



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

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, civil society, academia, other international institutions, funds, facilities and other bodies in a position to assist and promote the Convention and its mission and help increase its visibility;
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 “Strategic Framework for Ramsar Partnerships” (COP11 DOC. 18), 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 and for attention to 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.20, 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 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, 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;
8. 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;
9. WELCOMING the 5th CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan, for 2011-2020, through which Ramsar delivers its lead implementation role for wetlands in CBD programmes of work, including *inter alia* on inland waters, marine and coastal biodiversity and protected areas, as well as the revised CMS/Ramsar Joint Work Plan, as flexible frameworks for collaboration with the CBD, the CMS, and its wetland-relevant Agreements and Memoranda;
10. 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 STRESSING 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 Resolution XI.3;
11. RECALLING the contribution of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership in tracking progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, and NOTING the ongoing role of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) in relation to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in tracking progress towards the Aichi Targets;
12. AWARE that the United Nations has declared 2011-2020 to be the Decade on Biodiversity;

13. 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;
14. WELCOMING Resolution 5.19 adopted by AEWA MOP5 on the ‘Encouragement of further Joint Implementation of the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement and the Ramsar Convention’, as well as other opportunities for synergy between Ramsar and AEWA, including the African Initiative under AEWA and related projects supported by the government of France;
15. 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;
16. AWARE of the outcomes of the “Rio+20” United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which took place on 20-22 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;
17. WELCOMING the establishment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), 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 IPBES, and ACKNOWLEDGING the potential for 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;
18. 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), the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), 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 the Resolution on Cooperation (RoC) with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council (CAFF), ALSO WELCOMING the renewal of Memoranda of Cooperation with Danone-Evian (Fonds Danone-Evian pour l’Eau), Ducks Unlimited (DU), the Society of Wetland

Scientists (SWS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), Star Alliance – Biosphere Connections, the USA “Wetlands for the Future” Initiative, and RECOGNIZING the opportunities that such MOCs provide for raising the visibility of the Convention;

19. 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;
20. RECALLING Resolution X.12 on *Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector*, which requested the Ramsar Secretariat, in all cases of developing projects or activities in partnership with the private sector in the territory of one or more Contracting Parties, to inform and consult in advance with the applicable Administrative Authorities for their agreement; and
21. 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

22. 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 UN Environment Management Group (EMG);
23. 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);
24. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat to liaise with the AEWa Secretariat to strengthen the implementation of joint activities;
25. ACKNOWLEDGES the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) related to enhancing policy coherence at all levels, improving efficiency, reducing unnecessary overlap and duplication, and working to enhance coordination and cooperation among the biodiversity-related MEAs;
26. INVITES Contracting Parties to take into account the report by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre published in 2012 and supported by Finland, and to

consider its important recommendations towards promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements;

27. 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;
28. URGES Parties and other governments to take part in the current review, update and revision process for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, in order to include Ramsar objectives in order to promote the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and also to mainstream biodiversity at the national level, taking into account synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in a manner consistent with their respective mandates;
29. EXPRESSES APPRECIATION to the Ramsar Secretariat and the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for their participation in the IPBES process, ACCEPTS the invitation by IPBES for the Chair of the STRP to participate as an observer in the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel, and REQUESTS the Secretariat and the Chair of the STRP to continue to engage in the future IPBES process and explore further ways of collaboration as appropriate;
30. INVITES IPBES to address science-policy linkages relating to conservation and wise use of wetlands and, when establishing and implementing its modalities and work programme, to take into account the needs of the Ramsar Convention and its Contracting Parties by integrating scientific, technical and technological information relevant to the Convention;
31. REQUESTS the Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, the Secretariat and the STRP to implement the actions set out in Annex 2 of this Resolution;
32. INVITES Contracting Parties to provide relevant expertise to IPBES and IPCC to help in developing information on wetlands;
33. WELCOMES the recent development of further Ramsar cooperative relations with UNEP, the World Bank (Global Partnership for Oceans), 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), UN-Water, and the UN Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, 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, noting the benefit to Ramsar's international visibility of such relationships;
34. WELCOMES continuing collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, in particular in contributing to the Global Wetlands Observing System (GWOS) and in reporting Ramsar contributions to achieving the Aichi Targets at national, regional and global scales;

35. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to use the *Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector* adopted in Resolution X.12 (2008) 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, and to report on progress in implementing the Principles to the Conference of the Parties;
36. 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 and its international profile within the time and resources available, taking into account the approach and priorities established in the “Strategic Framework for Partnerships for the Ramsar Convention”, and FURTHER ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to continue to establish and strengthen partnerships and closer working relations with intergovernmental regional and subregional groups, notably with regional and subregional organizations and especially with Regional Initiatives, with a view to enhancing the role and visibility of the Convention in those regions;
37. 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, and ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to further promote the development of partnerships with the private sector as possible income generation sources, in order to enhance the overall implementation of the Convention;
38. REQUESTS the Secretariat to develop closer consultative relationships with a number of environment funding organizations, including but not limited to financial institutions such as the Global Environment Facility), bilateral funds for the global environment, regional development banks, bilateral donors, and other institutions such as the European Commission and its relevant divisions for environment and biodiversity funding, with a view to mobilizing resources for the implementation of the Convention;
39. 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 and its 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;
40. WELCOMES in particular the role of the IOPs in providing information on the state of the world’s wetlands and their services to people, and on the Convention’s effectiveness, for example through initiatives such as the *Waterbird Population Estimates*, now in its 5th edition;
41. FURTHER URGES the Secretariat to seek opportunities for developing similarly fruitful relationships with other non-governmental organizations and civil society, and, following a review of memoranda of cooperation already in place with other NGOs, to foster increased cooperation with those NGOs that can give most benefit to and gain most benefit from the work of the Convention and elevate its profile, including through the

World Wetland Network, which was launched at Ramsar COP10 to increase involvement and representation of smaller NGOs and civil society groups;

42. REQUESTS the STRP, subject to the availability of resources, to exchange information and expertise 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;
43. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue its participation in the UNEP-WCMC's work on developing tools for on-line use by the biodiversity-related conventions, including exploring the opportunity for on-line reporting applications relevant to Ramsar, such as the CMS Family On-line Reporting System, and FURTHER REQUESTS the preparation of a users' guide or training guidelines for any such applications, resources permitting;
44. 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;
45. 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;
46. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other governments and organizations also to make use, as appropriate, of the web-based "TEMA TEA" issue-based modules resource when developing mutually supportive activities among biodiversity-related conventions;
47. 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, in collaboration with other biodiversity MEAs so as to achieve a coherent approach to indicator development, such that the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Convention may occur at least once in each reporting cycle, and REQUESTS the Secretariat and STRP to provide advice on how reporting on these indicators may be incorporated into the National Reports of the Parties; and
48. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariats of other biodiversity related MEAs in order to improve the streamlining of reporting.

Annex 1

Summary of Ramsar Convention partnerships and synergies with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and institutions

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)

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

- Ramsar Preparation and Engagement with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

The Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna Working Group of the Arctic Council (CAFF)

- Resolution on Cooperation (2012)

Annex 2

Ramsar preparation and engagement with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

1. The Busan Outcome states: “Focusing on government needs and based on priorities established by the plenary, the platform should respond to requests from Governments, including those conveyed to it by multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services as determined by their respective governing bodies.” The biodiversity-related conventions have an important role to play in setting the global agenda on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and it is noted that the scientific processes informing policy under each of the conventions may provide useful inputs to the work of IPBES.
2. Ramsar Contracting Parties anticipate that the work of IPBES will strengthen the science-policy interfaces at global, regional and subregional levels and that IPBES could support the integration of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands as well as the implementation of the Ramsar Convention by providing scientific information to the Convention and its Contracting Parties, in order to support decision-making related to the wise use of wetlands.

Contracting Parties:

3. Contracting Parties will work through the Standing Committee assisted by the Secretariat, the STRP and the CEPA panel to identify and articulate Ramsar implementation needs at global, regional, and subregional levels relevant to IPBES.
4. The Contracting Parties, through the Standing Committee, will adopt the interim guidelines prepared by the STRP with the assistance of the Secretariat, referred to in paragraph 10.
5. Contracting Parties will seek to enhance communication and coordination between counterparts, including relevant focal points at the national level responsible for matters related to Ramsar and for IPBES, to ensure that the needs related to the wise use of wetlands are being considered by IPBES.

The Secretariat:

6. The Secretariat will maintain cooperative working relationships with IPBES and participate as appropriate in IPBES meetings;
7. The Secretariat will assist the STRP in preparing the guidelines referred to in paragraph 10 below.
8. The Secretariat will also support the work of the Contracting Parties, the CEPA Oversight Panel, and the STRP to identify and articulate Ramsar implementation needs which are relevant to IPBES.

The STRP:

9. The STRP will assess its work plan and if appropriate identify the needs and opportunities for improving the interface between science and policy in relation to the wise use of wetlands and identify gaps in scientific, technical and technological information that could assist Parties in identifying priority requests to be submitted to IPBES while it establishes its work plan, to further the implementation of the Convention.
10. The STRP assisted by the Secretariat will prepare interim guidelines to be adopted by the Standing Committee on timely and efficient processes for formulation, approval and transmission of requests from Ramsar to IPBES, taking into account that IPBES is an independent body, and will establish the procedures for receiving and prioritizing requests. The interim guidelines could be revised in consideration of the future development of IPBES and Ramsar, and the most current guidelines will be submitted to the next Conference of the Contracting Parties for adoption.
11. The STRP will continue to work together with the other MEAs' scientific subsidiary bodies on IPBES-related issues, through the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB), including in the preparation of any joint MEA requests proposed to be submitted to IPBES.
12. The STRP will report to each Standing Committee and Conference of the Parties on the engagement with IPBES and make recommendations on decisions and resolutions to be taken by the Parties, as appropriate.
13. The STRP will provide available relevant wetland information to IPBES in response to notifications and will advise the Secretariat when doing so, and it will report to the Standing Committee's 46th meeting on any actions taken to respond to IPBES notifications. When the response to IPBES notifications has any substantial implications for STRP resources, the STRP Chair will consult with the Standing Committee Executive Team before taking action.