

RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
 17th Meeting of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP)
 25 February–March 2013, Gland, Switzerland

DOC. STRP17-02

STRP17 – Annex II

17th Meeting of Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) 25 February to 1 March 2013, Gland, Switzerland

Annotated Agenda

Notes.

1. The main work of this first STRP meeting of the 2013-2015 cycle must be to review tasks requested of it in [Resolution XI.17](#), agree which appointed STRP members will lead oversight of implementation of tasks under each XI.17 theme/sub-theme, establish the initial (core) membership of any thematic or task-specific working groups, and further develop the STRP's proposed 2013-2015 Work Plan, including task costings, and task implementation processes.
2. This work plan needs to be transmitted for approval to the Standing Committee, at its 46th meeting in April 2013. Note that since all Standing Committee documents must be provided to the Committee at least one month prior to the opening of its meetings for SC46 this deadline is Friday 8 March 2013. This means that there is only one week following the close of STRP17 to finalise the draft work plan to submit to SC46.
3. So as to facilitate the Panel's work in preparing its 2013-2015 work plan the Secretariat is preparing a working draft compiled from the Top Priority task draft pro-formas provided to COP11 as [COP11 DOC. 21](#) and the full task list adopted in [Annex 2](#) to COP11 Resolution XI.17. The Panel and the working groups it established will need to review and update/amend each of these task descriptions during (or at latest immediately after) STRP17. Note that whilst many of the task descriptions were unamended by COP11 decisions, others have significantly changed from the descriptions provided in [COP11 DOC.21](#) (e.g., those on the Ramsar Information Sheet–2012 revision, and on wetlands and climate change).
4. In preparing its draft work plan, the Panel should focus its attention on the Top Priority tasks requested of it. Further development of task pro-formas for Lower Priority tasks should be done only if and when the Panel has identified a way of progressing any such task within its capacity (e.g., through the lead work of a partner organization).
5. So as to assist the Secretariat in seeking additional voluntary contributions needed to implement the Panel's Work Plan for this triennium, the Panel may wish to consider identifying, from the 22 Top Priority tasks, a small number of these tasks which it considers essential to be resourced and delivered during the 2013-2015 triennium.
6. When reviewing each task, under its *modus operandi* the Panel is required to first "evaluate and assess any relevant work already in existence, in order to avoid duplication" of work, and all STRP17 participants will be invited to contribute to this through their knowledge of and involvement in other such organizations and initiatives.
7. For each of the themes/sub-themes of the Panel's tasks (agenda items 11-23 below) the Secretariat here provides a summary of a) work and products delivered by the STRP in the last triennium; b) any products being prepared in the last triennium which are yet to be finalized; and c) a note of other relevant work by other organizations of which the Secretariat is aware.
8. In developing the processes for the delivery of its Work Plan tasks the Panel should also be mindful of the

requirement in the *modus operandi* (paragraph 14) that a first step should usually be to prepare a Scientific & Technical Briefing Note outlining the issue and its relevance to the implementation of the Convention (especially when considering a new or emerging issue), and invite feedback from Contracting Parties before giving consideration to bringing such issues formally through Draft Resolutions to COP.

9. All products previously prepared through the STRP are available from the Ramsar Web-site as follows:
- i. **Ramsar ‘Wise Use’ Handbooks, 4th edition 2010.** Contain thematically compiled guidance for Contracting Parties and others adopted by COPs, with relevant supporting materials:
http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-handbooks-handbooks4-e/main/ramsar/1-30-33%5E21323_4000_0.
 - ii. **Ramsar Technical Reports (RTRs):** http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-reports-tech-rpts/main/ramsar/1-30-99%5E21374_4000_0.
 - iii. **Scientific & Technical Briefing Notes (BN):** http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-notes/main/ramsar/1-30-168_4000_0.
 - iv. **STRP Newsletters:** http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strp-strp-archive-strp-archives/main/ramsar/1-31-111-465%5E24716_4000_0.
 - v. **Other STRP materials:** http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strp/main/ramsar/1-31-111_4000_0.
 - vi. **Resolutions adopted by Conferences of Contracting Parties (COP):**
http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol/main/ramsar/1-31-107_4000_0.

Monday 25 February 2013

0900-1300 Plenary

0900-0915 1. Welcome & opening comments

The STRP Chair, Royal Gardner and Deputy Secretary General (DSG) Nick Davidson will welcome participants.

0915-0945 2. Introductions

The STRP Chair will invite each STRP member, invited expert and observer to very briefly introduce themselves. A short biography of STRP members and invited experts is provided in DOC. [STRP17-04](#). Observer Organisation representatives may be invited to submit similar short biographies.

0945-0950 3. Adoption of the Agenda

[DOC. STRP17-01](#) Draft outline Agenda will be adopted, subject to any proposed amendments.

0950-1050 4. Briefing on the Ramsar Convention and STRP

4.1 Overview of Convention processes

The DSG will give a brief overview of the different bodies and processes of the Convention, and their inter-relationships.

Supporting documents:

Presentation: [Overview of the Ramsar Convention's Processes](#) (Nick Davidson, Deputy Secretary General (DSG)).

4.2 STRP *modus operandi*, roles and responsibilities and draft TOR

The DSG will briefly introduce key features of the [STRP *modus operandi* 2013-2015](#) and the main roles and responsibilities of the Panel. The Panel will be invited to consider for approval the draft Terms of Reference for the Panel and each of the different categories of STRP participants (DOC. STRP17-03). This document has been prepared by the Secretariat at the request of the STRP Chair.

4.3 Objectives and outcomes for STRP17

The STRP Chair will outline the work expected of the Panel during STRP17.

4.4 Launch of new STRP web-portal and workspace

The Scientific & Technical Support Officer, Ms Marcela Bonells will present the new STRP web-portal and workspace (to replace the previous STRP Support Service web-site) designed to facilitate the intersessional work of the Panel. The new system includes a 'closed' password-protected Workspace, and an 'open' Web-Portal' to provide to the wider audience more information on STRP's activities and products.

Supporting documents:

Presentation: [STRP Platform Update](#) (Marcela Bonells, Scientific & Technical Support Officer).

1050-1120 5. Briefing on the implications for STRP of, and roles in, review for "Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention" (Resolution XI.16)

The DSG and STRP Chair will explain the background to the development and adoption of this COP11 Resolution, how the work will be progressed and its implications for the work of the Panel.

Supporting documents:

Presentation: [Overview and Background of Resolution XI. 16, "Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention"](#) (Nick Davidson, DSG).

1120-1135 6. Briefing on other relevant issues and topics for the work of STRP (e.g., Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements' (MEAs) collaboration; Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, etc.)

The DSG and others will outline some of the ongoing working relationships between the Panel and its Chair and other processes, including collaborations with other multilateral agreements (MEAs) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). STRP's specific requested tasks concerning engagement with the IPBES will be addressed under agenda item 12.

1135-1200 7. Background and overview of Resolution XI.17 themes, tasks and priorities

The STRP Chair will provide a brief overview of the Panel's themes of work, specific tasks and their priorities, as adopted in [Annex 2](#) to Resolution XI.17.

Supporting documents:

Presentation: [Overview of Resolution XI. 17: themes, tasks and priorities](#)

1200-1250 8. Establishment of Thematic and task Working Groups, their leads and their core membership, and agreement on any other processes needed

Under its *modus operandi*, the Panel is expected to progress its work tasks under different themes and sub-themes by establishing thematic working groups, led (or co-led) by appointed Panel Members. Membership of working groups can be, *inter alia*, other appointed STRP Members, Observer Organisation representatives, STRP NFPs with relevant expertise and other invited experts with relevant expertise.

Draft Terms of Reference for Working Groups are provided in DOC. STRP17-03.

In turn, a working group can decide to establish a ‘task group’ to progress a specific top priority task in the Panel’s work plan.

STRP Members have been requested to indicate to the STRP Chair and Secretariat for which themes they are willing to lead (or co-lead) and for which they would participate, in relation to their areas of expertise. Representatives of STRP Observer Organisations and invited experts will be invited under this agenda item to likewise indicate their willingness to participate in working groups. Observer Organisation representatives should also help to identify other relevant experts from their organizations to participate in working groups.

Concerning a number of tasks under different themes relating to wetland ecological character, please refer to [DOC. STRP17-05](#) for possible options of an additional working group on these tasks.

Supporting documents:

Presentations:

- [Preliminary composition of Working Groups](#) (Royal Gardner, STRP Chair).
- [Overview of theme 7 – Wetland ecological character & change in ecological character](#) (Nick Davidson, DSG).

Themes for 2013-2015 (Resolution XI.17) are:

- CEPA
- Strategic, emerging and ongoing issues
- Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring & reporting
- Wetlands of International Importance
- Ramsar, wetlands and other sectors:
 - Wetlands and human health;
 - Wetlands and climate change;
 - Wetlands and water resource management;
 - Wetlands and agriculture;
 - Wetlands and poverty eradication;
 - Wetlands and urbanization;
 - Wetlands and tourism;
 - Wetlands and energy; and
- Wetlands & ecosystem services

1250-1300 9. Review of available task implementation funds, and funds needed

The DSG will give a brief overview of the provisional estimates of funds needed to deliver Top Priority and Lower Priority Tasks, and the current status of any available funds for STRP task implementation. It should also be noted that under the terms of [Resolution XI.16](#) the Standing

Committee at its 46th meeting in April 2013 may determine to re-allocate STRP core budget funds for the delivery of work under that Resolution.

Supporting Documents:

Presentation: [Overview of STRP funds for the 2013-2015 triennium](#) (Nick Davidson, DSG).

1300-1400 **Lunch**

1400-1800 **Plenary**

1400-1430 **10. Briefing for Working Groups on outcomes & products needed, and procedures to be followed**

It is planned that initial review and discussion of tasks under each 2013-2015 theme (and sub-theme) will take place in plenary sessions, but that as needed break-out rooms will be available for thematic working groups (or specific task groups) to work in parallel on task drafting for the 2013-2015 work plan.

To facilitate the Panel and its working groups in finalizing its draft work plan, the Secretariat is preparing standard draft task pro-formas for Top Priority and Lower Priority tasks under each theme/sub-theme, derived from [COP11 DOC. 21](#) and Resolution XI.17 [Annex 2](#).

Under each of the following thematic agenda items the Panel should first evaluate and assess any relevant work already in existence, in order to avoid duplication” of work, and then focus discussion on issues concerning Top Priority tasks under the theme, before identifying if there are ways and means of progressing any Lower Priority tasks.

It is anticipated that working group leads/co-leads, with the STRP Chair, would lead each thematic agenda item discussion, following a short introductory briefing by the Secretariat.

When designing task delivery and schedules, it is important to keep in mind that any outputs such as Draft Resolutions and guidelines which will be submitted to COP12 will need to be delivered to the Secretariat not later than November/December 2014. This is so that they can be prepared by the Secretariat and submitted to the Standing Committee for approval at its 48th meeting, which is anticipated to take place in January/February 2015. (See also the information provided under agenda item 28 below on meeting timings.)

Note also that for any such materials from the STRP, the Panel should also have prepared a Scientific & Technical Briefing Note and/or COP Information Paper to be available at the same time.

1430-1600 **11. Tasks review & development: CEPA**

Lead: Christine Prietto (appointed CEPA expert member)

Top Priority tasks:

- i. Assessing and supporting capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties and wetland managers in applying Ramsar guidance** (Task No.1/2013-15)

Notes. Lower priority *wetlands and energy* task: Capacity building for energy sector regulatory oversight (2013-15/58) also relevant.

The Secretariat has recently prepared a short animated PowerPoint to help Parties with preparing Updates to Ramsar Information Sheets, which provides an example of one model for such capacity-building. The approach developed by CITES of an on-line ‘virtual college’ should also be considered.

ii. Capacity-building support for STRP National Focal Points (Task No. 2a/2013-15)

Note. The Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia in Changwon, republic of Korea, is planning a workshop later in 2013 for STRP National Focal Points from the Asia region. The Centre's representative will outline what is planned.

iii. STRP communication & dissemination support (Task No. 3a/2013-15): **web platform**

Note. See agenda item 4.4

iv. STRP communication & dissemination support (Task No. 3b/2013-15): **newsletters*****Lower Priority tasks:*****i. STRP communication & dissemination support** (Task No. 3d/2013-15): **STRP NFPs bulletin****ii. CEPA advice on guidance preparation** (Task No. 4/2013-15)

Note. Although indicated as Lower Priority, this role should be regarded as an essential part of the scoping and development of all tasks.

iii. Waterbird flyway initiatives - knowledge sharing (Task No. 5/2013-15)

Note. Following a workshop of waterbird flyway initiative practitioners in late 2011 (report published as [RTR No. 8](#)), a Global Interflyway Network (GIN) was agreed to be established, and electronic networking mechanisms are being considered.

STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:

STRP Newsletters: 11 issues since 2009. See the latest on:
http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/strp/STRP_Newsletter2012_2.pdf.

Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:

To be identified.

1600-1800 12. Tasks review & development: Strategic, emerging and ongoing issues

At the opening of this agenda item, the STRP Chair will invite each of the Secretariat's Senior Regional Advisors to comment briefly on the perspectives from their region on a) the top priority tasks and b) any new or emerging issues which may need the Panel's consideration.

Lead: STRP Chair

Top Priority tasks:**i. Strategic and technical advice: Strategic, sectoral and/or ongoing issues** (Tasks No. 6 & 9/2013-15)**ii. Ongoing ad hoc advisory functions** (Task No. 7/2013-15)**iii. Review of COP Draft Resolutions from Parties** (Task No. 8/2013-15)

Notes. A summary list of such issues identified in the 2009-2012 triennium in the STRP's Work

Plan is provided in the Annex to this Annotated Agenda.

The 'horizon scanning' for shorebirds paper listed below may also provide a source for possible other new and emerging issues for wetlands, and a possible model for developing such an approach for coastal and inland wetlands.

v. Invasive species and wetlands (Task No. 10/2013-15)

Notes. The last attention to invasive species by the Convention was at COP8 (2002) which adopted [Resolution VIII.18](#) on *Invasive species and wetlands*. To accompany this, during the 1999-2002 triennium, the STRP (with task lead IUCN) had prepared a guide to the available guidance on invasive species and wetlands, for wetland managers, which was intended to be provided to COP8 as a Information Paper. However, this document was withdrawn at the stage of its consideration by the Standing Committee prior to COP8, owing to issues concerning due process in the adoption by CBD COP of guidelines on invasive species. Under this task the STRP should revisit that earlier draft guidance document and consider how it could be updated and made available to parties.

vi. Engagement with IPBES (Task No. 13/2013-15)

Notes. The Secretariat will brief on the current progress with IPBES development and Ramsar engagement. [Resolution XI.6](#) expects that the STRP and the Secretariat will prepare 'interim guidelines' for future engagement including mechanisms for transmitting requests for assessments. The Panel should consider how and when such guidelines should be prepared.

Lower Priority tasks:

i. Reviewing topicality of adopted guidances (Task No. 11/2013-15)

Note. The CEPA Oversight Panel has a task in its 2013-2015 Work Plan to review and as necessary consolidate and update the adopted guidance on participatory management planning adopted by COP7 and (see Ramsar [Handbook 7. Participatory skills](#)).

ii. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (Task No. 12/2013-15)

iii. Harmonised MEA information systems and on-line Convention reporting mechanisms (Tasks No. 14 & 23/2013-15)

Notes. a) the new RSIS will include an on-line submission system for Ramsar Site designations and updates. b) an on-line National Reporting platform has been developed by UNEP-WCMC for CMS and AEWAs, and the UNEP Information & Knowledge Management (IKM) initiative, in which Ramsar Secretariat participates, has recently established a technical working group on on-line reporting to explore options and benefits of extending this platform to other MEAs.

This task was very closely related to task No 23/2013-15, *Implementing harmonized MEA information systems at the national level*. Thus, the Panel decided merging the two tasks.

iv. Input of Regional Initiatives experience to STRP work (Task No. 15/2013-15)

v. Exchange of information with other MEAs' subsidiary bodies, including through CSAB (Task No. 16/2013-15)

Note. The STRP Chair is a member of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB) of biodiversity-related MEAs, convened periodically by the CBD Secretariat.

vi. Review of available guidance on sustainable investment in relation to wetlands (Task No. 17/2013-15)

Supporting documents

Presentations:

- Regional Perspectives: [Africa](#) (Paul Ouédraogo, Ramsar SRA), [Americas](#) (María Rivera,

Ramsar SRA), [Asia-Oceania](#) (Lew Young, Ramsar SRA), [Europe](#) (Tobias Salathé, Ramsar SRA)

- [Overview of Theme 2 – Strategic, emerging and ongoing issues](#) (Royal Gardner, STRP Chair)

STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:

Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:

A horizon scanning assessment of current and potential future threats facing migratory shorebirds. 2012. Sutherland, W.E., Alves, J.A., Amano, T., Chang, C.H., Davidson, N.C., Finlayson, C.M., Gill, J.A., Gill, R.E. Jr., Gonzalez, P.M., Gunnarson, T.G., Kleijn, D.K., Spray, C.J., Szekely, T. & Thompson, D.B.A. *Ibis* 154: 663-679. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1474-919X.2012.01261.x/pdf>.

UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/34 Operational Plan for Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership.

Tuesday 26 February 2013

1000-1300 Plenary

1000-1130 13. Task review & development: Wetlands of International Importance

Top Priority task:

- Implementation of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision** (Task No. 25a/ 2013-15)

Notes. Task lead is Secretariat, with advice from STRP. The Secretariat (Alexia Dufour) will give a short presentation on the progress in redesigning and redeveloping the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) and database, so as to prepare for handling data from the RIS – 2012 revision by 1 January 2015.

Lower Priority tasks:

- RIS and guidance – further development** (Task No. 25b/2013-15) includes: a) further guidance on defining Ramsar Site boundaries; b) consideration of scope for further modifying RIS – 2012 revision to record ecological character change, and c) issues for small wetlands as Ramsar Sites and zoning of Sites.

Notes. Concerning b) although a Lower Priority task it is urgent to resolve so as to transmit advice for Standing Committee approval in April 2013, otherwise the timely redevelopment of the RSIS will be compromised. STRP Invited Expert David Stroud is providing a short options paper ([DOC. STRP17-06](#)), which will be introduced as the basis of discussion.

- Ramsar Sites and ecosystem benefits/services** (Task No. 26/2013-15)

Notes. It may be more appropriate to move this task to combine with the closely-related but not Ramsar Site-specific task under the “Wetlands and ecosystem services/benefits” theme (Tasks No. 59a/2013-15).

- Understanding national Site designation processes and impediments to national Ramsar Site networks** (Task No. 27/2013-15)

- Target development to support the objectives for the Ramsar List** (Task No. 28/2013-15)

Notes. This task recognizes its contribution to the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” established in the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*, and specifically Target 11 concerning protected areas, with by 2020 at least 17% of inland water areas and 10% of coastal and marine areas protected.

v. **Ramsar Site criteria and identification of globally significant areas for biodiversity**
(Tasks No. 29 & 30/2013-15)

Notes. STRP's role is to provide input to The IUCN-WCPA/SSC led initiative on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA). The Secretariat (DSG) has also provided some input to its discussions. The next meeting of the Initiative is in 11-15 March 2013 in Washington DC, at which it will discuss criteria and delineation. The Panel may wish to identify a lead representative to contribute to this work.

Task No. 30 relates to implications for and input from Ramsar in relation to CBD Decision X/31. It may be most effectively delivered through the work of the IUCN WCPA/SSC KBAs initiative, which is also aimed at responding to that CBD Decision.

Supporting documents

Presentations:

- [Ramsar Sites Information Service \(RSIS\) and database redevelopment](#) (Alexia Dufour, Ramsar regional affairs officer)
- [Overview of Theme 4 – Wetlands of International Importance](#) (Lars Dinesen, STRP member, & David Stroud, STRP invited expert)

STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:

Major restructuring of Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RIS) and *Strategic Framework and guidelines* for Ramsar Site designation, adopted as COP11 [Resolution XI.8](#) and its Annexes.

Pending finalization:

RTR on *Population estimates and 1% thresholds for the application of Criterion 9 for Ramsar Site designation*

RTR on *The Convention's development of Criteria and guidelines for Ramsar Site designation 1971-2012*

Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:

The IUCN-WCPA/SSC led initiative on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs).

CBD programme of identification of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). See: http://www.cbd.int/marine/doc/ebsa-brochure-2012-en.pdf?bcsi_scan_F3293F689D82B9C2=C3DxP1YfIOHaCLXKdjJRTVk/8q8bAAAAq/kLAg==&bcsi_scan_filename=ebsa-brochure-2012-en.pdf.

1130-1300 **14. Task review & development: Wetlands & health**

Top Priority tasks:

- i. **Guidance on “Wetlands and human health” for the health sector** (Task No. 31/2013-15)

Lower Priority tasks:

- i. **Wetlands and human health case studies** (Task No. 32/2013-15)
- ii. **Ramsar Wetland Diseases Manual** (Tasks No. 33 & 39/2013-15)
- iii. **Development of wetland & health indicators** (Task No. 34/2013-15)

- iv. **Combined Task under Ecosystem Services Working Group: Guidance on health implications of ecosystem** (Tasks No. 35 & 37/2013-15)
- v. **Conversion of previous triennium products into Ramsar materials: Review of Ramsar guidance in relation to human health and encouraging ecosystem approaches to health issues– Healthy Wetlands Briefing Note** (Tasks No. 36 & 40/2013-15)
- vii. **Guidance for wetland managers on human and animal health impact, burden of disease and community health assessments, in wetlands** (Task No. 38/2013-15)

Supporting documents

Presentation: [Overview of sub-theme 5.1 – Wetlands & health](#) (Pierre Horwitz, STRP member).

STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2013 triennium:

[RTR6](#). 2012. *Healthy wetlands, healthy people: a review of wetlands & human health interactions* (joint with World Health Organisation (WHO)).

[RTR7](#). 2012. *Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual: guidelines for assessing, monitoring and management of animal diseases in wetlands*.

[Resolution XI.12](#). *Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach*.

Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:

Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)-facilitated *Wildlife Diseases Task Force* (Ramsar is a member, represented by Ruth Cromie, Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) – an STRP Invited Expert for 2013-2015).

At a recent (January 2013) major health conference in Bangkok, a session looked at what different MEAs have on their agendas on ecosystems and human health, with a view to establishing information exchange and coordination mechanisms.

1300-1400 **Lunch**

1400-1800 **Plenary**

1400-1530 **15. Task review & development: Wetlands and climate change**

Top Priority tasks:

- i. **Implications of, and advice on, climate change for Convention implementation** (Task No. 41/2013-15)

Note. CBD COP11 [Decision XI/19](#) includes text relevant to implementing element iv. c of this task. The Panel may wish to consider reviewing that adopted text and advising on its relevance to Ramsar implementation.

Lower Priority tasks:

- i. **Ramsar Sites boundary migration in response to sea level rise and other climate change effects** (Task No. 42/2013-15)

Note. This task has now been completed with the publication in late 2012 of the [Scientific & Technical Briefing Note No. 5](#). Evaluating the risk to Ramsar Sites from climate change induced sea level rise.

<i>Supporting documents</i>
<p>Presentation: Overview of sub-theme 5.2 – Wetlands & climate change (Max Finlayson, STRP invited expert).</p>
<i>STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:</i>
<p>RTR5. 2011. <i>A Framework for assessing the vulnerability of wetlands to climate change</i>.</p> <p>Scientific & Technical Briefing Note No. 5. 2012. <i>Evaluating the risk to Ramsar Sites from climate change induced sea level rise</i>.</p> <p>COP11 Resolution XI.14. <i>Climate change and wetlands</i>.</p> <p>COP11 DOC. 32 <i>Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</i>.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Pending completion:</i></p> <p>RTR: <i>Methods and models for assessing the role of wetlands in the global carbon cycle</i>.</p>
Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:
<p>Danone Fund for Nature. 2010. <i>Achieving Carbon Offsets through Mangroves and Other Wetlands</i>. November 2009 Expert Workshop Meeting Report, ed. Nick Davidson. Danone Group/IUCN/ Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland. 87 pp.</p> <p>IPCC Government and Expert Review of the Second Order Draft (SOD) of the “2013 Supplement to 2006 IPCC Guidelines on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands”. Review period to 7 April 2013 (chapter 2 only to 14 April 2013). Experts wishing to review the document can register on: http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/forms/wetlandsreview_registration.html.</p> <p>IPCC's 5th Assessment Report (AR5), will be released over the coming 18 months: WG1 (physical science basis) end of March 2014; WG2 (impacts, adaptation & vulnerability) mid-April 2014; WG3 (mitigation) end of October 2014.</p> <p>CBD COP11 Decision XI/19. Biodiversity and climate change related issues ... [includes advice on the application of relevant safeguards for biodiversity with regard to policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries – relevant to task 2013-2015/41 iv. c.]</p> <p>Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Marine and Coastal Ecosystems. 2009. Hale, L.Z., Meliane, I., Davidson, S., Sandwith, T., Beck, M., Hoekstra, J., Spalding, M., Marawski, S., Cyr, N., Osgood, K., Hatziolos, M., van Eijk, P., Davidson, N., Eichbaum, W., Creus, C., Obura, D., Tamelander, J., Herr, D., McClennen, C. & Marshall, P. <i>Renewable Resources Journal</i> 25(4): 21-28.</p>

1530-1700 16. Task review & development: Wetlands & water resource management

<i>Top Priority tasks:</i>
<p>i. The role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle (Task No. 43/2013-15)</p> <p><i>Note.</i> This task initiated jointly by CBD and Ramsar Secretariats with the STRP has now been substantively delivered, with a summary report provided to CBD COP11 in October 2012 as an information paper. The representative of the CBD Secretariat will clarify what further steps are planned for the completion of this work.</p>

ii. **Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of strategy for engaging in the global water debate** (Task No. 44/2013-15)

iii. **Environmental water allocation for wetlands – guidance** (Task No. 45/2013-15)

Lower Priority tasks:

None

Supporting documents

Presentation: [Overview of sub-theme 5.3 – Wetlands & water resource management](#) (Eugenio Barrios (IOP representative, WWF) and Patrick MacQuarrie (IOP representative, IUCN)).

STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:

[Scientific & Technical Briefing Note No. 2](#). 2012. *Wetlands and water storage: current and future trends and issues.*

[RTR No. 9](#). 2012. *Determination and implementation of environmental water requirements for estuaries.*

Pending completion:

RTR on *River Basin Management: critical path application case studies.*

RTR on *Environmental flow determination and implementation.*

RTR on *Determining environmental water requirements for rivers.*

Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:

UNEP/CBD/COP/11/30 Summary Report of the Work of the Expert Group on Maintaining the Ability of Biodiversity to Continue to Support the Water Cycle.

World Wetlands Day 2013 pamphlet: [Wetlands take care of water](#). Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

Current post-2015 consultations on water and Sustainable Development Goals.

IUCN and the [International Water Association \(IWA\)](#) have launched the [Nexus Dialogue on Water Infrastructure Solutions](#). Recognition of the interaction between water, energy and food production and use has led to new demands for water infrastructure and technology solutions. For more information on this collaboration and opportunities for participation, visit the Nexus Dialogue's [website](#).

Others to be identified, including from the work of UN-Water and the UNECE water convention.

1700-1800 **17. Task review & development: Wetlands & agriculture**

Top Priority tasks:

i. **Wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture** (Task No. 46/2013-15)

Notes. COP9 [Resolution IX.4](#). The *Ramsar Convention and conservation, production and sustainable use of fisheries resources* contain some material on issues concerning aquaculture.

<p><i>Lower Priority tasks:</i></p> <p>i. Impacts of agricultural practices on rice paddies as wetland systems (Task No. 47/2013-15)</p> <p><i>Notes.</i> See also COP11 Resolution XI.15. <i>Agriculture-wetland interactions: rice paddy and pest control.</i></p> <p>ii. Re-engineering agricultural landscapes (Task No. 48/2013-15)</p> <p>iii. Wetlands and biofuels (Task No. 49/2013-15)</p> <p><i>Supporting documents</i></p> <p>Presentation: Overview of sub-theme 5.4 – Wetlands & agriculture (Matthew McCartney, STRP member).</p> <p><i>STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:</i></p> <p>COP11 Resolution XI.15. <i>Agriculture-wetland interactions: rice paddy and pest control.</i></p> <p>COP11 DOC. 31. <i>Agriculture-wetland interactions: background information concerning rice paddy and pesticide usage (COP11 DR15).</i></p> <p>COP11 DOC. 33. <i>Agriculture and wetland interactions: recent progress and STRP-related activities 2009-2012.</i></p> <p><i>Pending completion:</i></p> <p>RTR on <i>An assessment of wetlands and agriculture interactions (joint with IWMI).</i></p> <p><i>Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:</i></p> <p>FAO is planning, with Ramsar involvement, a major conference in 2014 : <i>Global Conference on Inland Capture Fisheries: freshwater, fish and food security</i>. This has relevance to task 2013-15/46, and also to aspects of the STRP's task on poverty eradication and ecosystem services/benefits.</p>

1800-1830 **Light supper** (soup & sandwiches)

1830-2030 **18. Task review & development: Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring & reporting**

Short presentations to provide background information relevant to some of the tasks under this theme will be made by:

Stephan Flink (IOP member, Wetlands International) and Lammert Hilarides (Wetlands International representative): [Progress in scoping the Global Wetland Observing System \(GWOS\)](#).

Ian Harrison (Conservation International/IUCN representative): [GWOS & the Watershed Health Index](#).

Marc Paganini (European Space Agency (ESA) representative): [GlobWetland-II and future plans](#).

Ake Rosenqvist (Japanese Space Agency (JAXA) representative): [JAXA support to Ramsar, including the Global Mangrove Watch initiative](#).

DSG: [Outline content of a State of the World's Wetlands and their ecosystem services \(SoWWS\) report](#).

DSG (on behalf of Matt Walpole (STRP member)): Developments in the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Top Priority tasks:**i. Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people, and the Convention's effectiveness (Task No. 18/2013-15)**

Notes. This task includes a) the preparation of a 1st edition of a State of the World's Wetlands and their services (SoWWS) report, and b) further developing and reporting on *Indicators of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention* (see tasks 4.8/4.9 in the STRP 2009-2012 Work Plan), utilizing the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports to COP11, which would in turn contribute to the SoWWS.

ii. Development and coordination of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership (Task No. 19/2013-15)**Lower Priority tasks:****ii. Maintaining an overview of the status of wetland inventory (Task No. 22/2013-15)****iv. Enhanced support for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan (Task No. 24/2013-15)**

Notes. See COP10 [Resolution X.14](#). *A framework for Ramsar data and information needs* for the earlier iteration on this topic.

STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:

[RTR No. 4](#). 2010. *A framework for a wetland inventory metadatabase.*

[Scientific & Technical Briefing Note No. 3](#). 2012. *Avoiding, mitigating and compensating for loss and degradation of wetlands in national laws and policies.*

[Scientific & Technical Briefing Note No. 4](#). 2012. *The benefits of wetland restoration.*

COP11 [Resolution XI.9](#). *An integrated framework for avoiding, mitigating and compensating for wetland losses.*

[COP11 DOC. 24](#). *Limits of Acceptable Change: the definition and operation of concepts and approaches for "limits of acceptable change" which may be applicable to the Ramsar context of defining and detecting change in the ecological character of wetlands.*

Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:

CBD COP10-adopted *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2012-2020* (includes the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets) <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-10/cop-10-dec-02-en.pdf>.

Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) on: www.bipindicators.net.

Wednesday 27 February 2013

1000-1300 Plenary

1000-1130 19. Task review & development: Wetlands & poverty eradication

Top Priority tasks:

<p>i. Wetlands & poverty eradication – guidance and case studies (Task No. 50/2013-15)</p>
<p>Lower Priority tasks:</p>
<p>i. Supplementary guidance to support the Resolution XI.13 poverty eradication framework (Task No. 51/2013-15)</p>
<p>Supporting documents</p>
<p>Presentation: Overview of sub-theme 5.5 – Wetlands & poverty eradication (Sonali Senaratna, IOP representative, International Water Management Institute (IWMI)).</p>
<p>STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:</p>
<p>COP11 Resolution XI.13. <i>An Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication.</i></p>
<p>Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:</p>
<p>UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/40. Development of Poverty-Biodiversity Indicators and Their Eventual Application.</p>

1130-1300 20. Task review & development: Wetlands & ecosystem services

A [presentation](#) on the key findings and gaps assessment of the TEEB water and wetlands report will be made by Patrick ten Brink (IEEP).

<p>Top Priority tasks:</p>
<p>i. Economics of wetland ecosystem services/benefits (Tasks No. 59 a/2013-15)</p>
<p>Lower Priority tasks:</p>
<p>i. Wetlands and disaster risk reduction (Task No. 60/2013-15)</p>
<p>Supporting documents</p>
<p>Presentation: Overview of theme 6 – Wetlands & ecosystem benefits/services (Ritesh Kumar, STRP member).</p>
<p>STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:</p>
<p>None directly. STRP (Ritesh Kumar) and the Secretariat (DSG) contributed to the TEEB Water & Wetlands report. The <i>Ramsar Site Information Sheet – 2012 revision</i> now includes sections for including information on ecosystem benefits/services, and their importance, delivered by the Ramsar Site.</p>
<p>Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:</p>
<p>Russi D., ten Brink P., Farmer A., Badura T., Coates D., Förster J., Kumar R. and Davidson N. (2013) The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands. IEEP, London and Brussels; Ramsar Secretariat, Gland.</p>
<p>Russi D., ten Brink P., Farmer A., Badura T., Coates D., Förster J., Kumar R. and Davidson N. (2013) <i>The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands. Executive Summary</i>. IEEP, London and Brussels; Ramsar Secretariat, Gland. (available in English & French).</p>

Copies of these reports will be available to STRP17 participants.

1300-1400 **Lunch**

1400-1530 **Plenary**

1400-1430 **21. Task review & development: Wetlands & urbanization** (no Top Priority tasks)

<p><i>Lower Priority tasks:</i></p> <p>i. Planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands (Task No. 52/2013-15)</p> <p>ii. Urban wetland management demonstration sites (Task No. 53/2013-15)</p> <p><i>STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2013 triennium:</i></p> <p>COP11 Resolution XI.11. <i>Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands.</i></p> <p>COP11 DOC. 23. <i>Background and context to the development of principles and guidance for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands (COP11 DR11).</i></p> <p><i>Note.</i> Now being revised as a Scientific & Technical Briefing Note.</p> <p><i>Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:</i></p> <p>CBD Cities & Biodiversity Initiative, including a potential cities and rivers network.</p> <p>Ongoing work on wetlands, water and cities with UN-HABITAT.</p>
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1430-1500 **22. Task review & development: Wetlands & tourism** (no Top Priority tasks)

<p><i>Lower Priority tasks:</i></p> <p>i. Wetlands and tourism – development of guiding principles for tourism in and around wetlands (Task No. 54/2013-15)</p> <p><i>STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2013 triennium:</i></p> <p>COP11 Resolution XI.7. <i>Tourism, recreation and wetlands.</i></p> <p><i>Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:</i></p> <p>Destination wetlands: supporting sustainable tourism. Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland & World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Madrid, Spain. [launched at Ramsar COP11].</p> <p>UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/52/REV1. <i>Tourism and Biodiversity: Review of the Implementation of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development.</i></p> <p>Ongoing collaboration between Ramsar and the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)</p>

1500-1530 **23. Task review & development: Wetlands and energy** (no Top Priority tasks)

<p><i>Lower Priority tasks:</i></p> <p>i. Managing energy sector activities in relation to wetlands: guide to guidance and case studies (Task No. 55/2013-15)</p>

- ii. **Monitoring energy trends reported in global assessments** (Task No. 56/2013-15)
- iii. **Applying ecological impact criteria in the selection of energy generation sites** (Task No. 57/2013-15)
- iv. **Capacity building for energy sector regulatory oversight** (Task No. 58/2013-15)
[tasks 56-58 from [Resolution XI.10](#)]

STRP outputs and products in the 2009-2012 triennium:

COP11 [Resolution XI.10](#): *Wetlands and energy issues* [with annexed “Guidance for addressing the implications for wetlands of policies, plans and activities in the energy sector.”]

[COP11 DOC. 28](#). *Wetlands and energy issues*: draft executive summary of Ramsar Technical Report.

Pending completion:

Wetlands and energy issues (RTR – Anderson & MacKay).

A low cost flyway-scale methodology for identifying wetlands likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of extractive industries (RTR, joint with AEWa).

Other relevant work/products from other processes/organizations:

To be determined

1530-1800 **23. Working Groups – parallel sessions** (further development of work plan tasks, as needed)

1800-1830 **Plenary**

1800-1830 **24. Brief review of progress in work plan development and issues arising**

Thursday 28 February 2013

0900-1300 **Plenary**

0900-1300 **25. Report back from each working group on work plan, and agreement on each work plan task**

1300-1400 **Lunch**

1400-1800 **Plenary**

1400-1800 **25. (continued) Report back from each working group on work plan, and agreement on each work plan task**

1930- **STRP Dinner & raffle** (Hostellerie du XVIeme Cicle)

Friday 1 March 2013

0900-1300 **Plenary**

0900-1300 **26. Review of consolidated 2013-2015 work plan and budget allocation priorities**

1300-1400 **Lunch**

1400-1730 **Plenary**

1400-1600 **26. (continued) Review of consolidated 2013-2015 work plan and budget allocation priorities**

1600-1630 **27. Adoption of draft 2013-2015 work plan**

1630-1645 **28. Date and venue of mid-term workshops (and STRP18)**

In recent triennia the Panel has held, in accordance with its *modus operandi*, a second formal plenary meeting not later than six months before the next COP. COP12 will be in Uruguay in 2015. COP12 dates have not yet been confirmed, but may be in May/June/July 2015. However, the schedule of meetings adopted for the Standing Committee in [Resolution XI.19](#) indicates that the last full meeting of that Committee (SC48) will be six months before COP12, i.e. early (Jan/Feb) 2015.

If the STRP will be transmitting to COP12 and draft scientific and technical draft Resolutions, these must be first submitted to the Standing Committee for approval, and to provide sufficient lead time for the Secretariat to finalise and issue Standing Committee documents the Panel would need to meet not later than three months prior to SC48 (i.e., Oct/Nov 2014).

In recent triennia, the Panel has also held, resources permitting, a 'mid-term' session of Working Group workshops, which have proved to be invaluable for efficiently progressing priority tasks. With the above schedule, such mid-term workshops would need to take place about February/March 2014.

STRP meetings usually take place at the Secretariat/IUCN offices in Gland, Switzerland, but can be hosted elsewhere if a suitable offer is received which is not more costly than meeting in Gland.

The STRP *modus operandi* requires that the proposed schedule of meetings will be confirmed by the STRP Oversight Committee.

1645-1715 **29. Any other business**

1715-1730 **30. Closing comments and closure of the meeting**

Annex

2009-2012 STRP work plan – tasks 2.15 & 2.16

Emerging issues (Task 2.15):

Maintain a 'watching brief', including opportunistic collation of relevant information, on the following issues:

- i) **soil and land degradation impacts on wetlands**, including the potential scope for collaboration with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification – links to water TWA task on managing water resources in dry and sub-humid lands, could be taken up into that task.;
- ii) **shifting patterns of human population distribution and the impacts of these on wetlands**, including the potential scope for developing a better understanding of information needs, linked inter alia with relevant aspects of work on climate change – links to task on urban and peri-urban wetlands – should be addressed in that review;
- iii) beyond the consideration of forest issues within the tasks defined elsewhere in the present Annex on climate change and energy, **other aspects of the effects on wetlands of afforestation, deforestation and reforestation, awareness needs in the forests sector concerning forested wetlands and wetland dependent forests**, and knowledge needs concerning representation of relevant wetland types in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance ([Resolution IX.2](#) task 165);
- iv) **governance issues of relevance to wetlands**, including policy options concerning corporate social responsibility, and prevention of and responses to governance failures (including corruption), having regard inter alia to [Resolution X.18](#);
- v) **wetlands and conflict**, taking account of the background information exchanged within the STRP during the 2006-2008 triennium, and having regard as appropriate to Article 5 of the Convention;
- vi) any need for guidance on specific scientific and technical **implementation issues in transboundary contexts** – note any new guidance/information/initiatives on TB watersheds and river basins. Note task in TWA7 on transboundary Ramsar sites partially addresses this issue;
- vii) **wetlands and genetically modified organisms (GMOs)**, in collaboration where appropriate with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Future priorities (Task 2.16):

In addition to any proposals arising from the 'watching brief' task defined above, consider what priority, if any, might need to be given to work or further work in relation inter alia to the following issue areas:

- i) **social aspects of water management and social impact assessment**;
- ii) **industrial sectors** not mentioned in the list of other tasks defined in the present Annex;
- iii) **biodiversity conservation, protected areas and wildlife population management** - (see information note on Skukuza Freshwater Group and IUCN-WCPA task force – continue to communicate and develop collaboration with these groups);
- iv) **hunting and harvesting in wetland ecosystems**, whether for subsistence, commerce or recreational purposes; and
- v) in general utilise the '**Changwon Declaration**' ([Resolution X.3](#). The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands) in the establishment of priorities, feeding back experiences on its uptake to the Secretariat (needs some strategy development, including CEPA).