



11th 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

Agenda item XV

Ramsar COP11 DR6

Draft Resolution XI.6

Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions

1. NOTING the benefits to be gained from mutually supportive collaboration amongst all relevant players, as affirmed in Ramsar Resolutions VII.4 (1999), VIII.5 (2002), IX.5 (2005) and X.11 (2008), 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 updating 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. ACKNOWLEDGING that partnerships can successfully be made with governments, the private sector, MEAs, nongovernmental organizations, academia and other international institutions, funds, facilities and other bodies in a position to assist and promote the Convention and its mission;
4. RECOGNIZING the opportunities that the celebrations in 2011 of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Convention have provided for increasing the profile of the Convention and the public's awareness of the importance of wetlands and their benefits to people and nature, as well as the opportunity that the 40th anniversary has provided to take stock of progress in the implementation of the Convention over the past 40 years, as a basis for looking forward to the Convention's implementation over the next 40 years and establishing further partnerships to support Contracting Parties' capacities;
5. WELCOMING the preparation by the Ramsar Secretariat of a “Framework for Strategic Partnerships for the Ramsar Convention” (COP11 [DOC. Xx]), which provides a basis for the future focus and priorities for engagement with institutional and private sector organizations in order to enhance national and international resourcing for the achievement of the wise use of wetlands, taking into account the *Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector* adopted by Resolution X.12;
6. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION to the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention for their report on achievements in implementing

the CBD/Ramsar 4th Joint Work Plan provided in UNEP/CBD/COP/10/INF/38 to CBD COP10 and Ramsar COP11 [DOC.xx], and NOTING the CBD's Decision X/20 which "expresses its appreciation to the Ramsar Convention, and its Scientific and Technical Review Panel, for the continued cooperation and welcomes the extension of the joint work plan for the period beyond 2010";

7. NOTING the adoption by the Convention on Biological Diversity's 10th meeting of its Conference of the Contracting Parties, in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010 of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* (Decision X/2), which provides a "a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions" and includes 20 "Aichi Biodiversity Targets", ALSO NOTING the "Memorandum of Cooperation between International Agencies and Organisations and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets" agreed in September 2011, and AFFIRMING the significant contribution the Ramsar Convention can make to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity through implementation of the Strategies of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015, [as outlined in Appendix 1 of Ramsar COP11 DR3];
8. AWARE that the United Nations has declared 2011-2020 to be the Decade on Biodiversity and that there are close links between wetlands and biodiversity;
9. NOTING that CBD COP10 Decisions X/28 on inland waters, X/29 on marine and coastal biodiversity, and X/31 on protected areas reaffirm the role of the Ramsar Convention as the CBD's lead implementation partner for wetlands, including the role of the Convention in addressing issues of wetlands as the natural water infrastructure for delivering water security (as recognized in the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015, Resolution X.1); and ALSO NOTING the establishment through CBD Decision X/28 of a joint CBD/Ramsar expert working group to provide policy-relevant messages on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle;
10. ALSO NOTING that the CBD in Decision X/20 invited the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB) 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, scientific criteria for the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas in need of protection, and invasive alien species;
11. FURTHER NOTING Resolution 10.21 of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) which welcomed the revised CMS/Ramsar Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Work Plan as a flexible framework for collaboration with the CMS and its wetland-relevant sister Agreements and Memoranda;
12. RECOGNIZING the facilitation by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the "MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative" (www.informea.org), which brings together 13 Global Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including the Ramsar Convention, to develop harmonized and interoperable information systems in support of knowledge management activities among MEAs for the

benefit of Parties and the environment community at large, and WELCOMING the launch of its *InforMEA* project, which provides a web-portal for access to aggregated data and information harvested from participating MEAs;

- [13. AWARE of the outcomes of the “Rio+20” United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which took place on 4-6 June 2012, concerning its two themes of relevance to the Ramsar Convention, namely a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and the institutional framework for sustainable development and international environmental governance];
14. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION to the Ramsar Secretariat and the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for their contributions to the planning and preparatory processes to establish an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) under the auspices of the United Nations, and ACKNOWLEDGING the potential for the IPBES to serve as a mechanism to strengthen the science-policy interface with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to make information available to the Ramsar Convention and its Contracting Parties to support decision-making related to implementation;
15. WELCOMING the establishment by the Ramsar Secretariat of new Memoranda of Cooperation with the European Space Agency (ESA, concerning the “Globwetland-II” wetland observing system), JAXA – the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, the Organisation of American States (OAS), Stetson University College of Law, the Wings over Wetlands (WOW) Partnership, the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the World Bank, the World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), and the World Health Organisation (concerning publication of the report “Healthy wetlands, healthy people”), and also WELCOMING the renewal of Memoranda of Cooperation with Danone-Evian (Fonds Danone-Evian pour l’Eau), Duck Unlimited (DU), the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP), Star Alliance – Biosphere Connections, and the USA “Wetlands for the Future” Initiative;
16. EXPRESSING appreciation to the Danone Group for its continued generous support to the Convention and to the Biosphere Connection Partnership for its continued support in providing sponsored delegate travel to Ramsar-related meetings; and
17. REITERATING 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 in support of the Ramsar Convention, and WELCOMING the signing in May 2011 of a new joint Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ramsar Secretariat and the five IOPs which reaffirms their shared commitment to collaborate in support of Convention implementation;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

18. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to cooperate closely with relevant conventions through its participation in the Joint Liaison Group of 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 its work as a member of the UNEP Environment Management Group (EMG);
19. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretariat to remain closely involved in the work of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) established under the aegis of the CBD and to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress achieved by this group, and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to facilitate the continuing participation of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in the work of the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB), subject to the availability of funding;
20. WELCOMES the 5th CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan, for 2011-2020, as well as the revised CMS/Ramsar Joint Work Plan as a flexible framework for collaboration with the CMS and its wetland-relevant sister Agreements and Memoranda;
21. URGES the Secretariat to continue its joint review with UNESCO of opportunities for enhancing collaboration on its programmes of work with the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), the International Hydrological Programme (IHP), and the World Heritage Centre with a view to reinvigorating those collaborative mechanisms;
22. REQUESTS the Secretariat and the Chair of the STRP to continue to engage in the ongoing process to establish of an Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and INVITES the IPBES, when establishing its modalities and work plan, to take into account the needs of the Ramsar Convention and its Contracting Parties;
23. WELCOMES the recent development of further Ramsar cooperative relations with UNEP, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), UNEP-WCMC, and the World Health Organization (WHO), and REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to develop cooperative relations with these UN agencies and others such as UNESCO, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and UN-Water, as well as with other relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) and the CGIAR networks, to seek membership in the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and to seek to reduce duplicative activities;
24. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to use the “Framework for Strategic Partnerships for the Ramsar Convention” [COP11 DOC. Xx] as its basis for the focus and priorities for future engagements with institutional and private sector organizations, including through innovative partnerships that will enhance national and international resourcing and capacity for the achieving the wise use of wetlands, taking into account the *Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector* adopted by the Parties in Resolution X.12 (2008), and to report on progress in implementing that Framework to the Conference of the Parties;

25. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to review its memoranda of cooperation with other global and regional environment agreements and other organizations with a view to reinvigorating those most likely to be beneficial to the work of the Convention within the time and resources available, taking into account the approach and priorities established in the “Framework for Strategic Partnerships for the Ramsar Convention”;
26. URGES Contracting Parties to continue to support the development and implementation of the Convention’s partnership programme, including through providing the Secretariat with information and contacts for potential business and other partnerships and prospective donor contacts that would help to enhance the operation and implementation of the Convention;
27. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to continue to establish and strengthen partnerships and closer working relations with intergovernmental regional groups with a view to enhancing the role of the Convention in those regions;
28. REQUESTS the Secretariat to develop closer consultative relationships with financial institutions such as the Global Environment Facility, regional development banks, other environment funding organizations, and other institutions such as the European Commission and its relevant divisions for environment and biodiversity funding, with a view to facilitating greater access to those resources by the Parties to the Convention;
29. URGES the Secretariat to continue its valuable collaboration with the five International Organization Partners in the context of Joint Work Plans prepared with the Ramsar Secretariat and INVITES the IOP representatives to take steps to increase awareness of Ramsar objectives and the collaborative relationship with the Convention to the greatest possible extent throughout their organizations, including by coordination with IOPs’ country and regional offices, where appropriate;
30. FURTHER URGES the Secretariat to seek opportunities for developing similarly fruitful relationships with other non-governmental organizations and, following a review of memoranda of cooperation already in place with other NGOs, to foster increased cooperation with those NGOs that can most benefit the work of the Convention;
31. REQUESTS the STRP, subject to the availability of resources, to exchange information with the equivalent subsidiary bodies of other MEAs and relevant regional fora, to continue to participate in meetings of the chairs of scientific and technical subsidiary bodies (CSAB), and to report through the Standing Committee to the Conference of the Parties on these activities;
32. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue its participation in the UNEP-WCMC’s work on developing tools for the on-line use of the biodiversity-related conventions, including exploring the opportunity for on-line reporting applications relevant to Ramsar ;
33. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties, other governments, International Organization Partners, and other relevant organizations to make a special effort to contribute to the 2011-2020 UN Decade on Biodiversity , including by drawing increased attention to the critical role of wetlands in supporting many components of biodiversity in the terrestrial,

freshwater, and marine biomes; raising awareness of the linkages between wetlands, biodiversity, and the achievement of Millennium Development Goals; highlighting the role of wetlands in responding to climate change; and reinforcing the contribution of the wise use of wetlands to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;

34. URGES Contracting Parties to take active steps at national level to improve regular liaison and collaboration among Ramsar Administrative Authorities and focal points and the focal points of related conventions and agreements, including as appropriate through their inclusion in National Ramsar/Wetland Committees, in order to ensure that national responses to global environmental issues will be as consistent as possible with the objectives and values of the Ramsar Convention, and ALSO URGES Parties to make good use of the *InforMEA* web portal to access aggregated data and information across MEAs in their efforts to enhance in-country collaboration and coherent implementation of MEAs;
35. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other governments and organizations also to make use, as appropriate, of the web-based UNEP-IUCN “TEMATEA” issue-based modules resource when developing mutually supportive activities among biodiversity-related conventions; and
36. URGES the Secretariat to support the work of the STRP in further implementing 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 REQUESTS the Secretariat and STRP to provide advice on how reporting on these indicators may be incorporated into the National Reports of the Parties.

Annex

Summary of current Ramsar Convention partnerships with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):

- Memorandum of Cooperation (1996; renewed 2011)
- 5th Joint Work Plan (2011-2020)

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS):

- Memorandum of Understanding (1997; renewed 2011)
- 2nd Joint Work Plan (2012-2014)

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD):

- Memorandum of Cooperation (1998)

World Heritage Convention (WHC):

- Memorandum of Understanding (1999)

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention):

- Memorandum of Cooperation (2000; renewed 2005)

Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention):

- Memorandum of Cooperation (2001; renewed 2006)

Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (“Carpathian Convention”):

- Memorandum of Cooperation (2006)