

Agenda item 7

**Ramsar Convention Work Plan 2006-2008 and Secretariat
Work Plan 2006**

Action requested: In line with Resolution IX.8 paragraph 7, the Standing Committee is invited to approve the Convention Work Plan 2006-2008, so that it may be circulated to Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations without delay. The Secretariat's Work Plan for 2006 should also be agreed. It may be that a small drafting group should be established to manage this process.

1. Contracting Parties at Ramsar COP9 (Kampala, Uganda, November 2005), through Resolutions IX.2 and IX.8, instructed the Ramsar Secretariat to draft the Convention's Work Plan 2006-2008 for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the coming triennium by compiling the Annex to Resolution IX.2 (*Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period*) and the Annexes to Resolution IX.2 concerning *Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention*.
2. In Resolution IX.8, Contracting Parties accepted the use of the *Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period* as a working tool for the Standing Committee to refine implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 adopted by Resolution VIII.25, and also recognized that the document will undergo review, editing and change during the coming triennium.
3. COP9 also recognized that the Framework provides a basis for the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to trial a new approach to promoting, monitoring and measuring the implementation of the Convention in the 2006-2008 triennium, and in relation to this the COP requested the Standing Committee to design a simplified COP10 National Report Format based on the *Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period*, taking into account reporting issues in Resolutions IX.1 Annex D and IX.5 and, in so doing, to ensure that the new format will reduce the overall reporting burden on Contracting Parties by:
 - i) reducing duplication required and/or requested in relevant Resolutions adopted by this and previous COPs;
 - ii) ensuring that any new reporting requirements are compensated for by removal of existing requirements, so as to ensure at least no net increase in reporting requirements;
 - iii) considering reporting requirements of other relevant conventions and agreements and ways to use the information collected for these purposes rather than requiring the collection of additional information; and

- iv) also considering the contribution of Ramsar reporting to other conventions' equivalent processes including *inter alia* the 2010 biodiversity target.
- 4. The approach embodied in the *Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period* will also be considered by the Standing Committee in its development and implementation of a comprehensive and inclusive process for the development of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009 -2014, for consideration by Ramsar COP10.
- 5. The Secretariat has therefore taken the Framework and Annex 1 of IX.2, which lists the immediate priority and high priority tasks and the estimated costs for their delivery, for the STRP's programme of work 2006-2008, and combined them as a working document for the Convention's Work Plan 2006 -2008. This document is provided as Annex 1 to this note.
- 6. Annex 2 is a short Secretariat Work Plan for 2006, as it relates to the Convention's Work Plan.
- 7. Annex 3 provides a compilation of tasks mandated or instructed by COP9 for the Secretariat, Standing committee, and STRP. This document is provided by way of an aide-memoire for Standing Committee members and for the Secretariat.
- 8. DOC. SC34-08 proposes a process for the development of the National Report Format for COP10, but should be read in conjunction with documents for this agenda item, since the COP10 format will need to be closely linked to the Convention's Work Plan 2006-2008.

Annex 1

Convention Work Plan 2006-2008

Preamble

1. The 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands, held in Spain on 18-26 November 2002, adopted a Strategic Plan for the application of the Convention during the period 2003-2008. That Strategic Plan recognized the adoption by the Convention of a broader approach to wetland conservation and sustainable use in achieving full application of the wise use principle and safeguarding wetland resources. The Conference of the Parties meeting in Kampala, Uganda, November 2005, agreed that the Convention's Work Plan should bring together the elements of the Strategic Framework and the immediate and high priorities for the STRP.
2. The Conference of the Parties was aware that to achieve the Convention's objectives in wetland conservation and wise use, a comprehensive but simple and easy-to-use document would be helpful to Contracting Parties for the promotion and implementation of the Convention. It recognized the need for a clear document by which the Standing Committee can monitor the effectiveness of the Convention's implementation in terms of resources and staff time, at the same time providing a clear window for public scrutiny of the Convention's actions.
3. Within this Work Plan each Contracting Party is free to choose the extent to which it will implement the Strategic Plan, the resources it will allocate to that implementation, and the timeframes to be followed.
4. COP9 agreed five Goals to be achieved through a series of strategies, each with key result areas and key performance measures to measure effectiveness. This Work Plan will also interact with the developing STRP "outcome-oriented" indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention. 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.
5. 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 19). Each strategy is cross-referenced to the Operational Objectives of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008.
6. Where a strategy is formed from more than one Operational Objective, some slight rewording of the objectives has been made to ensure clarity of the strategy. This document also incorporates all the agreed immediate and high priority STRP actions as noted in Resolution IX.2, arranged under strategies if there is a specific relationship, or directly under one of the five goals if not.
7. This Work Plan helps the Convention implement its COP Resolutions and contributes to, *inter alia*:

- the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico 2006;
- achievement of Millennium Development Goals;
- achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity targets; and
- implementation of decisions from the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD13) policies on water and sanitation.

The mission of the Convention

8. *“Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.”* The Convention stresses that it is essential to integrate conservation of wetlands and sustainable use as a contribution to the health and well-being of people through sustainable development everywhere.

What do we want to achieve? – Our goals at a glance

Conservation and wise use of wetlands and water resources

GOAL 1. The wise use of wetlands:

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

GOAL 2. 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.

GOAL 3. International cooperation:

Delivers Article 5 of the Convention.

Managing the Convention

GOAL 4. Implementation capacity:

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

GOAL 5. To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.

Delivers Articles 2.4 and 9 of the Convention.

***How are we going to do what we want? (Our Strategies),
What are the results we want to achieve? (Our Key Results Areas - KRAs),
How effective are we being? (Our Key Performance Measures – KPMs)***

GOAL 1. The wise use of wetlands: to stimulate and assist all Contracting Parties to develop, adopt and use the necessary and appropriate instruments and measures (including guidance on wise use of wetlands as modified by Resolution IX.1 Annex A) to ensure the wise use of wetlands within their borders, when necessary applying *inter alia* the ecosystem approach *sensu* CBD.

STRP immediate priorities:

- Prepare guidelines on good agricultural practices and policies for different wetland types, drawing on information provided by the Comprehensive Assessment on water management in agriculture (CA) and other initiatives, and in line with existing legal frameworks.
- Review the relationships and issues concerning the wise use of wetland ecosystems and human health.

STRP high priority:

- Review the case studies in *Towards the Wise Use of Wetlands* (Ramsar, 1993) and other relevant case studies, review subsequent implementation progress with these cases, and provide updated studies.

STRATEGY 1.1 (Operational objective 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 COP10:

- All Parties without completed inventories to have initiated action 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 ecosystem benefits/services, in particular in relation to poverty eradication strategies.
- A Web-based metadatabase in place and populated with information on all national wetland inventories, managed by the Secretariat.

KPM

- All stakeholders to have access to wetland inventories.

STRP immediate priorities:

- Conduct a review of data and information needs for Ramsar sites and of the implications for official reporting, the further development of the Ramsar Sites Information Service, and the scope for harmonizing such reporting with the needs of other multilateral environmental agreements.
- In light of the conclusions of this review, conduct a fundamental review of the structure of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS), having regard to Resolution VIII.6 on a *Framework for wetland inventory*, Resolution IX.1 Annex A on a *Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character*, including its revised definition of the term “ecological character”, and other relevant COP9 decisions. Priority issues to address include:
 - ❖ preparation of guidance for the description of the ecological character of wetlands;

- ❖ development of protocols for the electronic submission of Ramsar Information Sheets;
 - ❖ harmonization of the layout and information fields of the RIS with the core data fields of the Framework for wetland inventory and the description of ecological character;
 - ❖ approaches to handling transboundary sites; and
 - ❖ investigation of the possible inclusion of a core data field in the RIS to allow for the insertion of a precise site boundary description.
- In conjunction with these reviews, develop a scheme of data needs for wetlands more generally, addressing separately both the global level and the site level.

Budget impact: STRP work programme; Web database development, 0.5stt.

STRATEGY 1.2 (Operational objective 2.1+2.2)

Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supranational policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied, where possible specifying the appropriate policy instrument(s) in each CP which ensures wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRAs

By COP10:

- At least 50 CPs to have undertaken water quality and quantity assessments relating to wetland management.
- National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument 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 in line with WSSD targets. SC/Secretariat to identify at least 100 Parties to initiate and if possible complete comprehensive reviews of their laws and institutions as they relate to implementing the Convention.
- SC/Secretariat to have identified at least 50 Parties to have in place a strategic Environmental Assessment process in place for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands.

KPM

- Number of policies, strategies and programmes in place and being implemented by CPs.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.5stt.

STRATEGY 1.3 (Operational objective 3.1 -3.3)

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, with a focus on under-represented ecosystem

types, through developing and disseminating methodology to achieve wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10:

- Development and implementation of wise use wetland programmes and projects that contribute to poverty reduction objectives and food and water security plans at local and national levels in place.
- Full implementation of the *Guidelines for global action on peatlands* (VIII.17) through the activities of the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands.
- The social and cultural heritage of wetlands to be fully taken into account in their wise use and management.

KPM

- An analysis of the ecosystem benefits/services provided from Ramsar sites achieved for all CPs.

STRP high priority:

- Further review the harmonization of definitions and terms related to ecosystem benefits/services (with reference to Resolution VIII.7 paragraph 15 and COP9 DOC. 16, and taking into account the usage of such terms in other international fora).

Budget impact: Staff time for analysis, 0.2stt.

STRATEGY 1.4 (Operational objective 3.4)

Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change, all in the context of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). (CPs, STRP, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10

- All CPs to have made available to civil society 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.
- River Basin Initiative (RBI) fully operational.
- Information on wetlands and their role in mitigation and adaptation to the effects of climate change completed.

KPM

- The Convention's role in IWRM plans established as part of international environmental governance.

STRP immediate priorities:

- Undertake a strategic review of water quality and wetland issues; develop a medium-term plan and terms of reference for addressing water quality issues in Ramsar guidance; and subsequently prepare guidance for Parties on including water quality in environmental water requirement determination and implementation.
- Develop in more detail an adaptation to the Ramsar context of the “Critical Path” approach for river basin management and (as appropriate) coastal zone management, including case study analysis, and prepare operational guidance, including for the application of CEPA tools.
- Develop guidance on good practice in the integration of wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), based on case studies to be sought from Parties.
- Prepare guidelines for Parties on the implementation of environmental water requirements for wetlands.

STRP high priority:

- Prepare technical review reports on: i) groundwater-wetland interactions and ii) the use and management of groundwater to maintain ecosystem functions. Once these reports are complete, review the present *Integrated Framework for Ramsar’s water-related guidance* (Resolution IX.1 Annex C) and prepare detailed technical guidance on developing groundwater management strategies which aim at maintenance of wetland ecosystems and minimizing or mitigating the impacts of groundwater abstraction, and make other updating amendments as necessary.

Budget impact: STRP work programme – and RBI management – some extra support from GEF funds if RBI is operational (1.5stt if RBI GEF funds allocated, 0.5 if not)

STRATEGY 1.5 (Operational objective 4.1)

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 COP10:

- All CPs with lost or degraded wetlands to have identified priority sites for restoration; restoration projects underway or completed in at least 100 CPs.
- New case studies and methods added to Ramsar wetland restoration pages on the Web site.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time for Web site management, 0.1stt.

STRATEGY 1.6 (Operational objective 5.1)

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

KRA

- By COP10 CPs to have identified problems posed by invasive species in wetland ecosystems documented in a decisive and holistic manner, and formulated potential solutions.

KPM

- Comprehensive and up-to-date guidance on invasive species management in use for especially protected areas and other important land zones.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time for interaction with institutions, 0.2stt.

GOAL 2. 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): to stimulate and support all Contracting Parties in the appropriate implementation of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance*, including the monitoring and management of listed sites as contributions to implementing outcomes of the 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD13) and implementation of the 2010 targets for biodiversity.

STRP immediate priority:

- Elaborate and update the list of appropriate population estimates and 1% thresholds for non-avian animal species for the application of Criterion 9 (Resolution IX.1Annex B).

STRP high priorities:

- Develop an interpretation of the term ‘under-represented’ wetland type and investigate methods for defining targets for representation of wetland types in the Ramsar List.
- Review existing guidance on designation of specific wetland types, assess the need for additional guidance, and as necessary develop such guidance.
- Keep the Ramsar Criteria and guidelines as a whole under review to ensure that they reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities.

STRATEGY 2.1 (Operational objective 10.1)

Apply the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Handbook 7). (CPs, STRP)

KRA

- By COP10 all CPs implementing the Strategic Framework for Ramsar sites, adapted as required for the domestic situation in each Contracting Party.

KPM

- Adequate management planning processes submitted with all new site nominations.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time needed for additional inputs and management of the List, 4stt.

STRATEGY 2.2 (Operational objective 10.2)

Maintain the Ramsar Sites Information Service and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the Ramsar Sites Database 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 COP10:

- The Secretariat to have received all necessary updated Ramsar Information Sheets, and all new designations to conform to the latest version of the RIS.
- Ramsar Sites Database to have improved its functionality and accessibility to stakeholders, including through links between the Database, the Ramsar Sites Directory Web presentation, the Ramsar Web site, and other interactive systems, as well as the publication of special reports and other outputs.

KPM

- The Ramsar Sites Database information used as a key resource by all Ramsar stakeholders.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time for Web site management, funding for external data base management (CHF 200,000 pa), 1.0stt.

STRATEGY 2.3 (Operational objective 11.1)

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

KRAs

By COP10:

- 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.

KPM

- CPs in implementing their obligations under Articles 3 and 8.2 using the integrated package of Convention tools for site management, as presented in Ramsar Handbook 8, as well as the supplementary guidance adopted by COP9.

STRP high priorities:

- Prepare advice on delineating and mapping wetlands, in conjunction with the description of their ecological character, including issues concerning digital mapping.
- Prepare further consolidated guidance on the overall process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character.

Budget impact: Core budget funding for Secretariat support to CPs, 0.4stt.

STRATEGY 2.4 (Operational objective 11.2)

Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Secretariat without delay 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, without delay, to the Ramsar Secretariat, in line with Article 3.2.
- For sites on the Montreux Record which have not been subject to a Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM), a Mission be mounted should the CP desire, prior to COP10.
- Finalisation of STRP outcome-oriented indicators.

KPM

- The Montreux Record being used as part of the Convention's governance process, in parallel with nomination and management planning of sites.

STRP immediate priority:

- Establish and implement mechanisms for the collection, collation, analysis, assessment, reporting, publishing and disseminating of the results and conclusions of the indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention.

STRP high priority:

- Develop, test and put forward for use by Parties further indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention.

Budget impact: Staff time and funding for RAMs, 0.2stt.

STRATEGY 2.5 (Operational objectives 12.1 + 12.2)

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

ByCOP10:

- All CPs to have identified their transboundary 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.

KPM

- 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.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Some staff time to monitor progress and for visits, 0.2stt.

STRATEGY 2.6 (Operational objective 12.3)

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

KRAs

- Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) and its related action programme, the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) and its Coordination Unit continuing to develop.
- 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.

KPM

- Effectiveness of the Convention working in a regional way, within a global context.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: New funding required in core budget to support additional initiatives start-ups, 0.6 stt.

GOAL 3. International cooperation (delivers Article 5 of the Convention): to promote international cooperation through the active application of the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* and in particular to mobilize additional financial and technical assistance for wetland conservation and wise use.

STRATEGY 3.1 (Operational objective 13.1)

Collaboration with other institutions: Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other 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. UNESCO-MAB Joint Work Plan being delivered. Joint activities developed with UNCCD and UNFCCC, including through participation in the Joint Liaison Group and the Biodiversity Liaison Group.
- NEPAD's Action Plan to have fully incorporated Ramsar issues and mechanisms and being implemented by relevant CPs, in lines with WSSD targets.
- Partnership approaches initiated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other relevant UN agencies, as well as through UN Water.

KPM

- Effectiveness of partnerships with biodiversity-related conventions at national, regional and international level.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Funding required in core budget to support liaison activities, mainly travel for staff, 0.5stt.

STRATEGY 3.2 (Operational objective 14.1)

Sharing of expertise and information: 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.

KPM

- Harmonized information management and reporting systems available and widely used with the appropriate MEAs.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: staff time in secretariat, 0.5stt

GOAL 4. Implementation capacity (delivers Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Convention): to ensure that the Convention has the required implementation mechanisms, resources and capacity to achieve its mission.

STRP immediate priorities:

- Perform a true “review” function of addressing issues of strategic scientific and technical direction for the Convention, acting as a response mechanism to give scientific and technical advice to the Convention on emerging issues, with an overall aim of achieving a balance between these proactive guidance and reactive advice functions;

- Maintain an overview of progress with scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of COP Resolutions;
- Review the range of existing Ramsar guidance (in conjunction with actions requested in Resolution IX.17), with a view to:
 - identifying gaps;
 - repackaging older guidance into updated documents, and proposing retiring or withdrawing outdated documents.

STRATEGY 4.1 (Operational objective 6.1)

Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values: 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 COP10 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 COP10 an approach developed to including cultural benefits/services of wetland ecosystems in aspects of the Convention's work.

KPM

- More participative management of wetlands seen in all CPs, and greater awareness of the importance of cultural ecosystem benefits/services in wetlands developed.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.25stt.

STRATEGY 4.2 (Operational objective 7.1)

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

KRA

- By COP10, private sector applying the wise use principle (Ramsar Handbooks 1 to 6) in their activities and investments affecting wetlands.

KPM

- Increased private sector engagement in the wise use of wetlands, particularly at Ramsar sites.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.25stt.

STRATEGY 4.3 (Operational objective 8.1)

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

KRA

- By COP10, 50 CPs to have reviewed policy and legal and institutional frameworks to give effect to the promotion of the wise use of wetlands.

KPM

- Better design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of positive and negative incentive measures.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.1stt.

STRATEGY 4.4 (Operational objective 9.1)

Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Programme (Resolution VIII.31) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA). (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10:

- At least 50 CPs to have established national Ramsar-CEPA action plans.
- At least 75 CPs to have established at least one wetland education centre at a Ramsar site.
- Complete re-design of Secretariat's outreach strategy, including re-designed Web site, comprehensive media strategy, and novel approaches to promoting WWD.

KPM

- Extent to which CEPA is used throughout all aspects of the Convention's activities.

STRP immediate priority:

- Seek opportunities to prepare materials for outreach purposes, particularly for decision-makers and those in other sectors, on topics which are the subject of substantive guidance prepared by the STRP, including on mainstreaming Ramsar issues within the water sector.

STRP high priority:

- Ensure that CEPA issues are fully covered in each of the substantive guidance documents prepared by the STRP through input to the Panel's work from CEPA experts.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, funding for design and delivery of global outreach products, 1.6stt.

STRATEGY 4.5 (Operational objective 15.1 + 15.2)

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 WSSD and MDG targets and priorities.

KPM

- 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.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.1stt.

STRATEGY 4.6 (Operational objective 16.1)

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

- Better governance of the Convention and more effective promulgation of decisions by COP10.

KPM

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

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 1.4stt.

STRATEGY 4.7 (Operational objective 17.1)

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 this Framework. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRAs

By COP10:

- A comprehensive and flexible staffing policy 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.

KPM

- 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.

STRP immediate priority:

- Establish and implement mechanisms for the collection, collation, analysis, assessment, reporting, publishing and disseminating of the results and conclusions of the indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention.

STRP high priority:

- Develop, test and put forward for use by Parties further indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 4.2stt

STRATEGY 4.8 (Operational objective 18.1)

Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands. (CPs,IOPs)

KRA

- By COP10, CPs to have undertaken reviews of existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands with a view to improving cooperation internally.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.2stt.

STRATEGY 4.9 (Operational objective 19.1)

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

KRA

- By COP10, 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.

KPM

- Support for the Convention's scientific, technical and policy work integrated into the ongoing programmes of IOPs.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.5stt.

STRATEGY 4.10 (Operational objective 20.1)

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 COP10:

- 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.

KPM

- Capacity-building accepted and understood as part of the Convention's activities.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.5stt.

GOAL 5. Membership: To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.

STRATEGY 5 (Operational objective 21.1)

Membership of the Convention: Secure universal membership of the Convention. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRA

- Achieve membership of at least 160 parties by COP10.

KPM

- Rate of new parties joining the Convention increasing over the last triennium.

STRP priorities:

None identified.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.1stt.

Annex 2

Secretariat Work Plan 2006: key tasks and challenges

The following is a list of key activities the Secretariat should undertake in 2006. At SC 35 a report on the progress of each of these items will be made available. This list does not include the background work associated with site designation or on-going administrative work such as ensuring the diplomatic notes are prepared and dispatched.

Plan and review all outcomes from COP9 – completed, and available as DOC. SC34-05 annex 2;

Organise and hold Standing Committee 34 – in progress;

Organise STRP for May 2006;

Develop and maintain an adequate system for communication amongst STRP members;

Work with IOPs to ensure a common framework for assistance in delivering the Convention's implementation;

Develop a new approach to improving the financial base for the Convention's implementation;

Arrange for occasional briefings of Missions in Geneva on activities taking place between Standing Committee meetings;

Arrangements for briefings to Standing Committee members as required during the year, but at least in July and October.

Using the CEPA Oversight Panel, continue implementing the CEPA Action Plan, and develop a more comprehensive plan for CEPA internally, including the activities we may undertake with Danone Group and other private sector actors;

Seek to enhance the development of capacity building through the Ramsar advisory board on capacity building and developing regional centres;

Prepare materials and advice for WWD 2007;

Continue to work with the Convention on Biological Diversity on the joint work programme;

Use proactively the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the Joint Liaison Group for the Rio Conventions to improve synergies;

Promote the work of the Convention at important international meetings;

With the working group, develop a new National Report framework for COP10;

Begin the planning process for the Strategic Plan for 2009 – 2014, with the working group;

With the Management Working Group, review the existing management structures of the Secretariat and Convention;

With the Host Government and with relevant bodies and agencies, develop options for the change of status of the Secretariat (Resolution IX.10);

Manage the core funding support for, and evaluate the implementation of, agreed regional initiatives;

Monitor implementation of COP9 Resolutions, especially IX.3, IX.4, IX.9, and IX.14 which need some new action;

With the Republic of Korea, develop and sign the memorandum of understanding for COP10, make an initial visit to Korea, and start the COP10 planning process;

Continue to review the effectiveness of memoranda of understanding with other organisations;

Assist countries in the process of accession with any issues of clarification and development of the first RIS if necessary;

Organise SC35.

Annex 3

COP9-mandated tasks of the Secretariat and Standing Committee

Note. Those tasks requiring action for SC34 are highlighted in **bold**.

Secretariat

Topic	Action required	Type of mandate	Report to/consider at:
Scientific/technical guidance	Disseminate widely the frameworks and guidelines annexed to this Resolution, including through amendment and updating of the Ramsar 'Toolkit' of Wise Use Handbooks. (IX.1)	<i>Instruction</i>	
Future scientific/technical implementation	Consolidate into Annex 2 to this Resolution [IX.2], as appropriate, any additional scientific and technical implementation actions arising from other Resolutions adopted by the present meeting of the Conference of Parties (IX.2)	<i>Instruction</i>	done
Water – multilateral processes	Cooperate with the Secretariat of the Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico, 2006) and other relevant global and regional water initiatives in the future in order to ensure that the importance of wetland ecosystem benefits/services is recognized in the Forum outputs as a key element to effectively managing water resources whilst maintaining the ecosystem functioning of wetlands (IX.3)	<i>Request</i>	Post WWF report to be made to SC34
	Promote and implement, with Contracting Parties, relevant and key elements of the decision taken at CSD13 on Integrated Water Resources Management, including <i>inter alia</i> enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and benefits/services for human well-being and economic activity and developing innovative means of financing their protection; protecting and rehabilitating catchment areas for regulating water flows and improving water quality, taking into account the critical role of ecosystems; and supporting more effective water demand and water	<i>Instruction</i>	

	resource management across all sectors, especially in the agricultural sector (IX.3)		
	Report to the 34 th meeting of the Standing Committee on an action plan for the Convention in promoting these themes [IWRM] in order for the Standing Committee through the Secretary General to provide input to the CSD report-back session in 2008 (IX.3)	<i>Instruction</i>	DOC. SC34-06
	Prepare a report for COP10 on the Convention's activities in promoting these themes. (IX.3)	<i>Instruction</i>	Report to COP10
Fisheries	Work with other conventions, instruments and organizations concerned with the conservation of biodiversity and the management of natural resources (including FAO at an international and regional level), in order to promote the synergy and alignment of planning and management approaches that benefit the conservation and sustainable management of fisheries resources and recognition of the contribution this makes towards meeting CBD targets, WSSD goals, and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (IX.4)	<i>Urge</i>	Discussions with FAO at ADG level opened
	Draw attention to the important role of wetlands in fisheries resources conservation and sustainable use through its ongoing CEPA activities, in particular through future World Wetlands Day celebrations and events (IX.4)	<i>Request</i>	
	Pursue appropriate partnerships with expert bodies or organizations such as The WorldFish Center and FAO that are concerned with fisheries resources/resource conservation and sustainable use, in order for the Ramsar Convention to gain further advice and to fulfill its mandate (IX.4)	<i>Request (SG)</i>	
Synergies with other international organizations	Continue to be fully involved in proceedings of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) established under the <i>aegis</i> of the CBD and to report regularly to Standing Committee on progress achieved by this group (IX.5)	<i>Request (SG)</i>	
	Cooperate closely with relevant conventions, including through the Joint Liaison Group for the three Rio	<i>Request (SG)</i>	

	Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD), with UN agencies such as UNEP, UNESCO and FAO, and with other relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), UNEP-WCMC, and the CGIAR networks, and to seek to reduce duplicative activities; (IX.5)		
	In consultation with Standing Committee, to consider how best to simplify and reduce duplication in reporting required and/or requested in relevant Resolutions adopted by previous COPs, to make further recommendations on streamlining and simplifying reporting requirements, and to develop a simpler and less duplicative reporting format (taking into account the implementation of COP9 Resolutions IX.1 Annex D and IX.8); (IX.5)	<i>Request (SG)</i>	
	Continue working with UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements concerning more effective convention implementation. Topics could include, <i>inter alia</i> , and as appropriate, the development and implementation of issue-based modules and harmonization of national reporting requirements subject to the mandate of each individual convention bearing in mind their Contracting Parties (IX.5)	<i>Request (SG)</i>	
[Ramsar sites & protected areas]	Continue strong partnership-building with the CBD, including participation, as appropriate, in the liaison group proposed through CBD Decision VII/28 establishing the programme of work on protected areas. (IX.22)	<i>Request</i>	
Ramsar sites no longer meeting designation Criteria	Take into account the guidance in the Annex to this Resolution when advising Contracting Parties on issues concerning reduction or deletion of a site from the List of Wetlands of International Importance, including on the provision by Contracting Parties of updated Information Sheets on Ramsar Wetlands (IX.6)	<i>Instruction</i>	
	With the advice of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, report to COP10 on these matters under	<i>Instruction</i>	Report to COP10

	Article 8.2 and URGES Contracting Parties to provide to the Ramsar Secretariat information on their experiences and lessons learned in their application of this Resolution (IX.6)		
Regional initiatives	Conclude, where appropriate, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with relevant governments and appropriate bodies with regard to the specific financial and institutional arrangements of the regional initiatives identified in the annex (IX.7)	<i>Authorisation (SG)</i>	
	Report to the Standing Committee and COP10 on progress with these MoUs and the progress of regional initiatives in general (IX.7)	<i>Direction (SG)</i>	Report to SC & COP10
	<i>NB Secretariat will put in place as soon as possible arrangements for providing the allocated funds for 2006 to each regional initiative approved for core funding</i>		Finalise after SC34 sign off
Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan	Revise the text of this Framework [Annex to IX.8] to take into account the Resolutions adopted by the 9 th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (IX.8)	<i>Instruction</i>	
[Convention Work Plan 2006-2008]	Attach to the Annex to Resolution IX.8 the Annexes to Resolution IX.2 concerning future scientific and technical tasks and priorities, in order to form the Convention's Work Plan 2006-2008 for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the coming triennium and, following approval by the Standing Committee, to circulate this to Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations without delay. (NB IX.2 alternatively says: "make this available to Contracting Parties and others without delay") (IX.2/IX.8)	<i>Request (IX.2); Instruction (IX.8)</i>	SC34-05
Impacts associated with natural phenomena	In collaboration with Contracting Parties and other partners to develop and act on decision-support tools for all affected ecological zones, so as to ensure integrated and socially equitable management of wetland ecosystems to prevent, mitigate and adapt to flooding and tidal surges, drought, invasive alien species, and other forms of natural disasters (IX.9)	<i>Request</i>	

	(with international donors) recognize the need for prioritization in the search for funds, resource mobilization and international cooperation in the context of the agreements to be established with each country in order to contribute with those governments to satisfying the needs derived from the implementation of actions aimed at mitigating, restoring, rehabilitating, and monitoring the impacts of these extreme climatic events on the wetlands of the countries of the Wider Caribbean Area and other regions affected by similar events, with a view to maintaining the ecological benefits/services provided by wetlands (IX.9)	<i>Request</i>	
[CEPA programme]	Through the Convention's CEPA Programme, to develop materials, resources permitting, that highlight lessons learned from around the globe with regard to appropriate pre-disaster measures for impact prevention and minimization through contingency planning involving wise wetland management. These materials should exemplify successful approaches to disaster impact abatement and serve to raise societal awareness and capacity with regard to the role of wetlands as buffers (IX.9)	<i>Instruction</i>	
	Working with relevant international organizations and agencies, especially the joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit and including <i>inter alia</i> ISDR, WMO and UNEP, as well as, where appropriate, the IOPs, to develop guidance on a set of responses which can be initiated by governments and others immediately following the onset of a natural disaster affecting or likely to affect wetlands, especially sites in the Ramsar List. (IX.9)	<i>Instruction</i>	
Status of Ramsar "Secretariat"	Engage in a consultative process with appropriate bodies such as IUCN and UNESCO, as well as the government of the host country and other interested organizations and governments, regarding the options, as well as legal and practical implications, for the transformation	<i>Instruction (SG)</i>	SC34-10

	of the status of the Ramsar Secretariat towards an International Organization or other status whilst still recognizing and maintaining its links with IUCN and the host country (IX.10)		
	Report on the outcome of these consultations through the Standing Committee to COP10. (IX.10)	<i>Request (SG)</i>	Report through SC to COP10
STRP support	The STRP support functions, with an immediate priority on the development and engagement of the network of STRP National Focal Points (NFPs), will be provided during the 2006-2008 triennium from the Ramsar Secretariat. (IX.11)	<i>Confirmation</i>	
	Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, and the Ramsar Secretariat to seek to secure any additional funding which might be necessary for this purpose [participation by STRP members in meetings of the COP and Standing Committee]. (IX.11)	<i>Request</i>	
Finance & budget	In managing the budget, to attempt to refill the Reserve Fund established by Resolution VI.17, which will also partly fulfil the need to have a prudent reserve in the unlikely event of the sudden dissolution of the Secretariat (IX.12)	<i>Urge (SG)</i>	
[Ramsar sites database]	REQUESTS the Secretariat to investigate ways and means of managing the database needs of the Convention in a manner which reduces the line item for the Ramsar Sites Database (IX.12)	<i>Request</i>	
Resourcing the Small Grants Fund	Propose to Standing Committee at its 34 th meeting strategies for improving the status and resourcing of the SGF , with a particular focus on ensuring that dedicated sources of funding similar to “Wetlands for the Future” are developed for developing countries and countries with economies in transition (IX.13)	<i>Instruction (SG)</i>	SC34 - 19
Status of sites in the Ramsar List	Contact the Contracting Parties listed in the Annex to this Resolution and request them to provide or update, as a matter of high priority, Ramsar site descriptions (Ramsar Information Sheets and/or maps), using the Ramsar Information Sheet as revised to incorporate the amendments	<i>Instruction</i>	

	introduced by Resolution IX.1 Annex B, in one of the Convention's official working languages. (IX.15)		
	Consider options for assisting and encouraging Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in ecological character within the context of paragraph 20 of Resolution VIII.8. (IX.15)	<i>Instruction</i>	
	<i>Secretary General will follow-up with letter to AAs listed in para 27 of IX.15 concerning status reporting on specific Ramsar sites</i>		
Review of COP decisions	With the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, a review of the decisions taken since the first Conference of the Parties with a view to identifying specific areas of conflicting advice or policy, redundancy, and differing interpretation or conflict, and that such a review should be completed within the coming triennium and the results presented to COP10 for decision (IX.17)	<i>Instruction</i>	Present to COP10
	Develop appropriate Terms of Reference, advise whether a service provider will be required, and identify potential service provider(s) for consideration by Standing Committee at its 34 th meeting. (IX.17)	<i>Instruction</i>	SC34 -09
CEPA Oversight Committee	Prepare, for the 34 th meeting of Standing Committee, a detailed proposal on the establishment and operations of such an Oversight Panel [CEPA] , using the attached Terms of Reference as general guidance in preparing such a proposal. (IX.18)	<i>Instruction</i>	SC34 - 11
	Liaise with the Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie in Montreal in order to share all relevant information on the Ramsar Convention. (IX.18)	<i>Request (SG)</i>	
regional wetland symposia	Contracting Parties, in cooperation with the Ramsar Secretariat and international NGOs, to facilitate the support to and participation in the Asian Wetland Symposia by a wide range of stakeholders, including but not limited to local governments, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities, noting that this will not	<i>Request</i>	

	have any financial implications for the Convention's core budget (IX.19)		
	Ramsar Secretariat and the Standing Committee to encourage and develop linkages between Ramsar Regional Meetings, including subregional meetings, and such regional wetland fora, so as to ensure that the outcomes of the fora are made fully available to Contracting Parties and governments in support of their implementation of the Convention through exchange of experiences and innovative practices discussed at such for a. (IX.19)	<i>Request</i>	
Cross-biome planning & management	WWF International to prepare an information paper on the subject in question, in consultation with the Ramsar Secretariat and the CBD, taking into account relevant resolutions and decisions of the Ramsar Convention and CBD and existing guidance, and INVITES the Secretariat of the CBD, if appropriate, to submit the paper as an information document to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD as a contribution to the development of tools and practical approaches for the implementation of the CBD, in particular in relation to the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and the ecosystem approach, and as a contribution towards achieving even greater harmony and synergy between the two conventions. (IX.20) Secretary General working with CBD Executive Secretary and IUCN WCPA	<i>In consultation</i>	
Cultural values	Complete, through a broad participatory process, the work prescribed in paragraph 17 of Resolution VIII.19 concerning the guidance to be provided on cultural values. (IX.21)	<i>Instruction</i>	
	Establish a multi-disciplinary working group on the cultural values of wetlands, with a balanced geographic representation, under the supervision of Standing Committee, with appropriate input from the STRP, to coordinate the activities described	<i>Request</i>	

	above. (IX.21)		
	Analyse the activities carried out to incorporate cultural values in the work of the Convention during the triennium 2006-2008 and the experience gained, and to report to the Standing Committee and to the 10 th Conference of the Parties (COP10). (IX.21)	<i>Request</i>	Report to SC & COP10
Avian influenza	Working with the STRP assist, with relevant international agencies and the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza, in sharing information, including practical advice that will assist countries to respond to this serious and rapidly developing situation, and to report back on progress to the Standing Committee and to COP10. (IX.23)	<i>Request</i>	
[(waterbird) monitoring schemes]	Explore possibilities for establishing partnerships so as to support the development of long-term funding for monitoring schemes that are relevant to the Convention's interests, and as soon as possible. (IX.23)	<i>Request (SG)</i>	

COP9-mandated tasks of Secretariat and Standing Committee

Note. Those tasks requiring action for SC34 are highlighted. Secretariat tasks requiring report to SC34 are included also in this tabulation.

Standing Committee

Topic	Action required	Type of mandate	Report to/consider at:
Water-related processes	<i>Secretariat:</i> Report to the 34 th meeting of the Standing Committee on an action plan for the Convention in promoting these themes [IWRM] in order for the Standing Committee through the Secretary General to provide input to the CSD report-back session in 2008 (IX.3)	<i>Instruction</i>	SC34 - 06
Regional initiatives	Levels of financial support for 2007 and 2008 [for regional initiatives] will be determined by the Standing Committee based on recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance (IX.7)	<i>Agreement</i>	SC34 - 21
	Approve, between meetings of the	<i>Authorisation</i>	SC34 should

	Conference of the Contracting Parties, qualifying initiatives which have zero financial implications for the Convention's core budget (IX.7)		consider any further proposals submitted
	Within the global allocation for the triennium of the Convention core budget line "Support to Regional Initiatives", to reallocate funding, if considered appropriate, depending on shifts in priorities and needs in response to requests from initiatives (IX.7)	<i>Authorisation</i>	
	Report to COP10 on the development and funding of the suite of initiatives established by 2008 (IX.7)	<i>Instruction</i>	Report to COP10
	Particularly in relation to those initiatives funded by the core budget, review (with Secretariat) their success and submit a summary report for consideration at COP10 [based on the submission to the Standing Committee a report on progress and operations of the initiatives concerned, and specifically their success in complying with the Guidelines contained in Annex I to Resolution VIII.30 and actions taken to replace Ramsar funds with alternative sustainable funds.] (IX.7)	<i>Instruction</i>	Report to COP10
	<i>NB Secretariat needs to provide SC34 with satisfactory budget information for the High Andean Initiative.</i> If this budget allocation is not confirmed by SC34, the funds should be allocated to the STRP budget line for 2006.		SC34 - 21
Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan	Develop and implement a comprehensive and inclusive process for the development of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009 - 2014, for consideration by Ramsar COP10. (IX.8)	<i>Instruction</i>	SC34 - 07
[Convention Work Plan 2006-2008]	<i>Secretariat: Attach to the Annex to Resolution IX.8 the Annexes to Resolution IX.2 concerning future scientific and technical tasks and priorities, in order to form the Convention's Work Plan 2006-2008</i> for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the coming triennium and, following approval by the Standing Committee, to circulate this to	<i>Request (IX.2); Instruction (IX.8)</i>	SC34 - 05

	Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations without delay. (NB IX.2 alternatively says: “make this available to Contracting Parties and others without delay”) (IX.2/IX.8)		
	Design a simplified COP10 National Report Format based on the <i>Framework for the implementation of the Convention’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period</i> , taking into account reporting issues in Resolutions IX.1 Annex D and IX.5 and, in so doing, to ensure that the new format will reduce the overall reporting burden on Contracting Parties by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) reducing duplication required and/or requested in relevant Resolutions adopted by this and previous COPs; ii) ensuring that any new reporting requirements are compensated for by removal of existing requirements, so as to ensure at least no net increase in reporting requirements; iii) considering reporting requirements of other relevant conventions and agreements and ways to use the information collected for these purposes rather than requiring the collection of additional information; and iv) also considering the contribution of Ramsar reporting to other conventions’ equivalent processes including <i>inter alia</i> the 2010 biodiversity target. (IX.8) 	<i>Request</i>	SC34 - 08
STRP	Continue to have overall responsibility for the work of the STRP, and that the Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on the Panel’s progress with its programme of work and priorities as established by the COP and Standing Committee (Resolution IX.2) for the triennium and advise on any adjustments to its programme it considers necessary	<i>Confirmation</i>	

	and on the emerging issues. (IX.11)		
Finance & budget	The Subgroup on Finance, as established by Resolution VI.17, shall continue to operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in that Resolution (IX.12)	<i>Decision</i>	
	Ensure that the presentation of financial information concerning all of the Convention's income and expenditures is improved so that the information is clearer and easier to track (IX.12)	<i>Instruction</i>	
	With the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to change budgetary allocations between budget lines in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the triennium to the rates of inflation and interest income projected in the budget (IX.12)	<i>Authorisation</i>	
	Propose to COP10 a restructuring of the Subgroup on Finance that strengthens continuity of membership across triennia (IX.12)	<i>Charge</i>	proposal to COP10
	At its 34 th meeting should consider options for dealing with Parties which are consistently in arrears with payments to the Convention , based on an analysis by the Secretary General of the practices in other conventions (IX.12)	<i>Agreement</i>	SC34 – 20
Resourcing the Small Grants Fund	<i>Secretariat:</i> Propose to Standing Committee at its 34 th meeting strategies for improving the status and resourcing of the SGF , with a particular focus on ensuring that dedicated sources of funding similar to “Wetlands for the Future” are developed for developing countries and countries with economies in transition (IX.13)	<i>Instruction (SG)</i>	SC34 - 18
	URGES the Standing Committee, with the assistance of the Ramsar Secretariat, to nonetheless actively pursue alternative funding mechanisms to resource the SGF (IX.13)	<i>Urge</i>	
	Bring to COP10 new proposals for establishing a more vigorous mechanism to support the SGF, including the possible development of regional support funds. (IX.13)	<i>Request</i>	proposal to COP10
IOPs	Keep under review from time to	<i>Request</i>	

	time the performance of International Organization Partners in supporting Convention implementation, and to report on such reviews to the Conference of the Contracting Parties. (IX.16)		
Review of COP decisions	<i>Secretariat:</i> Develop appropriate Terms of Reference, advise whether a service provider will be required, and identify potential service provider(s) for consideration by Standing Committee at its 34 th meeting. (IX.17)	<i>Instruction</i>	SC34 - 09
	[at SC34] review and approve the Terms of Reference as deemed appropriate, approve any appropriate service provider(s), and agree a budget. (IX.17)	<i>Instruction</i>	
CEPA Oversight Committee	Establish an Oversight Panel to monitor and report on the implementation of the CEPA Programme established under Resolution VIII.31 and to examine and set priorities for communication, education and capacity building in collaboration with the Wetlands International CEPA Specialist Group and the Ramsar Advisory Board on Capacity Building. (IX.18)	<i>Instruction</i>	Establish at SC34
	<i>Secretariat:</i> Prepare, for the 34 th meeting of Standing Committee, a detailed proposal on the establishment and operations of such an Oversight Panel [CEPA] , using the attached Terms of Reference as general guidance in preparing such a proposal. (IX.18)	<i>Instruction</i>	
	Report to COP10 on the activities of the Panel and its value in advancing the Convention's CEPA Programme. (IX.18)	<i>Request</i>	Report to COP10
Improving management of the Ramsar Convention	ESTABLISHES an ad hoc Management Working Group to examine and review the various management structures and systems in place within the Convention and to report back to the 10 th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2008 with their recommendations on: a) improving the existing terms of reference and/or operating	<i>Establishment</i>	

	<p>procedures of the Standing Committee, the Subgroup on Finance, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Regional Meetings, and the Secretariat;</p> <p>b) establishing any new management structures the Working Group concludes may be needed; and</p> <p>c) strengthening linkages between the Contracting Parties and the International Organization Partners</p>		
	<p>INSTRUCTS the [Management] Working Group to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress made and to report its findings to COP10 in 2008.</p>	<p><i>Instruction</i></p>	<p>Report to SC & COP10</p>