

Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, including draft work plan for 2019-2021

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of the report of the STRP Chair;
- ii. consider and approve the draft STRP work plan (2019-2021) (Annex 1);
- iii. consider and provide direction for any follow-up to the *Global Wetland Outlook* (see Annex 2 and paragraph 10 below);
- iv. provide direction on the approach to sequencing delivery of prioritized work (see paragraph 13 below); and
- v. consider possible ways of sourcing funding for the implementation of tasks contained in the approved STRP work plan (2019-2021), if necessary.

Introduction

1. This report from the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) covers:
 - a. the participation of the STRP in the 13th Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13), Dubai, United Arab Emirates;
 - b. the appointment of the new Panel in accordance with Resolution XII.5 *New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*; and
 - c. the draft work plan developed at the first meeting of the triennium (STRP22, held from 18 to 22 March 2019), pursuant to Resolution XIII.8 *Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021*.

STRP participation and roles in COP13

2. A total of 17 STRP members, including the STRP Chair and observers, participated in COP13. They presented the *Global Wetland Outlook* in plenary, actively supported Parties in the discussions on scientific and technical matters in draft resolutions and participated in numerous side events. With respect to budget implications, the expenses of only three STRP participants

(the Chair and two STRP members) were resourced through the STRP budget, with the remaining participants being funded by their governments or organizations.

3. An informal meeting with STRP National Focal Points (NFPs) attending COP13 provided a valuable opportunity for the STRP NFPs to meet one another and members of the STRP. In the future, such a meeting should be incorporated formally into the COP agenda.

Appointment of STRP members for 2019-2021

4. Resolution XII.5 established a new process for appointing STRP members. The 18 members of the Panel should consist of six regional technical experts, six additional technical experts and six scientific experts.
5. The Secretariat issued a call for nominations on 20 November 2018, with a deadline of 15 December 2018. The call was subsequently extended to 31 December 2018. The Secretariat provided its recommendations to the Management Working Group, which appointed the STRP Chair and Vice-chair on 20 February 2019. The STRP Chair and Vice-chair provided inputs to the Management Working Group on the candidates on 22 February 2019, as requested. After considering the recommendations of the Secretariat, STRP Chair and Vice-chair, the Management Working Group confirmed on 27 February 2019 the appointment of six regional technical experts, and appointed six additional technical experts and six scientific experts. The new members were notified of their appointments on 28 February 2019.
6. Accordingly, the appointed members of the STRP for the 2019-2021 triennium are the following:

Six regional technical experts:

Mr Reda Fishar (Africa, Egypt)
Mr Hari Bhadra Acharya (Asia, Nepal)
Mr David Stroud (Europe, United Kingdom) (Chair)
Ms Dulce Infante (North America, Mexico) (reappointment)
Mr Edson Junqueira (Latin America and the Caribbean, Brazil)
Mr Hugh Robertson (Oceania, New Zealand)

Six technical experts:

Mr Kassim Kulindwa (Africa) (reappointment)
Mr Lei Guangchun (Asia) (reappointment)
Mr Ritesh Kumar (Asia) (reappointment)
Mr Lars Dinesen (Europe) (reappointment)
Ms Laura Martinez (North America) (reappointment)
Ms Georgina Ivonne Mariona Castillo (LAC)

Six scientific experts:

Ms Siobhan Fenessy (North America) (reappointment)
Ms Lisa-Maria Rebelo (Asia) (reappointment) (Vice-chair)
Mr Daniel Conde (LAC)
Mr Joseph Elizeri Mbaiwa (Africa)
Mr Sangdon Lee (Asia)
Mr Andrei Sirin (Europe)

22nd meeting of the STRP and development of the draft STRP work plan (2019-2021)

7. The 22nd meeting of the STRP (STRP22) took place in Gland, Switzerland, from 18 to 22 March 2019. The 28 participants included 14 appointed STRP members, 11 representatives of observer organizations, and nine STRP NFPs (some of whom are also STRP members or representatives of observer organizations). As contemplated by Resolution XII.5, the Secretariat facilitated the discussions regarding the development of the draft work plan.
8. The draft work plan, at Annex 1 of this report, is submitted for the approval of the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting (SC57). The draft work plan takes into account the five thematic work areas approved by Contracting Parties at COP13 (identified in Resolution XIII.8, Annex 2), the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (Resolution XII.2), requests by Contracting Parties in COP13 Resolutions and, to the extent possible, elements of the Strategic Plan which Parties are struggling to implement¹.
9. Note that in addition to the specific tasks outlined in the draft work plan, it is important to recall that within the framework of Resolution XII.5 (Annex I, paragraphs 2, 12(iii), 12(v), 15(ii) and 38) there are a number of core STRP ad-hoc advisory functions. These include, *inter alia*: responding to requests for advice or input from the Secretariat (including on the CEPA Programme and the Fourth Strategic Plan indicators) and Standing Committee; drafting (at the request of Contracting Parties) or providing input on draft resolutions submitted by Contracting Parties; responding to specific requests for advice from Contracting Parties; participating in Ramsar Advisory Missions when requested; advising on requests to remove Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record; serving on the Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee; and providing advice on emerging issues.
10. The Convention's flagship assessment of the *State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People: the Global Wetland Outlook (GWO)* was completed and launched in 2018, receiving considerable media attention worldwide. Some requests to the STRP made in COP13 Resolutions anticipate reporting through future GWOs – yet currently there is no agreed forward plan or timetable for GWO production/update. The STRP would welcome direction from the Standing Committee on this issue and the priority it should be given in the 2019-2021 triennium. Some initial suggestions from the Panel on a proposed structure are given in Annex 2. The Panel proposes that a streamlined version of the GWO is produced this triennium as it provides a powerful advocacy tool. Releasing some form of GWO (either full or abbreviated) each triennium will maintain wetland issues on the global agenda.

Draft STRP work plan (2019-2021) consultation

11. Following STRP22, the draft work plan was circulated for comment to all STRP NFPs, National Focal Points and Heads of Administrative Authorities on 5 April 2019 with an original deadline of 16 April 2019. The deadline was extended to 19 April 2019. A total of 13 Contracting Parties provided comments, including: Australia, Burundi, China, Egypt, Germany, Japan, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Republic of Congo, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. The STRP revised the work plan in the light of those comments (summarized below). A compilation of the comments and how the STRP responded to them is available upon request.

¹ As reported by the Secretariat at COP13 in [COP13 Doc.11.1 Rev.1](#) (Annex 2): *Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention: Global implementation*. Note that, when the work plan is agreed, the STRP will be preparing an analysis to find ways to respond to these areas through the proposed tasks below.

12. The draft work plan proposes 22 tasks derived from COP13 Resolutions and a potential future GWO. Core ad-hoc advisory functions are not included within this number.
13. With respect to funding for task implementation, there are approximately CHF 137,000 in non-core funds, which remain from the previous triennium plus. Additionally, the STRP budget for 2019-2021 allocates CHF 105,000 of core funds for task implementation (CHF 35,000 per year), plus an additional CHF 15,000 which Resolution XIII.2 allocated to the core funds for task implementation (for the entire triennium). The budget also allocates CHF 150,000 for meetings (50,000 per year) and CHF 15,000 (CHF 5,000 per year) for the Chair's travel. Therefore, the total available budget for task implementation for the triennium is CHF 257,000, excluding meeting and travel funds.
14. In light of the resources available, the Panel recommends that, in addition to its identified core functions, listed in the work plan and paragraph 9 above, highest priority attention be given to the seven following tasks, listed in order of their task number (rather than further priority). The indicative budget for these high priority tasks is CHF 203,400.

Task title	Task no.	Target audience(s)	Estimated cost (CHF)
Global Wetland Outlook 2 – if agreed by Standing Committee 57	Flagship publication	Contracting Parties, International community	To be determined
Providing data on extent of intact, as well as damaged and destroyed wetlands from agricultural land conversion since 1970s, and compiling and reviewing of positive and negative impacts of agricultural practices on wetlands	1.2	Practitioners (wetland managers); policymakers (governments-agriculture sector especially)	64,200
Complete draft RTR on <i>Peatland restoration and rewetting methodologies in northern bogs</i>	2.1	Practitioners (wetland managers)	22,600
Elaborating on practical experiences of restoration methods for peatlands not covered by Ramsar guidance	2.2	Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers) / policymakers (high level)	55,000-65,000
Scoping of ToR for guidance on the conservation, wise use and management of sustainable “working coastal habitats” in coordination with the scientific subsidiary bodies of other MEAs under the proposed coastal forum	3.2	Global Coastal Forum	None
Develop guidance on integrating gender issues in the implementation of the Convention	4.1	Contracting Parties	20,000
Desktop study of coastal blue carbon ecosystems in Ramsar Sites (consistent with relevant IPCC guidelines)	5.1	Policy-makers within Contracting Parties (especially those responsible for the coastal zone); Research community and IOPs	31,600

Issues raised through the consultation of the draft STRP work plan (2019-2021)

15. All specific issues raised during the consultation of the draft work plan were considered in the light of the need to produce a realistic and prioritized work plan, deliverable in little over a year (per the terms of Resolution XIII.8), and that is budgetarily feasible. Responses to issues raised have been documented and are available upon request. General issues include the following:

- The issue of sequencing of medium and lower priority tasks is outlined in paragraph 16 below. For now, until Standing Committee provides direction on this issue, timelines have been removed from medium and lower priority tasks. Where there were conflicting comments about the priority of a task, the STRP left it as originally recommended in the work plan for consideration of SC57. Such conflicting comments are indicated in footnotes in Annex 1.
- Prioritization of technical engagement with other international processes relevant to Ramsar's mission. A new introductory section has been included in the work plan which stresses that any such engagement of the STRP will be in support of the Secretariat and in line with a plan being developed for SC58 by the Secretariat to strengthen synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (as requested by Resolution XIII.7).
- In terms of timing of some tasks, we have sought a realistic timetable recognizing both capacity limitations and the need not to overload the Secretariat with simultaneous publication demands late in the triennium.
- Some entirely new or significantly enhanced tasks were suggested. Although valuable ideas, we did not feel these were feasible within existing resource, time and capacity constraints. These included:
 - Study and develop international criteria on restoration and eco-management for small wetlands with an offer for funding from the Government of China; and
 - Completion of all requested blue carbon tasks from Resolution XIII.14 within the coming triennium.
- Comments were also received on merging some tasks, particularly on agriculture, small wetlands and on peatlands. The agriculture tasks (formerly tasks 1.2(a) and (b)) have been merged into one task (task 1.2), as their scope overlapped to a small extent. Similarly, the small wetlands tasks (formerly tasks 1.3(a) and (b)) have been merged. However, the peatlands tasks have been kept separate as the STRP considers that their scopes cover different subjects.
- Concerns about the core ad-hoc advisory tasks possibly detracting from the delivery of other tasks were expressed. The STRP notes that nearly all of the core ad-hoc advisory tasks are derived from COP Resolution requests. These will be undertaken on a voluntary basis (without STRP budget implications), as capacity allows (so as not to interfere with the delivery of high-priority tasks), and in close consultation with the Secretariat.
- Concerning the GWO, there were conflicting views on whether it should be undertaken during this triennium and on the periodicity of its production/update. Additionally, in response to comments, the STRP has narrowed down the proposed thematic alternatives for future editions of the GWO (in Annex 2). It is for the Standing Committee to determine whether or not this work is undertaken.

Task prioritization

16. Work plan elements are all wetland conservation priorities identified by Parties in either COP13 Resolutions or related decisions. In determining how to take forward these tasks, the STRP has undertaken a further prioritization process informed by factors summarized in the draft work plan below. These priorities relate across the entire work plan regardless of Thematic Work Area. However, through the consultation on the draft work plan, Parties identified different expectations with respect to sequencing of tasks (including in some cases significantly upgrading the number of higher-priority tasks). These are either:
 - a. as in the 2016-2018 triennium, giving exclusive attention to highest priority tasks, and only upon their completion, moving to address medium and lower priority tasks; or
 - b. whilst giving highest attention (and prioritized funding) to the delivery of highest priority tasks, also taking opportunities to undertake medium and lower priority tasks (including unfinished work from the previous triennium) where these do not detract from delivery of highest priority tasks.

The Panel recommends the second option in that it would give flexibility to respond opportunistically to co-funding opportunities, and thus maximize outputs. However, to avoid potential confusion the Panel seeks direction from the Standing Committee as to which model of working it would wish to see the Panel adopt.

Literature review

17. Resolution XII.5 requires that the Panel undertake “a literature survey of available STRP guidance and other relevant information” as a resource to guide the development of the work plan. Owing to the very short time between the appointment of the new Panel and its first meeting, STRP22 benefitted from an updated literature survey containing extensive entries. The Secretariat facilitated the update, building on work conducted by the STRP last triennium. The survey was provided to all STRP22 participants for inputs and each internal working group was asked to consider the available guidance when developing recommendations. The Panel discussed how to repackage this valuable resource for relevant target audiences, noting that, by its nature, such a survey will always be incomplete and thus be a “live” document.
18. The rolling literature survey contains a wealth of valuable links and there is considerable potential to disseminate this “guide to guidance” in a range of more focussed formats. Further consideration will be given to this as well as its continuing update.
19. The survey was also circulated, along with the draft work plan, to all Heads of Administrative Authorities, National Focal Points and STRP NFPs. Three countries provided comments during the consultation.

Future meetings

20. It is anticipated that STRP23 will be held in mid-2020, possibly jointly with SC58 according to decisions to be taken at SC57, as stipulated in Resolution XIII.8.

Annex 1

Draft work plan of the Ramsar Convention Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) (2019-2021)

Development of this draft

The STRP developed this draft work plan for the 2019-2021 triennium at its 22nd meeting (18-22 March 2019) for consideration and approval by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting (24-28 June 2019).

The draft work plan was drafted pursuant to the process outlined in Resolution XII.5: *New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention* (Annex 1, paragraphs 49-51), and taking into account the five priority thematic work areas approved by Contracting Parties at COP13 in Annex 2 of Resolution XIII.8: *Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021*.

In accordance with Resolution XII.5, the draft work plan was revised after a broad consultation process with Heads of Administrative Authorities, National Focal Points and STRP National Focal Points.

Costs

The indicative budget for the tasks generally assumes that the costs for layout, design, review, translation, and publication are: up to CHF 1,240 for a Factsheet, up to CHF 2,960 for a Policy Brief, up to CHF 6,400 for a Briefing Note and up to CHF 22,600 for a Ramsar Technical Report. Consultancy reports (up to 40 pages) have been estimated at up to CHF 30,600, drafting workshops at up to CHF 10,000 and web design at up to CHF 4,000² (based on financial information from the Secretariat).

Note that the cost implications for engagement, as required, with international processes (such as other Conventions, IPBES and possibly technical work related to monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals), are largely unknown at this stage as this will depend on the nature and type of input requested, for example whether travel costs will be required.

Priorities

In developing this draft work plan and consistent with Resolution XIII.8, the STRP attempted to apply a consistent and explicit approach to priority setting, for consideration by the Standing Committee. High-priority tasks were those that had several of the following characteristics (not listed in rank order), namely those which:

- closely align with the objectives of Ramsar's Strategic Plan (2016-2024);
- align with priority thematic work areas established by the COP per Resolution XIII.8;
- are of significant policy relevance to other international legislative or policy frameworks in the context of Resolution XIII.7;
- have high potential for communication and outreach, especially to influential audiences;
- address pressing conservation needs;
- involve novel activities not significantly overlapping with initiatives undertaken by others; and/or

² Web design costs clearly depend on the scope and complexity of the work. This is an average and indicative cost based on five days of work at 700 CHF/day

- address elements of the Strategic Plan which Parties are struggling to implement³, to the extent possible.

The STRP then identified highest priority tasks from the initial list of high priority tasks, as indicated below.

Priorities relate to the entire work plan rather than established within each of the priority thematic work areas.

Advisory functions

Note that in addition to the specific priority thematic work areas and tasks outlined below, it is important to recall that, within the framework of Resolution XII.5, the STRP has a number of core *ad-hoc* advisory functions (summarized below). These support other Convention processes and actors.

Audiences

The outputs proposed in this draft work plan are aimed at two target audiences, in line with Resolution XII.5, Annex 1, paragraph 54, as follows:

- Policy-makers, including those from the environment and water sectors and other related sectors such as energy, health and sanitation, agriculture, infrastructure and
- Practitioners, in particular wetland managers and stakeholders, and others from related fields, such as protected area managers and staff of wetland education centres.

For clarity purposes, for outputs seeking to target Ramsar Site managers, the target audience is specified as “Practitioners (Ramsar Site Managers)”. However, for outputs aimed at wetland managers in general, the target audience is specified as “Practitioners (wetland managers)”.

Capacity building

Resolution XIII.8, paragraph 18, urged that scientific and technical capacity-building activities (for National Focal Points, and STRP and CEPA Focal Points) be undertaken subject to the availability of funding “including *inter alia* through regional capacity-building workshops and other training opportunities, including in the margins of STRP meetings held in regions, to further enhance the effectiveness of the Convention... ”.

The potential for such opportunities will be explored with the Secretariat, as any agreed programme of work is developed, subject always to resource availability.

Prioritization of STRP engagement with other international processes

A significant number of other international processes are relevant to Ramsar’s mission. The STRP, in consultation with the Secretariat, considers that the following processes are those where there is greatest opportunity to influence and engage in support of Contracting Parties, noting resource and capacity constraints. In particular, we see support of assessment processes as being particularly important.

³ As outlined in the Secretary General’s review of the implementation of the Convention for COP13: https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop13doc.11.1_global_implementation_e.pdf

Any such engagement will be in line with Resolution XII.5⁴, in support of the Secretariat and in line with a plan being developed for SC58 by the Secretariat to strengthen synergies with other MEAs and contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (as requested by Resolution XIII.7).

- IPBES
- IPCC (and UNFCCC)
- UNCCD
- Convention on Biological Diversity especially in the context of the development of the post-2020 development agenda
- Technical support to relevant SDG monitoring
- Convention on Migratory Species and relevant daughter Agreements
- Global Coastal Forum – when established
- Global Peatlands Initiative

Engagement will be largely through either members and/or STRP NFPs who will otherwise be attending meetings, although engagement needs will be assessed for each meeting bearing in mind also the important need for consistency of involvement in work streams. Working with the Secretariat, an engagement strategy will be developed for each process identifying opportunities to support Contracting Parties with relevant technical inputs.

Abbreviations

CEPA	Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness
CSAB	Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions
GPI	Global Peatland Initiative
GWO	Global Wetland Outlook
IKI	International Climate Initiative
IMCG	International Mire Conservation Group
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MEP	Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (IPBES)
NFP	National Focal Point
RAM	Ramsar Advisory Mission
RAWES	Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services
RCN	Ramsar Culture Network
RSIS	Ramsar Sites Information Service
RTR	Ramsar technical report
SC	Standing Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SP	Strategic Plan
ToR	Terms of reference
TWA	Thematic work area
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organisation

⁴ See Resolution XII.5: paragraph 51 and Annex 1, paragraph 13(ix).

Ad-hoc advisory functions and collaboration with other International bodies and processes								
Task	Res.	SP ⁵ goal & target	Description and task leads	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
Ramsar Convention Processes								
Reporting to Standing Committee	XIII.4 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 13; 19 (h)	4.14	STRP Chair will participate at meetings of SC as an observer, and will present the draft work plan for approval, reporting on progress with its implementation, and providing guidance for its future development.	Core	Reporting and advice to the Standing Committee	STRP Chair's report	Contracting Parties	Included in Chair's travel budget
Responding to requests for advice or input from the Secretariat and Standing Committee	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15 (ii); XIII.5 , ¶¶ 20, 26	4.14	Requests may include, inter alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advice on Strategic Plan and CEPA matters; • input into the effectiveness review process on request; • advice on the consolidation of past scientific and technical Resolutions, on request; • simplifying and repackaging existing guidance on Ramsar Sites management for the production of a simplified manual; • update Ramsar Sites Management Toolkit; • Engagement with IPCC/ UNFCC; and/ or 	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties via Secretariat and Standing Committee	Advice	Contracting Parties and Secretariat	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis (unless travel is involved)

⁵ Strategic Plan (SP): https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop12_res02_strategic_plan_e_0.pdf.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide scientific and technical guidance on priority global processes (above), including IPBES (see also below), CMS, CBD (see also below), UNCCD, etc.). 					
Support to Secretariat and Standing Committee in relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	XII.3, ¶ 52; XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15	3.11, 4.14, 4.18	<i>Ad-hoc</i> review and advice to support reporting, development of guidance and toolkit (and capacity building) for national wetland inventories being developed by Secretariat.	Core	Secretariat to provide the STRP with a summary of deliverables and work to be done and request STRP to review and provide advice	Written advice	Contracting Parties	Costs implication for STRP budget dependent on nature and scale of request especially if additional products prepared or travel required
Drafting or providing input on Draft Resolutions	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2, 12 (iii)	4.14	The STRP may draft, at the request of the Standing Committee, a Draft Resolution or it may provide (on request) input to Draft Resolutions submitted to the COP by Contracting Parties.	Core	Responsive advice to Parties	Advice/ Draft Resolutions	Contracting Parties	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis
Responding to national or regional relevant requests for advice from Contracting Parties, as capacity allows	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 2, 59	4.14	The STRP may provide advice, as appropriate, to requests from any Contracting Party coming via the Secretariat, as capacity and expertise allow.	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties	Advice	Contracting Parties	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis.

Advising on Removals of Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1- 2, 12 (v) ; XIII.11 , ¶¶19, 21	2.5, 2.7, 4.14	STRP to advise, as requested by Parties on removals from the Montreux Record. Work with the Secretariat in its efforts to advise Contracting Parties in their efforts to manage Sites on the Montreux Record and Sites for which reports on adverse change in ecological character have been received, engaging Regional Centres in such efforts as appropriate.	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties	Advice	Contracting Parties and Secretariat	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis
Advising on the planning of Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs)	XII.5 , Annex 1, 12 , (v); XIII.11 , ¶15,	2.5, 2.7, 4.14	The STRP may assist the Ramsar Secretariat with Ramsar Advisory Missions, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advising the Secretariat in the preparation of RAMs operational guidance for adoption at SC57; and • on request advising on appropriate scientific and technical expertise to include in RAM teams. 	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties Advice to Secretariat	Draft for SC57	Contracting Parties and Secretariat	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis
Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee	XII.10, Annex, ¶ 16 (e)	3.11, 4.14	An STRP expert will serve in the Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee.	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties	Advice		No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis

Providing advice on emerging issues	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 2, 15 (ii), 38	4.14	The STRP will keep under review emerging and strategic issues of relevance for the Convention, which may require action or advice in the future and will advise the Standing Committee accordingly.	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties	Advice	Contracting Parties and Secretariat	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis
Other international processes of relevance to the Convention and that contribute to implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan								
Engagement with IPBES and CSAB	XII.3, ¶ 48; XII.5, Annex 1, ¶ 13 (ix), 51; XIII.8 , ¶ 13	4.14, 4.18	Continue engaging in the work of IPBES through: participation of the STRP Chair in IPBES and MEP meetings, participation of STRP members and other Ramsar experts in global and regional assessments, review of requests to IPBES for thematic assessments, pursuant to Res. XIII.8. Engagement with meetings of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB), as appropriate.	Core	As they arise (in the case of IPBES, a Ramsar-sponsored assessment may be agreed as an IPBES priority in the future)	Input as required	International community	Potential travel costs dependent on nature and scale of engagement in future assessments. STRP Chair travel costs covered separately.
Support to Secretariat and Standing Committee in relation to post-2020 Biodiversity Framework	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15 ; ¶ 22	3.11, 4.14, 4.18	Provide inputs, as appropriate and on request, to the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties		Contracting Parties	Unclear costs implications as depends on the nature of advice sought. Potential travel costs

Future updates of Global Wetland Outlook (GWO): State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to people

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Lisa-Maria Rebelo (lead), David Stroud (co-lead), Hugh Robertson, Guangchun Lei, Reda Fishar, Robert Hendricks (STRP NFP Netherlands)</i>
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	Relevant organizations within environment and water, energy, health, sanitation, agriculture, or infrastructure sectors and others to be confirmed

Note: While there is no particular decision from Standing Committee or COP13 calling for a new edition of GWO for COP14, other resolutions (namely XIII.20 and XIII.14) contain requests for information for future editions. Accordingly, the scope and nature of future updates of the *Global Wetland Outlook* (if any) should be determined by SC57. Following that decision, it would be possible to scope the required work and its costs. The tasks listed in this table (below) are reflected within the relevant priority thematic work areas. Should SC57 decide that no GWO update should be prepared for COP14, they will be delivered as standalone tasks.

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
Global Wetland Outlook 2 ⁶		Supports SP	Scope and nature of future GWO updates to be determined by SC57	Highest	To be determined following SC57 decision	To be determined by SC57	To be determined	To be determined
Summarizing the extent of new intertidal wetland Ramsar Site designations for succeeding COPs and include the information in future updates of the GWO	XIII.20 , ¶ 42	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Prepare a status report summarizing the number and extent of inter-tidal Ramsar site designations, on a regional scale.	Medium (output from Task 1.6)	Extract and analyse data from the RSIS to assess the number and extent of designations annually since 1971. Potentially report findings in future updates of the GWO	Paper (Short status report); data available for GWO Timeline: to be determined Uptake/Objective Provides direction to CPs on progress since Res. VI.21	Contracting Parties	6,400
Integrate data on the global extent of blue carbon ecosystems, potentially through the GWO	XIII.14 , ¶¶ 11(c)	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Present best evidence of the extent of blue carbon ecosystems	Highest (output from Task 5.1)	See Thematic Work Area 5 for details	Data for the GWO Objective is to inform international awareness about	Contracting Parties	See Thematic Work Area 5 for details

⁶ Note that during the consultation processes some countries expressed conflicting views on whether a GWO should be produced during the 2019-2021 triennium.

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
						these ecosystems and their services.		
Global assessment of gaps in Ramsar site network	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Collate and analyse comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of the Ramsar site network and identify priority regions and wetland types for future designation.	Medium (output from Task 1.7)	Undertake analysis of RSIS data on representation of different wetland types in different bioregions within the Ramsar Sites network. Provide comments on improvements as well as areas of focus. Assess whether guidance on under-represented wetland types will need to be updated.	Paper presenting a summary of analysis. Data may contribute to GWO if agreed by SC (COP14). Objective is to provide direction to Parties to review findings and potentially set targets for future designations	Contracting Parties (policy-makers)	6,400

Thematic Work Area 1: Best practice methodologies / tools to identify and monitor Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, including surveying, mapping, inventorying, and global and regional analysis of the priorities for enhancing the Ramsar site network	
Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Hugh Robertson (lead)</i> , Laura Martinez, Reda Fishar, Sangdon Lee, Edson Junqueira, Siobhan Fennessy, Guangchun Lei, Lisa-Maria Rebelo, Andrei Sirin, Dulce Infante, Ritesh Kumar, Eduardo Mansur (FAO), Marlos de Souza (FAO), Amani Alfarra (FAO), Lammert Hilarides (GEO-Wetlands), Christian Perennou (TDV), Lisa Ingwall-King (UNEP-WCMC), James Robinson/Tomos Avent (WWT), Matthew Simpson (SWS), Priyani Amerasinghe (IWMI), Hans Joosten (GMC), Martina Eiseltova (STRP NFP Czech Republic), Obaid Al Shamsi (STRP NFP UAE), Janine van Vessem (STRP NFP Belgium), Rob Hendricks (STRP NFP Netherlands), Anne van Dam (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education), and Max Finlayson (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education)
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	FAO, Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), GEO-Wetlands, Tour du Valat (TDV), UNEP-WCMC, Greifswald Mire Center (GMC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
1.1 Sharing information from the review and compilation of outputs from the Rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services (RAWES) approach	XIII.17 , 11, 22, 23	3.11, 4.14	Working with IOPs, compile information on the application of the RAWES methodology in different Ramsar Regions as well as its application to Ramsar Reporting and Site management. If limited data (since RAWES only recently adopted), then as a minimum undertake an inventory/ compilation of groups applying RAWES	Lower	Compile inventory of wetland sites and Parties that have applied the RAWES approach and review its effectiveness to evaluate ecosystem services, including whether it addresses negative implications of promoting particular services. Review application in RIS updates and management planning.	Short status report. Timelines: to be determined. Uptake: Enhanced through training and linking RAWES to National Report indicators	Contracting Parties (NFPs, STRP NFPs), Practitioners (Ramsar Sites managers), IOPs	Translation (120 CHF per A4 page)
1.2. Compiling and reviewing of positive and negative impacts of agricultural practices on wetlands and providing data on extent of intact, as well as damaged and destroyed wetlands from agricultural land conversion since 1970s	XIII.19 , 11, 28, 29	1.1,4.14, 4.18	Review information on the positive and negative impacts of agriculture on/near wetlands, including biodiversity and ecosystem services, in context of climate change. Evaluate the extent of wetland loss (since 1970) due to conversion of land to agricultural development. Potential scope also for synthesis of related key messages drawn from recent FAO and IPBES	Highest	Compile case studies on sustainable agriculture practices in wetlands and evaluate them in relation to wise use and maintaining and enhancing the ecological character of wetlands, liaising with IOPs, Parties and FAO. Compile and review data on RSIS on Ramsar sites that have agricultural practices within them and summarise best-practice examples.	RTR with key messages or derived outputs for policymakers. Policy Brief and infographic Timeline: Initiate project in 2019; Products delivered in early 2021 Uptake/Objective Overall aim is to support CPs to develop sustainable agricultural practices and conserve wetlands.	Case studies: Practitioners (wetland managers); Policy makers (governments-agriculture sector especially) Literature review: Policy makers (governments-agriculture sector especially); practitioners	64,200 [22,600 RTR production & translation; 10,000 workshop; 9,000 consultancy, based on a rate of 700 for 14 days] [if with Policy Brief add: 2,000 (layout), 960 translation]]

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
			<p>assessments, and TEEB, packaged for Ramsar audience.</p> <p>Collaboration with IOPs and FAO will be crucial to increase sharing of findings</p>		<p>Provide recommendations for promoting sustainable agricultural practices in and adjacent to wetlands.</p> <p>Consider gains from restoration from agriculture back to wetlands.</p> <p>Literature review: Building on the GWO and data collated for SDG 6.6.1, undertake a literature review of existing assessments of wetland loss that have been attributed to agricultural development.</p> <p>Complete meta-analysis using that data.</p>	<p>Specific objective is a more detailed understanding on causes and consequences of wetland loss to agriculture including any lessons learnt on how to prevent further degradation/loss of wetlands.</p>	(wetland managers)	<p>22,600 for literature review of losses</p> <p>Seek FAO in-kind support</p>
1.3 Prepare guidance on inventories and monitoring of small wetlands, and their multiple values	XIII.21 , ¶ 23	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Summarise technical knowledge on the significance of small wetlands for biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services and threats to them and	Medium	<p>Develop definition of “small wetlands” building on Res. XIII.21.</p> <p>Summarise literature on their significance,</p>	<p>Policy Brief on the importance of small wetlands with infographic</p> <p>Briefing Note on guidance for small</p>	Policy Brief: Policy makers (in environment and planning sectors especially)	9,360 and cost for infographic

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
for biodiversity conservation, especially in the contexts of landscape management and climate change			prepare guidance on best-practice approaches to their inventory and monitoring, highlighting a range of different legislation, policy and other best practice approaches.		<p>including for livelihoods.</p> <p>Summarise threats to provide clear recommendations for their protection and wise use.</p> <p>Review and supplement existing guidance for wetland inventory and monitoring to describe best-practices approaches (including eDNA) for small wetlands in different Ramsar regions.</p> <p>Link to SDG 6.6.1 guidance review produced by Secretariat</p>	<p>wetlands inventory and monitoring</p> <p>Timeline: to be determined</p> <p>Uptake/Objective Aim to ensure Parties and others understand the critical importance of small wetlands in planning and other processes. Provide practitioners with best practice guidance for small wetland inventory and monitoring.</p>	Briefing note: Practitioners (scientists, wetland managers)	
1.4 Complete Ramsar Technical Report and a toolkit on assessing multiple values of wetlands and applying them to integrated management	XIII.8 ¶ 14	3.11, 4.14	RTR complements the Policy Brief on integrating multiple values of wetlands into decision-making.	Lower	Build on the Policy Brief and existing toolkit, integrating RAWES and other suite of tools (available within Ramsar and external).	<p>RTR</p> <p>Timeline: to be determined</p> <p>Uptake/Objective: Aim to assist wetlands managers in assessing and integrating multiple values in site</p>	Practitioners (wetland managers)	22,600

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
					Integrate relevant IPBES and Values outcomes	management and other wetland wise use responses		
1.5. Complete Ramsar Technical Report 10 : The use of Earth Observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring.	XIII.8 , ¶ 14	4.14	Ramsar Technical Report 10 : The use of Earth Observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring.	Medium	Complete subject to final editorial checking and translation.	RTR Timeline: to be determined	Practitioners (wetland managers, practitioners mapping), Contracting Parties	CHF 120 per A4 page; Costs for amendments to existing layout TBD;
1.6 Summarizing the extent of new intertidal wetland Ramsar Site designations for succeeding COPs and include the information in future updates of the GWO	XIII.20 , ¶ 42	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Prepare a status report summarizing the number and extent of inter-tidal Ramsar site designations, on a regional scale.	Medium	Extract and analyse data from the RSIS to assess the number and extent of designations annually since 1971. Potentially report findings in future updates of the GWO	Paper (Short status report); data available for GWO Timeline: before end of 2019 to be determined Uptake/Objective Provides direction to CPs on progress since Res. VI.21	Contracting Parties	6,400
1.7 Global assessment of gaps in Ramsar site network	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Collate and analyse comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of the Ramsar site network and identify priority regions and wetland types for future designation.	Medium ⁷	Undertake analysis of RSIS data on representation of different wetland types in different bioregions within the Ramsar Sites network. Provide comments on	Paper presenting a summary of analysis. Data may contribute to GWO if agreed by SC (COP14). Objective is to provide direction to	Contracting Parties (policy makers)	6,400

⁷ Highest if GWO does not proceed

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
					improvements as well as areas of focus. Assess whether guidance on under-represented wetland types will need to be updated.	Parties to review findings and potentially set targets for future designations		

Thematic Work Area 2: Best practices for developing and implementing tools for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, recognizing traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Lars Dinesen (lead)</i> , Dulce Infante, Georgina Castillo, Kassim Kulindwa, Andrei Sirin, David Stroud, Laura Martinez, Ritesh Kumar, Tomos Avent/ James Robinson (WWT), Priyanie Amerasinghe (IWMI), Hans Joosten (GMC), Jack Rieley (IPS), Nick Davidson (SWS), Mathew Simpson (SWS), Tatiana Minayeva (WWF), Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (STRP NFP Germany) [and others to be confirmed]
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), International Peat Society (IPS), Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
2.1. Complete draft RTR on <i>Peatland restoration and rewetting methodologies in northern bogs</i>	XIII.13 , ¶25	2.5, 2.6, 3.12,4.14	Finalize draft RTR, which currently focuses on acid bog restoration, considering a global compilation of experiences on peatland restoration and rewetting methods, which CPs will provide, and which can be adapted to local or national contexts. Will complement global guidelines on peatland	Highest	Draft well advanced in last triennium but peer-review, editing and publication needed	RTR Enhanced content on peatland pages of Ramsar website Uptake/Objective: Technical guidance for wetland managers Timeline: to be determined	Practitioners (wetland managers)	22,600 [web design costs starting at 4,000]

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
			restoration to be developed (Task 2.2. below)					
2.2. Elaborating on practical experiences of restoration methods for peatlands not covered by Ramsar guidance	XIII.13 , ¶33	2.5, 2.6, 3.12,4.14	Related to current SP, elaborate on practical experiences of restoration methods for peatland types not yet covered by Ramsar guidance. Provide rationale for choosing of restoration methods and an overview rationale for different restoration approaches depending on peatland type and setting.	Highest	Update existing IMCG manual on peatland restoration techniques. (ToR and list of content drafted); High level Policy Brief on setting objectives in rewetting/ restoration projects; Prepare contents for a Communication infographic – what is a peatland?	Ramsar guidelines on peatland restoration; Enhanced content on peatland pages of Ramsar website. Policy Brief and video Comms product on what is a peatland? Timeline: ToR developed by July 2019 Uptake/Objective: A range of products as outlined	Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers)/ policymakers (high level)	Contract out update: [30-40,000 CHF] Website set up 15.000 CHF) Video teaser 10.000 CHF: STRP to develop concept; professional design needed
2.3. Assessing implementation status of Res. VIII.17: <i>Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands</i>	XIII.13 , ¶34	4.14	Assess progress since Res. VIII.17 by critical review including: any overlaps with Global Peatland Initiative; gaps; relevance; and in relation to developments in other MEAs and international processes.	Medium	Prepare a draft assessment of issues to be discussed at STRP23, including policy issues, in context of COP 14 preparations.	Assessment report drafted by STRP containing a spreadsheet with the assessment and updated issues and recommendations Timeline: to be determined	Contracting Parties	32, 600 (report 22,600 + workshop 10,000)

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
			<p>Seek guidance on what Parties needs with respect to a strategic document on peatlands</p> <p>Consider development of national indicators related to peatland conservation and restoration</p>			Uptake: Liaison with GPI		
2.4. Developing guidance for the cost-benefit analysis, a cost-effectiveness analysis and multiple-criteria analysis of peatland restoration projects, and templates to assist parties to report on peatland restoration								
2.4.(a) Assess national peatland restoration experiences	XIII.13 , ¶34	2.5, 3.12,4.14	<p>Assess any relevant national peatland restoration experiences. Request information on approaches from Parties (cost-benefit depends on carbon market values and other assumptions). Assessments to include cost of inaction.</p>	Lower	<p>Call for case studies/ experiences by Parties, IOPs and others.</p> <p>Consultant to prepare draft review for consideration at STRP23.</p>	<p>Policy Brief</p> <p>Timeline: to be determined</p> <p>Uptake: Summary review of experiences</p>	Policymakers (in environment and climate sectors especially)	5,000 consultancy
2.4.(b) Developing templates for national reporting on peatland restoration	XIII.13 , ¶34	2.5, 3.12, 4.14	<p>Assess existing reporting structures and templates for restoration of peatlands</p>	Lower	<p>Check with UNFCCC and other relevant conventions</p> <p>Possibly request to Parties and IOPs for relevant templates</p>	<p>Internal assessment report with recommendations. Next step depends on the assessment results.</p> <p>Timeline to be determined</p>	Contracting Parties and Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers) as applicable	No cost implications for STRP budget

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
						Uptake: GPI is a key partner		
2.5. Reviewing and revising the Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands guidance	XIII.15 , ¶19	3.10, 4.14	<p>Develop updated briefing note (working with RCN) reviewing the application and uptake of the guidance together with supplementary guidance as required.</p> <p>The review and BN drafting would include a mechanism for incorporating indigenous communities' inputs.</p>	Medium	Note will provide examples and best practices for integrating cultural values in wetlands management policies, practices and governance. Drafting will be aligned with the task related to wetlands and gender (TWA 3).	<p>Briefing Note</p> <p>Infographic that illustrates cultural values and their importance for wetland wise use</p> <p>Timeline: to be determined.</p> <p>Uptake: IOP input will be crucial</p>	Practitioners (wetland managers)	6,400 and infographic costs
2.6. Updated urban wetland guidance as required	XIII.16 , ¶18	1.1, 2.5, 4.14	<p>Review existing Briefing Note 6: <i>Towards the wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands</i> and assess whether update needed, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges, opportunities and risks – features common to urban wetlands Role of wetlands for climate change adaptation in urban environments New sources of existing information especially any case studies 	Medium	<p>Review existing Briefing Note 6 as well as other important wetlands</p> <p>Produce infographic on key messages accessible to target audiences.</p> <p>Integrate into Ramsar online management toolkit information on urban/peri-urban wetland issues, capturing past WWD materials. Organized</p>	<p>Revised Briefing Note & Infographic</p> <p>Integrate existing guidance into Ramsar online management toolkit</p> <p>Timeline: Revised Briefing Note & infographic: to be determined</p> <p>Online toolkit integration: to be determined.</p>	City regulators; investors and financial actors Possibly general public Groups seeking wetland city accreditation	To be determined, depending on whether update to the Briefing Note is needed and extent of it, there may be design and translation costs involved

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
			on economic valuation and cultural significance		by potential users (regulators; architects; ecologists; health sector)	Uptake: Raise visibility of existing Ramsar and external guidance on urban and peri-urban wetlands.		
2.7. Additional content for Ramsar wetland Sites management toolkit	XIII.8, ¶ 14	2.5, 4.14	Input further content as opportunities allow	Lower	Existing urban and peri-urban guidance will be integrated within 2019	Updated webpage	Practitioners (wetland managers); Contracting Parties	No costs implications for STRP budget
2.8. Complete Briefing Note 10 : Wetland Restoration for Climate Change Resilience	XIII.8, ¶ 14	2.5, 3.12, 4.14	Report needs a further round of edits by authors and layout/translation by Secretariat.	Medium		Briefing Note Infographic Timeline: to be determined	Practitioners (wetland managers)	Layout costs to be determined, depending on extent of amendments to existing layout; translation costs: CHF 1,200 per A4 page; Infographic costs to be determined

Thematic Work Area 3: Methodologies for the economic and non-economic valuation of the values of the functions and services of wetlands, and improved methodologies and knowledge exchange on current and future drivers of wetland loss and degradation

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Kassim Kulindwa (lead), Ritesh Kumar (co-lead), David Stroud, Reda Fishar, Hari Bhadra Acharya, Priyanie Amerasinghe (IWMI), Tomos Avent/ James Robinson (WWT), Mathew Simpson (SWS), Janine van Vessem (STRP NFP Belgium) [and others to be confirmed]</i>
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), BirdLife

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
3.1. Participate in the Global Coastal Forum	XIII.20 , ¶ 37		Consider actively participating in the Global Coastal Forum to promote the restoration of coastal wetlands and other relevant habitats	Lower (Medium once GCF is established)	Engage when the Global Coastal Forum is created	ToR	Global Coastal Forum. Actors interested in blue carbon	No costs implications for STRP budget until the GCF is established when possible travel costs would occur depending on nature of input
3.2. Develop guidance on the conservation, wise use and management of sustainable “working coastal habitats” in coordination with the scientific subsidiary bodies of other MEAs under the proposed coastal forum	XIII.20 , ¶ 45	1.2, 2.5, 4.14, 4.18	In preparation for Global Coastal Forum formation, develop TOR for possible work that might be undertaken on possible guidance related to the conservation, wise use and the management of sustainable “working coastal habitats”	Highest	Review Handbook 12 on Coastal management for relevant content. Establish a subgroup to develop concept further and TOR for guidance. Uptake: In consultation with other relevant actors	ToR to be developed Timeline: by mid-2020	Global Coastal Forum	No costs implications for STRP budget

Thematic Work Area 4: Promoting wetland conservation within sustainable development frameworks and other relevant development initiatives

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Laura Martinez (lead)</i> , David Stroud, Rebecca Welling (IUCN) [and others to be confirmed]
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	IUCN (Global Water Programme)

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
4.1. Develop guidance on integrating gender issues in the implementation of the Convention	XIII.18, ¶15	4.14	<p>Carry out a global analysis (including a range of case studies) on the gender dimensions of wetland management and wise use.</p> <p>Build on existing literature from a range of sources on wetland management, but also more broadly to include land and water resources management to inform the wetland community about women in wetland management and wise use. Will include information on: women's participation in wetland management; impacts of wetland mismanagement on women; governance and women's rights related to wetland wise use; women's technical, socio-cultural and innovative knowledge about wetlands; the value of their leadership in wetland wise use and restoration activities; include examples (cases studies) of successful participation in wetland management and wise use</p>	Highest	<p>Initial scoping to advice on future ToR undertaken at STRP22.</p> <p>Engage a consultant to undertake the report.</p> <p>Engage organizations such as UN Women, IUCN, and WEDO with relevant expertise.</p> <p>Timeline: consultancy to begin by end of summer 2019 (post approval by SC57).</p> <p>Uptake: to mainstream gender issues in wetland management and implementation of the Convention.</p>	Report and derived comms products	Contracting Parties	20,000 (report and consultancy)

Thematic Work Area 5 : Climate change and wetlands: innovative methodologies for carbon accounting/assessments related to wetlands

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Siobhan Fenessy (lead), Sangdon Lee (co-lead),</i> Hugh Robertson, David Stroud, Edson Junqueira, Christian Perennou (TDV), Max Finlayson (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education), Leanne Wilkinson (STRP NFP Australia) [and others to be confirmed]
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	Tour du Valat; IHE Delft Institute for Water Education [and others to be confirmed]

Task	Res.	SP target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
5.1. Desktop study of coastal blue carbon ecosystems in Ramsar Sites (consistent with relevant IPCC guidelines)	XIII.14 , ¶¶ 15(a)-(d); 11(c)	3.11, 4.14	Undertake a desk review to give a high-level summary of the state of knowledge of blue carbon ecosystems in each Ramsar Region, the availability of data and information; and addressing issues highlighted in para 15(a) of Res. XIII.14. Review will also consider and provide advice on how best to undertake tasks specified in para 15 (b), (c), and (d) of Res. XIII.14 in relation review findings, including development ToR for future such work to actually address those issues.	Highest	5.1(a) Produce ToR for the desktop review by July 2019 (after adoption of work plan); Engage consultant by Fall 2019; Product delivered early 2021 at latest; Work to actually complete the tasks in paras 15(b), (c) and (d) is technically demanding, and lower priority for the current triennium, but work to initiate 15 (b),(c), and (d) elements will be initiated early post-COP 14 in light of current work.	RTR (early 2021 at latest) Infographic concepts on Blue Carbon for development by Secretariat Uptake: Work to inform future development of GWO, and to raise international awareness about blue carbon ecosystems and their services.	Policy makers within Contracting Parties (especially those responsible for the coastal zone); Research community and IOPs	31, 600 (RTR 22,600 and 9,000 consultancy). Infographic cost to be determined

Task	Res.	SP target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
			Present best evidence of the extent of blue carbon ecosystems		Data for GWO			
5.2 Develop methods to rapidly assess climate vulnerability of wetlands, particularly those important as habitats for marine turtles	XIII. 24, ¶ 23		<p>(a) In relation to marine Turtles. Significant work being undertaken by other MEAs and Parties. STRP to take supporting role developing understanding of extent of current work, particular promoting good case studies of wider utility.</p> <p>(b) In relation to wetland climate vulnerability. Review existing guidance (RTR 5) and project by IKI and develop ToR for potential future work.</p>	Lower	Potential collation of case studies. Development of ToR only in this triennium.	<p>Advice</p> <p>ToR for task</p>	Contracting Parties; Practitioners (wetland managers)	No cost implications for STRP budget

Annex 2

Scenarios related to the possible future development of the *Global Wetland Outlook*

Summary of discussions at STRP22 on the Global Wetland Outlook

Some requests to STRP made in COP13 Resolutions anticipate reporting through future GWOs – yet currently there is no agreed forward plan or timetable for GWO production/update, if indeed at all.

The STRP would welcome direction from the Standing Committee on this issue and the priority it should be given (if at all) in the 2019-2021 triennium. Some initial suggestions from the Panel are given based on discussions at STRP22.⁸

We suggest a full review is undertaken every 6 or 9 years, but interim products which will feed into that review should be produced each triennium.

If this recommendation is accepted, then if an interim GWO product is to be produced in the current triennium, then the Panel recommends that the edition of the GWO (GWO-2/GWO for 2021) should focus on priority issues linked to the global policy agenda, or specific thematic areas. As much of the data used in the 2018 report are not updated on a regular basis, the GWO-1 (GWO 2018) could potentially be updated every 6-9 years, as sufficient data for a more comprehensive assessment becomes available.

A proposal for the next production is provided below for consideration.

Proposed objective

Support implementation of the Convention by improving the global approach to wetland management through a focus on a menu of *solutions* options. The possible solutions should be informed by an understanding of state and drivers and presented in the context of responses. Solutions presented should not be prescriptive, recognizing the range of approaches to Convention implementation shown by Parties.

GWO (2018) highlighted the declining trend in both the extent and state of wetlands globally. A next version (to be determined but possibly 2021) could recognise the problems identified in this first version and focus on the range of solutions possible.

Target audiences for the thematic triennial update

Outputs could be differentiated (as outlined below) for the following possible target audiences:

- National level policy makers from multiple sectors (Ministries of Environment/Natural Resources, Agriculture, Climate Change, Water, Tourism, Energy, Health and sanitation, Infrastructure among others — through their high-level civil servants);
- Stakeholders outside of government (e.g. basin level managers, sector managers);
- National wetland or Ramsar Committees; National Focal Points; SDG processes/Multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) National Focal Points; and
- the general public, through national level media, as well as youth, universities, influential politicians, private sectors that influence wetland wise use and funding bodies.

⁸ Note that in response to comments from the consultation, the STRP has narrowed down the proposed thematic alternatives below for future editions of the GWOs.

Key message

Wetlands are the solution (for sustainable development)⁹

Six thematic areas for an interim update are identified below, each with a number of sub-components (example sub-components shown below). We propose that the next interim update follows the following format:

- *Status and Trends*
- *Drivers*
- *Response*
- *Solutions*

The responses would be linked to Ramsar Strategic Plan objectives and other relevant wetland-related global goals or targets (SDGs, etc.) – i.e. responses to Ramsar’s strategic agenda and those of other relevant international processes. Solutions are end points that should be practical and implementable by the range of Parties that comprise the Convention. Solutions could be divided by scale (e.g., small scale that could be undertaken with less resources and capacity through to larger scale for Parties with more capacity and resources). In addition, they could consider step-wise solutions where Step 1 achieves a little, going through to Step 3, which achieves the entire objective.

Thematic focus areas

Overview: Status of wetlands

Depending on the decision of SC57, a systematic assessment would be conducted every triennium to assess the status of available data. Note that the STRP is proposing a complete update every 6-9 years, with thematic outputs that can eventually feed/ build up to the complete update every three years. Through such a process, the GWO should provide a snapshot, assessing the extent and status of wetlands. Based on the National Reports and the three wetland categories included for the purpose of reporting for SDG 6.6.1, the analysis will be based on: i) inland, ii) coastal and marine and iii) man-made wetlands. Additionally, it will include an assessment of:

- the Ramsar Sites network;
- the increase in number of Contracting Parties; and
- the other indicators from National Reports – e.g. as related to wise use.

Responses: SDG 6.6.1, Ramsar National Reports

Solutions: Future designations, under-represented types; representative listing and development of coherent and connected site networks

1. Climate change and wetlands

- Vulnerability of Ramsar Sites, as a priority, and other important wetlands (both inland and coastal), including consideration of what this could mean for Ramsar Convention policies;
- Value of wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation responses;
- Role of wetlands in reducing climate change impacts, including mitigation and adaptation strategies; and
- Relevant case studies in reducing climate change impacts.

Responses: Paris, SDG 13: Stop draining peatlands to control Climate Change

⁹ An alternative key message for the GWO, suggested through the work plan consultation, linking wetlands and the global environmental agenda, might be “Wetland restoration in a changing climate”.

Solutions: Nationally Determined Contributions (as appropriate), re-wetting of peatlands, role in risk reduction; promoting sustainable coastal development, conservation and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems; and others considered relevant by Parties

2. Biodiversity and wetlands

- Status of wetland-dependent species, Red List data;
- Case studies of wise use and waterbird conservation;
- Restoration; and
- Invasive species.

Responses: CBD, SDG 14, 15, IUCN, IPBES; flyway partnerships

Solutions: Wise use; representative listing

3. Wetlands Ecosystem Services – Livelihoods

- Use of wetlands to support livelihoods and
- Wetlands and human health.

Responses: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger; sustainable agriculture and aquaculture, sustainable coastal zone management etc.); SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing)

Solutions: Sustainable production, agricultural practices, mainstreaming multiple values of wetlands in developmental planning.

4. Water and wetlands

- Use of relevant water management planning tools and methodologies including Integrated Water Resource Management; and
- Water quality issues.

Response: SDG 6 (provide water to 10 billion people in 2050)

Solutions: sustainable use – maintaining water supply, quality

5. Sustainable cities

- Urban wetlands for resilient and sustainable cities, Including:
 - consideration of water treatment functions;
 - tensions between development and ecosystem services;
 - nature-based solutions; and
 - climate readiness.
- Upstream water retention for cities safe from flooding

Responses: SDG 11: Creating sustainable cities

Solutions: green cities; wetland city accreditation; appropriate planning laws

The product for interim updates

Headline Statements for Policy Makers (2-page overview of key messages in Thematic Report Cards)

1. Thematic Report Cards (4-5 pages)
2. Technical Notes for each Thematic Area:

- We need sector specific material
 - Products specifically tailored for the public to engage the media
3. Small briefing notes (2-3 pages with graphics) for each sector and webpage with downloadable data and links. Format of the Briefing note:
- Status and extent;
 - Key sectoral drivers;
 - Solutions;
 - Case studies (examples);
 - Policy options; and
 - Links to further information and tools.

Communications Strategy: Increase uptake through Smart Phone technology, video, people with global recognition to share messages, social media, etc. To be determined following consultation with the Secretariat's Communications team.