



**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**

**Agenda item XV**

**Ramsar COP11 DR17**

**Draft Resolution XI.17**

**Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the  
Convention for 2013-2015**

1. RECALLING Resolutions IX.2, X.9, X.10, X.11 [and COP11 DR18] concerning a complete, unified and prioritized programme of scientific and technical implementation activities and the work of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP);
2. THANKING the STRP for its significant work during the 2009-2012 triennium, as summarized in the Report of the Chair of the STRP (COP11 DOC. 6), but AWARE that it has not been possible to progress some elements of the STRP's priority work in the 2009-2012 triennium and that full delivery of the Panel's work programme remains subject to the availability of resources, in particular to additional voluntary contributions from Parties and others;
3. ALSO THANKING those Parties and organizations that have made additional voluntary contributions and in kind support to the work of the STRP in the 2009-2012 triennium, and NOTING the significant benefits to the implementation of the Convention and the scope of the Panel's work that are facilitated by voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties; and
4. NOTING that the terms of [COP11 DR16] may have implications for the implementation of this Resolution;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

5. APPROVES the full list of tasks in Annex 2 as the basis for the programme of scientific and technical work for Convention bodies (including the STRP) for the 2013-2015 period, and ALSO APPROVES the 21 tasks listed in Annex 1 to this Resolution as the top priority tasks for implementation, resources permitting, in the 2013-2015 period;
6. INSTRUCTS the STRP to develop its work plan for the 2013-2015 triennium for the Standing Committee's consideration from the tasks identified in the annexes to this Resolution; and INVITES those other organizations and bodies identified in the annexes to this Resolution to consider taking the lead and/or contributing to those tasks concerning issues for which they have expertise;

7. URGES Contracting Parties, and INVITES donors, intergovernmental agencies, International Organization Partners (IOPs), national NGOs, and others to use this list, including the programme for Top Priority actions in Annex 1, when deciding priorities for their financial and other material support towards the scientific and technical implementation of the Ramsar Convention, and FURTHER URGES Parties to consider making additional voluntary contributions to support the Convention's programme of scientific and technical work, particularly for those tasks indicated as being top priorities; and
8. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to consolidate into Annex 2 of this Resolution any additional or amended scientific and technical implementation actions arising from other Resolutions adopted by the present meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

### **Annexes 1 and 2: Introduction**

1. This section provides explanatory notes concerning the two attached annexes.
2. Annex 1 provides a summary list of proposed top priority scientific and technical tasks for the 2013-2015 triennium. This is drawn from Annex 2, which provides a summary of the full list of proposed scientific and technical implementation support tasks for the work of Convention bodies in 2013-2015.
3. Certain top priority themes (and in some cases more specific task topics) for future implementation have been identified by Contracting Parties through one or more Ramsar regional pre-COP meetings and consultation processes are:
  - CEPA – training & capacity-building
  - ecosystem services/valuation
  - climate change (including REDD+)
  - wetland inventory (including change in ecological character)
  - wetlands and water resources (including wetlands' role in the global water cycle)
  - invasive species
  - poverty eradication
  - wetlands and aquaculture issues
  - advice on best practices including case studies
4. The 22 top priority tasks listed in Annex 1 below have been identified from the full range of proposed scientific and technical tasks listed in Annex 2 and are recommended as top priority activities for the Convention's bodies according to advice received from Contracting Parties (through their regional pre-COP11 meetings [and COP11], the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), and the Ramsar Secretariat.
5. The provisional figure for the total estimated funds needed for full implementation the recommended 2013-2015 top priority tasks is CHF 1,840,000 over the triennium (see Annex 2 for cost estimates for the tasks). Of this, some support (CHF 150,000) has already been pledged by a number of donor countries for the task "The role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle".

6. Annex 2 provides further details of all proposed scientific and technical implementation support tasks for the work of Convention bodies 2013-2015. This annex provides a summary description of each task, with its anticipated outcomes and outputs, and provisional estimated costs. Fuller descriptions are provided in the COP11 Information Paper “Scientific & technical implementation of the Convention 2013-2015: task proformas”.
7. As indicated in Annex 2, a number of the tasks listed are either ongoing or have been carried forward from the task lists in the equivalent COP Resolution adopted by previous COPs, but for which capacity has been insufficient in the previous triennia to undertake or complete them.
8. Provisional estimated costs in Annex 2 are based on each task requiring the engagement of an expert (or experts) to undertake the work required. These provisional estimated costs have been prepared by the STRP and Secretariat to provide Contracting Parties with an initial assessment of delivery needs – more precise costings and the scope and ways and means for the delivery of each of the tasks will be developed at the beginning of the 2013-2015 cycle and reported to the Standing Committee at that time. It is recognized that, as for previous triennia, much of the funds estimated to be needed for further developing scientific and technical implementation support will need to be found from sources other than the Convention’s core budget.
9. Annex 2 also provides an indication of which body or process would appear most appropriate to lead the implementation of the work, and which bodies, processes and/or organizations could be anticipated to bring in relevant expertise to contribute to the work.
10. In most cases, lead responsibility for a task listed in Annex 2 is assigned to one of the Convention’s bodies or processes (e.g., Secretariat, Ramsar Regional Centres, STRP, etc.). However, for certain tasks, the nature of the task and the expertise required for it lies outside the direct expertise of the Convention’s processes, particularly when the task concerns aspects of providing advice on cross-sectoral issues, and where there is a relevant expert body or organization that has established collaborative arrangements with the Convention (for example, through a Memorandum of Cooperation and/or as an invited observer organization to the STRP). Where such an organization is indicated in Annex 2, it will be invited to consider taking the lead in work on that task.

### Annex 1

#### Recommended top priority scientific and technical tasks for the 2013-2015 triennium

Recommended top priority tasks 2013-2015 (short task title only)	Lead body/process
<b>CEPA</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessing and supporting the capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties and wetland managers in applying Ramsar guidance</li> </ul>	STRP/Secretariat/Ramsar Regional Centres, etc.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity-building support for STRP National Focal Points</li> </ul>	Secretariat (with STRP & Ramsar Regional Centres)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>STRP communication &amp; dissemination support: a) web platform; and b) newsletters</li> </ul>	Secretariat/STRP
<b>Strategic, emerging &amp; ongoing issues</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic scientific &amp; technical advice</li> </ul>	STRP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing ad hoc advisory functions</li> </ul>	STRP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of COP Draft Resolutions from Parties</li> </ul>	STRP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sectoral and/or emerging issues for possible future priority work</li> </ul>	STRP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invasive species and wetlands</li> </ul>	STRP, with IUCN-SSC & others
<b>Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring &amp; reporting</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people, and the Convention's effectiveness</li> </ul>	STRP, with GWOS partnership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development and coordination of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership</li> </ul>	GWOS partnership (IOPs/STRP partner organizations), with STRP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detecting, reporting &amp; responding to change in ecological character – further guidance</li> </ul>	STRP
<b>Wetlands of International Importance</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision</li> </ul>	Secretariat
<b>Ramsar, wetlands and other sectors</b>	
<b>A. Wetlands &amp; human health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Guidance on “Wetlands and Human Health” for the health sector</li> </ul>	WHO, with STRP
<b>B. Wetlands &amp; climate change</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implications of climate change for Convention processes</li> </ul>	STRP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice on adaptation to climate change</li> </ul>	STRP
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The implications of REDD+ for forested wetlands</li> </ul>	STRP, with WI, SER and others
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities for, and constraints on, carbon sequestration in wetlands</li> </ul>	STRP, with partners
<b>C. Wetlands &amp; water resource management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle</li> </ul>	STRP, with CBD Secretariat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of a strategy for engaging in the global water debate</li> </ul>	STRP
<b>Wetlands &amp; agriculture</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetlands &amp; coastal and inland aquaculture guidance</li> </ul>	STRP, with FAO, World Fish Centre, WWF
<b>Wetlands &amp; poverty eradication</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wetlands &amp; poverty eradication – tools and case studies</li> </ul>	STRP (with Parties, IOPs, IHDP, UNDP, FAO, UK-DFID and others)
<b>Wetlands &amp; ecosystem services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economics of Wetland Ecosystem Services/benefits</li> </ul>	STRP

## Annex 2

### Summary of scientific and technical implementation support tasks for the work of Convention bodies 2013-2015

1. The scientific and technical tasks are organized under six broad themes, as follows:
  - Communication, education, participation & awareness (CEPA)
  - Strategic, emerging & ongoing issues
  - Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring & reporting
  - Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)
  - Ramsar, wetlands & other sectors
    - Wetlands & human health
    - Wetlands & climate change
    - Wetlands & water resource management
    - Wetlands & agriculture
    - Wetlands & poverty eradication
    - Wetlands & urbanization
    - Wetlands & tourism
  - Wetlands & ecosystem services/benefits
2. The categorization of types of tasks is coded in the tables 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

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

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
<b>Assessing and supporting capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties and wetland managers in applying Ramsar guidance</b>	Top	2	STRP (assessment & training package development);  Secretariat, Ramsar Regional Centres, IOPs and others (training delivery)	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 & 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. Carried forward from 2009-2012 (task 10.3)  Outcomes/outputs: i) scoping study regarding the optimum capacity-building approaches for Contracting Parties to support their use of guidance; ii) training package/modules on Ramsar guidance; iii) a 'training for trainers' programme developed	Strategies 4.1 & 4.3 (incl. KRAs 4.1.viii & 4.3.vi)	15,000 (scoping study)  80,000 (development of training package)

<b>Capacity-building support for STRP National Focal Points</b>	Top	2	Secretariat (with input from STRP and Regional Centres)	<p>Hold regional workshops for STRP National Focal Points (at least 1 per triennium).</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcomes: Enhanced understanding of Convention processes by STRP NFPs; improved input by STRP NFPs to STRP of national and regional implementation needs.</p>	Strategies 3.4 (KRA 3.4.ii) & 4.3 (KRA 4.3.vi)	100,000 per workshop
<b>STRP communication &amp; dissemination support:</b> <b>a) web platform</b>	Top	2	Secretariat (with input from STRP regional members & STRP NFPs)	<p>Develop and maintain, and as necessary further develop, a new STRP web platform for input to and dissemination of STRP work by STRP NFPs and others.</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcome: fully functional and up-to-date web tool for sharing information, reviewing drafts, and archiving the STRP's work</p>	Strategy 3.4 (KRA 3.4.iii)	50,000
<b>STRP communication &amp; dissemination support:</b> <b>b) newsletters</b>	Top	2	Secretariat (with input from STRP members, observers & STRP NFPs)	<p>Produce regular STRP newsletters and seek to provide newsletters and key STRP documents in all Convention languages.</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcome: information on STRP's work and activities widely available to STRP and other Convention NFPs</p>	Strategy 3.4 (KRA 3.4.iii)	15,000

<b>STRP communication &amp; dissemination support:</b> <b>c) STRP NFPs bulletin</b>	Lower	2	Secretariat (with input from STRP members & STRP NFPs)	Issue annual STRP NFPs' bulletin of activities. New. Outcome: STRP NFPs' experiences and activities shared	Strategy 3.4 (KRAs 3.4.ii & 3.4.iii)	1,000
<b>CEPA advice on guidance preparation</b>	Lower	1	STRP	Ensure that the preparation of STRP guidance and advice materials draws upon CEPA expertise available to the Convention in order to optimize the effective drafting, design, targeting and uptake of such materials. Ongoing from 2009-2012 (task 1.4)	Strategy 4.1	15,000
<b>Waterbird flyway initiatives - knowledge sharing</b>	Lower	1	Secretariat, CMS, AEWAs, and other international flyway initiatives, with STRP	Contribute to establishing a mechanism for sharing knowledge and experience on best practices in the development and implementation of flyway-scale waterbird conservation policies and practices. Continued from 2009-2012. Outcomes/outputs: input on Ramsar issues to the establishment of coordination mechanisms recommended by 2011 workshop.	Strategies 3.3 & 3.5 (KRA 3.5.iii)	-

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

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
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<b>Strategic scientific &amp; technical advice</b>	Top	3/4/5	STRP	<p>Provide proactive and reactive advice to the Convention on relevant strategic scientific and technical matters, including overall progress with scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of COP Resolutions, trends, emerging issues, and other priority matters requiring expert review.</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Reports, STRP Briefing Notes, STRP Support Service communications, presentations to meetings or conferences.</p>	Strategy 4.3	15,000  [time and travel costs]
<b>Ongoing ad hoc advisory functions</b>	Top	2/3	STRP	<p>Provide advice to Secretariat and Parties, including on Ramsar Site designation, article 3.2 issues, Montreux Record, Ramsar Advisory Missions, RSIS, wetland projects, participation in CSAB, and other issues.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: varies</p>	Various	[Dependent on specific requests to STRP]
<b>Review of COP Draft Resolutions from Parties</b>	Top	1	STRP	<p>Advise Standing Committee on proposals from Contracting Parties for COP Resolutions with scientific or technical content.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: advice taken up in Draft Resolutions</p>	Various	-

<b>Sectoral and/or emerging issues for possible future priority work</b>	Top	4	STRP	<p>Maintain rolling list of global and regional sectoral and/or emerging issues that have potential implications for the wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>Provide recommendations to Standing Committee and COP when any of these issues might need to be addressed by the STRP or other Convention bodies.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: advice to SC/COP; STRP Briefing Notes</p>	Strategy 1.4	-
<b>Invasive species and wetlands</b>	Top	1	STRP, with IUCN-SSC and others	<p>Development of a guide to guidance and available information related to alien invasive species in wetlands, for wetland managers and policy-makers..</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: STRP Briefing Note &amp; COP12 Information Paper</p>	Strategy 1.9 (KRA 1.9.iv)	25,000
<b>Reviewing topicality of adopted guidances</b>	Lower	1	STRP, with CPs, IOPs, STRP NFPs etc.	<p>Prepare a programme for the periodic review of each of the suite of guidances adopted previously by Parties.</p> <p>New task</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: recommendations to Standing Committee and COP concerning the need for updating previously-adopted guidances.</p>	Various	-

<b>Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)</b>	Lower	1	STRP with Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza & Wild Birds	<p>Maintain an active overview of and input to issues relating to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), especially in relation to surveillance, information-exchange, and response strategies.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: updated advice/technical guidance, if necessary</p>	Strategies 1.6 & 3.4	-
<b>Engagement with IPBES</b>	Lower	3	STRP (with Secretariat)	<p>On behalf of the Ramsar Convention, maintain active participation in the development and execution of the scientific work programmes of the IPBES, in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- support an effective science/policy interface for wetland biodiversity, and</li> <li>- ensure that high-quality scientific information and understanding of wetlands is incorporated into policy-making.</li> </ul> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: IPBES is responding to Ramsar Convention needs for advice/reports</p>	Strategies 1.1, 3.1 & 3.4	15,000 [meetings participation]

<b>On-line Convention reporting mechanisms</b>	Lower	2	Secretariat, with UNEP & UNEP-WCMC	Participate in the work of UNEP and UNEP-WCMC on developing tools for the on-line use of the biodiversity-related conventions, including exploring the opportunity for on-line and harmonized reporting applications relevant to Ramsar including <i>inter alia</i> National Reporting, Ramsar Site designations, and MEA information portals [COP11 DR6] Ongoing Outcomes/outputs: streamlined and more efficient tools for Convention reporting obligations and access to Convention information.	Strategy 3.1 (KRA 3.1.v)	-
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**Theme: Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring & reporting**

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
<b>Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people, and the Convention's effectiveness</b>	Top	3	STRP, with input from GWOS partnership, etc.	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.  Carried over from 2009-2012  Outcomes/outputs: 1 <sup>st</sup> 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.)	Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.4 & 1.6	100,000 (provisional estimate)

			STRP & Secretariat	<p>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]</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: updated reporting on Convention effectiveness (including through the SoWWS); advice on indicator reporting in the National Report Format for COP12.</p>		25,000
<b>Development and coordination of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership</b>	Top	3	Wetlands International, Conservation International, GEO-BON, EO agencies, and others, with STRP & Secretariat	<p>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).</p> <p>Ongoing - continued from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: a functioning GWOS mechanism delivering enhanced wetland data &amp; information to the Convention stakeholders and others.</p>	Strategy 1.2 (KRAs 1.2.i & 1.2.ii)	20,000 for inception and design; 500,000 (provisional estimate) for implementation & maintenance

<b>Detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character - further guidance</b>	Top	1	STRP	<p>Update and rationalisation of 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.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: further guidance for Parties on these issues</p>	Strategy 2.6	20,000
<b>Describing ecological character –guidance and support</b>	Lower	1	STRP (with external experts and Parties)	<p>Guidance on development and use of conceptual models for describing ecological character, and further guidance for completing ecological character description (ECD) sheet adopted by COP10 and ECD components of the RIS – 2012 revision.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: guidance for Parties; training and support modules</p>	Strategy 2.4 (KRAs 2.4.ii & 2.4.v)	20,000 (provisional estimate)

<b>Maintaining an overview of the status of wetland inventory</b>	Lower	3	STRP (with WI, IWMI, UNEP-WCMC and others)	<p>Establishment and maintenance of a web-based wetland inventory metadatabase</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: on-line metadatabase (potentially linked to RSIS) available; gap analysis of available wetland inventories</p>	Strategy 1.1 (KRA 1.1.ii)	t.b.d.
<b>Implementing harmonised MEA information systems at national level</b>	Lower	1	UNEP, UNEP-WCMC and others, with STRP input	<p>Guidance for Parties on utilizing tools and processes for harmonizing information management, including national reporting</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: guidance for Parties; “route-map” to harmonisation and interoperability facilities, support for progress towards streamlined national approaches to MEA reporting</p>	Strategy 3.1 (KRA 2.1.v)	20,000

<b>Enhanced support for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan</b>	Lower	1	STRP (with Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC and others)	<p>Development of data and information needs framework (COP10) as a searchable web portal, including options for on-line national reporting.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- depending on outcomes of initial user needs assessment, the design and roll-out of web-based portal version of data &amp; information framework (successor to the annex to Resolution X.14).</li> <li>- guidance for Parties and others on making optimal use of relevant data and information in support of the Ramsar Strategic Plan.</li> <li>- report on options for an on-line reporting (and potentially a site data submission) system for Ramsar</li> </ul>	All Strategies	t.b.d.
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**Theme: Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)**

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
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<b>Implementation of the of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision</b>	Top	1, 2	Secretariat, with advice from STRP	<p>Development of streamlined 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.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: 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.</p>	Strategies 2.1 & 2.2	400,000
<b>Understanding national site designation processes and impediments to national Ramsar Site networks</b>	Lower	1	STRP, with input from Parties	<p>The <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (and associated Resolutions) calls for the designation of national networks of Ramsar Sites, yet few Parties have undertaken strategic reviews of potentially qualifying sites or have designated a comprehensive network of internationally important wetlands. This task is designed to help the STRP and Secretariat better understand the various constraints and impediments to this activity, as a basis for the STRP and Secretariat better supporting Parties in their future Ramsar Site designations.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: initially, an STRP Briefing Note.</p>	Strategy 2.1	10,000

<b>Target development to support the objectives for the Ramsar List</b>	Lower	1	STRP	<p>Development of an integrated suite of targets to respond to and support the five Objectives for the Ramsar List included in the <i>Strategic Framework – 2012 revision</i>, including linking to the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Strategic Framework targets for consideration by COP12.</p>	Strategy 2.1	10,000
<b>Consideration of relationships between criteria for internationally important sites for biodiversity</b>	Lower	5	IUCN-WCPA/SSC, with input from STRP	<p>Contribution to current initiative led by IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas and Species Survival Commission to review and possibly consolidate criteria for the identification of important sites for biodiversity conservation, in order to ensure that Ramsar Site criteria are fully taken into account.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: report to SC/COP on implications for Ramsar.</p>	Strategy 2.1	5,000
<b>Ecosystem services in the context of Ramsar Site selection criteria</b>	Lower	1	STRP	<p>Consideration of the need for additional guidance on ecosystem services/benefits in the application of Ramsar Site selection criteria.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: advice/guidance to COP.</p>	Strategy 2.1	5,000

**Theme: Ramsar, wetlands and other sectors**
**Sub-theme A: Wetlands and human health**

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
<b>Guidance on “Wetlands and human health” for the health sector</b>	Top	3	WHO, with STRP	<p>Guidance on “Wetlands and human health” for the health sector</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: developed from the 2011 Ramsar Technical Report on wetlands and human health interactions (which was designed for wetland practitioners), a publication for use by human health practitioners</p>	Strategy 1.4	50,000
<b>Wetlands and human health case studies</b>	Lower	3	STRP	<p>Preparation of case studies of wetlands and human health interactions</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: case study publication</p>	Strategy 1.4	25,000

<b>Guidance on specific wetland-related diseases</b>	Lower	1	STRP/WHO and others	<p>Guidance (fact-sheets) for wetland managers on different wetland-related human diseases</p> <p>Further development of 2009-2012 Wildlife Diseases Manual</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Factsheets for adding to <i>Wildlife Diseases Manual</i>.</p>	Strategy 1.4	15,000
<b>Development of wetland &amp; health indicators</b>	Lower	1	STRP, with BIP, emerging infectious disease groups and organizations	<p>Development of indicators of the relationship between wetland ecosystem services and health, with an emphasis on developing early warning indicators for the emergence or re-emergence of diseases, and neglected, persistent and endemic diseases.</p> <p>New [COP11 DR12 on wetlands and human health]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: indicator descriptions and implementation design</p>	Strategy 1.4	10,000
<b>Review of Ramsar guidance in relation to human health</b>	Lower	1	STRP	<p>Review existing Ramsar text and guidance for its relevance to wetlands and human health issues.</p> <p>Partly carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Note: guide to existing Ramsar guidance relevant to health issues</p>	Strategy 1.4	10,000

<b>Including health cost and benefit assessment in economic models and wetland valuation</b>	Lower	1, 3	STRP	<p>Development of strategic mechanisms to ensure that health costs and benefits are satisfactorily included in economic models that seek to value the contributions that wetland management makes to human health and well-being, including preparing wetland-related inputs to burden-of-disease assessments.</p> <p>New [COP11 DR12 on wetlands and human health]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Note</p>	Strategy 1.4	10,000
<b>Guidance for wetland managers on human and animal health impact assessments in wetlands</b>	Lower	1	WHO and others, with STRP	<p>Prepare guidance for wetland managers on the conduct of human and animal health impact assessments in wetlands</p> <p>New [COP11 DR12 on wetlands and human health]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: guidance for wetland managers and training package</p>	Strategy 1.4	t.b.d.
<b>Assessment of utility for wetland managers of <i>Ramsar wetland disease manual</i></b>	Lower	1	STRP, with wetland managers	<p>STRP to seek the views of wetland managers and other relevant stakeholders on the utility of the content of the <i>Ramsar wetland disease manual: Guidelines for assessment, monitoring and management of animal disease in wetlands</i> and whether expanding its coverage, e.g., to include plant diseases and human diseases associated with wetlands, would be desirable</p> <p>New [COP11 DR12 on wetlands and human health]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: utility assessment (Briefing Note)</p>	Strategy 1.4	t.b.d.

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
<b>Implications of climate change for Convention implementation</b>	Top	1	STRP	<p>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.</p> <p>Revised; partly carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: guidance/advice for Contracting Parties</p>	Strategy 1.4	20,000
<b>Advice on adaptation to climate change</b>	Top	1	STRP, the World Bank, UNEP, the IOPs and other NGOs including the Nature Conservancy (TNC)	<p>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.</p> <p>Revised; partly carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report</p>	Strategy 1.4	15,000

<b>The implications of REDD+ for forested wetlands</b>	Top	1	STRP, with partner organizations including WI & SER	Review any advice adopted by CBD COP11 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;  New: from COP11 DR14  Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report	Strategy 1.4	10,000
<b>Opportunities for and constraints on carbon sequestration in wetlands</b>	Top	1	STRP, with partner organizations	Advice on opportunities for and constraints on carbon sequestration in wetlands and maintenance of ecological character and restoration  Revised; builds on initial work in 2009-2012  Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report	Strategy 1.4	15,000
<b>Incorporation of social vulnerability into wetland vulnerability assessment</b>	Lower	1	STRP, with partner organizations	Advice on assessing resilience and social vulnerability to climate change, to complement the existing advice on assessing the biophysical vulnerability of a wetland to climate change.  New: responds to Resolution X.24 and gaps identified in Ramsar Technical Report no. 5.  Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report	Strategy 1.4	15,000

<b>Ramsar Sites boundary migration in response to sea level rise and other climate change effects</b>	Lower	1	STRP, with CIESIN and others	Advice to Parties on the implications of sea level rise for coastal Ramsar Sites, particularly those for which adaptation could be constrained due to, <i>inter alia</i> , the proximity of existing and expanding urban areas.  New task.  Outcomes/outputs: possible guidance for Parties; Ramsar Technical Report	Strategy 2.1	t.b.d.
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### Sub-theme C: Wetlands and water resource management

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
<b>The role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle</b>	Top	1, 3, 5	STRP, with CBD Secretariat	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 SC42).  Ongoing, initiated in 2009-2012  Outcomes/outputs: 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.	Strategies 1.4 & 1.7	[150,000, funding already provided by donors]



<b>Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of strategy for engaging in the global water debate</b>	Top	1, 3	STRP & Secretariat	<p>Develop a strategy for Ramsar to engage fully in the global water debate, focusing on the role of wetlands as natural water infrastructure. This includes specifying aims, mechanisms for engagement, and products needed to support the engagement. [Note. The Secretariat's 2011 development of a "Vision 40+" for the Convention contributes to this strategy.]</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012 (task 7.7.a)</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar engagement strategy and possible refinements to 2013-2015 work programme (for Parties, Secretariat, and STRP) in the global water debate.</p>	Strategies 1.4 & 1.7	20,000
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**Sub-theme D: Wetlands and agriculture**

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
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<p><b>Wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture</b></p>	<p>Top</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>STRP, with FAO, World Fish Centre, WWF</p>	<p>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 direct (habitat loss, wild harvest of species) and indirect impacts (pollution, contamination) on wetlands.)</p> <p>New task: building on aspects of COP9 Resolution IX.4</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Notes</p>	<p>Strategies 1.4 &amp; 1.6</p>	<p>120,000</p>
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<p><b>Review of guidance and governance for pesticide usage in rice paddy</b></p>	<p>Lower</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>UNEP, FAO, IRRI, IOPs, and other interested organizations, with STRP</p>	<p>i) Review the adequacy of available guidance and governance for appropriate pesticide usage in rice farming, with particular emphasis on maintaining a balance between food security, human health, and wetland biodiversity; and</p> <p>ii) Exchange information on best practice guidance and governance systems for appropriate rice pesticide usage in relation to wetlands including the use of rice paddy biodiversity in pest management strategies, , taking into account the different contexts and circumstances of countries; and</p> <p>iii) Develop, where appropriate, such guidance and systems in collaboration with other relevant international organizations.</p> <p>New task [from COP11 DR15]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: advice to STRP, Standing Committee and COP</p>	<p>Strategies 1.4 &amp; 1.6</p>	<p>100,000</p>
<p><b>Guidance on enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems</b></p>	<p>Lower</p>	<p>1, 5</p>	<p>IRRI, IWMI, FAO and other interested organisations, with STRP</p>	<p>Prepare guidance building on best practice experience on enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems; based upon Asia workshops in previous triennium, develop further through workshops in Africa and South/Central America.</p> <p>New task: from Resolution X.31</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Notes (for Parties and the rice sector); Ramsar Technical Report</p>	<p>Strategies 1.4 &amp; 1.6</p>	<p>80,000</p>

<b>Re-engineering agricultural landscapes</b>	Lower	1	STRP, with Czech government, EU, OECD, FAO	<p>Prepare guidance on re-engineering agricultural landscapes. Revitalisation of wetland biodiversity within agricultural landscapes is an emerging issue with the transformation of past collective farming systems (e.g. in Central Europe) to individual landholdings. Community aspirations to develop eco-agricultural farming systems as part of such transformations need to be supported by technical/scientific guidance on best practices.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Notes; guidance for Parties</p>	Strategies 1.4 & 1.6	145,000
<b>Wetlands and biofuels</b>	Lower	1	STRP, with IOPs and others	<p>Working with international organizations addressing biofuel issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) review the global distribution of biofuel production in relation to impacts on wetlands;</li> <li>ii) review and collate existing best management practice guidance and social and environmental sustainability criteria for growing biofuel feedstocks in relation to wetlands, and where appropriate develop such guidance and criteria; and</li> <li>iii) consider further discussion among the Contracting Parties on addressing sustainable biofuel issues in relation to wetlands.</li> </ul> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012 (task 6.3).</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report &amp; guidance/briefing notes for Parties</p>	Strategies 1.4 & 1.6	

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

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
<b>Wetlands &amp; poverty eradication – guidance and case studies</b>	Top	1	STRP (with CPs, IOPs, IHDP, UNDP, FAO, UK-DFID and others)	<p>Further tools and guidance to support the implementation of Resolutions IX.14, X.28 &amp; [COP11 DR13], on:</p> <ul 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>ii) case studies and best practices on the application of the Framework for assessing poverty in wetlands.</li> </ul> <p>Continuation from 2009-2012 [&amp; COP11 DR13]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Guidance on indicators relating wetland wise use to livelihoods and poverty eradication; Information Paper with structured guide to available guidance; a publication on case studies on wetlands and poverty interlinkages.</p>	Strategy 1.4	20,000

### Sub-theme F: Wetlands and urbanisation

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
Planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands	Lower	1	UN HABITAT, Secretariat, STRP, with Sustainable Cities Programme, Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, CBD, ICLEI, IOPs)	<p>Embedding principles on wetlands and urbanization in existing processes, and development of guidance to assist in managing urban and peri-urban wetlands.</p> <p>Continued from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs:</p> <p>i) Guidance briefing note for UN-HABITAT and others in the sector including local authorities, planning departments and municipal authorities on issues and response options for urbanization and the wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>ii) Guidance briefing note for local wetland managers on issues and response options for urbanization and the wise use of wetlands.</p>	Strategy 1.4	40,000

### Sub-theme G: Wetlands and tourism

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional Estimated cost (CHF)
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<b>Wetlands and tourism – development of guiding principles for tourism in and around wetlands</b>	Lower	1	STRP (with Secretariat, UNWTO & other relevant organisations)	Development of further advice, including key messages and/or guiding principles for tourism in and around wetlands (drawing upon <i>inter alia</i> the analysis of case studies provided in the joint Ramsar–UNWTO publication on “Wetlands and Tourism”) [COP11 DR7]  Continued from 2009-2012.  Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Note/ guiding principles for Parties	Strategies 1.4 & 1.6	10,000
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#### Sub-theme H: Wetlands and energy

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional Estimated cost (CHF)
<b>Managing energy sector activities in relation to wetlands: guide to guidance and case studies</b>	Lower	1	Secretariat, with CPs, IOPs, NGOs, relevant scientific & technical organizations, & industry associations	Share and compile information, guidance and case studies for managing specific impacts of energy sector activities on wetlands, and studies on regional and transboundary collaboration for energy planning and development that are consistent with wise use of wetlands.  New task [COP11 DR10]  Outcomes/outputs: guide to guidance and case studies	Strategy 1.4	20,000

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

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Provisional Estimated cost (CHF)
<b>Economics of wetland ecosystem services/benefits</b>	Top	1	STRP, with the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP), IOPs, UNECE water convention, UNEP and others	<p>Building on the work of TEEB and others (&amp; the TEEB water and wetland synthesis report):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Conduct a user needs analysis for Ramsar Parties &amp; wetland (site) managers) on tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making;</li> <li>b) Conduct a scoping review of the advancements in ecosystem services (description / recognition, valuation, capture) to support wise use of wetlands, in particular cross sectoral integration;</li> <li>c) Develop a guide to guidance on best practices for integrating ecosystem services values within the response options for wetland management;</li> <li>d) Conduct a scoping review of technical aspects of relevance to the Ramsar Convention in the finance, banking, investment, insurance and other economic sectors;</li> <li>e) Develop an assessment mechanism for the contribution of wetland services/benefits to national GDPs.</li> </ol> <p>Carried forward and further developed from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Information Paper + communication product on synthesis of ecosystem service values related to water and wetlands (building from TEEB and</li> </ol>	Strategies 1.4 (KRA 1.4.ii) & 1.6	80,000



				<p>linked to SOWW)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) Needs assessment of tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making;</li> <li>iii) Guide to guidance/guidance/ Information Paper(s) on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Recognizing wetland ecosystem services: linking ecosystem services to inventory, assessment and monitoring framework; management planning; risk and vulnerability assessments, etc.;</li> <li>b) Valuing wetland ecosystem services: best practices on economic valuation; participatory valuation techniques;</li> <li>c) 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> <li>d) Case studies on application of ecosystem services values for promoting wise use of wetlands.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
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<b>Wetlands and disaster risk reduction</b>	Lower	1, 3	STRP, with IOPs, UNISDR, UNEP, UNDP, Stockholm Resilience Centre and others	<p>Develop guidance for Parties and the disaster risk management sector on the role of healthy wetlands in disaster risk reduction (floods, droughts, landslides, storm surges, etc.).</p> <p>Carried forward from 2009-2012 (task 5.1).</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: sectoral guidance on managing wetlands and disaster risk – Briefing Note and/or Ramsar Technical Report</p>	Strategies 1.4 & 1.6	20,000
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