

This draft was circulated to Standing Committee for comment and does not include the comments that were received. A revised draft will be circulated to the Subgroup on COP10 in January 2008.

Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2009-2014

WHAT ARE WE ABOUT? - THE MISSION OF THE CONVENTION

"Wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world."

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE? - OUR GOALS

Implementing the Convention

GOAL 1. *TO ENSURE ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES DEVELOP, ADOPT AND USE THE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENTS AND MEASURES TO ENSURE THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS WITHIN THEIR BORDERS.*

Delivers Articles 3.1, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 of the Convention.

OUTCOME:

- *Wise use principle being implemented in all CP's, including more participative management of wetlands, and an awareness of the importance of ecosystem services in wetlands developed.*

GOAL 2. *ENSURE ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES APPROPRIATELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE.*

Delivers Articles 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2 of the Convention.

OUTCOME:

- *CPs implementing their obligations under Articles 3 and 8.2. , using the Montreux Record as part of the Convention's governance process, with The Ramsar Sites Database information used as a key resource by all Ramsar stakeholders*

GOAL 3. *TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH THE ACTIVE APPLICATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION UNDER THE RAMSAR CONVENTION*

Delivers Article 5 of the Convention.

OUTCOME

- *National reports used by all CP's to modify their national approach to implanting the convention, including through developing effective*

partnerships with related conventions and agencies implemented at national, regional and international level.

Managing the Convention

GOAL 4. *TO ENSURE THAT THE CONVENTION HAS THE REQUIRED MECHANISMS, RESOURCES AND CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION.*

Delivers Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Convention.

OUTCOME

- Increased effectiveness of the Convention, including its promotion and outreach to the broader community.

GOAL 5. Membership: *TO ENSURE PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION.*

Delivers Articles 2.4 and 9 of the Convention.

OUTCOME

- Better global coverage of the Conventions work, contributing to all four goals above.

HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE ACHIEVING OUR GOALS? (OUR KEY PERFORMANCE MEASURE).

- ◆ When we have better governance of the Convention and more effective implementation of COP decisions.

THIS STRATEGIC PLAN CONTRIBUTES TO: **(embellish)**

- achievement of Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG 7 (Ensuring Environmental Sustainability) by 2015;
- the programme of the 5th World Water Forum in Turkey 2009;
- achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity targets;
- achievement of the 2012 target for Marine Protected Areas;
- providing responses to the key issue of climate change; and
- implementation of decisions from the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD13) policies on water and sanitation.

WHAT WILL THE WETLAND WORLD IN 2014 LOOK LIKE?.

From the best predictions available in 2007 it will be different, because the global distribution of wetlands is likely to have shifted, partly from continued entropic interference and partly from the effects of climatic change which are likely to change the extent and dynamics of wetland ecological systems. It is likely a trend to the promulgation of artificial wetlands, in response to needs for better coastal management through "soft" engineering approaches, and in response to the utility of wetlands in absorbing nutrient and other

pollutants, contributing as a by-product to the production of materials for bio-fuels.

the global context of the Plan (e.g., trends in global policy and governance and trends in state of wetland ecosystems); that major issues specific to the Plan period should be recognized, Integrated Water resources Management, essentially comprehending conservation and wise use of wetlands, will be a key issue for all parties and other countries to have implemented, by 2014. IWRM will need to be developed in response to other international processes and discussions, yetis also at the heart of implementing the Convention.

GLOBAL RESPONSES TO THE 2010 BIODIVERSITY TARGET AND THE 2015 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND CLIMATE CHANGE;
(to be completed)

SUMMARY OF IMPLEMENTATION ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRESS DURING THE 2002-2008;
(to be completed)

LINKAGES BETWEEN THIS STRATEGIC PLAN AND OTHER CONVENTION PLANNING AND REPORTING DOCUMENTS;
(to be completed)

budget,

Secretariat Work Plan;

STRP Work Plan; and

National Report Format.

**HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO WHAT WE WANT? (OUR STRATEGIES),
WHAT ARE THE RESULTS WE WANT TO ACHIEVE? (OUR KEY RESULTS AREAS -
KRA'S)**

Notes

In this section each key strategy is linked numerically to one of the five goals. In addition to this linkage some strategies and Key Result Areas will, in the end, inevitably satisfy more than one goal. Measurement of Key Performance Measures will be undertaken by the Secretariat working with the Standing Committee. "Budget impact" gives specific costs where these are known and an indication of staff time targets needed from the Secretariat (presumed total of yy).

**GOAL 1. *TO ENSURE ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES DEVELOP, ADOPT AND USE THE NECESSARY
AND APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENTS AND MEASURES TO ENSURE THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS
WITHIN THEIR BORDERS.***

STRATEGY 1.1

Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle. (CPs, advised by STRP and assisted by IOPs)

KRAs

By 2014:

- All Parties to have completed inventories in line with the Ramsar *Framework for Wetland Inventory*, and as far as possible to have completed and disseminated comprehensive national wetland inventories, including information on wetland importance, potential Ramsar sites, wetlands for restoration, location of under-represented wetland types, and the ecosystem services provided by wetlands.
- An easily accessible Web-based metadatabase in place and populated with information on all national wetland inventories, managed by the Secretariat, and linked to national and other international relevant databases.

Budget impact: STRP work programme; Web database development,

STRATEGY 1.2

Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRAs

By 2014:

- National Wetland Policy or equivalent instruments fully integrated into other strategic and planning processes by all Parties, including poverty reduction strategies, water resources management and water efficiency plans, and national strategies for sustainable development.
- Parties to have in place Strategic Environmental Assessment for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 1.3

Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, climate change mitigation, food security, poverty reduction, cultural heritage, and scientific research, through developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands,. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By 2014:

- Development and implementation of wetland programmes and projects that contribute to poverty reduction objectives and food and water security plans at local and national levels.
- Full implementation of the *Guidelines for global action on peatlands* (VIII.17) in part through the activities of the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands.
- An analysis of the ecosystem services of wetlands (especially Ramsar sites) achieved for all CPs.
- The social and cultural heritage value of wetlands is fully taken into account in wetland wise use and management.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 1.4

Integrate policies on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and adaptation/mitigation responses to climate change. (CPs, STRP, IOPs)

KRAs

By 2014

- All CPs to have made available the guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision-making on water

- resource management, as a contribution to achieving the WSSD target on water resources management and water efficiency plans.
- Plans for the role of wetlands in mitigation and adaptation to climate change completed.
- The Convention's role in IWRM plans established as part of international environmental governance.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 1.5

Identify priority wetlands where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By 2014:

- All CPs with lost or degraded wetlands to have identified priority sites for restoration; restoration projects underway or completed in at least half the CPs.
- New case studies and methods added to Ramsar wetland restoration pages on the Web site.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 1.6

Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems. (CPs, STRP, other agencies, IOPs)

KRAs

By 2014

- CP's to have identified problems posed by invasive species in wetland ecosystems
- Eradication or management policies in place in all wetlands affected by invasive species.
- Comprehensive and up-to-date global guidance on invasive species available to all Stakeholders.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 1.7

Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, including women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including in relation to understanding the dynamics of cultural values. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

- By 2014 further guidance developed on the application of the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 5).
- By COP11 an approach developed to including cultural benefits/services of wetland ecosystems in aspects of the Convention's work.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 1.8

Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRA's

- By COP11, private sector applying the wise use principle (Ramsar Handbooks 1 to 6) in their activities and investments affecting wetlands.
- Increased private sector engagement in the wise use of wetlands, and in management of Ramsar sites.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 1.9

Promote measures which encourage the application of the wise use principle. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRA

- By COP11, at least 50% of CPs to have reviewed policy and legal and institutional frameworks to give effect to the promotion of the wise use of wetlands.
- Better design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of positive and negative incentive measures on wetlands.

Budget impact:

GOAL 2. TO ENSURE ALL CONTRACTING PARTIES APPROPRIATELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE.

NOTE. Here the "short-term" target from the last strategic plan which appears again in Handbook 14 of ensuring that the list should comprise at least 2500 sites covering 250 million hectares by 2010. In view of the prevailing global change scenarios, and the need for the list to emphasise Quality over quantity, Parties should examine carefully if this target is to be maintained post COP10.

STRATEGY 2.1

Ensure all new Ramsar sites have a proper and effective management plans in place before submission, as well as resources for implementing such management. (Cps, IOPs, Secretariat)

KRA's

- By COP11, adequate management planning processes submitted with all new site nominations.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 2.2

Review all existing sites with a view to determining the effectiveness of management arrangements, and to de-list all sites which do not conform to provisions of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (CPs, STRP)

KRA's

- By 2014 all CPs, using the Strategic Framework for Ramsar sites, to have reviewed all existing Ramsar sites and confirmed all sites which conform to the provisions of the Strategic framework.
- Adequate management planning processes submitted with all new site nominations.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 2.3

Apply the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Handbook 14). (CPs, STRP)

KRA's

- By 2014 all CPs, using the Strategic Framework for Ramsar sites, prepared a national plan for the designation and management of sites, including transboundary sites.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 2.4

Ensure the Ramsar Sites Information Service and the Ramsar Sites Database are effectively managed by the secretariat, and available as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance. (CPs, STRP, Secretariat, IOPs, other agencies/organizations as appropriate)

KRAs

By 2014:

- Ramsar Sites Database to have improved its functionality and accessibility to stakeholders, including through links between the Database, the Ramsar Sites Directory Web presentation, a new and improved Ramsar Web site, and other interactive systems, as well as the regular publication of special reports and other outputs.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 2.5

Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By 2014:

- Zoning measures for larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves, and other wetlands (Recommendation 5.3 and Resolution VIII.14) and strict protection measures for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity, in place.
- Cross-sectoral site management committees in place for Ramsar sites, involving relevant government agencies, local community representatives, and other stakeholders, including the business sector in place.
- Effective and efficient management plans available for all Ramsar sites within a CPs jurisdiction

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 2.6

Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

- All CPs with Ramsar sites whose ecological character has changed, is changing or is likely to change owing to human-induced actions to have reported this to the Ramsar Secretariat, in line with Article 3.2.
- For all sites on the Montreux Record which have not been subject to a Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM), CPs to request such a Mission.
- Implementation of relevant STRP ecological outcome-oriented indicators.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 2.7

Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By 2014:

- All CPs to have identified their shared wetlands; where appropriate, CPs to have identified cooperative management mechanisms.
- Where appropriate CPs with shared basins and coastal systems to be part of joint management commissions or authorities.
- Regional site networks and initiatives in place for wetland-dependent migratory species, as exemplified *inter alia* by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and the Central Asian Flyway Initiative.

Budget impact:

GOAL 3. TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH THE ACTIVE APPLICATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION UNDER THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

STRATEGY 3.1

Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRAs

- CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan and CMS/AEWA Joint Work Plan being implemented and full participation in the CBD Biodiversity Liaison Group. Joint activities developed with UNCCD and UNFCCC, including through participation in the Joint Liaison Group.
- NEPAD's Action Plan to have fully incorporated Ramsar issues and mechanisms and being implemented by relevant CPs.
- Partnership approaches initiated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), FAO and other relevant UN agencies, as well as through UN Water.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 3.2

Promote the sharing of expertise and information. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRA

- Less time spent by CPs on managing information for national reports, but better quality and more timely reports produced.
- Harmonized information management and reporting systems available and widely used at national level with the appropriate MEAs.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 3.3

Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

- Development of regional arrangements under the Convention, applying the *Guidance for the development of Regional Initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands* (Resolution VIII.30), resulting in the establishment of new regional initiatives and/or centers, and consolidation of existing initiatives.

Budget impact:

GOAL 4. TO ENSURE THAT THE CONVENTION HAS THE REQUIRED MECHANISMS, RESOURCES AND CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION.

STRATEGY 4.1

Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Programme (Resolution X.**) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA). (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By 2014:

- CPs to have established national Ramsar-CEPA action plans.
- Many CPs to have established at least one wetland education centre at a Ramsar site.

By 2010:

- Complete re-design of Secretariat's outreach strategy, including re-designed Web site, comprehensive media strategy, and novel approaches to promoting WWD.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 4.2

Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRA

- Each CP with a bilateral donor agency to have encouraged it to give priority for funding for wetland conservation and wise use projects in relation to poverty reduction and other international targets and priorities.
- Proposed grants, loans, and development projects from international development agencies, including banks, financial institutions and private investors and developers, include environmental safeguards and environmental assessments of possible impacts.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 4.3

Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRA

- Adequate resources and supporting financial policies in place to enable the Convention to discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner.
- Clear and unambiguous budgetary preparation and management

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 4.4

Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of the convention. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRAs

By COP11:

- A comprehensive and flexible staffing policy with flatter structure for the Secretariat in place allowing response to key issues as they emerge.
- National Reports used to evaluate and report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan at each meeting of the COP, and to prepare an updated Framework for the forthcoming triennium within a rolling six-year plan.
- The organs of the Convention have adequate funding and logistic support to deliver their agreed *modus operandi* and work plans, with full use of the staff time targets.

Budget impact:

STRATEGY 4.4

Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others. (Secretariat, IOPs)

KRA

- By COP11, each IOP and the Secretariat to have established a programme of joint work in support of the Convention, including, where relevant and appropriate, joint actions by several IOPs.
- Support for the Convention's scientific, technical and policy work integrated into the ongoing programmes of IOPs.

Budget impact:**STRATEGY 4.5**

Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses. (CPs, Secretariat, training centres, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP11:

- The RIZA-Ramsar cooperative effort being fully implemented, linking existing and proposed training centres.
- At least half of CPs to have assessed national and local training needs.
- An appropriate capacity-building effort in place for all CPs.
- Capacity-building accepted and understood as part of the Convention's activities.

Budget impact:**GOAL 5. MEMBERSHIP: TO ENSURE PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION.**

STRATEGY 5 Membership of the Convention: Secure universal membership of the Convention, and provide an appropriate level of service. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRA

- Achieve membership of at least 170 parties by COP11.
- Have resources available to provide servicing for Parties, especially recently acceded Parties to implement Goals 1 - 4

Budget impact: