



10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

*“Healthy wetlands, healthy people”*

Changwon, Republic of Korea,  
28 October-4 November 2008

Agenda item XV

Ramsar COP10 DR 11

**Draft Resolution X.11**

**Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental  
Agreements and other institutions**

**Submitted by the Standing Committee**

1. NOTING the benefits to be gained from synergy and integrated implementation, where appropriate, among environment-related conventions, at all levels: global, regional, national and local, and from mutually supportive collaboration amongst all relevant players, as increasingly recognized in Resolutions VII.4 (1999), VIII.5 (2002), and IX.5 (2005), while also RESPECTING the independence of the mandates embodied in each convention;
2. WELCOMING the progress made by the Ramsar Convention in the past triennium in cementing and expanding its cooperation with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and with other institutions working in fields relevant to the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
3. RECOGNIZING the generous support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the “Strengthening the Implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions through the Strategic Use of Information” project, led by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which with Ramsar participation is working to streamline and harmonize on-line tools for conventions and their secretariats;
4. NOTING the request by the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a framework for harmonized reporting on inland waters, and the further encouragement given to this work by decision IX/19 of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CBD COP;
5. ALSO NOTING that the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in its decision IX/27 invited the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) to address at their future meetings options for enhanced cooperation with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as climate change and invasive alien species;

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6. WELCOMING the endorsement in its decision IX/19 by the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD of the Fourth Joint Work Plan (2007-2010) between the Ramsar Convention and the CBD;
7. RECOGNIZING that the UNEP/IUCN TEMATEA project has developed “issue-based modules for the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions” including the Ramsar Convention, which *inter alia* provides thematically-organized modules for inland waters, protected areas, biodiversity and climate change, invasive species, and sustainable use, designed to support collaborative national planning and implementation among conventions;
8. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION to the Danone Group for its continued generous support for the Convention, and in particular for the communications activities of the Ramsar Secretariat, its World Wetlands Day materials, and the Evian Special Prize associated with the triennial Ramsar Conservation Award, and WELCOMING the recently launched “Biosphere Connections” partnership with the Star Alliance, which has been very helpful in supporting travel for sponsored delegates to Ramsar regional meetings; and
9. EXPRESSING AGAIN ITS APPRECIATION to the five International Organization Partners (BirdLife International, IUCN, the International Water Management Institute, Wetlands International, and WWF International) for their invaluable efforts in the past triennium to support the Ramsar Convention globally, nationally, and locally;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

10. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to cooperate closely with relevant conventions through its observer status in the Joint Liaison Group for the three Rio Conventions – the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – and through the work of the UNEP Environment Management Group (EMG), of which the Ramsar Secretariat is a member;
11. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to be fully involved in the work of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) established under the *aegis* of the CBD and to report regularly to Standing Committee on progress achieved by this group;
12. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to continue its close collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD presently under the 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Work Plan between the two conventions; URGES the Secretariat to pursue as actively as possible, time and resources permitting, the review and streamlining of its joint work programme with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and to explore development of a joint programme with UNCCD under the existing Memorandum of Cooperation; and URGES the Secretariat to review its joint programmes of work with the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and the World Heritage Centre with a view to reinvigorating those collaborative mechanisms;
13. INVITES the Secretariat to continue to develop cooperative relations with UN agencies such as UNEP, UNESCO, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN-Water, the World Tourism Organization, and the World Health Organization (WHO), as

well as with other relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), UNEP-WCMC, and the CGIAR networks, to seek membership in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and to seek to reduce duplicative activities;

14. REQUESTS the Secretariat to undertake a review of its memoranda of cooperation, resources permitting, with other global and regional environment agreements and other organizations with a view to renewing and reinvigorating those most likely to be beneficial to the work of the Convention within the time and resources available;
15. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretariat to develop closer working and consultative relationships with financial institutions, such as the Global Environment Facility and the regional development banks, with a view to facilitating greater access to those resources by the Parties to the Convention;
16. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to continue working closely with the Danone Group and the Star Alliance in mutually beneficial ways and to be prepared to develop similar relationships with the private sector where these can be beneficial to the Convention and consistent with the Convention's mission and objectives;
17. URGES the Secretariat to continue its extremely valuable collaboration with the five International Organization Partners and ENCOURAGES the IOP representatives to take steps to increase awareness of Ramsar objectives and the collaborative relationship with the Convention to the greatest extent possible throughout their organizations;
18. FURTHER URGES the Secretariat to remain alert for opportunities for developing similarly fruitful relationships with other non-government organizations as they may appear and, following a review of MOUs already in place with other NGOs, to foster increased cooperation with those NGOs that can most benefit the work of the Convention;
19. REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), subject to the availability of time and resources, to exchange information and coordinate activities with the equivalent subsidiary bodies of other MEAs and relevant regional fora, including through continued active involvement in meetings of the chairs of scientific and technical subsidiary bodies (CSAB) convened by the Secretariat of the CBD, and to report through the Standing Committee to the Conference of the Parties on these activities;
20. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue its participation in the UNEP-WCMC project for developing tools for the on-line use of the biodiversity-related conventions, including those for possible on-line harmonized reporting by the respective parties;
21. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other governments and organizations to make use of the web-based UNEP-IUCN "TEMATEA" issue-based modules resource (<http://www.tematea.org>) when developing and implementing mutually supportive activities among biodiversity-related conventions so as to improve coherence in the implementation of these conventions; and
22. URGES Contracting Parties to take active steps at national level to improve regular liaison and collaboration between Ramsar Administrative Authorities and focal points and the

focal points for related conventions and agreements, including as appropriate through their inclusion in National Ramsar/Wetland Committees, in order to ensure national responses to global environmental issues that will be as consistent as possible with the objectives and values of the Ramsar Convention.