

**Communication, capacity building, education, participation
and awareness (CEPA):
Report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel**

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the present report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel.

Background

1. This report of the Chair provides an overview of the work which has been carried out by the CEPA Oversight Panel since COP14.
2. Pursuant to Resolution XIV.8 on *The new CEPA Approach*¹ and in accordance with Resolution IX.18 on *Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention*², the Secretariat invited nominations for the CEPA Oversight Panel. Following the nomination process, the Standing Committee intersessionally approved the composition of the CEPA Oversight Panel for the 2023-2025 triennium³. Gabon as the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee serves as the Chair of the Panel.

Work undertaken by the Panel

3. A first virtual meeting of the Panel took place on 30 March 2023. During this meeting Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust was selected as Vice-Chair. During the meeting the Secretariat briefed members on the new CEPA approach as adopted in Resolution XIV.8. The Panel then discussed the development of its work plan for the triennium and agreed that a drafting group would prepare the work plan.
4. The drafting group met on 10 May to discuss the draft work plan that had been prepared by the Chair and Vice-Chair. The drafting group further refined the work plan which was then shared with the Panel for endorsement prior to presentation to SC62. This work plan for the current triennium is presented to SC62 for its information as document SC62 Doc.16.2.
5. The Panel is planning its next meeting, to be held in July 2023, to discuss synergies between the CEPA Oversight Panel and other Convention work streams, and implementation of the work plan.

¹ See <https://ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiv8-the-new-cepa-approach>.

² See <https://ramsar.org/document/resolution-ix18-establishment-of-an-oversight-panel-for-the-cepa-activities-of-the>.

³ For the Panel's membership, see <https://ramsar.org/about/current-standing-committee-2023-2025-members>.