



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

*“Wetlands: home and destination”*

Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012

### Ramsar COP11 DOC. 21

#### Scientific and technical priorities for the implementation of the Convention 2013-2015: task pro-formas

1. This paper provides supporting information on the rationale, scope and delivery approach foreseen for each of the 22 future scientific and technical implementation support tasks that are proposed in COP11 Draft Resolution 17 (DR17) as top priorities for attention during the 2013-2015 triennium. The information for each proposed task is provided in a standard pro-forma format.
2. As in COP11 DR17, the task pro-formas are organized under six broad implementation themes, as follows:
  - Communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)
  - Strategic, emerging and ongoing issues
  - Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring and reporting
  - Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)
  - Ramsar, wetlands and other sectors (in a number of sectoral sub-themes)
  - Wetlands and ecosystem services/benefits
3. The categorization of types of tasks is coded in the pro-formas below as follows:
  - 1) New or revised Ramsar guidance for Contracting Parties
  - 2) Technical support and advice – ongoing and *ad hoc*
  - 3) Global information products and engagement in other global or sectoral processes
  - 4) Advice on new and emerging issues
  - 5) Scientific or technical products/initiatives undertaken by other relevant organizations
4. The approaches outlined for the tasks here should be considered as provisional and will be subject to further scoping and development as a first stage of task implementation.

**Theme: Communication, Education, Participation and 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.

<b>Task Title: Assessing and supporting capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties and wetland managers in applying Ramsar guidance</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Develop effective ways of providing training and capacity-building, including through a 'training for trainers' programme, for relevant stakeholders in Contracting Parties (including Administrative Authorities and wetland managers) to assist with the interpretation and implementation of scientific and technical guidance and other materials adopted by the Convention, with the assessment and definition of future needs.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	2
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategies 4.1 and 4.3 (incl. KRAs 4.1.viii and 4.3.vi)
<b>Task rationale</b>	<p>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 recognized (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.</p> <p>This task has already been recognized 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.</p>
<b>Target audience</b>	Administrative Authority focal points and wetland (including Ramsar Site) managers
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Scoping study regarding the optimum capacity-building approaches for Contracting Parties to support their use of Ramsar guidance;</li> <li>2) Training package/modules on Ramsar guidance; and</li> <li>3) A 'training for trainers' programme.</li> </ol>

<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<p><b>Phase 1</b>  Workshop to clarify the capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties regarding application of guidance;  Involve Ramsar Senior Regional Advisors (SRAs) and their networks, the Advisory Board on Capacity Building, and members of the CEPA Oversight Panel;  Establish a Contracting Parties Reference Group;  With assistance of this 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;  Review the Framework on Capacity Building developed by the Advisory Board in light of the findings identified in the scoping exercise.</p> <p><b>Complete a short report on the findings to confirm going forward with Phase 2;  Initiate development of training program only if the work above indicates that this is needed.</b></p> <p><b>Phase 2</b>  Discuss models for delivery;  Agree on the optimum approach for the target group;  Agree on delivery mechanisms;  Conduct consultation through Regional Advisors and Regional Networks to gain feedback on proposal;  Work with existing training processes;  Investigate whether there is an opportunity to cooperate with IOPs for delivery of training;  Seek opportunities to trial capacity-building approach with target group in a workshop format to be delivered at a regional level;  Revise capacity-building products;  Develop strategy for promotion and distribution of capacity-building products;  Promote Guidance Training Package at COP12.</p>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP lead on assessment and training package development
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	The Ramsar Secretariat, Ramsar Regional Centres, IOPs and other training centres would lead for the training delivery component.
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	15,000 (scoping study) 80,000 (development of training package) Further funding needs for implementing a ‘training of trainers’ programme will be assessed as part of phases 1 and 2.

<b>Additional comments/information</b>	
<b>Task Title: Capacity-building support for STRP National Focal Points</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Hold regional workshops for STRP National Focal Points in the six Ramsar regions (at least 1 workshop per triennium) following the successful examples of the 1 <sup>st</sup> Africa region workshop for STRP NFPs and other wetland experts and the meeting of the European STRP NFPs in Austria.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	2
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategies 3.4 (KRA 3.4.ii) and 4.3 (KRA 4.3.vi)
<b>Task rationale</b>	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.
<b>Target audience</b>	STRP National Focal Points
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Enhanced understanding of Convention processes by STRP NFPs; improved collaboration between STRP NFPs and the STRP and other Convention bodies and processes; meeting report with recommendations on issues identified.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	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 organizational aspects. The approach used for the Johannesburg workshop would be replicated for other workshops.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	Secretariat and Contracting Parties
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	STRP, Ramsar Regional Centres
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	100,000 per workshop
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

<b>Task Title: STRP communication and dissemination support: a) web platform</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ the <b>STRP Portal</b> - 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;</li> <li>✓ the <b>STRP Support Service</b> - a password-protected work space for STRP’s internal communications and work that will be directly accessible from the Portal.</li> </ul>
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	2
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 3.4 (KRA 3.4.iii)
<b>Task rationale</b>	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 intersessional 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.
<b>Target audience</b>	<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>
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	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;
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Undertake scoping review for the new platform (done in late 2010 through an electronic survey among STRP Support Service users);</li> <li>✓ 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);</li> <li>✓ identify a web consultant to implement the project (done March 2012);</li> <li>✓ set up a task force to provide advice to the consultant during the development phase (ongoing);</li> </ul> <p>The platform is expected to be operational in late October 2012, 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>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	Secretariat
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	STRP members and observers; STRP NFPs

<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	50,000 (of which 20,000 allocated from 2009-2012 cycle funds)
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	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.

<b>Task Title: STRP communication and dissemination support: b) newsletters</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Produce regular STRP newsletters to disseminate information about STRP/Ramsar's work and activities to STRP NFPs and Contracting Parties.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	2
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 3.4 (KRA 3.4.iii)
<b>Task rationale</b>	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.
<b>Target audience</b>	STRP NFPs and the broader Ramsar constituency.
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Electronic newsletters in English and when funds are available, also in the other Convention working languages.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	Calls for submissions are sent by the Secretariat on the Support Service 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.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	Secretariat and STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	STRP NFPs, IOPs and observer organizations.
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	15,000 (for translations into Spanish and French)
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

### **Theme: Strategic, emerging and ongoing issues**

This theme is designed to permit the STRP to fulfill 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 organizations, 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.

<b>Task Title: Strategic scientific and technical advice</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	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, emerging issues, and other priority matters requiring expert review.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	3/4/5
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 4.3
<b>Task rationale</b>	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.
<b>Target audience</b>	Ramsar Administrative Authorities and others, depending of specific context.
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	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.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On request and according to priority as well as available funding and capacity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) participating 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.</li> <li>ii) reviewing and/or commenting on the wetland components of scientific materials, information or reports prepared by other international scientific bodies or processes.</li> <li>iii) reflecting and reporting on overall progress with scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP Resolutions.</li> <li>iv) reflecting on and advising the Convention on scientific and technical aspects of new and emerging global or regional issues relevant to the wise use of wetlands.</li> <li>v) ensuring 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.</li> <li>vi) engaging with other relevant implementing agencies (such as UNEP, FAO, UN-HABITAT, etc.) to promote inclusion of wetland issues in their programmes and guidance.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 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" (COP11 DR16). 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.</li> </ul>

	Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Support Officer records activity under this task for reporting purposes at the end of the triennium.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	STRP observer organizations and invited experts, STRP NFPs
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	15,000 (to support time and travel costs of STRP members)
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

<b>Task Title: Ongoing <i>ad hoc</i> advisory functions</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Continue to provide advice under the following functions as and when requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) advising, when requested, on Ramsar Site designation and management issues, including on Article 3.2 reports concerning change in ecological character;</li> <li>ii) advising the Secretariat on requests from Contracting Parties for removing Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record of sites facing damaging change in ecological character;</li> <li>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;</li> <li>iv) assisting Contracting Parties and bilateral development agencies in screening, developing and evaluating wetland projects; and</li> <li>v) receiving progress reports and advising on future needs and developments of the Ramsar Sites Information Service.</li> </ul> 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, COP technical briefings. (Resolution VIII.28; Resolution IX.11, Resolution IX.2 task 4, Resolution X.11, Resolution X.1: strategies 1.5, 3.1)
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	2/3
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Various
<b>Task rationale</b>	This is an ongoing activity of the STRP and carries over to each new triennium. (Previously Res X.10 task 1.2)
<b>Target audience</b>	Ramsar Convention
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Various depending on the nature of the request.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	On request, STRP to respond depending on available resources and capacity.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP

<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	As required. 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.
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

<b>Task Title: Review of COP Draft Resolutions from Parties</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	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.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Various
<b>Task rationale</b>	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)
<b>Target audience</b>	Standing Committee and Parties at meetings of the COP
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Advice as needed.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	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, Secretariat transmits it (through 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.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	No funds needed.
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

<b>Task Title: Sectoral and/or emerging issues for possible future priority work</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	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 other Convention bodies.

<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	4
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 1.4
<b>Task rationale</b>	This is an ongoing activity of the STRP and carries over to each new triennium (previously Resolution X.10 task 2.15 and also now combines Res X.10 task 2.16).
<b>Target audience</b>	Ramsar Convention
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	STRP meeting reports; STRP reports to Standing Committee and COP; STRP Briefing Notes.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	Use appropriate approaches for “horizon scanning”, including more formal analyses submitted as Briefing Notes or a group workshop process within STRP meetings, which build on Panel members’ knowledge of and awareness of emerging issues in other sectors and in the global or regional environment. Consider how to involve experts from outside the STRP as well as regional participation from Contracting Parties. Develop recommendations for any actions needed (watching brief, scoping review, future priority task). Incorporate 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.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	Depending on the nature of the task.
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	Depends on whether tasks are recommended which require time and expenses to be supported.
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	Maintenance and regular review of the “rolling list” is considered to be a top priority, in that it is an expected ongoing function of STRP. Individual sub-tasks arising from discussions on the “rolling list” might have different priorities, depending on whether there is more or less urgency for specific work on these tasks, beyond a watching brief.

<b>Task Title: Invasive species and wetlands</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Development of a guide to guidance and available information related to alien invasive species in wetlands, for wetland managers and policy-makers. Existing briefing material will be updated and repackaged – with an emphasis on providing guidance as to sources of information or guidance with respect to different aspects of the prevention and control of alien invasive species.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 1.9 (KRA 1.9.iv)

<b>Task rationale</b>	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;
<b>Target audience</b>	Ramsar Administrative Authorities and wetland managers
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	STRP Briefing Note and COP12 Information Paper
	Significant guidance materials prepared by other bodies and organizations exist but not in a form immediately accessible to managers of Ramsar Sites. A 'guide to guidance' would be a useful product; the initial scoping notes would need to clearly define the intended audience for this work: site managers (operational) or policy-levels within government (i.e., is the issue 'cure' [eradication/control] or prevention. Initial review of previous material prepared in 2000-2002 triennium, and new material/information emerging in relation to climate change and invasive species. Assess scope and likely suitability of currently available and emerging guidance and information. Prepare terms of reference (including further assessment of resources needed) for possible "guide to guidance".
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	IUCN-SSC and others
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	25,000 (to contract a consultant to review and consolidate existing sources of guidance)
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

**Theme: Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring and 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.

<b>Task Title: Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people, and the Convention's effectiveness</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	a) Preparation and publication of 1 <sup>st</sup> edition of a periodic State of the World's Wetlands and their services (SoWWS)/Global Wetland Outlook (GWO) reporting. b) Further implementation of Resolution VIII.26 (2002) on developing biological indicators on the results of the Convention's activities, 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. [COP11 DR6]
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	3
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 and 1.6

<b>Task rationale</b>	<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>
<b>Target audience</b>	<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>
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	<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 2012);</p> <p>b) Updated reporting on Convention effectiveness (including through the SoWWS); advice on indicator reporting in the National Report Form for COP12.</p>
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<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>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	GWOS partnership and Secretariat
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	<p>a) 100,000 (provisional estimate)</p> <p>b) 25,000</p>

<b>Additional comments/information</b>	The relationship between STRP and IPBES for undertaking this task will need to be assessed once IPBES has developed fully its modalities.
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<b>Task Title: Development and coordination of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Establishment of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership mechanism (and portal), designed to access data and information for and facilitate SoWWS/GWO reporting (see above).
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	3
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 1.2 (KRAs 1.2.i and 1.2.ii)
<b>Task rationale</b>	Ongoing – continued from 2009-2012. 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. 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, partnerships with other bodies and appropriate conceptual thinking.
<b>Target audience</b>	Much of the impact of this will be internal within Ramsar (STRP and its collaborators) as an organizing framework for other work. It will also 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).
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	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.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	An initial scoping workshop was held in late 2011. From the outcomes of this workshop, an initial consortium of organizations supporting Ramsar is developing concept proposals and seeking resources to take forwards further development of a GWOS.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	Wetlands International, Conservation International, GEO-BON, EO agencies, and others
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	STRP and Secretariat
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	20,000 for inception and design; 500,000 (provisional estimate) for implementation and maintenance
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

<b>Task Title: Detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character – further guidance</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Updating and rationalization the guidance on issues relating to Article 3.2 of the Convention, including the role and operation of the Montreux Record; approaches to establishing the range of natural variability of wetland sites and defining Limits of Acceptable Change; 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; and the need for and scope of guidance on the application of a precautionary approach in the Ramsar Convention.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 2.6
<b>Task rationale</b>	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.
<b>Target audience</b>	Primarily Contracting Party governments and national Ramsar implementing agencies.
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review report(s)</li> <li>• Report on pilot assessment of utility of existing guidance in this subject area</li> <li>• Revised guidance</li> <li>• Revised objectives, operational procedures and reporting/tracking templates for the Montreux Record.</li> </ul>
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The most appropriate way to undertake this task is probably by means of a single consultancy contract with several constituent parts. Detailed steps are yet to be determined but will build on relevant parts of pro-formas, etc., already existing for 2009-12 tasks 4.6 and 4.7 and proposals arising from the review of limits of acceptable change (COP11 DOC. 24). Consultation with regions/Parties will be an important part of the work on the Montreux Record element of this task.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	Secretariat, Contracting Parties
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	20,000
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

**Theme: 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.

<b>Task Title: Implementation of the of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	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.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1/2
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategies 2.1 and 2.2
<b>Task rationale</b>	<p>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 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>
<b>Target audience</b>	Contracting Parties, Secretariat
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	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.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<p>Scoping and redesign of Ramsar Sites Database – design and structure dependent on whether RIS-2012 revision is adopted by COP11.</p> <p>Development of an on-line RIS submission tool, building on demonstration prototype prepared by UNEP-WCMC in 2009-2012 cycle.</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>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	Secretariat
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	STRP and UNEP-WCMC
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	400,000 (to redevelop Ramsar Sites Database, develop an on-line RIS submission tool, and Contracting Party training courses as needed)

<b>Additional comments/information</b>	
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**Theme: Ramsar, wetlands and other sectors**

**Sub-theme A: Wetlands and human health**

Work under this sub-theme focuses on the interconnections between wetlands and human 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.

<b>Task Title: Guidance on “Wetlands and human health” for the health sector</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Guidance on “Wetlands and human health” for the health sector
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	3
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 1.4
<b>Task rationale</b>	Carried over from 2009-2012
<b>Target audience</b>	WHO; Environmental health practitioners, health promotion practitioners
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	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)
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	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.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	WHO to be invited to lead
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	STRP
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	50,000 for consultancy and workshop
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

**Sub-theme B: 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.

<b>Task Title: Implications of climate change for Convention implementation</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Guidance on the implications of climate change for Convention implementation, in particular for maintaining the ecological character of wetlands and establishing limits of acceptable change reference or baseline conditions for management, including restoration, and the emergence of novel ecosystems.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 1.4
<b>Task rationale</b>	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.
<b>Target audience</b>	Contracting Parties – policy makers
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Ramsar Technical Report/Briefing Note; possible guidance for Parties in the form of a guide to available guidance on addressing managing aspects of climate change impacts on coastal and inland wetlands.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a writing group to review existing information on these concepts and relate it specifically to wetlands;</li> <li>• Review existing guidance and publications;</li> <li>• Draft an outline for a subgroup to meet separately to prepare a technical report and extract relevant information for guidance.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	CBD , UNFCC and IPCC; IOPs; researchers
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	20,000
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	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.

<b>Task Title: Advice on adaptation to climate change</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Advice on ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change and maintaining ecological character for coastal and inland wetlands, and addressing the influence of large climate events, such as storms, floods and droughts, on wetlands.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 1.4

<b>Task rationale</b>	Partly carried over from 2009-2012. There is increasing attention to the potential opportunities for managing ecosystems (including coastal and inland wetlands) to maintain their resilience and thus support people in adapting to a changing climate.
<b>Target audience</b>	Wetland managers and researchers
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Ramsar Technical Report (RTR)
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	Develop general examples and case studies and draft technical report. Subgroup to meet separately to draft the Report.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	CBD , UNFCCC and IPCC, World Bank, UNEP, IOPs and other NGOs, including the Nature Conservancy (TNC)
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	15,000
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

<b>Task Title: The implications of REDD+ for forested wetlands</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Review any advice adopted by CBD COP11 (October 2012) concerning the application of relevant REDD+ safeguards for biodiversity, and advise on its relevance for application in the context of wetlands under the Ramsar Convention
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 1.4
<b>Task rationale</b>	Builds on the requests contained in Resolution X.24 and UNFCCC decisions and follow up COP11 DR14. The approach of reviewing and advising on CBD guidance for the Ramsar context is consistent with that previously undertaken by the STRP for the CBD's guidance on EIA and SEA, adopted by Resolution X.17.
<b>Target audience</b>	Wetland and forestry managers
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Guidance for Parties (derived from and consistent with CBD materials); possible Ramsar Technical Report (RTR)
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	Review existing CBD and other information and prepare guidance for Ramsar Parties concerning REDD+ and wetlands that complements guidance and procedures developed by others.
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	With partner organizations including WI and SER
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	10,000 for a consultancy

<b>Additional comments/information</b>	
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<b>Task Title: Opportunities for and constraints on carbon sequestration in wetlands</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Advice on opportunities for and constraints on carbon sequestration in wetlands and maintenance of ecological character and restoration
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 1.4
<b>Task rationale</b>	Builds on initial work in 2009-2012 on available methods and models for assessing carbon sequestration and storage in wetlands, being prepared as an RTR
<b>Target audience</b>	Contracting Parties, policy makers and wetland managers
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Ramsar Technical Report (RTR)
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	Review existing information and prepare a RTR that complements guidance and procedures developed by others
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	With partner organizations including CBD, UNFCCC and IPCC, IOPs, researchers
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	15,000 for a consultancy
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

### **Sub-theme C: 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.

<b>Task Title: The role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	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).
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1,3,5

<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategies 1.4 and 1.7
<b>Task rationale</b>	Ongoing, initiated in 2009-2012. CBD decision X/28, paragraph 39, recognizes 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.
<b>Target audience</b>	CBD and Ramsar focal points
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	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.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold a small workshop between Ramsar and CBD to scope the work;</li> <li>• Identify task teams to draw together scientific underpinning information;</li> <li>• Produce text summarizing scientific understanding and policy guidance that can be supported;</li> <li>• Hold a workshop of experts to bring together the information and recommendations;</li> <li>• Publish a technical report.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP and CBD Secretariat
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	[150,000, funding already provided by donors]
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	The scoping workshop was held on 1 July 2011 and an authors' review workshop in June 2012. Progress has been made in identifying task teams and engaging leads, with report drafting work ongoing during 2012. Progress and initial findings will be reported to CBD COP11 in October 2012.

<b>Task Title: Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of strategy for engaging in the global water debate</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	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.
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1,3

<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategies 1.4 and 1.7
<b>Task rationale</b>	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.]
<b>Target audience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• water treaties especially related to Regional Initiatives, such as transboundary river basins, and conventions that are interested in water;</li> <li>• regional development banks, World Bank;</li> <li>• Institution of Civil Engineers, International Commission on Large Dams, International Hydropower Association;</li> <li>• WHO, Water Sanitation and Health (WASH);</li> <li>• Water agencies;</li> <li>• Private sector, e.g., hydropower companies;</li> <li>• UN agencies: FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UN Habitat ;</li> </ul>
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Ramsar engagement strategy and possible refinements to 2013-2015 work programme (for Parties, Secretariat, and STRP) in the global water debate.
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare Terms of Reference for the work to be undertaken;</li> <li>• Scope water-related issues relevant to Ramsar;</li> <li>• 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 organizations; whom to influence, whom to partner with);</li> <li>• Produce draft of strategy paper to circulate to other task force members;</li> <li>• Hold discussion session at mid-term workshops;</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP and Secretariat
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	IOPs and others as needed
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	20,000

<b>Additional comments/information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Producing a good strategy for engagement is the key to orientating all Ramsar water-related guidance;</li> <li>• Need to review global concepts of river basin management, IWRM, ecosystem approach, Dublin principles; The strategy needs to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• scope of current Ramsar guidance and SWOT analysis;</li> <li>• how Ramsar should engage with water management issues and processes;</li> <li>• review of water-related concepts and terminology see what has been used and what works;</li> <li>• assess and recommend appropriate concepts for organizing water-related guidance;</li> <li>• UN guidance on IWRM weak on wetlands;</li> <li>• the Global Water Partnership IWRM approach may not address wetland issues well.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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#### **Sub-theme D: Wetlands and agriculture**

This theme addresses the range of issues concerning agriculture and wetlands interactions, recognizing 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.

<b>Task Title: Wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Develop guidance for the wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture. Building on lessons learnt from best practices on sustainable aquaculture, and recognizing 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 impacts on wetlands, both direct (habitat loss, wild harvest of species) and indirect (pollution, contamination).
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategies 1.4 and 1.6
<b>Task rationale</b>	The global dependence on aquaculture is growing and wild stocks continue to be depleted. Meeting the need for seafood is resulting 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 in the production process is poorly defined and their impacts are not well understood. Genetic modification is widespread and its impacts on wild populations are not always well considered. Guidance is needed for the wise use of wetlands in relation to burgeoning new coastal aquaculture but also for stocked inland wetlands. The task builds on aspects of Resolution IX.4 (2005).
<b>Target audience</b>	Administrative Authorities, other government sectors, wetland managers, industry
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	Briefing Note; possible guidance for Parties

<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	1) scoping of issue; 2) conceptual framework development; 3) regional workshop; 4) preparation of the Briefing Note or guidance
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	STRP NFPs, FAO, World Fish Centre, WWF
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	120,000 (for workshop and guidance preparation)
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

#### **Sub-theme E: Wetlands and poverty eradication**

This theme recognizes 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.

<b>Task Title: Wetlands and poverty eradication – guidance and case studies</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	Develop further tools and guidance to support the implementation of Resolutions IX.14, X.28 and [COP11 DR13], on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) indicators and process steps to integrate the wetlands-poverty linkage assessment framework with the ecological character description (Resolution X.15) and the Frameworks for wetland inventory, assessment, and monitoring (Resolution IX.1, Annex E) and wetland risk assessment (Resolution VII.10);</li> <li>ii) advice on mainstreaming the “Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication” into national policies and programmes for poverty eradication; and</li> <li>iii) case studies and best practices on the application of the Framework for assessing poverty in wetlands.</li> </ol>
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategy 1.4
<b>Task rationale</b>	Continuation from the 2009-2012 poverty eradication task and as a follow-on to COP11 DR13
<b>Target audience</b>	Wetland managers, sectoral development agencies working on poverty issues within wetlands
<b>Type of deliverable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance on indicators relating wetland wise use to livelihoods and poverty eradication;</li> <li>• Information Paper or Briefing Note with structured guide to available guidance;</li> <li>• Glossy publication on case studies on wetlands and poverty interlinkages.</li> </ul>

<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Indicators relating wise use and poverty eradication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• review indicator systems used in the development sector in the context of wetland wise use;</li> <li>• identify additional indicator fields required to assess wetland wise use and poverty linkages within a wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring framework;</li> <li>• develop indicator description, assessment mechanisms and cross scale linking.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Guide to available guidance and tools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collate existing guidance and toolkits existing within development and conservation sectors ( summarization, web links, short annexes);</li> <li>• 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).</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Case studies on wetlands and poverty eradication: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• finalize appropriate CEPA mechanism on targets, messages and formats;</li> <li>• review available cases under GAWI, Wise Use, with IOPs WWF, IUCN;</li> <li>• request additional cases through IOPs, Ramsar NFPs;</li> <li>• undertake documentation / dissemination.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	Contracting Parties, IOPs, IHDP, UNDP, FAO, UK-DFID and others
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	20,000
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	

**Theme: Wetlands and ecosystem services/benefits**

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 harmonizing 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 recognize, 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.

<b>Task Title: Economics of wetland ecosystem services/benefits</b>	
<b>Task description</b>	<p>Building on the work of TEEB and others (and the TEEB “water and wetlands synthesis” report):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>conduct a user needs analysis for Ramsar Parties and wetland (site) managers) on tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making;</li> <li>conduct a scoping review of the advancements in ecosystem services (description / recognition, valuation, capture) to support the wise use of wetlands, in particular cross-sectoral integration;</li> <li>develop a guide to guidance on best practices for integrating ecosystem services values within the response options for wetland management;</li> <li>conduct a scoping review of technical aspects relevant to the Ramsar Convention in the finance, banking, investment, insurance and other economic sectors; and</li> <li>develop an assessment mechanism for the contribution of wetland services/benefits to national GDPs.</li> </ol>
<b>Priority (Top, Lower)</b>	Top
<b>Category</b>	1
<b>Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:</b>	Strategies 1.4 (KRA 1.4.ii) and 1.6
<b>Task rationale</b>	<p>This task, carried forward and further developed from 2009-2012, aimed <i>inter alia</i> at the key results under 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 harmonizing the ecosystem services concept within various response options for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The STRP and Secretariat receive an increasing number of requests from Administrative Authorities for better information to transmit to their decision makers concerning the benefits people derive from wetlands, and the value of wetland ecosystem services. This task was affirmed as a high priority for 2013-2015 by Parties at several of the pre-COP11 regional preparatory meetings.</p> <p>The work on this task will also serve to support the STRP’s and Secretariat’s engagement with IPBES, and other networks related to ecosystem services.</p>
<b>Target audience</b>	Wetland managers, Administrative Authorities, development sector related to wetland ecosystem services ( e.g., banking, risk management, etc.)

<b>Type of deliverable</b>	<p>i) Information Paper and communication product on synthesis of ecosystem service values related to water and wetlands (building from TEEB and linked to SoWWS)</p> <p>ii) Needs assessment of tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making;</p> <p>iii) Guide to guidance / guidance document / Information Paper(s) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognizing wetland ecosystem services: linking ecosystem services to inventory, assessment and monitoring framework; management planning; risk and vulnerability assessments, etc.;</li> <li>• valuing wetland ecosystem services: best practices on economic valuation; participatory valuation techniques;</li> <li>• capturing wetland ecosystem services through use of market and non-market mechanisms: payments for ecosystem services; ecosystem services markets; linkages with banking, credit and insurance sectors, etc.;</li> </ul> <p>iv) Case studies on application of ecosystem services values for promoting wise use of wetlands.</p>
<b>Approach/steps for delivering the work</b>	<p>The precise approach to and scope of the various aspects of this task will be informed by the findings, recommendations and gaps in knowledge identified by the TEEB water and wetlands synthesis report, which will be launched in October 2012, and is intended to be the first phase of an economics of water and water joint initiative with subsequent phases including <i>inter alia</i> capacity-building for Parties and others. It is anticipated that the first step under this task would be a scoping workshop involving STRP and the contributing bodies and organizations.</p>
<b>Lead body/organization</b>	STRP
<b>Contributing bodies/organizations</b>	The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), UNEP-TEEB team, IOPs, UNECE water convention and others
<b>Funds needed (CHF)</b>	80,000
<b>Additional comments/information</b>	