

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

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**51st Meeting of the Standing Committee
Draft Agenda and Programme**

Monday 23 November 2015

09:00-11:00 Closed meeting of the Transition Committee of the Management Working Group
(Report on the findings, recommendations and implementation of 360 degree appraisal of Secretary General)

11:00-13:00 Meeting of the Management Working Group

- a) Report of Secretary General on the progress of work of the Secretariat with focus on the main priorities adopted by the COP, the Secretariats' travelling and meetings as well as the status of the core and non-core budget, and including an overview of the staff and consultancy contracts (DOC. SC51-06)
- b) Consideration of the current Rules of Procedure and possible extension to subsidiary bodies of the Convention (SC51 INF.DOC.01)
- c) Report of progress from Working Group to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General and Report of the Secretariat on agreements and guidelines with IUCN in line with Resolutions IX. 24 and XII.4 on improving management of the Ramsar Convention in cooperation with the Management Working Group (SC51 INF.DOC.02)
- d) Progress Report from Working Group to oversee the implementation of CEPA
- e) Progress report from the Working Group on Resource Mobilization
- f) Report on the selection process of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel
- g) Report on progress in provision of elements of advice from Parties concerning the funding of the national priorities that may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the CBD COP (Decision XII/30 - Financial Mechanism)
- h) Report on progress of the Secretary General's development of the strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention (DOC. SC51-17)

15:00-18:00 Meeting of the Subgroup on Finance

- a) 2016 budget approval (DOC. SC51-18)
- b) Status of core and noncore budget (Review of core and projects income and expenditure, including audited financial statements)
- c) Status of the Reserve Fund and proposals for use of remaining surplus funds
- d) Update on payment of contributions (DOC. SC51-19)
- e) Overview of the staff and consultancy contracts
- f) Report on efforts to raise funds for COP12 delegates as per Resolution XII.1 (DOC. SC51-20)
- g) Report and discussion on prioritization of fundraising activities to fund non-core budget activities from all sources, with a view to significantly increasing non-Party contributions (DOC. SC51-21)
- h) Report on use of the Small Grants Fund (SGF) (DOC. SC51-22)

Tuesday 24 November 2015

08:15-09:45 Regional meetings

10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

- 1. Opening statements
 - a) Chair of the Standing Committee, Uruguay
 - b) IUCN (Director General or someone on her behalf)
 - c) Statement on behalf of the six International Organization Partners
 - d) Secretary General, Christopher Briggs
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda (DOC. SC51-01)
- 3. Admission of Observers
- 4. Matters arising from Decisions of the 49th and 50th meetings of Standing Committee (DOC. SC51-02)
- 5. Matters arising from COP12 Decisions (DOCs. SC51-03 and SC51-04)

15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

- 6. Establishment of the Standing Committee Subgroup on COP13
- 7. Report of the Chair of the Management Working Group
- 8. Report of the Chair of the Standing Committee (DOC. SC51-05)

9. Report of the Secretary General (DOC. SC51-06)
10. Secretariat Work Plans for 2016-2018 triennium and for 2016 (DOCs. SC51-07 and SC51-08)

18:30 Reception (Foyer)

Wednesday 25 November 2015

08:15-09:45 Regional meetings

10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

11. Report on the regionally representative expert group back-to-back with the meeting of the CBD's Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on additional Indicators for the Strategic Plan
12. Progress report on the preparation of National Report Format for COP13 (DOC. SC51-09)
13. Progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions* to the Standing Committee and plan on how to increase cooperation with other MEAs (DOC. SC51-10)

14:00-15:00 (meeting of the Subgroup on COP13 to be confirmed)

15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

14. Report of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention and approval of new regional initiatives for the period 2016-2018 (DOCs. SC51-11 and SC51-12)
15. Report of the Chair of STRP and consideration of STRP work programme (DOC. SC51-13)
16. Report on the submission to IPBES a request for a thematic assessment on the current status and trends of wetlands, including their condition, and explore further how the Convention can contribute to the work of IPBES, including the regional and global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Thursday 26 November 2015 (*No regional meetings on this day as time taken up with travel to Palais des Nations building on 26th November*)

10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

17. Report on CEPA Oversight Panel composition and Communications / CEPA Action Plan (DOC. SC51-14)
18. Report on preparations for World Wetlands Day 2016 and World Wetlands Themes for 2017 and 2018 (DOC. SC51-15)

19. Progress of improving the Ramsar website

15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

20. The Status of Ramsar Sites (DOC. SC51-16)

21. Update on the RSIS database

22. Progress report on build up an online library of official and non-official government translated Ramsar documents to be publicly accessible on the website

Friday 27 November 2015

08:15-09:45 Regional meetings

10:00-13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

23. Development of the strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention (DOC. SC51-17)

24. Report of the Subgroup on Finance (DOCs. SC51-18, SC51-19, SC51-20, SC51-21 and SC51-22)

15:00-18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

25. Report of the Standing Committee Subgroup on COP13

Other matters:

26. Date and venue of the 52nd Meeting of the Standing Committee

27. Adoption of the report of the meeting

28. Any other business

29. Closing remarks

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

51st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 23-27 November 2015

SC51-02

Matters arising from the 49th and 50th meetings of the Standing Committee

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the recent progress made in the implementation of its decisions and to consider the next steps on these matters under the agenda items of its 51st meeting.

Explanatory note

1. The tabulation provided below provides a list of the Decisions of Standing Committees 49 and 50, in which the Standing Committee or the Secretariat have been requested to undertake work.
2. The table also identifies the SC51 agenda item under which each matter will be considered and notes any related SC51 documents.

Decision No.	Topic	Tasks	Action/ SC51 agenda item and documents
Standing Committee 49			
SC49-02	Financial and budgetary matters	The Standing Committee agreed to defer a decision on the reallocation of 2014 surplus funds until SC50.	Decision SC50-7 Subgroup on Finance DOC.SC51-18
SC49-03	Regional initiatives	The Standing Committee agreed to the allocation of funds from Ramsar core budget line D, as set out in column F of Table 1 in Document SC49-02.	Preparation of contracts and disbursement of funds by the Secretariat DOC.SC51-18
SC49-04	Rules of Procedure	The Standing Committee agreed to forward the unmodified Rules of Procedure as used at COP11 for discussion and adoption by the Contracting Parties for use at COP12.	Adoption of Rules of Procedure at COP12 Management Working Group
SC49-05		The Standing Committee decided to establish a Working Group on Rules of Procedure, which would meet throughout the COP, at specific times and a venue to be provided as soon as possible by the Secretariat. The Working Group would complete as much as possible of its work electronically.	

Decision No.	Topic	Tasks	Action/ SC51 agenda item and documents
Standing Committee 50			
SC50-4	Resource Mobilization	The Standing Committee agreed to lead an open ended working group to review resource mobilization and the partnership framework and plan and report back to SC51.	Management Working Group
SC50-7	Allocation of 2014 surplus funds	The Standing Committee agreed that the budget surplus of 2014 be used to fund SC51.	Preparation of SC51 by the Secretariat
SC50-8	Establishment of working groups resulting from COP12 Resolutions	The Standing Committee agreed the establishment of a working group to oversee the implementation of CEPA and a working group to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General.	Report of the Working Groups to the Management Working Group at SC51

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

51st Meeting of the Standing Committee

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SC51-03

Matters arising for the Standing Committee from COP12 Resolutions

Action requested

The Standing Committee is invited to note the list of tasks requested from the 12th Conference of Parties by COP12 Resolutions for the 2015-2018 triennium, and to confirm that all such tasks are addressed under the agenda items of its 51st meeting.

Explanatory note

1. Table 1 below provides a list of the operative paragraphs of COP12 Resolutions in which the Standing Committee has been requested to undertake work.
2. The Secretariat has highlighted the main aspects of each task as emboldened text.
3. The table also identifies the SC51 agenda item under which each matter will be considered and notes any related SC51 documents.

Table 1 : Operative Paragraphs of COP12 Resolutions for the Attention of SC51

Res. No.	Topic	Tasks	SC51 agenda item and documents
XII.1	Financial and budgetary matters	10. FURTHER DECIDES that the Subgroup on Finance , as established by Resolution VI.17, is to continue to operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in that Resolution;	Subgroup on Finance Agenda item 24 DOCs. SC51-18, SC51-22
		14. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee , with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise core budgetary allocations between budget lines in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the cycle to costs, rates of inflation, interest and tax income projected in the budget, without increasing the contributions of Parties or increasing the charges paid to IUCN above the budgeted 13% maximum	
		15. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee , with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to revise non-core budgetary allocations and priorities depending upon the success of the Secretariat in securing voluntary funding for these activities;	

Res. No.	Topic	Tasks	SC51 agenda item and documents
		<p>22. REQUESTS that the Standing Committee review the operation of the programme during the triennium and definitively conclude whether the Parties should continue or cease the Small Grants Fund for the consideration of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;</p> <p>24. REAFFIRMS the decision taken at COP11 (Resolution X1.2) that the Reserve Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. provides for unforeseen and unavoidable expenditures; b. receives realized core budget surpluses (or is applied to deficits); c. should not be lower than 6% of the annual core budget of the Convention and not greater than 15%; d. should be administered by the Secretary General with the approval of the Subgroup on Finance as established by the Standing Committee; 	
XII.2	National Report	17. REQUESTS the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to develop the COP13 National Report Template to provide a more user- friendly instrument that reflects the goals and targets of the new Ramsar Strategic Plan, for consideration at the 51 st Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC51);	Agenda Item 12 DOC. SC51-09
	Indicators	28. REQUESTS the expert group to report on possible indicators to the Standing Committee; and INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee, as a high priority, to refine the potential indicators and present the proposal to COP13 for approval.	Agenda Item 11
XII.3	Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions	<p>Concerning accommodation of UN languages:</p> <p>26. REQUESTS the Secretariat to develop a strategy to be presented at SC51 and REQUESTS the Standing Committee to monitor progress and advise as necessary, subject to the availability of resources, outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention.</p>	Management Working Group Agenda Item 23 DOC. SC51-17
		28. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee, through the Management Working Group, to monitor the progress made in the drafting of the strategy pertaining to a phased approach to language integration, including efforts to fully integrate Spanish and French into the work of the Convention, in accordance with COP decisions;	

Res. No.	Topic	Tasks	SC51 agenda item and documents
		29. ALSO REQUESTS the Standing Committee to submit a report and its recommendations to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties , containing the strategy with a view to address accommodation of the Arabic language into the Convention supported by a financial mechanism and options for a step-by-step introduction of Arabic into the work of the Convention subject to the availability of resources;	
		31. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, with the assistance of Contracting Parties and Regional Centres and guided by the Management Working Group, to build up an online library of official and non-official government translated Ramsar documents to be publicly accessible, and report the status of progress to COP13 , and REQUESTS Parties to provide such documents to the Secretariat;	Agenda Item 22
	Concerning improvement of synergies	57. RECOGNIZES the collaboration between the Secretariat and IUCN and the progress made to evaluate the work already achieved, and URGES the Secretariat to update all agreements and guidelines with IUCN in cooperation with the Management Working Group and in line with Resolution IX.24 on improving management of the Ramsar Convention ; and ENCOURAGES them to collaborate further to continue to enhance the implementation of the Convention;	Management Working Group
		58. REQUESTS, in order to facilitate further collaboration between the Secretariat and IUCN, the Standing Committee to establish at its 50th meeting a mechanism of the Contracting Parties with balanced regional participation that will, taking into account the needs of the Contracting Parties and the Ramsar Secretariat , facilitate discussions between the Ramsar Secretariat and IUCN, in order to seek ways of improving the current operations of the Secretariat and enhancing the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, and to provide the Standing Committee with a report on these discussions at its 51st meeting and at each Standing Committee meeting thereafter ;	
XII.4	The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention	7. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to focus on the decisions of the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties and all preceding COP decisions by: a. Strengthening transparency within the work of the Convention to enhance sharing information and communication as well as facilitating the evolution of decisions, guidance and implementation of the Convention in cooperation with Parties, IOPs and stakeholders; b. Improving existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General to facilitate that the Secretariat effectively serves the Contracting Parties in their activities and implementation through clear, effective and understandable rules and procedures as a follow up to	Management Working Group

Res. No.	Topic	Tasks	SC51 agenda item and documents
		<p>a Standing Committee 48 decision “to initiate a process led by the Management Working Group to review agreements, policies, guidelines and other mechanisms that regulate the relations between and the division of responsibilities between the Standing Committee, the Executive Team, the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Secretary General and IUCN, including in relation to managing the Secretariat including staff management”;</p> <p>c. Developing and immediately implementing a system of reports – the first being sent by 15 September 2015, and whose frequency will be established by the Executive Team – from the Secretary General to the Executive Team, IUCN General Director and interested Standing Committee members and Observer Parties, containing information on the progress of work of the Secretariat with focus on the main priorities adopted by the COP, the Secretariats’ travelling and meetings etc., as well as the status of the core and noncore budget, and including an overview of the staff and consultancy contracts;</p> <p>d. Overseeing the preparation of the 13th Conference of the Parties between the next host country of the Conference of Parties in 2018 and the Secretariat;</p> <p>e. Guiding the Secretariat’s activities including its fundraising to implement the Strategic Plan, the STRP activities and the CEPA action plan, Ramsar Advisory Missions and other approved non-core budget activities;</p> <p>f. Guiding the Secretariat’s efforts in improving the Ramsar website and related services and the use of the RSIS database;</p> <p>g. Responding to the request from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to provide elements of advice, as appropriate, concerning the funding that may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the CBD Conference of the Parties, and to oversee that the Secretary General transmits this advice in a timely manner to the Executive Secretary of the CBD; and</p> <p>h. Guiding the Secretary General’s development of the strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention;</p>	

Res. No.	Topic	Tasks	SC51 agenda item and documents
		9. DECIDES that the current Executive Team (Romania, South Africa, and Canada) continue its tenure and continue to oversee the completion of the 360 degree evaluation process of the Secretary General and inform the key findings and recommendations of the evaluation to the Transition Committee of the Management Working Group (established under Resolution X.4) by 15 September 2015; and further REQUESTS the incoming Executive Team to explore the means of implementing the recommendations stemming from the 360 degree evaluation process in advance of the 51st meeting of the Standing Committee and report on the findings, recommendations and their implementation at that meeting;	
XII.5	Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention	17. FURTHER CONFIRMS that the Conference of Parties will approve the STRP priority thematic work areas for each triennium, that the Standing Committee will continue to have overall responsibility for the delivery of this programme , and that the Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on the Panel's progress with tasks, and propose for the consideration of the Standing Committee any adjustments to the programme which the Panel considers necessary;	Management Working Group Agenda Item 15
		19. DECIDES to dissolve the STRP Oversight Committee and INSTRUCTS the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee to take over the role of the STRP Oversight Committee which was established in Resolution IX.11, and to oversee the work of the STRP as indicated in Annex 1 to this Resolution;	
		21. DECIDES that the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting will approve the STRP work programme for the coming triennium , built around the priority thematic work areas determined and approved by the Conference of the Parties, in line with the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024;	
		27. APPROVES the list, in Annex 2 of this Resolution, of bodies and organizations which may be invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP and INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to amend the list during the triennium as appropriate ;	
XII.7	Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention	13. REQUESTS that the Standing Committee establish, at its 50th meeting, a mechanism of the Contracting Parties and Secretariat to develop a Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework and Work Plan , to include development of fundraising targets and timetables for the Secretariat to deliver on the non-core priorities set out in Annex 3 of Resolution XII.1, and to present it to the 51st meeting of the Standing Committee for its consideration ;	Management Working Group

Res. No.	Topic	Tasks	SC51 agenda item and documents
		14. REQUESTS the Standing Committee as a high priority task and with the committed assistance of the Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to respond to the invitation from the Parties to the CBD to provide elements of advice, as appropriate, concerning funding of national and transboundary wetlands initiatives , that may be referred to the GEF through the Conference of the Parties to the CBD;	Management Working Group DOC. SC51-06
XII.8	Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention	9. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention, as adopted for 2013-2015 through Standing Committee Decision SC46-28 and published on the Ramsar website, taking into account issues, among others, of governance, capacity, fundraising, and programmatic approach in alignment with the Ramsar Strategic Plan, and adopt the necessary amendments no later than the 52nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC52);	Agenda item 14 DOCs. SC51-11 and SC51-12
		12. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to continue to assess annually, based on the reports submitted, according to the format adopted through Standing Committee Decision SC41-21, the functioning of Ramsar regional initiatives in relation to the Operational Guidelines, the implementation of the Convention and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, seeking support from the CEPA Oversight Panel as required;	
		15. FURTHER DECIDES that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to individual regional initiatives for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 will be determined annually by the Standing Committee , based on the most recent reports and updated work plans to be submitted according to the required format and timetable, and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance;	
		24. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to prepare a summary of its annual assessments, which reviews the operations and success of the regional initiatives operating during the period 2016- 2018 , for Contracting Parties' consideration at the 13 th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties;	

Res. No.	Topic	Tasks	SC51 agenda item and documents
XII.9	The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024	9. REQUESTS the Standing Committee at its 51 st Meeting to establish a mechanism of the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat which will guide the communication activities of the Secretariat , including setting priorities and guiding the design of the Secretariat's CEPA Action Plan, monitor the effectiveness of the Plan, and report to the Management Working Group at each of its meetings, and FURTHER REQUESTS that the resulting mechanism work to develop with advice of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) a new approach for advising and supporting CEPA in the Convention to be submitted to the 13th meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP13).	Management Working Group Agenda Item 17 DOC. SC51-14

Costs of actions to be taken to implement COP12 Resolutions in the 2016-2018 triennium

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the estimated costs of the actions that need to be taken to implement each of the COP12 Resolutions, and to advise the Secretariat on priority actions for follow-up with existing funds, as well as those actions for follow-up through fundraising efforts.

Background

1. In Decision SC48-20 the Standing Committee decided that an unfunded non-core budget would be required to support the implementation of the COP12 Resolutions, over the triennium 2016-2018. A resource mobilization effort is required to achieve this budget and has been set up, supported by the Head of Partnerships, and under the guidance of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization already established by SC50.
2. Contracting Parties at COP12 set out an initial estimate for these non-core funds in Resolution XII.1 Annex 3, and specified a total amount of CHF 4.2m for non-core funding for priority projects over the triennium 2016-2018. Taking into account the actions detailed under all the Resolutions agreed by the Parties at COP12, a number of other actions have been identified by the Secretariat as not being reflected in the agreed budget for non-core funds as in COP XII.1 Annex 3. This present document was therefore prepared in order to complement the non-core funding for priority projects already agreed, and to be in line with the workplans for the Secretariat as detailed in SC51-07.
3. The following costings indicate areas where further support would be needed to achieve the full implementation of the COP12 Resolutions, in line with the requirement of Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure¹. The Secretariat notes that actions to comply with this Rule were not previously followed, and intends to include this in the preparations for COP13. This paper therefore reflects the requirement for the Secretariat to prepare details of the projected administrative and financial implications of all COP12 decisions after their approval in June 2015

¹ See www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/ramsar_rules_of_procedure_e.pdf. **Rule 14 Secretariat's report on administrative and financial implications of agenda items:** The Secretariat shall report, within 24 hours of the opening of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties, on the projected administrative and financial implications of all substantive agenda items submitted to the meeting and before decisions on these items are taken by the Conference of the Parties.

Consideration of funds needed to implement all COP12 Resolutions over the triennium

4. All the COP12 Resolutions which require implementation involving non-core funds are listed in Annex 1, with an estimate for each of the funds required. These funds are listed as one of the following:
 - Non-core funds that are already budgeted for under COP XII.1 Annex 3 (“Budgeted non-core funds”)
 - Non-core funds that may be needed to support other implementation actions arising from the various COP12 Resolutions (“Additional non-core funds”)
5. The actions to be implemented and the funds needed against each COP12 Resolution are set out in more detail in Annex 2, referenced to the text of the relevant paragraphs from each of the Resolutions.
6. Annex 1 shows a total non-core funding requirement for the triennium of CHF 6,925,000, including budgeted non-core funds and additional non-core funds needed. In total, the non-core funding that would need to be raised, if all the costings are accepted, is an amount of CHF 6,925,000.
7. Included in these non-core funding requirements is a sum of CHF 300,000 which is set aside for developing new fundraising approaches and tools (as described in Res.XII.1.20).
8. If the resources mobilized are below the amount of CHF 6,925,000 then it is possible that not all actions agreed at COP12 can be fully implemented.
9. Resources mobilized for the “budgeted non-core” items will be used on the specific items as set out in Res.XII.1 Annex 3. Once priority needs have been met, further funds raised would then be used on the “additional non-core” items.
10. The Standing Committee is asked to guide the Secretariat on further actions to be taken and to indicate priorities for work in the 2016-2018 triennium.

Annex 1

2016-2018 non-core expenditures needed to implement COP12 Resolutions

Resolution no.		Budgeted non-core funds (Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
Res.XII.1	Regional meetings; sponsorship of delegates to COP13; new fund-raising approaches.	1,250,000	300,000
Res.XII.2	Indigenous people and local communities strategic project; preparation of mid-term review of 4 th Ramsar Strategic Plan.	175,000	250,000
Res.XII.3	Increasing visibility and status of the Ramsar Convention, including Small Grant Funds.	1,000,000	660,000
Res.XII.5	STRP programme of work for 2016-2018.	300,000	250,000
Res.XII.6	RSIS updates and monitoring of changes in ecological character.	775,000	200,000
Res.XII.7	Increasing synergies with other MEAs.		45,000
Res.XII.8	Additional support to Regional Initiatives development.	150,000	115,000
Res.XII.9	New CEPA networks and implementation of workplan.	300,000	120,000
Res.XII.10	Wetland City Accreditation.		400,000
Res.XII.11	Peatland network of site managers; best practice manuals.		280,000
Res.XII.12	Handbook on water reserves and environmental flows.		100,000
Res.XII.13	Wetlands and DRR partnerships.		95,000
Res.XII.14	Mediterranean island wetlands inventory and information-sharing.		40,000
Res.XII.15	Implementation of Ramsar Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT).		120,000
CHF	TOTAL	3,950,000	2,975,000

Total non-core funds required for 2016-2018 triennium = CHF 6,925,000

Annex 2

Costing of action list from COP12 for 2016-2018

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
Resolution XII.1 Financial and budgetary matters (all Strategic Goals)				1,550,000		
1.20. Develop new approaches and tools, including signature initiatives, as appropriate, to secure voluntary financial support for currently unfunded priority projects	Ramsar Secretariat (Fin&Admin/Part/Reg)	On-going	Raise non-core funds of CHF 5m over 3 years 2016-2018 (target increased by CHF 800,000 compared to the estimate in Res.XII.1 Annex 3). One staff appointment for fund-raising, support for innovative initiatives and programmes to be developed, writing proposals, organizing fund-raising events (see Res.XII.7.11 below)			300,000
1. Annex 3	Ramsar Secretariat (DSG/Reg)	Jun-18	Pre-COP13 Regional Meetings (delegate support and meeting costs for preparatory meetings)		650,000	
1. Annex 3	Ramsar Secretariat (SG/DSG, Part, Reg)	COP13	COP13 (2018) sponsorship to eligible delegates		600,000	
Resolution XII.2 The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 (all Strategic Goals)				425,000		
2.17. REQUESTS the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to develop the COP13 National Report Template to provide a more user- friendly instrument that reflects the goals and targets of the new Ramsar Strategic Plan, for consideration at the 51st Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC51)	Ramsar Secretariat (SRAs/SG/DSG/IT officer)	SC52	Preparation of National Report Template for COP13 with inputs from Contracting Parties and key stakeholders (WCMC, STRP, CMS and other MEAs, and others), development of on-line system for National Reports, reporting and indicator development		175,000	

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
2.20. Compile data on the relationship of indigenous peoples and local communities with wetlands	Ramsar Secretariat (F&A/Part/Reg)	SC52	CHF 50,000 per year for support on data gathering			150,000
2.26. Undertake a review of the 4 th Ramsar Strategic Plan at COP14 and to establish the modalities and scope for this review at COP13, taking into account inter alia the outcomes of the discussions of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, the work of IPBES and the coordination needs with regard to the review of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020	Ramsar Secretariat (SG/DSG/Reg)	COP13	Establish modalities and scope of the strategic review, for COP13. Consultancy fees to attend pre-COP meetings and gather information regarding all other relevant global processes, identify coordination needs, develop a document proposing the modalities and scope of the necessary mid-term review.			100,000
Resolution XII.3 Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other MEAs				1,660,000		
3.26. Develop a strategy, subject to the availability of resources, outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Ramsar Convention; Prepare a draft text for a Resolution addressing accommodation of the Arabic Language into the Convention, outlining in detail the financial implications	Ramsar Secretariat (Reg)	SC51	Preparation of strategy alone, as set out in paper SC51-17			30,000
3.40. Continue supporting Ramsar Regional Initiatives and applying the Operational Guidelines 2016-2018 for regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands (approved through Resolution XII.8 Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention) to foster increased national- and regional-level political engagement and implementation of the Convention	All CPs and IOPs		Cost of additional coordination workshops CHF 20,000 per year			60,000

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
3.44. Work with the Biodiversity Liaison Group to enhance coherence and cooperation and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related conventions	Ramsar Secretariat (SG/DSG/Reg)	Every SC meeting	Travel budget for supporting meeting attendance (working both with the BLG and the Interagency Advisory Group, the IAG)			30,000
3.45. Work with UNEP on the implementation of the MOU and report progress of the activities concerned	Ramsar Secretariat (Part)	Every SC meeting	Project implementation under the MOU			100,000
3.47. Implement the Joint Work Plan with UNCBD to promote awareness of, and capacity-building for, ecosystem-based solutions for water management as a contribution to sustainable development, in line with CBD Decision XI/23	Ramsar Secretariat (Part/Reg)	Dec-16	Support the activities under the Joint Work Plan and the organization of a side event about the Ramsar Convention at the next COP of the CBD			50,000
3.50. Implement the Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands (Resolution IX.1 Annex A) the Integrated Framework for the Convention's water-related guidance (Resolution IX.1 Annex C) and Resolution XI.21 <i>Wetlands and sustainable development</i> through Small Grants Funds for the protection and wise use of wetlands	All CPs		Include Partners and other interested stakeholders		1,000,000	
3.52. Contribute on wetland issues to any eventual monitoring and indicator framework for relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets	STRP		Support STRP involvement in indicator development, including project links with UNEP-WCMC			50,000
3.53. Estimate the costs of options for working with relevant partners (e.g., UNEP-GRID) and for strengthening Parties' access to such data and monitoring tools	Ramsar Secretariat (Part)		Project supporting development of monitoring tools and enabling Parties to access these (including ongoing work with GlobWetland II, GlobWetland Africa, Global Mangrove Watch and others)			100,000

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
3.54. Increase efforts to integrate wetland management plans into integrated water resources management plans and efficiency plans at basin level, as well as into spatial planning/land-use plans. {Important for Strategic Goal 1}	All CPs		Develop projects with river basin commissions to strengthen integration of wetland management plans into their work, with 3 basins at CHF 60,000 per basin (eg. Mekong, Limpopo, La Plata)			180,000
3.55. Increase efforts to communicate on the values of ecosystem services of wetlands in other sectors' strategies, plans and regulations, and integrate them into a basin approach to land-use plans and other relevant local, national and global decisions	All CPs	On-going	Communications budget of CHF 20,000 for each of the basin projects described above			60,000
Resolution XII.5 Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention (all Strategic Goals)				550,000		
5.22. Continue to provide support to the STRP as detailed in Annex 1	Ramsar Secretariat (DSG/Reg)	On-going	Non-core support of CHF 100,000 per year to support additional project involvement from non-STRP partners		300,000	
5.24. 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	Ramsar Secretariat (Part)	On-going	Additional resources of CHF 50,000 per year to support small projects on conservation and wise use, involving specialized guidance			150,000
5.25. Finalize the production of the current version of The State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People and explore modalities for its subsequent improvement and updating as a periodic flagship report of the Convention	STRP Ramsar Secretariat (SG/DSG)	COP13	A one-off cost of CHF 100,000 for producing a substantial publication (book) on the 2018 State of the World's Wetlands for COP13, thereby also contributing to the Global Biodiversity Outlook of the Convention on Biological Diversity			100,000

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
Resolution XII.6 Status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance (Goal 2)				975,000		
6.13. Fulfil, as a matter of urgency, the terms of Resolution VI.13 and submit updated information of Ramsar Sites at least every six years using the most up-to-date format of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS), also for designating new Sites and extending existing Sites	CPs listed in Annex 3b of the SG's report		RSIS, IM/IT (website) continuing development. Also small grants of CHF 10,000 per site for capacity-building (especially in GIS) to designate new Ramsar Sites or update/extend existing Sites. 10 Sites supported over the triennium.		175,000	100,000
6.15. Adopt and apply a suitable monitoring regime, such as that outlined in the annex to Resolution VI.1 (1996), which incorporates the Convention's Wetland Risk Assessment Framework (Resolution VII.10), in order to be able to report change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites in line with Article 3.2	All CPs	COP13	Analytical work on the Ramsar Site Information System to assess the number of sites whose ecological character is under threat, and develop a monitoring regime together with the Parties concerned, which collects information on certain agreed parameters relating to ecological character on an ongoing basis			50,000
6.18. Assist and encourage Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, eg. with direct advice on the application of the wise use principles, or, when relevant, proposing to Parties to add the Site(s) to the Montreux Record or to invite a Ramsar Advisory Mission	Ramsar Secretariat (Reg)	On-going	Additional funds needed to those in Res. 5.24 above (CHF 150,000 already listed for STRP support)		600,000	
6.22. Use tools and information provided by technical partners in assessing changes to the ecological character of Ramsar Sites	All CPs	On-going	Additional work with tools and information from IOPs and others in developing monitoring regime and guidance for Article 3.2 sites			50,000

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
Resolution XII.7 Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention) (Goals 3 and 4)				45,000		
7.11. Prioritize fundraising activities to fund non-core budget activities from all sources, with a view to significantly increasing non-Party contributions, and to report regularly to the Standing Committee	Ramsar Secretariat (Part)	On-going	Raise non-core funds of CHF 4.6m over 3 years 2016-2018, as in Res 1.20 above (CHF 300,000 for fund-raising support already listed)			
7.21. Strengthen partnerships with other MEAs such as inter alia the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the CBD and others, in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation; provide a plan on how to increase cooperation with other MEAs	Ramsar Secretariat (Part)	SC51 and subsequent SC meetings	Joint workshops and projects developing synergies among MEAs			45,000
Resolution XII.8 Regional initiatives (RIs) 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention (Goal 4)				265,000		
8.11. Continue to submit annual reports on their progress and operations, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines, and continue to submit annual plans according to the timetable and format adopted by the Standing Committee.	All RIs endorsed by the Convention	Every SC meeting	Regional Initiative Networks and Centres support (priority activities, including annual workshop together with the Ramsar Secretariat)		150,000	
8.18. Publicize at global level regional initiatives as an operational means to provide support for the implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention	Ramsar Secretariat (Reg)	On-going	Web costs to upgrade Ris websites and linkage with the Ramsar home site			40,000
8.20. Continue publishing information provided by the regional initiatives, including reports on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines and work plans, on the Convention's website, to make it accessible for the parties and the public	Ramsar Secretariat (Reg)	On-going	Budget of CHF 15,000 per annum to develop and disseminate publications highlighting the work of the Ris in implementing the work of the Ramsar Convention			45,000

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
8.23. Identify, for possible inclusion among regional initiatives, transboundary river/groundwater basin organizations	All CPs	On-going	Travel costs of CHF 30,000 per year to support missions to River Basin Commissions to inform about Ramsar through workshops, and encourage registration as a Ramsar Regional Initiative. Maintain links with UNECE (Helsinki Convention) and UN Watercourses Convention)			30,000
Resolution XII.9 The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) (all Strategic Goals)				420,000		
9.17. REQUESTS the Secretariat subject to available resources to assist in strengthening the capacity of the CEPA Focal Points through the provision of training, toolkits, and templates for CEPA action planning, and further URGES the Secretariat to provide technical support for CEPA National Focal Points through the establishment of a network for their knowledge sharing;	Secretariat (Comms, STRP, Reg)	On-going	Over the triennium, one workshop (CHF 20,000) in each of the five regions to establish a network of CEPA Focal Points in each region			100,000
9.21. ENCOURAGES those Contracting Parties with established, or proposed, wetland education centres and/or similar facilities to support the development of those centres as key places of learning and training about wetlands and wetland-related CEPA and to support their participation in global networks of such centres REQUESTS the Secretariat to compile a list of global networks and make it available on the Ramsar website.	All CPs Ramsar Secretariat	On-going	To support network of wetland education centres and gather relevant information for webpage on same			20,000

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
9. Annex I : Goals and Targets of the CEPA Programme	Secretariat (Comms)		Non-core budget required to support the CEPA programme as set out in the workplan 2016-2018		300,000	
Resolution XII.10: Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention (Goals 2 and 3)				400,000		
10.14. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat, through their relevant Senior Regional Advisors, to submit the nominations received to the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) for its consideration;	Ramsar Secretariat (Reg)		Non-core budget to support the work of the Wetland City IAC. This budget will be used to support the meetings and accreditation visits to candidate cities to be carried out by the IAC.			300,000
10.16. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to develop a global online network of cities which have obtained the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention.	Ramsar Secretariat (Reg, Comms)		Web development, branding and associated publicity for Ramsar Wetland Cities			100,000
Resolution XII.11: Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention (Goals 2 and 3)				280,000		
11.23. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, the Secretariat and other organizations to facilitate information exchange and cooperation among the administrative or managing bodies of these sites;	Ramsar Secretariat (Reg), All CPs	on-going	organize workshops (one per region) to bring together site managers and NFPs responsible for peatland sites			200,000
11.26. REQUESTS the Secretariat to facilitate national and regional capacity building to enable Contracting Party experts to create inventories of peatlands;	Ramsar Secretariat (Reg)	On-going	See 28 below			
11.28. REQUESTS the Secretariat, working with the STRP, IOPs and other stakeholders, to compile best practices in peatland restoration techniques to support the work of wetland managers and share them through the official Ramsar Convention website;	Ramsar Secretariat (STRP, Reg, comms)		To develop four best practice manuals (one per eco-region) which bring together best practices for peatland sites in that eco-region, to be developed together with partner organizations in the region			80,000

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
Resolution XII.12: Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future (Strategic Goals 1-3)				100,000		
12.24. REQUESTS that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness Oversight Panel consider drawing up, in cooperation with existing networks and initiatives, guidelines for the elaboration of national action plans, to conserve the water necessary to maintain the wise use of wetlands, which may be implemented at the regional and/or national level, in line with the 4th Strategic Plan.	STRP, CEPA Oversight Panel	On-going	Major publication (handbook) as official Ramsar guidance on water reserves and environmental flow requirements			100,000
Resolution XII.13: Wetlands and disaster risk reduction (Strategic Goals 1-3)				95,000		
13.26. URGES the Secretariat to build a strategic partnership with related international bodies and conventions, namely the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to establish an appropriate platform for cooperation aiming at providing scientific and technical support as well as easing the access to financial resources for affected countries	Ramsar Secretariat (Part, SG/DSG)	On-going	Combined project on eco-DRR with UNCCD to provide technical guidance as well as access to financial resources (also to link with and input into the inter-agency flood and drought management programmes (APFM and IDMP) based at WMO)			50,000
13.35. REQUESTS that the Ramsar Secretariat liaise with the Secretariats of the UN ISDR and UNFCCC, in highlighting the importance of wetlands in climate change adaptation, especially for countries identified as vulnerable to climate change; and ALSO REQUESTS that the Ramsar Secretariat establish strategic partnerships to ensure collaboration on DRR and access to global trust funds	Ramsar Secretariat (SG/DSG, Part)		CHF 15,000 per annum to support additional travel to workshops and events, to develop strategic partnerships on eco-DRR and access to funding sources			45,000

Action	Responsible WP Team	Deadline in Resolution	Status and comments	Total cost in CHF per Resolution over 3 years	Budgeted non-core funds (Res. XII.1 Annex 3)	Additional non-core funds
Resolution XII.14: Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands (Strategic Goals 2 and 3)				40,000		
14.16. URGES Mediterranean Contracting Parties in the framework of the MedWet Initiative, to produce or update as a matter of high priority a complete, science-based inventory of their island wetlands, based on appropriate methodologies, and to share it with neighbouring countries, for example, through a MedWet database;	Mediterranean CPs	On-going	Non-core funds needed to support the development of a MedWet database and information-sharing on island wetlands, and to share this information with other regions through the work of Regional Initiatives and other bodies			40,000
Resolution XII.15: Evaluation of the management and conservation effectiveness of Ramsar Sites (Strategic Goals 1-3)				120,000		
15.21. URGES the Ramsar Secretariat, STRP, International Organization Partners (IOPs), Ramsar Regional Centres and other partners to consider supporting the Contracting Parties in their efforts, including capacity building to apply management effectiveness tools	Ramsar Secretariat (Reg), STRP, IOPs, RRCs, Partners	On-going	One workshop in each of five regions to build capacity on the application of the R-METT tool			100,000
15.22. APPROVES the Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) annexed to this Resolution, as a voluntary self-assessment tool for evaluating the management effectiveness of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands			To build capacity within the Ramsar Secretariat on the use of R-METT			20,000
TOTAL			Of which CHF 300,000 is support for the non-core fundraising effort itself as set out in Resolutions 1.20 and 7.11 above	6,925,000	3,950,000	2,975,000

Report of the Secretary General and the Secretariat

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the Secretary General's report, based on Resolution XII.4 paragraph 7.
- establish a system of reports, whose frequency is established by the Executive Team, from the Secretary General to the Executive Team, IUCN General Director and interested Standing Committee members and Observer Parties.

1. The Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands has prepared this report in response to para 7.c of Resolution XII.4, which tasks the Standing Committee with "Developing and immediately implementing a system of reports – the first being sent by 15 September 2015, and whose frequency will be established by the Executive Team – from the Secretary General to the Executive Team, IUCN General Director and interested Standing Committee members and Observer Parties, containing information on the progress of work of the Secretariat with focus on the main priorities adopted by the COP, the Secretariats' travelling and meetings etc., as well as the status of the core and non-core budget, and including an overview of the staff and consultancy contracts".
2. The 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concluded with 16 Resolutions and a revised set of Rules of Procedure that were all approved by Parties. The Secretariat is preparing the proceedings of COP12 which will be posted by SC51.
3. Issues arising from COP12 Resolutions as well as from SC49 and SC50 are covered under different agenda items, and the role of the Secretariat is mapped against the activities derived from those Resolutions and decisions within the Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium (Document SC51-07).
4. In that context, the Secretary General has developed the Secretariat Work Plan for 2016 (Document SC51-08), based on the 4th Strategic Plan, our ongoing responsibilities, historical duties, Standing Committee decisions, and duties mandated through COP12 Resolutions.
5. Issues on enhancing of communication and sharing of information, to strengthen transparency and facilitate the evolution of decisions, guidance and implementation of the Convention, will be tackled where possible under the CEPA Work Plan, in cooperation with Contracting Parties, IOPs and other stakeholders.
6. A Working Group has been set up to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General to facilitate that the Secretariat effectively serves the Contracting Parties in their activities and implementation through clear, effective and understandable rules and procedures as a follow up to Resolution XI.1 *Institutional hosting of*

the Ramsar Secretariat and SC decision 46-24¹. The existing management instruments are annexed to SC51-Inf.Doc.02.

7. As for previous Conference of the Parties, a subgroup will be set up by SC51 to oversee the preparation of COP13 in 2018 by the host country and the Secretariat.
8. SC50 established the Resource Mobilization Working Group to guide the Secretariat, including in its fundraising to implement approved non-core budget activities in support of the Strategic Plan, including the STRP activities, the CEPA Work Plan, Ramsar Advisory Missions, and others.
9. SC50 set up a CEPA Working Group to guide the Secretariat in improving the Ramsar web site and related services and the Ramsar Sites Information Service.
10. A Diplomatic Note (Diplomatic Note 2015/4) has been transmitted to Parties to respond to the request from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to provide elements of advice, as appropriate, concerning the funding that may be referred to the Global Environment Facility through the CBD Conference of the Parties. The Secretary General will then transmit this advice in a timely manner to the Executive Secretary of the CBD.
11. A set of terms of reference has been prepared for SC51 consideration (Document SC51-17) for consultancy support for the development of a strategy that will outline the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention.
12. The report on the status of the core and non-core budget with an overview of staff and consultancy contracts will be covered under the Finance agenda items.
13. The major travel for the Secretariat staff has been in preparation for, and attendance at COP12. The senior management and other secretariat staff have also been travelling in response to the demands of the 2015 Work Plan and the 3rd Ramsar Strategic Plan. Full details of all the missions with dates and the outcomes of the missions are provided in Annex 1 to this document.

¹ Decision 46-24 “*progress the negotiations between the Ramsar Secretariat and IUCN on improving operations by establishing a small task force (with three members from each organisation) on administrative, financial and scientific and technical issues; recommended that that task force pursue these matters with the involvement of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee, the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance, and the Chair of the STRP*”

Annex 1

Report on Secretariat Travel since January 2015

Secretary General, Christopher Briggs

1/2 – 8/2/2015 Kampala, Uganda (with Senior Advisor for Africa and External Relations Officer)

Participation in World Wetlands Day Celebrations

We joined the rest of the world to celebrate World Wetlands Day on 2 February from Uganda, at the Lutembe Bay Wetland, a Ramsar Site of International Importance.

Meetings with the President of Uganda and others

We met the President of Uganda, His Excellency Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, to discuss the state of wetlands in Uganda and how the Ramsar Convention could support their restoration and wise use. We also met representatives of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and UNDP, and officials from the Ministry of Water and the Environment.

Wetland site visits

We visited Mabamba and Nakivubo swamp (a key wetland for Uganda's waste water treatment) where a potential NORAD funded project is being proposed to restore wetland functions.

Inauguration of new RAMCEA offices

On 5 February, the new offices of the Ramsar Center for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA) in Kampala were opened. Heavy press coverage and the promise from the President to raise the importance of wetlands in the East Africa Community were major highlights.

19/2 – 24/2/2015 United Kingdom

Cambridge (with STRP Support Officer)

Met representatives of BirdLife International, IUCN Cambridge Office and UNEP-WCMC, to discuss cooperation on freshwater publications, wetlands indicators, SOWWS, and outreach to BirdLife partners. Participated, with the Chair of STRP and the STRP Support Officer, in the Cambridge University Symposium on Biodiversity, Sustainable Development and the Law. Gave the opening plenary address on Biodiversity Accords & Sustainable Development Goals; chaired a Specialist Panel on Legal Innovations & Trends for Sustainable Development; acted as keynote speaker at session on Biodiversity & Sustainable Resources Governance.

London (with Head of Communications)

Met representatives of DEFRA, the UK Administrative Authority (AA), to discuss COP participation, the current status of Ramsar Sites and various questions about Sites in the UK and Overseas Territories, and to update on the current activities of the Secretariat. We also presented the latest factsheets to DFID staff and discussed the potential for a Ramsar application to development funds looking at the role of water in poverty alleviation. Follow-up has led to an ongoing debate on support for wetlands issues.

Met painter Jeremy Houghton to discuss the concept of establishing a network of Wetlands Champions – leading cultural figures who could use their influence to raise wetlands awareness. Also discussed the possibility of using some of his prints as prizes for WWD 2015 and for Ramsar Award winners.

Met Martin Spray of WWT, to discuss the potential transition of WWT into an IOP, implications for the international and national roles of WWT and participation at COP12, and to explore areas for future collaboration.

12/3 – 22/3/2015 Japan

UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

The SG represented Ramsar, and led discussions on the relevance of wetlands for DRR. He also:

- visited Kabukuri-numa and Hinuma Ramsar Sites (the latter with the Head of Communications and Ramsar photographer);
- met high-level officials from the AA (Ministry of Environment) and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs; Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism;
- met and worked on MOUs with JICA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA);
- met Keidanren (Japan Business Federation); and the Japan Railway Construction, Transport, Technology Agency (JRTT) regarding a new train line affecting a Ramsar Site.

13/4 - 18/4/2015 Daegu, Rep. of Korea

Participation in the 7th World Water Forum (with Deputy Secretary General and Head of Partnerships)

Facilitated, led and addressed conference and various side events, made presentations and participated in discussions in several sessions. Met representatives of the AA, and the Ministry of Unification; discussed the hosting of the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia.

25/4 – 29/4/2015 Djakarta, Indonesia

Tropical Landscapes Summit: A Global Investment Opportunity

Represented the Convention and spoke at a parallel plenary session on *The Case for Conservation and Biodiversity*. This was also an opportunity to meet various Ministers including the Minister of Environment, and representatives of The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, UNEP, UNDP, the CBD Secretariat, World Business Council for Sustainable Development, etc.

5/5 – 6/5/2015 Paris, France

Meeting with the Ramsar AA (with Head of Communications)

Discussed the current status of Ramsar in France and ongoing joint work, and worked through plans for the future, including preparations for Ramsar COP12, the role of France as co-lead of the Strategic Plan Subgroup, and preparations for UNFCCC COP21 and side events there.

Also met DANONE Sustainability Programme, to discuss initial outline for the BOK project; present Ramsar awards brochure, film and plan for COP12; discussed extended COP12 communications material, and Bernard Giraud and Laurent Sacchi attendance and Ramsar Award arrangements; and agreed COPIL meeting options and future MOU with Danone/Evian.

Met Nicolas Hulot, Special Envoy of the President for the Environment and President of the N. Hulot Foundation, to introduce Ramsar and present the case for promoting wetlands through his TV and general network; invited him to COP as well as the French Ambassador of the Environment.

Met SUEZ Environment following up on initial SG meeting to discuss potential areas for long term cooperation on communications and on ecosystem valuation of Suez large infrastructure projects.

21/5 – 24/5/2015 Ballybay, Ireland

National Wetlands Conference of Eire

Participated and gave keynote address. Participated in meeting of the Irish Ramsar Wetlands Committee and gained valuable insights into the non-attendance at COP12 and non-production of national reports for nine years. Met the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to discuss possibilities for collaboration on new Wetlands Inventory of Eire and ways to increase participation of Irish experts in international meetings. Discussed sensitive issues about the use of peatlands in Eire for fuel and the restoration potential of worked peat beds.

29/5 – 11/6/2015 Punta del Este, Uruguay

COP12 (with most Secretariat staff)

16 Resolutions approved by COP including the new Strategic Plan with full support of the Parties, and revised Rules of Procedure. Excellent work by the Secretariat staff and despite difficulties a successful first COP for the SG and DSG.

15/6 – 19/6/2015 Alderbrook and Portland, USA

Annual meeting of the Consultative Group on Biodiversity

Participated in the annual meeting as a result of support of the US representative of Ramsar in the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Met representatives of most of the 70 major donors/foundations present, whose goal is to “support and grow a community of biodiversity grantmakers that pursues complementary and collaborative strategies”. Addressed the meeting on importance of wetlands, built up new contacts; follow up ongoing.

Governor of Washington State

Met Governor Jay Inslee, and engaged in discussions on wetlands and the increasing need for Washington State to maintain and restore wetlands to cope with decreased snowfall and increasing risk of drought

The Nature Conservancy and private sector

In Portland, met The Nature Conservancy and representatives of the private sector and held discussions with potential collaborators in various organizations including Wild Salmon Centre in USA and Russia.

24/6 – 25/6/2015 Geneva, Switzerland

UNECE meeting at Palais des Nations

Participated to make statement for Ramsar and to ensure our participation in UNECE issues and to work with Chair and Vice Chair on the presentation to be made in the upcoming meeting on the New York Convention in September.

29/6 – 30/6/2015 Bonn, Germany

Annual meeting of the World Heritage Committee (WHC39) and visit to UNFCCC and UNCCD

Attended for the first time this meeting of a key partner to make statement for Ramsar and to ensure that our partnership is well understood; gave a speech at a side event on the joint project being managed with the support of Jeju on multiply branded sites with WHC, MAB, GeoParks, and Ramsar.

5/7 – 11/7/2015 Jeju, Republic of Korea

World Leaders' Conservation Forum 2015

Met a rich range of organizations and was panellist in plenary session on "Nature: a path of peace and coexistence". The invitation from self-governing Jeju province allowed time to visit the Ramsar Site and other key WHC sites. Discussed our collaboration with the Minister of Environment and his team in order to start preliminary discussions on a future potential MOU with Jeju, to include aspects of capacity building for wetland professionals. Also visited SamDaSoo, a major Korean water company based in Jeju, and discussed among other issues the process of water protection at watershed and groundwater levels. Also discussed with the Minister of Unification the planned meeting on wetlands in North Korea in October, which is being supported by UNESCAP and IUCN.

Ania Grobicki, Deputy Secretary General

27/3/2015 London, UK

Meeting between the EU and the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) group of countries

Part of an ongoing process following the expiry of the Cotonou Agreement, with broad agreement that the post-Cotonou framework should deliver global public goods, designed to support international agreements such as the Sustainable Development Goals and any future agreements on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

11/4 – 19/4/2015 Daegu, South Korea

7th World Water Forum (with SG and Head of Partnerships)

Represented Ramsar in various sessions, ensuring that Ramsar was part of the Ministerial process; made key-note presentation to the Ministerial Round Table on Water and Ecosystems; organized an informal closed session on the proposed Global Partnership on Wetland Restoration.

Visit to Upo Wetland

Visit to Upo Wetland and wetland education centre, and discussed the future of the Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia with its coordinator.

19/4 – 25/4/2015 Samoa

Meeting with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

Met to strengthen the relationship and finalize the re-drafted MOU for 2016-2018 in the light of the new Ramsar 4th Strategic Plan and SPREP strategy 2016-2020. Discussed selection of candidates for Regional Officer for Oceania. Followed up on Ramsar inclusion in potential Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects for which SPREP is an implementing agency. Promoted the accession of the remaining eight Pacific Island Countries which are members of SPREP but not yet Parties to Ramsar.

25/4 – 30/4/2015 Jeju Island, South Korea

International workshop on sites with multiple designations

Continued liaison with IUCN-Jeju project on harmonizing Internationally Designated Areas at site level. Initial discussions held with Jeju government on a long-term (5 year) MOU to be established, to include project funding.

Assessment of Ramsar Site issues

Report back on restoration measures taken at Dongbaekdongshan Ramsar Site; discussion of another possible new Ramsar Site to be designated.

16/6 – 17/6/2015 Hamilton, Canada

Meeting of the International Advisory Committee of UNU-INWEH

Attended as an invited member of the International Advisory Board. Informed Ramsar Secretariat colleagues of the mangrove work undertaken by UNU-INWEH. Ongoing contacts with UNU-INWEH take place through UN-Water.

27/6 – 28/6/2015 Ede, the Netherlands

2015 Wetlands International board meeting

Attended as an invited observer, on behalf of the Ramsar Secretariat. Contributed to the organizational development taking place in Wetlands International, and discussed with WI staff possible joint UNFCCC COP21 side events on peatlands and eco-DRR, and outcomes of Ramsar COP12.

Paul Ouedraogo, Senior Advisor, Africa

31/1 – 10/2/2015 Uganda and Rwanda

Uganda (with the SG, see his report above)

Rwanda

Lobbied for the updates of Rugezi Ramsar Site and prepared the designation of four wetlands as Ramsar Sites: Lake Ruweru, Akagera National Park, Kamiranzovu Marshland and Bugesera Basin.

Trained the National Focal Point (NFP) and a colleague on the online RSIS system. Also advised the DG of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) on the need to have a better biodiversity programme with wetlands as focus. Negotiated to host a RAMCEA meeting in Rwanda.

16/3 – 25/3/2015 Alexandria, Egypt

Senghor University

Delivered several training modules on wetlands and protected areas management. Coached 20 students on the preparation of their theses, and was a panellist for 16 graduate students defending their master's thesis on African wetlands.

20/4 – 22/4/2015 Frascati, Italy

Evaluation of tenders for GlobWetland Africa project

DHI and Jena-Optronik were selected as providers to the project.

27/4 – 08/5/2015 Burkina Faso

Training of site managers on African wetlands local governance

Delivered the following training modules:

- Introduction to the Ramsar Convention

- Challenges and opportunities of wetlands in Africa
- Wetlands inventory
- Management of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands

22/6 – 23/6/2015 Darmstadt, Germany

Launch of ESA's Sentinel 2A satellite

Attended the ESA launch event with the Globwetland Africa Project partners to advocate for the importance of wetlands conservation and restoration. On 27 July 2015 ESA will demonstrate the first results to the media, and use wetlands to show the importance of Sentinel 2 to environmental monitoring.

The project partners will be developing a free-access toolbox to help Ramsar Contracting Parties (initially in Africa) monitor the state of wetlands and their capacity to support biodiversity and provide ecosystem services. The partnership may lead to the development of a draft resolution on wetlands and desertification for COP13.

29/6 – 2/7/2015 Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire

Climate change COP21 side event on climate-agriculture-forest

This side event to the International Scientific Conference "Our Common Future under Climate Change", which precedes UNFCCC COP21, highlighted the benefits of appropriate mitigation and adaptation policies and programmes on agriculture and forestry. Addressed plenary on sustainable agriculture practices which respect forests and wetlands, and chaired the panel discussions on the importance and vulnerability of wetlands. I also took the opportunity to train Ramsar Site managers.

Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor, Americas

12/1 – 16/1/2015 Nicaragua

Ramsar Advisory Mission on the Nicaragua Interoceanic Canal

The Mission, requested by the Government of Nicaragua, gave the opportunity to discuss with high-level government officials the status of the project, and to visit the project area and the San Miguelito Ramsar Site. A mission report with recommendations will be prepared once the Secretariat receives the EIA study from the Government.

23/2 – 26/2/2015 Costa Rica

Regional Workshop "Wetlands for our future. Join us!"

The Secretariat organized the workshop jointly with JICA, the AA in Costa Rica, the Vice-ministry of Water, Seas, Coasts and Wetlands, and the National System of Conservation Areas. It celebrated World Wetlands Day, increased the visibility of the Convention among the Mesoamerican countries and regional stakeholders, and strengthened the collaboration between the Secretariat and JICA. Participants planned two side events for COP12, one to share best practices of the Mesoamerican countries in the implementation of the Convention, and the other to present the workshop results.

16/3 – 23/3/2015 Uruguay

COP12 planning (with Administrative & Communications Assistant and COP12 Logistics Officer)

Discussed with the government and the appointed logistics company and travel agency the status of organization of COP12 based on the signed MOU. It was clear that preparations were progressing well and that the government was very committed to the organization and the success of COP12.

Tobias Salathe, Senior Advisor, Europe

25/3 – 27/3/2015 Bonn, Germany

Workshop for German-speaking Ramsar countries

Presented Ramsar priorities to stakeholders in German-speaking Parties (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, and Luxembourg), prepared them for COP12, presented the new RSIS, and encouraged them to set up a small communications group to produce a Ramsar newsletter in German.

4/5 – 8/5/2015 Istanbul, Turkey

BlackSeaWet regional initiative meeting

Maintained contact with BlackSeaWet and contributed to the work of its governance body, providing advice and support on the development of future activities, projects and fundraising. A rough project concept was developed, comprising many different activities which might appeal to diverse donors. Agreed to consult further during COP12, and that two main avenues for funding need to be explored by eligible countries: EU (Romania, Bulgaria) and GEF (Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova). It was agreed that concrete progress is needed before the end of 2015.

22/6 – 25/6/2015 Tbilisi, Georgia

GEF expanded constituency workshop (with Head of Partnerships)

Learned about the functioning of GEF and explored opportunities for helping Ramsar NFPs to submit wetland-related project concepts to GEF in eligible countries. Explored potential GEF support for the BlackSeaWet regional initiative's programme, with the AAs from Moldova and Georgia. The Moldovan and Romanian AAs subsequently took steps to develop the BlackSeaWet proposal as agreed at the May meeting. Identified other Regional Initiatives which might be suitable for possible GEF support; establishment of a Central Asian initiative is ongoing.

Visited the AA and discussed current Ramsar implementation matters (Article 3.2 files, new Ramsar Sites, updating of RSIS, national programmes and transboundary cooperation).

29/6 – 30/6/2015 Arles, France

MedWet regional initiative management board meeting

This meeting evaluated the outcomes of the MedWet activities at COP12, progress with the MedWet communications plan, and cooperation with the Mediterranean Wetland Observatory (developing and monitoring wetland indicators). The analysis of National Reports to COP12 of MedWet countries will be distributed more widely. A formal MedWet Committee meeting (MedWet/Com12) needs to be planned for early 2016 in Paris; this will be the opportunity to clarify post-2016 financing and priority projects to respond to the targets listed in the "MedWet framework for action 2016-2030".

1/7 – 3/7/2015 Norway

Ramsar Advisory Mission to Nordre Tyrifjord area (with the Deputy Secretary General)

A RAM was requested to look into the planned road and railway that are supposed to cross the Storelva river floodplain which flows into the northern part of Tyrifjord, and to provide advice on the best option and general Ramsar principles on the construction of transport infrastructure. The final report with recommendations will be published on the Ramsar web site by early September.

Lew Young, Senior Advisor, Asia-Oceania

13/1– 22/1/2015 Japan

Meeting with JICA (Tokyo)

Discussed with JICA the draft MoC that will be signed between Ramsar and JICA, and the JICA side-event at COP12 about their work on wetlands (at which the MoC would be signed).

East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership 8th Meeting of Parties (Kushiro)

Showed the Secretariat's support for this regional initiative; met the Ramsar NFP and partners from the flyway to hear updates about their work and discussed how the Secretariat can support them.

16/2– 22/2/2015 Kolkata, India

Workshop on the "Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services of Wetlands in Relation to Global Change"

The workshop was organized by Prof. Brij Gopal, one of the foremost wetland ecologists in India and a long-time supporter of Ramsar.

- Discussed the conservation of the East Kolkata Wetland Ramsar Site which is threatened by urban encroachment;
- re-established contact with the AA in Delhi;
- met a representative of the GIZ office in India; and
- visited the Chilika Lake Ramsar Site which is a model for wetland restoration and working with local communities.

28/2– 5/3/2015 Tehran, I.R. Iran

Collaborative Management Board meeting of the RRC-CWA

The Director used this CMB meeting to re-energize the Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia, by reviewing the hosting of the Centre by the DOE, the TORs of the Board, the budget for the Centre as well as the staffing, work plan and the CEPA activities, particularly the web site. Also discussed future cooperation with the UNDP office in Tehran, and visited the Anzali Ramsar Site to meet JICA staff and learn about their project to restore the Site.

16/3 – 22/3/2015 Colombo, Sri Lanka

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop for South and South East Asia

Gained a better understanding of how the GEF process works, met the GEF Focal Points and discussed possibilities of developing GEF wetland projects in the coming years. Also led a training workshop for Sri Lankan Ramsar Site managers on using the new online RSIS.

4/4 – 10/4/2015 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Pre-COP12 meeting for Central Asia

As the Ramsar AAs in Central Asia have difficulties with Ramsar's working languages, a separate pre-COP12 meeting was held for them with simultaneous interpreting between English and Russian. The Ramsar Assistant for Asia who speaks Russian helped make the meeting a success. The participants engaged enthusiastically and began to discuss the establishment of a Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia. The Asia Team in the Secretariat is assisting them with this now.

20/4 – 22/4/2015 Cambridge, UK

Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool for Ramsar (R-METT)

This meeting held at UNEP-WCMC brought together a small group of academics, consultants and other experts who were instrumental in developing the R-METT for use at Ramsar Sites (Resolution XII.15). Participants reviewed the use of the METT and collected feedback on the R-METT prior to COP12. Met the staff at UNEP-WCMC who are managing the METT database.

11/5 – 14/5/2015 Bangkok, Thailand

Workshop on Global Resilience Partnership project

The IUCN-Asia Regional Office has been developing a GRP project entitled "Increasing resilience in the Ramsar Sites of the Lower Mekong Basin" involving Ramsar NFPs and the Secretariat. Workshop participants developed the Phase 2 proposal for the project. Also met the coordinator of the University Network for Wetland Ecology and Conservation Training in the Mekong Region, discussed with representatives of WWF Thailand their projects on new Ramsar Site designation in the country, and discussed the development of the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI).

Chris Perceval, Head of Partnerships

25 /2 – 26 /2/2015 Paris, France

Implementation Roadmap Workshop (World Water Forum event)

The main output was a clearer knowledge of how to co-ordinate Theme 3.2 of the World Water Forum in Korea. Guidance was provided on: running sessions, logistics, developing an implementation roadmap, working across themes, sessions and issues to ensure a coherent and action-oriented Forum.

17/3 – 20/3/2015 Rome, Italy

European Space Agency event (Mapping water bodies from space)

Intelligence gathering and partnership development. GlobWetlands has received multi-million Euro support from the EU, with strong partnership with ESA. Presented some earth observation products that could be developed to enhance the RSIS (UNEP-GRID helped develop the presentation).

10/4 – 18/4/2015 Daegu, Rep. of Korea

7th World Water Forum (with SG and DSG)

Strengthened engagement with a wide variety of organizations to raise the profile of the Convention and advance implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan. Particular emphasis was given to: a) addressing drivers of wetlands loss; b) identifying locations for prioritizing action; and c) supporting development of specific plans, as part of the "implementation roadmap", the major output of the event.

20/4 – 22/4/2015 **Geneva, Switzerland**

UN Group on Earth Observation, aquatic ecosystems event

Represented Ramsar following invitation to Prof. Roy Gardner who was not available. Explained the work that the Ramsar Convention has been carrying out through partnerships with UNEP-GRID, ESA, JAXA, Jena-Optronics and UNEP-WCMC.

13/5 – 15/5/2015 **Geneva**

UNEP-convened MEA Synergies Meeting (with the Standing Committee Vice-Chair)

Provided feedback and input to an “options paper” on strengthening synergies to be considered by UNEP Executive Director. Provided a summary of some of the activities that Ramsar is undertaking to enhance and support synergies. Strengthened specific engagement with other MEA secretariats.

21/6 – 25/6/2015 **Tbilisi, Georgia**

GEF Extended Constituency Workshops for Eastern European Countries

Gained a deeper knowledge of the GEF and what support might be useful to Parties in accessing GEF funds. Initiated a discussion with Secretariat colleagues on how the GEF might be useful in providing funds for Ramsar Regional Initiatives.

Camilla Chalmers, Head of Communications

4/2 – 5/2/2015 **Paris, France**

Launch of new Livelihoods Fund

Attended opening ceremony of the new Livelihoods Fund with a podium position next to the DG of IUCN and the key private sector supporters. Presented Ramsar to Victoria Mars (Chairman of Mars) who was there to sign up to Livelihoods. Discussed activities with key contacts within Danone, including ways to increase Livelihoods communications outreach.

12/3 – 20/3/2015 **Japan**

Visited Danone Ecole de l’eau to mark the completion of the project and sign off the last project report in order to release funds. Will work with Danone to plan Phase 2 of the project, and inform wetland education within the Evian Water Institute and elsewhere.

Visited Japanese Ramsar Sites including Hinuma Nature Park, a new Site to be designated at COP12, to arrange photographs and press materials in advance. With the SG, met Tokyo region mayors and ministers to increase Ramsar Outreach. Discussed work plans with national CEPA representatives.

11/5 – 12/5/2015 **London, UK**

Private sector outreach

Presented Ramsar and the role of wetlands to Virgin Unite and Cazenove Bank (Sustainable Investment and CSR departments) with a view to generating funding and partnerships. **Virgin Unite** builds alliances and initiatives such as the Elders, the Carbon War Room, and The B Team. It has demonstrated an interest in wetlands e.g. helping advance coastal and marine conservation through the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, and also runs Ocean Unite. **Cazenove** has a strong focus on

integrating social, environmental and ethical considerations into the mainstream investment process.

18/6/2015

Paris, France

Book of Knowledge, Danone

Briefing on a new Danone / Ramsar project for a 25-page publication, hopefully to be written by Ramsar expert Max Finlayson alongside a selection of authors, reviewed by the STRP Chair, and launched at the first of the round tables for key opinion leaders that Danone are holding in the three month period running up to UNFCCC COP21. This will position Ramsar as a leading expert in the wetlands and climate debate, and cement the relationship with Danone going into a new negotiation of the MOU.

Royal Gardner, Chair of STRP

12/1 – 17/1/2015

Bonn, Germany

Third plenary meeting of IPBES

Represented the Convention at IPBES-3. Participation was particularly useful in view of the discussion on land degradation and restoration assessment, and the inclusion freshwater ecosystems. A closing statement by the MEAs present noted the connection between land degradation and wetlands and cited the UNCCD-Ramsar statement on land degradation neutrality. A meeting between the IPBES Secretariat and representatives of the biodiversity-related conventions also took place and discussed timing of the global assessment, maximizing regional assessment processes, consultation of the Convention Secretariats' in the scoping process, strategic partnerships with the Conventions, and the role of Conventions at IPBES-4, and finally the infrastructure for a "matchmaking facility" under IPBES, to be used by the Conventions.

30/5 – 11/6/2015

Punta del Este, Uruguay

COP12

Gave the STRP Chair's report during plenary, coordinated COP-related STRP activities, and provided advice (especially with respect to DR XII.5) when requested. I also participated in five side events:

- *Implementation of the Ramsar-JICA Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC): Past, Present and Future* (moderator), sponsored by JICA;
- *State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People* (moderator and panellist), sponsored by the STRP;
- *Sustainable Use of Wetlands and Water: International Water Treaties and their Contributions to Implementing Sustainable Development Goals* (panellist), sponsored by CISDL;
- *Wetlands and Agriculture* (panellist), sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic; and
- *Unveiling the implementation tool box: IOPs' support tools and methodologies to achieve objectives of the Ramsar Convention* (moderator), sponsored by BirdLife International and IUCN.

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

SC51-07

Secretariat Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of and approve the Secretariat Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium.

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.

Annex 1

Secretariat Work Plan for the 2016 – 2018 triennium

Goal 1

Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
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.	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.	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.	SG/DSG/SRAs	by 2018
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.	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.	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.	SG/Head of Comms/ SRAs	by 2018
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.	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.	All relevant actors in both the public and private sectors fully recognize in their decision-making the benefits of maintaining wetlands and their ecosystem services.	Head of Partnerships/ Head of Comms/SRAs	by 2018

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
	In line with Resolution X.12, work with Contracting Parties and Ramsar partners to 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.	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) and other relevant guidelines in their activities and investments affecting wetlands.	SG/DSG/SRAS/ Head of Comms/ Head of Partnerships	by 2018
		Awareness-raising material made available to the public to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices.	SG/Head of Comms	by 2018
	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 2018
		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	by 2018
	Develop a global online network of cities which have obtained the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention.	Database developed of cities awarded Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, subject to resources.	SRA Africa/ SRAs/Head of Comms	by 2018
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	by 2018

Goal 2

Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.	Manage and process Ramsar Site designations and updates; Regular communication with Parties to ensure compliance with Resolutions; support for management and restoration sought through external funders.	All RIS duly completed and updated; All information on Ramsar Sites summarized and made available; letters and certificates delivered; Sites' ecological character achieved.	DSG/SRAs	Daily basis
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.	Ensure the maintenance and operation of the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS); the RSIS delivers a range of tools and support to Contracting Parties to aid their identification of gaps and priorities for further Ramsar Site designation.	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.	RSIS Core Team	Daily basis
Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.	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.	Reports to SC made by Secretariat; Parties are addressing challenges and reporting to Secretariat; threats to specific wetlands are addressed.	DSG/SRAs	3 months before each SC

Goal 3

Wisely Using All Wetlands

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
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.	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.	An easily accessible Web-based meta-database 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. Link to Resolution XII.11.	SG/Head of Comms/ DSG/ Head of Partnerships	by 2018 and updated by 2024
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.	Support Contracting Parties in promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in other sectoral policies, plans or strategies.	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).	Head of Comms/ DSG/SRAs	by 2018
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.	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.	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.	Head of Comms/SRAs/ STRP/Head of Partnerships	2016/ 2017

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.	Support Contracting Parties to increase recognition of and 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 (ibidem target 1).	Dissemination of relevant guidance (e.g. TEEB report, Ramsar handbooks) and case studies to CPs and water users.	Head of Comms/ DSG/SRAs	by 2018
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	by 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	

Goal 4

Enhancing Implementation

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader (s)	Deadline
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.	Support STRP as detailed in Annex 1 of Resolution XII.5.	STRP supported in preparation and implementation of its work plan and thematic areas.	DSG/SG/ STRP Chair/ STRP Support Officer/SRAs	
	Organise and hold STRP meeting in 2015 and during the triennium.	STRP18 held in September-October 2015; work plan developed and transmitted to Standing Committee 51 for approval.	DSG/SG/ STRP Chair/ STRP Support Officer/SRAs	Oct 2015
	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.	The State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People finalized and widely disseminated.	DSG/STRP Chair/Head of Partnerships	SC54 and COP13
	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 resources made available; STRP work plan implemented.	DSG/STRP Chair/Head of Partnerships	by 2018

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).	Manage the core funding support for Regional Initiatives; monitor their implementation in line with Resolutions; approved funds transferred to regional initiatives; advise on process and implementation progress and provide regular report to Standing Committee. 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	Annual report to SC52 and subsequent SC meetings
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. Better integration of wetland issues into national planning and priorities. Improved and increased perception of wetland values at global level.	SG/Head of Comms.	By 2024
	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	Annual report to SC52 and subsequent SC meetings
	Preparation, production, dissemination and follow up of WWD materials for the triennium. 2015 starting on 2016 WWD materials, and preparation for 2017 in 2016.	Final WWD materials produced and provided to users and use and extent measured . All WWD materials made available to all Parties and partners in good time; WWD events take place globally with support as necessary by Secretariat staff.	SG/Head of Comms	2016

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader (s)	Deadline
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. Satisfactory reports made to SC on effective financial management, including core budget and voluntary funding.	SG/Finance Officer	Annual report to SC52 and subsequent SC meetings
	The Secretariat's Partnerships team will raise non-core funds to fund priority Convention activities.	Stronger and effective increased voluntary funding.	Head of Partnerships	By 2024
	Explore alternatives and seek funding for Small Grants Fund (SGF).	Countries' access to funding facilitated through a more efficient Small Grants Fund.	Head of Partnerships	by 2024
	Evaluation and follow up process of Wetlands for the Future (WFF) projects and Swiss Grants for Africa (SGA).	On time technical and administrative follow up of funded projects. Successful on the ground implementation of the funded project contributing to the implementation of the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Africa region.	SRAs for Americas and Africa	daily basis
	Manage the Convention budget in a timely and efficient manner.	Efficient financial management undertaken. All financial reports satisfactory and approved by SC52 and SC53.	SG/Finance Officer	Annual report to SC52 and subsequent SC meetings
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 Resolutions XII.3 and XII.13.	Implement 5th Joint Work Plan with CBD MOU and report to SC. Take action jointly with CBD, UNCCD, CMS and other MEAs focal points and Ramsar AA, including capacity building. Report on MOU with UNEP.	SG/DSG/SRAs/Head of Partnerships	Report to SC52 and CS53
	Continue to build up relationship with UNESCO'S Conventions on natural heritage to drive comparable practices, standards and management of globally important sites, and support work on sites where multiple designations exist.	CMS/AEWA and UNESCO-World Heritage joint work plans followed up.	SG/DSG/SRAs/Head of Partnerships	Report to SC52 and SC53
	Work with CBD and other Biodiversity-related Conventions to ensure that Ramsar voice and	BLG meetings attended. Effective communication of Ramsar's views on key	SG/DSG	Report to SC52 and

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader (s)	Deadline
	representation of joint and separate views provided to Parties and other interested partners at MEA level.	issues; Ramsar's achievements and future actions recognized and supported by all Biodiversity-related Conventions.		CS53
	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	Report to SC52, SC53 and COP13
	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	Report to SC52, SC53 and COP13
	The Secretariat and the Chair of the STRP to continue to engage in IPBES process and explore further ways of collaboration as appropriate.	Joint action taken between Ramsar and IPBES.	DSG/STRP Chair	
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	Report to SC52 and SC53
		Engagement and capacity of stakeholders increased.	Head of Comms	Report to SC52 and SC53
		Prepare and publish the 5th edition of the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks and the Ramsar Convention Manual, subject to resource availability. Prepare and publish Ramsar Technical Reports, Factsheets, Policy Briefs, Briefing Notes and other guidance materials.	Head of Comms/DSG/SRAs/STRP	Report to SC52 and SC53
	Build up network of wetland practitioners to increase effectiveness of global actors, and use to find most important topics for capacity building and source the necessary tools for capacity	Fully functioning network set up and priority areas for capacity building identified and training modules sourced. Online library of official and non-official government	SG/Head of Comms/ SRAs	by 2018

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader (s)	Deadline
	building for the Strategic Plan and Convention.	translated Ramsar documents to be made publicly accessible, given that Parties provide such documents to the Secretariat.		
	Implementation of Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, including a mid-term review.	Strategic Plan widely disseminated to stakeholders concerned with its implementation. Modalities and scope for the review of the Ramsar Strategic Plan at COP13 established.	Head of Comms/SG	2018
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 Committees 52, 53, 54.	All documents prepared, translated and posted on the web site 3 months in advance. All logistics for sponsored delegates well organized. Outputs of SC52, 53 and 54 disseminated and follow up actions taken.	SG/all staff	3 months before SC meetings
	Organise and hold COP13 in an efficient and timely manner, including regional pre-COP meetings..	MOU with host country UAE prepared and signed at least one year before the COP.	SG/SRA Asia	by the latest 2017
		MOU with host country UAE followed up and implemented.	SG/SRA Asia	Report to each SC
		Successful regional preparatory meetings for COP13 held in all Ramsar Regions.	SRAs/DSG/Head of Partnerships	Oct 2017
		National Reports for COP13 posted online. Synthesis prepared for implementation reports to COP13. Contacts database updated with changes in National Focal Points.	SRAs/IT officer/Documentation Officer/Comms team	3 months before the COP
		All documents prepared, translated and posted on the web site 3 months in advance of the COP. All logistics for sponsored delegates well organized. Proceedings of the COP finalized and posted on the web.	SG/all staff	3 months before the COP
		COP13 held in an efficient and timely manner.	SG/all staff/host country	2018
	Periodic briefings of missions in Geneva on	Missions in Geneva fully aware of the	SG/DSG/SRAs	Once a

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader (s)	Deadline
	activities taking place between Standing Committee meetings.	Convention's work and importance of wetlands in their countries.		year
	With the Management Working Group (MWG), keep under review the existing management structures of the Secretariat and Convention and discuss relevant issues as appropriate.	Relevant Decisions of SC and MWG implemented, including actions under Resolution XII.4.	SG/all staff	Report to SC
	Undertake general administration of the Secretariat and Convention.	Secretariat provides timely and effective services to Parties and other stakeholders.	SG/all staff	daily basis

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
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.	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.	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.	SG/DSG/SRAs/ Head of Comms	by end 2016
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.	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.	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.	SG/Head of Comms/SRAs	by end 2016
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.	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.	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.	Head of Partnerships/ Head of Comms/SRAs	by end 2016
	In line with Resolution X.12, work with Contracting Parties and Ramsar partners to	Projects developed and funds raised for private sector support to improving wetland site	SG/Head of Comms/SRAs/	End 2016

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
Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.	Manage and process Ramsar Site designations and updates. Promote and explain use of R-METT through CEPA actions.	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.	SRAs/DSG/ Head of Comms	Daily basis. 3 months in advance to SC52.
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.	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.	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.	RSIS Core Team	Daily basis. 3 months in advance to SC52.
Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.	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.	Reports to SC made by Secretariat; Parties are addressing challenges and reporting to Secretariat; threats to specific wetlands are addressed.	DSG/SRAs	3 months before SC52

Goal 3

Wisely Using All Wetlands

Target	Activities	Indicator	Team Leader(s)	Deadline
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.	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.	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.	SG/Head of Comms/DSG/ Head of Partnerships	2016
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.	Support Contracting Parties in promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in other sectoral policies, plans or strategies.	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).	Head of Comms/DSG/ SRAs	end 2016
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.	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.	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.	Head of Comms/SRAs/ STRP/Head of Partnerships	2016 through 2017
Target 11: Wetland functions, services and	Support Contracting Parties to increase recognition of and attention in decision-making	Dissemination of relevant guidance (e.g. TEEB report, Ramsar handbooks) and case studies to	Head of Comms/DSG/	end 2016

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
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.	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

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

51st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 23-27 November 2015

SC51-09

Progress report on the development of the format for National Reports to COP13

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the actions and timeframe for the development of the COP13 National Report Form, provide advice on the overall approach to its development, and request the Secretariat to prepare a draft National Report Form for COP13 for consideration at its 52nd meeting.

Background

1. Following previous Standing Committee discussions during the 2013-2015 triennium, the National Report Form (NRF) for the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP12) was developed by the Secretariat, approved by Standing Committee, and issued to all Contracting Parties.
2. COP12 National Reports were received from 146 Contracting Parties, of which 131 were received in sufficient time prior to COP12 to be included in the global and regional analyses and in the overview of the implementation of the Convention's CEPA Programme 2012-2015. All of these papers were submitted to the COP as Information Papers. This level of reporting demonstrates the commitment of Parties to providing up-to-date information on their implementation of the Convention.
3. The Secretariat now holds National Report information from COP8, COP9, COP10, COP11 and COP12 National Reports, in databases which permit an analysis of trends in implementation over time, from the 2002-2005 triennium to 2012-2015.
4. The COP12 NRF information is also importantly a key data source for the STRP in its work assessing the indicators of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention.
5. In addition, under the 5th Joint Work Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar, and Ramsar's lead implementation role for wetlands for the CBD, the COP12 NRF indicators are a key source of information to assess and report to the CBD on the Biological Diversity of Inland Waters.

Consideration and timings for developing a National Report Form for COP13

6. In Resolution XII.2 *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024*, the Contracting Parties at COP12 requested the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to develop the COP13 National Report format to provide a more user-friendly instrument that reflects the goals and targets of the new Ramsar Strategic Plan, for consideration at the 51st Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC51).

7. The COP13 NRF will need to be developed and approved by the Standing Committee considerably in advance so that it can be issued to the Parties with sufficient time for them to complete and submit their reports for analysis prior to COP13.
8. Accordingly, the Secretariat will need to start to develop proposals for the COP13 NRF during 2015/2016 for approval by SC52 so that the COP13 NRF can be issued to Parties well in advance.
9. As in recent triennia, the Secretariat suggests that the format be finalized and issued as soon as possible after SC52. This would allow Parties to have the NRF available as early as possible in the triennium so they can use it to guide their continuing implementation and prepare for its completion in a timely manner. The deadline for submission of completed reports should remain as nine months before COP, for the COP13 National Reports, in September 2017. This timetable will be updated once the dates for SC52 and COP13 are agreed.
10. In the preparation of the COP13 NRF, the Secretariat would like to receive the guidance of the Standing Committee at its present meeting concerning the overall approach of the COP13 NRF. In doing so, the Standing Committee might wish to take into account that:
 - i) the new COP13 NRF should be structured in line with the Goals and Targets of the new 2016-2024 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP12 as Resolution XII.2;
 - ii) for continuity, and to permit time-series analysis and report of implementation progress, COP13 NRF indicators should as far as possible be consistent with those in previous NRFs and only develop new indicators as appropriate to the new goals and targets of the Strategic Plan;
 - iii) the advice of the STRP and other relevant group of experts in indicators, MEAs, organizations and processes should be sought concerning the adjustments or additional need for indicators;
 - iv) the advice of the CEPA Oversight Panel and CEPA Working Group should likewise be sought concerning indicators for targets 16 and 19 of the Strategic Plan;
 - v) the regional input from Contracting Parties is essential in the preparation of the NRF; and
 - vi) in preparing the proposal for the COP13 NRF, the Secretariat will review the comments provided by Contracting Parties to COP12 NRF.
11. Concerning online reporting, the Standing Committee may already be aware of the development through the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) of an online reporting platform for MEAs. This was utilized for national reporting to the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) MOP in 2012, and has been developed for national reporting to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS).
12. The Secretariat will explore the development of such an online system for national reporting by Ramsar Parties to COP13 and present an update of the progress during SC51. The Standing Committee may wish to consider whether it would be appropriate to develop such an online system for national reporting by Ramsar Parties to COP13. If any such system should be considered, two issues need to be taken into consideration. First, it will be important to retain the option of an “offline” format for those Parties without adequate Internet access, and second, any development of an online system would require a source of additional voluntary

funding to be identified. The estimated costs are outlined in Annex 3 of Resolution XII. 1 *Financial and budgetary matters*, which is copied here.

Table 1

Resolution XII. 1 Annex 3: Analysis of 2016-2018 budgeted non-core items, in order of priority

No.	NON-CORE FUNDS 2016 – 2018	3 Year Funding Requirement (CHF)
1	Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties requiring assistance	600,000
2	STRP 2016-2018 programme of work support	300,000
3	RSIS, IM/IT (Website) Continuing Development	175,000
4	Pre-COP13 regional meetings (delegates support and meeting costs for preparatory meetings)	650,000
5	COP13 (2018) sponsorship to eligible delegates	600,000
6	Arabic language introduction and translation support	250,000
7	Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands	1,000,000
8	Regional Initiative Networks and Centres support (priority activities).	150,000
9	Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021), exclusion of World Wetlands Day	300,000
10	On-line system for National Reports, reporting and indicators development	175,000
	TOTAL	4,200,000

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

51st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 23-27 November 2015

SC51-10

Progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions* and plan on how to increase cooperation with other MEAs

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of the progress on implementing **Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and Synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*** and the plan on how to increase cooperation with other MEAs and provide advice as appropriate.

Background

1. Following previous Standing Committee discussions during the 2013-2015 triennium, the Secretariat has reported on the main activities undertaken under Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions* and Resolution XI.1 on *Convention languages, visibility and ministerial COP segment, enhancing synergies with multilateral environmental agreements and other international entities*.
2. Resolution XII. 3 on *Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* instructs the Secretariat to report annually on progress in implementing Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions* to the Standing Committee.
3. Paragraph 43 of Resolution XII. 3 instructs the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with IUCN World Heritage Outlook, UNEP, UNEP-GRID, UNDP, UNESCO, Regional Economic Commissions of the UN, the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), The Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and others, and report on progress to the Standing Committee and the Contracting Parties on a regular basis.
4. The Secretariat is also requested, in paragraph 44, to continue its work with the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) to enhance coherence and cooperation and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related conventions.
5. Resolution XII.7 on *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention*, in paragraph 21, requests the Secretariat to strengthen partnerships with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as *inter alia* the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and others, in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation, respecting the mandate of each Convention; and requests the Secretariat to

provide to the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting (SC51) a plan on how to increase cooperation with other MEAs and report regularly on its actions to the Standing Committee.

6. Accordingly this report covers the main activities undertaken under Resolution XI.6, specifically activities under the BLG and the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB) (paragraph 23 and 43), work with the Secretariats of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) (paragraph 24) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and progress made with UNEP and other institutions. It also presents a plan to increase cooperation with other MEAs.

Work under the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions

7. The Ramsar Secretariat has continued to participate in the meetings and joint actions of the BLG according to its Plan for Joint Activities for the Biennium 2013-2014. In the last BLG videoconference in January 2015, key issues were discussed such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process and next steps, joint reporting information systems, GEF expanded workshops and the updated framework for cooperation and communications and public awareness. The Secretariat will attend the next meeting of the BLG in September 2015, as well as the newly formed Informal Advisory Group that now accompanies the BLG process.
8. The STRP Chair participated in the 18th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). CSAB 7, scheduled for June 2014, was not held but STRP 18 received a briefing on CSAB from CITES.

Work with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

9. The Secretariat participated in the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS in November 2014 and has requested advice on the experience on the preparation of the Online Reporting System (ORS) developed by UNEP-WCMC for the National Report Format for COP13. The Secretariat will continue to follow these developments and the resulting functionality. A visit to the Secretariat in Bonn in July gave a chance to update on our two COPs and their processes and exchange experiences.
10. The renewal of the Joint Work Plan 2012-2014 is in process and will be presented for approval at the CMS Standing Committee in October 2015 and at the Ramsar SC51 in November 2015.
11. To further strengthen the work of both Conventions in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Secretariat will participate in the CMS regional workshop for Latin American and Caribbean non-Contracting Parties in September 2015.
12. During 2014, the STRP contributed to the CMS/FAO Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds convened by the UN, and made statements on H5N8 in response to irresponsible use of disinfectants in wetland habitats in outbreak areas in Asia. In addition, an STRP expert wrote to the editors of a high-profile scientific journal (CDC's *Emerging Infectious Diseases*) with respect to a paper promoting the culling of wild birds in response to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), highlighting obligations under Ramsar and existing contrary guidance. The paper was changed in response.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

13. The STRP remains fully engaged in IPBES. The STRP Chair is an observer to the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP), and participated in IPBES-2 and IPBES-3. The Chair, or another STRP representative, has also participated in MEP meetings, emphasizing the need for assessments to include wetland and wetland restoration experts. The Land Degradation and Restoration Assessment and Regional Assessments, which are expected in early 2018, prior to Ramsar COP13, will be of particular interest to the Ramsar community. The STRP and the Secretariat have nominated some expert candidates for appointment to IPBES processes, some of whom have been appointed.

Actions to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other international institutions

14. As noted in the Secretary General's last triennium reports, the Secretariat is continuing to work to strengthen collaboration with UNDP, UNESCO, UNECE, the World Bank, WHO, WMO and others.
15. The MOU with UNEP is in the last stages prior to signing, and will be shared with the Executive Team of the Standing Committee for consideration and next steps.
16. UNEP-GRID has successfully developed our new Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) in close collaboration and we will continue to work with them on its refinement. UNEP-WCMC has been instrumental in enabling Ramsar to develop the metadata and statistical note for the monitoring of Target 6.6 of the SDGs. Closer relations with UNEP-WCMC and UNEP in Nairobi will allow us to explore better Ramsar's needs for big data and satellite analysis of the state of wetlands including Ramsar Sites, as well as informing the preparation of the National Report Format for COP13. Finally, in July 2015, Ramsar provided a letter of support to UNEP-DHI for the next phase of the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme and will exchange information with this programme on transboundary wetland areas.

Collaboration with UNESCO

17. Follow up on the successful 2013 launch of the Ramsar Chair on Wise Use of Wetlands, the costs of the Ramsar Chair are being covered by Charles Sturt University and the UNESCO centre, and he is giving us support to prepare technical training material for distance learning for wetland managers and for policy work, in close cooperation with the STRP and Secretariat and in response to actual needs.
18. The Secretariat is also collaborating with a new global GEF project with UNESCO's groundwater group, following up from our successful project in the groundwater-fed wetlands of the Mediterranean.
19. A joint Ramsar/IUCN/UNESCO project is now in full swing on how to manage sites that have more than one designation under Ramsar, the World Heritage Convention (WHC), GeoParks or MAB. This is a new project with Republic of Korea funding for better management of internationally important sites with multiple designations, and is a positive step in getting substantial equivalence. The Secretary General participated in a side event on this project at UNESCO's 39th meeting of Parties and discussed the further development of the project in Jeju, R.O.Korea with officials. The DSG participated in the detailed workshop on the project in Jeju in April 2015, and the project was presented in a side event at Ramsar COP12 in June 2015. The

draft report of the project is now available, and the final report will be presented at the IUCN Congress in Hawaii in October 2016.

Plan to increase cooperation with other MEAs

20. The Secretariat has signed Memorandums of Cooperation and agreed Joint Work Plans with three of the biodiversity-related conventions, the CBD, the CMS and the WHC.
21. The Secretariat has also been involved in collaborations with the biodiversity-related conventions such as the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (INFORMEA), and has been part of the project *“Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”* with UNEP.
22. An MOU has also been signed with the UNCCD and, in the 2014 World Parks Congress, an alliance was announced to work with UNCCD to ensure restoration of drylands and wetlands. Planned interventions in the UNCCD COP13 in Ankara in October and in events in UNFCCC COP21 in Paris are already in hand, while discussions are continuing on ways to work together to help Parties access a UNCCD-led large scale private sector-funded programme to assure Land Degradation Neutrality and restore 12 million hectares of land into productive ecosystems every year, with a potential emphasis on the restoration of wetlands and the high returns on this restorative effort.
23. The Secretariat has been developing closer relations with the UNFCCC and received their direct assistance for COP12 and in preparation for their COP21 in Paris and will seek to increase engagement and signature of a possible MOU in light of the alignment of the goals of the two conventions. The high value of wetlands in relation to carbon capture and possible release is fully realized and actions to maintain or increase the carbon stocks in wetlands are understood to be within the scope and interests of the UNFCCC.
24. Close relations are maintained with UNECE as part of our efforts to link Ramsar with the implementation of water policies at the basin level and especially as the UNECE Water Convention moves to become a global convention where the synergies between our two conventions will be even more relevant and mutually advantageous. We will be involved in the upcoming 3rd Assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater as we were involved in the 2nd Assessment. Our Parties are keen to see greater relationships between the programmes of UNECE and Ramsar at the national level, and we are working to facilitate this by mutual support to all meetings and initiatives.
25. More remains to be done to ensure that the full potential of the relationship is realized, but counterpart UNECE staff and European Parties are all supportive of this collaboration. Our network of contacts around the world will be of assistance to UNECE as it expands the membership around the world. The formation of a Water Hub in Geneva by the Swiss government will also help us to cement closer relations between all the bodies working in the water and wetlands arena.
26. As indicated in the previous section the Secretariat participates actively with other MEAs, and as paragraph 44 of Resolution XII.3 indicates, the Secretariat will investigate, within limited resources, how to concentrate efforts:

- a. To increase cooperation, coordination and attention to synergies in the exploration of reporting systems, including future online reporting systems and indicators, as a means to increase synergies in national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions;
- b. To consider ways and means to increase cooperation on outreach and communication strategies;
- c. Find options for enhanced cooperation with regard to work on cross-cutting issues;

Based on the above, the Secretariat presents to SC51 the annexed plan to increase cooperation with other MEAs for their consideration and advice.

Plan to increase cooperation with other MEAs

Convention	Action	Indicator	Deadline
Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)	Participation in meetings of the BLG and implement agreed actions.	Implementation of agreed actions and report to Standing Committee as appropriate.	SC52, 53, 54
	Provide inputs for the update of the biennial framework for cooperation for 2013-2014 agreed by the BLG at its eighth meeting.	Agreed framework for cooperation 2015-2016.	SC52, 53, 54
	Under paragraph 44 of Resolution XII.3: a. To increase cooperation, coordination and attention to synergies in the exploration of reporting systems, including future online reporting systems and indicators, as a means to increase synergies in national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions; b. To consider ways and means to increase cooperation on outreach and communication strategies; c. Options for enhanced cooperation with regard to work on cross-cutting issues.	Increased synergies in national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions, cooperation actions and communication strategies and cross-cutting issues. Report to Standing Committee.	SC52, 53, 54
Convention on Biological Biodiversity (CBD)	Implementation of 5 th Joint Work Plan with the CBD in areas of common interest including: a. supporting complementary and/or harmonized national reporting, including the role of CBD and Ramsar national reports in measuring the implementation of this JWP b. collaborating to meet the goals of both conventions' strategic plans, to best monitor and assess the respective achievements in the context of biodiversity and wetlands; c. engaging with major groups and partners in the full implementation of the	Effective implementation of the joint actions and reporting to respective Convention bodies	SC52, 53, 54

Convention	Action	Indicator	Deadline
	provisions of both conventions as related to priority issues for the conservation, wise use and international cooperation around wetlands.		
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	<p>Under the framework of the MOU of Cooperation and Joint Work Plan 2015-2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. To support national policy initiatives for coordinated implementation of the CMS and Ramsar Conventions. b. To take opportunities for facilitating mutual participation in relevant meetings under either Convention, including Ramsar Regional Initiatives and those organized under CMS auspices and workshops of technical topics of mutual interest. c. To define and operate (monitor, assess, report on) relevant biodiversity indicators to evaluate effectiveness of Convention implementation. d. Information, outreach and capacity building. 	Implementation of agreed activities of mutual interest and report to Standing Committees as appropriate	SC52, 53, 54
Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage (UNESCO, World Heritage Convention)	<p>Under the MOU:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Exchange of information on a regular basis on specific aspects which are of mutual interest and benefit; b. Sharing of information with the view to identification and designation of potential wetland sites that may meet the criteria for nomination as World Heritage and/or as Wetlands of International Importance, including transboundary sites and habitats that may be critical for the protection of watersheds and catchments. c. Sharing information, databases, staff mission reports and other materials as well as to undertake joint missions to enable early detection of threats to Ramsar Sites which are designated as World Heritage Sites and undertake necessary studies and analyses to identify measures for the mitigation of such threats; 	Implementation of priority and common areas of interest and report to convention bodies as appropriate.	SC52,53, 54

Convention	Action	Indicator	Deadline
	<p>d. In cooperation with the Contracting Parties to the Conventions, develop programmes and projects for strengthening conservation of specific sites which are recognized by the two Conventions</p> <p>e. invite each other's participation, and concurrence as appropriate, in meetings, field visits to sites, design, organization and conduct of training, education and information dissemination activities and other activities to promote awareness of the Parties on the relationships between the application of the two Conventions.</p>		
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD)	<p>Under the MOU, prepare a work programme and develop a Joint Work Plan on the following areas of collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the possibility of harmonizing the reporting requirements of Contracting Parties under both Conventions; • institutional cooperation; • exchange of information and experience; • capacity building or training; • science and technology; • “Bonn Challenge” to help restore 150 million hectares by collaboration to achieve wetland and dryland restoration; • establish an appropriate platform for cooperation aiming at providing scientific and technical support as well as easing the access to financial resources for affected countries. 	Agreed work programme and annual Joint Work Plan on areas of common interest and report as appropriate to the Standing Committee.	SC52, 53, 54
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Participation on IPCC and preparation of a Joint Work Plan under Ramsar framework on climate change.	Agreements achieved on work areas for collaboration with the IPCC and Joint Work Plan with the UNFCCC prepared.	SC52, 53. 54

Regional initiatives in the framework of the Ramsar Convention

Actions requested:

- Standing Committee is invited to take note of progress with work requested through Resolution XII.8 since COP12.
- On 22 November 2015, the Secretariat is organizing a workshop for the leaders of Ramsar's regional initiatives. An oral report on its results will be tabled at agenda point 14.
- Standing Committee is invited to endorse the proposals of new regional initiatives. An oral report on proposals received is tabled at agenda point 14.
- Written reports on progress of work in 2015 and planned activities of the regional initiatives in 2016, and draft revised Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives will be submitted to the 52nd meeting of the Standing Committee.

Introduction

1. At COP7 in 1999, the Ramsar Contracting Parties recognized regional cooperation as an effective way for them to promote and better implement the objectives of the Convention. This triggered the establishment and development of formally established regional cooperation mechanisms which have since been referred to as "regional initiatives". This regional cooperation between Parties at international level is realized in two forms: either through physically established *Ramsar Regional Centres* for regional training and capacity building, or through *Ramsar Regional Networks* that are set up to support regional cooperation.
2. For the past triennium (2012-2015), the Standing Committee endorsed 15 regional initiatives (including four regional centres and eleven regional networks) as meeting the *Operational Guidelines 2013-2015 for Regional Initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands* as approved by the 46th meeting of the Standing Committee. An overview of them, and links to their respective websites, are provided on the Ramsar website here: <http://www.ramsar.org/activity/ramsar-regional-initiatives>.
3. At COP12, the Contracting Parties recalled that regional initiatives are intended as operational means to provide effective support for an improved implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan through international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern (Resolution XII. 8, paragraph 1).
4. They instructed the Standing Committee, through Resolution XII.8, paragraph 9, to undertake a review of the *Operational Guidelines* and to adopt the necessary amendments no later than during its 52nd meeting (SC52). To this end, the Secretariat will prepare draft revised guidelines and submit them to the regional initiatives in early September 2015. On 22 November 2015, it is planned that the leaders of the regional initiatives will edit them further during a workshop organized by the Secretariat. These revised draft guidelines will be submitted to SC52 for adoption.

5. In response to paragraph 6 of Resolution XII.8, the Secretariat contacted all Contracting Parties through Diplomatic Note 2015/5 in August 2015, requesting that new regional initiatives to be developed during the 2016-2018 triennium submit information on their objectives, work plan, governance structure and funding sources by 23 October 2015, in order that such information can be submitted to SC51 for possible endorsement of such initiatives as operating in the framework of the Ramsar Convention.
6. Resolution XII.8 (paragraphs 12 and 15) requested the Standing Committee to continue to assess annually the functioning of Ramsar regional initiatives and to determine financial support from the Convention core budget to individual initiatives. The Secretariat will prepare a proposal for SC52 to this end, based on the annual reports on progress with work in 2015 and planned activities for 2016. Established regional initiatives and new initiatives endorsed by SC51 will be invited to submit these documents by the end of February 2016 to be considered for possible support.
7. Resolution XII.8 (paragraph 21) requested the Secretariat to assess the achievements, and analyse weaknesses, strengths and difficulties of regional initiatives, and to formulate recommendations for improving the *Operational Guidelines*. This will be done in cooperation with the initiatives, with the first workshop on regional initiatives on 22 November 2015 providing an opportunity to the leaders of the initiatives to make inputs to the assessment report that will eventually be published on the Ramsar website.
8. During their workshop, representatives from the regional initiatives will also consider, together with the Secretariat, how to publicize their achievements and maintain regular contacts with the Secretariat, as requested through Resolution XII.8 (paragraphs 18-20). The conclusions will be presented orally to SC51.

CEPA Action Plan for the Ramsar Secretariat 2016-2024

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited to consider and approve the CEPA Action Plan for 2016-2024.

Background

1. A consultation draft of the “*Communication / CEPA Action Plan for the Ramsar Secretariat 2016-2021*” was presented to the 49th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC49) and several of the Parties present gave feedback for its further development and requested that it be resubmitted for further consideration by Standing Committee.¹
2. The Secretary General also reported to the 12th Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP12) that the proposed CEPA Action Plan had been presented to SC49 and would be refined and presented again to the Standing Committee for approval.
3. The annexed Action Plan has been amended in line with the specific feedback given at SC49, and updated to reflect the 4th Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 approved through Resolution XII.2 and the CEPA Programme for the same period approved through Resolution XII.9.

Overview of the CEPA Action Plan

4. This CEPA Action Plan sets out a unifying framework for all the planned actions on Communications and CEPA activities (communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness) that are led by the Ramsar Secretariat.
5. In order to change the continuing global trends of wetland loss and degradation, the 4th Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention will focus on four overall goals during the 2016-24 period:
 - Strategic Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation
 - Strategic Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network
 - Strategic Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands
 - Operational Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation
6. These four goals and their underlying 19 targets form the basis for all Communications activities, which are designed to bring to life the CEPA Programme vision:

“People taking action for the conservation and wise use of wetlands”

¹ See the SC49 report, Agenda item 6, paragraphs 23 to 36, at www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/sc49_report_decisions_e.pdf.

7. The overview table on pages 10-12 shows how all Communication/CEPA activities support the goals and targets of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan, and also how each activity corresponds with the nine CEPA goals and the 43 underlying CEPA targets. Within this framework, this action plan also lists how the specific scientific and technical guidance materials that the Secretariat will be provided to support the STRP thematic areas.

Annex 1

CEPA Action Plan for the Ramsar Secretariat 2016-2024 Consultation Draft

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Annex A: CEPA Goals and Targets

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I. Context

1. Mission of the Ramsar Convention

The Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 reaffirms the Mission of the Convention as:

“Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.

“To achieve this Mission it is essential that vital ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature are fully recognized, maintained, restored and wisely used.”

The Strategic Plan also has a clear Vision:

“Wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all.”

To achieve this Mission, and bring the Vision to life, it is essential that the vital ecosystem services, and especially those related to water and those that wetlands provide to people and nature through their natural infrastructure, are fully recognized, maintained, restored and wisely used.

2. Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024: Goals and Targets

In order to change the downward of global trend of wetland loss and degradation, the Ramsar Convention will focus on just four overall goals and 19 underlying targets during the 2016-24 period. In the tables 10 in section III.9 below, the Secretariat’s CEPA activities are all cross-referenced to support them:

Strategic Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation

The multiple human impacts on wetlands are growing. Influencing the drivers of wetland degradation and loss and the integration of the role of wetland values (monetary and non-monetary) into planning and decision-making requires the development of a methodology that enables wetland resources and ecosystem benefits to be assessed so that the multiple environmental functions and benefits are understood widely within societies. Contracting Parties, the Secretariat, Regional Initiatives and IOPs will enhance their engagement with relevant stakeholders in order to diminish threats, influence trends, restore wetlands and communicate good practices.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Target 4: Invasive alien species 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.

Strategic Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network

Ramsar Sites constitute the largest network of officially recognized internationally important wetland areas in the world. This network constitutes the backbone of a larger network of wetlands. Parties must commit themselves to efforts to protect and effectively manage the existing Ramsar Sites and enable the full and effective participation of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as to expanding the reach of the Convention by continuously working to add more sites and areas of wetlands recognized under the Convention.

Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.

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.

Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.

Strategic Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands

The wise use of all wetlands requires that Parties ensure they are addressing wetlands beyond those currently included in the Ramsar Site network. This work may occur at the national, subnational, regional, and transboundary levels, including at basin level. Mainstreaming recognition of ecosystem functions, services and benefits into a wide range of sectors and with a broad array of actors will help ensure the success of this effort.

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.

Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, *inter alia*, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.

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.

Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.

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.

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.

Operational Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation

It will be vital for the survival of wetlands and the success of the Convention for Parties to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan. Various approaches will help strengthen the implementation of the three Strategic Goals, and ultimately of the Convention itself. They involve critical actions to

be undertaken by Contracting Parties themselves, and in partnership with other Parties and other entities, in particular with regard to scientific and technical advice and guidance, resource mobilization, public awareness, visibility and capacity building. The Ramsar Secretariat will also play a vital role in raising awareness and visibility of the Convention, as well as mobilizing resources to support enhanced implementation.

- 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.
- 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.
- Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.
- Target 17: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.
- Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.
- Target 19: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.

3. CEPA Vision and Strategies

Working towards the defined Strategic Goals, all communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) activities aim to trigger action. Thus, the vision laid out in the CEPA Programme for 2016-24 is:

“People taking action for the conservation and wise use of wetlands”

Nine CEPA Goals outline how Secretariat activities will help mobilize people to take action. These Goals and their underlying targets are listed in full in Annex A, and are cross-referenced in the table of CEPA activities at section III.9 below:

Goal 1

Ensure leadership to support effective implementation of the Programme by providing institutional mechanisms and establishing and supporting relevant networks.

Goal 2

Integrate CEPA processes, where appropriate, into all levels of policy development, planning and implementation of the Convention.

Goal 3

Provide support to implementers of wise use principles, especially those with a direct role in site management.

Goal 4

Build the individual, institutional and collective capacity of people with a direct responsibility for Ramsar implementation.

Goal 5

Develop and support mechanisms to ensure multi-stakeholder participation in wetland management.

Goal 6

Implement programmes, projects and campaigns targeting diverse sectors of society to increase awareness, appreciation and understanding of wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide.

Goal 7

Recognize and support the role of wetland centres and other environmental centres as catalysts and key actors for activities that promote Ramsar objectives.

Goal 8

Support the development and distribution of education materials that build awareness of ecosystem values and services and the value of wetlands for use in formal education settings, at Ramsar Sites and by all Ramsar actors.

Goal 9

Ensure that the guidance and information provided by the STRP is developed in line with adopted Resolution and in close collaboration with the CEPA programme and dissemination to the identified target audiences is ensured through the most effective communications channels.

4. Ramsar potential collaborator landscape

Ramsar is competing for both attention and funding in a very crowded space. A detailed list of the most active organizations in global wetlands, biodiversity, water and environmental space is included as Annex C. In addition, a conceptual mapping of the players most relevant to Ramsar is included as Annex D.

These potential collaborators can be clustered into several groups – and a cross-section of these players are also IOPs – core organizations that already assist in implementation of the Convention:

- Major UN development and climate organizations
- Biodiversity, water and environmental conventions
- Biodiversity-related organizations and NGOs
- Water-related organizations and NGOs

Ramsar's unique status as a Convention that addresses water, biodiversity, climate change, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and well-being issues will be important in the post-2015 SDG environment.

5. Key drivers for CEPA activity planning

Considering Ramsar's overall mission, its strategic intent to stop and reverse the trend of wetlands loss and degradation, the need to communicate to the world on the importance of wetlands, the CEPA programme, and the Convention's crowded collaborator landscape, the following considerations drive the CEPA activity planning:

- Policy-makers and wetland practitioners are the two groups that have the best potential for taking action – and having impact on – the wise use of wetlands. These two groups each require

guidance materials that are tailored to them, and provided in the three languages of the Convention:

- Policy makers require specific information on types of policies that are effective.
 - Wetland practitioners have a need for more effective capacity-building (i.e. training) materials, with focus at site level.
- The benefits of wetlands are still essentially unknown to the wider public, and need to be phrased in ways that capture the public imagination. With very limited budget to do this, youth aged 15-24 are the best entry point.
 - World Wetlands Day is the major event that can be most useful in motivating a wider public audience to action on wetlands.
 - The crowded collaborative space is both a challenge and an opportunity. Given the emerging water focus in the SDGs, Ramsar has the opportunity to highlight its focus on a unique range of water, biodiversity, climate change, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and well-being issues, positioning the Convention at the real “source” of sustainable development.

II. Implementation strategy

6. Target groups

The CEPA Programme 2016-24 enumerates some 27 possible target groups for outreach efforts. In the context of the new Strategic Plan and the new modus operandi for the STRP, two primary target groups have been identified for the Convention’s scientific and technical guidance: policy-makers and wetland practitioners.

This confirms the prioritization made by Secretariat staff in a workshop on 15 May 2014, where the same two groups were identified as the most important for influencing wetland outcomes, plus several other secondary target groups:

Primary target group A: policy-makers

For most outreach activities of the Ramsar Secretariat, this group consists of decision-makers at the national level who have the actual power to set wetlands policy, and the direct advisors who are charged with briefing them. In more decentralized countries, this may extend to a sub-national or even local level. Broadly, this group requires summary pragmatic policy-making suggestions, backed up with well-grounded scientific and technical arguments and successful real-life examples of how to integrate wetland considerations into policies.

Primary target group B: wetland practitioners

This group consists of those who are responsible for the day-to-day management of wetland areas and protected sites, those who supervise them, and those who are critical to the Convention’s implementation on the ground: NFPs, AA contacts, and IOPs. This group will generally require more specific advice and guidance on what actions are most effective in the management of wetlands and protected areas, as well as relevant case studies from similar situations, and answers to specific questions.

Secondary target group C: Private sector partners – current and potential

Building on existing partnerships with Danone-Evian and Star Alliance Biosphere Connections, target other private sector companies in sectors with a relation to or interest in water and wetlands; e.g. tourism, mining, agriculture, fishing and food processing.

Secondary target group D: High net worth individuals/celebrities

This group consists of high net worth individual and celebrities who have an interest in environmental and wetland-related issues, and can play a significant transmitter or ambassador role for the Convention.

Secondary target group E: General public with youth focus

In the Ramsar context of extremely limited budgets, but a real desire to make a difference in the long term, it makes sense to target youth aged 15-24 as a transmitter group for reaching a wider public. This also dovetails with the primary target group for Danone-Evian; sponsors of World Wetlands Day.

7. Key messages**Top-level messaging**

At the top level, the five broad messages that all CEPA activities by the Secretariat should echo in order to support the Ramsar Strategic Plan goals and the CEPA programme are:

- Wetlands and their services and benefits to humanity
- Wetlands loss and the urgency to tackle loss and degradation
- Best practices and case studies of successful policies for the wise use of wetlands
- Best practices and exchange of experiences of wise use in wetlands
- What can I do to take action on wetlands?

Guidance on STRP thematic areas

For specific scientific and technical guidance and capacity-building materials, five specific thematic areas have been provisionally proposed for the STRP 2016-18 triennium. The decision on the actual five specific thematic areas rests with the Parties and the current set is placed in this context to look at possible impacts. These are labelled G1 to G5 here for later reference in Sections 10g and 10h:

G1 - Best practice methodologies / tools to monitor Ramsar sites, including surveying, mapping, and inventorying

G2 - Best practices for developing and implementing management plans for protected areas / Ramsar sites

G3 - Methodologies for valuation of goods and services of wetlands

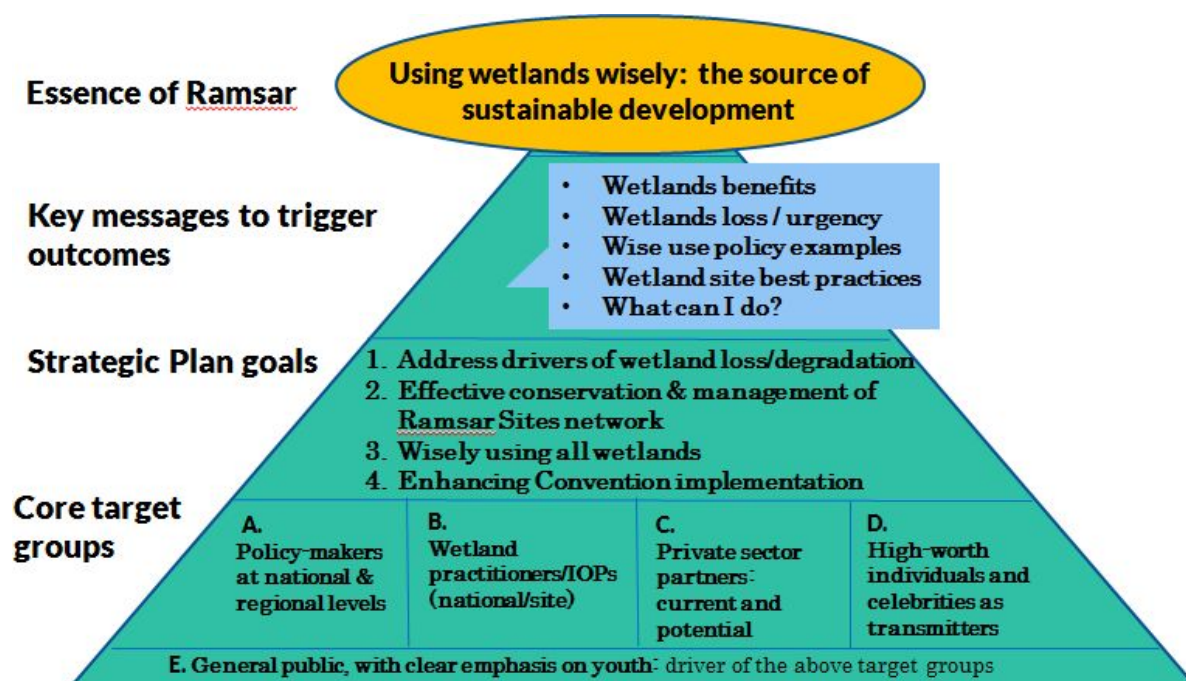
G4 - Balancing wetland conservation and development – infrastructure, urbanization and agriculture

G5 - Climate change and wetlands: methodologies for carbon capture

CEPA Goal 9 mandates that STRP guidance materials are developed in close collaboration with the CEPA programme, and this CEPA action plan integrates all guidance materials that are currently foreseen for the next triennium, including all Ramsar Briefing Notes and Ramsar Technical Reports, cross-referenced to indicate which CEPA targets each item supports. The consultant review of STRP communications on how to increase the effectiveness of scientific and technical guidance materials is included as Annex E of this document.

8. Ramsar Brand Pyramid

Summarizing the target groups, outcomes, messaging and Ramsar proposed essence or positioning in the post-2015 SDG environment:



III. Ramsar Secretariat CEPA activities

The list of Ramsar Secretariat CEPA activities is outlined in table form on the following three pages, illustrating one activity in each row. This is cross-referenced to show how each activity aligns with the goals and targets of the 4th Strategic Plan, and which of the 43 CEPA targets it supports (primary in dark green, secondary in light green).

All CEPA activities in this overview table are each explained in further detail in section 10, starting on page 14.

9. Overview table of Ramsar Secretariat CEPA activities

	Supporting CEPA Strategies																								Supporting SP Goal 1				SP Goal 2	SP Goal 3	SP Goal 4														
	Strategy 1				Strategy 2				Strategy 3				Strategy 4				Strategy 5				Strategy 6				Strategy 7				Strategy 8				Strategy 9				Addressing drivers of wetland loss/ degradation	Effectively conserving & managing the Ramsar Site Network	Wisely using all wetlands	Enhancing Convention implementation					
CEPA Strategic Objectives	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4				
a. Corporate identity/branding																																													
Review logo, mascot, strapline																																													T15
Stationery																																													T15
PowerPoint template																																													T15
Ramsar Site and visitor centre signage																																													T10
b. Online actions																																													
Ramsar website																																													T1,2,3,4
Improve data search/document access																																													T5
Provide for 'citizen scientist' input																																													T10
Integrate RSIS platform																																													T5
Integrate STRP platform																																													T5
Google grant																																													T13,18
Photo database																																													T15
Contacts database																																													T15
Quarterly SG e-newsletter																																													T1,3
Video on wetland benefits																																													T10
WWD online support:																																													T10
WWD sub-website																																													T3
WWD Google doodle																																													T15
c. Social media																																													
Facebook page (stories)																																													T3
Twitter SG feed																																													T1,3
Instagram																																													T1,3
d. Events																																													
World Wetlands Day (WWD)																																													T3
COP12 and COP13 meetings																																													

	Supporting																								Supporting	SP Goal 2	SP Goal 3	SP Goal 4														
	CEPA Strategy 1	CEPA Strategy 2	CEPA Strategy 3	CEPA Strategy 4	CEPA Strategy 5	CEPA Strategy 6	CEPA Strategy 7	CEPA Strategy 8	CEPA Strategy 9	Addressing drivers of wetland loss/ degradation	Effectively conserving & managing the Ramsar Site Network	Wisely using all wetlands	Enhancing Convention implementation																													
	Effect. CEPA imp	Processes	Guid. material	Build capacity	Multi-stakeh.	Awareness	Wetl. ctrs	Edu. mater.	STRP supp.																																	
CEPA Strategic Objectives	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5	4.1	4.2	4.3	4.4	4.5	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.4	5.5	6.1	6.2	6.3	6.4	7.1	7.2	7.3	7.4	8.1	8.2	8.3	8.4	9.1	9.2	9.3	9.4	
Ramsar Briefing Notes/Policy Briefs (cont.)																																										
Policy Brief: balancing dev - rural/agricult.																																										
Practitioner: balancing dev - urban wetl																																										
Practitioner: balancing dev - rural/agricult.																																										
Policy Brief: promoting wetlands for CCS																																										
Practitioner: how-to of wetland CCS																																										
Ramsar Technical Reports																																										
Protected area management (freshwater)																																										
New ed RTR3 wetland valuation																																										
How/why of wetl carbon capture/storage																																										
Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks																																										
Overhaul as training units and as PPTs																																										
Other publications																																										
Ramsar Effect pilot																																										
Ramsar Compendium pilot																																										
h. Capacity Development																																										
Ramsar Regional Workshops																																										
4 WS: survey/map/inv/monitoring																																										
4 WS: site mgmt lifecycle																																										
4 WS: valuing wetlands																																										
4 WS: balancing wetland development																																										
Ramsar Webinars																																										
Survey/map/inv/monitoring (En/Fr/Spa)																																										
Site mgmt lifecycle (En/Fr/Spa)																																										
Valuing coastal/marine wetlands (En/Fr/Sp)																																										
Valuing inland wetlands (En/Fr/Sp)																																										
Balancing wetl developmt - urban (En/Fr/Sp)																																										

10. Description of Ramsar Secretariat CEPA activities

This section outlines individual measures in more detail than is possible in the table, and notes the relevant primary CEPA targets that each activity is designed to support, and specifies if the funding is to be derived from core sources or from non-core.

10a. Corporate identity/branding (core funds)

Ramsar's corporate identity should be reviewed, with an emphasis on the brand positioning as "the source of sustainable development." This also supports CEPA targets 3.1 and 6.4, This review should consider:

- Ramsar strapline to express positioning
- Clean and consistent visual identity that includes website plus
- Powerpoint presentation template
- Publications, stationery, labelling and file management
- Ramsar Site and visitor centre signage guidelines
- Initiating a review of Ramsar logo
- Developing a mascot that could become associated with the Convention

10b. Online actions

Ramsar website (core funds)

The Ramsar website is the key face of the Convention to the world, with CEPA targets 3.2, 6.2, 8.4 and 9.4. at its core. The top level take-away from the home page items should systematically focus on the five defined key messages:

- Wetlands and their services and benefits to humanity
- Wetlands loss and the urgency to tackle loss and degradation
- Best practices and case studies of successful policies for the wise use of wetlands
- Best practices and exchange of experiences of wise use in wetlands
- What can I do to take action on wetlands?

The recent website overhaul has improved the look and feel considerably, but further refinements should be made to:

- Improve data search needs and improve document accessibility
- Migrate the Ramsar Sites Information System into the main Ramsar website
- Allow for more "citizen scientist" input, e.g. for site visitors being able to tag specific Ramsar Sites, and to add photos and other data items related to local history and culture. This will result in a much richer data set based on the experience of Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and the UK.

In line with CEPA Goal 9 and its underlying targets 9.1 through 9.4, the current STRP collaboration website should be integrated into the current Ramsar website:

- Add a Tools menu point at the top level, accessing all guidance material content in this order:
 - Ramsar Briefing Notes
 - Ramsar Policy Briefs
 - Ramsar Technical Reports
 - Ramsar Webinars
 - Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks (later to become Wise Use training materials)
 - Ramsar Fact Sheets

Default appearance in each page is a thumbnail list and brief description in order of publication with most recently published at the top; tag all documents thoroughly (title, authors, topics, type) to the website search function

- Add a collaboration function for the sharing/reviewing of RBNs and RTRs, similar to current functionality on STRP sub-website

Google grant funding should prioritize key search terms related to wetlands, supporting CEPA targets 6.2 and 6.4.

Photo database (core funds)

CEPA target 6.3 specifies the creation of photo libraries and other tools. This means creating an internally-accessible photo database with clear delineation of usage rights acquired and credit attributions required, ideally indexed by location, Ramsar Site name (if applicable) and topic.

Contacts database (core funds)

As part of CEPA targets 1.4 and 1.5, create one single master contacts database to facilitate e-mailing lists and the triggering of action on the ground. This should encompass and be filterable for:

- Communications and CEPA contacts
- Wetland Practitioner network
- Parties and other Convention implementers including Ramsar AAs, NFPs, STRP Focal Points, IOPs
- Other key wetland stakeholders

Quarterly SG newsletter (core funds)

A quarterly e-newsletter formatted as a personal update from the Secretary General should specifically target senior level policy-makers, top-level management of IOPs, giving insider impressions on key issues and recent sustainable development related events. This senior level “eye-to-eye” message form is designed to raise the profile of the Convention and help move wetland issues back up the international agenda. It primarily supports CEPA targets 2.3 and 6.1.

Video on wetlands benefits (non-core funds)

Supporting CEPA target 6.3, a dramatic short video (approx. 3 min) should be developed to underline the vital importance of wetlands for humanity, their alarming loss, and what one can do at an individual level. This would be placed on the website and used in social media.

Online support for World Wetlands Day (non-core funds)

In support of CEPA targets 1.6 and 6.1, a sub-website with the www.worldwetlandsday.org address should form the online focus of the World Wetlands Day event in the years 2016-2018. This should include facilities for:

- Entering the photo contest and rating photos in a gallery
- Download of materials for teachers and organizers
- Making a pledge to take action for wetlands

In parallel, a Google doodle for World Wetlands Day would give added visibility to the event. Social media support (twitter, Instagram and Facebook) with the Ramsar hashtags should drive traffic to the WWD website and raise awareness of the photo contest and Ramsar generally.

10c. Social media (core funds)

Social media offer a way of reaching the key target groups on a very personal level, as mandated in CEPA target 6.4. To use social media effectively, the five Ramsar key messages should be packaged in 'sound bites' that are interesting, comment-worthy and likely to be redistributed.

- Facebook: RamsarConventiononWetlands

Maximize likes and sharing why wetlands are vital to humanity.

- Twitter: RamsarConv

Use to underline current events and reaction to specific developments. Use the separate Secretary General twitter account for an insider account of key international conferences and developments.

- Instagram: ramsar_convention_on_wetlands

Use to capture imagery from WWD photo contest and increase public appreciation of wetlands and their services and benefits

10d. Events

World Wetlands Day (non-core funds)

As specified in CEPA targets 1.6 and 6.1, World Wetlands Day is the Convention's key event for public outreach, and the centrepiece of the partnership with Danone-Evian. In line with the Ramsar target group definitions, the focus is on youth aged 15-24, as transmitters to a wider public. WWD activities should aim to:

- Encourage youth to encounter wetlands directly
- Enable educators and organizers to provide arguments about the importance of wetlands and their alarming loss
- Provide a "next step" for youth to take in the form of pledges or other measures

Develop a consistent long-term strategy for the years 2016-18:

- Use the Ramsar brand positioning as the permanent theme over this period: **"using wetlands wisely: the source of sustainable development"**. Within this broad theme, define one sub-topic for each year.
- Coordinate this topic of the year and the overall international calendar of awareness days in consultation with other key players in the water, biodiversity and sustainability space, relating to the UN annual themes.

Publications and online and social media support measures for WWD are outlined in the respective sections.

COP 12 and COP13 (non-core funds)

Use COP meetings as an opportunity for generating wider public awareness of wetland issues.

Include the following elements in the planning of each COP:

- Keynote speaker drawn from private sector, ideally with media appeal
- Exhibition
- Roster of side events
- Ramsar Awards ceremony

10e. Partnership activities (non-core funds)

CEPA target 1.5 mandates cultivating relationships with organizations that can help advance the Ramsar agenda. A range of partnership activities are specifically designed to deepen existing relationships and to develop productive new alliances:

Danone- Evian partnership

There is potential to underline a “pure source” messaging across all joint activities to integrate Ramsar’s brand positioning and Evian’s emphasis on purity/balance. Strengthen this cooperation on three main pillars:

- Pre-Curieux Ramsar Site as unique purity credential – make into a “super-site” with coordinated branding and activities in the catchment area
- Ramsar Awards with Youth Award coverage
- World Wetlands Day

Use the Evian model in other water-savings and production facilities around the world, leading to payment for wetland ecosystem services. (e.g. Villavicenzio)

Star Alliance Biosphere Connections partnership

Take advantage of all channels in the existing agreement including editorial and advertising in in-flight magazines, use of a Ramsar video, and promotion of the WWD photo contest.

IUCN partnership

Deepen relationship with Ramsar host organization. Work with them to build on the IUCN World Heritage Outlook study, highlighting stories relating to the Ramsar Sites that share UNESCO designation, and explain how Ramsar actions have helped to move sites from high risk categories to low risk sites and obtain better managed sites.

“Super-league” site category

For sites that have combined Ramsar/IUCN/UNESCO designation, develop a new combined “super-league” designation with its own logo and signage, and align processes for designation and management. Work with countries such as Korea in developing targeted activities to heighten the profile of specific sites.

Global Partnership for Wetlands Restoration

Develop a multilateral alliance of private- and public-sector players to integrate existing efforts and ensure that they target sites with the highest priority. Ensure that good works are added up to assess support of Bonn Challenge target. Promote through website and press engagement.

Cultural Ambassadors programme

Create the role of Cultural Ambassadors for wetlands: enriching the experience and understanding of Ramsar’s Sites of International Importance through artistic expression. Add to the compendium of information about each Ramsar site, with photographs, paintings, sculptures or written words to complement the scientific data.

10f. Press engagement (core funds)

Public relations strategy

Collaboration with media is the heart of CEPA target 6.4. To support this, an overall public relations strategy will be developed; one that seeks to position Ramsar at the centre of water, biodiversity, climate change, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and well-being issues. This effort will include:

- Positioning the SG, DSG and Regional Advisors as experts in sustainable development relating to water and biodiversity matters; place interviews
- Assembling a list of press contacts at trade titles in water, biodiversity and sustainable development space
- Developing relationships with key global decision-maker titles (e.g. The Economist) and major environmental correspondents worldwide
- Issue press releases on major events and developments

Media packs

Develop information packs with materials designed for distribution to media, in line with CEPA target 6.4.

Staff FAQs

Develop frequently asked questions for staff to ensure there are consistent answers to all common questions in all settings including private/social ones, which supports the engagement with media, as mandated in CEPA target 6.4.

10g. Publications**WWD materials (non-core funds)**

In line with the World Wetlands Day-related CEPA targets 1.6 and 6.1, produce a variety of electronic/print materials to support WWD, including:

- Handouts as educational material and mini-posters
- Posters to publicize the day plus local events
- Teacher/organizer guide
- Teacher PowerPoint presentation

Ramsar Fact sheets (core funds)

CEPA target 9.1 specifies the development of a series of Ramsar Fact Sheets (RFS) covering major public questions about wetlands. This follows a 2010 series of 10 two-sided sheets that covered the key ecosystem services of wetlands.

The first four of a new series of Ramsar Fact Sheets were already issued in late 2014, covering some of the most urgent big public questions:

- Why should I care? (basic benefits of wetlands for humanity)
- Wise use basics on site (wise management)
- Worldwide disappearing act (alarming pace of wetland loss)
- What can I do? (actions that one individual can take)

These sheets are the key outreach and awareness-raising tools for targeting a wider public. Further suggested topics are grouped into the following waves:

- Corals
- Peatlands
- Birdlife biodiversity indicators
- Ramsar introduction/benefits of Site designation
- Successful national/regional wetland policies
- What can \$1 million do for wetlands
- Wetland benefits: groundwater/water purification
- Wetland benefits: flood control
- Wetland benefits: coastal protection
- Wetland benefits: recreation/tourism
- Wetland benefits: livelihoods
- Wetland benefits: food supply
- Wetland benefits: biodiversity

- Valuation of wetlands (STRP thematic area G3)
- Balancing urban wetland development (STRP thematic area G4)
- Balancing rural wetland & agricultural development (STRP thematic area G4)
- Wetlands carbon capture/storage (STRP thematic area G5)

PowerPoint versions of all Ramsar Fact Sheets should be produced, possibly by combining multiple topics into one presentation.

Other RFS topics may be added as a result of direct requests and STRP feedback.

Ramsar Briefing Notes (core funds)

CEPA target 9.2 specifies producing Ramsar Briefing Notes (RBN) as pragmatic, working advice documents targeting either policy-makers or wetland practitioners. The recent review of STRP communications includes a suggested format for RBNs, and specifies a new short form of brief for policy-makers.

Currently foreseen in the remainder of the current triennium are:

- RBN: state of world's wetlands
- RBN: invasive species
- RBN: wetlands REDD+ and climate change
- RBN: ecosystem services

For the 2016-18 triennium, the following range of possible products are suggested to start the process of making decisions on the final deliverables, and in light of the reality that these thematic areas are derived from the current STRP DR. For ease of reference, and without any implication that these products would be agreed, the current corresponding STRP thematic areas G1 through G4 are noted in parentheses for each of the possible guidance items :

- Ramsar Policy Brief: surveying/mapping/inventory/monitor wetlands (G1)
- Practitioner RBN: surveying/map/inventorying (G1)
- Practitioner RBN: wetland monitoring (G1)
- Practitioner RBN: developing & implementing site management plans (G2)
- Ramsar Policy Brief: valuation of wetlands goods and services – general (G3)
- 8 Practitioner RBNs on valuation of wetlands goods & services by specific wetland type (G3)
- Ramsar Policy Brief: balancing development – urban wetlands (G4)
- Ramsar Policy Brief: balancing development – rural/agriculture (G4)
- Practitioner RBN: balancing development – urban wetlands (G4)
- Practitioner RBN: balancing development – rural/agriculture (G4)
- Ramsar Policy Brief: promoting wetlands for CCS (G5)
- Practitioner RBN: how-to of wetland CCS (G5)

Ramsar Technical Reports (core funds)

CEPA target 9.2 also specifies producing Ramsar Technical Reports (RTR) to provide in-depth scientific rationale where basic research is not available.

For the remainder of the current triennium, one RTR is foreseen:

- Management of protected areas (freshwater)

For the 2016-18 triennium, two RTRs are currently foreseen, with the corresponding STRP thematic areas noted in parentheses:

- Updated, comprehensive version of RTR3 on wetland valuation (G3)

- How/why of wetlands carbon capture/storage (G5)

Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks (core funds)

CEPA target 9.3 specifies the need for reconfiguring the content of Wise Use Handbooks as training resource materials that more effectively summarize wise use site management and effective policy-making. For instance, the current Wise Use Handbooks are organized by Resolution, rather than being grouped by topic.

The proposal is to create approximately ten training units of 10-15 pages of material each. In total, these could form a manual in easy accessible topic-driven chapters. Each module should also be made available as a Powerpoint presentation.

Ramsar Collection (non-core funds)

Supporting CEPA target 3.4 to promote Ramsar Sites and their benefits, the Ramsar Collection consists of a folder with attractive one-page summaries of each Ramsar Site within a particular region or country. The Ramsar Collection would be used as a model for other regions and countries to convert into their own cultural and regional realities. Each Ramsar Site sheet would include:

- Basic information on the Site itself and the surrounding area
- Animals and plants of particular interest
- How the Site is being managed and used by local communities
- Human interest stories showing how Ramsar improves quality of life for residents

Compiled in a Ramsar Collection folder for a country, this publication would have multiple uses, serving as publicity material for attracting eco-tourism, and as a source of information hand-outs at wetland visitor centres, hotels, and tourist information offices.

'Ramsar Effect' publication (non-core funds)

Also supporting CEPA target 3.4, this proposed web and hard copy publication will highlight a number, say ten, illustrated stories from a region such as Africa, showing why Ramsar is so important and useful to parties, highlighting the:

- Specific role of Ramsar in making positive changes happen
- Best practices of wise management and/or restoration
- Examples of typical development challenges positively resolved
- Integration of stakeholders as key success element

10h. Capacity development

Workshops and webinars are two forms of training and capacity-building that are particularly cost-effective ways of energising the implementation of the Convention to support these objectives. The content is framed according to the defined STRP thematic areas, and also designed to support the Wetland Practitioner Network.

Regional Workshops (non-core funds)

CEPA targets 4.3 and 4.4 mandate the provision of resources for wetland management training, and capacity-building at the Regional level. Corresponding to the STRP thematic areas, four regional workshops around the world are proposed for global coverage. These are thought of as "train-the-trainer" capacity-building events, held in English, with the logistics support and hosting by local partner organizations.

The four workshop topics align with four of the five provisional STRP guidance themes noted in parentheses; again these are suggested topics in line with the current proposed thematic areas and provided as a possible scenario for the Parties:

- Methodologies for surveying /mapping /inventory/monitoring (G1)
- Developing & implementing management plans for wetland sites (G2)
- Valuing wetlands (G3)
- Balancing wetland conservation and development – infrastructure, urbanization and agriculture (G4)

Webinars (core funds)

The other potential high impact medium for training is webinars. These are a cost-effective way to deliver capacity-building style training to a wide audience, supporting CEPA target 4.3. The proposal is to deliver three webinars (one each in English, French and Spanish) for each of the following 6 topics, defined by the possible STRP guidance themes for the 2016-18 triennium noted in parentheses:

- Methodologies for surveying /mapping /inventory/monitoring (G1)
- Developing & implementing management plans for wetland sites (G2)
- Valuing coastal/marine wetlands (G3)
- Valuing inland wetlands (G3)
- Balancing wetland conservation and development – infrastructure and urbanization (G4)
- Balancing wetland conservation and development – rural areas and agriculture (G4)

Wetlands courses (non-core funds)

Seek to have Ramsar experts and materials integrated into training courses given by other institutions such as universities, colleges, distance learning course providers. (e.g. Open University, UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft, UNEP, UNITAR, UNESCO etc.)

Annex A: CEPA Goals and Targets

The overall vision for the CEPA programme is:

People taking action for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Nine CEPA goals and 43 underlying targets form the basis for the list of the Secretariat CEPA activities to help mobilize people to take action. These Goals and targets are listed here and are cross-referenced by number in the table of CEPA activities at section III.9 above:

Goal 1

Ensure leadership to support effective implementation of the Programme by providing institutional mechanisms and establishing and supporting relevant networks.

Targets:

- 1.1 Appropriately experienced people to fill the roles of National Government and Non-governmental Organization CEPA Focal Points (see Resolution XII.9 Appendix 2) nominated by Contracting Parties and communicated to the Ramsar Secretariat.
- 1.2 National Ramsar/Wetland Committees established to collaborate with relevant government departments and institutions to mainstream wetlands and their ecosystem services.
- 1.3 National Focal Points (AA, CEPA and STRP) included as members of National Ramsar/Wetland Committees where these exist.
- 1.4 Email networks that connect and support Administrative Authorities, National Focal Points, Site managers and other Ramsar implementers established and supported at global and national levels.
- 1.5 Relationships developed and maintained with those organizations that can support Ramsar objectives through their expertise, their traditional knowledge, their human resources or through funding established and fostered.
- 1.6 Effectiveness of strategies, especially regarding development and distribution of materials on wetland education and management, the success of campaigns under WWD evaluated.

Goal 2

Integrate CEPA processes into all levels of policy development, planning and implementation of the Convention.

Targets:

- 2.1 CEPA expertise involved in the development of guidance by the Convention's bodies including the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and Standing Committee (SC).
- 2.2 Wetland communication (CEPA) plans developed at the appropriate level by Parties (national, basin or site) to support Ramsar implementers.
- 2.3 Where appropriate, wetland CEPA integrated into national policy and planning relevant to wetlands.

Goal 3

Provide support for the effective conservation and management of the Ramsar Sites Network by developing and making accessible guidance materials and expertise on wetlands and their ecosystem services.

Targets:

- 3.1 The Strategic Plan 2016-2024 adopted by COP12 disseminated and promoted.
- 3.2 Appropriate guidance materials that support and encourage the wise use of wetlands produced for use at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands and by wetland networks.
- 3.3 Websites, including the Convention's website, to be further developed to be fit for purpose and be a useful platform for the sharing of information and resources, including the sharing of information and experiences among CEPA National Focal Points.
- 3.4 Appropriate Ramsar Sites and other wetlands to be celebrated as "demonstration sites" for the wise use principle, and these sites suitably equipped in terms of capacity, signage, and interpretive materials.
- 3.5 Secretariat requested to share CEPA stories which illustrate how integration of CEPA can improve wetland management.
- 3.6 Collaboration on CEPA with other Conventions, Ramsar's IOPs, other NGOs, UN agencies and others ensured through sharing of CEPA experiences and the encouragement of synergies.

Goal 4

Build the individual and collective capacity of people with a direct responsibility for Ramsar implementation.

Targets:

- 4.1 Site managers supported to build communication, education, participation and awareness into their management plans.
- 4.2 Current needs and capacities of wetland site managers and National Focal Points assessed and the results used to define training and capacity-building priorities at regional and national levels.
- 4.3 Resources provided to produce appropriate wetland management training and capacity building materials and carry out the prioritized training and capacity building as identified in 4.2.
- 4.4 A network of Ramsar Regional Centres working to agreed standards (such as peer reviewed materials) supported to deliver capacity building to site managers, National Focal Points and other relevant stakeholders.
- 4.5 Partnerships with tertiary education institutions and other relevant organisations are developed to support the production and delivery of wetland management training and capacity building materials and programmes.
- 4.6 National strategic plans that strengthen the technical capacity and management of local authorities to incorporate environmental benefits and services of wetlands as strategies for local and regional development promoted.

Goal 5

Develop and support multi-stakeholder wetland governance participatory platforms, at the appropriate levels, to ensure an integrated approach to wetland management.

Targets:

- 5.1 Participation of major stakeholders used by site managers and others as an effective process for selection of Ramsar Sites and management of all wetlands, including at basin level.
- 5.2 Participation in wetland management of stakeholder groups with cultural, spiritual, customary, traditional, historical and socio-economic links to wetlands or those communities who depend on wetlands for their livelihoods is given a high priority.
- 5.3 The use of practices and traditional knowledge systems that embody appropriate wetland cultural management by indigenous peoples and local communities recovered, strengthened and encouraged.
- 5.4 Encourage community participation in wetlands through volunteer programmes which support the delivery of management objectives.
- 5.5 Relationships with the private sector are sought and developed, including non-traditional sectors and those sectors whose activities have a major impact on wise use of wetlands.

Goal 6

Implement programmes, projects and campaigns targeting diverse sectors of society to increase awareness, appreciation and understanding of wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide as a means to address the drivers of wetland loss and degradation and to encourage the designation of new Ramsar Sites.

Targets:

- 6.1 Wide-reaching programmes, projects and campaigns, including World Wetlands Day, undertaken with diverse partners to raise awareness, build community support, and promote stewardship approaches and attitudes towards wetlands, in particular through the use of social media.
- 6.2 Awareness enhanced on the monetary and non-monetary values of wetlands and their ecosystem services to improve understanding of the benefits which wetlands provide.
- 6.3 Photo libraries, promotional videos and other similar tools developed and/or maintained to support awareness raising and appreciation of wetlands and their ecosystem services.
- 6.4 Collaboration with the media, including social media, carried out to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands and recognition of their ecosystem services to decision-makers, key wetland users and the broad public.

Goal 7

Recognize and support the role of wetland centres and other environmental centres as catalysts and key actors for activities that promote Ramsar objectives.

Targets:

- 7.1 Wetland education/interpretation or visitor centres and similar facilities established in all countries as resources permit.
- 7.2 National CEPA Focal Points communicating directly with wetland education/visitor centres to support their delivery of Ramsar messages.
- 7.3 Wetland education/visitor centres linked nationally and internationally through, global mechanisms and national expertise in CEPA, to share experience and resources, for example through the Wetland Link International (WLI) programme of the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, WWT (UK) and other initiatives.
- 7.4 Partnerships established with other education centres that could play a role in promoting wetlands and Ramsar objectives.
- 7.5 A comprehensive database of wetland education centres set up, to be managed through the WLI network. Contracting parties to be encouraged to provide information on wetland centres as part of their national reporting.

Goal 8

Support the development and distribution of education materials that build awareness of the values of wetlands and their ecosystem services for use in formal education settings, at Ramsar Sites and by all Ramsar actors.

Targets:

- 8.1 Wetland education materials that build awareness of the values of wetlands and their ecosystem services developed, promoted and distributed among relevant target audiences.
- 8.2 Tertiary education institutions, especially those with water and wetland programmes, contributed to the production of targeted wetland education materials.
- 8.3 Cultural and traditional wetland knowledge and practices are incorporated into wetland education materials.
- 8.4 Key messages about wetlands and their ecosystem services regularly reviewed through dialogue and feedback with all Ramsar actors.

Goal 9

Ensure that the guidance and information provided by the STRP is developed in close collaboration with the CEPA programme and dissemination is ensured to the identified target audiences through the most effective communications channels.

Targets:

- 9.1 A series of information fact sheets developed based on identified and agreed large scale questions as key awareness raising outreach tools..
- 9.2 The Ramsar Briefing Notes and Ramsar Technical Reports developed and disseminated as pragmatic, working advisory documents targeting policy-makers or wetland practitioners and to ensure consistency and Ramsar branding.

- 9.3 The content of Wise Use Handbooks reconfigured as training resource materials that summarize wise use site management and effective policy-making.
- 9.4 The current STRP website integrated into the Ramsar website.

Annex B: Results of SWOT Analysis

From Secretariat workshop on 15 May 2014

Strengths

Brains

Dedicated, passionate Secretariat staff
Diversity, experience, skill and competence of staff
40 years of experience and knowledge

Extensive network

Broad convention – 168 Parties
Global network presence on the ground
2,181 Ramsar sites and growing

Single issue focus

Key and universal development subject
Water issue of vital importance
Flexible approach fits varied situations

Engagement

Many passionate members
Partners are engaged
Governments are directly involved

Sound organisation

Clear Convention structure
Cross-sectoral and integrative approach
Strong governance structure
Decision-making by consensus
Excellent technical guidelines

Weaknesses

Limited budget and capacity

Strategic plan too broad in scope
Small secretariat with many tasks
Priorities not always clear
Perceived dispersion of efforts

Lack of visibility

Very little public recognition
No clear message

Unclear levels of commitment

Government representatives changing
Lack of engagement from Parties
Convention with “soft” consensus-based enforcement
Lack of data about sites
Just another government Convention
Guidelines often not followed up with implementation

Lack of dynamism

Reporting to governments
Slow to act; not agile or open to change
Missing opportunities to influence
Not reaching out to related sectors
Too many languages leading to misinterpretations

Opportunities**Organization changes**

New team, clarified strategy
Clear differentiation/role for Ramsar

Increased visibility

Prioritized target groups, outcomes
Clear messages to trigger outcomes
Engage public via Ramsar sites

Water issues moving up the agenda Potential for MDG/SDG goal

Exploit global trends in env. policy
Exert influence on national policies

Improved implementation

Engage with governments at senior level
Increase effectiveness of NFPs
More teamwork across regions/themes
Strengthen NGO support in countries

Increased partnership activity

Stronger links to other organizations and industry sectors
Attention-grabbing water partnership

Fundraising

Private sector potential (CSR and profit)
Forge strong link to tourism

Threats**Negative global mega-trends**

Current loss of wetlands is exceeding capacity to conserve
World population growth and related increasing demand on water
Short term gain seen as more important than long-term sustainability

Lack of wetlands awareness

No widespread knowledge of ecosystem benefits; thus wetlands are not valued

Waning of political will

Indifference of many Parties
Wetlands has slipped down the global priority list
Growing demands on Ramsar without financial and human resources

Other organizations

Crowded biodiversity conservation space

Many organizations with similar aims

Many of those better resourced and perceived as more valuable by clients

Annex C: Potential collaborator overview

Name	Website	Description	Type	Mission	Budget	Funded by	Structure
IUCN	www.iucn.org	International Union for Conservation of Nature is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization; high content overlap and administrative host organization to Ramsar	IOP: Network of govts, NGOs, and scientific experts	Conserving biodiversity is central to the mission of IUCN; to demonstrate how biodiversity is fundamental to addressing some of the world's greatest challenges such as climate change, sustainable development and food security.	\$ 101 million; of which \$17 million for Secretariat in 2012	Funded by governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies, foundations, member organisations and corporations	1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world; headquarters in Gland, Switzerland
BirdLife International	www.birdlife.org	World's largest nature conservation Partnership comprised of 120 bird-related NGOs (Audubon Society etc.) with 2.77 million members, and 10.8 million people who supported BirdLife Partners in 2012. Birdlife Partners manage or own 1,553 reserves or protected areas covering 4.3 million ha of natural areas globally. High content overlap; High-powered board inc Queen Noor of Jordan	IOP: Partnership of NGOs	To conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources.	\$ 539 million in 2012	Private patrons, GET/UNDP/UNEP, bilateral aid orgs, foundations and developed country Partner members. 3 major business partnerships: CEMEX, Rio Tinto, Heidelberg Cement	6 Regional BirdLife Coordination Offices around the world; headquarters in Cambridge, UK
International Water Management Institute IWMI	www.iwmi.cgiar.org	One of 15 international research centers in the CGIAR - Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research	IOP: Non-profit scientific research org	To improve the management of land and water resources for food, livelihoods and nature.	\$ 47 million in 2012	Supported by the CGIAR: network of 60 governments, private foundations and international orgs; bilateral aid agencies	350 staff and offices in over 10 countries across Asia and Africa; headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka
Wetlands International	www.wetlands.org	Wetlands International is the only global non-governmental organisation (NGO) dedicated to wetlands.	IOP: NGO	To sustain and restore wetlands and their resources for people and biodiversity	\$ 12 million in 2012	National governments, international bodies and conventions and other NGOs; hosting agreement with Netherlands	150 staff in 20 regional, national or project offices in all continents and a head office in Ede, the Netherlands
Worldwide Fund for Nature - WWF	wwf.panda.org	WWF has grown up to be one of the largest environmental organizations in the world; Huge support base of 5 million; extremely prominent supporters including HRH Duke of Edinburgh; extensive private sector engagement, totally media savvy	IOP: NGO	To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature by: conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption	CHF 170 million in 2012	57% of funding from individuals and bequests, 17% from government sources (such as the World Bank, DFID, USAID) and 11% from corporations	5,000 staff in offices in more than 80 countries around the world

Name	Website	Description	Type	Mission	Budget	Funded by	Structure
UNDP	www.undp.org	Plays a significant co-ordination role for the UN's activities in the field of development. Provides expert advice, training, and grant support. Publishes an annual Human Development Report. High profile global ambassadors: Antonio Banderas, Crown Prince Haakon Magnus of Norway, Nadine Gordimer, Ronaldo, Zinedine Zidane	International organization	Focuses primarily on five developmental challenges: poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS, democratic governance, energy and environment, social development, and crisis prevention and recovery	\$540 million in 2014, increasing to \$600 million by 2017	Voluntary contributions from member nations	6474 staff in 177 countries, headquarters in New York
UNEP	www.unep.org	An agency of the United Nations that coordinates its environmental activities, assisting developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices	International organization	To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.	\$218 million in 2010	Voluntary contributions from nations; principally Netherlands, Germany, UK, USA, France, Sweden and Belgium	845 staff, six Regional offices, headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya
UN Water	www.unwater.org	The UN inter-agency coordination mechanism for all freshwater and sanitation related matters. Formalized in 2003 by the United Nations High Level Committee on Programmes. It provides the platform to address the cross-cutting nature of water and maximize system-wide coordinated action and coherence.	International organization	To complement and add value to existing programmes and projects by facilitating synergies and joint efforts in the water arena	Est. \$20 mil for the four programs directly under UN Water	UN Water members plus specific programs financed by European bilateral aid agencies	31 Members- UN entities housing major programmes 34 Partners - non-UN organizations with close working ties on water topic; Secretariat hosted by UN DESA in New York
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	www.cbd.int	Biodiversity-related Convention that came out of 1992 Rio Earth Summit	International Convention Biodiversity	The conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources	\$13.58 million in 2013	Parties	194 Parties; 70 staff in Secretariat in Montreal, Canada
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)	www.cites.org	International agreement on trade in endangered plant and animal life	International Convention Bioersity	To ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival	\$15 million in 2009	Parties	180 Parties, Secretariat administered by UNEP in Geneva

Name	Website	Description	Type	Mission	Budget	Funded by	Structure
Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)	www.cms.int	Environmental treaty under the aegis of UNEP, the CMS provides a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats	International Convention Bioversity	To bring together the States through which migratory animals pass (Range States), and lay the legal foundation for internationally coordinated conservation measures throughout a migratory range	\$323,000 in 2013, \$518,000 in 2014	Parties	120 Parties plus "Range States" allowing migration areas, offices in Abu Dhabi, Bangkok, Washington DC, with Secretariat hosted by UNEP in Bonn alongside UNFCCC
UN Watercourses Convention (UNWC)	www.unwatercoursesconvention.org	Emerging governing normative framework within which states sharing fresh water can organize their relationships	International Convention Water	To become the global framework for sound management of fresh water resource management and cooperation	no figure published	Parties	35 Parties - Vietnam's ratification brings it into force starting 17 Aug 2014
Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UN ECE)	www.unece.org/env/water	Initially negotiated as a European instrument to protect transboundary waters, the Convention was amended in 2003 to allow accession by all UN members	International Convention Water	To strengthen national measures for the protection and ecologically sound management of transboundary surface waters and groundwaters	no figure published	Parties	39 Parties, (mostly Europeans countries) headquarters in Geneva
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	www.unfccc.int	The major international environmental treaty negotiated at the Rio Earth Summit; global focus for efforts to mitigate and adapt to effects of climate change. Includes Kyoto Protocol	International Convention Climate	To stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system	\$65 million in 2010	Parties	196 Parties, Secretariat in Bonn, Germany
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	www.unccd.int/en	The sole legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas	International Convention Climate	To improve the living conditions for people in drylands, to maintain and restore land and soil productivity, and to mitigate the effects of drought	\$80 million per year under GEF	Parties	190 Parties, headquarters in Bonn alongside UNFCCC
World Heritage Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	whc.unesco.org	International convention linking together in a single document the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties	International Convention Biodiversity and Heritage	To identify, protect, conserve, present and transmit cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value to future generations	\$6.818 million in 2012	Parties; plus income from Heritage Fund publications and items	191 Parties, Convention organisation is incorporated into UNESCO, headquartered in Paris

Name	Website	Description	Type	Mission	Budget	Funded by	Structure
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	www.gbif.org	International open data infrastructure, funded by governments; provides a single point of access (through this portal and its web services) to more than 400 million records, shared freely by hundreds of institutions worldwide, making it the biggest biodiversity database on the Internet	International organization Biodiversity	To enable anyone, anywhere to access data about all types of life on Earth, shared across national boundaries via the internet by encouraging and helping institutions to publish data according to common standards	€3.4million	33 countries, EU, several foundations, University of Copenhagen	Office at University of Copenhagen
Center for Biological Diversity	www.biologicaldiversity.org	Large activist-type biodiversity NGO with origins in southwestern US, outreach internationally; much of their success is in working to get species declared endangered; a top-rated non-profit 2013	NGO Biodiversity	To secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction, with a focus on protecting the lands, waters and climate that species need to survive.	no figure published	from 775,000 members	85 staff in offices in southwestern US
Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)	www.icsu-scope.org	Interdisciplinary body of natural and social scientists focussed on global and environmental issues; operating at interface between scientific and decision-making instances	International scientific org	To provide scientific analyses of environmental issues caused by or impacting on humans and the environment; review the current scientific understanding; address policy needs and development	no figure published	Membership fees from NGO, scientific and educational organisations	General Assembly meets every three years, office in Paris
Endangered Species International	www.endangeredspeciesinternational.org	Team of local and international scientists and conservation leaders who put together projects targeting the most endangered and neglected species; a top-rated non-profit 2013	NGO Biodiversity	To reverse the trend of human-induced species extinction, saving endangered animals, and preserving wild places	no figure published	individual contributions, 1% for the Planet and Art for Conservation programs, high tech and environmental businesses	15 staff
Fauna & Flora International	www.fauna-flora.org/	UK-based now global conservation charity founded 1903 - patron is HM Queen Elizabeth II, with plenty of prominent ambassadors including Stephen Fry	NGO Biodiversity	To act to conserve threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing solutions that are sustainable, based on sound science and take into account human needs.	£18.3m (\$29.6m) in 2012	individual and corporate contributions; though not specified in any detail	headquarters in London, charitable subsidiaries registered in US (Massachusetts), Australia and Singapore
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	www.durrellwildlife.org	UK-based wildlife conservation NGO with very high-profile supporters such as the Princess Anne, Sir David Attenborough; wildlife park, field programmes and academy come together to deliver a unique approach to tackling today's conservation problems	NGO Biodiversity	To save the most threatened species in the most threatened places around the world.	£7.026 million	Individual and corporate contributions	Charitable Trust with many members - mostly other charities and wildlife-related organizations

Name	Website	Description	Type	Mission	Budget	Funded by	Structure
International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)	www.ifaw.org	Saves individual animals, animal populations and habitats all over the world. Projects in more than 40 countries, providing hands-on assistance to animals in need, whether it's dogs and cats, wildlife and livestock, or rescuing animals in the wake of disasters.	Fund Biodiversity	Our vision is a world where animals are respected and protected. Our mission: IFAW rescues and protects animals around the world.	\$94 million	More than one million individual donors	Headquartered in Yarmouth, Massachusetts; 26 offices around the world.
Ocean Conservancy	www.oceanconservancy.org	Educates and empowers citizens to take action on behalf of the ocean. Leader in the environmental community for 40 years with many legal accomplishments. (e.g. winning a federal mandate for the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) on shrimp trawls to creating the International Coastal Cleanup)	Foundation Water	To bring people together to find solutions for our water planet. We educate and empower people to defend not only the ocean and its wildlife, but also the millions who earn their living from the ocean	\$19.3 million	Individual and corporate donations	Based in Washington DC
Save Our Seas Foundation	www.saveourseas.com	Funds and supports research, conservation and education projects worldwide, focusing primarily on charismatic threatened wildlife and their habitats ; in less than 10 years, the Save Our Seas Foundation (SOSF) has grown to become a major player in this sector.	Foundation Water	To fund projects in in the fight to save the world's oceans and the wealth of marine life they contain.	no figure published	Presumably private donations	Registered in Switzerland but seems to be operationally based near Cape Town
Water.org	water.org	Award-winning charity that works with local partner organisations on the ground to dig wells. Matt Damon is an ambassador.	NGO Water	To provide clean water to the 780 million people lack access to an improved water source; approximately one in nine people on the planet	\$9.3 million	Individuals, foundations, corporate employee donations, in-kind contributions	70 staff members based in the U.S.(39), India, and Kenya
The Water Project	thewaterproject.org	Non-profit org focussing on sub-Saharan Africa. Invests in proven partners who are drilling fresh water wells, providing sanitation and hygiene training and constructing other sustainable water projects. Donors see impact of their gifts through photos, short stories and GPS map coordinates of every project.	NGO Water	To bring relief to communities around the world who suffer needlessly from a lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation.	\$1.7 million	Individual and corporate donations	9 staff
Water for People	waterforpeople.org	Water access development non-profit, Creating scalable momentum and solutions in 30 districts across 10 countries: Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, and India.	NGO Water	To ensure complete water coverage for every family, every school, and every clinic.	\$8.3 million but running at deficit	Individual contributions, grants, sponsorships	34 staff, mostly based in Denver headquarters

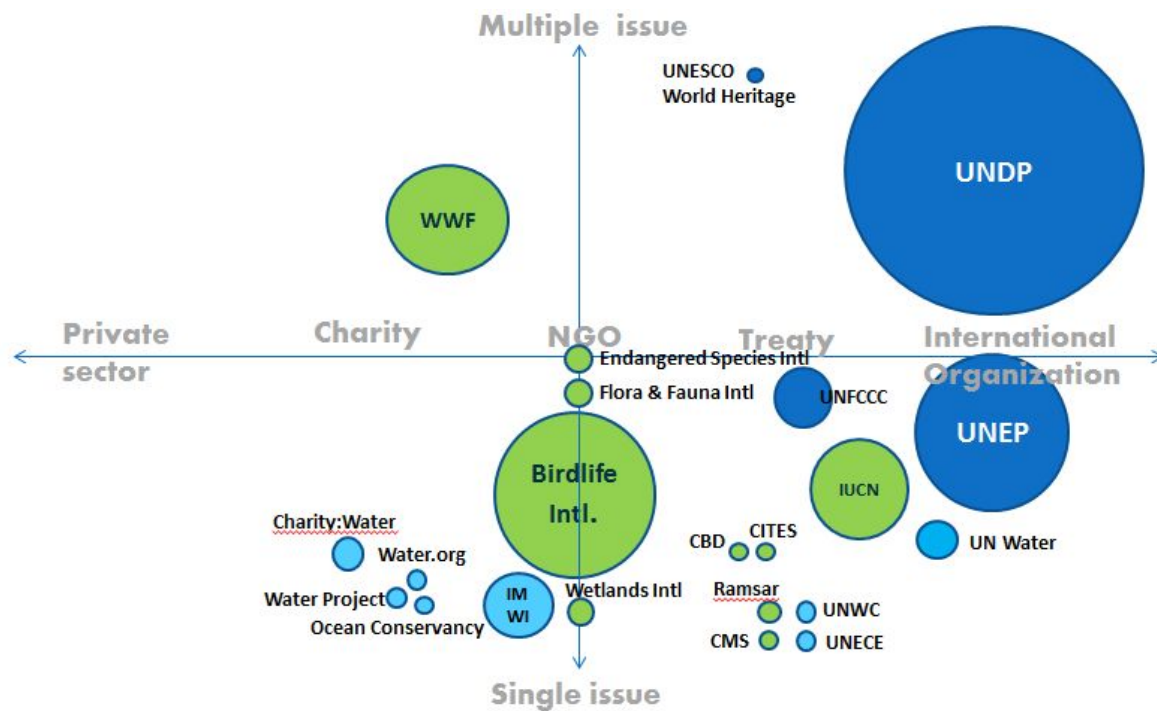
Name	Website	Description	Type	Mission	Budget	Funded by	Structure
WaterisLife	waterislife.com	Works closely with non profit partners, local governments and community organizations to focus on an integrated approach to ensure access to safe water, proper sanitation and hygiene programs. Founder developed a filter straw for kids to drink through. Projects running in Haiti, Ghana and Kenya.	NGO Water	To provide clean water, sanitation and hygiene programs. Saving Lives. Transforming communities.	\$700,000	Individual contributions	2 staff, offices in Oklahoma and Arizona
Charity:Water	www.charitywater.org	Fast-growing water charity focussing on simple things that work: freshwater wells, rainwater catchments and sand filters. 100% of donations go directly to the field to fund water projects. Operating expenses financed through angel investors.	NGO Water	To bring clean and safe drinking water to people in developing nations	\$33 million	Foundations, individuals, corporate sponsorships	67 staff, based in New York
Blood:Water	www.bloodwater.org	Equipping agency that partners with African grassroots organizations to address the HIV/AIDS and water crises - founded by the band Jars of Clay. Focus on Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Zambia, Rwanda	NGO Water	To expand the reach and effectiveness of African civil society organizations and the communities they serve, battling the HIV and water crises.	\$3.5 million	Individual contributions	Office in Nashville, Tennessee, with partnerships with 7 local community orgs
Greenpeace	www.greenpeace.org	The single most visible environmental organization in the world, known for its direct actions. The leading independent campaigning organization that uses peaceful direct action and creative communication to expose global environmental problems.	NGO Environment	To ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity. Focuses its campaigning on world wide issues such as global warming, deforestation, overfishing, commercial whaling, genetic engineering, and anti-nuclear issues	\$236 million in 2011	Does not accept funding from governments, corporations or political parties, relying on 2.9 million individual supporters and foundations.	28 regional offices operating in 45 countries with an international coordinating body in Amsterdam
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	www.ifrc.org	Worldwide humanitarian organization providing assistance without discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions.	NGO - DRR	To inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.	CHF 277 million in 2014	Voluntary donations	Coordinates cooperation amongst 189 National Societies and the work of over 17 million volunteers

Name	Website	Description	Type	Mission	Budget	Funded by	Structure
Department for International Development (DFID) - United Kingdom	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/departments/departments-for-international-development	Department responsible for majority of the United Kingdom's overseas development assistance. Recently reviewed ICRC's disaster response and readiness.	Bilateral development organisation - DRR interest	Leads the British government's fight against world poverty . . . DFID supports long-term programmes to help tackle the underlying causes of poverty. DFID also responds to emergencies, both natural and man-made.	£6.7 billion in 2011	United Kingdom taxpayers	UK ministerial department, supported by 2 agencies and public bodies
UN High Commission for Refugees	www.unhcr.org	The UN agency mandated to lead and coordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide.	International organisation - DRR interest	To safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.	\$4.3 billion in 2012	8,600 staff working in 126 countries, with headquarters in Geneva. Core work is managed from regional offices, branch offices, sub-offices and field offices.	

Annex D: Potential collaborator mapping

This is a graphical mapping of selected actors in the sustainable development, climate and environmental sectors who are most relevant to Ramsar.

The relative size of the circles indicates their reported or estimated operating budgets. Dark blue circles indicate UN organizations. Light green indicate biodiversity-related organizations and conventions, and light blue indicate water-related organizations and conventions.



Annex E: Consultant Report on Strategic Review of STRP Communications

The following consultant report makes recommendations on how to improve the effectiveness of Ramsar Convention scientific and guidance materials, in line with Resolution XI.16.

Strategic Review of STRP Communications

Final Report - Consultation Draft 19 March 2015

I. Executive Summary

The key recommendation of this report can be summarized in one sentence:

“Guidance” should actually be positioned as a service of the Ramsar Convention to policy-makers and wetland practitioners, rather than viewed as being limited to independent STRP advice to the Convention Bodies and Parties itself.

This conceptual re-positioning mirrors the letter and the spirit of the fourth Strategic Plan, the proposed new modus operandi for STRP, and its five proposed thematic areas for the new triennium.

In practice, the following steps are recommended:

- The separate identity that has gradually evolved for STRP should be subsumed back into the Convention itself, with clear and consistent Ramsar branding across all guidance items.
- The strong STRP expertise should be coupled with
 - A wider vision of what constitutes guidance that transcends the actual STRP-authored materials and foresees a greater responsiveness to “bottom up” requests by the Parties²
 - A clear decision-making and prioritization guidance group for guidance materials that is headed by the Secretary General (SG) and managed by the Deputy Secretary General (DSG) reporting to the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee
 - Revised processes that are more output-focussed, leading to written materials that are useful for policy-makers and wetland practitioners
 - Closer oversight and briefing of authors and editors with attention to the final output form, and on content that emphasizes actionable items
 - Expansion of materials intended for training, capacity development and promotion
 - Professional layout and graphics that underline Ramsar branding and help amplify the message

² Draft Resolution XII.5 on the STRP modus operandi foresees setting up a network of the government officials deeply involved with wetland issues, and also includes wetland practitioners. Such a network is essential to increase the relevance of the Convention and its construction would need to involve Parties, IOPs, UN and other partners, and known wetland professionals. Once this is set up, the potential for more queries to be posted upwards to the Secretariat / STRP exists, and similarly, this wetland network can be questioned as to the issues that need response and a prioritised listing on the products and forms of guidance that are most urgent to produce.

II. Outline of consultant task and approach

Terms of Reference

The consultant was contracted to perform the following according to the Terms of Reference for a Strategic Review of STRP Communications:

1. Conduct a thorough review of all existing STRP communication outputs including
 - all various forms of publications and STRP platform
 - the current procedures for defining topics, drafting and reviewing the content
 - procedures for producing the final outputs
2. Develop recommendations on which output forms will do justice to the complexity of the content, and at the same time
 - effectively reach the defined target audiences
 - support the goals of the Convention
 - ensure consistent branding and messaging behind all Convention-sponsored materials
3. Develop recommended rules for determining/clarifying when items are produced, why, for what audience and supporting which outcome
 - Make specific suggestions on how existing Ramsar Briefing Notes and Ramsar Technical Reports could be better used, adapted or otherwise presented more effectively.

Consultant approach

The consultant approached the task as follows:

- Reviewing in detail the five previous consultant reports undertaken as a result of Resolution XI.16 on how to make guidance more relevant and useful to the Parties
- Reading and digesting all existing STRP-produced guidance materials (Ramsar Technical Reports, Ramsar Briefing Notes, STRP website, webinars, newsletters and the Wise Use Handbooks) noting where existing material is strong, and where it has potential for re-packaging/adaptation for Strategic Plan and STRP work priorities of new triennium
- Conducting in-depth interviews with:
 - Roy Gardner – STRP Chair
 - Chris Prietto – STRP Vice Chair
 - Marcela Bonells – Scientific and Technical Officer
 - Tobias Salathe – Senior Advisor for Europe
 - Maria Rivera – Senior Advisor for the Americas
 - Lew Young – Senior Advisor for Asia-Oceania
 - Paul Ouedraogo – Senior Advisor for Africa (*by e-mail exchange*)
 - Nancy Cespedes (Chile)
 - Malta Qwathekana (South Africa)
 - Ainsley Henry and Jerome Smith (Jamaica)
- Reviewing materials for SC48, particularly new proposed *modus operandi* (Draft Resolution XII.5) and working themes for STRP and final proposed draft of Strategic Plan 4
- Developing recommended approval process/forums for the guidance itself
- Developing decision criteria for deciding which forms of guidance are appropriate in which circumstances
- Working with the STRP Chair to develop a potential budget scenario for the preparation of guidance materials for the 2016-18 triennium to assist the Parties in their deliberations
- Developing summary of recommendations and proposed author guidelines
- Final compilation of report

III. Integration with ongoing processes

All suggestions in this document are designed to integrate with the following developments in mind:

The fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan, covering the period 2016- 2024, is being proposed to Standing Committee 48. This plan seeks to increase the focus of the Ramsar Convention, laying out 18 targets in support of four overall strategic goals:

- Strategic Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation
- Strategic Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network
- Strategic Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands
- Operational Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation

At the same time, one possible framework for the delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance is being suggested as an option to be developed further in response to Parties' feedback. The proposal includes:

- new oversight arrangements for the STRP as suggested in the DR, which would in future be overseen by the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee
- clearly defined target audiences for scientific and technical guidance: policy-makers and wetland practitioners
- a centralized role for the Secretariat in ensuring that all materials from the STRP are developed for the target audiences as effective, digestible materials
- five key STRP thematic areas for the next triennium that are cross-referenced to support the goals in the above-mentioned Strategic Plan:
 - best practice methodologies/tools to monitor Ramsar sites including
 - best practices for developing and implementing management plans for Ramsar Sites and protected areas
 - methodologies for valuation of the goods and services of wetlands
 - balancing wetland conservation and development – infrastructure, urbanization and agriculture
 - climate change and wetlands: methodologies for carbon capture

A detailed review of Ramsar technical guidance was conducted in the course of 2014, authorized at the 46th Standing Committee meeting. The four detailed reports and the fifth summary report that were generated have led to many of the specific recommendations made in this document.

IV. Findings and Recommendations

1. Create a decision-making and prioritization forum

Finding

To date, the process for deciding what guidance materials get produced, covering what topics, and how these are prioritized has been vague. The “to-do list” keeps expanding, with no prospect of things being dropped, resources being identified, items being pushed to completion inside deadlines, or trade-offs being made.

The ultimate driver is the STRP Work Plan derived from COP resolutions. Top-level tasks are outlined, but the actual form for guidance is not specified up front, and the target group has not always been determined. Other ad hoc requests are made by Parties. Experts raise additional topics that are rising on the environmental agenda; many of them then actually volunteer to write materials.

Recommendations

An option that has been considered to make the relations between STRP, Secretariat and the Communications team more efficient, as referenced in DR XII.5 is to establish a new decision body – provisionally titled “Guidance Committee”, led by the SG and managed by the Deputy SG and reporting to the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee, with the following specific mandate:

- Approve the final list of guidance outputs resulting from the STRP Work Plan at the outset of the triennium
- Approve any changes to that list on an ongoing basis - and ensure that adequate resources for the materials on the list are budgeted
- Act as a clearing house and priority setter for ad hoc guidance requests that come from Parties, and to evaluate suggestions for new, emerging topics from experts
- The ownership and ongoing update/revision of the definitive guidance materials list should rest with this group. A preliminary draft list of guidance outputs for the new triennium will be jointly developed with the STRP Chair as part of this report and the budgeting process.
- To ensure a balance of perspectives and output focus, the group’s suggested membership is:
 - SG, Deputy SG, Head of Communications, all SRAs and STRP Chair
- Day-to-day implementation of this group’s decisions would sit with the Deputy SG in consultation with the Head of Communications and the STRP Chair
- Recommend realigning job description and allocating 30% of the time of the Scientific and Technical Officer to Communications duties, with focus on oversight of the actual production of guidance materials

2. Make processes more output-focussed

Finding

The actual process of producing the guidance is currently very much an academic and collegial process including peer review of all materials. Almost all authoring and most peer reviews are done on a voluntary, unpaid basis. Authors receive basic guidelines in terms of formatting. There is a need for greater focus on the final output and the actual form that it takes, as well as for increased communications input earlier in the process.

Recommendations

Deliverables should be defined based on the content of the STRP Work Plan and its thematic areas, *with the final form of the output specified from the start*. An optional first “straw man” of how this guidance list might look post-COP12, subject to further deliberation by the Parties, has been developed and included as Table 3, while Annex III provides a suggested flowchart for the steps in producing the guidance. More specifically:

- A Communications representative should be present for the whole STRP Meeting where the Work Plan is defined, looking in on each of the five thematic working groups, viewing the proceedings with the final outputs in mind.
- Authors and peer reviewers of RBNs and RTRs should receive a nominal fee so that the Convention is in the position of a customer rather than a supplicant, making deadlines easier to hold.

- The peer review stage for Ramsar Briefing Notes (RBNs) and Ramsar Technical Reports (RTRs) should include a parallel review by a Communications person who is working together with authors to achieve a succinct wording for a style of presentation that includes clear, actionable items.
- Authors of RBNs and RTRs should be provided with more specific guidelines (suggested proposal for this is provided as Annex I) that include:
 - Clear delineation of the audience as either policy-makers or wetland practitioners – or in some cases both
 - Mandate for clear, easily translatable language
 - Basic standard outline to follow which mandates:
 - Executive Summary that specifically covers all key points and lists actions to take
 - Action-oriented lists throughout
 - Recent case studies from a variety of settings
 - Advance summaries by chapter for RTRs
 - Page limits by type (provisionally 10 pages/4800 words for RBNs and 40 pages/19,200 words for RTRs with some upward flexibility for the latter)

3. Clarify forms of guidance

General findings

Personal interviews with all SRAs, with several key Party representatives and STRP members and Chair as well as a thorough review of previous consultant reports on guidance all indicate that there is a very real need for more specific, practical guidance on the how-to of Convention implementation; advice that specifically targets policy-makers and wetland practitioners. It is also clear that from a Party perspective, there is a need for greater responsiveness to “bottom up” requests.

Given the immense expertise and brain power at the organization’s disposal, there is a real opportunity to make Ramsar Convention *the* definitive source for guidance on all wetland issues. This means moving away from seeing “guidance” as purely written materials, to a more all-encompassing approach that sees guidance as answering a specific, “bottom up” query that could come from one of the Parties or any other key partner.

In terms of the actual written materials, there is a clear need for the four broad types that exist: a) expert science that lays the groundwork for practical advice - e.g. Ramsar Technical Reports; b) pragmatic, action-oriented guidance for policy-makers and practitioners that is specific and topical - e.g. Ramsar Briefing Notes, including Ramsar Policy Briefs; c) public-oriented materials that assume zero wetlands knowledge, but which serve a wider awareness-raising agenda - e.g. Ramsar Fact Sheets and d) training materials – e.g. Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks. There is currently a clear perceived shortfall in the latter three categories.

General recommendations

- Take a wider, more all-encompassing view of scientific and technical guidance as a service of the Ramsar Convention to its Parties. In parallel, take a wider view of its forms where:
 - The Secretariat and its SRAs act as a clearing house for queries from Parties, IOPS, other key partners, wetland societies and initiatives, Regional Initiatives, etc., drawing on a variety of sources – including the STRP - for possible answers
 - The network of STRP Focal Points acts as a resource for providing for direct advice

- Ramsar experts and guidance materials are integrated more widely into the capacity-building efforts of other organizations and institutions
- The four broad types of Ramsar-produced guidance materials which already exist will be improved by imposing increased focus and discipline on their actual form, delivery date, and their relevance to the end user
- The decision on which form of written guidance to produce should be based on the actual needs:
 - Ramsar Briefing Notes should be issued when there is a specific issue on which policy-makers or wetland practitioners need advice on what to do. As a subset of Ramsar Briefing Notes, Ramsar Policy Briefs should be issued when there is demand for shorter inputs.
 - Ramsar Technical Reports should be issued when there is a clear need for basic scientific information to back up that more practical guidance.
 - Ramsar Training materials such as handbooks or webinars should be issued where there is a wider capacity-building mandate.
 - Ramsar Fact Sheets should be issued when there is a general awareness-raising need.
- Make specific improvements to each of these four guidance forms as outlined in the sections that follow.
- For the coming triennium, place a greater emphasis on Briefing Notes (pragmatic advice for policy-makers and/or practitioners) and on training materials, especially those suited to Site level management.
- All guidance products should be made available in all three languages of the Convention.

Ramsar Technical Reports

Finding

These are the original and most detailed form of STRP guidance. Nine reports have been produced to date, often based on detailed STRP reports prepared as information papers for the COP. These documents are copiously researched and are of high scientific quality, but the complex language of most RTRs makes translation very difficult and reduces their potential audience greatly; only three of the nine RTRs have been translated into Spanish and two into French.

The quality of their Executive Summaries varies widely in terms of how specific the summary is and whether or not it draws conclusions or recommends action. The visual branding varies widely, in part due to co-authoring with other organizations.

RTR 7 (Wetlands Disease Manual) is the by far the longest at 315 text pages, but also a best practice example in terms of summarizing content and providing checklists for policy makers and for wetlands practitioners.

Recommendations

- In the coming triennium, there will likely be only a limited budget for RTRs, as outlined in Table 3.
- Those that are produced should benefit from tighter author guidelines mandating
 - An upper limit on the length of RTRs set at 40 pages/19,200 words
 - An effective Executive Summary that encapsulates all of the key take-away findings and recommendations made in the document; one that can be easily translated

- Clearly readable digestible summaries at the start of each chapter
- Clearly delineated checklist-style recommendations for policy-makers and separate ones for wetland professionals throughout (existing RTR 7 is an excellent example of this)
- Table 1 gives an overview of the current RTRs and where specific content could support priorities for the coming triennium.

Ramsar Briefing Notes

Finding

Ramsar Briefing Notes came into existence in 2012 to provide shorter, more action-oriented overviews of specific topics where Parties had made ad hoc requests for guidance, and where experts saw important emerging trends. The introductory BN emphasised that unlike RTRs, RBNs “do not constitute official Ramsar guidance.”

Unlike RTRs, all Ramsar Briefing Notes to date have followed a consistent layout format, and feature joint STRP and Ramsar branding. Early RBNs were 8 pages; later ones tend to be longer. Three have been translated into French and Spanish. The existing RBNs already feature large quantities of checklist-style content and case studies; much of it relevant to the proposed new Strategic Plan and STRP themes.

On the other hand, top-level briefing material for policy-makers needs to be short, evidence-based and contain policy guidance and specific recommendations. Ramsar Fact Sheets are aimed at a wider public, and hence a new category of Ramsar publications is proposed aimed at an audience of key decision-makers and policy-makers, namely Ramsar Policy Briefs.

Recommendations

- Make Ramsar Briefing Notes the mainstay of policy-maker and wetland technician guidance in the coming triennium. Approximately half of the RBNs foreseen can be adapted from or based on existing materials as noted in Table 3. This applies particularly for RBNs relating to valuation of goods and services from wetlands, to best practices in developing Site management plans, and balancing conservation and development.
- Provide slightly tighter author guidelines that mandate
 - An upper limit on the length of the Ramsar Briefing Notes set at 10 pages/4800 words
 - Key take-away findings and recommendations on the first page
 - Clearly focus on either a policy-maker or wetland practitioner audience
 - Checklist-style recommendations for policy-makers and separate ones for wetland managers throughout
- Table 2 also gives an overview of the 6 RBNs to date and where they contain material that strongly support the new Strategic Plan and STRP working themes.
- Ramsar Policy Briefs, which summarise key STRP technical publications, should be produced, being between 2 pages to 4 pages in length. They should contain sound evidence and technical advice phrased in clear, jargon-free language, as well as policy advice. Their aim is to influence development policy and sectoral policies, with a view to increasing the conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands using available policy instruments.

Training and Capacity Building materials

Finding

Training materials targeting Site level management are a clearly perceived gap in guidance materials. The apparent intended vehicle for this - Wise Use Handbooks - are well-researched, but are usually written in an official tone. More fundamentally, they mirror the structure and sequence of resolutions, rather than grouping content coherently by topic, and they have considerable overlap in several areas.

The other potential high impact medium for training is webinars. These are a cost-effective way to deliver capacity-building style training to a wide audience. The STRP has produced six webinars in English, French and Spanish about different activities undertaken by Contracting Parties, partners and Ramsar-related bodies. The topics appear to have been determined by who is available and willing to give one, rather than by any needs-based planning, and currently have very low visibility on the STRP sub-website: <http://strp.ramsar.org/strp-publications/strp-webinars>

Recommendations

- Reconfigure the content of Wise Use Handbooks as training resource materials that more effectively summarize wise use site management and effective policy-making.
 - Proposal: approximately ten units of 10-15 pages of material each.
 - In total, could form a manual in easy accessible blocks
 - Create Powerpoint training presentation versions of each unit
- Future webinars should be more systematically defined in terms of topic and included as a regular guidance deliverable in support of the thematic areas for the coming triennium. Proposed webinars are included in Table 3.
- Though not specifically a “guidance material” in the remit of this report, Regional Workshops could serve as a key element in training Ramsar stakeholders at the national level, and are budgeted for in Table 3.
- Provide detailed, prioritised short lists (up to 3 topics per year) of needs for capacity development material that will arise from the network of wetland professionals and Parties. STRP to provide support in order to source appropriate types of product and providers of training such as universities, technological colleges, distance-learning course providers, UNESCO, UNEP, UNITAR, etc.
- Seek to have Ramsar experts and materials integrated into training courses given by other institutions such as universities, colleges, distance learning course providers, UNEP, UNITAR, UNESCO etc. (eg UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education in Delft)

Ramsar Fact Sheets

Finding

In 2010, the Ramsar Convention produced a series of 10 Ramsar Fact Sheets covering the key ecosystem services of wetlands. Though some of the technical data in these is now outdated, the general approach is a valid one. In late 2014, the first four of a new RFS series were issued, covering several urgent large-scale questions: the basic benefits of wetlands for humanity, planning wise use at site level, the alarming trend in wetland loss, and actions that one can take.

Recommendation

- Ramsar Fact Sheets are the key outreach element targeting a wider public, and should be continued in order to support Ramsar’s wider wetland awareness-raising agenda. A preliminary suggested topic list that updates the key ecosystem services sheets and which also could support the currently proposed STRP thematic areas for the coming triennium is attached as Annex II.

4. Revise systems to support guidance

Finding

All key audiences are visitors to the Ramsar website, but not necessarily to the STRP sub-site. Guidance materials are not clearly available in one spot on the Ramsar website.

Recommendation

- The current STRP collaboration website should be integrated into the current Ramsar website
 - Add a Tools menu point at the top level, accessing all current content in this order :
 - Ramsar Briefing Notes
 - Ramsar Policy Briefs
 - Ramsar Technical Reports
 - Ramsar Webinars
 - Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks (later to become training materials)
 - Fact Sheets
 - Default appearance in each page is a thumbnail list and brief description in order of publication with most recently published at the top; tag all documents thoroughly (title, authors, topics, type) to the website search function
 - Add a collaboration function for the sharing/reviewing of RBNs and RTRs, similar to current functionality on STRP sub-website
- Create one single master database of all Ramsar AAs, NFPs, STRP Focal Points, IOPs, wetland projects and other stakeholders

5. Develop clear Ramsar branding

Finding

Guidance materials to date have had highly inconsistent branding – not always clearly attributable to Ramsar, and over time, the STRP has evolved its own identity and brand with an apparent “arms-length” relationship to the Ramsar Convention.

Recommendation

- Develop consistent Ramsar Convention visual branding across all items
- All materials should be laid out by a graphic artist in this look.

Table 1: Overview of existing Ramsar Technical Reports

Nr.	Title	Year	Text page	Ref page	Non-English		Materials supporting proposed Strategic Plan and STRP working themes	Comments
					FRA	ESP		
1	Guidelines for the rapid ecological assessment of biodiversity in coastal and marine areas	2006	33	22	yes 2010	yes 2010	Rapid biodiversity assessment methodologies and description of steps in Table 2 pp 18-19	CBD Technical Series 22 - appeared in CBD identity
2	Low-cost GIS software and data for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring	2006	11	21	no	yes 2007	Good tool for inventory and assessment - but already outdated? Could be useful part of an overall inventory/assessment manual	Started new Ramsar Tech Report look
3	Valuing wetlands: guidance for valuing the wetland ecosystem	2006	28	16	yes 2007	yes 2007	Good examples of valuation throughout (need updating?); summary Table 5 of wetland system benefits pp. 16-17 and indicators for each Table 6 pp. 19-20; monetary valuation methods Table 10 pp. 24-25	CBD Technical Series 27 - but continues Ramsar TR look (inside pages joint with CBD)
4	A Framework for a Wetland Inventory Metadatabase	2010	7	13	no	no		Micro-audience: i.e. Ramsar Secretariat
5	A Framework for assessing the vulnerability of wetlands to climate change	2011	14	3	no	no	Exec Summary; Objectives and methods for vulnerability assessment Table 2 p.8	Also CBD Technical Series 57
6	Healthy wetlands, healthy people: A review of wetlands and human health interactions	2012	90	17	no	no	Exec Summary; Table 2.2. p 23 Ecological character overall description; Summary of health benefits of wetlands pp. 28-30; general wetland use examples throughout	Joint publication with WHO, very detailed exec summary
7	Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual: Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring and Management of Animal Disease in Wetlands	2012	315	25	no	no	Introductory overview; Chapters 3 & 4 outline the core "to-dos"; particularly Policy-maker box on pp.45-46	Excellent example of TR that is formatted for accessibility and usability ; specific boxes for policy-makers and others for wetland managers
8	Waterbird Flyways Initiatives: Outcomes of the 2011 Global Waterbird Flyways Workshop	2012	77	36	no	no	Ch. 4 Recommendations pp. 57-73 as basis for action guidelines.	Joint report with African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
9	Determination and implementation of environmental water requirements for estuaries	2012	18	9	no	no	Very high technical detail, but could form basis for a specialized Fact Sheet.	CBD Technical Series 69 but Ramsar TR branding; based largely on US, South Africa and Australian experience in estuary management

Table 2: Overview of existing Ramsar Briefing Notes

Nr.	Title	Year	Text page	Ref page	Non-English		Materials supporting proposed Strategic Plan and STRP working themes	Comments
					FRA	ESP		
1	Introduction to the Briefing Notes Series	2012	4	--	no	no	--	not relevant for re-use
2	Wetlands and water storage: current and future trends and issues	2012	8	4	yes	yes	General description of water cycle	Outlines water cycle, but draws no in-depth wetland-related conclusions
3	Avoiding, mitigating and compensation for loss & degradation of wetlands in national laws/policies	2012	8	4	yes	yes	Policy case examples of avoid-mitigate-compensate approach	Case descriptions quite general; do not get into details of policy mechanisms
4	Benefits of wetland restoration	2012	13	6	yes	yes	Arguments for wetlands restoration, including sectors that could be integrated into wise use planning	Practical list of arguments
5	Evaluating risks to Ramsar Sites from climate-change induced sea level rise	2012	4	12 Tables	no	no	Indicative statistics that show sea level rise effect on Ramsar Sites; supporting argument for use in another publication	Narrative description downplays threat.
6	Towards wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands	2013	12	3	no	no	List of policy actions in wise use of urban wetlands.	Practical list of policy actions

Table 3: Possible scenario for Guidance Material for 2016-18 triennium

This table outlines one possible scenario of guidance materials for the 2016-18 triennium, related to the current proposed STRP DR, and assuming that STRP thematic priorities were to be agreed. The list may change significantly based on COP input/decisions.

A. Thematic area related guidance			
Methodologies/tools to monitor Ramsar Sites including surveying, mapping and inventory		Climate change and wetlands: methodologies for carbon capture	
RTR	not required	RTR	The why and how of carbon capture and storage
Ramsar Policy Brief	Policy measures and rationale for wetland monitoring	Ramsar Policy Brief	Policies to promote wetlands as tool carbon capture
Ramsar Briefing Note: Practitioners	2 BNs Surveying/mapping/ inventory and monitoring	Ramsar Briefing Note: Practitioners	How-tos of carbon capture
Ramsar Fact Sheets	not required	Ramsar Fact Sheets	How wetlands in carbon capture
Training	4 Regional workshops 3 webinars in 3 languages	Training	1 webinar in 3 languages
Best practices for developing and implementing management plans for protected areas/Ramsar Sites		B. General guidance not related to thematic areas	
RTR	not required	Ramsar Fact Sheets	18 Fact Sheets covering wetland services/ad hoc requests
Ramsar Policy Brief	not required	Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks	Overhaul of Handbooks into more training-oriented format
Ramsar Briefing Note: Practitioners	Material from Handbook 18 plus life cycle management	Provision of database for guidance	Integrate STRP collaboration function on website Integrate public-facing Guidance section on website
Ramsar Fact Sheets	Already covered in Fact Sheet 2		
Training	4 Regional workshops 1 webinar in 3 languages		
Methodologies for valuation of goods and services of wetlands		Estimated unit prices by type of guidance product	
RTR	Update, new layout of RTR 3	Estimate for authoring, editing, translation, layout and small printing qty per item (CHF)	
Ramsar Policy Brief	Valuation of wetlands (overview all types)	Ramsar Technical Report	33.500
Ramsar Briefing Notes: Practitioners	4 notes for marine/coastal wetland types 4 notes for inland wetland types	Ramsar Briefing Note	13.000
Ramsar Fact Sheets	Valuation of wetlands (overview all types)	Ramsar Policy Brief	9.000
Training	4 Regional workshops 2 webinars in 3 languages each	Ramsar Fact Sheet	6.000
		Regional Workshop	25.000 assumes partner support
Balancing wetlands conservation and development: infrastructure, urbanization and agriculture			
RTR	(not required)		
Ramsar Policy Brief	RPB aimed at urban policy makers RPB aimed at agricultural policy-makers		
Ramsar Briefing Note: Practitioners	How-tos of successful urban wetlands How-tos of wetland and agriculture balance		
Ramsar Fact Sheets	Urban wetlands Wetlands and agriculture		
Training	4 Regional workshops w urban/agricultural break-outs 2 webinars in 3 languages each		

Annex E1: Proposed format for guidelines for authors

This proposal builds on existing guidelines for authors but adds further some further specifics and lays out structure for RTRs and Briefing Notes.

Guidelines for Ramsar guidance authors

Introduction

Thank you for consenting to be an author of Ramsar guidance for policy-makers and wetlands practitioners. These guidelines are meant to help you phrase and structure your Briefing Note or Ramsar Technical Report in a way that will help maximize its effectiveness for the reader.

General guidelines

Use simple language

Please keep your language as plain as possible, without “dumbing down” the scientific or technical content itself. For all materials, we seek a text that is as brief and accessible as possible, which can be a real challenge for an author when dealing with complex subject matter. However, your publication will appear in the three languages of the Convention (English, French and Spanish), so it is important that the text is formulated succinctly and is easy to understand. The ultimate acid test for simplicity of thought and phrasing: is the document easy to translate?

Note that your text may be copy-edited for readability before the translation and layout stage.

Keep the target group in mind

The material you are authoring will have a clearly defined target group. Consider their perspective as you structure the document, as you frame arguments and provide case studies and possibilities for action that relate to their situation.

Present things in an action-oriented way

Wherever possible, rather than simply outlining a given situation, please draw conclusions for what a specific finding might mean for the specified audience. This should include:

- Checklists of things to remember and actions to take – if necessary separate ones if your document has two target groups specified
- Recent case studies that are relevant to the target group’s situation; ideally examples that can be transferred to those in a similar situation. Include examples from a geographically diverse range of settings.

Spend time on the Executive Summary

After finishing the document, write a comprehensive Executive Summary (for Briefing Notes this corresponds to the key messages and recommendations section) that includes the document’s key arguments, findings and wherever applicable, suggested actions. This opening summary will be the most important part of your document that is likely to be read and used the most, and could also form the basis for a shorter Fact Sheet. So it is worth spending time and effort to ensure that this section stands out completely on its own. Someone reading it should take away a comprehensive overview of what stands in the following document.

Keep to page limits

The text of a Briefing Note should not exceed 10 pages. A Ramsar Technical Report should not exceed 40 pages; though here there is some flexibility if the topic demands more depth.

Structure clearly - but minimize formatting in Word

The final version of your document will be laid out professionally, so please structure your Word document clearly in terms of hierarchy of the sections and chapters. The graphic artist will seek to reflect that hierarchy and structure in the final visual layout.

Conversely, keep the *formatting* itself as simple as possible, again because the final graphic layout will not look exactly the same as your Word document. Please keep the following in mind in formatting your Word draft:

- Switch off automatic bullets and numbering before starting your document - and if your document already has them, please go through and remove them all
- Single line spacing
- Paragraph formatting: set to 0 (zero) spacing before and after the paragraph
- Use a 'hard' return/enter to separate paragraphs
- Font: there is no specified font, since the final document will be laid out by a graphic artist. However, for peer reviewers or seeking input from others in the drafting stages, keep in mind that a serif font such as Times New Roman or Cambria will make it easier to read large quantities of text. Non-serif fonts such as Arial are extremely tiring to read in large quantities.
- Font size: preferably 11pt body text
- Headings/subheadings: use bold and/or italics and/or numbering to separate heading levels. Do not use the heading formats from the menu, and do not use automatic heading numbering.
- Do not 'wrap' text around figures or tables
- No automatic figure and table captions, and no auto cross-references from the main text to figure and table captions.

Graphs and tables

Rough versions are fine – the Documentation Officer can redraw in Adobe Illustrator if necessary. For graphs, please also provide an Excel spreadsheet with the numbers used to create the original image, so if necessary the chart can be re-created. Ideally, provide the image separate from the caption words to facilitate translation.

For graphics from other published material, a) indicate in Figure caption the source; b) identify who holds the copyright, so Secretariat can request copyright clearance for use.

Please keep tables as simple as possible –this makes them easier to transfer into the publishing software.

Images

Photos that are relevant to your content and/or show the setting are very welcome. Before providing to us, please ensure that the photographer consents to Ramsar using the images in a publication. Photos should be in as high resolution as possible, in jpeg or tiff format. Please provide any information that the photographer requires in terms of credit or a caption.

Standard formatting for references

Please apply the standard style of the following examples. Please provide internet addresses wherever possible, especially for grey literature reports. Also please double check citations in the text against the full reference list before you submit the final draft plain-text version to the

Secretariat. Please double check that each hyperlink to a download site is working at the time you send the final draft plain text to the secretariat.

- ✓ Abd El Samie, S. & Sadek, M. 2001. Groundwater recharge and flow in the Lower Cretaceous Nubian Sandstone aquifer in the Sinai Peninsula, using isotopic techniques and hydrochemistry. *Hydrogeology Journal* 9: 378-389.
- ✓ Acreman, M.C. 2001. Ethical aspects of water and ecosystems. *Water Policy Journal* 3: 257-265.
- ✓ Acreman, M.C. 2003. Case studies of managed flood releases. *World Bank Water Resources and Environmental Management Best Practice Brief No 8*. World Bank, Washington DC.
- ✓ Acreman, M.C., King, J., Hirji, R., Sarunday, W., Mutayoba, W. 2006 Capacity building to undertake environmental flow assessments in Tanzania. *Proceedings of the International Conference on River Basin Management, Morogorro, Tanzania, March 2005*. Sokoine University, Morogoro. Available at:
http://www.iwmi.cgiar.org/Research_Impacts/Research_Themes/BasinWaterManagement/RIPARWIN/Outputs.aspx

Ramsar Briefing Note structure

Please use the following structure as a general guide to prepare your draft document in Word. Once finalized, the text will be laid out in the RBN format. The format involves many boxes and columns.

Please do *not* place your text into text boxes in Word! Instead, as shown below, mark the start and end of boxes with (ALL CAPS) text in parentheses.

TITLE OF THE BRIEFING NOTE:

AUTHORs DETAILS:

PURPOSE OF THE BRIEFING NOTE: (between 50-70 words)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: (between 70-90 words)

RELATED DOCUMENTS: (list useful articles or references to Ramsar existing guidance)

{INTRO PARA FRONT PAGE} :

{HEADING} KEY MESSAGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

{HEADING 1}:

{SUBHEADING 1}:

{SIDEBOX 1 –START: HEADING}- {SIDEBOX 1-END}

{SIDEBOX 2 –START: HEADING}-{SIDEBOX 2-END}

{SIDEBOX N.XX-START}-{SIDEBOX N.XX-END}

{IMAGE 1};{©CREDITS & CAPTION }

{IMAGE 2};{©CREDITS & CAPTION }

{HEADING 2}:

{SUBHEADING 2}:

{HEADING XX}:

{SUBHEADING XX}:

REFERENCES:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Ramsar Technical Report structure

Please use the following text indicators and general structure in preparing your draft document in Word. Once finalized, the text will be laid out in the RTR format.

Please do not place your text into text boxes in Word! Instead, as shown below, mark the start and end of boxes with (ALL CAPS) text in parentheses.

TITLE OF THE TECHNICAL REPORT:

AUTHORs DETAILS:

PURPOSE OF THE TECHNICAL REPORT: (between 50-70 words)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: (between 70-90 words)

{HEADING} EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: 1-5 page summary of all key findings and recommendations from the document

{CHAPTER TITLE}:

{CHAPTER SUMMARY}: an non-technically oriented Executive Summary of all information contained in that chapter

{HEADING 1}:

{SUBHEADING 1}:

{SIDEBOX 1 –START: HEADING}- {SIDEBOX 1-END}

{SIDEBOX 2 –START: HEADING}- {SIDEBOX 2-END}

{SIDEBOX N.XX-START}- {SIDEBOX N.XX-END}

{IMAGE 1}; {©CREDITS & CAPTION }

{IMAGE 2}; {©CREDITS & CAPTION }

{HEADING 2}:

{SUBHEADING 2}:

{HEADING XX}:

{SUBHEADING XX}:

TABLES:

REFERENCES:

ANNEXES:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Include specific checklists aimed at policy-makers and at wetland practitioners.

Ramsar Fact Sheet structure

An RFS is aimed at a non-expert audience. The tone should be more conversational than is the case with RTRs and RBNs, and the limit is two pages with a maximum of 650 words.

Annex E2: Proposed Ramsar Fact Sheet topics:

Corals

Peatlands

Birdlife biodiversity indicators

Ramsar intro/benefits of Site designation

Successful national/regional wetland policies

What can \$1 million do for wetlands?

Wetland benefits: groundwater/water purification

Wetland benefits: flood control

Wetland benefits: coastal protection

Wetland benefits: recreation/tourism

Wetland benefits: livelihoods

Wetland benefits: food supply

Wetland benefits: biodiversity

Valuation of wetlands

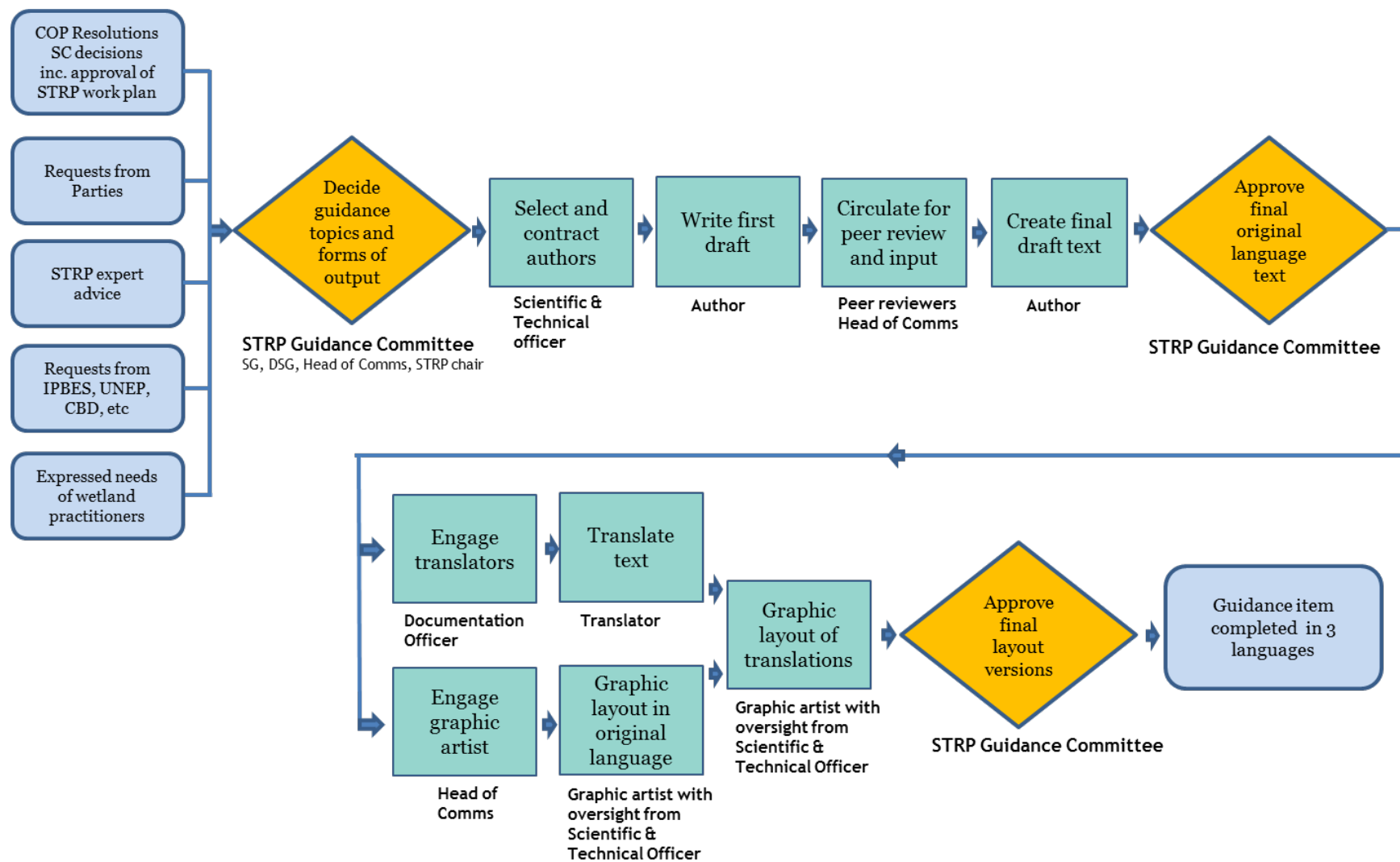
Balancing urban wetland development

Balancing rural wetland & agriculture development

Wetlands carbon capture/storage

(Other topics as arise from ad hoc requests from Parties)

Annex E3: Ramsar STRP Guidance flowchart



World Wetlands Day themes

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the information on WWD 2016 and requested to take a decision on the themes proposed for WWD 2017 and 2018.

World Wetlands Day theme for 2016

1. The Executive Committee has confirmed “Wetlands for Our Future: Sustainable livelihoods” as the theme for World Wetlands Day (WWD) in 2016. This theme has been selected to demonstrate the key role wetlands play in the future of humanity and sustainable development.
2. The Secretariat requested the Executive Committee in July 2015 to exceptionally approve the theme for 2016, as waiting until the 51st meeting of the Standing Committee (SC51) would have greatly delayed the preparation, production and dissemination of outreach material, which needs to start in September. It was not possible to present the theme for WWD 2016 at SC48 or SC50 for consideration, as the Secretariat was contemplating a new approach that would include maintaining “Wetlands for Our Future” as the umbrella theme for WWD and proposing new sub-themes each year, that would be aligned with relevant UN days or initiatives or theme days of relevant partners and International Organization Partners (IOPs).
3. Maintaining an umbrella theme has the advantage of delivering a consistent message, which over time creates clarity, facilitates recognition and helps to build awareness. Furthermore, linking the sub theme to our partners’ initiatives fosters collaboration and has the potential to reach and engage more audiences.
4. In 2013, the Secretariat contracted Futerra Sustainability Communications to undertake an evaluation of WWD outreach, including the materials developed and the channels used to generate awareness. The main objectives of this evaluation were to advise the Secretariat on how to improve messaging and develop materials that would generate awareness, interest and commitment to celebrate WWD around the world.
5. The findings from Futerra confirmed that WWD is an established global event, as evidenced by the scope and diversity of activities reported by countries. However it found that there was a lack of clarity about the primary target audience, which was found to be diverse and varied, therefore questioning as to whether the objectives of WWD were being achieved. Futerra recommended identifying a priority audience and developing specific activities to directly engage and connect them to wetlands
6. In 2015 the recommendations of Futerra were implemented with success. Youth were identified as the primary target audience and through a youth photo contest, they were

encouraged to visit a wetland and take a photo as inspired by the WWD 2015 theme of “Wetlands for Our Future”. The Secretariat received 2,200 photo entries from 80 countries.

7. It should be noted that by identifying youth as the primary target audience for WWD, the intention is not to disregard or exclude other audiences such as policy makers, wetland practitioners, children or the general public, but rather to focus and engage an audience that can act as global transmitters of ideas and thereby influence a far wider public.
8. “Wetlands for Our Future: Sustainable Livelihoods”, the theme for 2016 is consistent with ongoing global discussions to formulate the highly anticipated UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is a timely opportunity to demonstrate the specific role of wetlands to help in achieving the SDGs. The theme also reflects the stated vision for the new Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2024, which affirms wetlands as essential for sustainable development. In other words, wetlands are the source of sustainable development.
9. The Secretariat confirms that WWD 2016 outreach materials will be developed and made available to all Parties, with due consideration for the needs of Parties. Additionally building on the success of WWD 2015, a new youth photo contest is planned.

Themes proposed for World Wetlands Day in 2017 and 2018

10. The Standing Committee is now invited to make a decision on a list of themes proposed by the Secretariat to celebrate WWD in 2017 and 2018. The list of themes provided is based on consultations with IOPs, and other partners and aligned with international themes as communicated by UN organizations. Further explanations will be made available during SC51 on the themes and how they will be tackled.

Theme	Rationale / Justification
Wetlands for Our Future: Wetlands and Waste Water	UN water theme 2017
Wetlands for Our Future: Nature-Based Solutions for Water	UN Water theme 2018
Wetlands for Our Future: Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction	Proposed by Wetlands International
Wetlands for Our Future: Caring for Urban Wetlands	Proposed by WWF

Update on the status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited to:

- take note of the report on the updated information on the status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance;
- to advise on activities to be undertaken by regional representatives on the Standing Committee and those Contracting Parties directly concerned; and
- to instruct the Secretariat as appropriate on specific measures to be taken.

Background

1. This update fulfils the reporting requirements as determined by the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC35) with the decision SC35-28 “that the reporting on the status of Ramsar Sites should be an agenda item for every Standing Committee meeting”.
2. It provides an update on the status of Ramsar Sites based on information received by the Secretariat from 29 August 2014 until the closure of COP12 on 9 June 2015. The previous update was submitted to Contracting Parties in Doc.7 of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP12), which provided all information received by the Secretariat up to 28 August 2014. This information was consolidated in Resolution XII.6 and its Annexes, and adopted by COP12.

Newly designated Ramsar Sites

3. As of 9 June 2015, a total of 2,208 Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) were designated, covering 210,734,269 hectares.
4. 17 new Ramsar Sites, covering a total of 1,896,302 hectares, have been added to the List during the period under review. Annex 1 of this report provides a list of the Sites.

Regular updating of Ramsar Site information

5. During the period under review, ten Parties provided updated or missing data for 25 Ramsar Sites. More details are listed in Annex 2. In addition, 47 Parties submitted updated Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for 422 Sites that are currently being processed by the Secretariat, or for which further information has been requested from the Contracting Party.

6. For 1,226 Ramsar Sites (**55% of all 2,208 Sites**) within the territory of 135 Parties, there is significant out-of-date or missing information. More information on the missing or outdated data is given in Annexes 3a and 3b.
7. Paragraphs 12 and 13 of Resolution XII.6 urge the Parties listed at Annex 3a and 3b of the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (Document COP12 DOC.7), in whose territories lie Ramsar Sites for which the RIS or map have not been submitted since the time of designation, to provide such information as a matter of urgency and in advance of SC51. The Ramsar Secretariat has contacted all relevant Contracting Parties listed in Annex 3a on all outstanding cases, and an updated report will be provided for SC52.
8. Contracting Parties are requested through Resolution XII.6 to fulfil, as a matter of urgency, the terms of Resolution VI.13 and submit updated information on Ramsar Sites at least every six years using the most up-to-date format of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS), now available online through the new Ramsar Sites Information Service, and also to use this RIS for designating new Sites and extending existing Sites.

Extensions of existing Ramsar Sites (Article 2.5)

9. During the period under review, one Party (Japan) has significantly extended the boundaries and area of one existing Ramsar Site in its territory.

Restrictions or deletions of Ramsar Sites from the List (Article 2.5)

10. No Ramsar Sites were deleted from the List during the review period.

Changes in the ecological character of specific Ramsar Sites: Article 3.2 reports

11. Article 3.2 requires Parties to inform the Secretariat if the ecological character of a Site has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. All Parties are encouraged to seek to restore their function and ecological character. Such cases are termed “Article 3.2 Files”.
12. Annex 4a lists the status of the 130 Ramsar Sites with “confirmed Article 3.2 files” initially reported by the Administrative Authority or reported by third parties and confirmed by the Administrative Authority.
13. Annex 4b lists the status of 68 Ramsar Sites for which human-induced negative changes in ecological character have been reported by third parties, but has not been confirmed by the Administrative Authority.
14. The combined total of 198 Sites listed in Annexes 4a and 4b during the period under review represents a similar number to the one reported for the previous period. This increase suggests that an increasing number of wetlands is threatened, but also suggests closer attention by the Parties to the potential loss of ecological character of Sites and an increasing interest by civil society in the status of wetlands.
15. During the review period, the Secretariat received new confirmed Article 3.2 files regarding two Ramsar Sites from Contracting Parties, and new files regarding eight Ramsar Sites from other sources not yet confirmed by the Administrative Authority.

16. Annexes 4a and 4b also summarize the Sites for which no new information has been received. Information is particularly lacking for open files in Bangladesh (Sundarbans Forest Reserve, Site no. 560), Belize (Sarstoon Temash National Park, 1562), Greece (Messolonghi lagoons, 62; Amvrakikos gulf, 61; Axios Ludias Aliakmon delta, 59; Kotychi Lagoons, 63; Lake Vistonis Porto Lagos Lake Ismaris & adjoining lagoons, 55; Lakes Volvi & Koronia, 57; Messolonghi lagoons, 62; Nestos delta & adjoining lagoons, 56), India (Wular Lake, 461; Hairke Lake, 462; Sambhar Lake, 464; Ashtamudi Lake, 1204; Deepor Beel, 1207; East Calcutta Wetlands, 1208; Sasthamkotta Lake, 1212; Vembanand-Kol, 1214), and Netherlands (Bargerveen, 581).
17. During the period under review, reported changes in ecological character were resolved and Article 3.2 files were reported by Administrative Authorities as closed for nine Ramsar Sites.
18. As a result of the lack of regular updates and information on potential or open Article 3.2 files from Ramsar Sites, and as previously indicated to SC48, the Secretariat would like to discuss, during SC51, the most serious Article 3.2 cases in order to give recommendations on how to give them greater support and achieve rapid resolution of the issues. For this purpose, and using the information of Annex 4a of this report, the Secretariat would propose to consider the 101 longest-running files at SC51 that are listed in Annex 5 as cases to be considered by SC51.
19. For Ramsar Sites for which no update has been received for six years or more, the Secretariat will follow up with the Administrative Authorities in the countries concerned, and Parties are urged to report to the Secretariat in time for SC52, and subsequently to each Standing Committee meeting, their status and any steps taken to address any changes or likely changes in their ecological character.
20. The Secretariat also requests that the regional representatives on the Standing Committee provide their support, for example by consulting directly with the Parties concerned, in order that "information on such changes [will] be passed without delay to the [Ramsar Secretariat]", as stipulated in Article 3.2 of the Convention.

Montreux Record

21. Of 130 open Article 3.2 files, 48 were included on the Montreux Record as of the closure of COP12 in June 2015. During this period, no other Sites were removed from the Montreux Record, and one Ramsar Advisory Mission was carried out in Nicaragua.
22. The Secretariat will contact the concerned Parties to provide information at SC52 on all open Article 3.2 Files, including Montreux Record Sites, so that there is more consistency of approach with all Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character.

Annexes

- 1 Newly designated Ramsar Sites added to the List up to COP12.
- 2 List of Sites for which the Parties have provided updated Ramsar Information Sheets and maps, including missing RISs and maps from 29 August 2014 up to the end of COP12.

- 3a List of 51 Ramsar Sites for which either the RIS or an adequate map has never been submitted to the Secretariat since designation
- 3b List of Contracting Parties from which one or more updated Ramsar Information Sheets are needed after six years or more of no update (1,226 Ramsar Sites)
- 4a Status of Ramsar Sites with reports of human-induced negative changes having occurred, occurring or likely to occur (Article 3.2)
- 4b Status of Ramsar Sites with reports of human-induced negative changes having occurred, occurring or likely to occur
- 5 101 longest-running unresolved Article 3.2 files (open for two years or more)

Annex 1

17 newly designated Ramsar Sites added to the List up to COP12

(reporting period 29 August 2014 – 9 June 2015)

Country	Site No.	Site Name	Designation. Date	Area (ha)
Chile	2237	Salinas de Huentelauquen	02/02/2015	2,772
Congo	2222	Leketi-Mbama	02/02/2015	774,965
Congo	2223	Tchicapika-Owando	02/02/2015	970,166
Guinea-Bissau	2230	Lagune de Wendu Tcham	22/05/2015	14,970
Guinea-Bissau	2229	Parc Naturel des Mangroves du Fleuve Cacheu (PNTC)	22/05/2015	88,615
Japan	2234	Higashiyoka-higata	28/05/2015	218
Japan	2232	Hinuma	28/05/2015	935
Japan	2235	Hizen Kashima-higata	28/05/2015	57
Japan	2233	Yoshigadaira Wetlands	28/05/2015	887
Madagascar	2224	Complexe des lacs Ambondro et Sirave (CLAS)	02/02/2015	14,482
Republic of Korea	2226	Hanbando Wetland Ramsar Site	13/05/2015	192
Republic of Korea	2225	Sumeunmulbaengdui Ramsar Site	13/05/2015	118
South Africa	2219	False Bay Nature Reserve	02/02/2015	1,542
Tunisia	2220	Réserve naturelle de Saddine	02/02/2015	2,610
Uruguay	2236	Laguna de Rocha	05/06/2015	10,933
Viet Nam	2228	U Minh Thuong National Park	30/04/2015	8,038
Viet Nam	2227	Lang Sen Wetland Reserve	22/05/2015	4,802

Annex 2

List of Sites for which the Parties provided updated Ramsar Information Sheets and maps, including missing RISs and maps from 29 August 2014 up to the end of COP12¹.

Country	Site No.	Site Name	Designation Date	Area (ha)	Type
Belgium	331	Marais d'Harchies	04/03/1986	557	Update
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1087	Bañados del Izoog y el río Parapetí	17/09/2001	615,882	Update
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1088	Palmar de las Islas y las Salinas de San José	17/09/2001	856,754	Update
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	1089	Pantanal Boliviano	17/09/2001	3,189,888	Update
Canada	320	Chignecto	16/10/1985	1,020	Update
Canada	369	Musquodoboit Harbour	27/05/1987	1,925	Update
Japan	1546	Keramashoto Coral Reef	08/11/2005	8,290	Update
Netherlands	289	Wadden Sea	02/05/1984	271,023	Update
Netherlands	2211	Markiezaat	04/03/1987	1,832	Update
Netherlands	2212	Duinen Ameland	29/08/2000	2,055	Update
Netherlands	2213	Duinen en Lage Land Texel	29/08/2000	4,089	Update
Netherlands	2214	Duinen Schiermonnikoog	29/08/2000	833	Update
Netherlands	2215	Duinen Terschelling	29/08/2000	4,040	Update
Netherlands	2216	Duinen Vlieland	29/08/2000	1,484	Update
Netherlands	1252	North Sea Coastal Area	29/08/2000	144,475	Update
Netherlands	1243	Oudegaasterbrekken, Fluessen en omgeving	29/08/2000	3,054	Update
Norway	312	Stabburneset	24/07/1985	1,620	Update
Norway	317	Gåsoyane	24/07/1985	236	Update
Norway	1198	Trondheimsfjord wetland system	06/08/2002	1,760	Update
Oman	2144	Qurm Nature Reserve	19/04/2013	107	Update
Paraguay	728	Lago Ypoá	07/06/1995	100,000	Update
Peru	1174	Complejo de humedales del Abanico del río Pastaza	05/06/2002	3,827,329	Update
Peru	1317	Bofedales y Laguna de Salinas	28/10/2003	17,657	Update
Peru	1318	Laguna del Indio - Dique de los Españoles	28/10/2003	502	Update
Republic of Korea	2209	Songdo Tidal Flat	10/07/2014	611	Update

¹ This list does not include Sites for which the review of the RIS or map is in process but not yet completed

Annex 3a

List of 51 Ramsar Sites for which either the RIS or an adequate map has not been submitted to the Secretariat since designation

(as at 9 June 2015)

Region	Country	Site No.	Site Name	Designation Date	RIS	Map
Europe	Azerbaijan	1075	Agh-Ghol	21/05/2001	no	no
Europe	Azerbaijan	1076	Ghizil-Agaj	21/05/2001	yes	no
Africa	Cape Verde	1575	Curral Velho	18/07/2005	no	no
Africa	Cape Verde	1576	Lagoa de Rabil	18/07/2005	no	no
Africa	Cape Verde	1577	Lagoa de Pedra Badejo	18/07/2005	no	no
Africa	Djibouti	1239	Haramous-Loyada	22/03/2003	no	no
Africa	Central African Republic	1590	Les Rivières de Mbaéré-Bodingué	05/12/2005	no	no
Europe	Germany	174	Unteres Odertal, Schwedt	31/07/1978	no	no
Europe	Germany	175	Peitzer Teichgebiet	31/07/1978	no	no
Asia	India	463	Loktak Lake	23/03/1990	yes	no
Asia	India	464	Sambhar Lake	23/03/1990	yes	no
Asia	Iran, Islamic Republic of	39	Neyriz Lakes and Kamjan Marshes	23/06/1975	yes	no
Asia	Iran, Islamic Republic of	42	Hamun-e- Saberi and Hamun-e-Helmand	23/06/1975	yes	no
Europe	Ireland	840	Bannow Bay	11/06/1996	no	yes
Europe	Ireland	841	Trawbreaga Bay	11/06/1996	no	yes
Europe	Ireland	842	Cummeen Strand	11/06/1996	no	yes
Asia	Kazakhstan	108	Lakes of the lower Turgay and Irgiz	11/10/1976	yes	no
Asia	Mongolia	924	Mongol Daguur (Mongolian Dauria)	08/12/1997	yes	no
Europe	Netherlands²	198	Het Spaans Lagoen	23/05/1980	no	yes
Europe	Netherlands²	199	Het Lac	23/05/1980	no	yes
Europe	Netherlands²	200	Het Pekelmeer	23/05/1980	no	yes
Europe	Netherlands²	201	Klein Bonaire Island and adjacent sea	23/05/1980	no	yes
Europe	Netherlands²	202	Het Gotomeer	23/05/1980	no	yes
Europe	Netherlands²	203	De Slagbaai	23/05/1980	no	yes
Oceania	New Zealand	103	Farewell Spit	13/08/1976	yes	no
Asia	Pakistan	97	Thanedar Wala	23/07/1976	yes	no

² In overseas territories.

Region	Country	Site No.	Site Name	Designation Date	RIS	Map
Asia	Pakistan	98	Tanda Dam	23/07/1976	yes	no
Asia	Pakistan	99	Kinjhar (kalri) Lake	23/07/1976	yes	no
Asia	Pakistan	100	Drigh Lake	23/07/1976	yes	no
Asia	Pakistan	101	Haleji Lake	23/07/1976	yes	no
Asia	Pakistan	818	Ucchali Complex (including Khabbaki, Uchhali and Jahlar Lakes)	22/03/1996	yes	no
Oceania	Papua New Guinea	961	Lake Kutubu	22/09/1998	yes	no
Oceania	Papua New Guinea	591	Tonda Wildlife Management Area	16/03/1993	yes	no
Africa	Rwanda	1589	Rugezi-Bulera-Ruhondo	12/01/2005	no	no
Africa	Sao Tome and Principe	1632	Ilots Tinhosas	21/08/2006	no	no
Africa	Swaziland³	2121	Hawane Nature Reserve and Dam	15/06/13	no	no
Africa	Swaziland³	2122	Sand River	15/06/13	no	no
Africa	Swaziland³	2123	Van Eck	15/06/13	no	no
Asia	Syrian Arab Republic	935	Sabkhat al-Jabbul Nature Reserve	05/03/1998	yes	no
Asia	Tajikistan	1082	Karakul Lake	18/07/2001	no	yes
Asia	Tajikistan	1083	Kayrakum Reservoir	18/07/2001	no	yes
Asia	Tajikistan	1084	Lower part of Pyandj River	18/07/2001	no	yes
Asia	Tajikistan	1085	Shorkul and Rangkul Lakes	18/07/2001	no	yes
Asia	Tajikistan	1086	Zorkul Lake	18/07/2001	no	yes
Africa	Zimbabwe	2102	Cleveland Dam	03/05/2013	no	no
Africa	Zimbabwe	2103	Chinhoyi Caves	03/05/2013	no	no
Africa	Zimbabwe	2104	Driefontein Grasslands	03/05/2013	no	no
Africa	Zimbabwe	2105	Lake Chivero and Manyame	03/05/2013	no	no
Africa	Zimbabwe	2106	Mana Pools	03/05/2013	no	no
Africa	Zimbabwe	2107	Monavale Wetland	03/05/2013	no	no
Africa	Zimbabwe	2108	Victoria Falls National Park	03/05/2013	no	no

³ Accession Sites, for which the RIS and map are currently being compiled by the Contracting Party with the assistance and support from the Ramsar Secretariat

Annex 3b

List of Contracting Parties from which one or more updated Ramsar Information Sheets are needed after six years or more of no update (1,226 Ramsar Sites)

(reporting period 29 August 2014 to 9 June 2015)

Country	Total designated Sites	Sites requiring information to be updated	Sites for which updated information has been received by the Secretariat ⁴
Albania	4	3	0
Algeria	50	42	0
Andorra	3	0	0
Antigua and Barbuda	1	1	0
Argentina	21	12	4
Armenia	3	0	0
Australia	65	16	27
Austria	23	11	7
Azerbaijan	2	2	0
Bahamas	1	0	1
Bahrain	2	2	0
Bangladesh	2	2	0
Barbados	1	1	0
Belarus	16	0	8
Belgium	9	6	2
Belize	2	2	0
Benin	4	4	0
Bhutan	2	0	0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	11	7	0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	2	1
Botswana	1	1	0
Brazil	12	0	8
Bulgaria	11	8	0
Burkina Faso	15	3	0
Burundi	4	0	0
Cambodia	3	0	0
Cameroon	7	3	0
Canada	37	1	35
Cape Verde	4	3	0
Central African Republic	2	1	0
Chad	6	6	0
Chile	13	1	5

⁴ Numbers in this column are the numbers of Sites for which the Administrative Authorities have submitted an updated RIS that is currently being processed by the Secretariat and/or for which further information or clarification has been requested from the Contracting Party.

Country	Total designated Sites	Sites requiring information to be updated	Sites for which updated information has been received by the Secretariat ⁴
China	46	0	25
Colombia	6	4	1
Comoros	3	3	0
Congo	12	5	0
Costa Rica	12	0	11
Côte d'Ivoire	6	6	0
Croatia	5	1	0
Cuba	6	0	6
Cyprus	1	1	0
Czech Republic	14	12	0
Democratic Republic of Congo	3	2	0
Denmark	43	0	13
Djibouti	1	1	0
Dominican Republic	4	1	0
Ecuador	18	4	9
Egypt	4	2	0
El Salvador	7	2	0
Equatorial Guinea	3	3	0
Estonia	17	8	0
Fiji	1	0	0
Finland	49	49	0
France	43	25	8
Gabon	9	6	0
Gambia	3	3	0
Georgia	2	1	1
Germany	34	17	17
Ghana	6		6
Greece	10	10	0
Grenada	1	0	0
Guatemala	7	5	2
Guinea	16	16	0
Guinea-Bissau	4	1	0
Honduras	9	0	6
Hungary	29	0	27
Iceland	6	0	3
India	26	25	0
Indonesia	7	1	2
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	24	21	0
Iraq	1	0	1
Ireland	45	45	0
Israel	2	2	0
Italy	52	7	44

Country	Total designated Sites	Sites requiring information to be updated	Sites for which updated information has been received by the Secretariat ⁴
Jamaica	4	2	1
Japan	50	34	2
Jordan	1	1	0
Kazakhstan	10	3	0
Kenya	6	5	0
Kiribati	1	0	0
Kyrgyzstan	3	1	0
Lao People's Democratic Republic	2	0	0
Latvia	6	6	0
Lebanon	4	4	0
Lesotho	1	1	0
Liberia	5	5	0
Libya	2	2	0
Liechtenstein	1	1	0
Lithuania	7	0	1
Luxembourg	2	2	0
Madagascar	10	6	0
Malawi	1	1	0
Malaysia	6	6	0
Mali	4	1	0
Malta	2	2	0
Marshall Islands	2	1	0
Mauritania	4	3	0
Mauritius	3	2	0
Mexico	142	109	3
Monaco	1	1	0
Mongolia	11	11	0
Montenegro	2	1	0
Morocco	24	24	0
Mozambique	2	1	0
Myanmar	1	0	0
Namibia	5	4	0
Nepal	9	6	3
Netherlands	56	6	9
New Zealand	6	6	0
Nicaragua	9	0	8
Niger	12	12	0
Nigeria	11	11	0
Norway	63	4	1
Oman	1	0	0
Pakistan	19	19	0

Country	Total designated Sites	Sites requiring information to be updated	Sites for which updated information has been received by the Secretariat ⁴
Palau	1	0	0
Panama	5	3	1
Papua New Guinea	2	2	0
Paraguay	6	6	0
Peru	13	10	3
Philippines	6	0	3
Poland	13	13	0
Portugal	31	22	6
Republic of Korea	21	1	10
Republic of Moldova	3	3	0
Romania	19	5	0
Russian Federation	35	14	21
Rwanda	1	1	0
Saint Lucia	2	2	0
Samoa	1	0	0
Sao Tome and Principe	1	1	0
Senegal	5	4	0
Serbia	10	9	0
Seychelles	3	0	
Sierra Leone	1	1	0
Slovakia	14	14	0
Slovenia	3	3	0
South Africa	22	19	0
South Sudan	1	1	0
Spain	74	61	0
Sri Lanka	6	3	0
Sudan	3	1	0
Suriname	1	1	0
Sweden	66	9	34
Switzerland	11	10	0
Syrian Arab Republic	1	1	0
Tajikistan	5	5	0
Thailand	13	10	0
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2	2	0
Togo	4	4	0
Trinidad and Tobago	3	3	0
Tunisia	41	20	0
Turkey	14	12	0
Turkmenistan	1	0	0
Uganda	12	12	0
Ukraine	33	0	33

Country	Total designated Sites	Sites requiring information to be updated	Sites for which updated information has been received by the Secretariat ⁴
United Arab Emirates	5	0	0
United Kingdom	170	167	0
United Republic of Tanzania	4	4	0
United States of America	37	16	2
Uruguay	3	1	1
Uzbekistan	2	2	0
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	5	5	0
Viet Nam	8	2	0
Yemen	1	0	0
Zambia	8	8	0

Annex 4a

Status of Ramsar Sites with reports of human-induced negative changes having occurred, occurring or likely to occur (Article 3.2)

Open files where information was received by the Secretariat from the Administrative Authority, and which have been followed up by the Secretariat. This list contains Article 3.2 files “open” at the time of COP12 and lists also those open files that were closed since 28 August 2014.

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
1290	Albania	Butrint	12/10/2009			Urban developments, fish farm, new road. Confirmed by AA.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	Other
1598	Albania	Lake Shkodra and River Buna	14/03/2008			Urban developments, removal of vegetation. Confirmed by AA.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	Other
759	Argentina	Laguna de Llanquanelo	02/07/2001		X	Potential change in the ecological character due to oil activities, invasive species and transbasin diversion of Rio Grande to Atuel river.	Change in ecological character is being actively addressed by the AA. Last report in COP12 National Report.	AA
620	Armenia	Lake Sevan	2010			Organic pollution of water, fish stocks diminished. Reported by AA.	Updated report received from AA in September 2013. Overfishing continues, but water quality has improved.	AA

⁵ Other: first reported by a third party and confirmed by the Administrative Authority
AA: first reported by the Administrative Authority

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
321	Australia	The Coorong, lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetlands	13/05/2007			Site has deteriorated due to prolonged drought in the Murray River caused by decreased rainfall and water over allocation for agriculture and urban use.	AA has provided situations updates in April 2013 and March 2014.	AA
337	Australia	Macquarie Marshes	20/07/2009			Reduction in inundation frequency; declines in the diversity, distribution and health of key wetland vegetation communities; disappearance of grasslands and colonization by dry land species	Response strategy was released in March 2013 and is currently being implemented. Latest update from AA in March 2014.	AA
993	Australia	Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses	14/06/1999			In September 2003, damage to the site was reported due to illegal land-use activities, and legal action was taken against the parties concerned. The site has since suffered from insufficient water to parts of the site.	A situation update was provided in March 2014.	AA
272	Austria	Donau-March-Thaya-Auen	30/06/2005		X	Transport infrastructures planned. RAM 22 (April 1991)	Awaiting update from AA since 2010. Potential problem addressed but not yet solved, problem may appear again or become more acute in the future.	AA
273	Austria	Untere Lobau	30/06/2005	May 2015		Planned navigation canal.	Closed- issue solved in May 2015.	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
1076	Azerbaijan	Ghizil-Agaj	04/07/1990	May 2015		Restriction of water supply by dams	Closed- issue solved in May 2015.	
327	Belgium	Schorren van de Beneden Schelde	22/12/1987		X	Lowering of the water table & eutrophication. RAM 1 (Feb 1988)	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	AA
329	Belgium	De Ijzerbroeken te Diksmuide en Lo-Renige	30/06/2005		X	Depleted water quantity and quality.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012.	AA
1562	Belize	Sarstoon Temash National Park	20/05/2009			Concession to perform seismic testing for oil and natural gas.	Awaiting update from AA since country visit in October 2013.	Other
1105	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hutovo Blato	31/08/2010			New road crossing the RS, bird poaching, urban developments.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012. Change in ecological character is partially addressed according to RIS updated in 2012.	Other
602	Brazil	Pantanal Matogrossense State Park	23/09/2013	05/09/2014		Threats to Pantanal due to the build, planning and operation of 87 dams that could impact its ecological character by an accumulative effect.	Last report in National Report to COP12. Closed-issues actively addressed by the AA.	Other
1270	Brazil	Reserva Particular do Patrimônio Natural SESC Pantanal	23/09/2013	05/09/2014		Threats to Pantanal due to the build, planning and operation of 87 dams that could impact its ecological character by an accumulative effect.	Last report in National Report to COP12. Closed-issues actively addressed by the AA.	Other

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
1864	Brazil	Reserva Particular del Patrimonio Natural (RPPN) Fazenda Rio Negro	23/09/2013	05/09/2014		Threats to Pantanal due to the build, planning and operation of 87 dams that could impact its ecological character by an accumulative effect.	Last report in National Report to COP12. Closed-issues actively addressed by the AA.	Other
64	Bulgaria	Srebarna	02/04/1992		X	Erosion of the river bed, eutrophication, vegetation succession. RAM 28 (April 92). RAM 47 (October 01)	Updated RIS received 31/01/13. Threats ongoing. Conservation and reforestation efforts implemented.	AA
239	Bulgaria	Durankulak Lake	16/06/1993		X	Wind farm planned within the Site.	Awaiting update from AA since 2010. New threat reported in 2013. EIA Carried out but AEWA requested to the Deputy Ministry of Environment a revision of the EIA.	AA
222	Chile	Carlos Anwandter Sanctuary	06/10/2006		X	Large mortality of Black-necked Swans related to impacts of waste discharge from an upstream cellulose factory.	Change in ecological character is actively addressed. Last report in COP12 National Report.	AA
877	Chile	Laguna Santa Rosa y Negro Francisco	28/08/2014			Change in ecological character by mining activities	Change in ecological character is actively addressed. Report in National Report to COP12.	AA
951	Colombia	Sistema Lagunar Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta	01/09/2004	1/09/2014		Development of a multi-purpose port facility in Palermo	Closed issues solved.	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
540	Costa Rica	Palo Verde	16/06/1993		X	Changes in the ecological character of the Site, particularly its hydrological characteristics, due agricultural and cattle ranching activities in the surrounding area.	Change in ecological character is actively addressed	AA
811	Costa Rica	Caribe Nordeste	15/11/2010			Change in the ecological character by open artificial channels.	Updated report received from AA in March 2014. Ongoing follow up by Secretariat based on decisions of the International Court of Justice	AA
583	Croatia	Kopacki Rit	29/03/2005		X	Deforestation, drainage, poaching. RAM 55 (September 2005)	Awaiting update from AA since 2012.	Other
585	Croatia	Delta Neretve	30/11/2005			Planned 3 hydropower plants, irrigation projects, urban developments, reed burning, illegal hunting.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	AA
494	Czech Republic	Sumava peatlands	01/04/2011			Change of management practices, reduction of non intervention areas, increased logging activities. Confirmed by AA. RAM 44 (June 2001)	Awaiting update from AA since 2012.	Other
495	Czech Republic	Trebon fishponds	05/07/2005		X	Intensive fish farming, eutrophication, hunting, habitat destruction.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012.	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
635	Czech Republic	Floodplain of lower Dyje River	06/06/2005		X	Planned navigation canal.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012. Change in ecological character is actively addressed.	AA
638	Czech Republic	Litovelske Pomoravi	26/02/1997		X	Overexploitation of the aquifer, plans for a navigation canal.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012. Change in ecological character is actively addressed.	AA
639	Czech Republic	Poodří	06/06/2005		X	Planned navigation canal	Awaiting update from AA since 2012. Change in ecological character is actively addressed.	AA
141	Denmark	Ringkøbing Fjord	04/07/1990		X	Increasing eutrophication leads to decrease of populations of staging and wintering waterbirds. RAM 36 (September 1996)	Updated report received from AA in October 2013	AA
389	Denmark	Heden on Jameson Land (Greenland)	28/04/2008		X	Construction of a road, runway and harbour in the most important moulting area for barnacle geese. Confirmed by AA. RAM 61 (June 2009)	Awaiting update from AA since 2010	Other
787	DR Congo	Virunga National Park	05/09/2007			Oil exploration scheme within the Park	Joint RAM conducted by WHC/IUCN/ICCN/Ramsar in March 2014.	Other
407	Egypt	Lake Bardawil	04/07/1990		X	Effect of the closing of the channels between the lagoon and the sea	Preliminary inventory assessment done. Awaiting update from AA	Other

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
408	Egypt	Lake Burullus	04/07/1990		X	Siltation, drainage and pollution	Confirmation of wetland loss and degradation by TdV report of March 2015. GIS monitoring by CP ongoing. Site chosen as pilot site for GlobWetland-Africa	Other
893	Georgia	Wetlands of Central Kolkheti	27/07/2005			Oil terminal and railway construction at the site. RAM 54 (August 2005)	Awaiting update from AA since 2010	AA
82	Germany	Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart	04/07/1990		X	Dike plans. RAM 19 (September 1990)	Awaiting update from AA since 2010 to close this file. Change in ecological character is actively addressed	AA
561	Germany	Mühlenberger Loch	23/01/2001			Reduction of the site due to industrial expansion. RAM 46 (September 2001)	Awaiting update from AA since 2010	AA
55	Greece	Lake Vistonis Porto Lagos Lake Ismaris & adjoining lagoons	05/07/1990		X	Agricultural, domestic and industrial runoff, increase of salinity, urban developments.	Awaiting update from AA since 2006	Other
56	Greece	Nestos delta & adjoining lagoons	07/07/1990		X	Decreasing groundwater levels. Confirmed by AA.	Awaiting update from AA since 2006	Other
57	Greece	Lakes Volvi & Koronia	06/07/1990		X	Pollution from agricultural, domestic and industrial runoff.	Awaiting update from AA since 2006	Other
59	Greece	Axios Ludias Aliakmon delta	04/07/1990		X	Pollution, dam and irrigation networks considerably altered river hydrology.	Awaiting update from AA since 2006	Other

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
61	Greece	Amvrakikos gulf	04/07/1990		X	Increased salinity and depleted water levels due to irrigation.	Awaiting update from AA since 2006	Other
62	Greece	Messolonghi lagoons	07/07/1990		X	Construction works changed the hydrology and geomorphology of the area, overgrazing, illegal fishing, urban developments, waste disposal. Confirmed by AA.	Awaiting update from AA since 2006	Other
63	Greece	Kotychi lagoons	04/07/1990		X	Illegal hunting, agricultural runoff, pollution, overgrazing.	Awaiting update from AA since 2006	Other
488	Guatemala	Laguna del Tigre	16/06/1993		X	Threat of natural resource extraction including logging, oil related activities and hunting as well as disordered settlement of communities.	Change in ecological character is partially addressed. Secretariat working with the AA to address the issue.	
1163	Guinea	Niger-Mafou	01/03/2014			Extractive Industry (Mining)	Letter received from AA in March 2014 requesting for a RAM. Secretariat requested a desk study	AA
1164	Guinea	Niger-Niandan-Milo	01/03/2014			Extractive Industry (Mining)	Letter received from AA in March 2014 requesting for a RAM. Secretariat requested a desk study	AA
1165	Guinea	Niger Source	01/03/2014			Extractive Industry (Mining)	Letter received from AA in March 2014 requesting for a RAM. Secretariat requested a desk study	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
1166	Guinea	Niger-Tinkisso	01/03/2014			Extractive Industry (Mining)	Letter received from AA in March 2014 requesting for a RAM. Secretariat requested a desk study	AA
1167	Guinea	Sankarani-Fié	01/03/2014			Extractive Industry (Mining)	Letter received from AA in March 2014 requesting for a RAM. Secretariat requested a desk study	AA
1168	Guinea	Tinkisso	01/03/2014			Extractive Industry (Mining)	Letter received from AA in March 2014 requesting for a RAM. Secretariat requested a desk study	AA
722	Honduras	Parque Nacional Jeannette Kawas	19/06/2006			Change in the ecological character due to building of touristic infrastructure.	Updated report received from AA in COP12 National Report (August 2014). Secretariat is addressing the issue with the AA.	Other
167	Iceland	Myvatn-Laxá region	22/04/2010			Plans to build a new dam, geothermal infrastructure, urban developments and tourism pressures. RAM 76 (August 2013)	Awaiting update from AA since 2013	AA
230	India	Keoladeo National Park	04/07/1990		X	Shortage of water due to decreased rainfall during monsoon and dam upstream that controls the water flow to the site.	Awaiting update from AA since 2008	AA
463	India	Loktak Lake	16/06/1993		X		Awaiting update from AA since 2008	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
38	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Urmia Lake	05/09/2011			Lake is drying out because of climate change and mismanagement of water resources in the lake basin	The problem is being addressed actively	AA
39	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Neiriz lakes and Kamjan marshes	04/07/1990		X	Drainage of water from site; agricultural activities	Awaiting update on the condition of the site since 2008	AA
40	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Anzali Mordab (Talab) complex	31/12/1993		X	Changing water levels; increased eutrophication which led to the spread of <i>Phragmites australis</i> . Also increased hunting pressure	The problem is being addressed actively by JICA project at the site.	AA
41	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Shadegan Marshes & mudflats of Khor-al Amaya & Khor Musa	16/06/1993		X	Chemical pollution; Proposed drainage of site for agricultural development	Awaiting update on the condition of the site since 2008	AA
42	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Hamun -e- Saberi & Hamun - e - Helmand	04/07/1990		X	Insufficient water flow into the site has led to it drying out.	The AA is working to address the issue.	AA
44	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Hamun-e-Puzak south end	04/07/1990		X	Insufficient water flow into the site has led to it drying out.	The AA is working to address the issue	AA
45	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Shurgol, Yadegarlu & Dorgeh Sangi Lakes	04/07/1990		X		The problem is being actively addressed; and we are awaiting further update on the site since 2010	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
1718	Iraq	Hawizeh Marsh	28/04/2010		X	Changes in hydrology due to the construction of dams upstream, and water control structures; Decline in rainfall; Oil exploration	On-going; action is being taken to address the change in ecological character. Last update was received during in June 2015 during COP12.	AA
133	Italy	Stagno di Molentargius	22/05/2012			The site is drying out. Under review by AA.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	Other
190	Italy	Laguna di Marano: Foci dello Stella	27/01/2009			Erosion of salt marshes decreased numbers of wintering birds. Confirmed by AA.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	Other
2057	Japan	Nakaikemi-Shicchi	17/09/2012	May 2015		Proposed to build railway project through the site	Additional information received in August 2014; EIA is being conducted. Japan will report on the results of the EIA at SC48 Case closed	Other
135	Jordan	Azraq Oasis	04/07/1990		X	Drying out of the oasis due to increased abstraction of water and reduced rainfall	Additional information received in December 2013. The problem is on-going but action is also being taken to address the issue	
108	Kazakhstan	Lakes of the lower Turgay & Irgyz	Pre COP11			Decrease in water supply that is affecting wildlife, flora and also human settlements dependent on it; Barrages across the River Turgay and its tributaries cut water supply	Waiting for an update on the conditions of the site from AA since 2008.	Other

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
1231	Kyrgyz Republic	Issyk-Kul State Reserve with the Lake Issyk-Kul	12/11/2002			Inadequate treatment of waste water before it is discharged into the lake.	Updated report received from AA in August 2014; issue is being actively addressed.	
1588	Kyrgyz Republic	Karatal-Japyryk State Reserve with the lakes Son-Kol and Chatyr-Kol	01/11/2012			Son-Kol has issues with overgrazing, illegal fishing and inadequate tourism management	Updated report received from AA in August 2014	AA
869	Malawi	Lake Chilwa	01/08/2013			Mineral extraction	Letter received from AA in August 2013 requesting for a RAM. Draft desk study for RAM received on 22 October 2013 - commented and sent back to CP for correction and improvement	AA
1287	Malaysia	Pulau Kukup/	10/04/2014			Proposed ship-to-ship (STS) transfer activities within the Kukup port limits; STS will use super tankers as floating storage terminals for crude oil.	Project is in planning phase; EIA has not yet been conducted but is being planned; the Ministry is monitoring the progress of the project and will share more details with the Secretariat as it becomes available. Latest update was provided in June 2014.	

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
1288	Malaysia	Sungai Pulai	10/04/2014			Proposed ship-to-ship (STS) transfer activities within the Kukup port limits; STS will use super tankers as floating storage terminals for crude oil.	Project is in planning phase; EIA has not yet been conducted but is being planned; the Ministry is monitoring the progress of the project and will share more details with the Secretariat as it becomes available. Latest update was provided in June 2014.	
1289	Malaysia	Tanjung Piai	10/04/2014			Proposed ship-to-ship (STS) transfer activities within the Kukup port limits; STS will use super tankers as floating storage terminals for crude oil.	Project is in planning phase; EIA has not yet been conducted but is being planned; the Ministry is monitoring the progress of the project and will share more details with the Secretariat as it becomes available. Latest update was provided in June 2014.	Other
732	Mexico	Marismas Nacionales	05/08/2014			Building of Las Cruces Hydroelectric Project.	Report by AA. Last report in COP12 National Report.	AA
1346	Mexico	Parque Arrecifal Veracruzano	24/09/2013			Threat by a proposal to expand Veracruz port.	Last report in COP12 National Report Secretariat working with AA to address the issues. AA waiting for the decision of the Court.	Other
1351	Mexico	Playa Tortuguera X'caci-X'caci	12/04/2011			Building of the touristic project Punta Carey.	Last report in COP12 National Report.	Other

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
784	Montenegro	Skadarsko Jezero	24/12/2009			Pollution by an aluminium plant, bird disturbance and poaching. RAM 56 (October 2005)	Awaiting update from AA since 2011	Other
581	Netherlands	Bargerveen	2005			Wind farm construction adjacent to the RS in drained peatlands, court case in Germany and EC. Confirmed by AA.	Awaiting update from AA since 2005	Other
1140	Nicaragua	Humedales de San Miguelito	23/10/2014			Interoceanic Nicaragua Channel	Secretariat working with AA to address the issues.	AA
1138	Nicaragua	Refugio de Vida Silvestre del Rio San Juan	30/11/2010			Project for the improvement of the navigation of the San Juan River.	Secretariat working with AA to address the issues.	AA
1139	Nicaragua	Sistema de Humedales de la Bahia de Bluefields	15/01/2007		X	Potential changes in the ecological character as a consequence of the proposed construction of an all-weather road.	Change in ecological character is partially addressed	
13	Norway	Aakersvika	01/03/2007			Planned road expansion. RAM 56 (April 2010)	Awaiting update from AA since June 2013	Other
307	Norway	Nordre Øyeren	20/08/2010			Road expansion from two to four lines and establishment of a pipeline for sewage.	Awaiting update from AA since June 2013	AA
308	Norway	Ilene & Pesterødkilen	21/01/2005			Pollution accident, urban developments and new road system	Awaiting update from AA since June 2013	AA
802	Norway	Nordre Tyrifjord	03/03/2013			Planned new main road and railway line.	RAM conducted July 2015.	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
805	Norway	Giske Wetland System	01/03/2012			Shelterbelt planting and building and overgrowing.	Awaiting update from AA since June 2013	AA
809	Norway	Froan Nature Reserve & Landscape Protection Area	19/03/2004			Fish farm potentially affecting site's ecological character. Confirmed by AA.	Awaiting update from AA since June 2013	Other
310	Norway	Ørlandet	18/07/2012			Planned air base extension	Awaiting update from AA since September 2014	Other
99	Pakistan	Kinjhar (Kalri) Lake	05/02/2009			Industrial waste pollution from feeder river to the lake; decline in waterbirds and water not suitable for drinking	Waiting for an update on the condition of the site from AA since 2009	Other
101	Pakistan	Haleji Lake	14/04/2009			Plan to develop right bank outfall drain next to the site	Waiting for an update on the condition of the site and the progress of the project from AA since 2009	Other
1067	Pakistan	Jubho Lagoon	18/12/2008			Pollution	Awaiting update from AA since 2009	Other
656	Philippines	Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary (OIWS)	01/08/2012			Proposed reclamation project in Cordova coastal area, a nearby island of OIWS	Ongoing discussions to address the issue. Latest update from AA in August 2014.	Other
2124	Philippines	Las Piñas-Parañaque Critical Habitat and Ecotourism Area (LPPCHEA)	13/02/2014			Proposed erclamation of the Manila Bay specificall areas adjacent to LPPCHEA. Petitions were filed to avert the reclamation projects.	Issue is being actively addressed. Latest update from AA in August 2014.	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
521	Romania	Danube Delta	18/08/2004			Possible transboundary influences due to the reopening of a navigable waterway (Bistroe channel).	Updated report received from AA in May 2013	AA
1074	Romania	Small Island of Braila	28/04/2005			Works to improve navigation conditions potentially affecting the site ecological character.	Awaiting update from AA since 2009	AA
2650	Romania	Olt – Danube Confluence	10/07/2012			Planned construction of a dam	Awaiting update from AA since September 2012	Other
139	Senegal	Bassin du Ndiel	04/07/1990		X	Agro-industrial projects	PREFELAG and Alliance Ecosystem projects very active in the site to restore its ecological integrity report in COP12.	AA
1392	Serbia	Slano Kopovo	01/11/2006			Water deficit result of hydromelioration activities and successive dry years. Confirmed by AA.	Updated report received from AA in September 2013 Change in ecological character is actively addressed	Other
1014	Sierra Leone	Sierra River Estuary	01/01/2013			Urban development (Expansion of Freetown City)	Letter received from AA in January 2013 requesting for a RAM. Desk study received in January 2015. ToR to be drafted	AA
586	Slovenia	Secovlje salt pans	05/03/2007			Illegal hunting.	Awaiting update from AA since 2008	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
991	Slovenia	Skocjan Caves	27/04/2007			Implementation of the national location plan for drinking water supply. Confirmed by AA.	Awaiting update from AA since 2007	Other
343	South Africa	Blesbokspruit	06/05/1996		X	Pollution from underground mine water	Situation report expected from AA since March 2014	AA
526	South Africa	Orange River Mouth	26/09/1995		X	Collapse of salt marsh component of the site as a result of diamond mining activities and dam construction	Update expected from AA since March 2014	AA
593	Spain	Delta del Ebro	28/07/2014			Upstream water abstraction & pollution, sediment retention	Awaiting update from AA since February 2015	Other
234	Spain	Doñana	04/07/1990		X	Intensive agriculture, dam construction, pollution, overfishing, overexploitation of the aquifers, tourism pressures, drainage, gas and oil exploitation, navigation disturbance. Confirmed by AA. RAM 51 (October 2002). RAM 70 (January 2011).	Updated report received from AA in July 2014. New threats reported in 2013.	Other
2069	Spain	Lagunas de Ruidera	22/11/2012			Lack of management plan and tourism pressures threatening the site's ecological character	Updated report received from AA in March 2015.	Other

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
235	Spain	Las Tablas de Daimiel	06/04/2009		X	Overexploitation of the aquifer. Guadiana river ceased flowing in the RS. Confirmed by AA. RAM 2 (March 1988)	Updated report received from AA in March 2014.	Other
449	Spain	S'Albufera de Mallorca	01/04/2009			Golf course development. Confirmed by AA. RAM 68 (October 2010)	Awaiting update from AA since March 2014.	Other
454	Spain	Albufera de Valencia	16/03/2004			Urban developments. Confirmed by AA. RAM 58 (December) 2006	Updated report received from AA in March 2014.	Other
599	Spain	Laguna y Arenal de Valdoviño	10/01/2012			Drainage operation critically lowered the water level of the lagoon, dune vegetation destruction due to human pressures. Confirmed by AA.	Updated report received from AA in February 2015.	Other
706	Spain	Mar Menor	08/10/2007			Eutrophication and water extraction.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	AA
948	Thailand	Kuan Ki Sian of the Thale Noi Non Hunting Area Wetlands	20/11/2009	01/09/2014		Encroachment by palm oil plantationsl changes in hydrology due to drainage and irrigation schemes; road constructed across the swamp forest; dessication of the peat swamp	Issue has been addressed; Site visited by the Secretariat in June 2014 followed by a detailed response from the AA received in September 2014. Case closed.	Other
1100	Thailand	Krabi Estuary	28/05/2013	01/09/2014		Coal Power project set to be constructed in 2015 at Tambol Pakasai, Nhua Khlong district	Site visited by the Secretariat in June 2014 followed by a detailed response from the AA received in September 2014. Case closed.	Other

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
726	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Prespa Lake	28/03/2006			Eutrophication, overexploitation.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	AA
736	Togo	Reserve de faune de Togodo	01/01/2014			Dam Construction	Draft EIA available and Secretariat advised and guided AA for its involvement with the validation process	AA
203	Tunisia	Ichkeul	04/07/1990		X	Hydraulic development works in catchment area	Removal process ongoing. Final report expected since November 2014	AA
1715	UAE	Ras al Khor	15/04/2013			Opening of the Business Bay Canal causing possible changes in salinity and hydrodynamics	Additional information received in August; ecological character of the site is being monitored	Other
394	Uganda	Lake George	04/07/1990		X	Oil and gas activities	Awaiting update from AA since 2009	AA
756	Ukraine	The Northern Part of the Dniester Liman	15/08/2014			330kV high voltage transmission line project potentially crossing the RS. Reported by 3rd Party-under review by AA.	Updated report received from AA in September 2014. Location of the transmission line to be confirmed.	Other
766	Ukraine	Tyligulskyi Liman	05/10/2012			Land reclamation, pollution, anthropogenic disturbances, changes in the hydrology.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
764	Ukraine	Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area	05/10/2012			Operation of the Novodnestrovsk Plant as well as the Dniester Hydroelectric Power Station as artificially regulated flooding threatens fish species and reduces the diversity of the site	Awaiting update from AA since 2012	AA
77	United Kingdom	Ouse Washes	18/02/2011		X	Water management problems. RAM 49 (November 2001)	Update from COP12 National Report.	AA
298	United Kingdom	The Dee Estuary	21/11/2007		X	Industrial and transport developments. Confirmed by AA. RAM 34 (November 1994)	Update from COP12 National Report	Other
1043	United Kingdom	South East Coast of Jersey	02/12/2008			Plans for a new road and construction of an incinerator. Confirmed by AA.	Update received in January 2015. Awaiting update from AA.	Other
1077	United Kingdom	Diego Garcia	08/04/2009			Discharge of untreated sewage, hazardous pollutants in the lagoon, introduction of invasive species, biomass reduction in the reefs, underwater sound pollution, overfishing. Confirmed by AA.	Updated report received from AA in May 2014.	Other

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Montreux Record	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015	First reported by ⁵
374	United States of America	Everglades	16/06/1993		X	Changes in the natural water flows and nutrient enrichment due to agricultural practices and development in the surrounding area.	Change in ecological character is being actively addressed	
2001	United States of America	Kakagon and Bad River Sloughs	31/03/2014			Possible construction of a very large open-pit iron ore mine near the headwaters of the Bad River.	Issues addressed by the AA and the National Wetlands Committee.	AA

Annex 4b

Status of Ramsar Sites with reports of human-induced negative changes having occurred, occurring or likely to occur

(as at 9 June 2015)

Open files where information has been received by the Secretariat from sources other than Contracting Parties, and where this has been followed up with the Administrative Authorities concerned. Inclusion here does not imply that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Secretariat, or Party concerned considers that any given site is facing negative change.

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015 (COP12)
262	Australia	Barmah Forest	Jul-14	Sept 2014	Trial ecological thinning of the Red Gum Forest	(Update received from AA dated 15 Sept 2014). Case closed.
267	Australia	Western port	01/11/2010		Threat from the proposed expansion of the Port of Hastings	Awaiting confirmation whether the port expansion will be at Western Port or another site
268	Australia	Western District Lakes	01/11/2012	Nov 2014	Wind Farm project	Response received from the AA in November 2014. Case closed.
269	Australia	Gippsland Lakes	30/11/2009		Dredging of the Lakes' entrance caused an increase in the salinity of the site, but declining freshwater flows and increased nutrients; invasion of European shore crab and marine algal species.	Latest updated received from AA in July 2015 indicating that an assessment will be conducted to understand if there has been a human-induced change to the site.
482	Australia	Peel-Yalgorup system	05/08/2014	Oct 2014	Dredging from Pt. Grey to Dawesville Cut, and also at the marina at Dawesville Cut	AA provided update in October 2014. Case closed.

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015 (COP12)
560	Bangladesh	Sundarbans Reserve Forest	09/06/2011		Construction of Coal-fired power plant about 14 km away from the site; Plans to develop a coal mine in Phulbari; the extracted coal is transferred to Mongla port (near Sundarbans), then transported to an off-shore reloading facility inside the site.	Waiting for an update on the condition of the site as well as the status of the project from AA since 2011
1180	Burundi	Parc National de la Rusizi	01/01/2013		Large Scale Sugar Cane Plantation	Waiting for an update on the situation and the condition of the wetland from AA since 2012
951	Colombia	Cienaga Grende de Santa Marta	23/03/2015		Agriculture, diversion of water	Discussion with AA during COP12 an update report from AA is under preparation.
1740	Congo	Cayo-Loufoualeba	2010		Extractive industry (Mining)	Waiting for an update on the situation and the condition of the wetland from AA since 2010. AA promised in 2012 to transform RAM recommendations into action Plan
143	Denmark	Nisum Fjord	17/11/2009		Increasing eutrophication leads to decrease of populations of staging and wintering waterbirds.	Under review by AA. Email received from AA in October 2013.
146	Denmark	Ulvedybet & Nibee Bredning	17/11/2009		Increasing eutrophication leads to decrease of populations of staging and wintering waterbirds.	Under review by AA. Email received from AA in October 2013.
356	Denmark	Vadehavet	17/11/2009		Drainage and agricultural intensification, destruction of meadows.	Under review by AA. Email received from AA in October 2013.
788	DR Congo	Parc national des Mangroves	2009		Construction work (Port)	Update received from third party in February 2015

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015 (COP12)
1810	France	Rhin supérieur	18/04/2012		Urban developments.	Information received from AA in June 2015 that the project was abandoned. Case to be closed.
54	Greece	Evros Delta	24/10/2008		Lack of coherent management.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2006
460	Iceland	Thjörsárver	22/04/2010		Plans for a hydropower plant & dam.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012.
461	India	Wular Lake	14/02/2014		Unplanned development and illegal encroachment	Awaiting update from AA since 2014
462	India	Harike Lake	14/02/2014		Reduction in size of the lake	Awaiting update from AA since 2014
464	India	Sambhar	27/04/2009		Unauthorized salt extraction; excess pumping of groundwater; Proposed construction of the world's biggest solar power generating facility close	Awaiting update from AA since 2009
1204	India	Ashtamudi Lake	13/06/2012		Kollam Corporation dumping solid waste to the banks of the Lake; also illegal construction of solid waste treatment plant.	Awaiting update from AA since 2012
1207	India	Deepor Beel	23/05/2013		Fishing, siltation, illegal constructions and encroachment; factory chemical wastes dumped into the wetland (several fish of different species have been found dead). Proposed construction of a Railway line next to the Elephant Corridor.	Awaiting update from AA since 2013
1208	India	East Calcutta Wetlands	27/08/2010		Threat of urban encroachment and noxious pollutant escalation.	Awaiting update from AA since 2009
1212	India	Sasthamkotta Lake	05/05/2013		Drought, waste dumping and lack of management	Awaiting update from AA since 2013

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015 (COP12)
1214	India	Vembanand-Kol	30/08/2010		Industrial project given permit to start at the Ramsar Site; The Banyan Tree Resort does not conform with the environmental regulations	Awaiting update from AA since 2013
415	Ireland	Clara Bog	27/06/2012		Peat extraction.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2012
416	Ireland	Morgan Bog	27/06/2012		Peat extraction.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2012
417	Ireland	Raheenmore Bog	27/06/2012		Peat extraction.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2012
846	Ireland	Lough Corrib	27/06/2012		Peat extraction.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2012
847	Ireland	Lough Derravaragh	27/06/2012		Peat extraction.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2012
117	Italy	Pian di Spagna e Lago Mezzola	25/07/2012		Road and environmental centre construction within the Site.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2012
423	Italy	Laguna di Venezia: Valle Averte	15/07/2014		Plans to dig a deep water shipping channel across the lagoon	Answer received from AA in December 2014. RAM planned for October 2015 (joint with WHC).
1812	Italy	Lagustelli di Percile	10.03.2015		Improper/lack of management of the Site - water abstraction/deviation, eutrophication and unauthorized tourist activity	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since March 2015.
1454	Jamaica	Palisadoes	15/10/2010		Severe degradation and adverse ecological change due to the constructing of a highway	Last report in National Report to COP12 (August 2014). Secretariat is addressing the issue with the AA.
1597	Jamaica	Portland Bight	19/09/2013		Threat by a proposal to build a logistics/trans-shipment port by China Harbour Engineering Company	Last report in National Report to COP12 Secretariat is addressing the issue with the AA.

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015 (COP12)
1856	Kazakhstan	Ural River Delta and adjacent Caspian Sea Coast	preCOP11		Construction of an oil response base	We are waiting for an update from AA on the condition of this site since 2011
1777	Mexico	Laguna de Nipchute	2/04/2015		Building of an oil station	The AA is addressing the issues
1478	Morocco	Embouchure de la Moulouya	2010		Pollution	RAM report ongoing implementation. Update received in August 2014
1391	Mozambique	Marromeux Complex	2008		Oil and Gas exploration	Ongoing work to address the issue. AA is updating the RIS
1964	Mozambique	Lac Niassa and its Coastal Zone	2012		Oil Exploration	Waiting for an update on the situation and the condition of the wetland from AA since 2012
194	Netherlands	Naardermeer	16/10/2005		Urban developments and tourism pressures.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2005
289	Netherlands	Waddensea	17/07/2012		Industrial developments in the area. Coal fuelled power plant planned at the edge of the RS.	Update received from the AA in June 2015. Awaiting further information from AA.
818	Pakistan	Uchhali Complex Lake	06/04/2014		Proposed reconstruction of road through the wetland site; recommendation is to build the road at a lower level which would have a lower impact.	Waiting for an update on the proposed project from AA since 2014
282	Poland	Warta Mouth National Park	21/07/2014	November 2014	Building projects at the river banks causing excessive drainage, water scarcity and bird disturbance.	Closed in November 2014.
212	Portugal	Ria Formosa	11/03/2009		New resort project close to the river.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2009
1594	Republic of Korea	Seocheon Tidal Flat	29/04/2009		Proposed reclamation of the intertidal mudflats	Awaiting update from AA since 2009

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015 (COP12)
1029	Republic of Moldova	Lower Prut Lakes	20/05/2005		Oil drilling next to the RS.	Awaiting update from AA since 2010.
110	Russian Federation	Kandalaksha Bay	04/05/2012		Plans for the construction of a gas plant within the RS.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2009
111	Russian Federation	Volga Delta	16/11/2012		Development of oil and gas industry.	Awaiting information from AA since 2010.
674	Russian Federation	Kuban Delta: Group of limans between rivers Kuban & Protoka.	30/11/2010		Oil exploitation.	No answer from AA. Awaiting information from AA since March 2013
675	Russian Federation	Kuban delta: Akhtaro-Grivenskaya group of limans	30/11/2010		Oil exploitation	No answer from AA. Awaiting information from AA since March 2013
682	Russian Federation	Selenga Delta	19/11/08		Artificial fluctuation of water levels due hydropower plants in lake Baikal.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2009
683	Russian Federation	Torey Lakes	27/07/2009		Channel construction.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2009
695	Russian Federation	Moroshechnaya River	30/01/2007		Oil exploitation activities.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2007
699	Russian Federation	Pskovsko-Chudskaya Lowland	16/11/2012		Urban developments, uncontrolled fishing, hunting and tourism pressures. Fish do not reach places upstream, changes in migration routes.	No answer from AA. Awaiting information from AA since November 2012
819	Serbia	Stari Begi/Carska Bara Special Nature Reserve	29/10/2007		Shipyard building in the surrounding area of the RS.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2010

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015 (COP12)
1600	Slovenia	Lake Cerknica and its environ	22/04/2008		Water pollution.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2010
888	South Africa	Seekoeivlei Nature Reserve	2013		Raw Sewage Problem	Waiting for an update on the situation and the condition of the wetland from AA since 2013
452	Spain	Complejo Intermareal Umia-O Grove	20/01/2014		Heavy metals pollution. Under revision by AA. Not confirmed yet.	Awaiting update from AA since January 2014.
592	Spain	Aiguamolls de l'Empordà	10/01/2012		Wet meadows destruction for rice agriculture and overexploitation of the aquifer.	Awaiting update from AA since October 2013
705	Spain	Ria del Eo	19/05/2009		Potential urban developments.	Under revision by AA. Not confirmed yet. Awaiting update from AA since 2013
231	Switzerland	Bolle di Magadino	01/06/2013		Planned airport extension	Awaiting update from AA since July 2013.
935	Syrian Arab Republic	Sabkhat al-Jabbul Nature Reserve	23/11/2010		Waste water is being discharged into the lake	Waiting for an update on the situation and the condition of the wetlands from AA since 2010
945	Turkey	Gediz Delta	05/02/2013		Urban developments and proposed project for rehabilitation of Izmir Bay and Harbour. Planned to stock dredged materials in the coastal area.	No answer from AA. Awaiting update from AA since 2013
659	Turkey	Seyfe Lake	05/12/2014		Elements of management plan have not implemented, causing drying up of Seyfe Lake	Under revision by AA. Awaiting update since February 2015.
1640	Uganda	Murchison Falls-Albert Delta Wetland System	02/02/2015		Oil and gas activities	Awaiting report from AA

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Date of closure	Short summary of the issue	Status as at 9 June 2015 (COP12)
926	United Kingdom	Avon Valley	21/07/2014		The ecosystem has been degraded and consequently the number of wading birds is decreasing.	Under revision by AA. Not confirmed yet. Awaiting update from AA since June 2015.
396	United Kingdom	Pagham Harbour	16/04/2015		Plan for 32 ha of polytunnels	Update received from AA in April 2015. Awaiting further information from AA.
936	United Kingdom	Carlingford Lough	17/02/2015		Projected ferry route to pass around Ramsar	Update received from AA in March 2015.

Annex 5

101 longest-running unresolved Article 3.2 files (open for two years or more)

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Montreux Record	Status as at COP12 June 2015
1290	Albania	Butrint	12/10/2009		Awaiting update from AA since 2012
1598	Albania	Lake Shkodra and River Buna	14/03/2008		Awaiting update from AA since 2012
759	Argentina	Laguna de Llanquanelo	02/07/2001	X	Change in ecological character is being actively addressed by the AA. Last report in COP12 National Report.
620	Armenia	Lake Sevan	2010		Updated report received from AA in September 2013. Overfishing continues, but water quality has improved.
321	Australia	The Coorong, lakes Alexandrina and Albert Wetlands	13/05/2007		AA has provided situation updates in April 2013 and March 2014.
337	Australia	Macquarie Marshes	20/07/2009		Response strategy was released in March 2013 and is currently being implemented. Latest update from AA in March 2014.
993	Australia	Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses	14/06/1999		A situation update was provided in March 2014.
993	Australia	Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses	14/06/1999	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2010. Potential problem addressed but not yet solved, problem may appear again or become more acute in the future.
272	Austria	Donau-March-Thaya-Auen	30/06/2005	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2010. Potential problem addressed but not yet solved, problem may appear again or become more acute in the future.
327	Belgium	Schorren van de Beneden Schelde	22/12/1987	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2012
329	Belgium	De Ijzerbroeken te Diksmuide en Lo-Renige	30/06/2005	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2012.
1562	Belize	Sarstoon Temash National Park	20/05/2009		Awaiting update from AA since country visit in October 2013.

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Montreux Record	Status as at COP12 June 2015
1105	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hutovo Blato	31/08/2010		Awaiting update from AA since 2012. Change in ecological character is partially addressed according to the updated RIS in 2012.
64	Bulgaria	Srebarna	02/04/1992	X	Updated RIS received 31/01/13. Threats ongoing. Conservation and reforestation efforts implemented.
239	Bulgaria	Durankulak Lake	16/06/1993	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2010. New threat reported in 2013. EIA Carried out but AEWA requested to the Deputy Ministry of Environment a revision of the EIA.
222	Chile	Carlos Anwandter Sanctuary	06/10/2006	X	Change in ecological character is being actively addressed. Last report in COP12 National Report.
811	Costa Rica	Caribe Nordeste	15/11/2010		Updated report received from AA in March 2014. Ongoing follow up by Secretariat based on decisions of the International Court of Justice
540	Costa Rica	Palo Verde	16/06/1993	X	Change in ecological character is being actively addressed
583	Croatia	Kopacki Rit	29/03/2005	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2012.
585	Croatia	Delta Neretve	30/11/2005		Awaiting update from AA since 2012
494	Czech Republic	Sumava peatlands	01/04/2011		Awaiting update from AA since 2012.
495	Czech Republic	Trebon fishponds	05/07/2005	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2012.
635	Czech Republic	Floodplain of lower Dyje River	06/06/2005	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2012. Change in ecological character is being actively addressed.
638	Czech Republic	Litovelske Pomoravi	26/02/1997	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2012. Change in ecological character is being actively addressed.
639	Czech Republic	Poodří	06/06/2005	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2012. Change in ecological character is being actively addressed.
141	Denmark	Ringkøbing Fjord	04/07/1990	X	Updated report received from AA in October 2013
389	Denmark	Heden on Jameson Land (Greenland)	28/04/2008	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2010

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Montreux Record	Status as at COP12 June 2015
787	DR Congo	Virunga National Park	05/09/2007		Joint RAM conducted by WHC/IUCN/ICCN/Ramsar in March 2014.
407	Egypt	Lake Bardawil	04/07/1990	X	Preliminary inventory assessment done. Awaiting update from AA
408	Egypt	Lake Burullus	04/07/1990	X	Confirmation of wetland loss and degradation by Tour du Valat report of March 2015. GIS monitoring by CP ongoing. Site chosen as pilot site for GlobWetland-Africa
893	Georgia	Wetlands of Central Kolkheti	27/07/2005		Awaiting update from AA since 2010
82	Germany	Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart	04/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2010 to close this file. Change in ecological character is being actively addressed
561	Germany	Mühlenberger Loch	23/01/2001		Awaiting update from AA since 2010
55	Greece	Lake Vistonis Porto Lagos Lake Ismaris & adjoining lagoons	05/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2006
56	Greece	Nestos delta & adjoining lagoons	07/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2006
57	Greece	Lakes Volvi & Koronia	06/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2006
59	Greece	Axios Ludias Aliakmon delta	04/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2006
61	Greece	Amvrakikos gulf	04/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2006
62	Greece	Messolonghi lagoons	07/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2006
63	Greece	Kotychi lagoons	04/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2006
488	Guatemala	Laguna del Tigre	16/06/1993	X	Change in ecological character is partially addressed. Secretariat working with the AA to address the issue.
722	Honduras	Parque Nacional Jeannette Kawas	19/06/2006		Updated report received from AA in COP12 National Report (August 2014). Secretariat is addressing the issue with the AA.
167	Iceland	Myvatn-Laxá region	22/04/2010		Awaiting update from AA since 2013
230	India	Keoladeo National Park	04/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2008
463	India	Loktak Lake	16/06/1993	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2008

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Montreux Record	Status as at COP12 June 2015
38	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Urmia Lake	05/09/2011		The problem is being addressed actively
39	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Neiriz lakes and Kamjan marshes	04/07/1990	X	Awaiting update on the condition of the site since 2008
40	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Anzali Mordab (Talab) complex	31/12/1993	X	The problem is being addressed actively by JICA project at the site
41	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Shadegan Marshes & mudflats of Khor-al Amaya & Khor Musa	16/06/1993	X	Awaiting update on the condition of the site since 2008
42	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Hamun -e- Saberi & Hamun - e - Helmand	04/07/1990	X	The AA is working to address the issue
44	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Hamun-e-Puzak south end	04/07/1990	X	The AA is working to address the issue
45	Iran, Islamic Republic of	Shurgol, Yadegarlu & Dorgeh Sangi Lakes	04/07/1990	X	The problem is being actively addressed; and we are awaiting further update on the site since 2010
1718	Iraq	Hawizeh Marsh	28/04/2010	X	On-going; action is being taken to address the change in ecological character; Last update was received during in June 2015 during COP12.
133	Italy	Stagno di Molentargius	22/05/2012		Awaiting update from AA since 2012
190	Italy	Laguna di Marano: Foci dello Stella	27/01/2009		Awaiting update from AA since 2012
135	Jordan	Azraq Oasis	04/07/1990	X	Additional information received in December 2013. The problem is on-going but action is being taken to address the issue
108	Kazakhstan	Lakes of the lower Turgay & Irgyz	Pre COP11		Waiting for an update on the conditions of the site from AA since 2008
1231	Kyrgyz Republic	Issyk-Kul State Reserve with the Lake Issyk-Kul	12/11/2002		Updated report received from AA in August 2014; issue is being actively addressed.
1588	Kyrgyz Republic	Karatal-Japyryk State Reserve with the lakes Son-Kol and Chatyr-Kol	01/11/2012		Updated report received from AA in August 2014
1351	Mexico	Playa Tortuguera X'cacel-	12/04/2011		Last report in COP12 National Report.

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Montreux Record	Status as at COP12 June 2015
		X'cacelito			
784	Montenegro	Skadarsko Jezero	24/12/2009		Awaiting update from AA since 2011
581	Netherlands	Bargerveen	2005		Awaiting update from AA since 20005
1138	Nicaragua	Refugio de Vida Silvestre del Rio San Juan	30/11/2010		Secretariat working with AA to address the issues.
1139	Nicaragua	Sistema de Humedales de la Bahia de Bluefields	15/01/2007	X	Change in ecological character is partially addressed
13	Norway	Aakersvika	01/03/2007		Awaiting update from AA since June 2013
307	Norway	Nordre Øyeren	20/08/2010		Awaiting update from AA since June 2013
308	Norway	Ilene & Pesterødkilen	21/01/2005		Awaiting update from AA since June 2013
802	Norway	Nordre Tyrifjord	03/03/2013		RAM conducted July 2015.
805	Norway	Giske Wetland System	01/03/2012		Awaiting update from AA since June 2013
809	Norway	Froan Nature Reserve & Landscape Protection Area	19/03/2004		Awaiting update from AA since June 2013
310	Norway	Ørlandet	18/07/2012		Awaiting update from AA since September 2014
99	Pakistan	Kinjhar (Kalri) Lake	05/02/2009		Waiting for an update on the condition of the site from AA since 2009
101	Pakistan	Haleji Lake	14/04/2009		Waiting for an update on the condition of the site and the progress of the project from AA since 2009
1067	Pakistan	Jubho Lagoon	18/12/2008		Awaiting update from AA since 2009
656	Philippines	Olango Island Wildlife Sanctuary (OIWS)	01/08/2012		Ongoing discussions to address the issue. Latest update from AA in August 2014.
521	Romania	Danube Delta	18/08/2004		Updated report received from AA in May 2013
1074	Romania	Small Island of Braila	28/04/2005		Awaiting update from AA since 2009
2650	Romania	Olt – Danube Confluence	10/07/2012		Awaiting update from AA since September 2012
139	Senegal	Bassin du Ndiel	04/07/1990	X	PREFELAG and Alliance Ecosystem projects working actively to restore site ecological integrity and reported to COP12.
1392	Serbia	Slano Kopovo	01/11/2006		Updated report received from AA in September 2013 Change in

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Montreux Record	Status as at COP12 June 2015
					ecological character is actively addressed
1014	Sierra Leone	Sierra River Estuary	01/01/2013		Letter received from AA in January 2013 requesting for a RAM. Desk study received in January 2015. ToR to be drafted
586	Slovenia	Secovlje salt pans	05/03/2007		Awaiting update from AA since 2008
991	Slovenia	Skocjan Caves	27/04/2007		Awaiting update from AA since 2007
343	South Africa	Blesbokspruit	06/05/1996	X	Expecting situation report from AA since March 2014
526	South Africa	Orange River Mouth	26/09/1995	X	Expecting situation report from AA since March 2014
234	Spain	Doñana	04/07/1990	X	Updated report received from AA in July 2014. New threats reported in 2013.
235	Spain	Las Tablas de Daimiel	6/04/2009	x	Updated report received from AA in March 2014.
449	Spain	S'Albufera de Mallorca	01/04/2009		Awaiting update from AA since March 2014
454	Spain	Albufera de Valencia	16/03/2004		Updated report received from AA in March 2014.
599	Spain	Laguna y Arenal de Valdoviño	10/01/2012		Updated report received from AA in February 2015.
706	Spain	Mar Menor	8/10/2007		Awaiting update from AA since 2012
726	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Prespa Lake	28/03/2006		Awaiting update from AA since 2012
203	Tunisia	Ichkeul	04/07/1990	X	Removal process ongoing. Final report expected since November 2014
394	Uganda	Lake George	04/07/1990	X	Awaiting update from AA since 2009
766	Ukraine	Tyligulskyi Liman	05/10/2012		Awaiting update from AA since 2012
764	Ukraine	Dniester-Turunchuk Crossrivers Area	05/10/2012		Awaiting update from AA since 2012
77	United Kingdom	Ouse Washes	18/02/2011	X	Update from COP12 National Report.
298	United Kingdom	The Dee Estuary	21/11/2007	X	Update from COP12 National Report

Site No.	Contracting Party	Site Name	Date of opening	Montreux Record	Status as at COP12 June 2015
1043	United Kingdom	South East Coast of Jersey	02/12/2008		Update received in January 2015. Awaiting update from AA
1077	United Kingdom	Diego Garcia	08/04/2009		Updated report received from AA in May 2014.
374	United States of America	Everglades	16/06/1993		Change in ecological character is being actively addressed

Consultancy support for the development of a strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention

Action requested:

Standing Committee is invited to advise and approve the Terms of Reference and budget for a consultancy to develop a strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention.

1. At the 12th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.3 was adopted which noted the interest of Parties in accommodating the use of Arabic and other official UN languages into the operation of the Ramsar Convention so as to support the further development and implementation of the Convention.
2. Resolution XII.3 went on to request the Secretariat to develop a strategy, subject to the availability of resources, outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention. The Resolution also requested the Standing Committee to monitor the progress of this work and advise as necessary.
3. Attached at Annex 1 are draft Terms of Reference and budget for a consultancy to lead on the development of such a strategy and Standing Committee members are kindly requested to provide comments on this document and adopt a final version at SC51.

Annex 1

Terms of reference for consultancy support for the development of a strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention

1. Background

Currently, the “official” and “working” languages of the Ramsar Convention on Wetland are English, French and Spanish. However, the Convention recognizes the importance of the work, communication materials and tools of the Convention are conducted and available in as many of the official languages of the United Nations as possible. The Convention has expressed this view through a number of documents, including:

- a. Recommendation 1.7 *A protocol on amendment procedures* [\[link\]](#) which called for the text of the Convention to be translated into the UN languages;
- b. Resolution 4.2 *Working languages of the Conference of the Contracting Parties* which decided that Spanish shall be a working language of the Conference of the Contracting Parties [\[link\]](#);
- c. Recommendation 5.15 *Working languages of the Conference of the Contracting Parties* [\[link\]](#) which called on the Convention Bureau to investigate the possibility of adopting Arabic as a working language of the Conference and also requested Arabic-speaking Parties and potential Parties to assist the Bureau in seeking the necessary funding support for the adoption of Arabic as a working language of the Conference;
- d. Resolution XI.1 *Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat* [\[link\]](#) that instructed the Standing Committee through an appropriate Working Group to develop a strategy to explore the accommodation of UN languages into the Convention;
- e. SC47-02 *Progress report: Subgroups to progress Resolution XI.1 (Convention languages, visibility and ministerial COP segment, enhancing synergies with multilateral environmental agreements and other international entities)* [\[link\]](#) which presented options and recommended a course of action to the Standing Committee Management Working Group on:
 - i. Ensuring that the plenary meetings of Conference of the Parties and Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention are delivered in the three official languages; and
 - ii. Means for delivering the Ramsar Convention in additional UN Languages.
- f. Decision SC47-07 [\[link\]](#) concerning accommodation of UN Languages under Resolution XI.1:
 - i. to address the longstanding differences in treatment of the three official Convention languages;
 - ii. to allocate resources from the current budget surplus to fund the costs of translating SC48 documents into French and Spanish;

- iii. to instruct the Secretariat to include within all draft core budget scenarios for 2016–2018, prepared for Parties’ consideration at SC48, the costs of translating all SC documents into French and Spanish;
- iv. to continue considering translation of additional STRP documents into French and Spanish, based on inputs by the Secretariat and the STRP, with a view to reviewing this issue at SC48; and
- v. to request the Secretariat to prepare a draft text for a Resolution in response to Resolution XI.1 for the consideration of SC48, addressing accommodation of the Arabic Language into the Convention, supported by:
 - analysis of legal considerations in relation to the Convention text as well as COP Resolutions including the Rules of Procedure;
 - options for a step-by-step introduction of Arabic into the work of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources.
- g. COP12 Document 17 *Legal Brief: Opinion on the accommodation of Arabic and other UN languages into the Ramsar Convention* [\[link\]](#) which addressed the accommodation of Arabic into the Convention, supported by:
 - analysis of legal considerations in relation to the Convention text and COP Resolutions;
 - options for a step-by-step introduction of Arabic into the work of the Convention, subject to the availability of resources.”
- h. Resolution XII.3 *Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* [\[link\]](#) which requested the Secretariat to develop a strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention.

These Terms of Reference for a consultancy are prepared in response to Resolution XII.3 that calls for the development of a strategy for the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention as “official” and “working” languages.

The consultant will work under the guidance of the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention.

2. Expertise and profile of the Consultant

The consultant should have the following experience and profile:

- a. At least 10 years of experience and expertise on governmental/ intergovernmental processes and similar issues and in undertaking survey-based consultations and other forms of research;
- b. Knowledge of the scope, processes and implementation of the Ramsar Convention preferably, or other multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC);
- c. Fully fluent in spoken and written English, with the ability to write clearly and simply in the English language; fluency in another Convention language (French and/or Spanish) is a major advantage.

3. Work to be undertaken

- a. Classifies the language needs of the Convention according to the short-, medium- and long-term work of the Convention;
- b. Identifies barriers to effective translation, publishing and interpreting of the three official languages of the Convention, and actions needed to overcome them including identification of additional resource needs and sources to accommodate inclusion of additional languages;
- c. Proposes ways forward to engage relevant Contracting Parties in finding a step-by-step integration and financing of translations at meetings, of meeting documents and as appropriate of important Ramsar information documents into additional languages; and
- d. Proposes a potential timeline for phased integration of procedural changes, key indicators, and milestones for any UN languages added.

4. Timeline

Steps	Indicative time for the work
Preparation and signature of contract	
<p>1. Meet with the Ramsar Secretariat for the organization of the work and in consultation with the Ramsar Secretariat, prepare and conduct a structured questionnaire-based survey of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">a) the language needs of the selected Ramsar Parties for the short-, medium- and long-term;b) how other MEAs and relevant international organizations work to accommodate the use of the UN languages into their work; andc) barriers to effective translation, publishing and interpreting of the three official languages of the Convention. <p>From the results of the survey and discussions, the consultant will propose a range of options for a gradual approach to include additional UN languages into the work of the Convention. Each of these options would outline the additional actions and resources needed for a step-by-step integration and financing of interpretation at meetings, the translation of meeting documents and as appropriate, of key Ramsar documents. There also needs to be consideration of possible translation of the Ramsar website into the additional UN languages. The consultant will also use the survey results to provide options for overcoming the barriers to the full and effective use of the three existing languages of the Convention.</p> <p>All of the options provided will include a budget and timeline for the phased integration of necessary procedural changes, key indicators, and milestones associated with that option. It will also require an analysis of the possible means of financing these additional actions.</p> <p>A list of those consulted should include, among others, a cross-section of Contracting Party national focal points from countries whose first language is</p>	20 days

<p>one of the UN languages, representatives from other MEAs and relevant organizations, and Ramsar Secretariat staff as needed. The Secretariat has prepared a working list (with contact details) of the relevant Parties and organizations that would be relevant to consult.</p> <p>Consultations may be conducted by using a variety of methods, including email, telephone and face-to-face interviews, and web-based tools such as Skype, SurveyMonkey and the listserves and web-portals maintained by the Ramsar Secretariat.</p>	
2. Prepare and submit a report summarizing the consultation process results and discuss with the Ramsar Secretariat.	6 days
3. Based on the discussions with the Ramsar Secretariat, prepare a first outline draft of the Strategy for consideration by the Ramsar Secretariat.	4 days
4. On the basis of further comment from the Ramsar Secretariat, prepare a second draft of the Strategy that will be provided to the Management Working Group for further discussions.	3 days
5. Presentation of the revised draft of the Strategy to the 52 nd meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee (SC52). Resource permitting, the consultant could participate and present the draft Strategy at the meeting.	5 days
6. From the comments received at SC52, develop the final draft of the Strategy.	4 days

5. Consultant deliverables

- a. Reports from the consultation survey and meetings with the various stakeholder groups;
- b. Detailed draft of Strategy for the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention.

6. Budget

The lump sum for the consultancy is CHF 30,000 based on above work and estimated 42 days work over three months, including attendance at SC52 to present work on Strategy.

Ramsar financial matters 2014 / 2015 / 2016

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited to note the contents of this report and:

- a. approve the attached audited 2014 financial statements;
- b. approve the use of the 2014 surplus for COP12 delegates support and website development;
- c. approve the 2016 core and non-core budget; and
- d. approve the combined 2016 core and non-core budget as approved by COP12.

2014 financial statements and surplus

1. At the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC48), the unaudited 2014 financial statements were presented and document SC48-09 rev.2 provided a detailed explanation of the 2014 results against the agreed budget. The unaudited 2014 surplus at SC48 was CHF 345,000. The Standing Committee through Decision SC48-12 approved the Subgroup's proposed reallocation of the 2014 core budget surplus and confirmed that the status of the reallocations would be reviewed at SC49.
2. At SC49, the audited 2014 financial statements were presented along with a revised audited 2014 surplus of CHF 460,000, for approval by the Standing Committee (see document SC49-03). The Standing Committee agreed to defer a decision on the reallocation of 2014 surplus funds, apart from CHF 175,000 of committed funds, until SC50 (see Decision SC49-02). See Annex 1 for 2014 audited financial statements as of 31 December 2014.
3. At SC50, through Decision SC50-7, the Standing Committee agreed that the remaining budget surplus of 2014 should be used to fund SC51 and for any other uses at the direction of the Executive Committee.
4. The 2014 surplus reallocation is presented in Annex 2. The remaining uncommitted surplus of CHF 285,000 includes the proposed allocation of CHF 115,000 for the repayment of the previously approved loan from the Reserve fund to cover the costs of COP12 delegate support. It also details the proposed use of the remaining surplus, to deploy CHF 155,000 against the costs of SC51 and the remaining CHF 15,000 for website development, as this was recognized by Parties at COP12 as a high priority.
5. The Standing Committee is asked to approve the 2014 financial statements and decide the use of the 2014 surplus reallocation at SC51 in order for the financial statements to receive the auditor's approval.

2015 results – core budget

6. As this document is based on the financial situation as of 30 June 2015, it is too early to provide a meaningful report on 2015 financial results versus agreed budget. A year-to-date report as of 31 October 2015, and a forecast for year-end, will be presented orally at SC51 and followed with a detailed 2015 report at SC52.
7. Attached at Annex 3 is the list of Secretariat staff (core) positions as approved at COP12 in DR XII.1. There are no proposed changes to the staff positions.
8. A list of consultants used in calendar year 2015 is presented as Annex 4 with details of time and budget used and charging instructions.
9. Allocations of CHF 108,600 to Regional Initiatives for 2015 were made as agreed at SC49 (Decision SC49-03):

a. Niger river basin network	CHF 42,000
b. La Plata river basin network	CHF 18,000
c. Caribbean network	CHF 18,000
d. American mangroves and reefs network	CHF 20,000
e. Carpathian Wetland Initiative	CHF 6,300
f. Black and Azov Sea coast	CHF 2,500

2016 core budget

10. Attached at Annex 5 is the 2016 core and non-core budget as approved by COP12. An updated report will be presented at SC52.

2016 non-core budget and fundraising

11. The budget approved at COP12 anticipates voluntary contributions of CHF 4.2 million over the triennium to fund the non-core budget priority activities listed in Annex 6. A target of CHF 1.4 million in voluntary contributions was identified for 2016.
12. The list of non-core needs for 2016-18 is in the order of priority agreed upon by Parties at COP 12 through Resolution XII.1 *Financial and budgetary matters*. Document SC51-21 reports on the prioritization of fundraising activities to fund non-core budget activities from all sources.
13. Among other priorities, Resolution XII.1 reaffirmed (at XII.1.21) that the Convention's Small Grants Fund is of great value in terms of the implementation of the Convention, and urges Parties and others to find CHF 1 million over the next triennium (CHF 333,000 in 2016) to secure the efficient operation of this programme. A paper on *Status of and recommendations for the Small Grants Fund* has been presented as SC51-22 to examine possibilities for future funding.
14. Securing voluntary funding for the activities approved by the Conference of the Parties must be a Contracting Party and Secretariat priority throughout the triennium.

Annexes

1. 2014 Audited Financial Statements
2. 2014 Surplus Reallocation

3. Approved Secretariat Staff (Core) for 2016-2018
4. Consultants employed during 2015 to date
5. 2016, COP12 approved budget
6. 2016-2018 budgeted non-core items, in order of priority

Annex 1

2014 Audited Financial Statements

Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2014 (in '000 Swiss Francs)

	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and short term bank deposits	6,443	4,811
Contracting Party Receivables (net)	460	374
Other account receivables	11	17
Total current assets	6,914	5,202
Fixed assets (net)		
Office Furniture and Computer Equipment at cost	101	63
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(61)	(49)
Total non-current assets	40	14
TOTAL ASSETS	6,954	5,216
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES		
Current liabilities		
Amount owed to IUCN	514	71
Other Payables	839	778
Accrued liabilities	381	311
Total current liabilities	1,734	1,160
Provisions		
Staff repatriation	128	110
Staff leave	123	139
Staff termination	128	121
Total provisions	379	370
Fund Balances		
Unrestricted reserve fund	709	709
Restricted Projects	4,131	2,977
Total fund and reserves	4,840	3,686
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	6,954	5,216

2014 Audited Financial Statements (continued)

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the period of 01 January - 31 December 2014 (in '000 Swiss Francs)

	2014			2013		
	Core Funds	Restricted Projects	Total	Core Funds	Restricted Projects	Total
INCOME						
External Income						
Contributions from Contracting Parties	3,779	-	3,779	3,782	-	3,782
US Voluntary Contributions	1,066	12	1,078	1,048		1,048
African Voluntary Contributions	-	2	2			
Retained Swiss Income Tax	168	-	168	215	-	215
Exchange Gain	92	3	95	0	9	9
Interest Income	2	-	2	3	1	3
Miscellaneous Income	13	35	49	-	-	-
Project External Income	-	2,007	2,007	-	695	695
Total external income	5,120	2,059	7,179	5,048	705	5,753
Internal Income and Expenditure						
Transfer between core and projects	(270)	270	-	(448)	448	(0)
Total transfer between core and projects	(270)	270	-	(448)	448	(0)
Total Income	4,850	2,329	7,179	4,600	1,153	5,753
EXPENDITURE						
Staff Cost	3,135	575	3,710	3,258	314	3,572
Staff Provision	21	-	21	5	-	5
Travel	155	108	263	143	46	189
Purchase of equipment	7	-	7	-	-	-
IUCN Administrative services	515	-	515	515	-	515
Database	65	29	94	84	-	84
Communications	33	1	34	28	15	43
Reporting	84	59	143	60	80	140
Standing commtt, STRP and Reg Rep support	89	102	192	39	134	173
STRP Support Services	8	(0)	8	55	-	55
Support to Regional Initiatives	1		1	63		63
Project Subcontracting/External Grants		702	702		539	539
Depreciation	11	-	11	9	-	9
Auditor's Fees	15	-	15	11	-	11
Stationery and office supplies	28	2	29	15	1	16
Public relations/ Promotion	4	6	10	32	4	36
Hospitality	8	12	20	1	2	3
Bank Charges	32	6	38	2	-	2
Miscellaneous	27	31	58	27	25	51
Provision on outstanding dues	98	-	98	24	-	24
Exchange loss	0	-	0	(0)	35	35
Legal cost	56	1	57	6	-	6
Total Expenditure	4,391	1,634	6,025	4,377	1,195	5,571
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	459	695	1,154	223	(41)	182
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	709	2,977	3,686	852	2,652	3,504
NET INCOME OVER EXP FOR THE YEAR	459	695	1,154	223	(41)	182
TRANSFER (FROM) TO RESERVE FUND	(459)	459	-	(366)	366	-
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	709	4,131	4,840	709	2,977	3,686

2014 Audited Financial Statements (continued)

Appendix A: Projects Financed by Restricted Funds For the period of 01 January 2014 - 31 December 2014 Page 1 of 2

		Balance (deficit) at 31/12/2013 (DR)/CR	Income during 2014 (DR)/CR	Expenditure during 2014 (DR)/CR	Project Transfers and Cross charges (DR)/CR	Balance (deficit) at 31/12/2014 (DR)/CR
International Cooperation						
R100147	SGF-1997	4	0	0	0	4
R100154	SGF-2004	0	0	0	0	0
R100155	SGF-2005	4	0	0	0	4
R100156	SGF-2006	47	0	0	0	47
R100157	SGF-2007	16	0	0	0	16
R100158	SGF-2008	43	0	0	0	43
R100159	SGF-2009	73	0	(13)	0	60
R100160	SGF-2010	145	0	0	0	145
R100161	SGF-2011	(31)	0	(44)	0	(75)
R100163	SGF-2013	18	0	(40)	0	(22)
R100253	SGA-2003	5	0	0	0	5
R100255	SGA-2005	46	0	0	0	46
R100256	SGA-2006	86	0	0	0	86
R100257	SGA-2007	23	0	0	0	23
R100258	SGA-2008	50	0	0	0	50
R100259	SGA-2009	36	0	0	0	36
R100260	SGA-2010	47	0	(1)	0	46
R100261	SGA-2011	80	0	0	0	80
R100262	SGA-2012	99	0	(33)	0	66
R100263	SGA-2013	0	30	(66)	0	(36)
R100264	SGA-2014	0	94	(82)	0	12
R100350	WFF-Exchange	36	0	0	0	36
R100351	WFF-2001	(1)	0	0	0	(1)
R100352	WFF-2002	5	0	0	0	5
R100353	WFF-2003	(0)	0	0	0	(0)
R100355	WFF-2005	14	0	0	0	14
R100356	WFF-2006	37	0	0	0	37
R100357	WFF-2007	53	0	0	0	53
R100358	WFF-2008	23	0	(7)	0	16
R100359	WFF-2009	(62)	0	0	0	(62)
R100362	WFF-2012	196	0	(57)	0	139
R100363	WFF-2013	0	0	(17)	0	(17)
R100364	WFF-2014	0	108	0	0	108
R100401	Myanmar wetlands	20	0	(26)	6	(0)
R100809	Danone Ecole de l'eau	43	0	0	0	43
R100810	Danone 2010	0	0	0	0	0
R100811	Danone 2011	0	0	0	0	0
R100812	Danone 2012	(0)	0	0	0	(0)
R100813	Danone 2013	(236)	0	(13)	249	0
R100814	Danone 2014	321	301	(192)	(289)	141
R100819	Danone Spring	1	47	(38)	0	10
Total of International Cooperation		1,239	580	(630)	(34)	1,155
Listed Sites						
R100110	RAM	85	(24)	(19)	0	41
Total of Listed Sites		85	(24)	(19)	0	41

2014 Audited Financial Statements (continued)

Appendix A: Projects Financed by Restricted Funds for the period of 01 January 2014 - 31

December 2014

Page 2 of 2

		Balance (deficit) at 31/12/2013 (DR)/CR	Income during 2014 (DR)/CR	Expenditure during 2014 (DR)/CR	Project Transfers and Cross charges (DR)/CR	Balance (deficit) at 31/12/2014 (DR)/CR
Other						
R100100	Admin	170	2	(223)	58	7
R100101	Surplus, Year End	0	0	0	459	459
R100102	RSIS redevelopment	149	35	(151)	90	124
R100103	Web redevelopment	93	0	(119)	30	5
R100104	2012 development	140	0	(54)	0	86
R100105	Science Review	80	0	(47)	0	33
R100106	Strategic Plan 2016	106	0	(84)	0	22
R100107	SC48 translation/ interpretation	90	0	(24)	0	66
R100120	Norway Travel Support	0	0	24	0	24
R100121	MAVA-COP 11 RCWG	2	0	0	(2)	0
R100180	PO Restricted	51	0	(1)	0	50
R100190	Water cycle	11	0	0	0	11
R100208	OIF-Africa	(0)	0	0	0	0
R100209	Ethiopia workshop 2012	3	0	0	(3)	(0)
R100210	WA Urbanisation	21	0	(5)	0	16
R100220	STRP Africa	2	0	0	(2)	0
R100310	Americas - Admin	5	0	0	(5)	0
R100311	Rio Cruces	197	0	0	0	197
R100402	Bhutan	(0)	0	(6)	0	(6)
R100403	AIT/JAPAN/MYANMAR	38	0	(22)	0	16
R100404	KOREA/WETLAND CENTRES	10	0	(8)	0	3
R100410	China High Altitude	3	0	0	0	3
R100411	Changwon Declaration	0	0	0	0	0
R100420	MEEDAT Oceania Mtg	16	0	(16)	0	0
R100430	SSFA Asia	0	22	(2)	0	20
R100510	CHAMP-PITTET SUPPORT	5	0	(3)	0	1
R100610	COP10 - Admin	0	0	0	(0)	0
R100621	COP11-SD	11	0	(9)	(3)	(0)
R100622	COP11 - RM Africa	7	0	0	0	7
R100625	COP11 - RM Europe	27	30	0	0	57
R100630	COP12 Admin budget	150	405	0	0	555
R100631	COP - Delegate Support	0	5	(0)	0	5
R100632	COP12 - Africa Regional Meeting	0	0	0	0	0
R100633	COP12 - Americas Regional Meeting	0	0	(48)	0	(48)
R100634	COP12 - Asia Regional Meeting	0	19	(13)	0	6
R100635	COP12 - Europe Regional Meeting	0	0	(6)	0	(6)
R100636	COP12 - Oceania Regional Meeting	0	0	0	0	0
R100700	CEPA	9	0	0	(9)	0
R100901	STRP 2006-2008	24	0	0	(24)	0
R100902	STRP 2009-2011	97	0	0	(87)	11
R100903	STRP 2013-2015	30	0	(75)	141	96
R100910	TEEB	31	0	0	0	31
R101000	SSFA, Expert Group on Water Cycle	0	0	(16)	0	(16)
R101001	Ramsar vs IUCN Categorisation	0	57	0	0	57
R101002	NORAD 2015	0	914	0	0	914
R101003	MAVA 13-32	0	0	0	0	0
Total of Other		1,580	1,490	(908)	643	2,805
Regional Initiatives						
R100131	RI - RRCCWA	0	0	0	(0)	(0)
R100132	RI - WACOWET	19	13	0	0	32
R100133	RI - CARIWET	16	0	(9)	16	23
R100134	RI - HA	(1)	0	0	0	(1)
R100135	RI - Mangrove	34	0	(28)	20	26
R100136	RI - LA PLATA	6	0	(16)	16	6
R100137	RI - East Africa Centre	0	0	0	28	28
R100138	RI - Niger River Basin Network	0	0	(18)	30	12
R100139	RI - Carpathian Wetlands Initiative	0	0	(6)	10	4
Total of Regional Initiatives		74	13	(77)	120	130
Grand Total		2,977	2,059	(1,634)	729	4,131

Annex 2

2014 Surplus Reallocation

Description	SC48 ¹	SC49 ²	SC51
Core Surplus	345	460	460
Committed:			
ENB (COP12 support)	50	50	50
Ramsar Advisory Missions (Nicaragua)	25	25	25
Staff provision	100	100	100
Subtotal, Committed	175	175	175
Core Surplus, Remaining Balance	170	285	285
Proposal for Remaining Surplus:			
Ramsar Advisory Missions (Sierra Leone, Uganda)	50	50	0
Staff Training	20	20	0
Ramsar Regional Centres			
Strategic plan workshops (4 x 10k)	40	40	0
Communications			
STRP translation	20	20	0
Site manager publication	20	20	0
Post COP priorities	20	20	0
Sponsor Delegate Support (reserve fund repayment)	0	115	115
Subtotal, Proposal	170	285	115
Core Surplus, Remaining Balance	0	0	170
SC51, Nov 23-27, 2015³			155
Support for website development	0	0	15
Remaining Balance	0	0	0

Notes:

1. Approved with Decision SC48-12.
2. No decision on proposed reallocation, deferred until SC50 with Decision 49-02.
3. Decision SC50-07 "budget surplus of 2014 be used to fund SC51".

Annex 3

Approved Secretariat Staff (Core) for 2016-2018

Team	2015	2016	2017	2018
ASMG	S, M2, P1	S, M2, P1	S, M2, P1	S, M2, P1
BPART	M1	M1	M1	M1
CREGS	M1 (4), P1, Interns (4)	M1 (4), P1, Interns (4)	M1 (4), P1, Interns (4)	M1 (4), P1, Interns (4)
ESTRP	P1	P1	P1	P1
FCOMM	M1, P2, P1	M1, P2, P1	M1, P2, P1	M1, P2, P1
GADMI	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)	P2, P1 (2), A3 (3)

*2015 staff numbers and position (according to the IUCN Human Resources Function Group) shown for reference

**Team refer to the categorization of Expenditures as listed in Annex I: Secretariat Senior Management (ASMG); Partnership Coordinator (BPART); Regional Advice and Support (CREGS); Scientific and Technical Services (ESTRP); Communications (FCOMM); Administration/RSIS/Web (GADMI).

Annex 4

List of External Consultants, 2015 to date

Note: as of 30 June 2015; does not include translation for SC48/49 because work is not contracted, but billed by volume/time.

Consultant	Contract Working Days	Contract Amount CHF	Description	Contract No.	Core/ Non-core Funds	Source of funds	Responsible/ Budget Line
Casallas, Sara	121	19,621	COP12 Support	557	Core	SC47 Decision: 2013 surplus	CREGS
Pritchard, David	8	4,800	RAM Site 802 Norway	556	Non-core	Ramsar Advisory Mission funded by Norway	CREGS
Persse, Emily	14	7,000	COP12 Communications Support	555	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	COMMS
Yacot, Analia	4	7,239	360 degree feedback	553	Core	Core	GADMI
Byrnes, Wendy	9	7,750	COP12 Translation	549	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	GADMI
Fabre, Helen	9	4,550	COP12 Translation	548	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	GADMI
Gesruisseaux, Ginette	9	3,250	COP12 Translation	547	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	GADMI
Milev, Christine	9	5,850	COP12 Translation	546	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	GADMI
Devitre, Daniel	9	7,750	COP12 Translation	545	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	GADMI
Huntington, Veronica	8	4,000	Temporary Communications Support	544	Core	Core	COMMS
Huntington, Veronica	12	6,000	Temporary Communications Support	539	Core	Core	COMMS
Jenkins, Martin	9	8,250	COP12 Rapporteur	N/A	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	GADMI
Rutherford, Catherine	9	7,500	COP12 Rapporteur	N/A	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	GADMI
Peck, Dwight	9	5,500	COP12 Documentation	542	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	GADMI
Pritchard, David	104	32,500	Celebrating Culture and Wetlands	541	Non-core	MAVA	BPART

Cadmus, Rob	92	26,738	Natural Infrastructure project manager	540	Non-core	NORAD	BPART
Huntington, Veronica	18	9,000	COP12 Communications Support	539	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	COMMS
Waite, Charlie	8	7,000	Landscape Photographer WWD 2015, Awards, photos etc.	537	Non-core	Development Budget	SMGT
WCMC	8	4,000	Wetland Extent Index	535	Core	STRP Implementation	STRP
Fry, Eve	30	15,000	Preparation of Water/Wetlands events	534	Non-core	Development Budget	SMGT
Persse, Emily	30	15,000	Events Coordinator (WWD)	532	Non-core	Development budget	SMGT
Persse, Emily	10	5,000	Temporary Communications Support	532	Core	Core	COMMS
Tim Jones	7	5,600	SC 48 Rapporteur	529	Core	Core	ISTAN
RM Wetlands	5	4,000	Briefing note - ecosystem services	528	Core	STRP Implementation	STRP
RM Wetlands	4	3,200	STRP-preparation of paper on REDD Plus	527	Core	STRP Implementation	STRP
Interpreters (12)	10	135,000	COP12 Interpretation	N/A	Non-core	COP12 budget MOU	GADMI
Interpreters (6)	5	27,000	SC48 Interpretation	N/A	Core	Core	ISTAN
CISDL	75	90,000	Legal services: RoP, ICJ, COP12, IUCN, contracts, MOUs etc	508	Core	Core	KMISC
Total	645	478,099					

Total, core	175,660
Total, non-core	302,438
Total	478,099

Annex 5

2016, COP12 Approved Budget

2016 Combined Budget	2016	
CHF 000'S	Core	Non-Core
INCOME		
Parties' Contributions	3,779	
Voluntary contributions	1,065	
Income Tax	225	
Income Interest	12	
TOTAL INCOME	5,081	
EXPENDITURES		
A. Secretariat Senior Management	798	
B. Partnership Coordinator	250	
C. Regional Advice and Support	1,342	
D. Support to Regional Initiatives	120	
E. Scientific and Technical Services	212	
F. Communications	569	
G. Administration/RSIS/Web	896	
H. Operating Costs	95	
I. Standing Committee Services	150	
J. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum)	540	
K. Provisions, Legal	110	
1. Ramsar Advisory Missions		200
2. STRP 2016-2018 Programme		100
3. RSIS, IM and IT (Website)		58
4. Pre-COP13 Regional Meetings		217
5. COP13 (2018) Sponsorship (eligible delegates)		200
6. Arabic Language Translation		83
7. Small Grants Funds		333
8. Regional Initiative Networks and Centres		50
9. Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021)		100
10. On-line system for National Reports		58
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,081	1,399
TOTAL SALARY COSTS – staff salaries and related costs	3,429	
	67%	
TOTAL TRAVEL COSTS	155	
	3%	

Annex 6

2016-2018 budgeted non-core items, in order of priority

No.	NON-CORE FUNDS 2016 – 2018	3 Year Funding Requirement (CHF)
1	Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties requiring assistance	600,000
2	STRP 2016-2018 programme of work support	300,000
3	RSIS, IM/IT (Website) Continuing Development	175,000
4	Pre-COP13 regional meetings (delegates support and meeting costs for preparatory meetings)	650,000
5	COP13 (2018) sponsorship to eligible delegates	600,000
6	Arabic language introduction and translation support	250,000
7	Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands	1,000,000
8	Regional Initiative Networks and Centres support (priority activities).	150,000
9	Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021), exclusion of World Wetlands Day	300,000
10	On-line system for National Reports, reporting and indicators development	175,000
	TOTAL	4,200,000

Contracting Parties with outstanding annual contributions

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the current status of Parties' outstanding annual contributions and actions taken and planned by the Secretariat to stimulate the payment of arrears.

Background

1. Article 6.6 of the Convention states: "Each Contracting Party shall contribute to the budget according to a scale of contributions adopted by unanimity of the Contracting Parties present and voting at a meeting of the ordinary Conference of the Contracting Parties."
2. Annual (assessed) contributions from Parties are used to finance the Conventions' Core budget. Each year, the Secretariat invoices Parties for their annual contributions. Swiss franc invoicing is based upon the approved Core budget and the current UN Scale of Assessments. (The current UN Scale of Assessments is adjusted on a pro rata basis to reflect the actual membership of the Convention at the beginning of the year.) Income is recognized on invoicing and a receivable is recorded, assuming full collection.
3. Most Contracting Parties pay their assessed contributions on a timely basis. Some Parties, for a number of (often valid) reasons, do not pay their contributions on such a timely basis, and sometimes not in the year in which they fall due. The Secretariat is regularly in touch with these Parties and is able to agree payments at specified future dates, without this severely affecting the operations of the Convention or the Secretariat.
4. Before each financial year end, the Secretariat assesses the status of outstanding contributions, based on the amounts and lengths of time outstanding, and records a provision accordingly. Every annual increase in the provision reduces the Core funds available to spend.¹
5. Core contributions, outstanding contributions and the provision against them have been gradually increasing over time, and those since 2011 are shown in Table 1.

¹ No outstanding contributions are written off. The Standing Committee is advised if a Party expressly advises that it does not recognize their outstanding contributions and/or has no intention of paying them.

Table 1: Outstanding contributions and provision for non-collection, 2011-2015 (CHF '000s)²

Description	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Assessed contributions from Parties	3,625	3,780	3,782	3,779	3,779
Voluntary contribution from USA	872	930	1,048	1,066	1,065
Cumulative outstanding	736	759	759	943	2,528
Provision for non-collection	361	361	385	511	TBD ³

2015 update

6. In Resolution XI.2 (2012), the Conference of the Contracting Parties “Urges Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial sustainability of the Convention through contributions by all Contracting Parties, and requests the Secretariat to contact Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions in excess of three years and work with them to identify appropriate options and actions for addressing the situation and initiating a plan for making payment of contributions, and to report back to each Standing Committee meeting and COP on activities taken and results achieved”.
7. The Standing Committee at SC48 noted the current status of Parties’ outstanding contributions and encouraged the Secretariat, working with Finance Subgroup members, to continue to take collaborative actions to make progress to resolve this issue. The Standing Committee noted the Subgroups’ request for prioritizing Contracting Parties that have never paid, and underlined its hope for progress by Parties that have been in arrears for more than three years. Additionally, the Standing Committee noted the actions of Switzerland to restrict use of its additional voluntary contributions to African Contracting Parties whose contributions have been fully paid up. The Standing Committee hoped that this action would support other efforts of the Secretariat.
8. The Secretariat’s actions since SC48 have included:
 - Sending of reminders and statements via diplomatic and other government channels to specific Parties;
 - Visits and follow-up communications to Geneva-based permanent missions of Parties with arrears; and
 - Sustained verbal and written reminders to National Focal Points and Administrative Authority contacts.

² Table values for 2014 are different from SC48-10 document for “Cumulative outstanding” and “Provision”, these numbers are based on final 2014 audited financial statements and not the forecast provided at SC48.

³ To be determined at 2015 year end.

9. The number of Parties with arrears for more than 3 years (year 2012 and older) is shown at Table 2.

Table 2: Contracting Parties with arrears for more than 3 years, by region

	2015		2014	
	Count	Amount	Count	Amount
Africa	19	161,000	16	134,000
Asia	8	21,000	4	14,000
Europe	1	3,000	1	2,000
Neotropics	6	63,000	3	41,000
Oceania	4	24,000	4	27,000
	38	272,000	28	218,000

10. As of 30 June 2015, there was CHF 2,528,000 of outstanding annual contributions from 2015 and earlier due, as shown in Annex 1. This is a significant increase from 2014 (CHF 1,067,000). However, the report was produced as of 30 June 2015 and the sum outstanding is expected to fall through the remaining six months of 2015. An updated report will be provided at SC51 meeting. The profile of unpaid contributions is shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Outstanding contributions at 30 June 2015 and number of years in arrears

Year payment was due	Years In Arrears as of 2015	Unpaid (CHF '000s)	Running Balance (CHF '000s)
2007	>8	80	
2008	8	19	99
2009	7	23	122
2010	6	43	165
2011	5	47	212
2012	4	59	272
2013	3	241	512
2014	2	328	841
2015	1	1,688	2,528
Total		2,528	

11. It has previously been suggested that the Standing Committee or COP could ask the Secretariat to manage requests from Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions in the following ways:
- by not accepting further Small Grants Fund (SGF) proposals from such countries;
 - by providing the Secretariat's advice and missions (including Ramsar Advisory Missions) only in emergency situations; and
 - by providing financial support for the attendance of delegates at regional and COP meetings only if the Contracting Party is not more than three years in arrears and after all other eligible Parties have been assisted.
12. At SC47, a comparison of outstanding contributions was made with Ramsar and other conventions (CITES, CBD and CMS and WHF). There was no convincing evidence from these

analyses or from our discussions with CBD, CMS and CITES that their approaches have delivered significantly better collections. For CBD and CITES, their current profile of arrears was very similar to that of the Ramsar Convention. For CMS, the number of Parties with arrears is half that of Ramsar's, but they also have only 70% the current membership of Ramsar. (For further information, see document SC47-13.)

13. At SC48, through Decision SC48-12, the Standing Committee decided not to apply punitive measures to Parties with outstanding contributions.
14. The Secretary General believes progress on clearing arrears and fuller engagement and financial commitment by all Parties to the Convention would send positive messages about the governance of the Convention and enable the Secretariat to fully achieve the tasks set by the COP.
15. It is important to continue to explore additional actions since the status of contributions appears not to be markedly improving, and also to recognize that success comes from multiple sustained actions.
16. One approach is to wait and observe the impact of new rules applied by the voluntary donors. We are already receiving signals from donors such as Switzerland (for SGA from 2013) that they only wish to support countries without significant arrears. It is possible that these or other donors may go further and choose to stop the sponsoring of attendance at intersessional Regional Meetings or attendance at COPs for delegates of Parties with more than three years of arrears.

Membership receivables, 2015 and prior, outstanding as at 30 June 2015

SC51-19

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

51st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 23-27 November 2015

SC51-20

Report on efforts to raise funds for COP12 delegates as per Resolution XII.1

Action requested:

The Subgroup on Finance is invited to review the actions taken by the Secretariat to seek funds for COP12 delegates

Introduction

1. As per custom, the Secretariat has been raising funds to cover the costs associated with travel and accommodation for delegates attending COP12 from countries that are listed on the OECD DAC list of aid recipients.
2. So far, CHF 443,434 has been secured for COP12 sponsored delegates. This compares with CHF 419,912 for COP11 and CHF 446,090 for COP10.
3. In Resolution XII.1 it is stated that the Subgroup on Finance:

NOTES that CHF 115,000 of 2013-2015 reserve funds was used to sponsor eligible COP12 delegates in order to ensure all parties could participate effectively; and FURTHER NOTES that this does not represent a precedent for the Convention and is seen as a one-time special exception to the normal practice given the global economic climate and the difficulty in securing voluntary funds from Contracting Parties and other external sources:

REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue efforts to solicit external funds to repay the funds used from the reserve under these extraordinary circumstances and to report back at future meetings of the Subgroup on Finance on progress in this regard.

4. The Secretariat provides below a summary of the current situation, and the actions taken in an effort to reach the current level of committed funds.

Actions taken prior to COP 12

5. The first letter requesting support to meet the costs of sponsored delegates attending COP 12 was sent to all Contracting Parties on November 20th 2014.
6. Senior Regional Advisors and the Head of Partnerships worked together to carry out extensive and targeted follow up. This included hundreds of logged actions, focused on 26 entities (government and non-government) that had been identified as the most likely to provide support.

Situation as of 31 July 2015

7. To summarize the status of the funds that have already been raised to cover the costs of sponsored delegates for COP12 against a budget of 560,000 CHF:

Table 1: Securing costs of sponsored delegates for COP12 (status as at 31 July 2015)

Funder	Amount Secured CHF
Star Alliance	26,000
Australia	29,660
Austria	5,166
Canada	31,155
Finland	20,604
Germany	10,479
Korea (Republic of)	23,883
Netherlands*	7,500
Norway	63,871
Sweden	55,684
Switzerland (African delegates)	115,000
Secretariat, Project Restricted	
China High Altitude	3,220
UNEP-ROWA	19,771
European RM Surplus	31,442
Subtotal	443,434
Reserve Fund	115,000
Total	558,434

8. The Reserve Fund contribution of CHF 115,000 was essential to bring delegates to COP12, and the Reserve Fund must now be built back up to its usual level. Efforts therefore continue to close the funding gap. A letter from the Secretary General was sent out on 16 July 2015, to initiate this further outreach (see Annex 1).
9. As follow up to the Secretary General's July outreach, the Senior Regional Advisors and Head of Partnerships will proactively raise the question of additional funding through engagement with Contracting Parties.
10. The Netherlands has also made a commitment to provide CHF 7,500 (* also included in the table above) and the Government of Canada has formally confirmed in writing that no additional funding would be provided.

Annex 1

Letter from the Secretary General, July 2015

From the Secretary General

Gland, 16 July 2015
SG2015-224/CHB/CHP/deb

Subject: Ramsar Convention COP 12 Sponsored Delegates Fundraising, Continued Efforts

Dear Contracting Parties,

We are all delighted and extremely grateful to those generous Contracting Parties that have already provided financial support toward the cost of COP 12 Sponsored Delegates, especially those delegates who have benefited so much from the support for your invaluable contributions to the COP. A funding gap however remains of CHF 115,000 between those costs that were budgeted and used, and the funds that have been raised so far. We would like to invite your support to help close this gap. This request is made by the Secretariat on behalf of the Parties, and in direct response to the desire of Standing Committee 50 that efforts to raise funds for sponsored delegates should not diminish or reduce, following COP 12, but continue until the gap is filled.

Therefore, please can you let us know whether there might be any possibility in your government to:

- Increase the level of financial commitment over and above your existing commitment;
- Explore the possibility of funding from any other budgets that might now be available; or
- Search for the first time for some other possible source of support that might be available

The Secretariat has explored with some non-governmental funders the possibility of their providing funds, but this approach has so far not been positively received. We have also sought funds from international and UN organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme and The Commonwealth, but again have been advised that funds for these purposes are not available.

We believe therefore that a good opportunity remains for Contracting Parties of the Convention to look at the possibilities that might be at their disposal even though they are small sums. For your reference, and in case it helps with your own efforts to speak with colleagues or other organisations, we enclose and attach the original letter that was sent out in 2014 to all Contracting Parties with an explanation of the need, and the list of all those Parties and other organizations that have already made a contribution, and the level of support provided.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this request,

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Briggs

Report on prioritization of fundraising activities to fund non-core budget activities from all sources, with a view to significantly increasing non-Party contributions

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited to review the report on prioritization of fundraising activities to fund non-core budget activities, and advise on actions in 2016.

Introduction

1. In Resolution XII.1 the non-core budget priorities and requirements for the period 2016-18 are outlined. In Resolution XII.7, it is stated that fundraising should be carried out and prioritized by the Secretariat and supported by the Head of Partnerships.
2. Below is a list of non-core needs for 2016-18, in the order of priority agreed upon by Parties at COP12, which includes those that have been specifically identified by the Ramsar Secretariat as potential priorities for 2016:

No.	Non-core budget priorities 2016-2018	3-year funding requirement (CHF)	2016 target
1	Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties requiring assistance	600,000	200,000
2	STRP 2016-2018 programme of work support	300,000	100,000
3	RSIS, IM/IT (Website) Continuing Development	175,000	58,333
4	Pre-COP13 regional meetings (delegates support and meeting costs for preparatory meetings)	650,000	
5	COP13 (2018) sponsorship to eligible delegates	600,000	
6	Arabic language introduction and translation support	250,000	83,333
7	Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands	1,000,000	
8	Regional Initiative Networks and Centres support (priority activities)	150,000	50,000
9	Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021), exclusion of World Wetlands Day	300,000	100,000
10	On-line system for National Reports, reporting and indicators development	175,000	58,333
	TOTAL	4,200,000	650,000

3. In the following paragraphs, we analyse needs and potential for achieving these agreed fundraising targets for the triennium:

Item 1. Ramsar Advisory Missions

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 600,000

Secretariat lead partner(s): SRAs, Head of Partnerships

Activities budgeted for per year:

Ramsar Advisory Missions: 2016 budget lines

Country	Site	Total cost (CHF)
Uganda	Lake Albert, Murchison Falls	45,000
Tanzania ¹	Kilombero floodplains	55,000
D. R Congo	Parc National des Mangroves	40,000
Uganda	Lake George	45,000
Iraq	Hawizeh Marsh	30,000
Kyrgyz Republic	Son-Kol	30,000

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

Discussions held at the Secretariat led to the following ideas:

- Map private sector interests with the specific Ramsar Sites to see whether, as has been done in the past, the RAM could be funded through corporate environmental programs.
- Invite the country to pay for RAMs undertaken in their own country, as Norway has done in 2015.
- Identify those sites that are threatened by oil and gas exploration, and apply to the Norwegian Oil for Development Programme for support.
- Seek access to new funding via leaders who know Ramsar Convention (e.g. Kofi Annan, Ibrahim Thiaw).
- Request support from other organizations such as World Heritage Centre and UNEP who are interested in carrying out RAMs.
- These ideas, and others, could be discussed with the Resource Mobilization Working Group.

Item 2. STRP 2016-2018 programme of work support

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 300,000

Secretariat lead partner(s): Deputy Secretary General, Head of Partnerships

Activities budgeted for per year:

The STRP programme of work for the triennium will be discussed and agreed in late September/ early October 2015, which will provide clarity on budget lines and activities.

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

Discussions held at the Secretariat led to the following ideas:

- Depending upon the specific activities that are defined within the STRP strategy, it may be possible to identify specific foundations or others for whom those activities offer value.
- It may be possible to ask Contracting Parties who have supported the STRP in the past, such as Norway and Finland, to provide support again.

¹ EU and Belgian Development Agency could participate in this RAM in Tanzania.

- These ideas and others could be discussed with Resource Mobilization Working Group.

Item 3. RSIS, IM/IT (web site) continuing development

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 175,000

Secretariat lead partner(s): Head of Communications, Head of Partnerships

Activities budgeted for per year:

Website item	Details
Library	To improve and optimize the "Search" in the Library by re-defining the order (tree) in the Left Column; re-wording the titles; and adding more titles for easier search
	To implement the the new Library order on the website
	To ensure all the documents are in the Library
	To define a prominent place for the "LIBRARY" block on the homepage
	To establish clear and simple guidelines of how to use the "search" functionality / for internal and external distribution
Main Menu	To establish consistency across the Main Menu
'Featured Ramsar site' block	Establish rotation, new site featured on a daily basis
Video section on the website	To add to "Resources" the "Videos" section and also the "downloadable" option
Press Corner	Develop the "Press" corner section: press contact, press releases, develop a function so that the journalists can enter their contact details in order to receive the Ramsar press releases.
Activities	Re-consider the "Activities" page, its content and order
CEPA section	To develop CEPA section
Culture Network	To develop Culture and Wetlands section (migrate the previous content)
STRP migration	Determine the new structure on the Ramsar website, migrate content from the STRP website
RSIS integration	To integrate the information of sites maintained by the RSIS seamlessly into the website
Consistency	Ensure the consistency across the website
Website Manual	To establish clear and simple guidelines and sitemap of how to use the website and where to find information for internal and external distribution

*The costs for the development of each website item are being currently identified.

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

Guidance sought from the Working Group on CEPA and the Working Group on Resource Mobilization.

Item 4. Pre-COP13 regional meetings (delegate support and meetings costs for preparatory meetings)

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 650,000

Secretariat lead partner(s): SRAs, Head of Partnerships

Activities budgeted for per year:

The cost of CHF 650,000 based on based on estimated and assumed travel costs associated with one delegate from each country on the OECD/DAC list of aid recipients, as well as costs associated with venue hire and equipment. Fundraising to start in early 2017.

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

Contracting Parties, International Organisations, Airlines (including Star Alliance), and the UN.

Item 5. COP13 (2018) sponsorship to eligible delegates

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 600,000

Secretariat lead partner(s): SRAs, Head of Partnership

Activities budgeted for per year:

2018 budget line of CHF 600,000 based on estimated and assumed travel costs associated with one delegate from each country on the OECD/DAC list of aid recipients. Fundraising to start in early 2017.

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

Contracting Parties, International Organisations, Airlines (including Star Alliance), and the UN.

Item 6. Arabic language introduction and translation support

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 250,000

Secretariat lead partner(s): Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Head of Partnerships.

Activities budgeted for per year:

Item	Estimated unit cost (CHF)	2016	2017	2018	Total
External translation of ongoing work	27,000/yr	27,000	27,000	27,000	81,000
Source or develop a Ramsar glossary (once only cost)	16,000	16,000	0	0	16000
Translating and publishing priority web content	27000/yr	27,000	27,000	27,000	81000
Arabic speaking Regional Officer (at 20%) ¹	120,000/yr	24,000	24,000	24,000	72,000
Total (CHF)		94,000	78,000	78,000	250,000

¹ Options include the officer being an existing staff in a government department or Ramsar IOP or partners based in the Arab region. This needs further discussion.

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

For Arabic language translation, Arabic speaking countries could be asked to provide support. The Secretary General has also requested that for the possibility of Russian and Chinese translations, Russia and China should be approached.

Item 7. Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 1 million

Secretariat lead partner(s): Head of Partnerships

Activities budgeted for per year:

A report on the use of SGF has been put forwards to SC51, which will lead to recommendations for future of the SGF.

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

At the Secretariat level, it has been discussed that the Small Grants Fund could be tailored towards the interests of the private sector – particularly towards the interest of the energy industry in building resilience for coastal assets, and towards the interests of the beverage industry in providing source water protection. These ideas, and others, could be discussed with the with Resource Mobilization Working Group.

Item 8. Regional Initiative Networks and Centres (priority activities)

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 150,000

Secretariat lead partner(s): Deputy Secretary General

Activities budgeted for per year:

Priorities as specified by the Regional Initiatives.

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

At the Secretariat level, efforts have already started to identify ways to build proposals to the Global Environmental Facility in support of Regional Initiatives. This, and other ideas, can be further discussed and developed with Resource Mobilization Working Group.

Item 9. Ramsar CEPA programme (2016-2021), exclusion of World Wetlands Day

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 300,000

Secretariat lead partner(s): Head of Communications, Head of Partnerships

Activities budgeted for per year:

Provisional activities are here listed for discussion with CEPA Working Group during SC51 following which budgets will be developed for individual items:

- Corporate identity and branding
- Quarterly SG Newsletter
- Social media
- Events
- Partnership activities
- Press engagement
- Publications
- Ramsar handbook
- Ramsar manual
- Capacity development: regional workshops; webinars; educational wetland courses

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

To be discussed with CEPA Working Group and Resource Mobilization Working Group

Item 10. Online system for National Reports, reporting and indicators development

Fundraising target agreed: CHF 175,000

Secretariat lead partner(s): SRAs, Head of Communications, Head of Partnerships

Activities budgeted for per year:

To be identified

Possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:

To discuss with Resource Mobilization Working Group; possible opportunity for IT software company possible in-kind support, or joint approaches to be developed together with Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), UNEP-WCMC, and/or others.

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

51st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 23-27 November 2015

SC51-22

Status of and recommendations for the Small Grants Fund

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to provide direction on reforms to the Small Grants Fund to link it to a direct and consistent funding mechanism.

Introduction

1. For 25 years, the implementation of the Ramsar Convention has been enhanced through grants, supported by Contracting Parties to the Convention and facilitated by the Ramsar Secretariat. The Small Grants Fund (SGF) is one of three established Ramsar grant funds, together with the Swiss Grants for Africa (SGA) and the Wetlands for the Future Fund (WFF) supported by the USA. The Small Grants Fund is the only multi-donor grant fund.
2. In 2012, Resolution XI.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters* encouraged voluntary contributions to the SGF and reaffirmed the Contracting Parties's conviction that it was of great value. However, the SGF is currently inactive because of a lack of voluntary contributions. In Decision SC47-16, the Standing Committee requested an information paper on the future of the SGF. This report responds to that request.
3. Resolution XII.1, also on *Financial and budgetary matters*, states that the Conference of Parties:

REAFFIRMS its conviction that the Convention's Small Grants Fund is of great value in terms of the implementation of the Convention, and URGES Parties and others to find CHF 1,000,000 over the next triennium (Annex 3) to secure the efficient operation of this programme.

REQUESTS that the Standing Committee review the operation of the programme during the triennium and definitively conclude whether the Parties should continue or cease the Small Grants Fund for the consideration of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

4. This paper outlines the status, options and recommendations for the SGF.

Background and status of Ramsar's grant funds

5. Since 1991, the SGF, formerly the "Wetland Conservation Fund", has supported a wide range of activities related to the Convention. It has provided a total of over CHF 8,000,000 to 240 projects in 110 countries. It is based on voluntary contributions from any Contracting Party. It is administered by the Secretariat, including an advisory service, project oversight and project

ranking process. Its Operational Guidelines and project selection were approved by the Standing Committee. The Operational Guidelines ([linked here](#)) have three areas of focus:

- Projects with a clear link to the Ramsar Strategic Plan;
 - Emergency assistance related to maintaining the ecological character of designated Ramsar Sites; and
 - Preparatory assistance to allow non-contracting Parties to progress toward accession to the Convention.
6. Started in 1989, the Swiss Grants for Africa (SGA) has provided financial support to 90 projects focused on wetland conservation and wise use in over 40 countries in Africa. It is funded by a voluntary contribution from Switzerland over and above the annual dues provided to the Convention's core budget. In 2014, for instance, a grant to the SGA of CHF 90,000 was entirely used to sponsor African delegates' participation in the pre-COP meeting in Tunisia. In 2015, a grant to the SGA of CHF 115,000 was entirely used to sponsor African delegates' participation in COP12 in Uruguay. This fund is administered by the Secretariat, with project approval by Switzerland.
 7. Since 1997, the Wetlands for the Future Fund (WFF) has been supported by a voluntary contribution by the USA, underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding. It has now provided financial support to 290 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, 83 of which have supported activities within designated Ramsar Sites. The fund is largely focused on capacity building and training, with approximately CHF 107,000 being donated in 2015.
 8. Chart 1. below shows that voluntary contributions to the SGF have varied dramatically over time, and the SGF last met its target of receiving CHF 1 million in 1997. Table 1 shows the number of projects funded and donor countries since 2002. No calls for new SGF proposals have been made since the 2010-2011 project cycle because of the lack of funds and a surplus of ranked priority projects waiting to be funded. There are currently no funds available in the SGF for new projects.

Chart 1. Combined annual voluntary contributions to small grants fund

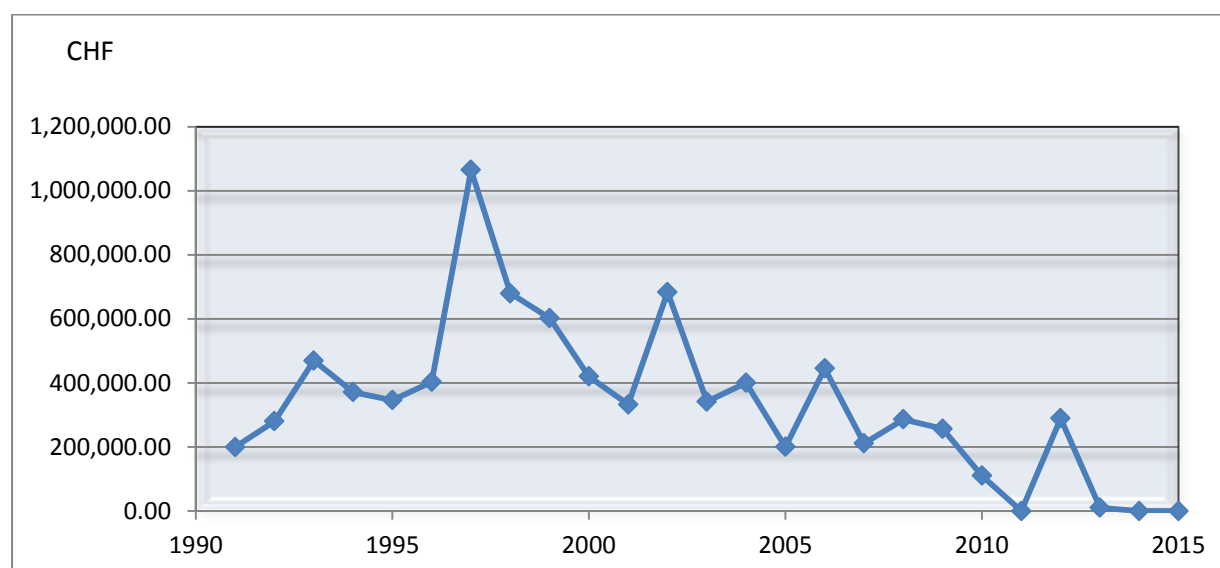


Table 1. Provision of funding per annum to the small Grants Fund, and number of projects supported

SGF year cycle	Net funds received for projects (CHF)	Donor countries & organizations	No. of projects funded	Location of Projects Funded
2002	574,854	Austria, Japan, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA	17	Congo, Gambia and Senegal, Kenya, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Armenia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Uruguay, Fiji, Palau
2003	341,885	Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Iran, Italy, Japan, Sweden, United Kingdom, WWF Living Waters Prog.	9	Nigeria, Kenya, Lao PDR, Kyrgyz Republic, Republic of Moldova, Bahamas, Guatemala, Marshall Islands, Tonga
2004	281,040	Austria, Japan, Sweden, UK	11	Lesotho, Liberia, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Slovenia, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Samoa, Southeast Asia areas project.
2005	196,602	Japan, Sweden, UK	6	Ghana, Tajikistan, Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Suriname, Brazil
2006	361,740	Czech Republic, Japan, Norway, Sweden – SIDA, UK	15	Benin and Togo, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Madagascar, Republic of Congo, Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Viet Nam, Armenia, Republic of Moldova, Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Panama, Kiribati
2007	163,598	Czech Republic, Japan, Sweden - SIDA	5	Malawi, China, Moldova, Colombia, Fiji
2008	184,783	Austria, Hungary, Italy, Japan, R.O.Korea	8	Cabo Verde, Nepal, Turkey, Chile, Bangladesh, Albania, Cameroon, Marshall Islands
2009	235,962	Germany, Japan, Korea, Mauritius, Sweden; Danone	7	Morocco, Mali, Republic of Congo, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam
2010	110,232	Bangladesh, Japan, Norway	3	Guinea Bissau, Cambodia, Nepal
2011	0	-	-	-
2012	289,510	Norway, Japan, Canada	7	Belize, Ghana, Belarus, Moldova, Uganda, Lao PDR, Georgia
2013	-	-	1	Ecuador
2014	-	-	0	
2015	-	-	0	-
TOTAL	2,740,206	12+1	89	-

9. The SGF usually receives many more applications and quality proposals than available funding can support. Correspondingly, the demand for the Secretariat to provide advisory services, evaluate and rank projects has been disproportionately high compared to the funding available.
10. Since 2010, Secretariat reports to the Standing Committee have noted the challenge of funding the SGF and significant actions have been taken to revitalize it, including repackaging the SGF portfolio to showcase specific projects and highlighting high quality “star projects” to potential funders.

11. In decision SC48-12 the Standing Committee asked the Secretariat not to launch a call for SGF proposals in 2015, due to the lack of resources.
12. A current review of the Secretariat's reports indicates that the challenges associated with the SGF may be the following:
 - a. As a multi-donor fund, the SGF lacks a champion. In contrast, the WFF has consistently been funded by the USA and the SGA has consistently been funded by Switzerland.
 - b. Private sector and foundation support has not been significant so far, perhaps because the incentives for donors to finance a basket of projects through Ramsar have not been fully explained. The SGF lacks a process that encourages continued giving. While presenting a hand-picked portfolio of projects and soliciting voluntary contributions for individual projects has attracted some once-off funding, it did not create a sufficient incentive to continue contributions to the SGF.
 - c. Some donors seek far larger projects to consolidate resources and increase impacts.

Reform of the Small Grants Fund

13. Information available from reports provided to successive Standing Committees on the implementation of the Small Grants Fund suggests that it is seen by countries as providing significant value. Impact has been achieved on the ground through projects that have been supported.
14. A brief review of other Small Grants Funds that exist (e.g. GEF, IFAD, KfW, other Ramsar Convention Small Grants Funds, etc.) suggests that when donors have additional incentive for providing funds, such as the opportunity to engage in and influence spending decisions, then they may be more likely to provide funding.
15. Factors affecting the success of other small grants funds, such as those of KfW, GEF, etc., could be summarized in a short paper that also recommends the most suitable possible niche for the Ramsar Convention's SGF.
16. One possibility would be for the Working Group on Resource Mobilization to guide the Secretariat on how to increase the attractiveness and up-to-date relevance of the SGF, and present recommendations to SC52. The proposal could consider:
 - a. Linking the SGF to the priorities of the 4th Strategic Plan. This would refresh the strategic relevance of the fund by alignment with the most recent priorities of Contracting Parties. Some illustrative targets that might be considered worth focusing the SGF fundraising and/or allocations towards might include:
 - Target 4: Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.
 - Target 7: Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed.

- Target 12: Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- b. Advertising the SGF on the basis of shared priorities between Ramsar and a prospective funder, in an area that generates significant value for society. For example, the SGF could be positioned as:
- an opportunity for the beverage industry to protect headwater wetlands that are important for drinking water supply; or
 - an opportunity to increase coastal resilience that benefits both communities and private sector infrastructure and engineering assets.
- c. Identifying specific opportunities for the SGF to fulfil the intention spelled out in the original guidelines, that funding should be directed towards helping grantees make necessary preparations for seeking funding from other sources for larger scale activities. This would entail a shift of focus in the SGF from supporting small on-the-ground projects, to supporting proposal preparation for large funds such as the GEF or the multi-lateral development banks (African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank etc.).
17. The Secretariat would like to suggest that the issue of the Small Grants Fund be a standing item on Standing Committee meeting agendas for the triennium, so that sustained and focused attention can lead to informed decision making about its future at COP13.

Update on formal agreements and joint work plans of the Ramsar Convention and partners

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited:

- to guide the Secretariat on the process for the signing of new, renewal of existing, and revitalization of expired Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), Memoranda of Co-operation (MOCs) and Joint Work Plans (JWPs);
- to review and approve the Joint Work Plan 2015-2017 between the Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); and
- to review and approve the proposed MOU with UNEP.

Introduction

1. The Ramsar Convention enters into partnerships with many organisations in order to enhance implementation of the Convention. The Fourth Strategic Plan for the Ramsar Convention, covering the period 2016 – 2024, emphasizes the importance of working in partnership, and spells out at paragraph 42 that:

“The wise use of wetlands and their resources will ultimately involve a range of actors well beyond those responsible for the management and maintenance of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. This holds at local, national, regional and global levels where existing partnerships with Ramsar Regional Initiatives, IOPs and MEAs should be strengthened and new partnerships with civil society and the business sector forged in order to enhance Convention implementation and reverse the rates of loss and degradation of wetlands.”

2. The Convention, supported by the Secretariat, has supported numerous collaborations with formal written and signed agreements. These have taken the form of an exchange of signed letters, a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandum of Co-operation (MOC), or a Joint Work Plan (JWP). The Secretariat displays a list of all these agreement on its web site at <http://www.ramsar.org/about/partnerships>.
3. Resolution XI.6 *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions* lists at Annex 1 the names of organizations with which the Ramsar Convention had already developed co-operation, synergies and partnerships at the time of COP11 in 2012.
4. A number of Resolutions agreed by the Contracting Parties at COP12 are relevant to the partnerships listed at Annex 1 of this document, and to efforts by the Secretariat to develop formal agreements with partners:

- a. In Resolution XII.2 *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024*: Goal 4 focuses on enhancing implementation, including through:
 - i. Target 17: “Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available”; and
 - ii. Target 18: “International cooperation is strengthened at all levels”.
 - b. In Resolution XII.9 *The Ramsar Convention’s Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016 - 2024*: paragraph 18 “REQUESTS the Secretariat to seek improved cooperation between Multilateral Environmental Agreements, through the Biodiversity Liaison Group, with regard to capacity building”.
 - c. In Resolution XII.3 *Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*:
 - i. Paragraph 42 “INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to report annually on progress on implementing Resolution XI.6 on Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions to the Standing Committee”; and
 - ii. Paragraph 43 “FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with IUCN World Heritage Outlook, UNEP, UNEP-GRID, UNDP, UNESCO, Regional Economic Commissions of the UN, the World Bank, WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), FAO, GEF, Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and others, and report on progress to the Standing Committee and the Contracting Parties on a regular basis”.
 - d. In Resolution XII.7 *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention*, paragraph 21 “REQUESTS the Secretariat to strengthen partnerships with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as *inter alia* the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the CBD and others, in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation, respecting the mandate of each Convention; and REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide to the Standing Committee at its 51st meeting a plan on how to increase cooperation with other MEAs and report regularly actions to the Standing Committee”.
5. The purpose of this document is to provide for Standing Committee:
 - a. A summary of signed agreements currently in force, with their start and expiration dates (Annex 1);
 - b. A proposed revision and update to the JWP between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) to cover the period until 2017 (Annex 2); and
 - c. A draft of a proposed new MOU between UNEP and the Ramsar Convention (Annex 3).
 6. The draft proposed MOU between UNEP and Ramsar is subject to further review and changes by UNEP. UNEP proposes to submit final changes to the Ramsar Secretariat before 15

September 2015, and thus an updated version of the MOU will be available before SC51 for consideration.

7. As denoted in bold in the table provided in Annex 1, six currently valid agreements are due to terminate in 2015 or early 2016 (CMS, Danone Evian, OAS, SPREP, Stetson College, and the World Bank). The Secretariat seeks the approval of the Standing Committee to review and renew these agreements to align with the priorities that have been established in the Fourth Strategic Plan.
8. The Secretariat signed an MOC with the Convention's five International Organization Partners in 2011, to serve until 2017. There is not yet such an agreement in place with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, which Contracting Parties approved at COP12 through Resolution XII.3 as the Convention's sixth IOP.
9. The Secretariat seeks guidance from the Standing Committee on its actions to re-initiate MOCs that have expired during the last triennia, which include the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention); Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention); Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS); European Environment Agency; Eurosite; Global Nature Fund; International Ocean Institute; UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC); UN World Tourism Organization (WTO); World Health Organization; and Wetland Link International (WLI). These are also listed in Table 2 of Annex 1.

Annex 1

Current and expired agreements

Table 1. Currently active signed agreements and their validity

Organization Name	Start Date	Expiration Date
<i>Global Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)</i>		
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	4 November 2011	2020
Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions	4 September 2011	No expiration date
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals – CMS	14 May 2012	MOU: No expiration date JWP: May 2015
UNESCO Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme	20 March 2002	No expiration date
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa	5 December 1998	No expiration data
UNESCO – World Heritage Centre	14 May 1999	No expiration date
<i>Regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements</i>		
Carpathian Convention	13 November 2006	No expiration date
Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles	8 July 2012	No expiration date
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	December 2012	31 December 2015
<i>Global intergovernmental organisations and processes (IGOs)</i>		
United National Conference on Trade and Development	1 September 2002	No expiration date
UNESCO - IHE	3 November 2013	3 November 2018
World Bank	16 February 2010	30 June 2015
<i>Regional intergovernmental organisations and processes (IGOs)</i>		
African Centre for Parliamentary Affairs (ACEPA)	28 June 2013	28 June 2018
The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity	17 November 2011	No expiration date
Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) – Working Group of the Arctic Council	12 July 2012	No expiration date
ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, on observer status of Ramsar Convention at DRP Convention	8 November 2000	No expiration date
LCBC – Lake Chad Basin Commission	23 November 2002	No expiration date
The Niger Basin Authority (NBA)	23 November 2002	No expiration date
<i>International Organization Partners (IOPs)</i>		
Birdlife International	19 May 2011	19 May 2017
International Water Management Institute (IWMI)	19 May 2011	19 May 2017
IUCN	19 May 2011	19 May 2017
Wetlands International	19 May 2011	19 May 2017
WWF	19 May 2011	19 May 2017

Organization Name	Start Date	Expiration Date
<i>Other International NGOs and organizations</i>		
Charles Sturt University	3 November 2013	3 November 2018
Conservation International	10 April 2013	10 April 2018
Ducks Unlimited	2 February 2012	No expiration date
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	12 May 2015	30 June 2021
International Association for Impact Assessment	22 June 2001	No expiration date
JICA – Japan International Cooperation Agency	3 June 2015	31 December 2020
Organization of American States (OAS)	17 February 2010	17 February 2016
Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)	31 January 2012	31 January 2018
Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)	1 July 2011	1 July 2017
Stetson University College of Law	18 February 2010	18 February 2016
The Albertine Rift Conservation Society (ARCOS)	23 May 2013	22 May 2018
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	7 July 2012	No expiration date
Université Senghor	13 May 2013	No expiration date
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)	17 June 2009	No expiration date
<i>Private sector</i>		
Danone Evian	16 February 2012	31 December 2015
Star Alliance-IUCN- Ramsar: Biosphere Connections	September 2014	Automatic annual renewal

Table 2. Expired signed agreements and their validity

Organization Name	Start Date	Expiration Date
Center for International Earth Science Information Network, Columbia University (USA), and Wetlands International	April 2000	31 December 2002
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)	7 February 2006	7 February 2012
Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	29 June 2005	29 June 2011
Commission Internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS)	20 March 2006	20 March 2012
European Environment Agency	27 February 2006	27 February 2012
Eurosite	24 September 1999	24 September 2002
Global Nature Fund	29 September 2004	29 September 2010
Japanese Aerospace and Exploration Agency (JAXA)	12 October 2010	12 October 2012
International Ocean Institute	17 October 2006	17 October 2012
UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)	4 June 2010	31 December 2012
UN World Tourism Organization (WTO)	2 February 2010	2 February 2013
Wetland Link International (WLI)	12 November 2005	12 November 2011
World Health Organization (WHO)	18 February 2011	18 February 2012

Annex 2

Proposed update to Ramsar and CMS Joint Work Plan, to cover the period 2015-17

In 2012 a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the CMS and Ramsar Secretariats and subsequently a Joint Work Plan 2012-2014 was prepared. In July 2015 there have been consultations between both Secretariats and a new version of the Joint Work Plan 2015-2017 has been developed. This new document will pave the way for further cooperation and will ensure that the work of the two Secretariats is aligned on a number of key issues such as: national policies; regional agreements and initiatives; management of species populations and wetland ecosystems; global science and policy; and information, outreach and capacity building.

Proposed Joint Work Plan 2015-2017 **Secretariats of the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**

This plan identifies a non-exclusive list of activities on which the Ramsar Convention and CMS Secretariats agree to cooperate within the framework of their Memorandum of Cooperation.

1. National policies

Activities	Timeframe
1.1. To support national policy initiatives for coordinated implementation of the CMS and Ramsar Conventions, including consultation among relevant national focal points, cross-representation on relevant national implementation committees and working groups, streamlining and harmonization of reporting processes, and adequate reflection of Ramsar and CMS interests in the updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and in initiatives of other relevant biodiversity-related conventions.	2015-2017
1.2. Encourage regular communication between CMS and Ramsar focal points at national level	2015-2017

2. Regional agreements and initiatives

Activities	Timeframe
2.1 To take opportunities for facilitating mutual participation in relevant meetings under either Convention, including those organized at regional level in the framework of the Ramsar Convention and its Regional Initiatives, those organized under CMS auspices in relation to individual Agreements, Memoranda of Understanding or other instruments, and workshops on technical topics of mutual interest.	2015-2017

3. Management of species populations and wetland ecosystems

Activities	Timeframe
3.1 To develop policy and management approaches in furtherance of the most recent scientific knowledge and best practice thinking concerning ecological networks in relation to migratory species and wetlands.	2015-2017
3.2 To continue to develop joint intelligence, research and response	2015-2017

Activities	Timeframe
mechanisms in relation to wildlife diseases.	
3.3 To explore the scope for synergy in responding to other emergency situations (such as mass die-offs), in follow-up to Ramsar Resolution IX.9 and CMS Resolution 10.2.	2015-2017
3.4 To collaborate in research, management, information and outreach activities related to the sites that are listed by Ramsar and at the same time are included in Network of Sites of Importance for Marine Turtles of the Indian Ocean South East Asian (IOSEA) Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding.	2015-2017
3.5 To collaborate in the implementation of the GEF project on Dugong and Seagrass in the Indian Ocean & Western Pacific (resources permitting).	2015-2017
3.6 To collaborate in the implementation of the Ramsar Strategy for High Andean Wetlands and the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on High Andean Flamingos	2015-2017
3.7 To collaborate in the implementation of the various regional Ramsar initiatives covering mangroves and coral reef ecosystems, and the CMS Memorandum of Understanding on Migratory Sharks, having a particular focus on the conservation of CMS listed sharks, sawfishes and rays.	2015-2017
3.8 To continue to enhance the identification of overlaps between the interests of migratory species and wetlands of importance, and to seek appropriate coherence between attention to “critical sites” for migratory pathways and strategic objectives for networks of protected wetlands.	2015-2017
3.9 To undertake specific advisory missions on a joint basis in cases where the interests of both Conventions may be involved (resources permitting).	as required

4. Monitoring and assessment

Activities	Timeframe
4.1 To define and operate (monitor, assess, report on) relevant biodiversity indicators to evaluate effectiveness of Convention implementation, and as a contribution to wider collective efforts concerning assessments of progress towards the global Aichi targets, inter alia through the expert consultative processes established under the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in cooperation with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.	2015-2017

5. Global science and policy

Activities	Timeframe
5.1 To consider collaboration, resources permitting, on the production of synthesis products focused on water, wetlands and migratory species interests in respect of the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, including collaboration on new work by the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel in this subject area, and follow-up to the reports of the “TEEB” study.	2015-2017
5.2 To align and harmonize where possible proposals for COP Resolutions on technical subjects of mutual interest (such as climate change, the energy sector, extractive industries and impact assessment).	2015-2017
5.3 To coordinate participation and joint statements at meetings of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in the context of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG)	2015-2017

Activities	Timeframe
5.4 To publish jointly technical guidance materials of mutual interest where appropriate (and resources permitting).	2015-2017

6. Information, outreach and capacity-building

Activities	Timeframe
6.1 To organize efficient cross-distribution to the two Conventions' constituencies of materials for the promotion of World Wetlands Day and World Migratory Bird Day as well as of CMS species awareness campaigns if they are of any relevance for Ramsar, and to issue mutually supportive public information about each of these Days and campaigns.	2015-2017
6.2 To collaborate on activities for capacity building (resources permitting) including cross-representation on capacity building workshops and investigation of ways and means to support the application of the Flyway Training Kit developed under the GEF project Wings Over Wetlands (WOW).	2015-2017
6.3 To consider creative ways of mutually enhancing Secretariat capacity, for example through staff placements, exchange of interns, and reciprocal temporary staff secondments for "pressure point" occasions such as COPs.	2015-2017
6.4 To collaborate in exploring funding for joint activities e.g. the project on the Enhancement of Information and Communication Technologies and Capacity at CITES, CMS and Ramsar.	2015-2017

Annex 3

Proposed MOU between Ramsar and UNEP (as of June 2015, an updated version to be available in September)

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)
AND
THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (RAMSAR, 1971) Secretary General**

WHEREAS the United Nations Environment Programme (hereinafter referred to as “UNEP”) is the leading organization within the United Nations system in the field of environment and has as a major area of focus of its global mandate, the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, including biological diversity, worldwide;

WHEREAS UNEP has the mandate to *[describe the specific UNEP offices handling these issues, including DELC and DEWA]*;

WHEREAS The Convention on Wetlands signed at Ramsar, 1971 (hereinafter referred to as “Ramsar Convention”) is an international treaty and has the following stated mission: “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.”

WHEREAS UNEP and the Ramsar Convention (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Parties”) share common objectives with regard to the conservation, protection, enhancement and support of nature and natural resources, including biological diversity worldwide, and wish to collaborate to further these common goals and objectives within their respective mandates and governing rules and regulations;

WHEREAS the Parties intend to conclude this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as “MOU”) with the aim of consolidating, developing and detailing their cooperation and effectiveness to achieve the common objectives in the field of environment;

THEREFORE, UNEP AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION HAVE AGREED TO COOPERATE UNDER THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AS FOLLOWS:

**Article 1
Interpretation**

1. References to this MOU shall be construed as including any Annexes, as varied or amended in accordance with the terms of this MOU. Any Annexes shall be subject to the provisions of this MOU, and in case of any inconsistency between an Annex and this MOU, the latter shall prevail.
2. Implementation of any subsequent activities, projects and programmes pursuant to this MOU, including those involving the transfer of funds between the Parties, shall necessitate the execution of appropriate legal instruments between the Parties. The terms of such legal instruments

shall be subject to the provisions of this MOU.

2. This MOU represents the complete understanding between the Parties and complements all prior MOUs, communications and representations, whether oral or written, concerning the subject matter of this MOU.

3. Any Party's failure to request implementation of a provision of this MOU shall not constitute a waiver of that or any other provision of this MOU.

Article 2

Duration

1. This MOU shall be effective upon the last date of signature of the approving officials and remain in force until 31 December 2017, unless renewed by the Parties or terminated in accordance with Article 15 below.

Article 3

Purpose

1. The purpose of this MOU is to provide a framework of cooperation and understanding, and to facilitate collaboration between the Parties to further their shared goals and objectives in regard to the support of data, shared ambitions, and use of technology, in order to promote sustainable development benefits conferred by all types of wetlands (for instance, rivers, lakes, coral reefs, marshes, estuaries and peatlands, *inter alia*.)

2. The objectives of this MOU shall be achieved through:

- a. Regular dialogue and meetings between UNEP and Ramsar Convention;
- b. Execution of separate legal instruments between the Parties to define and implement any subsequent activities, projects and programmes pursuant to Article 1.2.
- c. Implementation of a set of activities listed in Article 4 that can be reviewed, revised and adjusted by the Parties.

Article 4

Areas of Cooperation

1. Areas of Cooperation are agreed jointly through the cooperation mechanism in the MOU. Policies and priorities under this MOU may also be jointly reviewed annually by the Parties pursuant to Article 5 to allow the Parties to respond to newly emerging issues in the realm of environment and sustainable development.

2. The Parties have agreed to the following preliminary and overarching themes for this MOU, which form part of UNEP's mandate and programme of work and have been approved by UNEP's Governing Body. The items listed below are also priorities or ongoing activities of Ramsar Convention, in accordance with its mandate. All could be strengthened through the cooperation of the Parties.

- a. **Improve access to useful information about the status, condition of wetlands, globally.**
 - i. **Develop an online platform for sharing key, up to date, data and information relating to wetlands.** Together, UNEP/DEWA, the GRID-Geneva Centre collaborating with UNEP (linking with the UNEP Live knowledge management platform) and the Ramsar Convention are collaborating in a system for gathering and reporting information that allows for continually tracking the condition of wetlands. The Ramsar Convention has invested in the capabilities of UNEP and the GRID-Geneva, for a reporting system for the Ramsar Convention's 2100 'Sites of International Importance' around the world. The next level of senior level collaboration will leverage earth observation (including via existing partners of each organization) and ground data in order to develop a more detailed and complete picture of the condition of all wetlands, globally. This system can help highlight 'hotspots' (areas under rapid change or facing significant pressures) and become a valuable tool for tracking wetland extent changes relevant to SDG Target 6.6.
 - ii. **Strengthen Economic Analysis.** Co-operate in order to bolster the availability of sound economic analysis relating to the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including via support for Payment for Ecosystem Services, development of Wetland Banking and Habitat Funds, and continued strong and deeper reflection of the economic value of wetlands in ongoing UNEP's work including TEEB and VANTAGE.
 - iii. **Improve biodiversity indicators and monitoring.** UNEP-WCMC, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the STRP will continue collaboration in development of indicators, including via the Biodiversity Indicators Project, and other products that support a deeper assessment and description of the 'State of the World's Wetlands'. The work might highlight underpinning of regulating services of wetlands.
- b. **Improve synergies and the catalytic role of each organization.**
 - i. **In order to leverage a broader range of benefits that wetlands provide for sustainable development,** UNEP/DELC Regional MEA Focal Points will dedicate a portion of their time towards supporting Ramsar Convention contracting parties with the fulfillment of their commitments under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, especially where co-benefits exist for different MEAs. Ramsar Convention Senior Regional Advisors will work directly with the Regional Biodiversity Focal Points to ensure a co-ordinated approach.
 - ii. **In terms of protecting biodiversity,** UNEP/DELC Regional Biodiversity Focal Points will dedicate a portion of their time towards supporting Ramsar Convention contracting parties with the fulfillment of their commitments under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, in line with the development of NBSAPs. In particular, the Regional Biodiversity Focal Points will use the time and effort that they dedicate in order to gather information about the status and pressures on biodiversity that exist in designated 'Ramsar Sites', and increase understanding of wise use concepts put forwards by the Convention. Ramsar Convention Senior Regional Advisors will work directly with the Regional Biodiversity Focal Points to ensure a co-ordinated approach.
 - iii. **In terms of clean supplies of freshwater,** an expert selected by the Ramsar Convention shall participate in the Steering Committee of UNEP/DEPI's Wastewater

Initiative. Other freshwater opportunities shall be explored and developed in particular where there is a role for better management of wetland ecosystems to contribute to better freshwater outcomes.

- iv. **In terms of supporting freshwater climate change mitigation and adaptation,** freshwater ecosystems face severe effects from climate change and it will be therefore crucial to facilitate countries and stakeholders understanding of the impacts of climate change, to plan adaptation measures and to support their financing and implementation. Freshwater ecosystems (in particular peatlands) can also provide very important mitigation services. The Parties shall therefore support countries and stakeholders in their climate change mitigation, especially REDD+, actions on readiness efforts, on planning, financing and delivery of Result Based Actions and for receiving Result Based Payments and other Payments for Ecosystems Services”
- v. **In terms of integrated management of river basins and other specialist groups,** the Parties shall collaborate to strengthen the role of basin organizations in the integrated management of river basins, and with other specialists groups working on rivers, lakes, mangroves, coral reefs, peat-lands and bogs.
- vi. **In terms of UNEP expertise in World Wetlands Day and the CoP,** UNEP shall provide expertise, including resource persons at cost to UNEP, in Ramsar Convention related events that take place around the world, including World Wetlands Day and the Conference of Parties.

c. **Efficient exchange of information and advice.**

- i. UNEP shall support the achievement of the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan for 2016 – 2021, including indicators development, and where possible shall participate in meetings.
- ii. Ramsar Convention shall continue to participate in the UNEP/DELC Information and Knowledge Initiative for MEAs (InforMEA).
- iii. Ramsar Convention shall continue to participate in the Biodiversity Liaison Group.
- iv. Ramsar Convention shall provide input to UNEP/DELC project on mapping gaps and opportunities among MEAs with a focus on synergies and coherence.
- v. UNEP/DELC shall continue to participate in the Ramsar Convention Scientific, Technical and Reporting Panel (STRP) as Observer, as does the UNEP-WCMC.

d. **To increase financing of wetlands**

- i. Staff from both organizations will collaborate in order to maximize opportunities for wetlands financing, working with GEF funds where UNEP is already a GEF Implementing Agency to direct funds towards the wise use of wetlands, across all GEF focal areas, and to seek opportunities for jointly seeking funding projects from other funding sources, where possible.

3. The above list is not exhaustive and should not be taken to exclude or replace other forms of cooperation between the Parties on other issues of common interest.

Article 5

Organization of the Cooperation

1. The Parties shall hold annual meetings on matters of common interest, in accordance with an agenda agreed in advance by the Parties, to discuss technical and operational issues related to furthering the objectives of this MOU;
2. Within the context defined above, further bilateral technical and operational meetings may be called according to need including ad hoc meetings as deemed necessary by the relevant UNEP divisions and the Ramsar Convention to address matters of common interest for the implementation of activities in specific areas, countries and regions.
3. Each Party undertakes to share knowledge and information in its area of operations and expertise relevant to the MOU with the other Party.

Article 6

Status of the Parties and their Personnel

1. The Parties acknowledge and agree that Ramsar Convention is an entity separate and distinct from the United Nations, including UNEP. The employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of Ramsar Convention, including the personnel engaged by Ramsar Convention for carrying out any of the project activities pursuant to this MOU, shall not be considered in any respect or for any purposes whatsoever as being employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of the United Nations, including UNEP, nor shall any employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of UNEP be considered, in any respect or for any purposes whatsoever, as being employees, personnel, representatives, agents, contractors or affiliates of Ramsar Convention.
2. Neither Party shall be entitled to act or make legally binding declarations on behalf of the other Party. Nothing in this MOU shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.

Article 7

Fundraising

1. To the extent permitted by the Parties' respective regulations, rules and policies, and subject to sub-article 2, the Parties may engage in fundraising from the public and private sectors to support the activities, projects and programmes to be developed or carried out pursuant to this MOU. The Parties shall keep each other informed of ongoing fundraising efforts related to this MOU, as appropriate.
2. Neither Party shall engage in fundraising with third parties in the name of or on behalf of the other, without the prior express written approval of the other Party in each case.

Article 8

Intellectual Property Rights

1. Nothing in the MOU shall be construed as granting or implying rights to, or interest in, intellectual property of the Parties, except as otherwise provided in Article 8.2.
2. In the event that the Parties foresee that intellectual property that can be protected shall be created in relation to a particular activity, project or programme to be carried out under this MOU, the Parties shall negotiate and agree on terms of its ownership and use in the relevant instrument, as per Article 1.2.

Article 9

Use of Name, Emblem and Logo

1. Neither Party shall use the name, emblem, logo or trademarks of the other Party, its subsidiaries and/or affiliates, or any abbreviation thereof, in connection with its business or for public dissemination without the prior expressly written approval of the other Party in each case. In no event shall authorization of the UN or UNEP name or emblem be granted for commercial purposes.
2. Ramsar Convention acknowledges that it is familiar with the independent, international and impartial status of the UN and UNEP, and recognizes that their names and emblems may not be associated with any political or sectarian cause or otherwise used in a manner inconsistent with the status of the UN and UNEP.
3. The Parties agree to recognize and acknowledge this partnership, as appropriate. To this end, the Parties shall consult with each other concerning the manner and form of such recognition and acknowledgement.

Article 10

United Nations Privileges and Immunities

1. Nothing in or relating to this MOU shall be deemed a waiver, express or implied, of any of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations, including its subsidiary organs.

Article 11

Confidentiality

1. The handling of information shall be subject to each Party's corporate confidentiality policies.
2. Before disclosing internal documents, or documents that by virtue of their content or the circumstances of their creation or communication must be deemed confidential, of the other Party to third parties, each Party shall obtain the express, written consent of the other Party. However, a Party's disclosure of another Party's internal and/or confidential documents to an entity the disclosing Party controls or with which it is under common control, or to an entity with which it has a confidentiality agreement, shall not be considered a disclosure to a third party, and shall not require prior authorization.
3. For UNEP, a principal or subsidiary organ of the United Nations established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations shall be deemed to be a legal entity under common control.

Article 12

Responsibility

1. Each Party will be responsible for dealing with any claims or demands arising out of its actions or omissions, and those of its respective personnel, in relation to this MOU.
2. Ramsar Convention shall indemnify, hold and save harmless and defend at its own expense, the United Nations and UNEP, their officials, personnel and representatives, from and against all suits, claims, demands and liability of any nature or kind which may arise in relation to this MOU due to any actions or omissions attributable to Ramsar Convention.

Article 13

Dispute Settlement

1. The Parties shall use their best efforts to settle amicably any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of this MOU. Where the Parties wish to seek such an amicable settlement through conciliation, the conciliation shall take place in accordance with the UNCITRAL Conciliation Rules then prevailing, or according to such other procedure as may be agreed between the Parties.
2. Any dispute, controversy or claim between the Parties arising out of this MOU which is not settled amicably in accordance with the foregoing sub-article may be referred by either Party to arbitration under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules then in force. The arbitral tribunal shall have no authority to award punitive damages. The Parties shall be bound by any arbitration award rendered as a result of such arbitration as the final adjudication of any such controversy, claim or dispute.

Article 14

Notification and Amendments

1. Each Party shall promptly notify the other in writing of any anticipated or actual material changes that will affect the execution of this MOU.
2. The Parties may amend this MOU by mutual written agreement, which shall be appended to this MOU and become an integral part of it.

Article 15

Termination

1. Either Party may terminate this MOU by giving three months' prior written notice to the other Party.
2. Upon termination of this MOU, the rights and obligations of the Parties defined under any other legal instrument executed pursuant to this MOU shall cease to be effective, except as otherwise provided in this MOU.
3. Any termination of the MOU shall be without prejudice to (a) the orderly completion of any ongoing collaborative activity and (b) any other rights and obligations of the Parties accrued prior to the date of termination under this MOU or legal instrument executed pursuant to this MOU.

4. The obligations under Articles 8-13 do not lapse upon expiry, termination of or withdrawal from this MOU.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the duly authorized representatives of the Parties affix their signatures below.

For United Nations Environment Programme For Ramsar Convention

.....

Dr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP

.....

Dr. Chris Briggs, Secretary General,
Ramsar Convention

Date:

Date:

Legal Memo re: Legal issues relating to the adoption of new rules of procedure at the conclusion of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties and their use in governance of meetings

I. REQUEST FOR ADVICE

1. This legal memo addresses certain legal issues relating to adoption of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) at the conclusion of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP12), and their applicability to govern meetings over the next triennium.
2. In this memo, first, a brief background is provided highlighting the handling of the RoP at the 48th and 49th meetings of the Standing Committee (SC48 and SC49) and at COP12. Second, applicable rules are presented and discussed. Finally, the memo presents concluding legal analysis which supports the utilization of the COP12 RoP over the next triennium.

II. BACKGROUND

3. New RoP were developed and endorsed by SC48 for consideration at COP12.¹ SC49 recommended the adoption of the RoP which governed COP11 for use during COP12, with the proposed RoP to be discussed in an informal working group over the course of the COP, with the intention of adopting the revised RoP for use in the future.²
4. Following consultation and consensus-building in the informal working group, the revised 'Uruguay Rules of Procedure' (Uruguay Rules) were proposed for adoption by consensus.³ In introducing these revised RoP, the proponent Party (Denmark) specifically affirmed to the 12th Conference of the Parties that upon adoption by consensus by the COP, the revised Uruguay Rules would be valid for the coming triennium. This point was not contested by any Parties to the Ramsar Convention, or any others at COP12. With minor edits and clarifications, the new Uruguay Rules of Procedure for the Ramsar Convention were then adopted by the acclamation of the whole 12th Conference of the Parties in Punta del Este and these are now published on the Ramsar web site at:
www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/ramsar_rules_of_procedure_e.pdf.

¹ Ramsar, Report of the 48th meeting of the Standing Committee (28-30 January 2015), at Decision SC48-13.

² Ramsar, Conference Report of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (1-9 June 2015), at para 16. [COP12 Conference Report]

³ *Ibid*, COP12 Conference Report, at para 246.

III. APPLICABLE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND TREATY PROVISIONS

“Ramsar Convention Rules of Procedure (as adopted in COP11)

Rule 1

These rules of procedure shall apply to any meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) convened in accordance with article 6 of the Convention, **subject to their adoption by consensus at the start of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties.**

Rule 56

These rules of procedure shall apply immediately after their adoption.

Rule 26.7

Unless otherwise decided by the Conference of the Parties, these rules **shall apply *mutatis mutandis*** to the proceedings of such bodies...”

“Ramsar Convention Rules of Procedure (as adopted in COP12)

Rule 52

1. These Rules **shall take effect upon adoption by the Conference of the Parties**, and shall remain valid for each of its meetings unless amended by majority vote of the Conference of the Parties.”

“Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran, 2.2.1971, as amended by the Protocol of 3.12.1982, and the Amendments of 28.5.1987) Paris, 13 July 1994

Article 6

1. There shall be established a Conference of the Contracting Parties to review and promote the implementation of this Convention...

2. The Conference of the Contracting Parties shall be competent:

a) to discuss the implementation of this Convention;

...

f) to adopt other recommendations, or resolutions, to promote the functioning of this Convention.

4. The Conference of the Contracting Parties shall adopt rules of procedure for each of its meetings.”

IV. LEGAL ANALYSIS

5. In accordance with the mandate provided by SC49, the COP12 informal working group, through a series of open meetings at COP12, reviewed the text of the RoP proposed by SC48 and made

amendments. The informal working group's consensus version of the revised RoP were put forward for adoption on the final day of COP12 by Denmark. These COP12 Uruguay Rules were adopted by acclamation by all Parties as represented in COP12, as indicated in the Ramsar Convention COP12 Conference Report at paragraph 246.

6. At the time of adoption of the COP12 Uruguay Rules, the COP11 RoP were still in force, and as such, these RoP governed the decision to adopt the revised Uruguay Rules.
7. Rule 56 of the COP 11 RoP indicates that the Rules of Procedure will apply immediately upon approval by the COP, and is silent with regards further requirements to guide the actual timing of their adoption prior to their application. Rule 26.7 further indicates that the RoP apply *mutatis mutandis* to the proceedings of subsidiary bodies. As point of *obiter dictum*, in the Uruguay Rules of Procedure adopted at COP12, it is further clarified in Rule 52 that the Rules of Procedure for the meetings of the Ramsar Convention shall take effect upon their adoption by the COP, remaining valid for all subsequent meetings, with amendments requiring a majority vote.
8. In the Ramsar Convention itself, the Parties at Article 6.2 (f) decided that the COP is empowered "to adopt other recommendations, or resolutions, to promote the functioning of this Convention". The Parties also agreed at Article 6.4 that "The Conference of the Contracting Parties shall adopt rules of procedure for each of its meetings."
9. As Rule 56 is silent on the timing of the requisite adoption, the acclamation of the 2015 COP12 Uruguay Rules of Procedure by COP12 can be interpreted as sufficient to satisfy Rule 56, which states that the Rules of Procedure shall apply immediately upon approval by the COP. As such, the Uruguay Rules of Procedure adopted at COP12 can govern the subsequent meetings of the triennium. Article 6 of the Ramsar Convention does not contradict this interpretation, and the consensus decision of the COP12 during the Ordinary Meeting supports this interpretation.
10. It is, however, explicit in Rule 1 of the COP11 RoP that the RoP which shall govern the COP itself are to be adopted by consensus at the start of every Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It is further explicit in Article 6.4 that the COP shall adopt rules of procedure for each of its meetings. As such, while the Uruguay Rules can govern meetings of subsidiary bodies created by the COP during the intervening triennium, the RoP which are to govern COP13 shall still be adopted in the regular manner, at the start of the Ramsar COP13.

V. CONCLUSION

11. The Rules of Procedure adopted by acclamation at COP12 can govern the meetings of the Standing Committee and other bodies of the Ramsar Convention, and shall remain in force until the next Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The RoP to be used in that COP shall be adopted by consensus at the start of the ordinary meeting of that COP as per the Rule 1 of the Uruguay Rules of Procedure and in compliance with Article 6.4 of the Ramsar Convention.

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

51st Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 23-27 November 2015

SC51-INF.DOC.02

Information documents for the Working Group on IUCN, Standing Committee and Secretary General

Action requested:

The “Headquarters Working Group” is invited to consider these documents and report back to Standing Committee 51 and successive Standing Committee during this triennium on their progress.

1. At the 12th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP12), the Parties in Resolution XII.4 requested the Standing Committee to focus on the COP12 decisions on improving existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General, to facilitate that the Secretariat effectively serves the Contracting Parties in their activities and implementation through clear, effective and understandable rules and procedures.
2. Such actions are a follow up to a decision of the Management Working Group of the 48th Standing Committee (SC48) *“to initiate a process led by the Management Working Group to review agreements, policies, guidelines and other mechanisms that regulate the relations between and the division of responsibilities between the Standing Committee, the Executive Team, the Chair of the Standing Committee, the Secretary General and IUCN, including in relation to managing the Secretariat including staff management”*.
3. SC50 began this process by establishing a Working Group on these issues to report back to SC51 and successive Standing Committees during this triennium on their progress.
4. The following Contracting Parties volunteered to join the group to improve existing management instruments between IUCN, the Standing Committee and the Secretary General: Kenya, Romania, Senegal, Switzerland, the United States of America, and Uruguay.
5. The Secretariat proposes to name this the “Headquarters Working Group” for ease of recognition and separation from the other Working Groups as it refers to the improvement of the situation at Headquarters.
6. The Secretariat has put together some key documents for the use and consideration of the Headquarters Working Group that relate to the development of the relationship between the Ramsar Convention, the Ramsar Bureau, IUCN, the federal government of Switzerland, the Secretariat and the Standing Committee. The principal documents governing those relationships are annexed as:
 - Annex 1 – Transcription of the **“Memorandum of Understanding on Headquarters Facilities between IUCN and the Ramsar Convention”** (7 November 1991)

- Annex 2 – Transcription of the **“Delegation of Authority to the Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat” (Ramsar)** (29 January 1993)
- Annex 3 - Transcription of the **“Letter of Agreement on Provision of Services between IUCN and the Ramsar Convention”** (15 May 2009)

Annex 1

Transcription of the “Memorandum of Understanding on Headquarters Facilities between IUCN and the Ramsar Convention” (7 November 1991)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON HEADQUARTERS FACILITIES

between the Director General of IUCN and the
Chairman of the Standing Committee
of the Ramsar Convention

I. Background

1. Article 8 of the Ramsar Convention provides that IUCN shall perform the continuing bureau duties under the Convention until such time as another organization or government is appointed by a majority of two-thirds of the Contracting Parties.
2. The representative of IUCN at the Conference of plenipotentiaries, which adopted the Convention at Ramsar, Iran in 1971, formally stated that he was authorized to accept on behalf of IUCN the bureau duties specified in the final text of the Convention. This statement was recorded as point No. 17 in the Final Act of the Conference.
3. The 3rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention at Regina in 1987 requested IUCN to establish an independent unit to perform bureau duties under the supervision of the Ramsar Standing Committee. This was agreed on behalf of IUCN by the IUCN Director General and later endorsed by the IUCN Council.
4. The Swiss Federal Government, Government of the Canton of Vaud and the Government of the Commune of Gland are providing IUCN with funds and the use of a parcel of land for the construction of a new Headquarters facility. Swiss Government representatives have indicated on several occasions, notably at the 17th Session of the IUCN General Assembly in 1988 in Costa Rica, that the new IUCN Headquarters is being provided for both IUCN and the Ramsar Bureau.
5. Requirements for the Ramsar Bureau in the new Headquarters building have been elaborated by the Secretary General of the Bureau in consultation with IUCN's Director General. These have been endorsed by the Convention's Standing Committee which recommended that a co-operative agreement be prepared to give effect to those arrangements.
6. The following points of agreement have been prepared in pursuance of that recommendation.

8. The Ramsar Bureau will seek to utilize as much as possible the conference facilities in the Headquarters building and to that end, the Secretary General of the Ramsar Bureau shall inform the officer responsible for Headquarters facilities at IUCN of any meeting which the Bureau wishes to organize in the Headquarters building other than in the Ramsar Meeting Room.
9. Ramsar Bureau staff shall use the car parking facilities in the Headquarters building on the same basis as other IUCN staff, and if a charge is levied for the use of these facilities, will incur the same costs.
10. Any change in the requirements of the Ramsar Bureau relating to the use of office space or other facilities in the Headquarters building, and any matter which is not specifically covered by this Memorandum of Understanding shall be the subject of discussions between the Director General of IUCN and the Secretary General of the Ramsar Bureau.
11. IUCN will endeavour to meet any request by Ramsar for additional office space in the building. Such a request shall be considered in the light of IUCN's requirements and will be determined by the IUCN Director General on the basis of an equitable allocation of facilities between IUCN and Ramsar. Any allocation of additional office space for Ramsar shall be made by providing Ramsar with offices contiguous to the original Ramsar area of the building.
12. The Director General of IUCN and the Chairman of the Ramsar Standing Committee may, by common agreement, subject to the approval of the Ramsar Standing Committee, amend this Memorandum of Understanding as a result of such discussions.
13. Any dispute or difficulties that may arise from the implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be resolved by discussions between the Director General of IUCN and the Secretary General of the Ramsar Bureau acting under the authority of the Ramsar Standing Committee.

Enc. Floorplan

For and on behalf of IUCN

Martin W. Holdgate
Director General

For and on behalf of the Ramsar Convention Standing Committee

John Turner
Chairman

DN/el/26.9.91
AGREEM/1017M

Annex 2

Transcription of the “Delegation of Authority to the Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat” (Ramsar) (29 January 1993)

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY
TO THE
SECRETARY GENERAL
CONVENTION ON WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE
ESPECIALLY AS WATERFOWL HABITAT (RAMSAR)

INTRODUCTION

A) Article 8.1 of the Ramsar Convention provides that IUCN shall perform the continuing bureau duties under the Convention until such time as another organization or government is appointed by a majority of two-thirds of all Contracting Parties.

This was accepted by IUCN at the Ramsar plenipotentiary Conference in 1971.

B) In 1987, by decision of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention, the Bureau was established as an integrated unit within IUCN, headed by a Secretary General administratively responsible to the Director General of IUCN who was in turn responsible to the Conference of the Parties for financial and personnel administration. The Conference also established a Standing Committee of the Contracting Parties empowered, inter alia, with supervision of the Bureau's programme, policy, and budget.

This change, whereby IUCN was asked to provide an integrated Bureau rather than perform itself continuous bureau duties, was accepted by IUCN in a letter from the IUCN Director General to the Ramsar Standing Committee in June 1987.

C) In 1990, by decision of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the Bureau was transformed into an independent unit co-located with the Headquarters of IUCN. The Secretary General was given sole responsibility for administration of Convention funds and for all administrative matters other than those requiring the exercise of legal personality. For those latter matters, formal responsibility rests with the Director General of IUCN. In addition the mandate of the Standing Committee was expanded to include supervision for personnel issues.

The Director General of IUCN, who participated in the discussion of these changes indicated to the Conference that he concurred with the terms of the decisions.

D) The development of the Convention over the years including increased membership from countries throughout the world, and an expanded conservation programme, has led the Standing Committee to seek increased authority and flexibility for the Secretary General in the implementation of the Convention's programme.

E) In keeping with the decision of the Conference of the Parties and in the desire to assure effective and efficient management of Convention affairs, the Director General of the IUCN makes the following delegations of Authority to the Secretary General:

.../ ...

I) FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

A) Background

The Resolution on Financial and Budgetary Matters (annex to C.4.13 Rev.) of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties directs the Secretary General to administer Convention funds in accordance with certain terms of reference related to financial administration. The Resolution on Secretariat Matters (annex to C.4.15 Rev.) provides that the Convention budget, as approved by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, shall be administered by the Secretary General, with budgetary disbursement in accordance with the budgetary provisions and instructions given by the Conference or by the Standing Committee. The Resolution on the Standing Committee (annex to C.4.14 Rev.) empowers the Standing Committee to supervise, as a representative of the Conference, the execution of the Bureau's budget. At the request of the Conference, and in agreement with the Standing Committee, the Director General of IUCN has established a separate Ramsar bank account.

B) Delegation

The authority of the Director General of IUCN to receive and expend Convention funds, including payment of Bureau staff salaries and benefits; purchase and rental of supplies, materials, and equipment; authority to enter into contracts; and otherwise provide for the financial administration of the Convention's funds by means of a separate Ramsar account is hereby delegated to the Secretary General. The Secretary General, with the approval of the Standing Committee, may purchase services from IUCN to assist with financial administration.

C) Limitations

1) As the exercise of this authority reflects upon the fiscal and institutional integrity of IUCN, the Director General reserves the right to impose limitations upon the above delegation of authority, subject to the agreement of the Standing Committee, or to request the Standing Committee for a review of Bureau financial practices by the Standing Committee or an outside agency.

2) Nothing in this delegation shall excuse the Secretary General from the requirement to provide for an annual audit of Convention accounts to the Contracting Parties, copies of which shall be provided to the Director General of IUCN.

. . . / . . .

II) PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

A) Background

The Resolution on Secretariat Matters (annex to C.4.15 Rev.) of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties indicates that the Bureau of the Convention shall be comprised of the Secretary General, appointed by the Director General of IUCN in consultation with and on the basis of a proposal from the Standing Committee, and other staff members appointed by the Director General of IUCN in consultation with and upon the proposal of the Secretary General. That Resolution also indicates that the IUCN salary scale along with IUCN personnel provisions shall apply to Bureau personnel, subject to the approval of the Standing Committee. The Resolution on the Standing Committee (annex to C.4.14 Rev.) empowers the Standing Committee to supervise, as a representative of the Conference, Bureau personnel matters.

B) Delegation

The authority of the Director General of IUCN to select, hire or dismiss Bureau staff and assign salary levels, tasks and job descriptions, set performance standards, evaluate performance, and provide for employee awards, all in line with IUCN personnel provisions is hereby delegated to the Secretary General.

All staff positions within the Bureau, except that of the Secretary General, shall be classified by the Secretary General, after consultation with the Director General, in accordance with IUCN classification standards to assure that similar positions in the two bodies are salaried at the same level and that transfers of staff between IUCN and the Bureau are not impeded.

To enhance co-operation, the Secretary General will be invited to designate a staff member to sit in an ex officio capacity on the IUCN Staff Liaison Committee, the Secretary General will participate ex officio in appropriate IUCN Management Committees and all Bureau staff are invited to IUCN staff meetings. Finally the Secretary General, with the approval of the Standing Committee, may purchase services from IUCN to assist with personnel administration.

C) Limitations

1) This delegation does not apply to the selection or removal of the Secretary General, or to the establishment of a salary grade and scale, tasks and job description, performance evaluation and employee awards for the Secretary General, which shall require agreement with the Standing Committee. Furthermore the Standing Committee may request the IUCN Director General to suspend certain IUCN personnel provisions for Bureau staff in view of Convention finances.

2) As the exercise of this authority reflects upon the institutional integrity of IUCN as well as upon questions of equity for staff under contract with IUCN, the Director General reserves the right to impose limitations upon the above delegation of authority, subject to the agreement of the Standing Committee.

. . . / . . .

III) FACILITY MANAGEMENT

A) Background

The Resolution on Secretariat Matters (annex to C.4.15 Rev.) of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties provides that the Convention Bureau shall be co-located with the Headquarters of IUCN, as an independent unit funded from the Convention budget. In 1988 the Swiss Federal Government, Government of the Canton of Vaud, and the Government of the Commune of Gland provided IUCN with funds and the use of a parcel of land for the construction of a new headquarters facility. It was noted by Swiss officials on numerous occasions that the facility was being provided for both IUCN and the Ramsar Bureau.

On 6 November 1991 the Director General of IUCN and the Chairman of the Ramsar Standing Committee signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Headquarters Facilities which provided for allocation of space within the new building for the Ramsar Bureau, appropriate indication on the building and its grounds to reflect the fact that the facility was also the home of the Bureau, and for reimbursement by Ramsar of its fair share of the cost of maintenance, heating, lighting, and ventilation as well as the possibility to contract for other agreed costs and services. Provision was also included for consultations between the Director General of IUCN and the Secretary General of the Ramsar Bureau in the case of any dispute or for any request by Ramsar for additional space in the building.

B) Delegation

The authority of the Director General of IUCN for facility management for that space within the IUCN Headquarters Building assigned to the Convention Bureau is hereby delegated to the Secretary General. This authority shall include office arrangements and equipment, and siting of staff members. The Secretary General, with the approval of the Standing Committee, may purchase facility services from IUCN. The Secretary General shall agree with the Director General on matters such as the maintenance, fittings, decoration, use of common space or other issues relating to the Headquarters building where an uniform approach is necessary.

C) Limitations

1) The Secretary General is not authorized to waive or abridge those regulations imposed by Swiss law upon the IUCN Headquarters Building for reasons of health, safety, or access to the disabled.

2) As the exercise of this authority reflects upon the institutional reputation of IUCN, the Director General reserves the right to advise the Standing Committee of any space usage viewed as inappropriate or inconsistent with general space usage within the facility and may impose limitations upon the above delegation of authority, subject to the agreement of the Standing Committee. Requests for reduced Bureau space usage or for an expansion of Bureau offices, either within the facility or external to it, shall be the subject of written agreement between the Director General of IUCN and the Standing Committee.

.. ./ ..

INTERPRETATION

In the event of differences of interpretation of administrative requirements under the Convention, or under the above-mentioned delegations of authority, such differences shall first be subject to consultation between the Director General and the Secretary General, or if requiring policy attention, in writing between the Director General and the Chairman of the Standing Committee. In the event that they cannot be resolved at these levels, referrals shall be made to the governing bodies of both IUCN and Ramsar.

Director General, IUCN

Date

Concurrence

Chairman, Standing Committee

Date

IUCNDEL- mw/1017R-A
28.1.93

**DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, IUCN
TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION**

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

This note records certain points raised in discussion of the formal paper on Delegation of Authority, which seem more appropriately dealt with in a separate memorandum.

Legal and Financial Liability

IUCN, as the legal persona to which the Ramsar Bureau is attached, must inevitably retain ultimate liability for the actions of the Secretary General, in exercising the authority delegated to him.

It is agreed that in his own interests, and in order to minimize any risk to IUCN, the Secretary General will:

- a) ensure that adequate and up-to-date accounts are kept by the Bureau, so as to disclose any excesses of expenditure over income promptly, and before they become difficult to correct. The internal accounting procedures used will be agreed between the Secretary General and the Director of Finance of IUCN, and statements of the financial position of the Bureau will be made to the Standing Committee twice yearly, at mid- and end-year, and copied to the Director General of IUCN;
- b) give early warning to IUCN of the likely termination of any contracts, including contracts of staff employment, which could lead to financial or legal liability;
- c) ensure that potential risks of financial or legal liability are, to the maximum extent practicable, covered by insurance, and that the Director General of IUCN is informed of the nature and extent of such cover. In particular, the Secretary General will ensure that all Bureau staff are insured against claims for alleged professional negligence.

In the event that the Secretary General decides to pay staff salaries other than through IUCN, the arrangements will be discussed with the Director General who will need to be satisfied that they provide adequately for deduction of taxes and other charges, and for payments to a fund that can be drawn upon to compensate staff who become entitled to unemployment benefit.

Personnel Management

The costs of all Ramsar Bureau staff salaries and associated benefits will be provided for in the budget of the Convention. The Ramsar budget will also bear the costs of severance payments, repatriation, unemployment benefit and other costs in respect of Bureau staff whose contracts are terminated on the decision of the Secretary General. Where staff have served both the Bureau and IUCN, severance costs will be divided in accordance with the cost sharing agreement between the Director General and the Chair of the Standing Committee dated 27 February 1992.

It is agreed that IUCN cannot be required to take onto its own direct payroll staff engaged by the Secretary General but no longer required by the Ramsar Bureau, unless IUCN has an appropriate vacancy.

Cooperation and Reporting

The Director General and Secretary General will report annually to the Standing Committee on the cooperation between them. Such reports will be as brief and informal as possible: the aim is to minimise the time devoted by the Standing Committee to such administrative details.

mwh/Ramsar/rev. 29.1.93

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Annex 3

Transcription of the “Letter of Agreement on Provision of Services between IUCN and the Ramsar Convention” (15 May 2009)

NB a copy of the 1993 agreement and supplementary note, which are at Annex 2, were attached to the original signed version of this Letter of Agreement.

LETTER OF AGREEMENT ON PROVISION OF SERVICES (referred to hereinafter as the “LoA” or “Services Agreement”)

Between

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (referred to hereinafter as "IUCN"), represented by the Director General of IUCN, (referred to hereinafter as "DG-IUCN"), headquartered at Rue Mauverney, 28, 1196 Gland, Switzerland,

And

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, Iran 1971) (referred to hereinafter as "Ramsar Convention" or “Ramsar”), represented by the Chair of the Standing Committee of Ramsar (hereinafter referred to as "Chair-Ramsar"), headquartered at Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland, Switzerland,

Hereinafter also referred to individually and collectively, respectively, as “Party” and "Parties".

PREAMBLE

Recalling that the Ramsar Convention, Art. 8(1) provides that "[t]he International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources shall perform the continuing duties under this Convention until such time as another organization or government is appointed by a majority of two-thirds of all Contracting Parties".

Recalling Resolution X.5 adopted at the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention held in Changwon, Republic of Korea from 28 October to 4 November 2008, which, inter alia:

- CONFIRMED that the Ramsar Convention is an international treaty deposited with the United Nations and that activities mandated by its Conference of Parties for the implementation of the Convention are activities carried out under the legal authority of an international treaty and its Contracting Parties; and
- CALLED UPON the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention (referred to hereinafter as "SG-Ramsar"), the DG-IUCN, and the government of Switzerland to continue to work together to resolve the challenges identified in SC DOC 37-2 and other related documents, and any other impediments that the Secretariat faces in carrying out its functions;

Recalling that to date, services by IUCN to the Ramsar Secretariat for the management of financial and budgetary matters, personnel management and facility management have been provided under the framework of the following documents:

- The Service Agreement between IUCN and the Ramsar Convention dated 4 March 2005,
- The Memorandum of Understanding on Headquarters Facilities between the DG-IUCN and the Chair-Ramsar dated 7 November 1991 and .
- The Delegation of Authority by the DG-IUCN to the SG-Ramsar dated 29 January 1993 and the Supplementary Note thereto also dated 29 January 1993, as each such document was agreed and signed by and between the DG-IUCN and the Chair-Ramsar (and is hereafter referred to respectively, as the “1993 Delegation of Authority” and the “1993 Supplementary Note”.

Recognizing that in accordance with relevant Resolutions of the Ramsar Conference of Parties, in particular Resolution C.4.15 of 1990 and the Delegation of Authority, the SG-Ramsar is responsible for the administration of the Convention funds and for all other matters except those requiring the exercise of legal personality, it being understood that the responsibility for the latter rests with the DG-IUCN.

Taking note (a) of the letter dated 8 February 2008 by which the SG-Ramsar gave notice to the DG-IUCN of the cancellation of the Service Agreement between IUCN and the Ramsar Convention dated 4 March 2005, and the need to conclude a new service agreement within the framework of the documents mentioned above and other relevant documents; and (b) of the letter of 7 February 2009 signed by the Parties and extending the term of the referenced current Service Agreement up to and including 6 March 2009.

Taking note of Ramsar Standing Committee's decision SC37-41 approving "that up to a maximum of 13% of the expenditure in each year's core budget can be spent on service charges for Administration, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Financial Services". Also taking note that the decision SC37-41 is binding on Ramsar only and does not give rise to any contractual obligation for IUCN.

Accordingly, IUCN agrees to provide the Ramsar Secretariat with services in the areas of accounting and finance, information technology, facility and personnel management (hereinafter referred to as "Services") in return for monetary payments, as detailed under Sections A to D of this Services Agreement.

Ramsar Secretariat agrees to adhere to all IUCN policies and procedures relevant to matters within the purview of this Services Agreement as they currently exist. IUCN shall inform and, where appropriate, consult Ramsar when policies and procedures relevant to matters within the purview of this Services Agreement are amended or developed in the future. Ramsar will conform with these amendments and developments provided they are not materially inconsistent with existing Resolutions of the Ramsar Conference of Parties and decisions of the Ramsar Standing Committee. Where an IUCN policy is amended in a manner that is materially inconsistent with existing Resolutions and decisions, the SG-Ramsar is required to report this to IUCN. The SG-Ramsar is responsible for endeavouring to ensure that any decision taken relating to matters within the purview of this Services Agreement by the Standing Committee or Conference of Parties is consistent with IUCN policies and procedures. Where a decision is taken that is materially inconsistent with IUCN policies and procedures the SG-Ramsar is required to report this to IUCN. Ramsar Secretariat and IUCN shall always remain in compliance with applicable Swiss laws and regulations.

A. ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

1. Accounting and Financial Services

IUCN shall:

- a. Provide and maintain a separate Ramsar general ledger with separate accounting transactions from those of IUCN.
- b. Process all validly supported and coded payment requests prepared by Ramsar subject to liquidity availability.
- c. Process all the necessary Journal entries into the Ramsar general ledger according to applicable policies and procedures.
- d. Ensure that all interest accruing on Ramsar bank accounts is credited to Ramsar.
- e. Prepare the current account reconciliation between the Ramsar general ledger and the IUCN general ledger.
- f. Prepare bank reconciliations on a monthly basis on the Ramsar bank accounts and review them in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.
- g. Provide the SG-Ramsar with Cost Centre and Project reports on a monthly basis.
- h. Issue travel advances, process travel expense claims, and in collaboration with Ramsar, follow up on overdue travel advances in accordance with applicable policies and procedures in effect at any given time.
- i. Maintain a Fixed Assets Register, calculate annual depreciation charges and process the charges through the Ramsar ledger.
- j. File all Ramsar accounting documents and make them available to authorized Ramsar staff as necessary.
- k. Issue corporate credit cards to eligible Ramsar staff in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.

Ramsar shall:

- l. Ensure that its Finance Officer and other related Ramsar Secretariat staff work on implementation of this Services Agreement and maintain and keep open communication with the IUCN Chief Financial Officer and related staff on all matters related to accounting and financial management.
- m. Prepare payment requests and any journal entries in the format provided by IUCN and in accordance with applicable policies and procedures. The required approval and authorization process will be completed before sending them to IUCN for processing. Approvals will only be made by IUCN when requests and entries are properly coded by Ramsar.
- n. Provide all financial and accounting documents (such as bank statements, invoices and deposit slip) to IUCN after their receipt and/or approval.
- o. Code bank notifications for processing by IUCN.

2. Budgetary & Financial Planning Tasks

IUCN shall:

- a. Review annual budgets and monthly income and expenditure statements to ensure the ongoing financial viability of Ramsar.
- b. Prepare a monthly income and expenditure statement of the Core budget, in an agreed format and on a timely basis, and submit this to the SG-Ramsar.

Ramsar shall:

- a. Provide annual budgets to IUCN on a timely basis.

3. Treasury and Liquidity Services

IUCN shall:

- a. Direct its Chief Financial Officer to act as second signatory to Ramsar bank accounts and exercise all due diligence in the operation of said accounts in accordance with actual policies and guidelines.
- b. Provide Ramsar with petty cash services.
- c. Provide Ramsar with bank balances as and when occasionally requested.
- d. Liaise with the designated bank on behalf of Ramsar.
- e. Administer Ramsar bank accounts and provide monthly reports to the Ramsar Finance Officer on the status of the deposits and other cash balances.

4. External Audits and Reporting

IUCN shall:

- a. Prepare the annual financial accounts for Ramsar and make them available to the SG-Ramsar.
- b. Select the external auditors and facilitate the external audit of the Ramsar accounts.
- c. Assist Ramsar in addressing any issues raised by the external auditors.

Ramsar shall:

- d. Pay for the cost of its external annual audit and for any other third party services required on its behalf over and above the service fees specified under this Agreement.

5. Financial Oversight and Administration

IUCN shall:

- a. Perform an internal audit on Ramsar as part of the IUCN Internal Auditor's rotation plan (and in accordance with the IUCN policy on Internal Audit) and in coordination with the external auditors.
- b. Review and provide advice on Ramsar's standard contract forms.

Ramsar shall:

- c. Meet the cost of any internal audits in addition to those in a) above, as may be requested by the Standing Committee.
- d. Give reasonable and sufficient written notice to the IUCN Chief Financial Officer of the early termination of contracts (excluding employment or staff contracts which are addressed under Section D) which might result in financial and/or other legal liability.

B. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

IUCN shall:

1. Provide computer services including connectivity (Internet, switches, routers, etc.), email, storage network drives, backup, helpdesk support, licenses for standard software packages, desktop and network security, and antivirus updates.
2. Provide telephone services including billing and equipment support. The actual cost of mobile and telephone calls and associated services will be billed to Ramsar directly.
3. Provide general hardware services including purchasing and configuring laptops, desktops and printers, installing software, and providing helpdesk support. The actual cost of such equipment will be billed to Ramsar directly.

C. FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Ramsar Secretariat will be hosted at IUCN's Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, in office premises located in the original building provided by the Swiss authorities. The number and disposition of these offices will be adjusted to the number of Ramsar staff as of the date of this agreement and provision will be made for reasonable future growth of the Ramsar Secretariat.

IUCN shall:

1. Provide the Ramsar Secretariat with appropriate office space for staff in a prominent identifiable area of the Headquarters building in Gland, Switzerland. Additionally, and at Ramsar's cost, IUCN a) will ensure that a panel or plaque is affixed to the entrance of the building indicating that the building houses the Headquarters of the Ramsar Convention, with similar signage at the entrance of the Ramsar area of the building, and b) will provide a flag-pole for Ramsar alongside that of IUCN.
2. Provide basic office and support services for the Ramsar Secretariat and give access to all the common facilities of the Headquarters building, including meeting rooms and suitable archive space.
3. Make available to Ramsar car parking facilities, conference facilities and other common areas in the Headquarters building in accordance with applicable policies and procedures.
4. Equip the offices made available to the Ramsar Secretariat with office furniture, and telecommunication and computer cabling in line with those of other offices in the Headquarters building. The standard of accommodation shall be no different from that made available to IUCN staff in the same grades.
5. Retain the ownership of all furnishings and fittings, except for those furnishings, fittings, and works of art purchased by Ramsar or donated specifically to Ramsar for the use of the Ramsar Secretariat.
6. Endeavor to meet requests made by the SG-Ramsar for additional office space in the Headquarters building. Such requests shall be considered in light of IUCN's own requirements and will be determined by the DG-IUCN in agreement with the SG-Ramsar on the basis of an equitable allocation of facilities between IUCN and Ramsar.
7. No rent shall be charged to Ramsar for the facilities made available above. However, Ramsar's share of maintenance, heating, lighting, ventilation and other agreed costs and services shall be charged to Ramsar, as outlined in Section E, paragraph 6 below.
8. Provide Ramsar with reasonable written advance notice should IUCN change its planned future use of its Headquarters building in Gland, Switzerland.

Ramsar shall:

9. Accept the cost associated with any additional office space that may be allocated to Ramsar as provided hereunder, which cost shall be determined as provided in Section E below.

D. PERSONNEL SERVICES

IUCN shall:

1. Provide human resource services including the preparation, extension, termination and/or amendments of staff contracts, assistance with relocation, termination and departure of staff, work permit administration and the administration of all social charges, insurances (unemployment, accident, and travel), benefits and pension schemes.
2. Provide payroll services including provision of yearly salary certificates, tax certificates, reconciliations and related official employer documentation.
3. Provide staffing budgets, statistics, and human capital indicators on a needs basis.
4. Provide work certificates and other certificates as necessary and as required by local labour laws, access to training and capacity building opportunities offered to IUCN staff, and human resources management and information systems. Additional human resource services, as required by Ramsar, will be made available by IUCN at an additional cost and with previous approval.
5. Invite all Ramsar staff to IUCN staff meetings and official social gatherings.
6. Keep confidential personnel records for all Ramsar staff, former and current, according to Swiss law.
7. Receive applications for new Ramsar positions, collate these and provide hard or electronic copies to Ramsar for short listing and selection of candidates in accordance with IUCN policy and procedure. Applications to be saved by IUCN in electronic format and in accordance with IUCN policy and procedure.
8. Participate in interviews as a member of selection panel, where requested and if possible.
9. Administer selection process for new Secretaries General, in collaboration with the Chair-Ramsar or any other Ramsar Standing Committee Executive.

Ramsar shall:

10. Ensure that all IUCN Human Resources policies and practices are effectively implemented. Any deviations from the above must be communicated in advance to the Head, Global Human Resources for consideration and approval.
11. Provide the details of each expected Ramsar position to IUCN in advance of and for each Ramsar budget cycle period, with an annual update also to be provided no later than 30 September of every calendar year.
12. Designate a staff member to sit in an *ex officio* capacity on the IUCN Staff Liaison Committee.
13. Provide in its budget the necessary funding required to meet payment obligations for Ramsar Secretariat staff salaries and associated benefits and allowances, as well as for the costs of severance payments, repatriation and all other expenses incurred by IUCN in connection with the termination or expiration of Ramsar Secretariat staff employment contracts. Ramsar will also bear the costs of recruitment for its staff and, where applicable, of expatriate benefits for which Ramsar staff are eligible under IUCN's Guidelines and Procedures for Expatriates in effect at any given time. Where employees have served as staff of both the Ramsar Secretariat and IUCN, severance costs will be shared by and between the Parties based on the prorated portion of time that those staff served each of the Parties.
14. Give reasonable written advance notice corresponding to the notice period (at a minimum), to the Head, IUCN Global Human Resources Management Group, of the early termination of staff employment and consultants' contracts which might result in financial and/or other legal liability.

E. SERVICE FEES

1. In consideration of the Services provided to Ramsar by IUCN as described in Sections A to D above, Ramsar shall pay to IUCN overheads and service fees, in accordance with the payment provisions set forth below. Additionally, Ramsar shall bear all the costs for services not identified specifically in the present Services Agreement, including but not limited to any special staff training it may request, and legal or additional internal audit services that it may request.
2. All Services to be provided to Ramsar by IUCN will be at the same levels at which those Services are provided to IUCN.
3. Six months prior to the start of each Ramsar budgetary cycle (between its Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention - referred to hereinafter as "COP") IUCN will provide estimated costs for the cycle to the Ramsar Secretariat. These shall be discussed between the DG-IUCN, the SG-Ramsar and the Chair-Ramsar with a view to including into the budget proposals for consideration and adoption by the COP. Thereafter, projected annual costs will be communicated by IUCN to the Ramsar Secretariat no later than 31 October of each calendar year, and will be agreed in writing by the Parties no later than 15 December.
4. The Parties have agreed that the total fees payable by Ramsar to IUCN hereunder shall be calculated partly on the basis of the number of Ramsar staff and partly on the basis of the number of square meters of office space occupied by Ramsar. The amount and breakdown of the said total fees shall be calculated in the format illustrated in *Annex 1*, which is attached hereto as an integral part of this Agreement and which sets forth the following four separate categories of services (as described in detail in Sections A-D above):
 - a. Accounting and Finance Services;
 - b. Information Technology Services;
 - c. Facility Management Services; and
 - d. Personnel Services.
5. IUCN shall provide a quarterly invoice to Ramsar. The amount of the invoice shall be based on (a) the actual number of staff and number of square meters of office space provided to Ramsar during that quarter and (b) the budgeted cost per specified category of Service agreed between IUCN and Ramsar on an annual basis.
6. Ramsar shall make payment of the invoiced amount to IUCN within thirty (30) days following the date of the invoice.
7. Within three months after the end of the financial year IUCN and Ramsar will together examine actual number of staff and actual costs and agree to adjust charges as necessary for the current financial year.

F. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THIS AGREEMENT

The performance of this Services Agreement shall be reviewed at annual meetings between the Parties to be held no later than 30 April following each year. Background documentation required for these meetings shall be made available at least one month before the meetings. They shall be convened by the IUCN Chief Financial Officer and shall be attended by the DG-IUCN or his/her appointee, the SG-Ramsar or his/her appointee, and/or any other staff selected by the DG-IUCN and/or the SG-Ramsar.

G. COOPERATION AND REPORTING

The DG-IUCN and the SG-Ramsar shall report annually to the Standing Committee on the cooperation between them and on the performance of this Service Agreement.

H. WHOLE AGREEMENT, AMENDMENTS

1. For the avoidance of any doubt, it is understood that the 1993 Delegation of Authority and the 1993 Supplementary Note attached hereto as *Annex 2*, shall for the duration of this Services Agreement form an integral part of it. It is further understood that the termination of this Services Agreement in accordance with the procedure set out in Section K below, shall be without prejudice to the continued legal validity and effect of the Delegation of Authority.

2. Subject to paragraph 1 above, this Services Agreement, including *Annexes 1* and *2* which shall form an integral part thereof, supersedes the previous Service Agreement between IUCN and the Ramsar Secretariat dated 4 March 2005 and any other understanding between the Parties concerning the subject matter of that Agreement including without limitation the Memorandum of Understanding on Headquarters Facilities between the DG-IUCN and the Chair-Ramsar dated 7 November 1991.
3. Subject to paragraph 1 above, this Services Agreement may be amended only by a further written agreement executed by both Parties, represented by the DG-IUCN and the Chair-Ramsar, respectively.

I. LIABILITY AND INDEMNIFICATION

Subject to the terms of this Services Agreement, and consistent with

- a. Article 8 (1) of the Ramsar Convention which states that IUCN shall perform the continuing Bureau (now Secretariat) duties under the Convention until such time as another organisation or government is appointed by a majority of two-thirds of all Contracting Parties, and
- b. The related decisions of the Conferences of Parties, in particular Resolution 4.13 which states that a separate account has been established by the DG-IUCN on behalf of the Bureau (now Secretariat) of the Convention to administer the finances of the Convention and that the SG-Ramsar is responsible for the administration of Convention funds with all expenditure from this account requiring his approval, and
- c. Resolution 4.15 which provides *inter alia*, that the SG-Ramsar shall be responsible to the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and between meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, to the Standing Committee for all matters under the Convention except for those requiring the exercise of legal personality on behalf of the Convention (it being understood that for such latter matters the SG-Ramsar shall be responsible to the DG-IUCN, with whom formal responsibility for such matters rests), and
- d. The consequent 1993 Delegation of Authority and the 1993 Supplementary Note.

It is agreed that, in order to protect the interests of and to minimize any risk to Ramsar and IUCN, the SG-Ramsar shall ensure, with the assistance of IUCN's insurance broker, that there is sufficient insurance coverage to protect against any risk related to any acts and omissions by Ramsar staff. To the extent that such insurance coverage is unavailable or inapplicable, Ramsar, shall indemnify and hold IUCN harmless for and against all damages, claims, losses and expenses (including legal fees) that IUCN may sustain or incur in connection with its performance of this agreement.

It is understood that IUCN's liability to Ramsar shall be limited solely to damages caused by IUCN's negligence or wilful misconduct in the performance of the services herein.

J. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. In any instance of dispute, each Party shall notify in writing the other of its concerns and provide the other Party with a full and fair opportunity to respond to the concerns. The Parties, through the instructions and discussions between the DG-IUCN and the SG-Ramsar, will make every effort to resolve the dispute promptly and give each other the opportunity to address the concerns. In the event that the DG-IUCN and the SG-Ramsar cannot resolve the dispute to their mutual satisfaction, either or both the DG-IUCN and the SG-Ramsar will refer the matter to the IUCN Treasurer and the Chair-Ramsar, who jointly will attempt to reach a mutually agreeable resolution.
2. Should the Parties' respective representatives be unable to reach a mutually agreeable resolution as set forth above within a period of thirty (30) days from the date on which the dispute was referred to the IUCN Treasurer and the Chair-Ramsar, either Party may commence arbitration proceedings *under the UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules in effect at the time the dispute arose, and in accordance with the following provisions*:
 - a. The arbitral tribunal shall consist of three (3) arbitrators unless the Parties agree to one (1) arbitrator;
 - b. The place of the arbitration shall be IUCN Headquarters, in Gland, Switzerland;
 - c. The language to be used in the arbitral proceedings shall be English; and
 - d. The arbitral award, which shall include the tribunal's determination on the allocation to the Parties of legal and other arbitration fees, shall be final and binding on the Parties.

K. EFFECTIVE DATE, TERM AND TERMINATION

1. This Services Agreement shall enter into force on the 7th day of March 2009 and it shall remain in effect indefinitely and until terminated by either Party, for cause or as otherwise provided hereunder.
2. This Services Agreement may be terminated by either Party upon advance written notice of termination to the other Party of not less than twelve (12) months from the date when notice is posted by registered first class mail.

Signed in Gland, Switzerland this _____ day of _____ 2009

For and on behalf of
IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Julia Marton-Lefèvre
Director General

For and on behalf of
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

Kim Chan-woo
Chair, Standing Committee

Annex 1: Service Fee Calculation

Accounting and Financial Services

Accounting and Financial Services fees are based on estimated time spent by IUCN Finance and Oversight staff to perform tasks as described in the Services Agreement under section A.

Calculation:

1. For all IUCN HQ Accounting and Finance staff members, estimated annual time spent on Ramsar matters (as a %age of total work) * *multiplied by* current budgeted annual staff cost for that position *equals* annual Ramsar Accounting and Financial Management fees

Information Technology Services

Services fees for Information and Technology support as described under section B of the Services Agreement are based on the number of desktops (or laptops) provided to Ramsar. It is considered that each staff has one desktop (or laptop) Hardware is not part of the fee as Ramsar is charged separately.

Calculation:

1. For all IUCN HQ IT staff members, estimated annual time spent (as a %age of total work) on Swiss versus Global matters *multiplied by* current budgeted annual staff cost for that position *equals* annual HQ cost per staff member.
2. Number of Ramsar staff *divided by* Total HQ staff *multiplied by* annual HQ cost per staff member *equals* annual Ramsar IT staff Fees.
3. *Plus* an allocation of other agreed costs. Allocation based on the Swiss versus Global estimate and Ramsar staff versus total HQ staff *multiplied by* annual budget costs.

Facilities Management Services

Facilities Management Services fees as described under section C of the Services Agreement are based on the IUCN Administration budget and the number of square meters occupied by Ramsar. These fees include all costs related to hosting personnel in Gland and to IUCN's Renovation Fund and cafeteria.

Calculation:

1. Administration's Unit annual budget *divided by* Total number of square meters *equals* Facility fee per square meter.
2. Number of square meter occupied by Ramsar *multiplied by* Facility fee per square meter *equals* annual Ramsar Facility Fees

Personnel Services

Personnel Services fees as described under section D of the Services Agreement are based on the IUCN Human Resources Management Group (HRMG) unit budget and the number of Ramsar staff.

Calculation:

1. For all IUCN HQ HRMG staff members, estimated annual time spent (as a %age of total work) on Swiss versus Global matters *multiplied by* current budgeted annual staff cost for that position *equals* annual HQ cost per staff member.
2. Number of Ramsar Staff *divided by* Total HQ staff *multiplied by* annual HQ cost per staff member *equals* annual Ramsar Staff Fees.
3. *Plus* an allocation of other agreed costs such as training, payroll and liability insurance. Allocation based on the Swiss versus Global estimates and Ramsar staff versus total HQ staff *multiplied by* annual budget costs.

Overheads

Overheads fees (calculated as a percentage of the total service fees) are to cover normal annual costs of overseeing the effective operation of the Services Agreement between IUCN and Ramsar :

- Costs incurred by the Director General's Office
- Costs incurred by the Office of the Legal Adviser;

and Administrative costs not accounted for in the above calculation such as

- Facility management services costs in relation to finance and accounting services or IT and Personnel services.
- Telephone, printing costs under accounting and finance services

Briefing for new members on the roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee Chairs and members

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to make use of this background document and its suggestions, to help guide them in the conduct of their meetings.

1. The Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention was established by Resolution 3.3 (Regina, 1987) to oversee Convention affairs and the activities of the Secretariat between ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), within the framework set by the COP at each of its meetings.
2. The regional composition, functions, and responsibilities of the Standing Committee and its members are governed by Resolution XII.4 (2015), which supersedes the former arrangements set out in Resolution VII.1 (1999) and Resolution XI.19 (2012).
3. The Standing Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, will be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Convention (see www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/ramsar_rules_of_procedure_e.pdf).
4. Resolution XII.4 adopted revised texts on the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the Ramsar Standing Committee and its appended list of Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties belonging to the six Ramsar regional groups.
5. Annex 4 of Resolution XII.4 also adopted an indicative schedule for Standing Committee intersessional meetings post-2015, as follows (based upon future cycles being three calendar years, with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties in May/June of the final year of each cycle):

	General timelines, post-2015	2016-2018 triennium
First full meeting	6 months after COP	SC51 – November 2015
Second full meeting	20 months after COP	SC52 – February 2017
Subgroup on COP (if required)	1 year before COP	Subgroup on COP13 (if required) – June 2017
Third full meeting	5 months before COP	SC53 – January 2018
Pre-COP meeting	Immediately prior to COP, at COP venue	SC54 – June 2018

6. Also relevant to the work of the Standing Committee are Resolution IX.24 (2005), which

established a Management Working Group reporting to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties; and Resolution X.4 (2008), which established a Transition Committee of the Management Working Group. In Resolutions XI.19 and XII.4, the Parties recognized that aspects of the work of those groups are also embodied in the roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee itself, and it was noted that intersessional Standing Committee oversight of the Secretariat is now conducted on its behalf between meetings of the Standing Committee by its Executive Team (Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair of Subgroup on Finance) with the Secretary General.

Functions of the Standing Committee

7. In Resolution XII.4 Annex 1, para. 19, the Parties updated the functions of the Standing Committee, which are to:
 - a. carry out, between one ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the next, such interim activity on behalf of the Conference as may be necessary, giving priority to matters on which the Conference has previously recorded its approval and noting that the Standing Committee is not mandated either to take decisions that would normally be taken by the Conference of the Contracting Parties or to amend any decision taken by the Conference of the Parties;
 - b. make preparations on issues, including *inter alia* draft Resolutions and Recommendations, for consideration at the next COP;
 - c. supervise, as a representative of the Conference of the Parties, the implementation of activities by the Secretariat, the execution of the Secretariat's budget, and conduct of the Secretariat's programmes;
 - d. provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Convention, on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters relating to the exercise of its functions brought to it by the Secretariat;
 - e. act as Conference Bureau at COPs in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;
 - f. establish subgroups as necessary to facilitate the carrying out of its functions;
 - g. promote regional and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
 - h. approve the work plan of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) on the basis of the decisions of the COP, receive the reports of the STRP on the progress made with its implementation, and provide guidance for its future development;
 - i. adopt for each triennium the Operational Guidelines for the Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use and decide on the allocation of funds;
 - j. review each triennium the criteria for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award established by Resolution VI.18 and select the laureates; and
 - k. report to the COP on the activities it has carried out between ordinary meetings of the Conference.

Tasks of Contracting Parties elected as Regional Representatives in the Standing Committee (from Resolution XII.4, Annex 3)

8. The Contracting Parties that have accepted to be elected as Regional Representatives on the Standing Committee have the following tasks:
 - a. To designate their delegates to the Standing Committee taking into account their significant responsibilities as Regional Representatives, and to make every effort that their delegates or their substitutes attend all meetings of the Committee.
 - b. When there is more than one Regional Representative in a regional group, to maintain regular contacts and consultations with the other Regional Representative(s).
 - c. To maintain regular contacts and consultations with the Contracting Parties in their regional group, and to use the opportunities of travel within their regions and of attending regional or international meetings to consult about issues related to the Convention and to promote its objectives. To this effect, when there is more than one Regional Representative, they will agree among themselves which Contracting Parties will be the responsibility of each Regional Representative.
 - d. To solicit the opinions of the Contracting Parties in their regional group before meetings of the Standing Committee.
 - e. To advise the Secretariat in setting the agenda of regional meetings.
 - f. To assume additional responsibilities by serving as members of the subgroups established by the Standing Committee.
 - g. To provide advice as requested by the Chairperson and/or the chairs of subgroups and/or the Secretariat of the Convention.
 - h. In the regions concerned, to make deliberate efforts to encourage other countries to join the Convention.
9. Following consultations in accordance with point 8.c. above, Standing Committee members' responsibilities for regular contacts and consultations with other Contracting Parties have been agreed as follows:

Africa: Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Senegal, Seychelles, and Tunisia (Alternate members: Central African Republic, Uganda, Mali, Botswana and Egypt)

Democratic Republic of Congo represents: Cameroon, Central African Republic (Alternate), Chad, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe

Kenya represents: Djibouti, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda (Alternate) and United Republic of Tanzania

Senegal represents: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali (Alternate), Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo

Seychelles represents: Botswana (Alternate), Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe

Tunisia represents: Algeria, Egypt (Alternate), Libya, Morocco, Sudan and South Sudan

Asia: Nepal, Republic of Korea, and Iraq (Alternate members: Viet Nam, Japan and Bahrain)

Nepal represents : South and Southeast Asia : Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam (Alternate)

Republic of Korea represents : East Asia : China, Japan (Alternate) and Mongolia

Iraq represents: Central and West Asia : Bahrain (Alternate), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen

Europe: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Estonia, and Romania (Alternate members: France, Russian Federation, Ukraine)

Armenia represents: Belarus, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine

Azerbaijan represents: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Israel, Liechtenstein, Poland, Slovakia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United Kingdom

Estonia represents: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Sweden

Romania represents: Andorra, Bulgaria, France, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Monaco, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia and Spain

Switzerland (Permanent Observer in all meetings)

Latin America and the Caribbean : Colombia, Honduras and Suriname (Alternate members: Argentina, Costa Rica and Cuba)

Colombia represents: Argentina (Alternate), Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela

Suriname represents: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba (Alternate) Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad & Tobago

Honduras represents: Costa Rica (Alternate), El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama

North America: United States of America (Alternate member: Canada)

United States of America represents: Canada (Alternate) and Mexico

Oceania: Australia (Alternate member: Samoa)

Australia represents: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Samoa (Alternate)