

**Final reports of the Chairs of retired working groups:  
Working Group on CEPA Implementation**

**Actions requested:**

Standing Committee is invited to take note of the report.

1. At its 13th meeting (COP13) the Conference of Contracting Parties, through Resolution XIII.3 on *Governance of the Convention*, decided to retire the working groups listed in Annex 1 of the same Resolution, and invited the Chairs of these subsidiary bodies, as appropriate, to provide to the Standing Committee the final report on the outcome of the work of their subsidiary body, to be posted on the Convention website by the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee.
2. The final report of the Working Group on CEPA Implementation is overleaf.

## **Final Report of the Working Group on CEPA Implementation**

### **20 March 2019**

Resolution XII.9 requested the Standing Committee at its 51st 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 requested 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).

At its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting, the Standing Committee established an open-ended Working Group on CEPA Implementation. The group was open to all Parties and was chaired by South Africa.

At the same meeting the Secretariat presented its [CEPA Action Plan for the Ramsar Secretariat 2016-2024](#). (Doc. SC51-14)

Decision SC51-21 instructed the Secretariat to present a revised (shorter) CEPA Action Plan to SC52, taking into account any written comments received from Contracting Parties. The Working Group on CEPA Implementation was asked to provide guidance to the Secretariat to develop a more focused CEPA Action plan and present it to SC52.

The Chair of the WG reported to the SC52 on the progress made in the development of a [revised CEPA Action Plan](#) (SC52-23) including integration into the triennial work plan and its implementation by the Secretariat. The Standing Committee approved the revised CEPA Action Plan for the Ramsar Secretariat for 2016-2018 (Decision SC52-14).

With approval of the revised CEPA Action Plan by SC52, the CEPA Working Group completed a major aspect of its assigned task.

On 30 May 2017 at SC53 the Chair of the Working Group met with the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel to discuss the respective roles of the Oversight Panel and the Working Group and the assigned task of developing a new approach for advising on and supporting CEPA in the Convention ([report of the meeting](#)). It was agreed that the Oversight Panel would provide advice on the future approach to CEPA and that these issues would be reviewed ahead of COP13.

The Oversight Panel reviewed the issues and met by teleconference on 31 August 2017 to identify recommendations and guidance. This guidance was provided to the Chair of the Working Group, the Chair of the Standing Committee and the Secretary General on 7 November 2017.

Specifically, with respect to governance of CEPA issues, the Oversight Panel and the Working Group both agreed that to achieve most effective and efficient long-term oversight of CEPA Implementation within the Convention it would be advisable that the CEPA Oversight Panel continue to oversee CEPA and that the CEPA Working Group be retired.

Resolution XIII.3 retired the CEPA Working Group considering that its work was completed.

The Chair would like to thank the CEPA Working Group members for their valuable contribution to the group's work.