematic assessment on the current status and trends of wetlands, including their condition, pursuant to IPBES' procedure for receiving and prioritizing	Joint action taken between Ramsar and IPBES and report to SC52. Thematic assessment request to IPBES drafted. Suitable experts identified and proposed to participate in any future IPBES assessments.	DSG/STRP Chair	SC52

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
	requests			
Target 19: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.	Communicate ongoing Ramsar information to reach stakeholders.	Information and agreed messages provided to various stakeholders through printed materials such as leaflets, and electronic channels such as web site, Forum, Exchange, CEPA lists and social media.	Head of Comms	SC52
		Engagement and capacity of stakeholders increased.	Head of Comms	SC52
		Draft proposal of structure, format and contents of 5 th edition of the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks and Ramsar Convention Manual. Prepare and publish Ramsar Technical Reports, Fact Sheets, Policy Briefs, Briefing Notes and other guidance materials.	SG/Head of Comms	Report to SC52
	Build up network of wetland practitioners, in line with STRP decision and use to source most important topics for capacity building and source the necessary tools for capacity building for the Strategic Plan and Convention.	Fully functioning network set up and priority areas for capacity building identified and training modules sourced. Online library of official and non-official government translated Ramsar documents to be made publicly accessible, given that Parties provide such documents to the Secretariat.	Head of Comms/SG/SRAs	SC52
	Implementation of Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, including preparing for a mid-term review..	Strategic Plan widely disseminated to other stakeholders concerned with its implementation.	Head of Comms/SG	2016
Other Secretariat activities Other Core Secretariat activities not covered under any of the above targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024	Organise and hold Standing Committee 52.	All documents prepared, translated and posted on the web site 3 months in advance to SC52. All logistics for sponsored delegates well organized. Outputs of SC52 disseminated and follow up actions taken.	SG/all staff	3 months before SC52 meetings
	Organise and hold COP13 in an efficient and timely manner.	Preparation of draft MOU to discuss with host country.	SG/SRA Asia	early 2016
		Preparation of draft national report format (NRF) for COP13 to be approved by SC52.	SRA Americas/IT officer/other	SC52

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
			SRAs/SG/DSG	
	Assist Parties with Convention implementation. Provide advice, remind and encourage to implement the actions required to fulfil the Goals and Targets of the Strategic Plan, and where appropriate actively participate in national or regional events to achieve this target. Request to send to the Secretariat before the end of 2016 their national targets to implement the Strategic Plan (Res Xii.2.22).	Advice and support on national implementation issues, in regional and global contexts, to Parties as requested, including through missions to Parties. Request to provide national strategic targets sent.	SRAs/SG/DSG	Daily basis
	Periodic briefings of missions in Geneva on activities taking place between Standing Committee meetings.	One briefing with Missions in Geneva about outcomes of SC51.	SG/DSG/SRAs	2016
	With the Management Working Group (MWG), keep under review the existing management structures of the Secretariat and Convention and discuss relevant issues as appropriate.	Implement relevant Decisions of SC51 and MWG. Progress report to SC52 as appropriate.	SG/all staff	SC52
	Undertake general administration of the Secretariat and Convention.	Secretariat provides timely and effective services to Parties and other stakeholders.	SG/all staff	2016