

## Report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel

### Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. Note progress by the CEPA Oversight Panel, described in our report in annex 1;
- ii. Note that neither the document SC58 Doc.15.1, nor the Document SC59 Doc 17.1 was addressed at the SC virtual meetings in June 2020 and June 2021. Now their content is outdated and replaced by this revised version of SC59 17.1. All information that is still valid from those documents have been integrated and updated in this document for the resumed SC59, or in draft resolutions suggested by the CEPA OP.
- iii. The results from the work by the CEPA Oversight Panel during the last triennium are incorporated in a number of draft resolutions for consideration at the resumed SC59. These drafts are not annexed to this report, but instead presented in separate DC documents. The Standing Committee is invited to leave comments on the new CEPA approach when these draft resolutions are addressed.

### Background and introduction

1. At the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP12) in 2015, the Parties approved a new Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) for 2016-2024, through Resolution XII.9. The Programme includes nine CEPA goals and 43 targets.
2. The Secretariat developed a CEPA Action Plan for 2016-2018 to guide its actions. The Plan was reviewed to improve its focus and, at the 53rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC53), a report on progress in implementing the Action Plan was published. Moving towards a more cohesive approach, the CEPA Action Plan was integrated into the Secretariat's annual and triennial work plans.
3. The Panel for 2016-2018 made recommendations on the development of a new approach for CEPA, which were included in the document COP13 Doc.10, *Report on implementation of the CEPA Programme 2016-2018 and recommendations on future directions* [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop13doc10\\_cepaprogramme\\_e.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop13doc10_cepaprogramme_e.pdf). A shortened version of the recommendations is included in **Annex A**.
4. Resolution XIII.5 on *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention* instructs the CEPA Oversight Panel, at SC59, "to present its proposed new approach and a draft resolution on

this subject to be submitted to COP14; and further instructs the Standing Committee to take this matter further, for decision at COP14.” This new approach was to take into account the work already carried out by the Panel and the Working Group on CEPA Implementation, incorporate the advice of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and complement the work of the Strategic Plan Working Group.

## **Annex 1**

### **Report on work done or not done by the CEPA Oversight Panel since SC57**

1. During the autumn of 2019 the CEPA Oversight Panel conducted a survey, in the context of considering a new approach to CEPA, to get input about priorities for change, and what elements of the existing CEPA Programme should be retained. A short compilation of the survey and the results is presented in **Annex B**.
2. The Oversight Panel has met a number of times one-line and discussed the findings of the survey in the context of Resolution XIII.5 and the advice provided to COP13 by the former Oversight Panel, and synthesised these points into a set of broad recommendations which will shape the new CEPA approach, as outlined below.
3. The CEPA Oversight Panel has prepared draft resolutions on CEPA related issues for the SC59 resumed session to consider. They include new governance, the new approach including an annex on how to integrate the approach into the strategic plan, tasks for the coming COP-COP period and retirement of old resolutions and decisions.
4. The CEPA Oversight Panel has not been in contact with the Working Group on CEPA Implementation, such working group is unfamiliar to us.
5. The Oversight Panel has not made a full-scale plan, including timetables, costs etc on how to implement the CEPA new approach. We consider it better if the COP14 decides upon what parts of the new approach they like or not, before planning for implementation. It might also be better not to have detailed plan, letting different actors choose what activities they would like to start implementation with, according to their needs and where they think the results will be most successful and useful. It was found out in the survey that the CEPA OP did, that ideas about what is most urgent differ a lot.

#### ***The CEPA Oversight Panel recommends that the new CEPA approach has the following characteristics:***

- 1. A reduced set of activities clearly linked to the Strategic Plan**
  - The effort should be focused on a smaller number of high-priority activities.
  - CEPA activities should be incorporated into the Strategic Plan, but with a separate CEPA document providing supporting guidance, as needed.
- 2. Make CEPA more strategic, integrated and effective**
  - The CEPA Programme would better support and strengthen the Strategic Plan if integrated into it. The next Strategic Plan should include both stand-alone CEPA activities, and CEPA elements.
  - In general, CEPA activities and CEPA elements should be integrated in planning and activities of the Convention (locally, nationally, internationally) where appropriate.
- 3. Work to support focal points, and build more networks and partnerships**
  - National Focal Points and CEPA National Focal Points are considered important to ensure a coordinated and strategic national approach to Ramsar implementation. Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the key implementers of CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities when necessary.

- Encourage Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communications materials and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved. Contracting Parties should also be encouraged to coordinate with their focal points for other MEAs.
- The Secretariat should seek opportunities to build networks and partnerships at the international level, including with other MEAs, in order to identify opportunities for common or complementary CEPA activities and to bring relevant tools, resources, and practices to Contracting Parties.
- The Contracting Parties should increase engagement with other sectors, consistent with priorities identified in the strategic plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience.

#### **4. Strategic support by the Secretariat**

- The Secretariat should provide advice and information to Contracting Parties, for example introduction materials about Ramsar CEPA work for new CEPA NFPs and CEPA NGO FPs and sharing good examples from other countries.
- The Secretariat should revise the 2010 handbook on Wetland CEPA. The revised version needs to reflect the new CEPA approach, include other changes in the Convention since 2010, and include new content on social media, how to enhance networking etc. The update, before it is finalized, may also include results from COP15 on the resolution on the Strategic Plan.
- The Secretariat should provide opportunities for the CEPA NFPs to learn more about CEPA tools. This can take place in conjunction with other relevant meetings, such as COPs or regional meetings as appropriate, or via online resources.

#### ***Work done by the CEPA Oversight Panel towards a draft resolution on CEPA***

- Identified a limited number of strategic priorities for CEPA that will support delivery of the goals of the Strategic Plan, some aligned to particular goals, while some provide support across the Plan.
  - Developed implementation measures (actions) for these priorities, focusing on practical actions and tools which have been shown to be effective, achievable and aligned with relevant Strategic Plan goals.
  - Considered ways in which Contracting Parties, their CEPA implementation networks and the Secretariat can engage with stakeholders and partners to work together on different levels to achieve the CEPA strategic priorities and goals of the Convention.
  - Considered ways for the Contracting Parties to create or strengthen networks between Contracting Parties with similar CEPA interests related to topics, challenges, or regions.
  - Prioritised and developed budget estimates for any proposals for new CEPA activities, to be considered in the budget negotiations at COP14 for the next triennium.
  - Analysed the content of the Ramsar Handbook on CEPA and have found out that it is not easily updated, but instead suggests that a total new handbook that have a more hands-on approach is written and that a few selected part of the old handbook can be transferred to the new one.
6. Consistent with Resolution XIII.5, the Oversight Panel is developing draft resolutions for consideration and submission by the Standing Committee at SC59 to seek the authority of the COP for the implementation of the new CEPA approach. The draft resolutions are planned to be finalised before the SC59 resumed session deadline for draft resolutions.

7. The CEPA Oversight Panel and the Strategic Plan Working Group have been in contact about how the new CEPA approach can be integrated into the draft resolution on the review of the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan Working Group requested that the CEPA Oversight Panel create an annex to articulate ways that Parties can enhance their CEPA efforts using the current structure of the Strategic Plan, and the CEPA Oversight Panel has produced this annex.
8. The CEPA Oversight Panel has considered an appropriate role for the Panel in light of the new approach to CEPA, and also considered different governance issues connected to the Panel. The CEPA OP has communicated its proposal to the Chairs of the Effectiveness WG and the STRP. There was no response from the EWG. The STRP was contacted in February 2022 and while writing this the STRP has not yet had the sufficient time to answer. The result is included in a draft resolution for the consideration by the Standing Committee at the resumed SC59.
9. The CEPA Oversight Panel has had one representative taking part in the work done by the group working on a new draft resolution on the City Wetlands Accreditation. The result will be included in a draft resolution on City Wetland Accreditation, for consideration by the Standing Committee at the resumed SC59.
10. The Chair of the Panel has participated in a few of the meetings held by the COP14 Working Group.
11. The Panel has also provided comments to a draft resolution about education being prepared by the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia and the Republic of Korea.

## **Annex A**

### **Summary of recommendations of the CEPA Oversight Panel to COP13**

**(through document COP13 Doc.10, *Report on implementation of the CEPA Programme 2016-2018 and recommendations on future directions*)**

#### **1. Reduced and more focused set of goals**

Efforts should be focused on a smaller number of high priority activities, against each of the goals of the Strategic Plan. (See recommendation 6 below.)

#### **2. Build an evaluation strategy**

Significant activity has been undertaken against the nine goals of the CEPA Programme. Yet the impact is difficult to assess, and there is a need to build an effective evaluation strategy on which to base further programme refinements.

The reviews of the CEPA Programme should take account of information from Contracting Parties (including from National Focal Points and the National Reports), from the Secretariat, Ramsar Regional Initiatives and other stakeholders on the implementation and effectiveness of CEPA interventions to date.

#### **3. Make CEPA more strategic, integrated and effective**

The Oversight Panel recommends focusing on making CEPA more strategic, integrated and effective in achieving wetland protection and wise use. They suggest using limited resources on CEPA activities that will contribute most effectively to changing people's behavior to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan.

#### **4. Integrate the CEPA Programme into the Strategic Plan**

The CEPA Oversight Panel suggests integrating the CEPA Goals and Targets into the Ramsar Strategic Plan, rather than having a separate CEPA Programme. The Plan would include both stand-alone CEPA initiatives, and CEPA elements integrated into other initiatives.

The Strategic Plan review is an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of the CEPA Programme and the work of the Secretariat. The importance of engaging people in order to encourage action needs to be reflected in the Strategic Plan, which should include outreach strategies that engage, enlist and enable people to act for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

#### **5. Reporting to be better aligned with other international Conventions and initiatives**

Including the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals. This will streamline administration, reporting and reduce the administrative burden.

#### **6. Small number of high priority activities that follow the four goals of the Strategic Plan**

The Strategic Plan review is an opportunity to enhance the effectiveness of the CEPA Programme and the work of the Secretariat. Suggested priority actions against each of the goals of the Strategic Plan have been developed in document COP13 Doc.10.

#### **7. Working through networks and partnerships**

Greater use should be made of general and CEPA NFPs to ensure a coordinated and strategic national approach to Ramsar implementation. These networks should be used as a key tool in providing information to and gaining feedback from Contracting Parties. CEPA NFPs need to be aware of their responsibilities and provided with training resources. The positions of general and CEPA NFPs within Contracting Parties are considered important to ensure a coordinated and strategic national approach to Ramsar implementation.

Efforts should be made to build alliances, including both new and existing partnerships. These partnerships should be implemented globally, regionally and by individual Contracting Parties.

There needs to be increasing engagement with other sectors – in particular, there needs to be a focus on issues that matter to people – the benefits of wetlands to human health and well-being, disaster protection, urban and regional planning, tourism and food production.

#### **8. CEPA integrated in all planning and activities of the Convention**

The importance of engaging people in order to encourage action needs to be reflected in the Strategic Plan, which should include outreach strategies that engage, enlist and enable people to act for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. This should involve both specific CEPA initiatives as well as incorporation of CEPA into all initiatives of the Convention (locally, nationally, regionally and internationally).

At the Contracting Party level, the CEPA activities should be integrated into national planning.

## Annex B

### A short compilation of the results from the survey about CEPA of November 2019

#### *The Survey*

In October 2019 the CEPA Oversight Panel conducted a survey of the thoughts and experiences of National Focal Points, CEPA Government Focal Points and CEPA NGO Focal Points on a new approach to CEPA, based on the recommendations of the CEPA Oversight Panel 2015-2018. There were questions seeking free text responses, but also questions with suggested choices, mostly indicating to what level the respondents agreed with different statements or to choose the most important among suggested choices.

In the questions where the respondents chose to what level they agreed with a statement on a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is thinking something is “very useful”, “very likely” etc., and 1 is thinking that something is not at all useful or likely, they also had the opportunity to answer “I don’t know”. For such questions it has been possible to calculate weighted averages. In the text below the levels of support of the respondents for suggestions are described according to the weighted average.

An average of 3.0 – 3.4 is considered to be a weak majority, 3.5 – 3.9 a clear majority, 4.0 – 4.4 a strong majority and 4.5 – 5.0 a very strong majority.

The results from the survey have been guiding the CEPA Oversight Panel. This is a short compilation of the results.

#### *The respondents*

The survey received 64 responses. There was an equal representation from the three NFP groups. More than 65% of the respondents had worked with CEPA issues for more than five years. All Ramsar regions were represented in the answers.

When it comes to representation in the actual answers, they vary from 4% from North America to 33% from Africa. When including all that could answer in a region the results vary from 6 % for Latin America and the Caribbean to 22 % for North America.

Region	Regional representation of the total answers in %	Regional response (response/total number of countries per region* 3 roles) in %
Africa	33	13
Asia	22	14
Europe	28	12
Latin America & Caribbean	8	6
North America	3	22
Oceania	6	17

#### **Analysis**

##### **1. Reduce the number of CEPA goals**

A weak majority of the respondents think a reduction of the number of goals for CEPA will result in a more effective CEPA implementation.

##### **2. Build an evaluation strategy**

A clear majority of the respondents think that it would be useful to build a strategy for evaluating the effectiveness of CEPA measures.



The negative responses included:

- Evaluation is stealing resources from other activities.
- Reduce all kinds of reporting.
- Difficulties in measuring actual impact on wetlands achieved by CEPA activities.

If we are to build a strategy for evaluation, the respondents suggest that:

- It should be integrated in the National Report.
- Every country needs to have its own indicators.
- It should be better aligned with other reporting.

### **3. Make CEPA more strategic, integrated and effective**

Examples from the respondents on how to work more strategically:

- Integrate CEPA into the Ramsar Strategic Plan.
- Work together with other Conventions/international work, especially CBD and IPBES.
- Use new technology (webinars, social media, exchange online).
- CEPA programmes covering several countries with similar conditions and issues.
- Investigate where there are gaps in the CEPA Programme.
- The CEPA Programme should focus on the future and possible solutions.
- More training at national level.
- Share experiences in CEPA networks, create place for CEPA issues at regional level.
- Provide guidance to CEPA FPs.
- Prioritise messages and target audiences.
- Bottom-up approach, having local CEPA activities.

Better integrate the CEPA work into other activities of the Convention and national activities:

*Convention level:*

- All activities by the Convention including Resolutions should integrate CEPA activities.
- Larger Convention CEPA activities should be adopted at the COP or SC.
- Integrate the CEPA programme into the Strategic Plan.
- Joining CBD and other international fora in common activities.
- Leadership from the Secretariat is needed.

*International co-operation:*

- Stronger networks for sharing ideas and best practices among CEPA focal points, wetland managers and CEPA practitioners - for example regionally-focused webinars.

*Nationally:*

- All wetland activities nationally should integrate CEPA activities.
- Integrate CEPA programme into national plans, education etc.
- National context for identifying useful tools and methods etc. is necessary.
- Interaction/cooperation between CEPA National Focal Points and national Ramsar Committee.
- National co-operation with implementation of other MEAs.
- World Wetlands Day is one of the best tools.

### How to make the work more effective:

#### *Strategies/systems:*

- Use a system to assess how implementation of the CEPA Programme impacted promotion of wetlands conservation and management.
- Focus on policy makers, decision makers and wetland managers - aligns with the instructions given to the STRP.
- Rather than reducing the number of global goals, prioritise them.
- Support from the national government (funds).
- Include CEPA in all relevant national programmes.
- Involving all the relevant stakeholders.
- Each country has different priorities and needs.

#### *Capacity building exchange of experiences:*

- Facilitation and networking both on regional and national level.
- Increase the capacity of national focal points and wetland managers – training.

### **4. Integrate the CEPA programme into the Strategic Plan**

A clear majority of the respondents think that it would be useful to include the CEPA Programme into the Strategic Plan. But there are also many respondents that think a separate CEPA Programme can have a value.

#### Comments on the value of a separate CEPA programme:

- A separate CEPA programme makes CEPA visible and shows its importance.
- CEPA might be underestimated or lost if it does not have its own programme.
- CEPA will not have to compete with other issues.
- Increased focus on CEPA.
- Value of documents with supporting guidance apart from the Strategic Plan.
- CEPA is a specialist area of work.
- Easier to achieve goals.

### **5. Reporting to be better aligned with other international conventions and initiatives**

A clear majority of the respondents think that Ramsar CEPA reporting has to be better aligned with the reporting requirements of other international Conventions. They also think that CEPA reporting in the National Reports has to be streamlined.

### **6. Small number of high-priority activities that follow the four goals of the Strategic Plan**

A very strong majority of the respondents think that it would be useful to align CEPA activities with the goals of the Strategic Plan.

### **7. Working through networks and partnerships**

A very strong majority of the respondents think that building strong networks among the National Focal Points, CEPA Focal Points and wetland education/visitor centres is a useful way to strengthen CEPA work. They also find think that training packages for CEPA Focal Points would be useful.

### **8. CEPA integrated in all planning and activities of the Convention**

A strong majority of the respondents think that including the CEPA National Focal Point in each country's Ramsar Committees would be useful.

## Annex 2

### Proposed draft resolution – The new CEPA approach

*Suggested to the SC by the CEPA OP*

#### **Action requested:**

- The Standing Committee is invited to review the suggested attached Draft Resolution and adopt it as its own for submission to and for consideration by the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

#### **Introduction**

1. Resolution XIII.5 instructed the CEPA Oversight Panel to, at SC59, “present its proposed new approach and a draft resolution on this subject to be submitted to COP14; and it FURTHER REQUESTED the Standing Committee to take this matter further, for decision at COP14.” This new approach was to take into account the work already carried out by the Panel and the Working Group on CEPA Implementation, incorporate the advice of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and complement the work of the Strategic Plan Working Group.
2. While composing the CEPA OP for the 2018-2021 triennium, it was discovered that the required SC-decisions on CEPA OP were outdated. A temporary solution was found for the time COP13-COP14. The CEPA OP has also discussed the content in the resolution IX.18 *Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention* and found that the regular work tasks combined with the missions the COP resolutions require considerably greater time and capacity than is available through the CEPA OP, Regular tasks for the CEPA OP could also be better managed in other ways. During the 2018-2021 triennium the Effectiveness Working Group has examined how to improve current governance procedures and the operation of working groups.
3. The DR on the new CEPA approach includes modalities to improve governance and efficiency.
4. In short it means...
  - The CEPA Oversight Panel is replaced by the CEPA Coordination Group (CEPA CG)
  - new Terms of Reference,
  - a new work cycle during a triennium including; starting the nomination process earlier, establishing the CEPA CG at the COP, and the CEPA CG using the COP to connect and commence work,
  - new principles for the composition of the CEPA CG, allowing more flexibility,
  - setting priorities for the triennium, and
  - ensuring the capacity of the CEPA CG to these priorities
5. The CEPA OP has communicated its proposal to the Chair of the Effectiveness WG and the STRP, but no feed-back has been received.

6. There are differences in opinion on if the parts on the CEPA CG is to be a separate resolution or included in the one on the new CEPA approach. Arguments for having them separate are that the text about CEPA CG is about governance and have a smaller target group, (just the ones in the CEPA CG and the ones involved in the nominations process) compared with the new approach that is to be implemented by a lot of stake-holders and many of them have no interest in how the CEPA CG is established and what Terms of Reference they have etc. After consolidation a future CEPA resolution might also be very long. If the Standing Committee prefers the texts in two separate resolutions, that can be arranged by the CEPA OP Chair.

*Financial implications of implementation*

7. The new approach includes strengthening the CEPA capacity at the Secretariat. Today there are two staff members with responsibility for communication activities, one responsible for the content and one for administrative issues. One more staff member working on CEPA is needed, especially during the COP14-COP15 period. Having an additional staff member working on CEPA will increase the costs for the Secretariat. Most of the other parts of the new approach are addressing Contracting Parties and are not increasing the costs for the Convention. All new staff costs are addressed in the resolution for the COP14-COP15 period.
8. The new governance for CEPA CG will not incur additional costs above the operation of the CEPA OP.

<i>Paragraph (nr/key part of text)</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Cost (CHF)</i>
All about CEPA CG	All	No additional costs compared with today procedure

## **Draft Resolution IIV.18 The new CEPA approach**

1. RECALLING Resolution XIII.5 Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention;
2. RECALLING Resolution XII.9, including the CEPA programme for 2016-24;
3. INFORMING that a table (the content in annex 2 for this resolution) with how the new CEPA approach has been developed and how it may be integrated into the current (SP4) and new strategic plan (SP5) have been annexed to the resolution XIV.18 on the Strategic plan;
4. RECOGNIZING that different Parties, IOP's and others will have different views about which activities are most likely to be useful and effective, ALSO RECOGNIZING that the new CEPA approach must allow flexibility on which activities to start national implementing;
5. RECALLING Resolution IX.18 on Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention;
6. AWARE that the description of the CEPA Oversight Panel's work tasks found in Resolution IX.18 is outdated;
7. ALSO AWARE that the procedure for nominations and the decision on the composition of the Convention's CEPA body could be improved in order to, allow more time for it to conduct its work during each triennium;
8. ALSO AWARE that previous Standing Committee decisions related to the composition of the CEPA Oversight Panel are no longer applicable, as they reference the participation of Ramsar bodies and bodies in other organisations that no longer exist;
9. RECOGNIZING that a new governance for the CEPA CG has the potential to enhance the effectiveness and benefit the implementation of the Convention.
10. COMMENDING the excellent work already undertaken with very scarce resources by all actors in the Convention's CEPA activities; but RECOGNIZING the enormous potential for further CEPA work to enhance the implementation of the Convention.

### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

#### *Basic information on resolutions and other resolutions related to it*

- 11 STATES that this resolution on the new CEPA approach is contains long-lived decisions only. The resolution is valid until it is retired. The new CEPA approach might need to be revised after assessment, planned to take place in time for drafting the Strategic Plan 6. Decisions that are specific for the time between two COPs are found in a separate short-lived resolution and are to be applied as well;

#### *The new CEPA approach*

12. DECIDES that the new CEPA approach is as described in Annex 1, but ALSO DECIDES that the new approach is to be the focus for CEPA activities, but do not exclude measures included in other older resolutions and programmes if found useful;
13. STATES that the new CEPA approach can be integrated into the new Strategic Plan as suggested in annex 2, but also RECOGNIZES that the work that will be done by the Strategic plan Working Group and maybe others until COP15 may result in changes and an updated version for Strategic Plan 5;
14. ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to apply the new approach described in the annexes, and especially activities in annex 2 that may be integrated into Strategic plan, and investigate if co-operation with other Contracting Parties, IOPs and MEAs can be effective and decrease costs for national CEPA measures;
15. DECIDES that except for the integration of the new approach into the Strategic Plan there is not to be a plan on how to implement the new approach. Instead letting different Contracting Parties, Conventions bodies etc prioritise themselves what implementation activities they would like to start with according to their needs, capacity and where they think the results will be most successful;
16. INVITES the International Organization Partners to support the Ramsar Convention with implementing the new approach;
17. INSTRUMENTS the Secretariat to include in their work programme how to support the Contracting Parties with implementing the new approach.
18. DECIDES that the Secretariat is to strengthen the CEPA work by employing an additional Communication and Education Officer with good communication and education skills and a working knowledge about wetlands.

#### *Information on the CEPA Coordination Group*

19. DECIDES that the CEPA Oversight Panel be renamed the CEPA Coordination Group (CEPA CG) and serve as the Ramsar subsidiary body focused on CEPA issues,
20. DECIDES that the priority focus for the CEPA CG is to deliver the CEPA-related work each COP assigns to it until the next COP, as well as to deliver the their on-going work in the triennium work cycle as described in the Terms of Reference, Annex 3;
21. ENCOURAGES the CEPA CG, if there is capacity for such activities, to undertake other work within the framework for their Terms of Reference as described in Annex 3 part 1;
22. REQUESTS the Chair of the CEPA CG, to report to the COP on activities and results from the CEPA CG since the last COP, also INSTRUMENTS the Secretariat to deliver information on the Secretariat's CEPA activities and outcomes be included in the report;

#### *Instructions for the Secretariat and invitation to other actors*

23. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support the CEPA CG with its administration and other professional assistance as requested, including assisting with the nomination process as described in Annex 3, part 2B;
24. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to provide CEPA CG members with orientation training about their role, the CG's mission for the triennium and relevant Ramsar CEPA decisions etc. at the first CG meeting after the COP or if suitable already at the COP;
25. INVITES Contracting Parties, International Organization Partners and other organisations working to support wetland preservation that are not members of the CEPA CG to share and amplify the efforts as appropriate.

## **Annex 1 of the draft resolution: The new approach to CEPA has the following characteristics**

### **1. A reduced set of activities clearly linked to the Strategic Plan**

- The effort should be focused on a smaller number of high-priority activities.
- CEPA activities should be incorporated into the Strategic Plan, but with a separate CEPA document providing supporting guidance, as needed.

### **2. Make CEPA more strategic, integrated and effective**

- The CEPA Programme would better support and strengthen the Strategic Plan if integrated into it. The next Strategic Plan should include both stand-alone CEPA activities, and CEPA elements.
- In general, CEPA activities and CEPA elements should be integrated in planning and activities of the Convention (locally, nationally, internationally) where appropriate.

### **3. Work to support focal points, and build more networks and partnerships**

- National Focal Points and CEPA National Focal Points are considered important to ensure a coordinated and strategic national approach to Ramsar implementation. Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the key implementers of CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities when necessary.
- Encourage Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communication material and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved. Contracting Parties should also be encouraged to coordinate with their focal points for other MEAs.
- The Secretariat should seek opportunities to build networks and partnerships at the international level, including with other MEAs, in order to identify opportunities for common or complementary CEPA activities and to bring relevant tools, resources, and practices to Contracting Parties.
- The Contracting Parties should increase engagement with other sectors, consistent with priorities identified in the strategic plan at the national level. Messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience.

### **4. Strategic support by the Secretariat**

- The Secretariat to provide advice and information to Contracting Parties, for example introduction materials about Ramsar CEPA work for new CEPA NFPs and CEPA NGO FPs and sharing good examples from other countries.
- The Secretariat to revise the handbook on Wetland CEPA from 2010. The revised version probably needs to reflect the new CEPA approach, include other changes in the Convention since 2010, and include new content on social media, how to enhance networking etc.
- The Secretariat to provide opportunities for the CEPA NFPs to learn more about CEPA tools. This can take place in conjunction with other relevant meeting, such as COPs or regional meetings as appropriate, or via on-line resources.

### **5. More efficient governance of the Ramsar global CEPA work**

- Better described work task, (separating what may be mandatory and what may be voluntary) for the Ramsar CEPA working group/-s
- Better way of composing and establishing the Ramsar CEPA working group/-s
- Modus operandi for Ramsar CEPA working group/-s
- Better sharing of workload, also engaging more Contracting Parties



## Annex 2 of the draft resolution: The new CEPA approach and how it may be integrated into the future Strategic plan 5

1. This table contains the full content of the existing Strategic Plan (4) and how CEPA activities based upon the new approach can be integrated into it, both on an over-all level but also in specific activities. Sometimes the CEPA activities are described together with other activities, not included in the Strategic Plan today but necessary for reaching the target. This table will be for the use of the Strategic Plan Working Group that is to draft a DR on the Strategic Plan 5 for the consideration at COP15.
2. Unless otherwise indicated 'Partners' below refers to Contracting Parties, IOPs, different kinds of regional co-operation, and the Secretariat. IOPs are welcome to join in any of the activities, suitable for their scope.

### LEGEND

Text in *italic* in the parts of the new approach are those activities that Contracting Parties can start to implement before the COP 15. Those activities are also included in the annex to the DR on the review of the Strategic Plan. Targets 20-22, both in parentheses and in italic are not existing targets, but given as examples, just to show what kind of possible future targets the new approach may be integrated with.

<b>Table A. CEPA priorities to be included in new Strategic Plan 5 (set out against current Goals in Strategic Plan 4)</b>	
<b>Targets</b>	<b>CEPA activities</b>
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation</b>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.1 Secretariat to prioritise global CEPA activities that promote the Convention and its objectives, including wide promotion of COPs and their outcomes as well as to continue to contribute wetland input to the debate on global policy issues, and working for a greater sectoral input to wetlands and CEPA planning.</li> <li>• 1.2 <i>Contracting Parties to continue to contribute wetland input to the debate on global policy issues.</i></li> <li>• 1.3 <i>Contracting Parties to identify mechanisms for greater sectoral input to wetlands and CEPA planning, including recognising the value, experience and resources of IOPs, NGOs, Contracting Parties, business partners, the education sector and youth organisations with interest in wetlands in planning, resourcing, developing and implementing wetland CEPA messages and products.</i></li> <li>• 1.4 <i>Contracting Parties, in communication activities and materials that, specifically highlight the role of wetlands as green infrastructure or nature-based solutions, and</i></li> </ul>

	<p><i>the values of wetlands for water supply, water quality, transport, food production and livelihoods, flood regulation, coastal protection, climate mitigation and adaptation, pollution control, fishing and hunting, recreation and tourism.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.5 The Secretariat to support with info materials including pictures in formats that are easily transformed for national and sub-national use.</li> <li>• 1.6 STRP to continue to develop targeted products (Policy Briefs, Fact Sheets, The Global Wetland Outlook etc) for sectors.</li> <li>• <i>1.7 Contracting Parties should increase engagement with sectors that have impact on wetlands, consistent with priorities identified in the strategic plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience.</i></li> </ul>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2.1 Secretariat to support Contracting Parties with CEPA materials, including case studies and good examples from the Wetland City Accreditation, that can be used when addressing stakeholders</li> <li>• <i>2.2 Contracting Parties to promote case studies of sustainable wetland management including examples from Wetland City Accreditation, and do CEPA activities that engage stakeholders and promote wise use and management of their wetlands and their surroundings in a way that both water quality and water quantity are well considered.</i></li> </ul>
3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>3.1 Contracting Parties, to promote existing Convention guidance and share between CPs practical local guidance, best practises and case studies which may be more broadly relevant.</i></li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>4.1 Contracting Parties, to raise awareness of invasive alien species in wetland ecosystems through the development and dissemination of training and communication materials among the public and private sectors.</i></li> </ul>
<b>Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network</b>	
5. The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>5.1 Contracting Parties to integrate CEPA activities in all Ramsar site management plans and/or activity plans.</i></li> </ul>
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.	
7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7.1 Contracting Parties to identify current and emerging threats, including the umbrella threat of climate change, and develop, and share between Parties, practical CEPA tools and guidance for addressing such threats at Ramsar sites and other wetlands in the long-term.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands</b>	
8. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8.1 Contracting Parties communicate the results of national wetland inventories for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</li> </ul>
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.	See Target 1 and Target 13.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10.1 Contracting Parties to better engage indigenous people in wetland research, planning, management, restoration and CEPA activities (including case studies) as well as promoting the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands at national and local levels.</li> <li>10.2 Secretariat to promote the exchange of lessons learned from the activities mentioned above.</li> </ul>
11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11.1 Secretariat to support Contracting Parties to develop stories about the values of wetlands and how to manage them to optimise their benefits (to be customised with local facts/figures).</li> <li>11.2 Contracting Parties to support Ramsar site managers to develop signage and other CEPA activities to communicate site values, including the ecosystem services.</li> <li>11.3 STRP to update information on the valuation of wetland ecosystem services for use in decision-making and engagement with key stakeholders.</li> </ul>
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	

<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13.1 Contracting Parties to give priority to engaging sectoral decision-makers in integrating wetland values in their planning and decision-making.</li> <li>• 13.2 Secretariat to focus on messages and tools that support the concept of wise use, to assist decision-making to involve communities and negotiate trade-offs between wetland users.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p>	
<p>14. Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14.1 STRP to better align outputs to support CEPA activities for different stakeholders, to enable outcomes of the STRP's work to be effectively communicated with CPs, other wetland stakeholders and the broader community.</li> <li>• 14.2 Ensure adequate communications expertise within the membership of the STRP and creating a close relationship with them and the Secretariat's communications staff.</li> </ul>
<p>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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15.1 Use regional co-operations to build CEPA capacity at the national level to enable more effective planning and implementation by Contracting Parties.</li> </ul>
<p>16. Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16.1 Contracting Parties to build on the effective CEPA activity and engagement achieved through for example World Wetlands Day, Ramsar Regional Initiatives and Wetland Education Centres.</li> <li>• 16.2 The Secretariat to continue communication with and support for Contracting Parties' NFPs and CEPA NFPs (both government and NGO) in promoting conservation of Ramsar sites and wise use of wetlands.</li> <li>• 16.3 The Secretariat to use the results of the CEPA OP NFP survey and ongoing consultation with NFPs to identify useful tools and approaches to support them in pragmatic ways to implement outcomes for the Convention through better engagement of people.</li> <li>• 16.4 All partners to use networks and structures (Wetland Link International network, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, Wetland Education Centres, Youth Engaged in Wetlands) to improve support of implementing the convention, such as raising awareness, engagement in activities, and capacity-building.</li> <li>• 16.5 All partners to use various media channels which are appropriate for the purpose, such as social media to raise public awareness (and potentially lead to</li> </ul>

	<p>public concern and pressure on decision-makers) along with other approaches to engage sectoral decision-makers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16.6 All partners to identify new communication avenues and opportunities to promote Ramsar goals.</li> </ul>
17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.	
18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels, (locally, nationally, sub-regionally (for example RRI and river basin Commissions), regionally and globally).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>18.1 Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communications materials and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved.</i></li> <li>• <i>18.2 Contracting Parties should encourage their Ramsar NFPs to facilitate CEPA activities with their focal points for other MEAs.</i></li> <li>• 18.3 The Secretariat should seek opportunities to build networks and partnerships at the international level, including with other MEAs, in order to identify opportunities for common or complementary CEPA activities and to bring relevant tools, resources, and practices to Contracting Parties.</li> <li>• 18.4 All partners to ensure that CEPA aspects are considered when planning and developing all Resolutions, guidance materials, STRP products and other outcomes from the Ramsar Convention.</li> <li>• 18.5 All partners to investigate opportunities to improve wetland conservation by applying techniques drawn from behavioural economics and psychology and undertaking joint projects with behavioural insights teams or “nudge” units.</li> </ul>
19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19.1 All partners to build an emphasis on capacity-building, to support people with a range of roles in wetland conservation and wise use. This would involve using the expertise of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), communications and networking by the Secretariat, and sharing of experiences between Contracting Parties.</li> <li>• 19.2 Secretariat and Contracting Parties to refine understanding of gaps in implementation, and priority needs of Contracting Parties for practical engagement, communications and training/capacity building, in order to target activities that can be done by the Secretariat and different regional co-operations.</li> <li>• 19.3 Secretariat to provide effective web-based access to their materials, including:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ searchable access to or portals with information on wetland issues, research and management techniques (both Secretariat and Contracting Party materials).</li> <li>○ access to a user-friendly RSIS to enable Ramsar site managers to update/upload/download site information and use it for management.</li> </ul>
<i>(20. Improve the Ramsar National Reports in a way that they become more useful for identifying gaps and measures needed.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 20.1 All partners to improve the usefulness of National Reports from Contracting Parties as a tool for the Convention to obtain feedback on effectiveness of implementation, to identify gaps in implementation, support needed and emerging issues. It is important that the National Report format is not so extensive that it is a burden to Contracting Parties, but that it can focus on gathering the key information needed to assist the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to identify priorities for future activities including CEPA.</li> </ul>
<i>(21. Improve evaluations and assessments of work done by the Convention.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 21.1 All partners to evaluate the reach and effectiveness of activities including CEPA, so that effective approaches are identified, shared and implemented.</li> </ul>
<i>(22. Make sure that focal points get the support they need to do good work.)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>22.1 Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the main facilitators of implementing CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities when necessary.</i></li> <li>● 22.2 The Secretariat to provide advice and information to Contracting Parties, for example introduction materials about Ramsar CEPA work for new CEPA NFPs and CEPA NGO FPs and sharing good examples from other countries.</li> <li>● 22.3 The Secretariat and CEPA CG to revise the 2010 handbook on Wetland CEPA. The revised version needs to reflect the new CEPA approach, include other changes in the Ramsar Convention since 2010, and include new content on social media, how to enhance networking etc including having a more practical implementation approach for CEPA activities instead of a more Ramsar Convention resolution informative one.</li> <li>● 22.4 The Secretariat to provide opportunities for the CEPA NFPs to learn more about CEPA tools. This can take place in conjunction with other relevant meeting, such as COPs or, regional meetings as appropriate, or via on-line resources.</li> </ul>

## **Annex 3 of the draft resolution: Terms of reference for the CEPA Coordinating Group (referred to as the CEPA CG)**

### **Part 1 – Their work tasks and work methods**

1. The scope of the CEPA CG will be communication, capacity-building, education, participation and awareness. How to do marketing strategies is also within their field of work.
2. The work of the CEPA CG may include;
  - development of the Convention's work on CEPA for example revising resolutions, plans/programmes, and handbooks and how CEPA issues can be better integrated into all measures of the Convention
  - set priorities, identifying gaps that need to be filled with for CEPA measures
  - co-operate with or give advice on CEPA issues to other Ramsar bodies, especially when it concerns different existing programmes and plans of importance for the Convention, while noting other bodies could include CEPA CG members or other CEPA advisors as members for better sharing of workloads
  - co-operate with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to improve CEPA synergies across Conventions
  
  - capacity building measures for the broad range of wetland professionals and stakeholders
  - examination, monitoring, follow-up and assessments on CEPA issues
  - be in contact with Government and NGO CEPA focal points.
3. The main function of the CEPA CG is to deliver results from specific missions that the resolutions from the latest COP request of the group.
4. The CEPA CG is also to carry out the obligatory work tasks as required by the CEPA CG triennium work cycle;
  - Write the obligatory draft resolution on the CEPA CG for the coming triennium including suitable work tasks for the group (considering the existing Strategic plan and potential drafts for a new one as well as other resolutions and ideas of their own), suggested budget and the composition for the CEPA CG as well as the selected nominees for the CG, and submit it the SC,
  
  - at the end of the triennium, fulfil their part of the process of establishing the CEPA CG for the coming triennium, see Annex 3, part 2B.
  - deliver reports on their work progress to the SC,
  - delivering a short report to the COP on their work for the triennium
5. CEPA CG may undertake complementary work, not requested especially for by the COP or the triennium work cycle, within the frame of their field.
6. The CEPA CG will operate as much as possible through electronic means (e-mail, share-point areas and on-line meetings etc). If funding is available, the CEPA CG may seek to meet face to face during the triennium. Appointed members present at the COP are encouraged to meet at the COP venue for introductions and work for the coming triennium.
7. The CEPA CG should, where appropriate, consult with and seek input from all Government and NGO CEPA Focal Points preferably using on-line tools.

8. The main working language is English.
9. In addition to the person chairing the meeting (Chair or vice Chair), at least three other members of the CEPA CG must be present to constitute a quorum for decisions. When making decisions after correspondence, an absent answer is interpreted as accepting the suggested decision. When decision-making is taking part on a meeting, members that cannot attend are asked to send their input in advance to the members of the group. There will also be a possibility to within a few days respond on a final draft after a meeting if suggested changes during the meeting are many. Then everybody gets a chance to reflect on the outcome during a suitable time during their workday.

## **Part 2 Composition of and the nomination process for the CEPA CG**

### **Part 2A**

#### **Principles for the composition of the CEPA CG**

10. It is recommended to have approximately 10-15 participants in the CEPA CG. If the COP ask the CEPA CG to do more work than suitable for a group of that size the COP have to establish separate working groups on specific CEPA tasks so that there is altogether enough individuals engaged for the CEPA work asked for by the COP.
11. It is recommended that the participants in the CEPA CG have the competence, skills and experience required for the coming triennium's CEPA missions requested by the COP, as well as the on-going tasks for the CEPA CG.
12. It is recommended that the CEPA CG will have representation from all regions.
13. The CEPA CG participants will include a Chair and a Vice chair; it is recommended that they have both CEPA competencies and experience of working with the Convention.
14. It is recommended that the CEPA CG will have a mix of national CEPA Focal points, NGO CEPA focal points, and other kinds of regional representatives with some experience of working with the Convention and having skills in CEPA work. Altogether 10-15 persons are ideal.
15. The Vice chair of the Standing Committee is to participate as an ordinary member of the CEPA CG, or as Chair or Vice Chair if already nominated for such responsibility and having been suggested for that role.
16. It is recommended that the CEPA CG have at least one representative from an IOP, one youth representative and a representative from an organisation for indigenous peoples. If such representation cannot be arranged, such organisations are to be consulted during the work.
17. To ensure institutional memory, preserve experience and guarantee progress, it is recommended to invite members of the CEPA CG from the previous triennium to meetings in the beginning of the new triennium, or ensure that one or two of them are nominated and suggested to become full members of the CEPA CG.
18. The Secretariat will provide ex officio support to the CEPA CG, preferably an officer with education and communication experience.



19. The CEPA CG may engage consultant/-s, subject to available funding, to advise the CEPA CG where special expertise is not available within the group, for example, experts from behavioural economics and psychology.

#### **Part 2B Procedures for the nomination process for the CEPA CG**

20. The CEPA CG suggest a composition and size of the future triennium's CEPA CG in their draft resolution on CEPA for the coming triennium, the suggestion on the composition/-s are based upon the principles under 2A (para 10-19). The draft resolution is submitted to the SC before the deadline for new draft resolutions.
21. The CEPA CG analyses how the other submitted draft resolutions address the CEPA CG and if they request them to do different tasks. This analyse may result in a revised draft resolution that is presented to the SC.
22. The SC decides on the suggested preliminary composition for the CEPA CG the next triennium as presented in the draft resolution or as they see it fit to change the draft.
23. The Secretariat addresses the CPs, IOPs and other relevant stakeholders asking for nominations according to the SC-decision on the preliminary composition as described in the DR according to the view of the SC and compiles the nominations. They submit their compilation to the CEPA CG.
24. The CEPA CG suggests a composition based upon the mixture of competence needed. The result is either included in the CEPA resolution for the coming triennium just before being published for the COP, and if more time is needed, at the COP. The suggestion should also include the possibility to add the Vice chair of the Standing Committee as a member when that role is filled, (unless that country is already suggested to be part of the CEPA CG).
25. During the regional meetings at the COP the suggestion from the CEPA CG on the new CEPA CG composition and selection of nominees are presented. The COP negotiate the draft resolution and the final revision includes the composition chosen as well as how it is filled with the selected nominees.
26. If there is a surplus of nominees, these can be invited to take part of the CEPA CG as observers.

#### **Part 2C Temporary or permanently replacement of CEPA CG members**

27. If there are members of the CEPA CG that are soon to retire, on long-term sick leave, change work tasks or workplaces or are on temporary leave they can be replaced by another individual. Firstly it is the parting member that suggests its replacements. The new member must be able to represent approximately same qualifications as the previous member that they replace. No new nominations will be necessary, but the change has to be accepted by the CEPA CG. If for some reason that isn't possible, the CEPA CG will have to try to find a replacement.

## Annex 3

### Proposed draft resolution “The Ramsar bodies CEPA work COP14-COP15”

*Suggested to the SC by the CEPA OP*

#### **Action requested:**

- i, The Standing Committee is invited to review the suggested attached Draft Resolution and adopt it as its own for submission to and for consideration by the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
- ii, The Standing Committee is invited to make the following suggested decision: The SC decides that the Secretariat and the CEPA OP is to prepare the nomination process as described in this document, so that the decision on the new CEPA OP (possible CEPA CG) can be suggested by the CEPA OP before the COP14, and then established at the COP14 by the suggested resolution XIV. ~~xx~~ The new CEPA approach.

#### **Introduction**

1. The CEPA OP have chosen to draw up a draft resolution on everything that is of importance for the CEPA CG (proposed name) for the time between COP14-COP15. This is to include focus in their work, budget and composition and will be valid until replaced by a new resolution with the similar theme at COP15.
2. At SC57 it was decided that the nomination process for CEPA OP needs to take place earlier during the triennium, so as not to lose nearly a year before starting work. The CEPA OP have, in their suggested draft resolution on governance, suggested a process for how this can be achieved. The CEPA OP also suggest that this process can be applied when establishing the CEPA CG for COP14-COP15, since nothing in existing decisions prevents it.
3. The suggested SC-decision will be executed as follows if accepted by the SC59 (II) in May 2022;
  - The Secretariat invites CPs to nominate persons for the CEPA OP (that may change its name at COP14) according to the composition suggested in this DR, and also highlighting that existing DRs in published SC-document can give an indication of the work task to come. Also noting that this is made with the purpose of being prepared as much as possible independently of the outcome from the COP14.
  - CP's and IOPs submit their nominations.
  - The Secretariat compiles a table of the nominees and important data about them (for example CEPA skills, Ramsar experience, the role/-s they are nominated for, region and gender). The table is preferably to be made in excel to facilitate quick sorting.
  - The CEPA OP meets and compiles their suggestions of what nominees are to be included in the DR on CEPA OP for the next triennium.
  - The Secretariat replace the “roles” in this DR with the representatives suggested by the CEPA OP. Then the resolution is published, (or a Rev\_1 of it, if there is delay).

*Financial implications of implementation*

4. The applying of the new procedure for establishing the CEPA CG need not cause any additional costs compared with the old one. However, the Secretariat will need to be much more involved in CEPA work, for example to revise the handbook on CEPA and the consolidation of old Convention decisions. Depending on what ambition the COP14 decides upon at COP14 the budget will change accordingly. The hiring of an additional Secretariat staff officer or a consultant responsible for CEPA aspects is also required to ensure delivery of CEPA actions during at least the coming inter-COP period. The CEPA OP strongly support the creation of this role.

<i>Paragraph (nr/key part of text)</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Cost (CHF)</i> <i>Secretariat has been asked to provide information on staff costs, but the CEPA OP has not got any answer.</i>
Para 4-5	New timetable for establishment of CEPA CG	No additional costs compared with today's procedure
Para 6-7	The Secretariat to revise the CEPA Handbook and engage more in CEPA implementation	Using the additional CEPA staff asked for in the resolution on the new approach.
	Recruitment process for an additional Communication Officer	Cost of recruitment
All in both suggested draft resolutions on CEPA	New CEPA post at the Ramsar Secretariat	Cost of a staff member
Para 7	Workshop for the CEPA CG	Coverage for parts of the CEPA CG participants travel costs, to arranged workshop altogether 20 000 CHF.

## Draft Resolution XIV.¶¶ on the CEPA Working Group COP14-15

1. AWARE of the need to establish the CEPA CG in time for it to start its work early in the triennium, and to have a compilation of what the CEPA CG is supposed to focus on during the coming triennium;
2. ALSO AWARE of the need to have all CEPA issues that are valid for the single inter-COP periods gathered in one resolution that may be retired in full when the period is over;
3. AWARE that the workload of the CEPA CG and the Secretariat to start implementing the new CEPA approach is huge and cannot be done at once, ALSO AWARE that it is better to plan the implementation of the new CEPA approach after it has been decided by the COP14 and the Strategic Plan WG having started their work;

### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

#### *Basic information on the resolution and other resolutions related to it*

4. STATES that this resolution on CEPA is only containing information on what is specific for the period between COP14-COP15 and that decisions of long-lived character are part of the resolutions XIV.¶¶ The new *CEPA approach* that is to be applied as well.
5. DECIDES that this resolution is to be valid until replaced by a new resolution for the COP15-COP16 period at COP15.

#### *The CEPA CG for the COP14-COP15 period*

6. DECIDES that the composition of the CEPA CG until the end of COP15 will be the following, (country is not being restricted to governmental representatives, it can be anyone nominated by a Contracting Party and prepared to do both the CEPA work and the regional representation);
  - \* Chair - (*country*)
  - \* Vice Chair - (*country*)
  - \* One regional representative Africa - (*country*)
  - \* One regional representative Asia - (*country*)
  - \* One regional representative Europe - (*country*)
  - \* One regional representative North America - (*country*)
  - \* One regional representative Oceania - (*country*)
  - \* One regional representative South America and the Caribbean - (*country*)
  - \* One representative 1 NFP CEPA NGOs - (*country/organisation*)
  - \* One representative 2 NFP CEPA NGOs - (*country/organisation*)
  - \* One representative 1 IOP - (*organisation*)
7. DECIDES that the Standing Committee's Vice chair is to be included in the CEPA CG as soon as the role have been filled, if not already nominated in para 6.
8. DECIDES that the tasks that the CEPA CG and the Secretariat will undertake to implement the new CEPA approach will start to be implemented with a focus on the tasks listed in Annex 1.

9. DECIDES to increase the budget for CEPA in the Convention budget until COP15. Funds are to be used for the revised handbook on CEPA and for being able to hold a workshop for the CEPA CG participants undertaking prioritised work tasks.
10. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to employ one more staff member to work on CEPA issues, main tasks for such person could be to be involved in consolidation of old decisions, supporting the CEPA focal point network, advising other bodies of Ramsar and other MEAs, revising the handbook and to offer support to supporting / developing CEPA project at country, region and global levels and increase the capacity building;

**Annex 1 of the draft resolution: Main CEPA work tasks for the CEPA CG and other Convention bodies until COP15**

1. The table below show the most prioritised CEPA work tasks for the CEPA CG, the STRP, the Strategic plan WG and the Secretariat to focus on until COP15.

<b>Priority tasks</b>	<b>Main responsible</b>	<b>Support by</b>
Revising the CEPA handbook, making its content more focused on practical CEPA implementation approach (for example including more on capacity-building, outreach activities, involving local communities, how to address different target audiences) instead of once focussing on Ramsar Convention resolution information.	Secretariat	CEPA CG
Re-establish the co-operation with the Scientific and Technical part of the Convention, supporting with CEPA knowledge and skills.	CEPA CG	The STRP
Make a plan on what other activities the CEPA CG may prioritise until COP15 as their way to start implementing the new approach	CEPA CG	Secretariat
Make a plan on what other activities the Secretariat may prioritise until COP15 as their way to start implementing the new approach	Secretariat	CEPA CG
Do a consolidation process for old decisions about CEPA	Secretariat	CEPA CG
Ensure that implementation of the CEPA tasks are properly integrated into the New Strategic Plan	Strategic plan WG	CEPA CG