



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

STRP work plan 2013-2015

As approved at the 46th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

(8-12 April 2013) and updated for the 18th meeting of the STRP (8-10 September 2014)

Notes.

All High Priority actions (Res X.17 Annex 1) and all other tasks (Resolution XI.17 Annex 2) are listed. Task numbers are those as in Resolution XI.17 Annex 2. However, to facilitate delivery of certain tasks, some of them were slightly modified.

Each Work Plan task is summarized here in a standard pro-forma table. The STRP and its Working Groups, for certain tasks, have prepared or are preparing more detailed terms of reference and approaches for task delivery as the basis for guiding delivery of its work.

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Theme 1: Communication, Education, Participation & Awareness (CEPA)

The CEPA theme focuses on supporting further development of the roles, functions and contributions of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities in implementing Ramsar guidance in their countries; as far as is practically possible, to ensure that existing expertise and knowledge from the regions is brought into the work produced by the STRP and others; and to work with NFP networks to disseminate Ramsar guidance on the ground and support its uptake and implementation by Contracting Parties.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Christine Prietto, Hiromi Yamashita
Working Group participants:	Pierre Horwitz, Randy Thaman, Lammert Hilarides (WI), Boze Hancock (TNC), Suh Seung Oh (Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia), Gretchen Gettel (UNESCO-IHE), Max Finlayson (invited expert)+ Leads of all working groups
Secretariat Focal Point:	Maria Rivera (SRA Americas), Lew Young (SRA Asia-Oceania)

Top Priority Tasks

Task No. 1 (2013-15): Assessing and supporting capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties in applying Ramsar guidance	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Christine Prietto, Hiromi Yamashita
Task Group participants:	Ramsar Regional Centres, Secretariat (especially SRAs), and the Working Group participants
Task description:	Identify effective ways of providing training and capacity-building for relevant stakeholders in Contracting Parties to assist with the interpretation and implementation of the Convention, including scientific, technical guidance and other materials that have been adopted by the Convention Carried forward from 2009-2012 (task 10.3)
Task rationale:	Although over the years the Convention has adopted a substantial body of guidance to support Contracting Parties in their local, national and international implementation responsibilities (provided in the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks, and other technical materials), it is widely recognised (from National Reports and surveys) that the guidance is under-utilized and that many of those responsible are either unaware of these support tools or are not clear as to how to utilize them, and would benefit from training in how to do so. This task has already been recognised in previous triennia as needed, most recently as task 10.3 during the 2009-2012 cycle, but no resources were available for its implementation. Contracting Parties at several Ramsar pre-COP11 regional meetings have indicated this task as a top priority.
Target audience:	Administrative Authority focal points and wetland (including Ramsar Site) managers
Type of deliverable:	Scoping study regarding the optimum capacity-building approaches for Contracting Parties to support their use of guidance including identification of existing materials
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	Involve Ramsar Senior Regional Advisors (SRAs) and their networks and members of the CEPA Oversight Panel; Establish a Contracting Parties Reference Group; With assistance of the Reference Group and the SRAs, identify the specific guidance products which represent the greatest challenge to Contracting Parties; look at advice from National Reports; Investigate the following areas: process, access, labeling, institutional capacity; Seek advice from all other channels (e.g., IOPs) to get their perspective on the needs of Contracting Parties; Consider a review of the Framework on Capacity Building developed by the Advisory Board in light of the findings identified in the scoping exercise. Complete a <u>short report</u> on the findings; Where possible engage Contracting Parties Focal Points and Site Managers in reviewing and testing guidance materials as a capacity building exercise.
Task category:	2

Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 4.1 & 4.3 (incl. KRAs 4.1.viii & 4.3.vi)
Lead body/organisation:	STRP lead on assessment scoping study
Contributing bodies/organisations:	The Ramsar Secretariat, Ramsar Regional Centres, IOPs and other training centres Consultant
Funds (CHF):	15,000 (initial estimate) requested 15,000 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Procedure with this task was halted in response to a request from the Secretariat due to an overlap with the Res. XI.16 review. This decision was reported to SC47 by the STRP chair
Next steps	TBD

Task No. 2a (2013-15): Capacity-building support for STRP National Focal Points	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Secretariat (with input from STRP and Regional Centres)
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Hold regional workshops for STRP National Focal Points (at least 1 per triennium) in collaboration with Regional Centres if appropriate, following the successful examples of the 1st Africa region workshop for STRP NFPs and other wetland experts and the meeting of the European STRP NFPs in Austria. Ongoing from 2009-2012.
Task rationale:	The task takes forward the successful experience of the workshop for African STRP NFPs held in Johannesburg during the previous triennium 2009-2012; face to face meetings help building better understanding of the Convention's processes and of the national and regional scientific needs, and they help in developing a longer-lasting commitment for the benefit of the Convention.
Target audience:	STRP National Focal Points
Type of deliverable:	STRP NFPs who have an enhanced understanding of Convention processes. Improved input by STRP NFPs to STRP of national and regional implementation needs.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	Contracting Parties to express interest to host regional workshops for STRP NFPs; Host country and Secretariat to work closely to identify necessary resources, develop the agenda in consultation with STRP, and handle of the organisational aspects; The approach used for the Johannesburg workshop would be replicated for other workshops; Where possible engage STRP National Focal Points in reviewing and testing guidance materials
Task category:	2
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 3.4 (KRA 3.4.ii) & 4.3 (KRA 4.3.vi)
Lead body/organisation:	Secretariat (with input from STRP and Regional Centres) and Contracting Parties
Contributing bodies/organisations:	STRP, Ramsar Regional Centres
Funds (CHF):	100,000 per workshop requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	This task was delivered through a workshop organized by the Secretariat and Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia (RRC-EA), <i>Asia Regional Workshop on Scientific and Technical Support for Implementation of the Con-</i>

	<p><i>vention</i>, in Changwon, Republic of Korea. The Ministry of Environment and Gyeongnam Province, Republic of Korea generously funded the workshop.</p> <p>Around 60 wetland experts from over 20 countries, including Asian National Focal Points for the STRP, Ramsar National Focal Points and STRP experts attended the workshop.</p> <p>The workshop focused on most of the highest priority tasks of the STRP, as approved by the Standing Committee, through various working sessions, which collected input and case studies to further inform the development of these tasks. This was particularly the case with the tasks on: poverty eradication (task No. 50), ecosystem services (task No. 69), and the Ramsar Information Sheet-2012 revision (task No. 25), which incorporated some of this feedback.</p>
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 2b: Build a collection of practical learning materials for horizontal knowledge sharing using more dynamic and accessible delivery modes (2013-15)	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Christine Prietto, Hiromi Yamashita
Task Group participants:	Pierre Horwitz, Randy Thaman, Lammert Hilarides (WI), Boze Hancock (TNC), Suh Seung Oh (Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia), Gretchen Gettel (UNESCO-IHE), Maria Rivera (Americas SRA), Lew Young (Asia-Oceania SRA) + Leads of all working groups. New.
Task description:	<p>Repackage existing guidance/other materials into smaller more accessible products using more dynamic mediums that can serve as a <i>second level</i> of Ramsar Guidance. It is also the intention to identify existing products that are already in use that are relevant to our end users and build links to these either informally or through partnerships.</p> <p>Build these products into a collection of practical learning materials, such as videos, webcasts, online forums, and site exchanges, reusing existing STRP substantive guidance where possible, identifying opportunities for horizontal knowledge sharing using more dynamic and accessible delivery modes</p>
Task rationale:	There is significant evidence that there is not much need for more guidance, rather a need for better use of existing guidance through diverse products and delivery mechanisms.
Target audience:	Ramsar implementers
Type of deliverable:	Package of implementation products and tools, including videos, webcasts, PPTs, online forums, and site exchanges, among others
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>Continue work with Group leads to concretely identify appropriate products and delivery mechanisms within their work area;</p> <p>Provide Group leads with guided questions to assist them in improving the targeting of their materials to enhance the utility of the end user;</p> <p>Identify location for the products to optimize their availability to the end user.</p>
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 4.1
Lead body/organisation:	Diverse
Contributing bodies/organisations:	To be identified - potential for many contributing bodies/organisations.
Funds (CHF):	50,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Initiated through Secretariat, with communications team leading. To date PowerPoints, videos and fact sheets have been or are being produced.
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 3a (2013-15): STRP communication support–Web platform	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Secretariat (with input from STRP regional members & STRP NFPs)
Task Group participants:	
Task description:	<p>Redevelopment of the current web-based “STRP Support Service” work space and enhancement of STRP internal and external communication;</p> <p>The STRP Platform will be a web-based tool with a user-friendly interface built around two main components:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the STRP Portal - the public interface of the STRP- for open access to news, meeting calendar, finalized reports and Briefing Notes, STRP work plan as well as STRP draft material that requires input from a wider audience;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the STRP Support Service - a password-protected space for STRP’s internal communications and work that will be directly accessible from the Portal.</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012.</p>
Task rationale:	<p>The present STRP Support Service, developed in the 1990s, is no longer fit-for-purpose to deliver the needs identified by the Panel for efficient delivery of its intercessional work, and lacks a public interface for those seeking information on the Convention’s scientific and technical work. This task has been initiated during the 2009-2012 cycle and development of full functionality will continue into the 2013-2015 cycle.</p> <p>The overall aim is to improve STRP communication, efficiency and transparency in providing guidance to the Contracting Parties</p>
Target audience:	<p>For the STRP Portal: STRP NFPs, and broader for the whole Ramsar constituency.</p> <p>For the STRP Support Service: STRP NFPs, STRP members, observers and invited experts, Ramsar Secretariat.</p>
Type of deliverable:	A fully functional and up-to-date web platform for sharing information with STRP NFPs and the broader Ramsar constituency, to work and develop guidance in a protected environment.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>Undertake scoping review for the new platform (done in late 2010 through an electronic survey among STRP Support Service users);</p> <p>Develop a concept note, taking full account of the survey, describing the underlying architecture of the platform, with particular regards to its password-protected workspace (done in December 2011);</p> <p>Identify a web consultant to implement the project (done March 2012);</p> <p>Set up a task group to provide advice to the consultant during the development phase (ongoing);</p> <p>The platform is expected to be operational in late April 2013, but further development work to address additional functionalities identified from a user review of its initial structure and content can be anticipated, and if resources permit to make the portal available in the three Convention languages;</p> <p>The Secretariat will administer it and maintain it up-to-date, including subscription of new STRP NFPs to the Support Service.</p>
Task category:	2
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 3.4 (KRA 3.4.iii)
Lead body/organisation:	Secretariat
Contributing bodies/organisations:	STRP members and observers; STRP NFPs
Funds (CHF):	50,000 (of which 20,000 allocated from 2009-2012 cycle funds) 0 allocated
Additional comments/information	The Platform will be developed in English only, but the Content Management System that will be used can be expanded into different language versions if financial and human resources become available.

(e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	The Platform was launched on July 2013 and has been operational since. The Secretariat engaged a consultant on a temporary (yearly) basis to assist with maintenance of the site and technical issues. While all STRP members and STRP NFPs have been added to the Workspace, the level of activity is not very high, particularly when it comes to STRP NFPs. Difficulty in accessing the workspace and the fact that the site is in English (as well as the posts and documents uploaded) may explain in part the lack of activity.
Next Steps	The Secretariat will explore issuing another retainer contract to the consultant to continue assisting with updates and technical issues, as needed. A survey to assess the utility and accessibility of the site should be conducted.

Task No. 3b (2013-15): STRP communication support–newsletters	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Secretariat (with input from STRP members, observers & STRP NFPs)
Task Group participants:	
Task description:	Produce regular STRP newsletters and seek to provide newsletters and key STRP documents in all Convention languages. Ongoing from 2009-2012.
Task rationale:	Newsletters are a useful communication tool for sharing relevant and topical information, such as updates on task progress and new publication releases with Contracting Parties. Ten newsletters were issued during the 2009-2012 cycle and have been well received by STRP NFPs, Administrative Authorities and others in the Ramsar community.
Target audience:	STRP NFPs and the broader Ramsar constituency.
Type of deliverable:	Electronic newsletters in English and when funds are available, also in the other Convention working languages.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	Calls for submissions are sent by the Secretariat on the Support Service (in the future through the new platform and work space) and through other channels; Contributions are collected and compiled into the newsletter, which is then sent out via email, Ramsar Forum and posted on the Ramsar website; The newsletter has so far been produced as a PDF file; once the new STRP Platform will be ready, however, newsletters will likely be created in other formats as well.
Task category:	2
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 3.4 (KRA 3.4.iii)
Lead body/organisation:	Secretariat and STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	STRP NFPs, IOPs and observer organisations.
Funds (CHF):	15,000 (for translations into Spanish and French) 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	This task is ongoing but with no delivery in French or Spanish to date due to lack of funding and human capacity.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Three newsletters were produced by the Secretariat in 2013. No newsletters have been issued for the 2014 year but at least two are planned for the end of the year. Additional newsletters will be issued during 2015.
Next Steps	Continue issuing newsletters and conduct a survey of their utility and improvements to be made before the end of the triennium.

Task No. 3c (2013-15): Plan for evaluating and reporting on the delivery of STRP–Participation at the COP
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Task Group lead/co-leads:	Christine Prietto, Royal Gardner
Task Group participants:	N/A
Task description:	Use the COP as an opportunity to engage directly with Contracting Parties as our primary audience
Task rationale:	Contracting Parties are the primary audience for STRP work, however STRP members have limited opportunity to engage directly with CPs. Feedback is limited to interaction with those parties who attend Standing Committee meetings. A plan for participation will assist STRP to get the most out of the COP.
Target audience:	Contracting Parties at COP
Type of deliverable:	Report and Plan
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	Develop Plan for how STRP members participate in the Conference of Parties; Evaluate participation after the COP
Task category:	
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Plan developed at STRP18, to be discussed with the Secretariat in advance of implementation at COP12
Next Steps	TBD

Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 3d (2013-15): STRP communication & dissemination support–STRP NFPs bulletin	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Issue annual STRP NFPs' bulletin of activities. New.
Type of deliverable:	STRP NFPs' experiences and activities shared
Task category:	2
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 3.4 (KRAs 3.4.ii & 3.4.iii)
Lead body/organisation:	Secretariat (with input from STRP members & STRP NFPs)
Funds (CHF):	1,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 4 (2013-15): CEPA advice on guidance preparation

Task Group lead/co-leads:	
Task Group participants:	
Task description:	Ensure that the preparation of STRP guidance and advice materials draws upon CEPA expertise available to the Convention in order to optimize the effective drafting, design, targeting and uptake of such materials. Ongoing from 2009-2012 (task 1.4)
Type of deliverable:	
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 4.1
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Funds (CHF):	15,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Ongoing. This triennium a significant amount of hours has been provided to the poverty eradication and ecosystem services working groups.
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 5 (2013-15): Waterbird flyway initiatives–knowledge sharing	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	
Task Group participants:	
Task description:	Contribute to establishing a mechanism for sharing knowledge and experience on best practices in the development and implementation of flyway-scale waterbird conservation policies and practices. Continued from 2009-2012.
Type of deliverable:	Briefing Note; input on Ramsar issues to the establishment of coordination mechanisms recommended by 2011 workshop.
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 3.3 & 3.5 (KRA 3.5.iii)
Lead body/organisation:	Secretariat, CMS, AEWA, and other international flyway initiatives, with STRP
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Theme 2: Strategic, emerging & ongoing issues

This theme is designed to permit the STRP to fulfil its responsibilities in its review and advisory role for the Convention. As well as providing wetland-related information, advice and recommendations in response to *ad hoc* requests by Contracting Parties, the Secretariat and other relevant organisations, the scope of this Theme includes the “horizon-scanning” role whereby the Panel keeps under review

emerging and more strategic issues of relevance for the Convention which may require action or advice in the near- or medium-term future. Tasks under this theme are overseen by the STRP Chair with assistance from specific task leads as needed.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Royal Gardner; Randy Milton
Working Group participants:	Hiromi Yamashita, Randy Thaman, Lars Dinesen, Ritesh Kumar; Stanley Liphadzi, Reda Fishar, Jerry Harrison (UNEP-WCMC), Claire Brown (UNEP-WCMC), Rob Shore (WWT), Devin Bartley (FAO), David Coates (SCBD), Ian Harrison (IUCN/CI), David Stroud (invited expert), Dave Pritchard (invited expert)
Secretariat Focal Point:	Lew Young (SRA Asia-Oceania)

Highest Priority Task(s)

Task No. 10 (2013-15): Invasive species and wetlands – guide to available guidance	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Randy Thaman, Mohammed Reda Fishar
Task Group participants:	Royal Gardner (STRP Chair), Rob Shore (WWT), Devin Bartley (FAO), David Coates (SCBD), Ian Harrison (IUCN/CI), Sue Galatowitsch; Geoffrey Howard (IUCN, BN consultant)
Task description:	<p>Development of a STRP Briefing Note (BN) that is a guide to guidance based on available information and issues related to invasive alien species (IAS) in wetlands, for wetland managers, communities and policy-makers. Existing briefing material will be reviewed, updated and repackaged – with an emphasis on summarizing IAS issues in relation to wetlands and identifying appropriate sources of information or guidance on prevention, eradication, control and management of alien invasive species.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p>
Task rationale:	This has been a long-standing task in STRP's work plan, and initial guidance work preparation was undertaken in the 2000-2002 triennium but not taken forwards for Parties. This task has been identified as a top priority in light of the feedback received at the pre-COP regional preparatory meetings over the seriousness of the threat posed to wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services by IAS.
Target audience:	Ramsar Administrative Authorities, policy makers, wetland managers and local wetland user/dependent communities
Type of deliverable:	<p>STRP Briefing Note (BN) on Guidance and Sources of Information on Alien Invasive Species in Wetland, outlining major wetland-IAS issues and actions, which would target policy makers, wetland managers and the wider community.</p> <p>Possible follow-up products: After consultations in relation to emerging priorities, possible other products could include: 1) Fact Sheets on IAS of particular concern containing relevant guides for guidance as to their management; and 2) a more detailed information paper (more detailed guide for guidance), targeting mainly wetland managers, which would be developed as a COP12 Information Paper.</p>
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>Significant guidance materials prepared by other bodies and organisations exist but not in a form immediately accessible to Ramsar contracting parties and managers of Ramsar Sites and, in most cases, not specifically highlighting wetland-IAS interactions and management tools.</p> <p>A scoping exercise to determine the nature, scope and availability of information and expertise on wetland-IAS issues would be conducted in order to produce a briefing note. Initial scoping would review existing materials and expertise and clearly define the intended audience for this work, content and appropriate ways of packaging and disseminating outputs that would be most appropriate for policymakers, site managers and local communities.</p> <p>The process will begin with an initial review of previous material prepared in 2000-2002 triennium and a review of new material/information in relation to new and emerging wetland-IAS issues and management options.</p> <p>Target date for completion of the first draft BN for circulation to STRP and reviewers to be September 2013. This target timeline is dependent on securing resources to proceed with the task and the availability of appropriate consultant(s).</p>

	<p>After the production and dissemination of the BN, consultation would be carried out with the Ramsar constituency at all levels to identify what further advice and technical assistance is required to address Wetland-IAS issues. This could include a questionnaire survey to determine particularly important needs of wetland managers in dealing with existing and emerging Wetland-IAS issues. One opportunity for this process is the planned Asia Regional Workshop for Ramsar STRP/National Focal Points scheduled to be held at the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia in September in South Korea.</p> <p>A workshop in the first half (ideally Feb-April) of 2014, potentially as part of an STRP mid-term workshop (if required), would be useful for the development of next steps/follow-up products based on feedback received.</p>
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.9 (KRA 1.9.iv)
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	IUCN and its Specialist Groups, particularly the Invasive Species SG, CBD, Pacific Invasives Initiative (PII), FAO, Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP), WWT, and the Interagency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species .
Funds (CHF):	<p>Requested: 25,000 Briefing Note: 10,000 (to contract a consultant/consultant team) Consultation/Further Needs Assessment: 3,000 Follow-up Products: 12,000</p> <p>Allocated: 10,000</p> <p>Currently available: 4,000 (after commissioning consultancy contract)</p>
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	Ramsar Secretariat to invite IUCN and its Specialist Groups, particularly the Invasive Species SG to, under the guidance from STRP, draft a briefing note with inputs from a FAO on agricultural, forestry and fisheries, WWT on wetland-specific policy, practice and awareness in relation to IAS, the Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP)/Pacific Invasive Initiative (PII) on island invasive issues, the Interagency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and other appropriate entities
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	The Secretariat engaged a consultant to draft a Briefing Note (BN) to help fulfil delivery of this task. Two drafts of the BN have been produced and circulated to the task leads for input.
Next Steps	The working group provided input to the draft and would finish a revised version of the draft by mid November 2014.

Other Priority Tasks

Tasks No. 6 & 9 (2013-15) Scientific & technical advice: strategic, sectoral and/or emerging issues	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Royal Gardner, Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	Dependent on particular task
Task description:	<p>Provide proactive and reactive advice to the Convention on relevant strategic scientific and technical matters, including overall progress with scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of COP Resolutions, trends, sectoral and/or emerging issues, and other priority matters requiring expert review. Maintain and periodically review a rolling list of global and regional sectoral and/or emerging issues which could have implications for the wise use of wetlands; consider and provide appropriate recommendations to Standing Committee and the COP when any of these issues might need to be addressed by the STRP within its programme of scientific and technical work or through other Convention bodies.</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012</p>
Task rationale:	This is an ongoing activity of the STRP and carries over to each new triennium. Previously Resolution IX.2 tasks 2 and 3; Resolution X.10 task 1.1, 2.15 and 2.16
Target audience:	Ramsar Administrative Authorities and others, depending of specific context.

Type of deliverable:	Varies, depending on the nature of the request or issue. Can include reports, STRP Briefing Notes, STRP Support Service communications, presentations to meetings or conferences, webcasts, 'horizon-scan' paper.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>On request and according to priority as well as available funding and capacity, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) participate in international scientific meetings and processes on behalf of the Ramsar Convention, in order to ensure appropriate representation of the Convention's scientific interests and priorities in these meetings, and to identify Ramsar-relevant issues and materials emerging from these meetings; ii) review and/or comment on the wetland components of scientific materials, information or reports prepared by other international scientific bodies or processes; iii) reflect and report on overall progress with scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP Resolutions; iv) ensure cooperation, exchange of information, and coordination of activities related to wetland science, where appropriate, with the scientific and technical subsidiary bodies (and their related processes) of other MEAs and relevant regional fora, through actions defined in Joint Work Plans, through the Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB) process and by other means, with a view <i>inter alia</i> to: promoting cross-adoption and endorsement of principles, guidance, resolutions; sharing work programmes in order to identify common areas, gaps and opportunities for joint work; and improving scientific collaboration in general; v) engage with other relevant implementing agencies (such as UNEP, FAO, UN-HABITAT, etc.) to promote inclusion of wetland issues in their programmes and guidance; and vi) reflect on and advise the Convention on scientific and technical aspects of new sectoral and/or emerging global or regional issues relevant to the wise use of wetlands, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) using appropriate approaches for "horizon scanning", with more formal analyses submitted as Briefing Notes or a group workshop process within STRP meetings, which builds on Panel members' knowledge of and awareness of emerging issues in other sectors and in the global or regional environment; b) considering how to involve experts from outside the STRP as well as regional participation from Contracting Parties; c) developing recommendations for any actions needed (watching brief, scoping review, future priority task); and d) incorporating these recommendations into the formal working procedures of the STRP, which will be under discussion in the strategic review of STRP roles and functions, and in the development of review, editorial and management procedures for STRP. <p>Delivered through current STRP processes. However, those processes may be modified or refined, depending upon any recommendations that might arise from the "strategic review of STRP roles and functions" (COP Resolution XI.16). For example, there should be more proactive prioritization to ensure that activities under this task are planned and supported well ahead of time, thus helping to enable high-quality contributions from STRP.</p>
Task category:	3/4/5
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 & 4.3
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	STRP observer organisations and invited experts, STRP NFPs, other MEAs, other relevant implementing agencies
Funds (CHF):	15,000 (to support time and travel costs of STRP members) requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	STRP participants are providing comments to the IPCC 2013 Wetland Supplement to 2006 National GHG inventory guidelines.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Ongoing on an ad-hoc basis
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 7 (2013-15): Ongoing ad hoc advisory functions	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Royal Gardner, Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	Dependent on particular task
Task description:	<p>Continue to provide advice under the following functions and when requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) advising, when requested, on Ramsar Site designation and management issues, including on Article 3.2 reports concerning change in ecological character; ii) advising the Secretariat on requests from Contracting Parties for removing Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record for sites facing damaging change in ecological character; iii) advising on any request from a Contracting Party to participate in the activities of a different Ramsar region to that which it is assigned under the regional categorization of the Convention; iv) assisting Contracting Parties and bilateral development agencies in screening, developing and evaluating wetland projects; and v) receiving progress reports and advising on future needs and developments of the Ramsar Sites Information Service. <p>Provide technical advice and guidance to Parties on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis, through direct discussion, Support Service, Standing Committee discussions, Ramsar Advisory Missions, regional meetings and COP technical briefings.</p> <p>(Resolution VIII.28; Resolution IX.11; Resolution IX.2 task 4; Resolution X.11; Resolution X.1: strategies 1.5, 3.1).</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012.</p>
Task rationale:	This is an ongoing activity of the STRP and carries over to each new triennium. (Previously Res X.10 task 1.2)
Target audience:	Ramsar Convention
Type of deliverable:	Various depending on the nature of the request.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	On request, STRP to respond depending on available resources and capacity.
Task category:	2/3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Various
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	
Funds (CHF):	[Dependent on specific requests to STRP]. Need to consider resources to support time and travel costs for some activities in this task, such as CSAB, Advisory Missions, <i>ad hoc</i> assistance to Parties.
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>Ongoing, dependent on funding from CPs, e.g. advice to Oman on development of national wetland committee.</p> <p>Additional ad hoc advice included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments to wetland inventories in the Pacific • Comments to GBO-4 • Comments to Aichi Passport: Wetland Extent Index indicator • Comments to GMO consultation • Comments to KBA report • Expert feedback on a policy analysis (Ramsar and Essential Biodiversity Variables) (WCMC) • Review of Guidance for Carbon Projects in Coastal Wetlands (UNEP) • Review of Guidelines on the Design and Management of Large-Scale MPAs (NOAA) • Comments to draft Description and Mapping Specifications for Australian Ramsar sites

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments to UAE water strategy • Comments to National Wetlands Policy Stakeholder Questionnaire and Forum (on a replacement national wetlands policy for Australia) • Comments to 2013 Wetlands Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 8 (2013-15): Review of COP Draft Resolutions from Parties	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Royal Gardner, Randy Milton
Task Group participants	Dependent on particular task
Task description:	Review and comment on any proposals from Contracting Parties for COP Resolutions with scientific or technical content (Resolution VIII.45), and provide this advice to the Standing Committee and COP.
Task rationale:	This is an ongoing activity of the STRP and carries over to each new triennium (previously Resolution IX.2 task 1; Resolution X.10 task 1.5)
Target audience:	Standing Committee and Parties at meetings of the COP
Type of deliverable:	Advice as needed.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	If a Party or Parties submit a COP Draft Resolution to the Ramsar Secretariat (under the terms of the COP Rules of Procedure), which has scientific or technical content, the Secretariat transmits it (through the STRP Support Service) for STRP review and advice. STRP advice is provided to the Standing Committee, who may make recommendations to the Party or Parties concerned.
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Various
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	
Funds (CHF):	No funds needed
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Ongoing, providing advice and comments related to management effectiveness, disaster risk reduction, wetland city/village accreditation, conservation of small Mediterranean islands, ecological flows, and peatlands.
Next Steps	Additional feedback on these DRs will be collected during STRP18

Task No. 13 (2013-15): Engagement with IPBES	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Royal Gardner, Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	Randy Thaman [others? David Stroud?]
Task description:	On behalf of the Ramsar Convention, maintain active participation in the development and execution of the scientific work programmes of the IPBES, in order to:–support an effective science/policy interface for wetland biodiversity, and–ensure that high-quality scientific information and understanding of wetlands is incorporated into policy-making. Ongoing & Resolution XI.6 Annex, paragraphs 9-13
Task rationale:	
Target audience:	
Type of deliverable:	IPBES is responding to Ramsar Convention needs for advice/reports
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	The approach will be through:

	<p>i) assessing the STRP work plan and, if appropriate, identifying the needs and opportunities for improving the interface between science and policy in relation to the wise use of wetlands and identifying gaps in scientific, technical and technological information that could assist Parties in identifying priority requests to be submitted to IPBES while it establishes its work plan;</p> <p>ii) preparing (assisted by the Secretariat) interim guidelines to be adopted by the Standing Committee on timely and efficient processes for formulation, approval and transmission of requests from Ramsar to IPBES, taking into account that IPBES is an independent body and will establish the procedures for receiving and prioritizing requests. The interim guidelines could be revised in consideration of the future development of IPBES and Ramsar, and the most current guidelines will be submitted to the next Conference of the Contracting Parties for adoption;</p> <p>iii) continuing to work together with the other MEAs' scientific subsidiary bodies on IPBES-related issues, through the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB), including in the preparation of any joint MEA requests proposed to be submitted to IPBES;</p> <p>iv) reporting to each Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties on the engagement with IPBES and making recommendations on decisions and resolutions to be taken by the Parties, as appropriate; and</p> <p>v) providing available relevant wetland information to IPBES in response to notifications, advising the Secretariat when doing so, and reporting to the Standing Committee on any actions taken to respond to IPBES notifications. When the response to IPBES notifications has any substantial implications for STRP resources, the STRP Chair will consult with the Standing Committee Executive Team before taking action.</p>
Task category:	3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.1, 3.1 & 3.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP (with Secretariat and Parties)
Contributing bodies/organisations:	
Funds (CHF):	25,000 requested 15,000 (meetings participation) 10,000 (guidelines preparation) 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>Ongoing. STRP Chair attended IPBES 2 and MEP meeting, and will attend IPBES 3. STRP members also attended MEP meetings. The TEEB report on water and wetlands was submitted to the IPBES' catalogue of assessments. Interim guidelines were submitted to and approved by SC46 in decision SC47-24 (see guidelines at DOC. SC47-19).</p> <p>The STRP and the Secretariat nominated experts to IPBES' expert groups/task forces (an STRP member, Ritesh Kumar, was nominated to the expert group on deliverable 3(d) on valuation methodology).</p>
Next Steps	Continue engagement by participating in IPBES meetings and process.

Lower Priority Tasks:

Task No. 11 (2013-15): Reviewing topicality of adopted guidance	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Prepare a programme for the periodic review of each of the suite of guidances adopted previously by Parties. New task

Type of deliverable:	Recommendations to Standing Committee and COP concerning the need for updating previously-adopted guidances.
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Various
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, with CPs, IOPs, STRP NFPs etc.
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 12 (2013-15): Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Pierre Horwitz
Task Group participants:	David Stroud (invited expert), Ruth Cromie (invited expert)
Task description:	Maintain an active overview of and input to issues relating to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), especially in relation to surveillance, information-exchange, and response strategies. Ongoing
Type of deliverable:	Updated advice/technical guidance, if necessary
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.6 & 3.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP with Scientific Task group on Avian Influenza & Wild Birds
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Ongoing. Expert members maintaining watching brief on this area. See also progress under related task 15/33.
Next Steps	Continue to maintain a watching brief.

Tasks No. 14 & 23 (2013-15): Harmonised MEA information systems and on-line Convention reporting mechanisms	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Royal Gardner, Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	<p>i. Participate in the work of UNEP and UNEP-WCMC on developing tools for the on-line use of the biodiversity-related conventions, including exploring the opportunity for on-line and harmonized reporting applications relevant to Ramsar including <i>inter alia</i> National Reporting, Ramsar Site designations, and MEA information portals [COP11 DR6]</p> <p>ii. Prepare guidance for Parties on utilizing tools and processes for harmonising information management, including national reporting.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

Type of deliverable:	i. Streamlined and more efficient tools for Convention reporting obligations and access to Convention information. ii. Guidance for Parties; “route-map” to harmonization and interoperability facilities, support for progress towards streamlined national approaches to MEA reporting.
Task category:	1/2
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 3.1 (KRAs 2.1.v & 3.1.v)
Lead body/organisation:	i. Secretariat, with UNEP & UNEP-WCMC, with STRP adviceii. UNEP, UNEP-WCMC and others, with STRP input
Funds (CHF):	20,000 CHF requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	An on-line submission tool for designation and updating Ramsar Site information forms part of the Ramsar Sites Information System being redeveloped during 2013/14. A working group on on-line reporting has been established under the UNEP Information & Knowledge Management (IKM) initiative in which Ramsar is a partner.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No direct engagement by the STRP; role is handled by the Secretariat.
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 15 (2013-15): Input of Regional Initiatives experience to STRP work	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Royal Gardner and Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	Dependent on particular task
Task description:	Explore ways of making good use of experiences from Regional Initiatives in STRP work. New task (Resolution XI.5, paragraph 21)
Type of deliverable:	Regional Initiatives providing input to STRP tasks, as relevant
Task category:	Varies, depending on specific tasks
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Various (depending on specific tasks)
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, Regional Initiatives
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	The Secretariat and Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia (RRC-EA) organized an <i>Asia Regional Workshop on Scientific and Technical Support for Implementation of the Convention</i> , in Changwon, Republic of Korea. STRP members, STRP NFPs, NFPs and other experts attended the workshop. Identified as high priority initiative under Secretariat’s Strategy and Partnerships Programme. Note also that the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (as a tool under the MedWet regional initiative) is a key partner in the just-launched project "Evaluation économique des services écologiques rendus par les zones humides dans le cadre du changement climatique en Méditerranée", led by the Plan Bleu and due to last 2 years, and funded among others by the MAVA and Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundations. The aim is to assess and promote the role that wetlands can play in mitigating the impacts of climate change, in a sample of Mediterranean wetlands, and the MWO will report its results to the STRP.

Next Steps	TBD
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Task No. 16 (2013-15): Exchange of information with other MEAs' subsidiary bodies, including through CSAB	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Royal Gardner and Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	Dependent on particular task
Task description:	Exchange information and expertise with the equivalent subsidiary bodies of other MEAs and relevant regional fora; and continue to participate in meetings of the chairs of scientific and technical subsidiary bodies (CSAB). Ongoing & Resolution XI.6, paragraph 41
Type of deliverable:	Various (depending on specific tasks)
Task category:	3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Various (depending on specific tasks)
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Funds (CHF):	10,000 requested (for CSAB meeting participation) 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	STRP Chair participated in SBSTTA 18 and CMS Scientific Council 18. DSG participated in CSAB 6. CSAB 7, scheduled for June 2014, was not held. STRP 18 received a briefing on CSAB from David Morgan of CITES.
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 17 (2013-15): Review of available guidance on sustainable investment in relation to wetlands	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Royal Gardner and Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	
Task description:	Review: i) available technical guidance on assessing, avoiding, mitigating (minimizing) and compensating for harmful investment decisions, ii) available guidance on ensuring transparency and responsibility in investment decisions, including best practice case studies, and iii) available guidance on investments in wetland conservation, wise use and restoration, including those derived from public-private partnerships, and provide advice on such guidance. New task: Resolution XI.20 paragraph 16.
Type of deliverable:	
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.3, 1.10 & 1.11
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, with other relevant organisations
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken

Next Steps	TBD
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Theme 3: Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring & reporting

Work under this theme focuses on providing data and tools to meet overall Convention data and information needs, as well as development of guidance concerning different aspects of assessment of, reporting on and response to, changes in the ecological character of wetlands.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Stephan Flink (WI), Lars Dinesen, Randy Milton
Working Group participants:	Matt Walpole, Randy Thaman, Cui Lijuan, Stanley Liphadzi, Ian Harrison (IUCN/IC), Vicky Jones (BirdLife), Boze Hancock (TNC), Ake Rosenqvist (JAXA), Christian Perennou (Tour du Valat), Claire Brown (UNEP-WCMC), David Stroud (invited expert), Dave Pritchard (invited expert), Lammert Hilarides (WI)
Secretariat focal point:	Alexia Dufour (Regional Affairs Officer)

Highest Priority Task(s)

Task No. 18 (2013-15): Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people, and the Convention's effectiveness	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Matt Walpole, Stephan Flink (WI), Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	Alexia Dufour (Regional Affairs Officer), Vicky Jones (BirdLife), Ian Harrison (IUCN/CI), Ake Rosenqvist (JAXA), Christian Perennou (Tour du Valat), David Stroud (invited expert), Dave Pritchard (invited expert); David Coates (SCBD); Matthew Dixon (WCMC); Sarah Whitmee; Jonathan Lo (LPI); Lars Dinesen; Stu Butchart (BirdLife); Max Fancourt (WCMC); Philip Bubb (WCMC); Szabolcs Nagy; SRAs; Lammert Hilarides
Task description:	<p>a) Preparation and publication of 1st edition of a periodic State of the World's Wetlands and their services (SoWWS)/Global Wetland Outlook (GWO) reporting.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012.</p> <p>b) Further implementation of Resolution VIII.45 (2002) on developing indicators on the results of the Convention's activities, in collaboration with other biodiversity MEAs so as to achieve a coherent approach to indicator development, such that the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention may occur at least once in each reporting cycle; and advice on how reporting on these indicators may be incorporated into the National Reports of the Parties. (Resolution XI.6, paragraph 46)</p> <p>Ongoing task.</p>
Task rationale:	<p>The task rolls forward and redevelops several strands of work from the 2009-2012 triennium. An evidence-base for the state of the world's wetlands is a core technical expectation for the Ramsar Convention, and is necessary to underpin many other Ramsar objectives. Moreover, the aim with the work proposed here is to demonstrate to wider audiences the role of wetlands in delivering a range of ecosystem services across all sectors, and to provide authoritative status information: hence SoWWS will be a primary vehicle for the critical goal of "mainstreaming" wetlands into other policy fields.</p> <p>The "Convention effectiveness" dimension of the task rolls up previous work and proposals on outcome-oriented ecological effectiveness indicators, which the COP has approved in the past as an essential mechanism for assessing whether the Convention's aims are being achieved in practice or not, in order to make policy and resourcing decisions in the most appropriate and well-informed way.</p> <p>This is a complex and fundamental area of work, which also has important connections with other global processes outside Ramsar. Time has been taken during the 2009-2012 triennium to refine and adapt the conceptual approach to mesh optimally with some of these other processes, which is to be carefully thought through before committing appreciable resources to a programme of work, which should continue on a rolling basis into the future.</p>

Target audience:	<p>There are several categories of target end-users for this work, and thought will be given to packaging products (e.g., summaries) separately for some of them. Broad trend information can be targeted at the general public and the media, while the science behind it might be published in academic journals. Policymakers at global and national levels are a key audience (including via institutions such as IPBES), and as mentioned above it is important that the overall approach should lean towards targeting audiences in non-wetland sectors as well as the Ramsar constituency, in order to convey messages about the role of wetlands in supporting those other sectors.</p> <p>The dimension of the work, which examines effectiveness of Ramsar implementation, will in the main be more inwardly-directed, aimed at Contracting Parties and the bodies of the Convention.</p>
Type of deliverable:	<p>a) 1st edition State of the World's Wetlands and their services (SoWWS)/Global Wetland Outlook (GWO) (Note. The potential for IPBES to contribute to this output will be further assessed in 2013).</p> <p>b) Alternative to (a) if sufficient resources cannot be found, individual SoWWS reports/fact sheets on major wetland types using an incremental approach that builds upon existing global spatial databases ongoing regional and international initiatives, and incorporates other information such as TEEB and Convention effectiveness indicators.</p> <p>c) Briefing Note reporting on Convention effectiveness (including through the SoWWS); advice on indicator reporting in the National Report Form for COP12.</p>
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>Separate ToR documents for both SoWWS and indicators of effectiveness have been prepared by STRP during 2009-2012 cycle, and they will be revisited and updated as necessary for task implementation in 2013-2015, if resources for implementation can be identified.</p> <p>Inventory of global wetland spatial datasets (e.g. mangrove extent, seagrass beds, coral reefs, oyster beds, and others) to be undertaken by Wetlands International under the umbrella of GEO BON</p>
Task category:	3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 and 1.6
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	GWOS partnership and Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, TNC, WWF, IUCN, JAXA, ESRIN, IPBES, GlobWet II; TEEB, Tour du Valat
Funds (CHF):	<p>Requested:</p> <p>a) 100,000(provisional estimate)</p> <p>b) 20,000 (alternative to (a))</p> <p>c) 25,000</p> <p>Allocated:</p> <p>20,000 (2013), plus 15,000 re-allocation from Task No. (2014)</p> <p>Current available funds: 28,500 (after commissioning 7,500 to WCMC for sows factsheet on wetland Extent Index)</p>
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	The relationship between STRP and IPBES for undertaking this task will need to be assessed once IPBES has developed fully its modalities.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>The Ramsar Secretariat prepared in 2013 a list of factsheets to be released for COP12. Subsequently, the Secretariat in collaboration with WCMC engaged Matthew Dixon, who with Jonathan Lo (LPI) produced the Wetland Extent Index indicator as a possible factsheet. A draft was finalized and circulated for input. The index was submitted for peer review and it will be used as an indicator in the third edition of the BIP's Aichi Passport.</p> <p>Discussions were held with Wetlands International and BirdLife for the production of additional factsheets. However, the approach for producing the factsheets has changed with the Secretariat's communications team taking the lead in the process and producing a list of factsheets to reach a broader audience (less scientific and technical in nature) and a schedule of release. Accordingly, the Secretariat has engaged an</p>

	external consultant to write the factsheets based on existing materials. Four drafts have been produced and circulated to task leads for input. One of the factsheets builds on the wetland extent index.
Next Steps	Publication of the first tranche of factsheets is planned for the end of 2014. Subsequent tranches will be produced in 2015. The STRP and the Secretariat are working with BirdLife International to produce a set of wetland-related indicators in early 2015 for future factsheets.

Other Priority Tasks

Task No. 19 (2013-15): Development and coordination of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Stephan Flink (WI), Matt Walpole
Task Group participants:	Randy Milton, Lars Dinesen, Ian Harrison (IUCN/CI), Ake Rosenqvist (JAXA), Boze Hancock (TNC), Marc Paganini (ESA), Randy Thaman, David Stroud (invited expert), David Pritchard (invited expert)
Task description:	Establishment of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership mechanism (and portal), designed to access data and information for and facilitate Ramsar's SoWWS/GWO reporting (see above) as well as serving external users.
Task rationale:	<p>Ongoing – continued from 2009-2012.</p> <p>The burgeoning landscape of knowledge-flows and partnerships on wetland distribution, status and trends has lacked an overall unifying process and conceptual model, limiting access for Convention purposes to such scattered data and information.</p> <p>GWOS will provide this, giving better coherence to these efforts, whilst also helping to lift them to a more effective and directed level in terms of external relevance and compatibility with linked activities in other fora. It will give significant added impetus to effective use by Ramsar of fast-evolving global earth observation processes. Outputs will facilitate futures use of resources including but not restricted to SoWWS, and the Watershed Health Index (WHI); these will in turn support further analyses that will produce results that could flow back into GWOS, as well as supporting recommendations to IPBES. GWOS and the aforementioned outputs will strengthen partnerships with other bodies and appropriate conceptual thinking. Hence GWOS will serve as a project whose concept is driven by Ramsar to meet the specific themes and tasks of STRP, but which is developed and implemented through expert advice from multiple partners, data providers and users who will ensure that it is an important resource to a broad audience.</p>
Target audience:	The impact of this will be internal within Ramsar (STRP and its collaborators) as an organizing framework for other work, as well as supplying data to external users. It will help Contracting Parties to conceptualize the issues and will have a particular role in framing collaborations with the earth observation and global assessment communities (i.e., technical audiences, including for example those linked to IPBES).
Type of deliverable:	A functioning GWOS mechanism delivering enhanced wetland data and information to the Convention stakeholders and others. It is anticipated that the mechanism would be in the form of a web-based GWOS portal, linking between other relevant data and information systems and information products.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>An initial scoping workshop was held in late 2011 (hosted by Wetlands International); there has been a follow-up “Knowledge Café” workshop at the 2012 World Conservation Congress (in collaboration with GEO BON), and a workshop in 2012 at GEO BON's 2nd All Hands meeting .</p> <p>From the outcomes of this workshop, an initial consortium of organisations supporting Ramsar is developing concept proposals and seeking resources to take forwards further development of a GWOS.</p> <p>Funding has already been acquired for a user needs assessment conducted by Wetlands International.</p>
Task category:	3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.2 (KRAs 1.2.i and 1.2.ii)
Lead body/organisation:	Wetlands International, Conservation International, GEO-BON,
Contributing bodies/organisations:	STRP and Secretariat, IUCN, WWF (Coral Triangle Initiative)and others, UNEP-WCMC, FAO, TNC, WWF, IUCN, JAXA, ESRIN, NASA, Smithsonian Institute

Funds (CHF):	20,000 (for inception and design); 500,000 (provisional estimate) (for implementation and maintenance) requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>No new initiatives, however partnership is well-established and regularly renewed at STRP meetings, e.g. global mangrove watch offers significant opportunities for collaboration and investment in new projects. STRP 18 briefings by JAXA and ESA highlighted such opportunities, and STRP recommends that the Parties consider including this task in the future work programme as a high priority.</p> <p>Wetlands International has been leading this process. In June 2013, a user needs assessment was held and its results were used to develop an action plan consisting of a three track parallel approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a business case • Get the ownership and governance structures into place • Practical implementation <p>Due to funding constraints, the GWOS partnership focussed on getting the practical implementation in place consisting of further developing and showcasing “Global Mangrove Watch (GMW)”. GMW is a JAXA activity and a part of the Wetlands Theme of the ALOS Kyoto & Carbon Initiative. JAXA and the Ramsar Secretariat are in the process of strengthening their partnership to include GMW as a contribution to GWOS. Recently, Wetlands International received a grant to continue this collaboration and showcase its use in Southeast Asia.</p>
Next Steps	TBD

Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 22 (2013-15): Maintaining an overview of the status of wetland inventory	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Establish and maintain a web-based wetland inventory metadatabase. Carried over from 2009-2012.
Type of deliverable:	On-line metadatabase (potentially linked to GWOS) to support Contracting Parties in selection of sited for designation; gap analysis of available wetland inventories
Task category:	3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.1 (KRA 1.1.ii)
Lead body/organisation:	STRP (with WI, IWMI, UNEP-WCMC and others)
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	STRP18 recommended that Parties consider moving this to be a high priority task.
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 24 (2013-15): Enhanced support for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	
Task description:	Develop a data and information needs framework (COP10) as a searchable web portal, including options for on-line national reporting. Carried over from 2009-2012.
Type of deliverable:	a) Depending on outcomes of initial user needs assessment, the design and roll-out of web-based portal version of data & information framework (successor to the annex to Resolution X.14). b) Guidance for Parties and others on making optimal use of relevant data and information in support of the Ramsar Strategic Plan. c) Report on options for an on-line reporting (and potentially a site data submission) system for Ramsar.
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	All Strategies
Lead body/organisation:	STRP (with Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC and others)
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No progress on delivering searchable web portal, but STRP Chair is a member of the SPWG.
Next Steps	TBD

Theme 4: Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)

This theme focuses on supporting Parties in meeting their specific commitments for the designation and management of Ramsar Sites.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Lars Dinesen, Randy Milton, Stephan Flink (WI)
Working Group participants:	Ian Harrison (CI/IUCN), Cristina Secades (UNEP-WCMC), Boze Hancock (TNC), Stephan Flink (WI), Dave Pritchard (invited expert), David Stroud (invited expert), Randy Thaman, Lammert Hilarides (WI), Amy Milam (UNEP-WCMC)
Secretariat focal point:	Lew Young (SRA Asia-Oceania), Alexia Dufour (Regional Affairs Officer), Maria Rivera (SRA Americas)

Other Priority Tasks

Task No. 25a (2013-15): Implementation of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS)–2012 revision	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Secretariat
Task Group participants:	David Stroud (invited expert), Lars Dinesen, Randy Milton, Stephan Flink (WI)
Task description:	Development of tools and mechanisms for enhanced and streamlined Ramsar Site designation and data and information management, including redevelopment of the Ramsar Sites Database and on-line submission tools for RIS. New task – Resolution XI.8
Task rationale:	Task follows from, and will conclude, a significant update of the format of the Ramsar Information Sheet, the development of new on-line systems for the submission of new and updated RIS, and the development of an updated Ramsar Sites Information Service (database) to capture and curate relevant data and information. All

	<p>these have been major tasks undertaken during the 2009-2012 triennium.</p> <p>A full redevelopment of the current Ramsar Sites Database is becoming urgent, as its current software platform is no longer fit-for-purpose and cannot hold all the data and information provided in the RIS, nor can it be made interoperable with other relevant data and information systems (e.g., the World Database on Protected Areas).</p>
Target audience:	Contracting Parties, Secretariat
Type of deliverable:	On-line accessible database capable of receiving and handling all data and information in the RIS-2012 revision; on-line RIS submission tool; further guidance and training for Parties, as needed.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>Scoping and redesign of Ramsar Sites Database – design and structure. Hiring of a consultant to undertake the work.</p> <p>Development of an on-line RIS submission tool, building on demonstration prototype prepared by UNEP-WCMC in the 2009-2012 cycle.</p> <p>Testing phase with selected CPs and NFPs by July 2014.</p> <p>Whilst guidance on the completion of the RIS-2012 revision has been included in the 2012 revision of the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i>, it may be that the development of on-line reporting tools and other developments require the drafting of further guidance for Contracting Parties. In such a situation, this will be undertaken to ensure the operational effectiveness of any new information systems.</p>
Task category:	1, 2
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 2.1 and 2.2
Lead body/organisation:	Secretariat, with STRP's advice
Contributing bodies/organisations:	STRP, WI and UNEP-WCMC
Funds (CHF):	<p>400,000 requested (to redevelop Ramsar Sites Database, develop an on-line RIS submission tool, and Contracting Party training courses as needed)</p> <p>0 allocated</p>
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	The decision from XI/8 on the consideration of minor modifications in relation to change, limits of acceptable change and monitoring indicators should be taken well in advance of the deadline of the new database in January 2015 (see below).
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>This task has been led by Alexia Dufour in the secretariat who has managed a consultancy contract to develop the Ramsar database into a redesigned and on-line RIS submission tool. The new version was agreed upon among Parties at COP11 in Bucharest. The consultancy work has progressed well a demo version has been out for testing in early summer and the final tool is launched for testing among Parties in August 2014. The online submission system is an important modernization of the designation procedure and the redesigned content is a major leap forward towards recording wetland services etc. and monitoring change. The redesigned format has been presented at Ramsar workshops in Changwon, Korea for Asian Parties and Ilulissat, Greenland for Nordic Baltic Parties.</p>
Next Steps	<p>Proposed next steps for discussion at STRP18:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a side event at COP12 in Uruguay for presenting the online tool and redesigned format and provide a workshop opportunity for those Parties who want to use and test the system. Consider producing a demonstration video. The regional meetings may be used for demonstration as well. • Consider developing FAQs based on Parties experiences and establish an online Help Desk to be ready for COP12. • Consider developing a barometer which at any point in time shows the number of Ramsar sites using the On-line format as compared to the old format. • Have an operational task force (this group?) to develop a strategy for global cross analysis of data (long-

	term) and to provide input towards proposals for changing the RIS format e.g. revising criteria or ecosystem services etc. from Parties.
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Task No. 25b (2013-15): RIS and guidance—further development	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Stephan Flink (WI), Randy Milton, Lars Dinesen
Task Group participants:	David Stroud
Task description:	Urgently consider scope for minor modifications to the RIS – 2012 revision to support monitoring at Ramsar Sites through possible inclusion of sub-fields related to: change at the site, for example in fields 12a, 12c, and 16 relating to species composition and wetland type; identification of thresholds of change in ecological character; and monitoring indicators. Any minor modifications proposed to be provided to the Secretariat to provide to the Standing Committee for final endorsement of remaining minor details enabling them to be incorporated within the finalized RIS – 2012 revision format by January 2015.
Task rationale:	Note for Standing Committee including possible proposed adjustments to RIS – 2012 revision, as needed.
Target audience:	Contracting Parties, Secretariat
Type of deliverable:	Note for Standing Committee
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	SC47 to endorse recommendation alternatively to go back to STRP and with adjustments to the database development by the Secretariat.
Task category:	
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 2.1 and 2.2
Lead body/organisation:	STRP with Secretariat's advice
Contributing bodies/organisations:	STRP
Funds (CHF):	Not required
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested):	Discussed at STRP17 and a SC Note developed based on a briefing paper from David Stroud, which outlines options.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	The proposed modifications were discussed in detail at STRP17 and subsequently the STRP recommendations were presented for and endorsed by the SC47. The outcome was that the RIS 2012 version was not additionally adjusted.
Next Steps	

Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 25c (2013-15): RIS and guidance—further development	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	i) prepare additional guidance concerning a) identification, boundary-setting and management issues related to very small wetlands which may nonetheless be of international importance, and b) zoning of sites in the context of management planning and especially in relation to uses of Ramsar Sites by people, including implications for RIS reporting New task (Resolution XI.8, paragraph 21)
Type of deliverable:	(i.) & (iii.) Supplementary guidance for Parties, for inclusion in the <i>Strategic Framework</i> for Ramsar Site designation; (ii.) Adjustments to RIS – 2012 revision, as needed.

Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 2.1
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Not carried forward
Next Steps	

Task No. 26 (2013-15): Ramsar Sites and ecosystem benefits/services	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Lars Dinesen, Stephan Flink (WI), Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	David Stroud (invited expert)
Task description:	i) Further consider the issue of recognising the importance of ecosystem benefits/services in the future designation of Ramsar Sites, in relation to the terms of Objective 1 of the <i>Strategic Framework</i> and to assess the implications for the RIS, and ii) Develop a more thorough understanding of the nature and extent of ecosystem benefits/services provided by Ramsar Sites individually and at national and global network scales. New task (Resolution XI.8, paragraph 20)
Type of deliverable:	i. advice to SC and Parties; ii. Progress report to SC (2014) & COP. Depending on the availability of resources.
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.1, 1.4 & 2.1
Lead body/organisation:	i. STRP ii. STRP with Contracting Parties input
Funds CHF):	15,000 requested: i. 5,000 ii. 10,000 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested):	Linking up with the work in the thematic group on ecosystem services.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	A proposal for collecting case studies was launched at a Nordic Baltic regional meeting, however, has failed to produce an output.
Next Steps	Encourage to the identification by Parties of case studies undertaking more thoroughly ecosystem services assessments including, whenever feasible, economic valuation of those services and start compiling such case studies.

Task No. 27 (2013-15): Understanding national site designation processes and impediments to national Ramsar Site networks	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	The <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (and associated Resolutions) calls for the designation of national networks of Ramsar Sites, yet few Parties have undertaken strategic reviews of potentially qualifying sites or have designated a comprehensive network of

	internationally important wetlands. This task is designed to help the STRP and Secretariat better understand the various constraints and impediments to this activity, as a basis for the STRP and Secretariat better supporting Parties in their future Ramsar Site designations. It will include seeking and promulgating specific examples of the efforts by Contracting Parties to develop and implement a strategic approach to Ramsar Site designation (Resolution XI.4, para. 23). New task.
Type of deliverable:	Initially, an STRP Briefing Note, with case study CP examples.
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 2.1
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, with Secretariat support, and input from Parties
Funds (CHF):	10,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	SRAs recommended at STRP18 that Parties consider moving this to be a high priority task.
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 28 (2013-15): Target development to support the objectives for the Ramsar List	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Develop an integrated suite of targets to respond to and support the five Objectives for the Ramsar List included in the <i>Strategic Framework – 2012 revision</i> , including linking to the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”. New task.
Type of deliverable:	Strategic Framework targets for consideration by COP12.
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 2.1
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Funds (CHF):	10,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Tasks No. 29 & 30 (2013-15): Ramsar Site Criteria and identification of globally significant areas for biodiversity	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Lars Dinesen, Stephan Flink, Randy Milton.
Task Group participants:	Ian Harrison, David Stroud
Task description:	<p>i) Consider the implications of CBD’s Decision X/31 in the context of supporting the application of the Convention’s long-established Criteria for the selection of Wetlands of International Importance, including any implications this might have for the identification of important sites for delivery of ecosystem services (whilst noting the undesirability of radical changes for the Convention’s established site-selection processes, as well as the delivery of Aichi Target 11 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020).</p> <p>ii) Contribute to current initiative led by IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas and Species</p>

	<p>Survival Commission to review and possibly consolidate criteria for the identification of important sites for biodiversity conservation, in order to ensure that Ramsar Site criteria are fully taken into account.</p> <p>iii) With reference to (i) and (ii) above, develop further practical guidance on the issue of defining Ramsar Site boundaries, reflecting that approaches used may depend <i>inter alia</i> on the scale of the site, the presence of ecological, national and other boundary situations, landscape type, land tenure, and national spatial planning laws and policies (CPs to be invited to provide information and case studies).</p> <p>This approach will ensure integration of Ramsar's delineation of wetlands of International Importance and IUCN's methods for identification of freshwater key biodiversity areas (KBAs), uniting the objectives of Ramsar and CBD.</p> <p>New task (Resolution XI.8, paragraph 19)</p>
Type of deliverable:	Progress reports to SC (next in 2014) & COP on implications for Ramsar
Task category:	1, 5
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 2.1
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, Secretariat, with IUCN WCPA, IUCN-SSC, IUCN-GSP and others.
Funds (CHF):	20,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested):	Next meeting in Washington, 11-15 March 2013. Ian Harrison will attend.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	The STRP participated in two KBA workshops (one on criteria and delineation in Virginia, USA, and other on governance mechanisms in Brasilia, Brazil) and provided inputs to a report on <i>Key Biodiversity Areas: Lessons from End-User Groups</i> , as well as to a comprehensive national guidance document in Australia which may prove to provide valuable input.
Next Steps	TBD

Theme 5: Ramsar, wetlands and other sectors

Sub-theme 5.1: Wetlands and health

Work under this sub-theme focuses on the interconnections between wetlands and health (human, wetland, and animal health), including considering the positive values of wetlands in contributing to achievement of public health objectives, and also providing guidance for managing the potential negative interactions between wetlands and human health. The word 'human' from the original theme title of "Wetlands and human health" has been dropped in recognition of the broader applicability the work to wetland health, human health, and animal health, as is recognised in Resolution XI.12.

The COP-designated High Priority Task has been re-interpreted in three ways. Firstly providing guidance for the health sector requires a layer of partnership that is not yet developed; this partnership should be allowed to develop along the lines of other tasks, with the assumption that continuity in the relationship may provide opportunities to influence the health sector positively. Secondly, there is a strong possibility that several lower priority tasks when repositioned and considered together, will engender WHO and other health sector partner support – hence they have been regarded here as "High Priority" in the sense that they might achieve the original High Priority Task. Thirdly, STRP's advice from the regions is that STRP products should be tangible and meaningful to site managers and their particular wetland issues; developing health related case studies and pursuing the Diseases Manual are two perfect examples of this and will contribute to wetland management in a broader sense too.

STRP 18 recommends that the CPs consider including wetland poisons in the future work programme of the STRP. Specific guidance for managing poisons in wetlands, and preventing them from entering wetlands, could be useful to ensure humans, livestock and wildlife are not adversely exposed. This is an issue being considered by other MEAs (eg, lead poisoning has been considered by AEWMA and CMS has a DR and guidelines regarding migratory bird poisoning, which references Ramsar Resolution XI.12).

Working Group lead/co-	Pierre Horwitz, Stanley Liphadzi
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leads:	
Working Group participants:	Guéladio C., Ritesh Kumar, Randy Thaman, Christine Prietto, Rob Shore (WWI), Ruth Cromie (invited expert), David Stroud (invited expert)
Secretariat focal point:	Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe)

Other Priority Tasks

Task No. 31 (2013-15): Guidance on “Wetlands and human health” for the health sector	
Task lead/co-leads:	WHO representative, Guéladio Cissé, Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe)
Task Group participants:	Consultants
Task description:	<p>A publication for use by human health practitioners, developed from the 2012 Ramsar Technical Report on wetlands and human health interactions (which was designed with wetland practitioners as its primary audience).</p> <p>An alternative: A book is scheduled – <i>Wetlands and Human Health</i>, edited by Max Finlayson, Pierre Horwitz and Phillip Weinstein. 12 Chapters are in train, and this publication may help achieved components of this metatask.</p>
Task rationale:	Carried over from 2009-2012
Target audience:	<p>A critical need to be clear who we are aiming at and what they need/would find useful. Health is a very large heterogeneous sector;</p> <p>Water, Sanitation and Health;</p> <p>Health promotion Public health practitioners;</p> <p>Health and natural disasters;</p> <p>Developed or Least Developed Countries</p>
Type of deliverable:	To be determined; Multiple possibilities
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>Approach and scope to be discussed with key people in the international health sectors (including WHO). Subsequent determination of what is achievable in given timelines and according to available funding.</p> <p>Need to re-establish contact with WHO; new contact person in Water and Sanitation.</p> <p>Consultancy may be needed.</p> <p>Workshop may be needed</p>
Task category:	3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	WHO to be invited to lead
Contributing bodies/organisations:	STRP
Funds (CHF):	50,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	<p>To be determined following discussion with WHO and their willingness to act, and their perceptions on what can be achieved, what resources they have (and what we can bring), and which tasks outlined here match with their priorities.</p> <p>May be achieved in the first instance by accomplishing the next two priority task</p>
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>An important partnership was created through this work area, which can be further developed under the Secretariat’s Strategy and Partnerships Program.</p> <p>Book produced for publication in 2014/2015. No advice received from SRA</p>
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 32 (2013-15): Wetlands and human health case studies	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Pierre Horwitz and WHO representative
Task Group participants:	Invited wetland and health experts for each case study; STRP task group; Secretariat (CEPA)
Task description:	Four or five (4-5) carefully selected case studies, each chosen according to the following criteria: i) an evidentiary basis for the causal links between wetland management and improved health outcomes; ii) wetland management is directed towards minimizing the trade-offs between regulating ecosystem services and provisioning ecosystem services; iii) health outcomes are improved for one or each of the following categories: a) water borne diseases; b) vector borne diseases; c) exposure to toxic materials; d) improving access and utilisation for recreation and physical exercise; e) natural disaster event
Task rationale:	Carried over from 2009-2012 An effective mechanism to demonstrate simply, clearly, the consequences of wetland management for human and/or animal health
Target audience:	Wetland policy makers, site manager, wetland manager, educators
Type of deliverable:	Case studies as short (5-10 min) videos available on YouTube with supporting scientific evidence on Ramsar website
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	Funding applications (Health Foundations); Short listing the most suitable case studies using criteria (6 months); Writing case studies for written publication and for narration (6 months); Planning footage, images, interviews (2 months); Shooting, editing videos (6 months); Web portal entry for all case studies – map showing where the case studies are located.
Task category:	3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	Ramsar, Health Foundation, WHO
Funds (CHF):	Requested: 10000 per video; 50000; Plan to seek external funding from Health Foundations or Trusts Allocated: 0
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	Consultancy required to produce the videos; May require the purchase of footage, or consultancy to collect footage; If funding applications successful a coordinator for the project will be employed for the final 12 months.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Although no progress on specific task, collaboration with partners has contributed a video, which can be used by Contracting Parties.
Next Steps	TBD

Tasks No. 33 & 39 (2013-15): Ramsar Wetland Diseases Manual	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Pierre Horwitz
Task Group participants:	STRP (review and oversight); CEPA (promotion, evaluation and assessment processes); Secretariat (web-based portal etc., translations); Ruth Cromie (invited expert)
Task description:	A. Further development of <i>Wildlife Diseases Manual</i> . a) promotion and dissemination of the existing manual – essentially some targeted publicity and awareness raising of its availability as a resource;

	<p>b) examine the feasibility of, and conduct if appropriate, a conversion of parts or all of the manual to a web-based product;</p> <p>c) further enhance its accessibility as a text for training purposes;</p> <p>d) translate existing materials into French and Spanish to enhance outreach.</p> <p>B. Using the views of wetland managers and other relevant stakeholders expand the content of the <i>Ramsar wetland disease manual: Guidelines for assessment, monitoring and management of animal disease in wetlands</i> in its coverage, to include plant diseases and human diseases associated with wetlands. This will take two forms: a revision to the manual to ensure it deals with both human health and wildlife health; and factsheets on particular human diseases.</p> <p>Prepare guidance for wetland managers on different wetland-related human diseases.</p>
Task rationale:	New task (Resolution XI.12 paragraph 32)
Target audience:	Users of the Manual – wetland manager
Type of deliverable:	Utility assessment (Information paper) Manual (revision, update and production)
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>A. Immediate 2013 – 2014 Further Development of existing <i>Wildlife Diseases Manual</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Promotion, dissemination; 2.Web-based version; 3.Translations; 4.Design, distribution and analysis of evaluation survey (once manual has had significant exposure to users); 5. Produce utility assessment-info paper. <p>B. Work towards Next Version for production in or after 2015:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Workshop - revisions to manual to ensure its coverage deals equally with both human health and animal health; 2. Determine factsheet list; solicit factsheet material from existing ones produced by the health sector; 3. Conduct revisions as time and resources allow.
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	Inputs required from: OIE and other partners; WHO and associated partners particularly where information is already available
Funds (CHF):	<p>Requested:</p> <p>A. Funds required for Further Development of Wildlife Diseases Manual: 15000</p> <p>B. Funds required for next version: 15000</p> <p>Funds for project coordinator</p> <p>Allocated: 0</p>
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	<p>Builds on a clear and tangible product of relevance to wetland.</p> <p>Possibility of external funding grant application</p>
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>This work provides an excellent opportunity for further development through the Secretariat's Communication Strategy.</p> <p>Although the Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual is currently available as web-based PDFs, a dedicated website is under construction which will incorporate a hyperlinked/more searchable Manual plus training resource videos etc to demonstrate and illustrate the Manual's utility.</p> <p>The Manual has been promoted and disseminated at a variety of conferences and meetings.</p>

Next Steps	TBD
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Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 34 (2013-15): Development of wetland & health indicators	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	STRP
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Identify, and compile from expert sources, indicators of the relationship between wetland ecosystem services and health, with a particular emphasis on identifying early warning indicators for the emergence or re-emergence of diseases, and neglected, persistent and endemic diseases of people, livestock or wildlife associated with wetlands. New task (Resolution XI.12 paragraph 31.i)
Type of deliverable:	Would require the production of a Technical Report
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	Not planned for this triennium
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP; Possible: International Association for Ecology and Health; UNEP WCMC; BIP; Wildlife Conservation Society
Funds (CHF):	Not funded
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	The development of one or more targets that might be included in the Sustainability Development Goals.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Tasks No. 35 & 37 (2013-15): Combined Task under Ecosystem Services Working Group: Guidance on health implications of ecosystem services disruptions, with a view to being able to include health cost and benefit assessment in economic models and wetland valuation	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	See Ecosystems Services Working Group
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Guidance on health implications of ecosystem services disruptions; with a view to being able to include health cost and benefit assessment in economic models and wetland valuation. This Task will be dependent upon outcomes of the thematic Working Group (WG) examining ecosystem services and benefits, particularly one of its tasks: "Conduct a scoping review of the advancements in ecosystem services (description/recognition, valuation, capture) to support wise use of wetlands, in particular cross sectoral integration"
Type of deliverable:	Briefing Note: "Health implications of ecosystem services disruptions." If this task is undertaken in a complete form it mandates the production of a DR*
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	Will depend on the ecosystem services WG workshop
Task category:	1,3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP Ecosystem Services WG
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional	*DR which will ask Contracting parties to undertake health cost and benefit assessments as part of impact

comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	assessment processes. Important to consider the contributions of the complexity sciences.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Tasks No. 36 & 40 (2013-15): 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	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Pierre Horwitz
Task Group participants:	Secretariat rep (PO); CEPA rep
Task description:	Main issue is producing readable, simple, documentation for Ramsar constituencies. Work with the other relevant institutional stakeholders concerned with health to encourage an ecosystem approach to relevant health issues in wetlands and their surrounding catchments. Important here is to build stronger relationships with IUCN and CBD with regard to ecosystem approaches to health.
Task rationale:	Easily achieved derivation products from work already done/started in previous triennium.
Target Audience:	Contracting parties: AAs, NFPs, site managers
Type of deliverable:	Information paper: Ramsar guidance in relation to human health: could demand a DR*; Briefing Note: Health Wetlands (or “When is a wetland healthy”) **
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	Determine the publication objectives and scope; Circulate documentation/materials already produced; Peer review of materials for content; Edit for simplicity, readability;
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP; Secretariat; IUCN; CBD and other MEAs; WHO; FAO; OIE; UNEP
Funds (CHF):	Revenue neutral? Can be done pro-bono by STRP and in house 0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information:	* if it identifies gaps in guidance that must be filled through more work (and if that work has not been undertaken as part of this triennium) **Consideration for a specific briefing on “onehealth” to make contributions to Ramsar agenda; Possibility of developing a web portal for good articles/recent releases for the wetlands and health theme
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Production of book – submitted to Springer for publication 2014/2015. Chapter 11 provides a review of human health issues and Ramsar’s wetland guidance and handbooks
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 38 (2013-15): Guidance for wetland managers on human and animal health impact, burden of disease and community health assessments, in wetlands	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	STRP
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Prepare human health guidance for wetland managers on: i) The conduct of human and animal health impact assessments in wetlands*; and ii) Providing wetland-related inputs to a) burden-of-disease assessments; b) community health assessments; and c) community and stakeholder engagement concerning health matters.

	New task (Resolution XI.12 paragraph 31 iii & iv).
Type of deliverable:	Guidance for wetland managers and training package
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	Task will not be undertaken this triennium
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, with WHO, FAO, OIE, BIP, IUCN, Parties & others
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information:	*identifying the impact assessment protocols that examine health, to include: issues related to invasive species and pathogens; prevention of disease emergence or re-emergence; attending to livelihoods, reducing poverty and improving health outcomes
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Sub-theme 5.2: Wetlands and climate change

Work under this sub-theme tends to be crosscutting, since the implications of climate change, including both mitigation and adaptation, are critically important in almost all aspects of the wise use of wetlands and must be reflected in most guidance and products prepared by STRP. This sub-theme also includes tasks related to the provision of wetland-related scientific information for other global, regional and national processes related to policy for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Lijuan Cui (Cui), Guéladio Cissé (GC)
Working Group participants:	Max Finlayson (MF) (invited expert), Christine Prietto (CP), Seung Oh Suh (SoS) (Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia), Denis Landenbergue (DL) (WWF), Barry Warner (BW) (STRP NFP Canada), Rob McInnes (RM) (SWS), Matthew McCartney (MM), Lisa-Maria Rebelo (LR) (IWMI), Carlos Padovani (GEO BON), Nathalie Doswald (UNEP-WCMC), John Matthews (CI); Gretchen Gettel (UNESCO-IHE)
Secretariat focal point:	Maria Rivera (MR) (SRA Americas)

Task No. 41 (2013-15): Implications of, and advice on, climate change for Convention implementation	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Lijuan Cui (Cui), Guéladio Cissé (GC)
Task Group participants:	Max Finlayson (MF) (invited expert), Christine Prietto (CP), Seung Oh Suh (SoS) (Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia), Denis Landenbergue (DL) (WWF), Maria Rivera (MR) (SRA Americas), Barry Warner (BW) (STRP NFP Canada), Rob McInnes (RM) (SWS), Matthew McCartney (MM), Lisa-Maria Rebelo (LR) (IWMI), Heather Mackay (HM), Sasha Alexander (SA), Keller Kopf (KK), Peter Gell (PG), John Matthews (JM), Ian Harrison (CI/IUCN)
Task description:	<p>c) Continue to prepare advice on the implications of climate change for maintaining the ecological character of wetlands, including <i>inter alia</i> strategies for dealing with the emergence of novel or hybrid ecosystems as a consequence of climate change, the determination of appropriate reference conditions for assessing change in ecological character, determining specified limits of change, and the reporting of change in ecological character at Ramsar Sites, and how this can be reflected in Ramsar Information Sheets, and to collate information from such assessments for future meetings of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>d) Collate and assess case studies and other information generated in response to Resolution XI.14 paragraph 32 [Note overlap with activities in tasks iii) and iv)below];</p> <p>e) Working with interested Contracting Parties and international organisations to prepare advice on sustainable management of carbon stocks which enhances wetland biodiversity and the delivery of ecosystem services, thereby contributing to human well-being, with special attention to indigenous peoples and local communities.</p> <p>f) In conjunction with the Secretariat and Ramsar Regional Initiative Networks and Centres, collaborate with relevant international organisations and conventions, within their respective mandates, to further investigate the potential contribution of wetland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation through:</p>

	<p>c. Preparing advice on assessing social resilience and vulnerability of wetlands to climate change, to complement the existing advice on assessing the biophysical vulnerability of a wetlands to climate change (Ramsar Technical Report No. 5/CBD Technical Series No. 57);</p> <p>d. Preparing advice on ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change for coastal and inland wetlands; and</p> <p>e. Reviewing any relevant advice provided by other MEAs, in particular the outcomes of CBD COP-11.</p> <p>Revised. Partly carried over from 2009-2012 & Resolution XI.14 paragraph 35</p>
Task rationale:	The task builds on the requests contained in Resolution X.24 and is partly carried over from 2009-2012. Although Parties have adopted COP Resolutions on wetlands and climate change, and a number of notes and technical reports on some aspects of addressing climate change have been prepared (e.g., RTR on vulnerability assessment), there is no consolidated guidance yet available on addressing climate issues in relation to wetland wise use.
Target audience:	Contracting Parties, Policy makers, Wetland managers
Type of deliverable:	Guidance/advice for Contracting Parties
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>i) Sub-tasks Lead / co-leads from the WG</p> <p>ii) External writing groups for each sub-task;</p> <p>iii) External writing group to deliver the expected products at a certain time.</p>
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	<p>Max Finlayson (STRP invited expert)</p> <p>Externals: Heather Mackay (HM), Sasha Alexander (SA), Keller Kopf (KK), Peter Gell (PG), John Matthews (JM)</p>
Contributing bodies/organisations:	CBD, UNFCCC and IPCC; IOPs; researchers ; Alliance for Global Water Adaptation Project (AGWA)
Funds (CHF):	<p>Requested:</p> <p>i) 8,000</p> <p>ii) 4,000</p> <p>iii) 5,000</p> <p>iv) 15,000</p> <p>TOTAL 32,000 CHF</p> <p>Allocated: 3,800 for sub-task (iv)(c)</p> <p>Currently available: 3,800</p>
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	This sub-theme on Wetlands and climate change has a large overlap with other themes and can be used to pull together and integrate material, including past COP Resolutions, to provide management-related guidance to Contracting Parties and wetland managers and experts.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>Subtask 41(iv)(c) Identified as a top priority by SC-46.</p> <p>Preparing RTR on advice provided by other MEAs, in particular the outcomes of CBD COP-11</p> <p>No progress (on ecological character aspects)</p>
Next Steps	Draft RTR to be completed in November 2014

Highest Priority Task(s)

Task No. 41 (iv)(c) (2013-15): Implications of, and advice on, climate change for Convention implementation	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Lijuan Cui (Cui), Guéladio Cissé (GC)
Task Group participants:	Max Finlayson (MF) (invited expert), Christine Prietto (CP), Seung Oh Suh (SoS) ((Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia), Denis Landenbergue (DL) (WWF), Maria Rivera (MR) (SRA Americas), Barry Warner (BW)

	(STRP NFP Canada), Rob McInnes (RM) (SWS), Matthew McCartney (MM), Lisa-Maria Rebelo (LR) (IWMI), Heather Mackay (HM), Sasha Alexander (SA), Keller Kopf (KK), Peter Gell (PG), John Matthews (JM), Ian Harrison (CI/IUCN)
Task description:	(iv) In conjunction with the Secretariat and Ramsar Regional Initiative Networks and Centres, collaborate with relevant international organisations and conventions, within their respective mandates, to further investigate the potential contribution of wetland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation through: f. Reviewing any relevant advice provided by other MEAs, in particular the outcomes of CBD COP-11. Revised. Partly carried over from 2009-2012 & Resolution XI.14 paragraph 35
Task rationale:	The task builds on the requests contained in Resolution X.24 and is partly carried over from 2009-2012. Although Parties have adopted COP Resolutions on wetlands and climate change, and a number of notes and technical reports on some aspects of addressing climate change have been prepared (e.g., RTR on vulnerability assessment), there is no consolidated guidance yet available on addressing climate issues in relation to wetland wise use.
Target audience:	Contracting Parties, Policy makers, Wetland managers
Type of deliverable:	Guidance/advice for Contracting Parties
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	iv) Sub-tasks Lead / co-leads from the WG v) External writing groups for each sub-task; vi) External writing group to deliver the expected products at a certain time.
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	Max Finlayson (STRP invited expert) Externals: Heather Mackay (HM), Sasha Alexander (SA), Keller Kopf (KK), Peter Gell (PG), John Matthews (JM)
Contributing bodies/organisations:	CBD, UNFCCC and IPCC; IOPs; researchers ; Alliance for Global Water Adaptation Project (AGWA)
Funds (CHF):	15,000 requested 3,800 for sub-task (iv)(c): Allocated 3,800 currently available
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	This sub-theme on Wetlands and climate change has a large overlap with other themes and can be used to pull together and integrate material, including past COP Resolutions, to provide management-related guidance to Contracting Parties and wetland managers and experts.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Preparing RTR on advice provided by other MEAs, in particular the outcomes of CBD COP-11, based on outcomes of a Beijing writing workshop, individual research and discussions during STRP18.
Next Steps	Draft to be finished by November 2014

Other Priority Tasks

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Lijuan Cui (Cui) / Guéladio Cissé (GC)
Working Group Participants:	Max Finlayson (MF) (invited expert), Christine Prietto (CP), Seung Oh Suh (SoS) (Ramsar Regional Centre-East Asia), Denis Landenbergue (DL) (WWF), Maria Rivera (MR) (SRA Americas), Barry Warner (BW) (STRP NFP Canada), Rob McInnes (RM) (SWS)

Task No. 41: sub-task 1: Implications of climate change for maintaining the ecological character of wetland	
Sub Task Group lead/co-leads:	Lijuan Cui (Cui)
Sub Task Group participants:	Internal: Rob McInnes (RM) (SWS), Barry Warner (BW) (STRP NFP Canada) External: Max Finlayson (MF) (invited expert), Heather Mackay (HM), Sasha Alexander (SA), Keller Kopf

	(KK), Peter Gell (PG), Ian Harrison (IH) (CI/IUCN), John Matthews (JM)
Sub Task description:	<p>a) Novel ecosystems Describe concept and cause of novel ecosystems and implications for maintaining ecological character. Refer to the Ecological character, and change in ecological character of wetlands Theme– <i>Briefing Note (MF, HM, SA, Cui)</i>; <i>Target audience: policy makers, wetland managers</i></p> <p>b) Reference conditions / baselines of change Ways of determining reference conditions, including palaeo-eco data, and how changing baselines may affect reporting of change in ecological character. Refer to the Ecological character, and change in ecological character of wetlands Theme – <i>Briefing Note, peer-reviewed papers (MF, KK, PG & DSG)</i>; <i>Target audience: policy makers, wetland managers</i></p> <p>c) Limits of change & reporting on change in eco character Refer to the Ecological character, and change in ecological character of wetlands Theme – <i>guidance for CPs</i></p>
Sub Task rationale:	The task builds on the requests contained in Resolution X.24 and is partly carried over from 2009-2012. Although Parties have adopted COP Resolutions on wetlands and climate change, and a number of notes and technical reports on some aspects of addressing climate change have been prepared (e.g., RTR on vulnerability assessment), there is no consolidated guidance yet available on addressing climate issues in relation to wetland wise use.
Sub-Task Target audience:	Contracting Parties, Policy makers , Wetlands managers
Type of deliverable:	Briefing Note; Peer reviewed papers; Guidance/advice for Contracting Parties
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	vii) Commit external writing groups to deliver the expected deliverables; workshop organised by PAGES (Melbourne Nov 2013)
Sub Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	External (MF)
Contributing bodies/organisations:	CBD, UNFCCC and IPCC; IOPs; researchers, Alliance for Global Water Adaptation Project (AGWA), Conservation International
Sub-Task Funds (CHF):	8,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	This sub-theme on climate change and ecological character of wetlands has a large overlap with other themes and can be used to pull together and integrate material, including past COP Resolutions, to provide management-related guidance to Contracting Parties and wetland managers and experts.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 41: sub-task 2: Case studies and other information generated in response to Resolution XI.14 paragraph 32	
Sub Task Group lead/co-leads:	Lijuan Cui (Cui)
Sub Task Group participants:	Internal: Robert McInnes (SWS), Lijuan Cui(Cui) External: Max Finlayson (invited expert), Barry Warner (STRP NFP Canada), Denis Landenberg (WWF), CEPA, Secretariat
Sub Task description:	<p>a) Provide list of published papers/reports on wetland carbon measurements and management – <i>Report (MF)</i> – <i>Target audience: policy makers</i></p> <p>b) Use published info to develop factsheets on carbon in highly climate sensitive regions – <i>Factsheet (Cui, MF, BW, DL)</i> – <i>Target audience: Convention parties</i></p>
Type of deliverable:	Report, Factsheet (for Ramsar Forum, STRP Newsletter and webpage)
Sub Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan	Strategy 1.4

Strategy/KRA:	
Lead body/organisation:	External (MF)
Sub tasks Funds (CHF):	4,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 41: sub-task 3: Advice on sustainable management of carbon stocks	
Sub Task Group lead/co-leads:	Lijuan Cui
Sub Task Group participants:	Internal: Barry Warner (STRP NFP Canada), Denis Landenberg (WWF) External: Max Finlayson (invited expert) CEPA, Secretariat
Sub Task description:	a) Provide list of published papers/reports on wetland carbon measurements and management- <i>Report (Cui, MF) – Target audience: Secretariat, policy makers</i> b) Use published info to develop factsheets on carbon in highly sensitive climate regions – <i>Factsheets (Cui, MF, BW, DL) – Target audience: Secretariat, Convention parties</i>
Type of deliverable:	Report for Ramsar Forum, STRP Newsletter and webpage
Sub Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	External (MF)
Sub tasks Funds (CHF):	5,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 41: sub-task 4: Potential contribution of wetland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation	
Sub Task Group lead/co-leads:	Guéladio Cissé (GC)
Sub Task Group participants:	Internal: Rob McInnes (SWS), Guéladio Cissé, Lijuan Cui External: Max Finlayson (invited expert), Habiba Gitay, Ed Maltby, Social scientist???, Ian Harrison (IH) (CI/IUCN), John Matthews (JM) (CI)
Sub Task description:	a) Social resilience and vulnerability Develop guidance on social resilience and vulnerability, referring to IPCC material – <i>Briefing Note (Social scientist – external???, GC, Cui); – Target audience: Wetland managers</i> b) Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change for coastal and inland wetlands Develop guidance on EBA, incorporating wise use principles, and examples of adaptation options – <i>Briefing Note and Report (MF, RM, GC); – Target audience: Wetland managers</i> c) Participate in external review of IPCC guidelines on emissions from wetlands. (Cui) Participate in external review of IPCC 5AR.(Cui, GC + others) Extract relevant information on wetlands from IPCC reports – <i>Ramsar report (MF, Matthew, Lisa, GC).5000; – Target audience: Convention parties</i>

Type of deliverable:	Reports, Briefing Note, Information note
Sub Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	External (MF) , Alliance for Global Water Adaptation Project (AGWA), Conservation International
Sub tasks Funds (CHF):	15,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	As noted in task No. 15 above, the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (as a tool under the MedWet regional initiative) has launched a project to assess and promote the role that wetlands can play in mitigating the impacts of climate change.
Next Steps	TBD

Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 42 (2013-15): Ramsar Sites boundary migration in response to sea level rise and other climate change effects	
Task lead/co-leads:	Lijuan Cui, Guéladio Cissé
Task group participants:	Alex de Sherbinin; Max Finlayson (invited expert)
Task description:	Advice Parties on the implications of sea level rise for coastal Ramsar Sites, particularly those for which adaptation could be constrained due to, <i>inter alia</i> , the proximity of existing and expanding urban areas. Continued from 2009-1012.
Type of deliverable:	Briefing Note - completed
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 2.1
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, with CIESIN
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Sub-theme 5.3: Wetlands and water resource management

This theme focuses on the connections between water and wetlands, especially in providing guidance for incorporating wetlands into water resources management and water infrastructure planning and development, in ways that support both the wise use of wetlands and the sustainable management of water resources. From more practical guidance in the last few cycles, the focus here is shifting to strategic engagement with water sector policy development and planning at global, regional and national levels, in order to influence water sector activities towards the wise use of wetlands.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Stefano Barchiesi (IUCN), Eugenio Barrios (WWF)
Working Group participants:	Rob Shore (WWT), Claire Mirande (ICF), Gretchen Gettel (UNESCO-IHE), Devin Bartley (FAO), Ritesh Kumar, Matthew McCartney, Stanley Liphadzi, Carlos Padovani (GEO-BON), Mike Acreman (invited expert)

Secretariat focal point:	Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe)
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Highest Priority Task(s)

Task No. 44 (2013-15): Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of a strategy for engaging in the global water debate	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Stefano Barchiesi (IUCN), Eugenio Barrios (WWF)
Task Group participants:	Rob Shore (WWF), Claire Mirande (ICF), Gretchen Gettel (UNESCO-IHE), Devin Bartley (FAO), Ritesh Kumar, Matthew McCartney, Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe), Mike Acreman (invited expert), Joshua Newton (consultant), Rob McInnes (SWS observer representative), Mark Smith (IUCN), James Dalton (IUCN), Joshua Newton
Task description:	Develop a strategy for Ramsar to engage fully in the global water debate, focusing on the role of wetlands as natural water infrastructure. This includes specifying aims, mechanisms for engagement and products needed to support the engagement. [Note. The Secretariat's 2011 development of a "Vision 40+" for the Convention contributes to this strategy]. Carried over from 2009-2012 (task 7.7.a)
Task rationale:	STRP identified the need to develop a strategy for Ramsar to engage in the global water debate, focusing on the role of wetlands as natural water infrastructure. This work was proposed for the 2009-2012 triennium, but funds were not available and the work is still considered high priority. [Note. The Secretariat's 2011 development of a "Vision 40+" for the Convention contributes to this strategy.]
Target audience:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Water treaties especially related to Regional Initiatives, such as transboundary river basins, and conventions that are interested in water; ii) Regional development banks, World Bank; iii) Institution of Civil Engineers, International Commission on Large Dams, International Hydropower Association; iv) WHO, Water Sanitation and Health (WASH); v) Water agencies; vi) Private sector, e.g., hydropower companies; vii) UN agencies: FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat.
Type of deliverable:	Ramsar engagement strategy and possible refinements to 2013-2015 work programme (for Parties, Secretariat, and STRP) in the global water debate. S&T Briefing Note on Ramsar position paper on water agenda that should be a strategic input for the development of the Strategic Plan 2016-2022.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>Prepare Terms of Reference for the work to be undertaken;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Scope water-related issues relevant to Ramsar; ii) Hold a brainstorming session at the next STRP meeting (in preparation for that, each thematic work area would need to examine its relationship with external organisations; whom to influence, whom to partner with); iii) Produce draft of strategy paper to circulate to other task group participants; iv) Hold discussion session at mid-term workshops; v) High level panel workshop to discuss strategy. High level decision takers from different sectors and regions will be invited to discuss final draft. An international event, such as the World Water Week 2014 will be considered. vi) Finalize the document defining a strategy for engaging in the global water debate: this would include specifying aims, mechanism for engagement, and products needed to support the engagement; and vii) Implement engagement, based on that strategy. This may require the production of tools, such as PowerPoint slides on specific issues to ensure consistency of messages.
	Progress at Feb 2013: Ramsar is already involved in the Post-2015 development agenda consultation in water and the UN assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwater. Ramsar well positioned within the post-2015 water consultations – IUCN leading 'Water for Nature, Nature for Water' consultation supporting ecosystems and wetlands management
	Actions from STRP 17: Mike Acreman to prepare draft briefing paper on Ramsar position in water and circulate to team for comment. Mike to produce list of potential partner organisations in global water debate. Briefing papers to be prepared with partners e.g. wetlands and hydropower. Mike to prepare prioritized list of meetings in which Ramsar can participate/influence activities; team to provide input e.g. COAG of FAO. Presentations to be made (ideally by partner organisations) on Ramsar philosophy tailored to event.

Task category:	1,3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 and 1.7
Lead body/organisation:	STRP and Secretariat
Contributing bodies/organisations:	IOPs and others as needed
Funds (CHF):	20,000 requested 20,000 allocated 6,000 currently available (after consultancy contract for positioning paper)
Additional comments/information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Producing a good strategy for engagement is the key to orientating all Ramsar water-related guidance; ii) Need to review global concepts of river basin management, IWRM, ecosystem approach, Dublin principles; iii) The strategy needs to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Scope of current Ramsar guidance and SWOT analysis b. How Ramsar should engage with water management issues and processes; c. Review of water-related concepts and terminology see what has been used and what works; d. Assess and recommend appropriate concepts for organizing water-related guidance; e. UN guidance on IWRM weak on wetlands; f. The Global Water Partnership IWRM approach may not address wetland issues well.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>Identified as a top priority by SC-46.</p> <p>A positioning paper outlining 'Recommendations and opportunities for the Ramsar Convention to increase its impact within the global water debate', commissioned by the Secretariat and reviewed by the STRP, has been prepared. Development of the paper was informed by a joint IUCN-Ramsar concept for creating implementation initiatives for the Convention and wetland conservation. An ongoing technical and legal study is also being conducted on the three global conventions on water and wetlands, looking at potential gaps and overlaps. Ramsar is well positioned in the thematic process of the 7th World Water Forum as session co-facilitator for theme 3.2 'Managing and Restoring Ecosystem for Water Services and Biodiversity'. This platform maintains links to the SDG process.</p>
Next Steps	Briefing Note addressing the need to prioritise opportunities is anticipated.

Other Priority Tasks

Task No. 43 (2013-15): The role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Stefano Barchiesi (IUCN), Eugenio Barrios (WWF)
Task Group participants:	Rob Shore (WWT), Claire Mirande (ICF), Gretchen Gettel (UNESCO-IHE), Devin Bartley (FAO), Ritesh Kumar, Matthew McCartney, Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe), Mike Acreman (invited expert)
Task description:	Establish an expert group on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle (as requested by CBD COP10 Decision X/28 and approved by the Standing Committee at SC42), and communicate with Parties so that they can provide scientific inputs through their own experts.
Task rationale:	<p>Ongoing, initiated in 2009-2012.</p> <p>CBD decision X/28, paragraph 39, recognises the fruitful synergies between the CBD and the Ramsar Convention, <i>requests</i> the Executive Secretary, and <i>invites</i> the Secretariat and Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, and other relevant partners, subject to the availability of financial resources, to establish an expert working group, building upon the relevant core expertise of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, to review available information, and provide key policy relevant messages, on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle.</p>
Target audience:	CBD and Ramsar focal points
Type of deliverable:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Technical review of the contribution of biodiversity to sustaining the water cycle, and current and potential changes occurring in this relationship (RTR/CBD Technical Series report); ii) Key policy-relevant messages for decision makers.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Hold a small workshop between Ramsar and CBD to scope the work; ii) Identify task teams to draw together scientific underpinning information; iii) Produce text summarizing scientific understanding and policy guidance that can be supported;

	iv) Hold a workshop of experts to bring together the information and recommendations; v) Publish a technical report.
	Progress at Feb 2013: Workshop held. Authors selected. Draft text written for most chapters. Earthscan approached to publish book.
	New actions from STRP 17: MA to circulate book structure and authors to task team. Team to provide ideas for peer-reviewers. Team to provide text for book e.g. IHE text on NOx, IWMI text on quantification of wetland impacts on river flow. Key messages to be prepared by May.
Task category:	1,3,5
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 and 1.7
Lead body/organisation:	STRP and CBD Secretariat
Contributing bodies/organisations:	[FAO and IUCN providing support in the review process]
Funds (CHF):	[150,000, funding already provided by donors]
Additional comments/information:	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	All technical chapters have been drafted with most in final form. The policy sections have been outlined but substantial text is still in preparation. Earthscan has expressed a strong interest in publishing the outputs as a book.
Next Steps	David Coates (CBD) has submitted Terms of Reference to the Ramsar Secretariat for a contract to complete the text and submit to the publishers.

Task No. 45 (2013-15): Environmental water allocation for wetlands–guidance	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Stefano Barchiesi (IUCN), Eugenio Barrios (WWF)
Task Group participants:	Rob Shore (WWT), Claire Mirande (ICF), Gretchen Gettel (UNESCO-IHE), Devin Bartley (FAO), Ritesh Kumar, Matthew McCartney, Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe), Mike Acreman (invited expert)
Task description:	Work with Mexico and WWF to share approaches and experiences and to develop further guidance or tools for management and allocation of water for maintaining the ecological character of wetlands.
Task rationale:	Strategic Plan 2009-2015. Environmental water allocation guidance need review and update base on implementation experiences and request for CP. Parallel event presented at the COP11 to discuss the need and show the Mexican case and the experiences from Spain.
Target audience:	Policy makers, wetland managers and water authorities
Type of deliverable:	Initially a Briefing Note to justify approach and products, including preliminary case studies on implementation of environmental water allocation (Australia, South Africa, India, Europe WFD). Design best product to meet CP request and develop it for COP12. Specifically, on practical criteria for developing a phased hierarchical approach in the implementation of methods and policy integration (ecological framework, climate change, water management, ecological services), opportunities, and benefits
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Briefing Note [Content: Initial scoping of Ramsar wetlands affected by water use, review and synthesis of relevant scientific information, thematic collation of case studies on assessment of water needs etc/by June/2013 2. Design survey process to design best product for the COP12, including feedback process through regional initiatives, IOP and observers, and particularly WWF network 3. Case studies identification and selection by Aug/2013 4. Review current status of guidelines and decide delivery product (an update or complementary documents) to simplify, strength, and enable CP usage by Nov 2013 5. Cross check with climate change, ecological status, and other directed related working groups and current Ramsar guidance. Mid-term sessions 2014 6. COP 12 deliveries Jan/2015 (Ramsar Technical Report, DR if really needed) <p>Requirements: consultant to develop case studies identification and selection, review current guidelines identify gaps and propose strategic documents considering Resolution IX.1 Annex CA An Integrated Framework for the Ramsar Convention's (and propose update if needed), and other Ramsar water-related guidance. Survey with some CP about desirable product and communication ways.</p>

	Actions from STRP 17: EB to develop Briefing Note explaining rationale of the task; assisting to the regional meeting of the Mangrove and Coral Reef Initiative of the Americas to present the task and apply survey; identify other regional meetings. Present proposal to the Government of Mexico.
Task category:	1,3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 and 1.7
Lead body/organisation:	STRP; Mexico and WWF
Contributing bodies/organisations:	IUCN, International Crane Foundation
Funds (CHF):	Requested: 30,000 Total 10,000 Consultant 15,000 Ramsar Documents and Communication products 5,000 User needs survey (support to develop remote survey and participation on selected Ramsar meetings to be held before Sep. 2013) Allocated: 0
Additional comments/information:	Support is expected from the Mexican government. Inter-American Development Bank has expressed some interest. Ratify interest of the Government of Spain to further develop the draft resolution presented last year.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	The government of Mexico has ratified its commitment to develop a Resolution to invite the CPs to take immediate action to secure water for Ramsar sites. Water extraction is one of the main threats to ecological condition of Ramsar sites. Water management and wetlands have to be fully integrated in order to manage the threat, and provide a better conservation framework. The government of Mexico has approach the challenge and has established an ambitious program to allocate water to 189 river basins including 55 Ramsar sites in the following 4 years. This initiative is coordinated by the National Water Commission and WWF, with the participation of the National Protected Areas Commission, the Ramsar focal point. Steps for delivering the work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing note: Not developed. • Survey process. A pilot survey was developed with CPs from the Mangroves and Coral Reef Initiative of the Americas. All of them expressed interest in the issue, the necessity to have reliable methodologies and communications to the water resource agencies • Case studies: In process • The Mexican government has just hired a consultant to develop case studies (identification and selection), review current guidelines and identify gaps and propose strategic documents considering Resolution IX.1 Annex C, An Integrated Framework for the Ramsar Convention's water-related guidance (and propose update if needed). A Survey of some CPs about desirable products and communication has been conducted.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government of Mexico (GOM) will ratify to the Ramsar Secretariat the development of a Resolution on environmental water allocation for wetlands. • The GOM and WWF will develop the draft resolution and supporting documents (Sept. 2014) • Analyse/justify the resolution scope based on current information on National Reports just submitted by CP and an additional quick survey (Sept. 2014) • Draft resolution to be presented to STRP and CPs. (Oct. 2014) • Submit Resolution (Nov. 27, 2014)

Sub-theme 5.4: Wetlands and agriculture

This theme addresses the range of issues concerning agriculture and wetlands interactions, recognising that much food production depends directly or indirectly on wetlands including as natural water infrastructure, but also that food production continues to be a major driver of loss and deterioration of wetlands, through water abstractions for irrigated agriculture, conversion of wetlands to croplands, and the impacts of agro-chemicals.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Matthew McCartney, Stanley Liphadzi
Working Group	Devin Bartley (FAO), Claire Mirande (ICF), Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, Mohamed Reda Fishar, Marieke

participants:	Sassen (UNEP-WCMC), Carlos Padovani (GEO BON), invited expert (to be determined)
Secretariat focal point:	Paul Ouedraogo (SRA Africa)

Other Priority Tasks

Task No. 46 (2013-15): Wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Matthew McCartney, Stanley Liphadzi
Task Group participants:	Devin Bartley (FAO), Paul Ouedraogo (SRA Africa), Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, Mohamed Reda Fishar, Mike Phillips (World Fish)(?)
Task description:	<p>Develop guide to guidance for the wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture, and inland fisheries.</p> <p>(Improving the awareness of the importance of existing inland fisheries in wetlands and relating to the real potential for aquaculture. Building on lessons learnt from best practices on sustainable aquaculture, and recognising that global dependence on aquaculture is growing, that wild stocks continue to be depleted, and that meeting the need for seafood is resulting in significant direct (habitat loss, wild harvest of species) and indirect impacts (pollution, contamination) on wetlands.)</p> <p>New task: building on aspects of COP9 Resolution IX.4 (2005).</p>
Task rationale:	<p>The global dependence on aquaculture is growing and wild stocks continue to be depleted. However, the contribution of small-scale fisheries in coastal and inland waters is poorly known and underestimated. Meeting the need for seafood through aquaculture can result in significant impacts, both direct (habitat loss, wild harvest of species) and indirect (pollution, contamination) on wetlands. Further, the use and impact of novel compounds, anti-biotics and other pharmaceuticals used in the production process of aquaculture is poorly defined and their impacts are not well understood. The impacts of genetic improvement and the use of alien species on wild populations are not always well considered. Because inland fishery production is underestimated, policy makers often ignore the sub-sector in favour of other development options. Wise use of wetlands will include a balance of capture fisheries and aquaculture.</p> <p>Awareness of guidance is needed for the wise use of wetlands in relation to burgeoning new coastal aquaculture but also for stocked inland wetlands. Contribution of small scale fisheries in inland and coastal waters to livelihoods and food security is poorly known but vastly underestimated. By improving the knowledge base on these fisheries, the motivation for aquaculture, that may degrade wetlands, could be reduced. Without this information aquaculture may be promoted or planned were it would not be competitive with capture fisheries and would fail. There is much existing guidance including that developed by FAO and WorldFish so rather than generating new material, the need is for guidance on how to access existing material, relevant to different target audiences.</p>
Target audience:	Administrative Authorities, other government sectors, wetland managers, aquaculture practitioners
Type of deliverable:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Briefing notes: State of knowledge papers describing drivers/trends and key issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - one for inland fisheries/aquaculture - one for coastal aquaculture, • Information paper/RTR: Annotated Guide to guidance for Parties – will point to existing guidance and state the relevance to different target audiences. Will include case studies from Ramsar Sites. • Draft Resolution for COP12?
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping – state of knowledge papers (by October 2013) – FAO to undertake • Conceptual framework development - Optimizing benefits, minimizing harm (by December 2013) • Regional workshops (one in Africa and one in Asia) – if funds permit • Preparation of the Guide to Guidance – FAO/WorldFish (intern) (by October 2014)
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 and 1.6
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	STRP NFPs, FAO and RFBs, WorldFish Centre, WWF, NACA, NACEE,
Funds (CHF):	Requested: 10000: state of knowledge papers/conceptual framework

	80000: regional workshops (40,000 Africa and 40,000 Asia) 15000: Guide to guidance Allocated 0
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	Requested to undertake the work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO (Devin Bartley) • WorldFish (Mike Phillips) – maybe an intern
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	This activity has been advanced through IWMI and FAO. A young consultant (Nadir Abi Nassif) was recruited to undertake a literature review and develop the background documentation. As part of the research he also visited WorldFish in Penang and undertook a short field mission to Lao PDR, where he visited Ramsar sites and discussed fisheries issues with local communities. To date, in conjunction with Matthew McCartney and Devin Bartley, he has produced one report entitled: <i>Wetlands, inland capture fisheries and aquaculture</i> . He also has very rough draft of a second report on coastal aquaculture.
Next Steps	The two reports identified above need to be completed and possibly published as RTRs. The Briefing Notes can be developed as shortened forms of the two reports. We have received substantive feedback from STRP members on the first report (<i>Wetlands, inland capture fisheries and aquaculture</i>) and agreed that this shall first be published as an RTR. There is quite a lot of work to do to address the comments. We envisage completing a first draft of the report in readiness for external peer review by the end of November 2014. The guide to guidance can be developed based, in part, on the literature that Nadir collected but unlikely that this will be complete this triennium.

Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 47 (2013-15): Impacts of agricultural practices on rice paddies as wetland systems	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Compile and review information on the positive and negative impacts of agricultural practices on rice paddies as wetland systems in terms of enhancing their biodiversity and ecosystem services, and prepare advice to the Convention on these matters. New task: Resolution XI.15 paragraph 24.
Type of deliverable:	Advice to Parties (Briefing Note); review of existing material, IPM, FAO and Rice Commission
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 & 1.6
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, with Parties, relevant UN organisations, other MEAs (incl. CMS WG on bird poisoning)
Funds (CHF):	80,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	Rice fields are not the same as natural wetlands, but can provide ecosystem services and maybe important for biodiversity. Rice fields are used by many species and can help mitigate the loss of natural habitats in areas where agriculture dominates. Most birds use rice fields primarily for foraging, and some rare species nest in rice. Increasing collaboration between researchers, farmers and agronomists provides opportunities to better understand how field management can be modified to increase the conservation value of fields without compromising the economic viability of farming. Such research would facilitate the development of well-designed agri-environment schemes and provide a solid basis for marketing “wildlife-friendly” rice products. Two people – Dr Masayuki Kurechi (<i>Japanese Association for Wild Geese Protection, Miyagi, Japan; son_goose@sky.plala.or.jp</i>) and Dr Chris Elphick (<i>Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Center for Conservation and Biodiversity, University of Connecticut; chris.elphick@uconn.edu</i>) are working with teams (mainly in

	Asia and USA) on this issue and would be potential contacts. FAO is working on rice, water and production in Laos PDR, Philippines and Indonesia, as part of new strategic planning process. INWEPF (International Network for Water and Environment in the Paddy Field) have an interest.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 48 (2013-15): Re-engineering agricultural landscapes	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Prepare guidance on re-engineering agricultural landscapes. Revitalization of wetland biodiversity within agricultural landscapes is an emerging issue with the transformation of past collective farming systems (e.g., in Central Europe) to individual landholdings. Community aspirations to develop eco-agricultural farming systems as part of such transformations need to be supported by technical/scientific guidance on best practices. New task.
Type of deliverable:	Briefing Notes; guidance for Parties
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 & 1.6
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, with Czech government, EU, OECD, FAO
Funds (CHF):	145,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	Aquaculture and culture-based fisheries are re-emerging in Central Asia; stocking waterbodies can help recover biodiversity. FAO has some guidelines on habitat rehabilitation for fisheries.
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 49 (2013-15): Wetlands and biofuels	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Working with international organisations addressing biofuel issues: i) Review the global distribution of biofuel production in relation to impacts on wetlands; ii) Review and collate existing best management practice guidance and social and environmental sustainability criteria for growing biofuel feedstocks in relation to wetlands, and where appropriate develop such guidance and criteria; iii) Consider further discussion among the Contracting Parties on addressing sustainable biofuel issues in relation to wetlands; and iv) Take into account the findings and conclusions contained in the documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/14 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/32 related to gaps in tools and approaches and uncertainty surrounding the sustainability of biofuels as potential contributions for further refinement of the Guidance annexed to Resolution XI.10 as well as for addressing sustainable biofuels issues in relation to wetlands. Carried over from 2009-2012 (task 6.3) & Resolution XI.10 paragraph 21.
Type of deliverable:	Ramsar Technical Report & guidance/briefing notes for Parties
Task category:	1

Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 & 1.6
Lead body/organisation:	
Funds (CHF):	45,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Sub-theme 5.5: Wetlands and poverty eradication

This theme recognises that for many countries poverty eradication is a major policy priority, especially in relation to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); that Ramsar has long stressed the fact that many people depend directly or indirectly on wetlands and their benefits for their livelihoods and well-being; and that the wise use of wetlands can contribute to poverty eradication.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, Ritesh Kumar
Working Group participants:	Pierre Horwitz, Randy Milton, Stanley Liphadzi, Matthew McCartney, Guéladio Cissé, Matt Walpole, Abisha Mapendembe (UNEP-WCMC), Andy Graham (WWI), Sanjiv de Silva, James Lyon
Secretariat focal point:	Paul Oedraogo (Africa SRA)

Highest Priority Task(s)

Task No. 50 (2013-15): Wetlands & poverty eradication – guidance and case studies	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu, Ritesh Kumar
Task Group participants:	Pierre Horwitz, Randy Milton, Stanley Liphadzi, Matthew McCartney, Sanjiv de Silva, Christine Prietto, Matthew McCartney, James Lyon
Task description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Advice to CPs and Policy makers on strategic steps required to mainstream the “Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication” into international and national policies and programmes for poverty eradication. Advice to include Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) as a mechanism that contributes significantly to reduce the risks that can create or deepen poverty. ii) Development of structured ‘guide to available guidelines and tools’ for addressing poverty eradication in relation to wetlands. iii) Case studies and best practices on the application of the Framework for assessing poverty in association with wetlands wise use. This should include (but not be limited to) examples of how wetland degradation affects people’s livelihoods and how maintenance or restoration of the ecological character of wetlands can contribute to poverty alleviation.
Task rationale:	<p>Wetlands contribute in diverse ways to the livelihoods of millions of people in many parts of the world. The wise use of wetlands can contribute to poverty eradication. For many countries, poverty eradication remains a major policy priority to achieve the MDGs. In this context, Resolution XI.13 focusing on wetlands and poverty eradication has been identified by Parties to the Convention as a priority theme to focus on in the next triennium.</p> <p>The tasks identified under Resolution XI.13 for the 2013 – 2015 triennium are building upon two previous resolutions: Resolution X.28 (2008) on <i>Wetlands and poverty eradication</i> and Resolution IX.14 (2005) on <i>Wetlands and poverty reduction</i>. The tasks above therefore supplement the Resolution XI.13 Framework, by undertaking important tasks that had been identified in these previous resolutions but were unable to be addressed in the earlier triennium. The 3 tasks provide the necessary advice, guidance and strategic steps that are crucial for Resolution XI.13 to be fully implemented.</p>

Target audience:	This can be broadly divided into 3 categories: i) CPs and Policy makers dealing with poverty eradication programmes that may directly or indirectly affect wetlands and dependent communities (for strategic steps in policy and programme initiatives) ii) Development agencies and conservation organisations charged with implementing poverty eradication programmes that may directly or indirectly affect wetlands and dependent communities (for guide to guidelines, and case studies and best practice); iii) Local and site level wetland managers (for case studies and best practice)
Type of deliverable:	i) A DR based on Resolution XI.13 with guidance in an Annex that outlines the strategic steps required to mainstream the “Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication” into international and national policies and programmes for poverty eradication. Include an explanatory note on top of DR indicating that a wide consultation process was adopted when drafting the guidelines. ii) Information papers on guide to available guidance and tools for addressing poverty eradication related to wetlands for a) policy makers/implementers and b) site level managers A publication on case studies on wetlands wise use and poverty inter-linkages
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	i) Advice to CPs and Policy makers on strategic steps required to mainstream the “Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication” Advice to include Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) as a mechanism a. Develop guidance annexed to a DR that outlines the strategic steps required to mainstream the “Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication” into international and national policies and programmes for poverty eradication. We will cluster the steps – those that are essential and those that should also be considered if resources are available. The strategic steps will developed <i>inter alia</i> ; by identifying the main policies and programmes that need to be targeted, holding a consultation workshop engaging relevant stakeholders (target audience) to determine the types of strategies that countries have adopted to address these issues and their views on how best these worked (ideally the workshop should be held where positive examples are available where a field trip could be included); through this consultation process identifying a range of suitable mechanisms that may be required to mainstream this concept (including CEPA tool). b. Call for examples of the application of the integrated framework. ii) Collate existing guidance and toolkits existing within development and conservation sectors, and provide summaries including sources (e.g. weblinks, literature) in short annexes, for: a. policy makers and delivery organisations of major programmes: for these, summaries should classify and categorize the guidance along key framework elements – wetlands and settings, vulnerability contexts, livelihood capitals, ecological character, institutions and freedoms, human well-being outcomes (internal, social and ecological sustainability) in a manner that is user friendly and easily understandable to the target audience. b. local and site wetland managers; iii) Case studies on wetlands wise use and poverty eradication: a. Use CEPA proforma mechanism to fine tune targets, messages and formats; b. review available cases under GAWI, Wise Use, with IOPs – WI, IWMI, WWF, IUCN; c. request additional cases through IOPs, Ramsar NFPs; d. Undertake documentation / dissemination. e. Use the national STRP and CEPA focal points and the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group network for promotion and dissemination
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	CPs, IOPs, IHDP, UK-DFID, UNDP, FAO, and others
Funds (CHF):	60,000 requested
	Task 1 (September 2014): Consultation workshop plus developing guidance: 30,000 CHF

	<p>Task 2 (October 2013): Development of guide to available guidelines and tools: 15,000 CHF</p> <p>Task 3 (February 2014): Case studies on wetlands and poverty inter-linkages: 15,000 CHF</p> <p>30,000 allocated</p>
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>i) A consultant was hired (James Lyon) to assist the Working Group (WG) in this task. Three draft discussion papers were produced to be used as the basis for a consultation process. The drafts were circulated to WG members prior to the workshop to obtain some feedback. A consultation workshop was organized with donors and development agencies in India (at the Ramsar site Lake Chilika) from the 10-13 June 2014 (1 day consultation workshop, 1 day field visit, 2 days closed workshop for WG members and NFPs). Unfortunately, due to a number of reasons the number of participants at the workshop was not what had been anticipated and to garner additional comments some further consultations would need to be held. The draft discussion papers were submitted to the WG on 23 August 2014 taking on board additional feedback received from WG members. In summary, the Consultant was requested to conduct some additional analyses on the Sustainable Livelihood Framework, Equator Principles, and poverty reduction strategies to complement the existing analyses. The WG is drawing on the discussion papers to develop a Briefing Note for COP 12.</p> <p>ii) An intern was hired (James Lyon) to undertake this task under the supervision of Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu. Funding support was provided by IWMI. The task was completed in March 2014 and the Internship output 1 circulated to WG members. Feedback received from WG members was taken on board.</p> <p>iii) A session on wetlands and poverty eradication was held at the Changwon regional Ramsar meeting in Changwon, October 2013 and a request for case studies was made. An intern was hired (James Lyon) to undertake this task under the supervision of Sonali Senaratna Sellamuttu. Funding support was provided by IWMI. The Task output was delayed for various reasons and the final draft report circulated for comment to the WG at the end July 2014. Currently addressing feedback and output to be completed end October 2014.</p>
Next Steps	<p>i) Completion of Draft Briefing Note (10 October); further consultation (hold webinar and discuss at the Pre-COP meeting in Cambodia in November); Finalize and submit to Secretariat by 20 November so that it can be presented to Standing Committee.</p> <p>ii) Propose to be submitted as a Ramsar Technical Report for COP 12 and was submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat in August 2014. Ramsar Secretariat to provide guidance on next steps and timelines for review process.</p> <p>iii) Preparation of Report to be circulated at COP 12 side event.</p>

Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 51 (2013-15): Supplementary guidance to support the Resolution XI.13 poverty eradication framework	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	<p>Supplement the Resolution XI.13 Framework by undertaking tasks identified under Resolution X.28, including:</p> <p>i) Development of indicators relating wetland wise use to livelihoods and poverty eradication,</p> <p>Continuation from 2009-2012 & Resolution XI.13, paragraph 19.</p>
Task rationale:	
Target audience:	
Type of deliverable:	Guidance on indicators relating wetland wise use to livelihoods and poverty eradication;

Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	To be determined
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, with IOPs, and other organisations and networks
Funds (CHF):	To be determined
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Sub-theme 5.6: Wetlands and urbanisation

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Stanley Liphadzi/Ritesh Kumar
Working Group participants:	Rob McInnes (SWS), Andrew Rudd (UN-Habitat), Guleadio Cissé, Chris Gordon
Secretariat focal point:	Paul Ouedraogo (SRA Africa)

Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 52 (2013-15): Planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Ritesh Kumar
Task Group participants:	Rob McInnes (SWS), Andrew Rudd (UN-HABITAT), Paul Ouedraogo (SRA Africa), Stanley Liphadzi, Chris Gordon, Guéladio Cissé, OTHERS
Task description:	Embedding principles on wetlands and urbanisation in existing processes, and development of guidance for different stakeholders to assist in sustainably managing urban and peri-urban wetlands, with information and case studies provided by Parties.
Type of deliverable:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Guidance Briefing Note for UN-HABITAT and others in the sector including local authorities, planning departments and municipal authorities on issues and response options for urbanisation and the wise use of wetlands. [draft BN complete; possibility of RTR] ii) Guidance briefing note for local wetland managers on issues and response options for urbanisation and the wise use of wetlands. [being informed by on-going work in west Africa supported by parties and UN-HABITAT]
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	UN-HABITAT, Secretariat, STRP, with Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, CBD, ICLEI, IOPs, Parties
Funds (CHF):	40,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	[budget to facilitate up-scaling of guidance]
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>Briefing Note published in 2013</p> <p>Report produced from Workshops held in West Africa (Senegal, Ghana and Togo) on Urban Wetlands, Ecosystem Services and City-Region Planning has been uploaded to the STRP Platform.</p>

	Draft guidance document produced for UN Habitat but still in review. Paul Ouedraogo is developing further opportunities to integrate the principles for the management of urban and peri-urban wetlands through various initiatives in the Africa region.
Next Steps	Continue to support development of project initiatives.

Task No. 53 (2013-15): Urban wetland management demonstration sites	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Stanley Liphadzi
Task Group participants:	Rob McInnes (SWS), Andrew Rudd (UN-HABITAT), Paul Ouedraogo (SRA Africa), Guéladio Cissé
Task description:	Strengthen collaborative initiatives with UN-HABITAT and continue to develop collaboration with Ramsar Regional Initiatives, the CBD, Ramsar's IOPs, ICLEI and other appropriate urban stakeholders, including individual cities, in order to foster projects that develop demonstration sites which both benefit urban local communities and promote the wise use of wetlands. Resolution XI.11, paragraph 27.
Type of deliverable:	Enhanced collaboration leading to demonstration projects.
Task category:	5
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	Secretariat& STRP, with UN-Habitat, Regional Initiatives, SCBD, IOPs, ICLEI and other urban stakeholders (including individual cities)
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Opportunities to develop demonstration sites in West Africa have been promoted by the SRA (Paul Ouedraogo). See Task No. 52.
Next Steps	Continue to support development of demonstration sites wherever possible.

Sub-Theme 5.7: Wetlands and Tourism

Working Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Working Group participants:	Matthew McCartney, Patricia Carmona (UNEP-WCMC)
Secretariat focal point:	Maria Rivera (SRA Americas)

Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 54 (2013-15): Wetlands and tourism – development of guiding principles for tourism in and around wetlands	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Develop further advice, including key messages and/or guiding principles for tourism in and around wetlands (drawing upon inter alia the analysis of case studies provided in the joint Ramsar–UNWTO publication on “Wetlands and Tourism”). Continued from 2009-2012.
Type of deliverable:	Briefing Note/ guiding principles for Parties

Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 & 1.6
Lead body/organisation:	STRP (with Secretariat, UNWTO & other relevant organisations)
Funds (CHF):	10,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Sub-Theme 5.8: Wetlands and energy

Working Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Working Group participants:	Vicky Jones (BirdLife), Patricia Carmona (UNEP-WCMC), Carlos Padovani (GEO BON)
Secretariat focal point:	Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe)

Lower Priority Tasks

Task No. 55 (2013-15): Managing energy sector activities in relation to wetlands—guide to guidance and case studies	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Share and compile information, guidance and case studies for managing specific impacts of energy sector activities on wetlands, and studies on regional and transboundary collaboration for energy planning and development that are consistent with wise use of wetlands. New task.
Type of deliverable:	Guide to guidance and case studies
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	Secretariat, with CPs, IOPs, NGOs, relevant scientific & technical organisations, & industry associations
Funds (CHF):	20,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 56 (2013-15): Monitoring energy trends reported in global assessments	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined

Task description:	Monitor the information and trends emerging from relevant global assessments, such as the Global Energy Outlook and Global Biodiversity Outlook, and keep Contracting Parties informed of the trends in the context of wetlands and energy. New task (Resolution XI.10 paragraph 20).
Type of deliverable:	Information to Parties
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 57 (2013-15): Applying ecological impact criteria in the selection of energy generation sites	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Compile information on approaches and best practices for applying ecological impact criteria in the selection of energy generation sites. New task (Resolution XI.10 paragraph 19).
Type of deliverable:	Information and advice to COP
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4
Lead body/organisation:	STRP, with Parties, other organisations & IOPs
Funds (CHF):	To be determined
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Task No. 58 (2013-15): Capacity building for energy sector regulatory oversight	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	To be determined
Task Group participants:	To be determined
Task description:	Support Contracting Parties' training and capacity building efforts and programmes to strengthen if necessary regulatory oversight of energy sector activities and to enhance application of guidance for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (Resolution X.17) and application of the guidelines in Resolution VIII.1 on allocation and management of water. New task (Resolution XI.10 paragraphs 18/19) (relates also to implementation of task 2013-15/1).
Type of deliverable:	Capacity-building programmes supported
Task category:	2
Supports Strategic Plan	Strategy 1.4

Strategy/KRA:	
Lead body/organisation:	Secretariat, with STRP, CEPA Oversight Panel, Regional Initiatives & Parties
Funds (CHF):	0 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No activities undertaken
Next Steps	TBD

Theme 6: Wetlands and ecosystem benefits/services

This is a new Theme aimed inter alia to address the key results under Ramsar's Strategic Area 1.4 (cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services). With inclusion of ecosystem services as an integral component of ecological character and the adoption of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment conceptual framework for ecosystems and human well-being as a framework for delivery of wise use, further work is required on harmonising the ecosystem services concept within various response options for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Additionally, several assessments (TEEB - The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity being the most recent and prominent) have highlighted the need to explicitly recognise, value and capture the ecosystem services benefits to address the 'economic invisibility' of ecosystem services in societal policy and decision making. This need has also been expressed under the various STRP guidances, particularly those focused upon cross-sectoral linkages (e.g., TWA on wetlands and human health; poverty eradication; extractive industries; agriculture; urban development; avoidance, mitigation and compensation). Recent progress on ecosystem services assessment and valuation indicate several possibilities for augmenting the wise use of wetlands through rationalizing incentive systems and creating partnership opportunities for economic sectors.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Ritesh Kumar
Working Group participants:	Matthew McCartney, Stanley Liphadzi, Randy Thaman, Reda Fishar, Pierre Horwitz, Matt Walpole, Royal Gardner, Randy Milton, Cui Lijuan, Sonali Senaratna, Eugenio Barrios (WWF), Cristina Secades (UNEP-WCMC), Rob McInnes (SWS), Boze Hancock (TNC), Ian Harrison (IC/IUCN), Rob Shore (WWT), Patrick ten Brink (invited expert), Max Finlayson (invited expert), Dave Pritchard (invited expert), Nick Bertrand (invited expert), Carlos Padovani (GEO BON)
Secretariat focal points:	Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe)

Tasks No. 59 & 60 (2013-15): Economics of wetland ecosystem benefits/services and wetlands and disaster risk reduction	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Ritesh Kumar
Task Group participants:	Matthew McCartney, Stanley Liphadzi, Randy Thaman, Reda Fishar, Pierre Horwitz, Matt Walpole, Royal Gardner, Randy Milton, Cui Lijuan, Sonali Senaratna, Eugenio Barrios (WWF), Cristina Secades (UNEP-WCMC), Rob McInnes (SWS), Boze Hancock (TNC), Ian Harrison (IC/IUCN), Rob Shore (WWT), Patrick ten Brink (invited expert), Max Finlayson (invited expert), Dave Pritchard (invited expert), Nick Bertrand (invited expert)
Task description:	<p>High priority: Building on the work of TEEB and others (& the TEEB water and wetland synthesis report):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a user needs analysis for Ramsar Parties & wetland (site) managers) on tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making; Conduct a scoping review of the advancements in ecosystem services (description/recognition, valuation, capture) to support wise use of wetlands, in particular cross sectoral integration; Develop a guide to guidance on best practices for integrating ecosystem services values within the response options for wetland management; Conduct a scoping review of technical aspects of relevance to the Ramsar Convention in the finance, banking, investment, insurance and other economic sectors; <i>(currently being rolled into implementation of c)</i> Develop an assessment mechanism for the contribution of wetland services/benefits to national GDPs. <i>(to be parked as of now due to limited agreement within the working group on the nature of this task)</i>

	Low Priority: a) Develop guidance for Parties and the disaster risk management sector on the role of healthy wetlands in disaster risk reduction (floods, droughts, landslides, storm surges, etc.). <i>(can be partly addressed through implementation of task c)</i>
Target audience:	Wetland managers, Administrative Authorities, development sector related to wetland ecosystem services (e.g., banking, risk management, etc.)
Task category:	1, 3
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 (KRA 1.4.ii) & 1.6
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Focus was on two high priority tasks on user needs analysis and guide to guidance. The user needs analysis tasks has been partially addressed through surveys of Asia and South East Asia site managers, and an analysis of COP 11 national reports. Set of tools which help analyse ecosystem services have also been collated. During STRP meeting, discussions were held on a timeline and process to complete information papers on guide to guidance and user needs analysis.
Next Steps	A paper on ecosystem services needs assessment drafted by the group will be published and its findings will be available in a brief document. Additionally, the group will draft a guide to guidance on tools for applying ecosystem services to wetlands management stages as a Briefing Note.

Highest Priority Task(s)/sub-tasks

Task No. 59a: sub-tasks 1 & 3: Ecosystem services user needs analysis and guide to guidance	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Ritesh Kumar
Task Group Participants:	Matthew McCartney, Stanley Liphadzi, Randy Thaman, Reda Fishar, Pierre Horwitz, Cui Lijuan, Cristina Secades (UNEP-WCMC), Rob McInnes (SWS), Boze Hancock (TNC), Ian Harrison (CI/IUCN), Rob Shore (WWT) Invited Experts: Patrick ten Brink, Max Finlayson, Dave Pritchard, Nick Bertrand Secretariat: Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe)
Task description:	Building on the work of TEEB and others (& the TEEB water and wetland synthesis report): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct a survey of user needs for Ramsar Parties & wetland (site) managers) on tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making; and ▪ Develop a guide to guidance on best practices for integrating ecosystem services values/benefits within the different phases of wetland management.
Task rationale:	Integration of ecosystem services in wetland management can occur at a range of stages (e.g. site designation, ecological character description, management planning, implementation of integrated water resources management planning etc.). The task therefore seeks to clarify the user needs for ecosystem management tools, knowledge, methodology and data. Further, building on the needs assessment, the task also includes development of guide to available guidance that can support integration of ecosystem services in various stages of planning and decision making related to wetland conservation and wise use.
Target audience:	Wetland managers, Administrative Authorities
Type of deliverable:	1.1 Information Paper summarizing the outcomes of user needs assessment 1.2 [Possible] guidance/ resolution on Guide to Guidance on best practices for integrating ecosystem service values into wetland management.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	1.1 User needs assessment: to be done through a structured questionnaire survey of administrative authorities, site managers, STRP experts. Additionally, regional events as Asia Region STRP Focal Point Meeting (proposed Sep 2013 in East Asia Regional Centre, Changwon, South Korea) to be used as an opportunity for engagement with focal points on this topic.

	<p>a) Develop a Terms of Reference for questionnaire survey (March 2013)</p> <p>b) Develop questionnaire, test run and finalize (Sep 2013)</p> <p>c) Circulate questionnaire and follow up (Dec 2013)</p> <p>d) Summarize outcomes (March 2014)</p> <p>In addition to the surveys, a Review and process information on ecosystem services presented in National Reporting Forms submitted to COP11 would also be carried out to inform the user needs survey (Contact: Rob McInnes/Rob Shore).</p> <p>1.2 Guide to Guidance:</p> <p>a) Develop a process map of stages in wetland management wherein integration of ecosystem services is required and relevant (September 2013) [Task Group: Rob McInnes, Randy Milton, Lew Young, Pierre Horwitz, Max Finlayson, Dave Pritchard]</p> <p>b) Collate existing guidance in relationship with a) Collation to include a summary of the guidance, aspects of specific interest for wetland management, and reference (web link, citation, etc.) (Mid 2014)</p> <p>c) Map existing guidance on ecosystem services in relationship with a) (Mid 2014)</p> <p>d) Identify gap areas wherein no / inadequate guidance exist</p> <p>e) Review the outcomes of user needs assessment (1.1) to finalize the guide to guidance</p> <p>f) Develop the guide to guidance (March 2015- lead up to the COP 12)</p>
Contributing bodies/organisations:	The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), UNEP-TEEB team, UNEP-WCMC, IOPs, WWT, Conservation International, UNECE water convention and others
Funds (CHF):	40,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	Resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Process experiences from Wetlands and Human Health Group, which conducted a similar survey for development of Wildlife Diseases Manual. (Contact: Pierre Horwitz) ▪ Process experiences from WCMC on Ecosystem Services in NBSAP (Contact: Cristina Secades)
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Paper on user needs assessment drafted and submitted for peer review.
Next Steps	Paper will be published in peer review journal and findings will be made available in a brief format.

Task No. 59a: sub-task 2: Ecosystem services, wetland wise use and cross sectoral integration	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Ritesh Kumar
Task Group Participants:	Matthew McCartney, Stanley Liphadzi, Randy Milton, Randy Thaman, Reda Fishar, Pierre Horwitz, Cui Lijuan, Cristina Secades (UNEP-WCMC), Rob McInnes (SWS), Boze Hancock (TNC) Invited Experts: Patrick ten Brink, Max Finlayson, Dave Pritchard, Nick Bertrand Secretariat: Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe)
Task description:	Conduct a scoping review of the advancements in ecosystem services (description/recognition, valuation, capture) to support wise use of wetlands, in particular cross sectoral integration
Task rationale:	The task seeks to scan the recent developments in application of ecosystem services approach (for example, the TEEB framework of recognising, valuing, and capturing ecosystem services) in the context of supporting wetland wise use. It also seeks to identify ways ecosystem services approach could support integration of wetlands wise use in policies, programmes and actions of development sectors (such as water management, poverty, disaster risk reduction, urbanisation, etc.)
Target audience:	Wetland managers, Administrative Authorities, Sectors related to wetland ecosystem services (e.g., urban development, poverty eradication, disaster risk reduction, water management, health, agriculture, banking and insurance etc.)
Type of deliverable:	Briefing Note
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>a) Circulate recently published literature on history and application of ecosystem services concept (Ritesh, Patrick)</p> <p>b) Review the published literature with reference to wise use</p> <p>c) Conduct a workshop (possibly during Midterm workshop) for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mapping ecosystem service approaches (recognition, assessment, spatial mapping, valuation, capture) to the needs of cross sectoral integration (sectoral task leads: Pierre, Stanley, Sonali, Mike, Matthew, Rob) b. Finalizing of contents

	d) Draft briefing note (IEEP) e) Review and finalize
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategies 1.4 (KRA 1.4.ii) & 1.6
Lead body/organisation:	STRP
Contributing bodies/organisations:	The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), UNEP-TEEB team , Conservation International, IOPs, IUCN Water Programme
Funds (CHF):	20,000 requested (Includes cost of drafting briefing paper ; excludes the cost of meeting during the mid-term workshop, wherein extra diems would be required) 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	A BN is being drafted. As a part of IPBES engagement, a methodology framework for capturing multi-dimensional values of ecosystem services and biodiversity has also been compiled, which is of high relevance to Contracting Parties.
Next Steps	Finalize BN by early 2015

Task No. 59b (2013-15): TEEB – Water and Wetlands Follow Up	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Ritesh Kumar
Task Group Participants:	Invited Experts: Patrick ten Brink, Nick Bertrand Secretariat: Tobias Salathé (SRA Europe)
Task description:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Develop communication material related to TEEB- Water and Wetlands Report including <i>inter alia</i> use of case study database of Ecosystem Services Partnership; ▪ Develop policy guidance (for Ramsar Admin. Authorities, water managers, wetland managers) on taking into account full range of ecosystem services in policy and decision making; and ▪ Building on the analysis in TEEB Water and Wetland Synthesis, further update and reanalyse values differentiated by wetland type, regions, ecosystem service types, development contexts etc.
Task rationale:	The TEEB – Water and Wetlands Synthesis Report was released in February 2013. The report presents insights on both critical water related ecosystem services and also on wider ecosystem services from wetlands. The report has been very well received. The release of the report, however, is only the first phase of the work under the theme Economics of Ecosystem Services. The task aims to capitalize on the report to develop communication products, policy briefs as well as conduct deeper analysis of wetland economic value database to support further engagement under the theme.
Target audience:	Water sector, Ramsar admin authorities, development sector professionals, businesses
Type of deliverable:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy Guidance [possibly a Draft Resolution for COP] ▪ Communication products ▪ Information paper on wetland values
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	To be developed in consultation with CEPA team, IEEP and Secretariat.
Contributing bodies/organisations:	The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), UNEP-TEEB team, IUCN Water Programme
Funds (CHF):	40,000 requested 0 allocated
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	

Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	No progress made in absence of allocated funds. However, TEEB – Water and Wetlands Report’s key messages have been disseminated at several international and national events, notably hosting of a training session at ESP Conference (Bali,August 2013), STRP Asia Regional Workshop (Changwon, October,2013), workshop for wetland managers in East and South East Asia (Jakarta, August 2014). Fuller list to be compiled.
Next Steps	Compile fuller list

Theme 7: Wetland ecological character and change in ecological character

Work under this theme focuses on streamlining and improving the procedures and guidance on issues relating to Article 3.2 of the Convention and Montreaux Record by reference to “*A Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character*” (Resolution X.16). This thematic work plan consolidates the requests adopted by the Contracting Parties at COP XI and 2009-2012 tasks carried forward. This thematic work area is cross-cutting with Ecosystems Services, Climate Change, and Water Resource Management.

Working Group lead/co-leads:	Randy Milton
Working Group participants:	Dave Pritchard (invited expert and consultant for task 20), Denis Landenbergue (WWF), Lars Dinesen, Max Finlayson (invited expert), David Stroud (invited expert), Barry Warner (STRP NFP Canada), Vicky Jones (BirdLife)
Secretariat focal point:	STRP Officer

Highest Priority Task(s)

Tasks No. 20: Monitoring for change in ecological character – further guidance: standardised terminology concerning Article 3.2 issues	
Task Group lead/co-leads:	Randy Milton
Task Group participants:	Dave Pritchard (consultant), Denis Landenbergue (WWF), Lars Dinesen, Max Finlayson (invited expert), David Stroud (invited expert), Barry Warner (STRP NFP Canada), Vicky Jones (BirdLife)
Task description:	This thematic work plan consolidates the requests adopted by the Contracting Parties at COP XI and focuses on streamlining and improving the procedures and guidance on issues relating to Article 3.2 of the Convention and Montreaux Record through four interrelated subtasks: a. Reporting change in ecological character ((b)-(c) in separate pro-forma for tasks 25 & 41)
Task rationale:	A number of related or similar tasks on describing ecological character, and monitoring for, identifying, and reporting change in ecological character are included in the operative paragraphs of three COP11 Resolutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XI.4 (Ramsar Site status), (task 2013-15/20 – Top Priority) • XI.8 (Ramsar Information Sheet) (task 2013-15/25b – Lower Priority, but urgent) and • XI.14 (climate change) (task 2013-15/41 - Top Priority) Several aspects of the further guidance seen by COP10 as being required on detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character were included in a task (4.6) in the 2009-12 STRP programme, but little progress was made on those due to lack of resources. They are rolled forward here and combined with a refined view of the overall issue which developed during the 2009-12 period, as well as a revised version of another task from COP10 (4.7) concerning the Montreux Record.
Target audience:	Primarily Contracting Party governments and national Ramsar implementing agencies.
Type of deliverable:	Streamlining and improving the procedures and guidance for Parties on Article 3.2 and Montreux Record reporting to Standing Committee & COP.
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	The most appropriate way to undertake this task is probably by means of a single consultancy contract with several constituent parts; and potentially a separate contract may be required to address the novel and hybrid ecosystems subtask. Consultation with regions/Parties will be an important part of the work, including a review workshop involving some Ramsar site managers and Administration Authority Focal Points from different Ramsar Regions.

	<p>Sub-task C: Reporting change in ecological character</p> <p>Review, update and rationalize guidance on issues relating to Article 3.2 of the Convention (2013-15/20):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the role and operation of the Montreux Record; (2013-15/20) • set up criteria for, and streamline the procedure for, reporting cases of human-induced negative changes in the ecological character of a Ramsar Site under Article 3.2; (2013-15/20)
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	<p>Strategy 1.4</p> <p>Strategy 2.4 [(KRAs 2.4.ii & 2.4.v)]</p> <p>Strategy 2.6</p>
Lead body/organisation:	STRP & Secretariat (with external experts and Parties)
Contributing bodies/organisations:	Contracting Parties
Funds (CHF):	<p>Requested:</p> <p>Sub-task c: CHF 30,000 (includes CHF 10,000 for small workshop on novel and hybrid ecosystems and climate change specific tasks related to ecological character and changes in ecological character sub-tasks b and c)</p> <p>20,000 allocated for consultancy contract and to cover consultant's visit to Gland</p>
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	<p>The consultant (Dave Pritchard) was appointed in late March 2014 and worked intermittently on the task up to mid-August when a comprehensive draft report was produced. Consultations included a visit to Gland in May, and included input from WWF who have recently been giving further attention to the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Missions.</p> <p>The scope and Terms of Reference for the consultancy evolved in the light of related discussions proceeding in parallel. These included Standing Committee decisions concerning limits on the number of Draft Resolutions for COP12: as a result, a DR on this subject-cluster is no longer planned and hence no proposals are now being made concerning any adjustments to guidance that would require COP approval. In annexes to the consultant's report, however, a consolidated re-packaging of key aspects of existing guidance and interpretations is provided for informal reference in the meantime.</p> <p>Some elements of the originally-defined sub-task were contingent on progress with other sub-tasks in this cluster: those have not advanced, so some other adjustments were made to the ToRs to take account of this. Sections of the report now address: Article 3.2; the Ramsar Sites Information Service and the Article 3.2 process; Article 2.5 and 4.2; the Montreux Record; and the Ramsar Advisory Missions process. A series of recommendations is provided, and a short overview of "handling ecological change issues in Ramsar" is also included, which may have wider application.</p> <p>The work to date has been completed within budget; any further substantive work however, for example to generate different derivative outputs based on the consultant report, would lie beyond the scope of the current contract.</p>
Next Steps	Collect comments on the report's summary, posted on the STRP workspace, and incorporate them, as well as any of those comments that are relevant to the longer report.

Other Priority Tasks

Tasks No. 25 & 41 (2013-15): Ecological Character and Change in Ecological Character—further guidance	
Task Group lead/co-	Randy Milton

leads:	
Task Group participants:	Dave Pritchard (consultant), Denis Landenbergue (WWF), Lars Dinesen, Max Finlayson (invited expert), David Stroud (invited expert), Barry Warner (STRP NFP Canada), Vicky Jones (BirdLife)
Task description:	<p>This thematic work plan consolidates the requests adopted by the Contracting Parties at COP XI and focuses on streamlining and improving the procedures and guidance on issues relating to Article 3.2 of the Convention and Montreux Record through four interrelated subtasks (sub-task ((a) in separate pro-forma for task 20, above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Describing ecological character; c. Monitoring for change in ecological character; d. Reporting change in ecological character; and e. Responding to change in ecological character.
Task rationale:	<p>A number of related or similar tasks on describing ecological character, and monitoring for, identifying, and reporting change in ecological character are included in the operative paragraphs of three COP11 Resolutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • XI.4 (Ramsar Site status), (task 2013-15/20 – Top Priority) • XI.8 (Ramsar Information Sheet) (task 2013-15/25b – Lower Priority, but urgent) and • XI.14 (climate change) (task 2013-15/41 - Top Priority) <p>Several aspects of the further guidance seen by COP10 as being required on detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character were included in a task (4.6) in the 2009-12 STRP programme, but little progress was made on those due to lack of resources. They are rolled forward here and combined with a refined view of the overall issue which developed during the 2009-12 period, as well as a revised version of another task from COP10 (4.7) concerning the Montreux Record.</p>
Target audience:	Primarily Contracting Party governments and national Ramsar implementing agencies.
Type of deliverable:	<p>A. Guidance for Parties; training and support modules. Initially, provision of a simple note giving web-site references to existing available conceptual models which may be helpful in the description of wetland ecological character for Ramsar purposes.</p> <p>B, C, and D. Streamlining and improving the procedures and guidance for Parties on Article 3.2 and Montreux Record reporting to Standing Committee & COP.</p>
Approach/Steps for Delivering the Work:	<p>The most appropriate way to undertake this task is probably by means of a single consultancy contract with several constituent parts; and potentially a separate contract may be required to address the novel and hybrid ecosystems subtask. Consultation with regions/Parties will be an important part of the work, including a review workshop involving some Ramsar site managers and Administration Authority Focal Points from different Ramsar Regions.</p> <p>Sub-task A: Describing ecological character Prepare advice on use and further development of conceptual models for describing ecological character, in the context of completing ecological character description (ECD) sheet adopted by COP10 and ECD components of the RIS – 2012 revision</p> <p>Sub-task B: Monitoring for change in ecological character Prepare advice that consolidates terminology on how monitoring for change in ecological character is expressed and improve procedures and guidance relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the determination of appropriate reference conditions for assessing change in ecological character, (2013-15/41); approaches to establishing the range of natural variability of wetland sites (2013-15/20 and 2013-15/41). • defining Limits of Acceptable Change (2013-15/20); determining specified limits of change, (2013-15/41); identification of thresholds of change in ecological character; (2013-15/25 and 2013-15/41) • the need for and scope of guidance on determining confidence limits and degree of likelihood in cases of “likely” change in the context of Article 3.2; (2013-15/20); • monitoring indicators. (2013-15/25) – lower priority to above and should be dropped because Panel believes this is a management planning activity. <p>Sub-task D: Responding to change in ecological character</p>

	Prepare advice on the need for and scope of guidance on the application of a precautionary approach in the Ramsar Convention; (2013-15/20)
Task category:	1
Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Strategy 1.4 Strategy 2.4 [(KRAs 2.4.ii & 2.4.v)] Strategy 2.6
Lead body/organisation:	STRP & Secretariat (with external experts and Parties)
Contributing bodies/organisations:	Contracting Parties
Funds (CHF):	requested: Sub-task A: CHF 20,000 (provisional estimate) – Low Priority Sub-task B: CHF 20,000 Sub-task D: CHF 5,000 Review Workshop: CHF 50,000 Allocated: 0
Additional comments/information (e.g., expert or organisation suggested for delivering the work):	
Update for STRP18	
Progress to date	Comments on some aspects of sub-tasks B and D are made in the consultant's report produced on sub-task C, which would now be additional context for taking forward any work under these two sub-tasks.
Next Steps	TBD