

Draft STRP 2006-2008 Work Plan

Notes.

All Immediate Priority and High Priority tasks (Resolution IX.2 Annex 1) are listed. Only those other (Lower Priority) tasks (Resolution IX.2 Annex 2) which the Panel considers it may be able to make progress without additional resources are included in the Work Plan.

Task numbers are those as in Resolution IX.2 Annex 2.

Each Work Plan task is summarized here in a standard pro-forma table. The STRP and its Working Groups are, for certain tasks, have prepared or are preparing more detailed terms of reference and approaches for task delivery as the basis for guiding delivery of its work.

Contents

WORKING GROUP 1: INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT, MONITORING & INDICATORS	1
WORKING GROUP 1: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TASKS.....	1
<i>Task No. 52: Review Ramsar Sites information needs, data management, official reporting and the necessary tools.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Task No. 59: Indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention</i>	<i>4</i>
WORKING GROUP 1: HIGH PRIORITY TASKS.....	5
<i>Task No. 54 and 56: Process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character; Redesign of the Montreux Record questionnaire</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Task No. 53: Wetland delineation and mapping.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Task No. 60: Additional indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention</i>	<i>7</i>
WORKING GROUP 1: LOWER PRIORITY TASKS	7
<i>Task No. 49: Wetland classification.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Task No. 50: Inventory metadatabase</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Task No. 51: Review of wetland inventory – GroWI-2.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Task No. 62: Responding to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 (ongoing)</i>	<i>9</i>
WORKING GROUP 2: WISE USE & ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF WETLANDS.....	11
WORKING GROUP 2: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TASKS.....	11
<i>No immediate priority tasks for Working Group 2.</i>	<i>11</i>
WORKING GROUP 2: HIGH PRIORITY TASKS	11
<i>Task No. 14: Wise Use Case Studies.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Task No. 15: Harmonization of Terms and Definitions.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Task No.13: MA Conceptual Framework, wise use responses, and Ramsar guidance</i>	<i>14</i>
WORKING GROUP 2: LOWER PRIORITY TASKS.....	14
<i>Task No. 20: Cross-biome planning.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Task No. 17 and 18: Wetlands, Ramsar sites and sustainable fisheries.....</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Task No. 19: Wetlands and Poverty Reduction</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Task No. 16: Guidance for the implementation of wise use concept</i>	<i>17</i>
WORKING GROUP 3: RAMSAR SITE DESIGNATION AND MANAGEMENT	18

WORKING GROUP 3. IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TASKS.....	18
<i>Task No. 109: Making Criterion 9 operational</i>	<i>18</i>
WORKING GROUP 3. HIGH PRIORITY TASKS	19
<i>Task No. 104: Interpretation of the term ‘under-represented’ wetland type.....</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Task No. 112: Ramsar site-selection criterion ongoing review</i>	<i>20</i>
WORKING GROUP 3: LOWER PRIORITY TASKS.....	21
<i>Task No. 105: Determining an optimal biogeographic regionalisation scheme</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Task No. 106: Revised RIS.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Task No. 108: Review the ecological roles played by reservoirs and other human-made wetlands.....</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Task No. 110: Review effectiveness of Ramsar fish criteria</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Task No. 126: Development of post-disaster wetland restoration guidelines</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Task No. 127: Dissemination information on new research and methods of wetland restoration</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Task No. 128: Guidance on compensation for wetland losses.....</i>	<i>25</i>
WORKING GROUP 3: TASKS CARRIED OVER FROM 2003-2005 TRIENNIUM.....	25
(a) <i>Completion of Ramsar field guide for wetland management planning</i>	<i>25</i>
WORKING GROUP 4: WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT	27
WORKING GROUP 4: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TASKS.....	27
<i>Tasks No. 81, 82 and 83: RBM/critical path guidance</i>	<i>27</i>
<i>Task No. 91: Wetlands and water quality.....</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Task No. 89: Implementation of environmental water requirements.....</i>	<i>30</i>
WORKING GROUP 4: HIGH PRIORITY TASKS	31
<i>Task No. 85: Integrated Coastal Zone Management</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Task No. 90 Groundwater management</i>	<i>32</i>
WORKING GROUP 4: LOWER PRIORITY TASKS	33
<i>Task No. 87: Review of water & environmental law with respect to environmental flows</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Task No. 80: CEPA-related guidance for water issues (refer to CEPA working group task 152).....</i>	<i>33</i>
<i>Task No. 84: Impacts of dams on wetland and river systems.</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Task No. 86: Water resources management in dry and sub-humid lands</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Task No. 88: Good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands.</i>	<i>34</i>
WORKING GROUP 4: TASKS CARRIED OVER FROM 2003-2005 TRIENNIUM	35
(a) <i>Supplementary guidance for the determination of environmental water requirements for wetlands .</i>	<i>35</i>
(b) <i>Determination of environmental water requirements for estuaries, coastal and near-shore wetlands.</i>	<i>35</i>
(c) <i>Determination of environmental water requirements for palustrine wetlands</i>	<i>36</i>
(d) <i>Determination of environmental water requirements for rivers</i>	<i>36</i>
WORKING GROUP 5: WETLANDS AND AGRICULTURE	37
WORKING GROUP 5: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TASKS.....	37
<i>Task No. 150: Guidelines on agriculture and wetlands.....</i>	<i>37</i>
WORKING GROUP 6: WETLANDS AND HUMAN HEALTH	39
WORKING GROUP 6. IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TASKS.....	39
<i>Task No. 163: Wetlands and Human Health.....</i>	<i>39</i>
WORKING GROUP 7: RESOLUTION VIII.45 AND ONGOING ISSUES	42
WORKING GROUP 7: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TASKS.....	42
<i>Task No. 2: STRP review and advice functions (ongoing)</i>	<i>42</i>
<i>Task No. 3: Scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP resolutions (ongoing)</i>	<i>43</i>

WORKING GROUP 7. HIGH PRIORITY TASKS.....	43
<i>Task No. 5: Review and repackage Ramsar technical guidance where appropriate</i>	<i>43</i>
WORKING GROUP 7. LOWER PRIORITY TASKS	44
<i>Task No. 161: Strategy for sector-based guidance and emerging issues (ongoing)</i>	<i>45</i>
WORKING GROUP 8: COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA).....	46
WORKING GROUP 8: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TASKS.....	46
<i>Task No 3: Review and assessment of scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP resolutions (2006-2008 activities).....</i>	<i>46</i>
WORKING GROUP 8: CROSS-CUTTING TASKS	47
<i>Task No. 152: CEPA aspects of technical guidance/products prepared by STRP</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Task No. 153: Preparation of relevant CEPA outreach materials.....</i>	<i>48</i>
WORKING GROUP 9: REGIONAL NETWORKING.....	49
WORKING GROUP 9: IMMEDIATE PRIORITY TASKS	49
<i>Task 168: Promoting the role of National STRP Focal Points.....</i>	<i>49</i>
WORKING GROUP 9: CROSS-CUTTING TASKS	50
<i>Task 169: Establishing and strengthening the role and participation of STRP NFPs in STRP processes .</i>	<i>50</i>

WORKING GROUP 1: INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT, MONITORING & INDICATORS

Thematic Work Area name:	Inventory, assessment and monitoring
Thematic lead STRP member:	Teresita Borges
Co-lead(s):	Max Finlayson, Dave Pritchard At STRP13, Doug Taylor was appointed to lead some tasks in this thematic work area, but has since left WI. Until a replacement is identified by the STRP, his task-related responsibilities will be taken up by working group members and STRP members as indicated.

Working Group 1: Immediate Priority tasks

Task No. 52: Review Ramsar Sites information needs, data management, official reporting and the necessary tools	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	<p>Task 52 has three distinct but connected sub-tasks which are presented below as 52(i), 52(ii) and 52(iii). At the strategic level, there are two long term objectives –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to achieve a revised scheme of data collection for Ramsar Sites consistent with reporting status and trends, and fulfilling national reporting and harmonization needs 2. to enable Ramsar Sites data to be part of a coherent knowledgebase alongside national, regional and global levels of wetland data <p>To support these objectives, the existing toolkit, including the Ramsar Sites Information Service, the Ramsar Information Sheet and the adopted inventory core data and metadata structure, will be reviewed and recommendations for tools that are fit for purpose will be made.</p> <p>The sub-tasks are:</p> <p>52 (i) “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.”</p>

	<p>52 (ii) "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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. <p>52 (iii) "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."</p>
Task lead person:	Teresita Borges, assisted by Co-leads, Chair and Secretariat; and replacement for Doug Taylor (to be identified)
"Task force members" (if different from overall Working Group membership):	Dave Pritchard, Max Finlayson, Robert Pople, David Stroud, Eleni Fitoka, with inputs from Maria Rivera and Bruce Gray.
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Belgium, (via David Stroud), focal points in the European Environment Agency, European Space Agency, in addition to existing contacts in MedWet, FAO, NASA and JAXA
Type of product/output(s):	<p>One comprehensive review document (containing specific user community tested recommendations) dealing with Ramsar Sites, RIS, supporting information gateways and relating Sites to wetland inventory more generally.</p> <p>The review will be based on the following proposed sub-reports:</p> <p>52(i) related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sub-report on review of current information requirements for Ramsar Sites (<i>lead: replacement for DT</i>) – Sub-report on information required for reporting on change in ecological character (also drawing on IOP recommendations) (<i>lead: Maria Rivera, with inputs from Dave Pritchard</i>) – Sub-report rolling up review of the RSIS and options to propose to CPs (<i>lead: replacement for DT, with assistance from Jerry Harrison (UNEP-WCMC) to be invited</i>) <p>52(ii) related:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft guidance for describing ecological character, linked with harmonization of inventory core data fields and RIS information fields; - Sub-report reviewing the current RIS and key suggestions for enhancement with recommendations on official reporting (<i>lead: replacement for DT, assisted by Robert Pople, David Stroud, Bruce Gray</i>) <p>52(iii) related:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sub-report on other data needs at Site and Global levels (<i>lead: Dave Pritchard, bringing in outcomes of Task 60</i>) <p>Consultation step:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultative report to roll up items 1-5 for consultation with Standing Committee (prior to use in further consultation) (<i>lead: consultant</i>) - Questionnaire and proposals for use with SC or CPs (<i>lead: consultant, advised by CEPA Chris Prietto</i>) <p>Final report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final review document incorporating SC/CP feedback (<i>lead: replacement for DT supported by consultant</i>)
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	Yes (15-30 days).
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>For the successful completion of the work, two sequential processes need to operate:</p> <p>a) a research step to compile information on the present situation and options for change and,</p> <p>b) some form of structured consultation with CPs, and partner bodies (e.g. CBD) to test their needs before formulating proposals in the final review document.</p> <p>This task is many faceted and complex, with numerous interlinkages between its various aspects, and with other tasks (see below). As the work plan for this task is developed further, it is likely that a step-wise approach to process a) will pragmatically be necessary, notably to avoid risks of overlap and duplication with other STRP priority tasks.</p>
Additional comments/information	<p>Linkage is primarily with Tasks 53 and 54 related to ecological character and delineation and mapping. The outcome of work in Tasks 59 and 60 are also directly relevant, and the plan to implement a web-based metadatabase (Task 50) is relevant also.</p> <p>This review of information needs for Ramsar Sites needs to consider whether to incrementally develop existing information needs or propose fundamental reforms, connecting site-based data to basin, national and regional inventory approaches (c.f.</p>

	adopted inventory approach Res. IX.1 Annex E)
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Task No. 59: Indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	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.
Task lead person:	Dave Pritchard
Task force members (if different from overall Working Group membership):	Dave Pritchard, Doug Taylor, Teresita Borges, Nick Davidson, Archana Chatterjee, Maria Rivera, UNEP-WCMC. Additional experts to be invited to contribute for specific indicators: Eleni Fitoka, Heather MacKay, George Lukacs, Chris Prietto.
Type of product/output(s)	Implementation plan for COP10 consideration. Also potentially a 'first-cut' assessment report on wetland indicators, from those currently available – as a contribution also to 2010 biodiversity target interim reporting.
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?:	Yes.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress report since COP9. 2. Consultancy brief for delivering outstanding factsheet on site management effectiveness (indicator E). 3. Factsheet on site management effectiveness (indicator E). 4. Factsheet on Red List Indices (indicator G). 5. Consultancy ToRs for establishing mechanisms for “collection, collation, analysis, assessment, reporting, publishing and disseminating of the results and conclusions of the indicators of effectiveness”. 6. Consultant report and recommendations on (5) above. 7. Recommendations to Standing Committee Sub Group on Strategic Plan/COP10 National Report Format concerning elements to include in the Format. 8. Plan for delivery of aspects of this task in the context of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) GEF project. 9. Plan for reports and statements expected on each of the indicators, including details of inputs and analyses required, compilation responsibilities, design and presentation principles, timelines, dissemination and funding. 10. Consultancy ToRs for assistance with (9) above. 11. Consultant inputs to (9) above.

	<p>A timely opportunity has arisen to have this important work undertaken by expert staff at the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), associated with their preparations for initiating a major UNEP-GEF project on implementing the indicators for the 2010 biodiversity target through a “Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)” in which Ramsar (Secretariat and STRP) are partners. Following discussions between task lead David Pritchard, the Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, WCMC have initiated this work following funding approval from the STRP Oversight Committee. This process will in turn subsequently capitalise on WCMC’s coordination role in the GEF project, once its implementation begins, and will ensure that this broader indicators partnership and funding will deliver a significant proportion of the indicator assessment information needed into the Ramsar effectiveness indicators work.</p>
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Working Group 1: High Priority tasks

Tasks No. 54 & 56: Process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character; Redesign of the Montreux Record questionnaire	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes)	<p>54. Prepare further consolidated guidance on the overall process of detecting, reporting, and responding to change in ecological character, including guidelines for determining when such a change is too trivial to require reporting, having regard to the reasons why a given site is important and the conservation objectives set for it.</p> <p>56. Prepare advice on redesigning the Montreux Record questionnaire, <i>inter alia</i> to ensure consistency with the Article 3.2. reporting format.</p>
Task lead person	Maria Rivera/Max Finlayson
Co-lead (s)	David Pritchard, Rebecca D’Cruz
Task force members	Max Finlayson, David Pritchard, Rebecca D’Cruz, Bruce Gray, Randy Milton, Mike Acreman, Nick Davidson, María Rivera
Type of product/output(s)	Guidance to COP10.
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	Yes. 30 days.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of Resolutions VIII.8, VI.1 and other relevant guidance to identify what can be consolidated, retired and to identify gaps. (Link with Dave Pritchard's work to be done further to Resolution IX. 17) 2. Review of existing experiences and developing guidance to detect change and on limit of acceptable change including

	<p>uncertainty and natural variability in relation to “Non trivial” change.</p> <p>3. Complete design of Article 3.2 reporting format (As requested by Resolution VIII.8)</p> <p>4. As necessary redesign Montreux Record Questionnaire in light of the reporting format mentioned above.</p> <p>5. Guidance on the overall process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character</p>
Additional comments/information	Links to, and is largely consequent on, the component of task 52 (ii) concerning guidance for the description of ecological character of wetlands. Needs to be informed by that work on ecological character in relation to core wetland inventory data fields and RIS fields.

Task No. 53: Wetland delineation and mapping	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Prepare advice on delineating and mapping wetlands, in conjunction with the description of their ecological character, including issues concerning digital mapping identified in Resolution VIII.13.
Task lead person:	Max Finlayson (IWMI) GTOS Secretariat representative (FAO)
Task force members (if different from overall Working Group membership):	The task will be carried out within the framework of the establishment of the Type II Partnership on wetlands and inventory, proposed by IWMI and FAO, through the Coastal technical Panel of GTOS (C-GTOS) <i>Not all organizations or representatives have confirmed their participation – this will be checked whilst developing the revised proposal for the Type II Partnership</i> IWMI Staff, Coastal Panel of GTOS, Wetlands International, Med Wet (Eleni Fitoka), ESA (Diego Fernandez), IUCN Regional office /Pacific, Ducks International (Alan Wetz), JNC-UK (David Stroud), ACTFR-Australia (George Lukacs), Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (Randy Milton)
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Global Land Cover Network (GLCN)
Type of product/output(s):	Guidance for CoP Detailed technical information will be included in a Ramsar Technical Report
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?:	Yes. 60 days (plus travel cost to attend mid-term workshop)
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Review the previous version of the Explanatory Note and Guidelines, with particular attention directed towards coastal/marine wetlands; Prepare/draft a plan in consultation within the Core Network of the Type II Partnership (see below).

	Prepare draft guidelines for discussion at mid-term workshop Revise and complete guidelines
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Task No. 60: Additional indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Develop, test and put forward for use by Parties further indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention, including indicators addressing wise use policy issues and benefits/services provided by wetlands to humans. (Resolution IX.1 Annex D)
Task lead person:	Dave Pritchard
Task force members (if different from overall Working Group membership):	Dave Pritchard, Doug Taylor, Teresita Borges, Nick Davidson, Archana Chatterjee. Additional experts proposed to be invited to contribute for specific indicators include: Rebecca Tharme, Brian Richter, Joost Backx, Heather MacKay, Mark Smith, selected STRP National Focal Points (to be identified).
Type of product/output(s):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comments from STRP on the 5 second tranche indicators, including identification of key feasibility questions to be clarified. 2. Factsheets for each of the 5 indicators. 3. Consultancy ToRs for delivering (2) above and addressing the feasibility issues identified in (1) above. 4. Plan for testing the 5 indicators. 5. Report and recommendations to COP10.
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?:	Yes. 10 days.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Steps will effectively follow the 5 items in "outputs" above. Timelines, starting probably 2007, to be developed. Note: the Water quantity indicator (K) to be a priority for development.

Working Group 1: Lower Priority tasks

Task No. 49: Wetland classification	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Develop, test and publish a hydro-geomorphologically-based system of classification of wetland type, including an evaluation of how this might relate to other possible systems and to the current Ramsar classification system, having regard

	<i>inter alia</i> to groundwater issues and to relevant outputs of the European Space Agency Globwetland remote sensing project, and prepare a report with advice for Parties at COP10.
Task lead person:	Max Finlayson (IWMI) GTOS Secretariat representative (FAO)
Task force members (if different from overall Working Group membership):	The task will be carried out within the framework if the establishment of the Type II Partnership on wetlands and inventory, proposed by IWMI and FAO, through the Coastal technical Panel of GTOS (C-GTOS) <i>Note: Not all organizations or representatives have confirmed their participation – this will be checked whilst developing the revised proposal for the Type II Partnership</i> IWMI Staff, Coastal Panel of GTOS, Wetlands International, Med Wet (Eleni Fitoka), ESA (Diego Fernandez), IUCN Regional office /Pacific, Ducks International (Alan Wetz), JNC-UK (David Stroud), ACTFR-Australia (George Lukacs), Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (Randy Milton)
Type of product/output(s):	<i>Ramsar Technical Report</i>
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	Yes. Consultant 1 = 60 days (hydrogeomorphology, hydrology, botany) Consultant 2 = 60 days (land cover / coastal ecosystems)
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Review and develop links the land cover and hydro-geomorphic systems; explore feasibility for a Wetlands Module of the Land Cover Classification System (LCCS), with particular focus on coastal ecosystems. Present draft concept at mid-term workshop Revise draft report
Additional comments/information	Review work needs to take into consideration the hydro-geomorphic classification in relation to groundwater included in COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex Cii, and the hierarchical classification developed by the Secretariat in 2006 to assist Parties in identifying relevant wetland types in Ramsar site designations (included in the 2006 version of RIS Explanatory Notes and Guidelines).

Task No. 50: Inventory metadatabase	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Make available a web-based wetland inventory metadatabase, populated with information on all national wetland inventory and updatable by Contracting Parties (Strategic Plan action 1.1.4)
Task lead person:	Max Finlayson (IWMI), Robert Zomer (IWMI)
“Task force members” (if	The task will be carried out within the framework if the establishment of the Type II Partnership on wetlands and

different from overall Working Group membership):	inventory, proposed by IWMI and FAO, through the Coastal technical Panel of GTOS (C-GTOS) <i>Note: Not all organizations or representatives have confirmed their participation – this will be checked whilst developing the revised proposal for the Type II Partnership</i> IWMI Staff, Coastal Panel of GTOS, Wetlands International, Med Wet (Eleni Fitoka), ESA (Diego Fernandez), IUCN Regional office /Pacific, Ducks International (Alan Wetz), JNC-UK (David Stroud), ACTFR-Australia (George Lukacs),
Type of product/output(s):	Web database
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	No.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Review and revise (if necessary) the Globwetland use of the meta-database, taking into account other meta-databases (e.g. GTOS TEMS meta-database) and make it available on the web.

Task No. 51: Review of wetland inventory – GRoWI-2	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	As and when the update of the Global Review of Wetland Resources and priorities for Wetland Inventory (GRoWI-2) can be progressed, ensure that appropriate input to it is made, drawing upon inventory meta-data information.
Task lead person:	Max Finlayson (IWMI)
Task force members	Nidhi Nagabhatla
Type of product/output(s):	IWMI Research Report
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	No. This task will be carried out by through the IWMI wetland inventory project already underway
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Review GRoWI-1 and update database of wetland inventory and report against recommendations.

Task No. 62: Responding to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 (ongoing)	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue participation in the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza as resources and competencies permit; 2. Provide relevant input on practical measures to reduce the risk of disease transmission between wild, captive and

	<p>domesticated birds, to those agencies developing contingency and wetland management plans related to HPAI; and</p> <p>3. 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, reporting back on progress to the Standing Committee and to COP10.</p>
Task lead person:	David Stroud
Task force members	Wetlands International, BirdLife International, AEWA, CMS
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Many other networks as appropriate
Type of product/output(s):	<p>Standing agenda item for mid-term working group</p> <p>Information paper for Standing Committee (2007, 2008)</p> <p>Information paper for COP 10 (2008)</p>
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	Possible contribution towards development of joint MEA web-site providing guidances on responses to HPAI
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David Stroud to continue to participate in Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza on behalf of STRP and to provide monthly briefings to STRP and Secretariat via the STRP web-site. Consultation with STRP as needs and opportunities require. 2. Bring to the attention of CPs, via the web-site and e-lists, practical measures to reduce the risk of disease transmission between wild, captive and domesticated birds as these become available (i.e. high 'best' standards of biosecurity). 3. As resources permit, assist Contracting Parties with information on best practice guidance on surveillance for avian influenza viruses and other information needs. (In the medium term, this information should be delivered by the joint MEA web-site). 4. Periodically, bring to the attention of CPs, via the Ramsar web-site and e-lists, useful sources of information relevant to risk assessment and national contingency planning. 5. Establish web-link from the Ramsar web-site to the HPAI web-site being established by CMS as a single source of information.

WORKING GROUP 2: WISE USE & ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF WETLANDS

Thematic Work Area name:	Wise Use and Ecological Character
Thematic lead STRP member:	Randy Milton
Co-lead(s):	Rebecca D’Cruz Maria Rivera

Working Group 2: Immediate Priority tasks

No immediate priority tasks for Working Group 2.

Working Group 2: High Priority tasks

Task No. 14: Wise Use Case Studies	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Review the case studies in <i>The Wise Use of Wetlands</i> (Ramsar, 1993) and other relevant case studies (including those requested in actions 66 [82], 69 [85] and 72 [89]), review subsequent implementation progress with these cases, and provide updated studies, including advice on the application of the ecosystem approach. (Strategic Plan action 3.1.2; STRP 2002-2005 work plan; STRP12 report)
Task lead person:	Randy Milton
Task force members	Royal Gardner, Sandra Hails, Pragati Tuladhar, Rebecca D’Cruz; Other thematic leads who are developing case studies; Other organizations such as CBD, IUCN, UNCCD
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Authors of original case studies
Type of product/output(s):	<i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> Possibly information or guidance document for managers and decision makers
Funds needed for	Yes, 60-90 days for consultant to assist with coordination and compilation of case studies.

contracting an expert consultant?	
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>a) Clarification on purpose of the review (e.g. experience based learning tool, identify guidance gaps) - discussion through forum <i>Aug. 2006</i></p> <p>b) Identify audience(s) and outputs – CEPA group <i>Sept. 2006</i></p> <p>c) Scoping of work and drafting of TOR including time lines for update: criteria must be developed (e.g. collective versus individualized to case study; undertake in context of wise use handbooks, conceptual framework, and contribution to human well being and poverty reduction (MA and MDGs); ecosystem approach; original objectives of study – progress and continuing success; contacting of original author(s). <i>Nov. 2006</i></p> <p>d) Identification and rationalization of complimentary potential studies: e.g. 17 case studies in publication, studies requested in other thematic work areas, others (e.g. IUCN Water and Nature Initiative, Wetlands and Water Resources; CITES; UNCCD) <i>Feb. 2007</i></p> <p>e) Update and review at midterm workshop <i>early 2007</i></p> <p>f) Identification and issuing of contract to coordinate review <i>March 2007</i></p> <p>g) Distill and consolidate lessons from case studies as guidance for management or decision makers. <i>Feb. 2008</i></p> <p>h) Review and publication of technical report <i>TBD</i></p>
Additional comments/information	<p>Links to other tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 82. Case studies of river basin management using the Critical Path approach, including good practice examples of water allocation and management and case studies of environmental flows, including examples involving dams. (STRP 12) [Water Resource Management Thematic Group] - 85. Case studies in the integration of wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), including in relation to coastal/upstream interactions, and lessons learned in responding to the impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami. [Water Resource Management Thematic Group] - 88. Prepare a report for COP10 on successes achieved and lessons learnt from demonstrating good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.1, STRP 2002-2005 work plan) - Implementation of environmental water requirements for wetlands, drawing upon the material and case studies contained in the <i>Ramsar Technical Reports</i> on this topic prepared by the STRP during the 2003-2005 triennium. - Link with “Ongoing STRP Activities” (Task 5) to identifying gaps in Ramsar guidance.

	Choices of additional case studies might be best undertaken through relating them to the different intervention opportunities under the Wise Use (MA) Conceptual Framework (Resolution IX.1 Annex A).
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Task No. 15: Harmonization of Terms and Definitions	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	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), and report to COP10. (Resolution IX.1 Annex A).
Task lead person:	Randy Milton
Task force members	Royal Gardner, Philippe Gerbeaux, Bruce Gray, Max Finlayson, CEPA group
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	IUCN Environmental Law Centre International Water Law Association
Type of product/output(s):	Review Document for STRP Information Document COP10 – Harmonization of definition and terms Clarification of usage of terms - incorporate with outputs of task 54, <i>Wetland Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment</i> thematic area
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	No
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review fora for existing and proposed changes in terminology as per MA with particular attention to MEAs and international development or finance organizations, e.g. MA Wetlands and Water Synthesis; Ramsar Resolution 8.7 paragraph 15; Ramsar Resolution 9.1 Annex A; Ramsar COP 9 DOC 16; Identification of Other fora: CBD/SBSTTA; UNFCCC; UNCCD; UNESCO; UNEP; Water Resource; FAO; World Bank; Irrigation and Drainage; Wetlands International, GEF; National Development Agencies; national legislation <i>June 2006</i> b) Preliminary document on harmonization of terms <i>Sept. 2006</i> c) Preliminary document to clarify usage of terms in description of ecological character <i>Sept 2006</i> d) Post b) and c) to forum for discussion <i>Oct. 2006</i> e) Finalize harmonization of terms and definitions and incorporate into ongoing STRP activities. <i>Nov. 2006</i> f) Present to midterm workshops <i>March 2007</i> g) Finalize clarification of usage of terms and incorporate with <i>Wetland Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment</i> thematic area

	Dec. 2007 h) Prepare information document re harmonization for COP 10. Dec 2007
Additional comments/information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Link with "Ongoing STRP Activities" (Task 5) to harmonize terms and definitions in Ramsar Guidance. An early completion dates on harmonization of terms is required to meet a need for Ongoing STRP activities. - Link with <i>Wetland Inventory, Assessment and Monitoring</i> thematic area.

Task No.13: MA Conceptual Framework, wise use responses, and Ramsar guidance	
Task description	Elaborate ways in which to utilize to best effect the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, especially those concerning response options, including in relation to the <i>Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character</i> . (STRP 12, Resolution IX.1 Annex A)
Task lead person:	Rebecca D'Cruz
Task force members	Chris Prietto, Maria Rivera, Randy Milton
Type of product/output(s):	Information document / Guidance / Resolution
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	Yes. 25 days for first phase of technical review, prior to mid-term workshops. See point (a) below. 10-20 days for CEPA work, depending on the nature of the CEPA products recommended. See point (c) below.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review response options to existing guidance and identify intervention opportunities in relation to conceptual framework.(e.g. between direct drivers of change and human well-being and poverty reduction) b) Report back to STRP at mid-term workshop to identify options to address c) CEPA group to lead (Chris Prietto) on identification and profiling of priority target audiences, development of recommendations for appropriately packaged materials to transfer the key messages of the MA. Design and develop CEPA product(s).
Additional comments/information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Links to Tasks 5, 16 and 19, and CEPA group - Priority elevated from Low to High at STRP13 because of the urgency to maintain focus on MA messages.

Working Group 2: Lower Priority tasks

Task No. 20: Cross-biome planning	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	20. Consider the relevance and applicability of the tools and approaches for cross-biome planning and management of wetlands within the context of ongoing work and priorities, namely the following priority tasks in Resolution IX.2 Annex 1: task 5 - review of existing Ramsar guidance; task 81 – further development of river basin and coastal zone management approach(es); and task 112 - review of Ramsar site Criteria and guidelines to reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities. (Resolution IX.20)
Task lead person:	Jamie Pittock (WWF)
Task force members	Thematic leads where required
Type of product/output(s):	No specific STRP product related to this task. Report back to STRP from WWF.
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	No
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	a) WWF Mountains to Sea draft guidelines received strong informal support at CBD COP8 in March 2006. Gov't of Palau has agreed to trial the methodology. WWF will report back to STRP on this work. <i>STRP14 (early 2008)</i> b) Maintain a watching brief of work undertaken for tasks 3, 5, 81 and 112 and report at midterm workshop (links to Res VIII.45) <i>early 2007</i>
Additional comments/information	i) Link with Ongoing STRP activities (Tasks 3, 5) and other Thematic groups.

Task No. 17 and 18: Wetlands, Ramsar sites and sustainable fisheries	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	17. Assess the contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries and recommend sustainable management practices which can contribute to the WSSD target of maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield. (Strategic Plan action 1.2.6) 18. Consider ways and means of elaborating the Annex to Resolution IX.4, taking into account the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (CA), and other relevant assessments, in order to provide further guidance for Contracting Parties on wetlands and their relation to sustainable fisheries. (Resolution IX.4)
Task lead person:	Maria Rivera

Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	David Molden IWMI; Sophie Nguyen-khoa (World Fish/IWMI); CA Fisheries Team – Patrick Dugan
Type of product/output(s):	Ramsar Technical Report / Guidance
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	TBD following scoping
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>a) Maintain a watching brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review progress on Technical Report “<i>A Review of Ramsar sites and Fisheries Maintenance</i>”. ii. Review results of <i>Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture</i> to be released in August 2006 iii. Review pro-forma document and objectives of <i>STRP Wetlands and Agriculture</i> Thematic Area <p>b) Review Resolution IX.4 in relation to i) above and identify gaps in guidance formulation</p> <p>c) Develop a workplan for addressing the gaps identified in (ii) above through the STRP forum and present to midterm workshops.</p>
Additional comments/information	Note WRI Report: Fishing for Answers (Kura, Revenga et al 2004)

Task No. 19: Wetlands and Poverty Reduction	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Develop guidelines for the implementation of Resolution IX.14 on “Wetlands and poverty reduction”. (Resolution IX.14)
Task lead persons	Randy Milton / Royal Gardner
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Wetlands International - Wetlands and Livelihood Working Group; IWMI
Type of product/output(s):	To be determined
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	To be determined following scoping and midterm workshop
Approach/steps (including timelines) for	<p>a) Maintain a watching brief:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review results of <i>Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture</i> to be released in August 2006

delivering the work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Wetlands International through the Wetlands and Livelihood Working Group are implementing activities in four areas: policy development, partnerships and demonstration projects, training and capacity building, and awareness and outreach. iii. Review other relevant organizations b) Review Resolution IX.14, with reference to outputs of CA and WI, and scope out a framework of sections for a guidance document formulation c) Report to midterm workshops d) Develop a workplan for addressing the gaps identified in (ii) above and midterm workshop e) Produce a consolidated guidance document, including consideration of its presentation style and intended readership.
Additional comments/information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Although not a priority for the STRP, this is a high priority for the Convention. - Need to link to joint activities with other conventions

Task No. 16: Guidance for the implementation of wise use concept	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	16. Having regard to such progress as may be achieved with the Convention's indicators of implementation effectiveness, to the review of gaps in guidance described in task 5 above, and to the implementation of Resolution VIII.45, develop such new tools as may be necessary to assist Parties with the implementation of the wise use concept. (Strategic Plan action 17.1.5; STRP 2002-2005 work plan)
Task lead person:	Rebecca D'Cruz
Task force members	STRP Panel members
Type of product/output(s):	No specific product related to this task. Integrated with guidance being prepared by other STRP working groups.
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	No
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review output of Task 5. b) Link with Thematic groups to incorporate ecological character and wise use in developing guidance for COP 10. c) Identify approach to develop guidance for gaps in the implementation of the wise use concept.

WORKING GROUP 3: RAMSAR SITE DESIGNATION AND MANAGEMENT

Thematic Work Area name:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Issues relating to the revised <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> – Issues relating to wetland management
Thematic lead STRP member:	David Stroud
Co-lead(s):	

Working Group 3. Immediate Priority tasks

Task No. 109: Making Criterion 9 operational	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Work with appropriate Specialist Groups of IUCN-the World Conservation Union to further elaborate and update the list of appropriate population estimates and 1% thresholds for the application of Criterion 9, for availability by COP10 and subsequent COPs. (STRP12; Resolution IX.1 Annex B)
Task lead person:	David Stroud
Task force members	IUCN (Specialist Groups ¹ & Will Darwell – SSC)
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	IUCN SG members
Type of product/output(s):	One (or two) Ramsar Technical Reports and awareness raising articles, possibly also eventually including item for web-site
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Approx 10 days, : to be determined following consultations with SSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Publication costs for layout and dissemination of 1% thresholds probably via <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> – Costs associated with collation of relevant data and information by a) SSC SGs & b)SSC HQ (extraction of relevant data from the Species Information Service).
Approach/steps	1. Awareness-raising article on Criteria 9 and the potential it gives to be drafted for IUCN-SSC's magazine <i>Species</i> . [Already

¹ Probably especially: Crocodile SG; Tortoise & Freshwater Turtle SG; Polar Bear SG; Cat SG; Small Carnivore SG; Otter SG; Pinniped SG; Cetacean SG; Sirenia SG; Primate SG; Tapir SG; Pig, Peccary & Hippo SG; Antelope SG; Deer SG; Afrotheria SG; Chiroptera SG; Australian & Melanesian Non-volant Mammal SG; and Amphibian SG;

(including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>submitted] <i>End June 2006</i></p> <p>2. Contact with chairs of the relevant IUCN-SSC Specialist Groups to establish: potential for SG to contribute to ongoing update process; and check and confirm 'best-estimates' and thresholds already compiled. <i>End June 2006</i></p> <p>3. Dialogue with SSC process and costs for establishment of rolling update process, including production of web-based summary document for CoP10, and including the role that the Species Information Service might play in this. <i>Commence at STRP 13 and through summer 2006.</i> <i>Aim to web-publish estimates for CoP10 by June 2008 at latest</i></p> <p>4. Complete, peer-review through STRP and web-publish Ramsar Technical Report on "<i>Selecting Ramsar sites: the development of criteria from 1971 to 2005</i>" which gives rationale for Criterion 9. (But see below re publication of first tranche of thresholds). <i>End August 2008</i></p>
Additional comments/information	<p>Need to consider whether the first tranche of 1% thresholds are included in proposed <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> on history of development of Ramsar's site selection criteria (as currently proposed) or as a separate, stand-alone <i>RTR</i> – essentially the first of a new series (non-avian analogue to <i>Waterbird Population Estimates</i>).</p> <p>(Note that first provisional selection of estimates has already been made available to support the post COP9 revised RIS).</p>

Working Group 3. High Priority tasks

Task No. 104: Interpretation of the term 'under-represented' wetland type	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	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, including in relation to relevant indicators of Convention effectiveness. (Resolution VIII.11, STRP 2003-2005 work plan, Resolution IX.1 Annex D)
Task lead person:	Max Finlayson (IWMI)
Task force members	
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	IWMI
Type of product/output(s):	<i>Ramsar Technical Report</i>
Funds needed for contracting an expert	Yes. 15 days (estimated).

consultant ?	
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Specific terms of reference for such a review were developed in 2004 although not then taken forward. These ToR now need to be recast in the light of most recent developments, especially the potential to analyse sites against different data layers. Work potentially amounts to 3-4 months.
Additional comments/information	Need to discuss interaction with MEOW coastal/shelf bio-regions analysis (see http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-08/information/cop-08-inf-34-en.pdf) and recast accordingly.] <i>Draft report by end of 2006</i>

Task No. 112: Ramsar site-selection criterion ongoing review	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	In addition to specific actions listed above concerning reviews of aspects of the Ramsar Criteria, keep the Criteria and guidelines as a whole under review to ensure that they reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities, including their relationship to other relevant schemes such as Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including for 2006-2008 paying particular attention to the development of further guidance on designation of human-made wetlands in relation to wetlands whose conversion has damaged their ecological character. (Strategic Plan 17.1.5, STRP 2003-2005 work plan; COP9 Report)
Task lead person:	David Stroud
Task force members	Part 2. Wetlands International Specialist Groups, Wetlands International HQ & AEWA Part 3. Possible IUCN inputs
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	National Focal Points and Administrative Authorities
Type of product/output(s):	Possible additional or revised guidance for COP 10
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	Yes. 9 days.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>a) Largely an ongoing task with respect to most criteria.</p> <p>b) Review 3/9 year cycle for revision of 1% thresholds established by Resolution VI.4 through international consultation. <i>Consultation drafted by end of 2006</i> <i>Review and analyze responses mid-2007</i></p> <p>c) Develop and consult on additional guidance related to man-made wetlands. May be need for short contract to categorize</p>

	<p>the range of existing man-made wetlands that have already been designated as Ramsar sites.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Draft ToR by end of 2006</i> <i>Consult on guidance through STRP and NFPs by May 2007</i> <i>Finalise draft guidance by July 2007</i></p>
Additional comments/information	<p>Note linkage to Task 110 related to understanding use of, and possibly further developing, fish criteria.</p> <p>Under this task, the working group may need also to begin consideration of some issues concerning the application of Criterion 1 emerging from work under tasks 104 and 105.</p>

Working Group 3: Lower priority tasks

Task No. 105: Determining an optimal biogeographic regionalisation scheme	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Conduct a study of different available biogeographical regionalization schemes in the context of the application of Criteria 1 and 3, and make recommendations on a small number of preferred options for use in the selection of Ramsar sites, for consideration and possible adoption by COP10. (Resolution VIII.7; STRP12)
Task lead person:	David Stroud
Task force members	Finlayson (IWMI), Spalding (TNC)
Type of product/output(s):	Possible guidance for COP10, to add to Ramsar sites <i>Strategic Framework</i>
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	No
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	As part of the MEOW outputs (see http://www.biodiv.org/doc/meetings/cop/cop-08/information/cop-08-inf-34-en.pdf) and to test it for Ramsar utility, Max Finlayson and IWMI colleagues are developing an analysis to overlay existing coastal/marine Ramsar sites on the coastal/shelf MEOW regionalisation scheme, to see how it works in relation to gap analysis and under-representation etc. Potential implications are that possibly without much extra effort, for at least coastal/marine we should be able to do something on Task 105 for COP10. IWMI are also looking at comparable analyses for terrestrial/inland water biogeographic regionalization.

Task No. 106: Revised RIS	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Prepare a revised RIS and additional guidance as appropriate from the actions in paragraph 52 above for inclusion in the accompanying RIS Explanatory Notes and Guidelines. (Resolutions VIII.7, VIII.13, and VIII.21, STRP 2003-2005 work plan)
Additional comments/information	Now incorporated into 52ii as part of that task.

Task No. 108: Review the ecological roles played by reservoirs and other human-made wetlands	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Review the ecological roles played by reservoirs and other human-made wetlands, including their use by aquatic and other water-dependent biota, and prepare guidance for Contracting Parties concerning the identification and designation of such wetlands for the Ramsar List, taking into account the experience gained by Parties that have already done so. (Resolution VIII.2; STRP 2003-2005 work plan).
Task lead person:	Not designated.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Probably amounts to several months to undertake this task adequately. Might be progressed through collaboration with an academic institution.
Additional comments/information	Possibly relevant information available in background reports prepared for the World Commission on Dams.

Task No. 110: Review effectiveness of Ramsar fish criteria	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Review the application and utility of the Ramsar site Criteria relating to fish and their associated guidance, and make any revisions needed. (STRP12)
Task lead person:	David Stroud
Task force members	CEPA group – to incorporate specific questions into their interview design in Task 3.
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	WWF?
Type of product/output(s):	Recommendations for additional work to revise/enhance fish criteria.

Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	No, if the collation of answers to questions related to fish criteria can be undertaken as part of the CEPA group's wider review (Task 3)
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Initial step for Secretariat to summarize existing use (and lack of use) of fish criteria as general information gathering. 2. Approach task through structured questions aimed at those responsible for the designation and management of a representative sample of Ramsar sites of importance for fish and fisheries (both recognised in the application of existing fish criteria, and other sites important for fish but where fish criteria have not been applied). The aim being to gain a better understanding of the usefulness of the existing criteria constraints on their current application, and possible enhancements (notably additional guidance) that might be undertaken. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Could possibly be undertaken within the context of the wider review indicated in Task 107. Through 2007?</i></p>
Additional comments/information	Note link to Task 112 – rolling review of site selection criteria

Task No. 126: Development of post-disaster wetland restoration guidelines	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Develop for Contracting Parties a set of restoration guidelines that may be implemented following natural disasters in general, including drawing on existing and new guidance relating to the role of wetlands in ICZM in implementing responses to ecosystem rehabilitation and vulnerability, and updating existing guidelines which emphasize the role of wetland ecosystems in mitigating the effects of natural disasters, as appropriate. [STRP, with IOPs and other relevant agencies] (Resolution IX.9)
Task lead person:	David Stroud (pending voluntary alternative lead person)
Type of product/output(s):	FAO Regional Office for Asia and Pacific and forestry programme are holding a regional technical workshop in Thailand (28-31 August). Explore possibilities of using outputs from that meeting, and also work from FAO's Global Terrestrial Observing System's coastal panel.
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	Not at this point.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>Anticipated outputs from the FAO workshop include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scientific papers on the protective roles of coastal forests and trees in Asia; • assessment of the status of scientific knowledge on the protective functions of coastal forests and trees;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an annotated bibliography on the role of forests and trees in coastal protection; • a set of recommendations of actions that could be taken at national and international level to improve knowledge and access to information on means to improve coastal protection through forest conservation, rehabilitation and management; and • a diagnostic tool that identifies the variables needed to assess the protective function of forests/trees (including variables related to the type and nature of the hazard, features of the site, and characteristics of the forest/trees). <p>Other possible inputs include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body of relevant guidance developed by IUCN's Sri Lanka office • Green Coast resources already gathered on Wetlands International's web-site <p><i>Review and consider the wider applicability of some or all of these outputs to contribute to task by end of 2006.</i></p>
Additional comments/information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note relationship with STRP tasks concerning human health and well-being (Task 163), and Task 85: integration of wetlands into ICZM & lessons learnt from the Indian Ocean tsunami - Note also that the approach above only relates to part of the proposed guidance.

Task No. 127: Dissemination information on new research and methods of wetland restoration	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Compile and disseminate information on new research and methodologies for the restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands, and further develop tools and guidance on wetland restoration. (Strategic Plan action 4.1.3; Resolution VIII.16)
Task lead person:	David Stroud
Task force members	<p>Possible inputs to this task might be made by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wetlands International Wetland Restoration Specialist Group - IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management - The Nature Conservancy (guidelines exist)
Type of product/output(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possibly a compilation of available information sources, including the Convention's own mini-web site on wetland restoration compiled by Bill Streever. Seek to identify further contributions to that web-site. - Raise profile of Convention's own mini-web site on wetland restoration as a one-stop shop for information.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Explore with Wetlands International's Wetland Restoration Specialist Group opportunities to take this task forward.

Task No. 128: Guidance on compensation for wetland losses	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Prepare guidance on compensation for wetland losses, in response to Resolution VII.24. (Resolution VIII.16)
Task lead person:	Royal Gardner (USA)
Task force members	Randy Milton (Canada)
Type of product/output(s):	Initial brief review of US & Canadian 'no net loss' policies bringing together existing evaluations and assessments as a basis for scoping what may be additionally possible/desirable.
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	No.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Initial review of previous assessments of the efficacy of US and Canadian No Net Loss policies by end of 2006.
Additional comments/information	Note linkage with Task 166: further possible guidance on wetland mitigation issues. Aim to join these two tasks together if possible.

Working Group 3: Tasks carried over from 2003-2005 triennium

(a) Completion of Ramsar field guide for wetland management planning	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Completion of Ramsar field guide for wetland management planning carried forward from previous triennium.
Task lead person:	Archana Chatterjee (WWF)
Task force members	IUCN, Roy Gardner, Wetlands International, Archana Chatterjee (WWF), TNC?, CEPA group
Type of product/output(s):	Guide already drafted, but needs review and CEPA input especially in relation to better relating material to target audiences.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Progress task through 2006.

WORKING GROUP 4: WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Thematic Work Area name:	Integrated framework for Ramsar's water-related guidance
Thematic lead STRP member:	Mike Acreman
Co-lead(s):	Rebecca Tharme, Heather MacKay

Working Group 4: Immediate Priority tasks

Tasks No. 81, 82 and 83: RBM/critical path guidance	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	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 and prepare operational guidance, including for the application of CEPA techniques, skills and objectives that support Critical Path planning and implementation. Prepare revised Handbook and updated revised guidance on wetlands and RBM.
Task lead person:	H MacKay
Task force members	Mike Acreman, Rebecca Tharme, Chris Prietto, Bruce Gray, Lucia Scodanibbio, regional STRP NFPs
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Possible peer-review group: Rafik Hirji (WB), Brian Richter (TNC), Don Blackmore?, Niel van Wyk (SA-DWAF), Paul Kirshen (US), GWP, selected regional STRP NFPs, Ramsar regional advisers, Bill Young (Australia); Maria Saleth (institutions, IWMI); Mark Giordano (tranboundary basins, reviewer, IWMI)
Type of product/output(s) and target audience:	Revised and updated guidance for Contracting Parties on wetlands and river basin management, integrating additional new guidance into existing guidance from COP7 and COP8.
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	Yes, 30 days plus travel and running costs. 10 days for CEPA specialist input if considered necessary as work proceeds.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Target audience: wetland managers. 1. Identify areas/aspects of critical path for more detailed work. <i>Aug 2006</i> 2. Assess feasibility and appropriateness of applying critical path approach to coastal zone management <i>Aug 2006</i>

	<p>3. Collation and analysis of case studies relevant to RBM/critical path approach</p> <p>3a. Draw up criteria for identifying relevant case studies <i>Nov 2006</i></p> <p>3b. Search for, identify and document relevant case studies, utilizing regional NFPs, regional administrative authorities, RBI, GWP and other organizations that can assist. Use STRP mid-term workshop as additional means to identify potential case studies & contributors, and to review & analyse case studies. documented up to this point <i>July 2007</i></p> <p>3c. Currently available case studies documented and reviewed for (a) lessons learned; (b) inclusion in the guidance. <i>July 2007</i></p> <p>4. In parallel with sub-tasks 1, 2 and 3, work with the CEPA group on their STRP task 153 and task 80.</p> <p>5. Prepare expanded RBM/critical path guidance, including operational guidance based on case studies, and CEPA guidance based on work with CEPA thematic group. Integrate new material with existing RBM guidance into a new set of guidance for CPs on wetlands and RBM (task 83). The ICZM material could be re-integrated with RBM material, depending on outcomes of STRP task 85. <i>Sep 2007</i></p> <p>6. Prepare i) a consolidation of Ramsar guidance on river basin management, to bring together Wise Use Handbook 4 and the COP9 guidance in Resolution IX1 Annex Ci, and ii) additional guidance on those aspects of river basin management identified in Resolution IX.1 Annex Ci as gaps and priorities. <i>Sep 2007</i></p>
<p>Additional comments/information (include: scope and outline contents of any products/outputs; relevance/links with other STRP tasks etc.)</p>	<p>The target audience is wetland managers. This guidance should enable them to produce a critical path map for their own country/river basin and thus be equipped to engage in the water sector and ensure that wetlands are considered in the RBM process. (Separate guidance may be developed in collaboration with GWP aimed at water/basin managers to encourage them to incorporate wetlands with the WRM/RBM process).</p> <p>In addition, provide guidance on specialised CEPA activities that will bridge wetlands and water sector, to ensure that wetlands issues are adequately addressed in water resources planning & management.</p> <p>Links to other tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wise use case studies (acting a clearing house for case study material) - will incorporate guidance from task 82 (case studies of RBM) and task 85 (ICZM). - Work jointly with task 80 & 152 (CEPA team). Key CEPA role in bridging wetlands and water sectors - Work jointly with task 89 (EF implementation) and task 88 (good practice in EF allocation & management). . Case studies likely to be useful for environmental water requirements, ICZM and inventory work

Task No. 91: Wetlands and water quality

<p>Task description (from</p>	<p>Undertake a strategic review of water quality and wetland issues; develop a medium-term plan and terms of reference for</p>
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Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	addressing water quality issues in Ramsar guidance; <i>[and subsequently prepare guidance for Parties on including water quality in environmental water requirement determination and implementation. – See additional comments]</i>
Task lead person:	Mike Acreman
Task force members (not all are confirmed yet)	H MacKay, H Malan (UCT), Tally Palmer (Aus), Barry Hart (Australia), Dirk Roux (river health monitoring), R. Robarts (UENP-GEMS), P. Ashton (SA Phillippe Gerbeaux? Richard Norris (biomonitoring and general water quality; WQ CRC, Australia); Helen Dallas (FRU, UCT, South Africa)
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Possible members of Peer-review group: J. Seager (EA), B. Hart (Aus), P Ashton, Joost Backx (RIZA), George Lukacs (JCU), Karen Jenderedjian, UNEP-GEMSWater
Type of product/output(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Report to STRP – Recommendations to COP10 for future work
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	Yes, 25 days plus travel and running costs.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarify and settle on priorities and scope of work. 2. Establish the target audience(s) for future guidance with CEPA. 3. Review Ramsar’s existing water quality-related guidance and documents from other organizations, such as CBD report on rapid assessment.. 4. Prepare a strategic review paper (probably 30-40 pages max) that can serve as a reference document for future STRP work related to wetlands and water quality, including terms of reference and scope of work for preparation of a range of relevant water quality-related guidance in the 2008-2010 triennium and beyond.
Additional comments/information	<p>Target audience: STRP for first review.</p> <p>Document to address strategic new directions in terms of Ramsar guidance</p> <p>Link to wetlands and health work.</p> <p>Increase document scope to cover: role of artificial/manmade wetlands in maintaining water quality; increase focus on diffuse pollution; GW-SW interactions in terms of water chemistry.</p> <p>Link to water quality indicators of effectiveness.</p> <p>Link to wetlands-agriculture group.</p> <p>Link to community awareness and WQ kits, bioindicators.</p> <p>Use rapid assessment Ramsar/CBD report.</p> <p>Guidelines for WRM with CCD input.</p> <p>Links to STRP tasks on health, indicators and agriculture</p>

Task No. 89: Implementation of environmental water requirements	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Prepare guidelines for Parties on the implementation of environmental water requirements for wetlands, drawing upon the material and case studies contained in the <i>Ramsar Technical Reports</i> on this topic prepared by the STRP for the 2003-2005 triennium
Task lead person:	R Tharme
Task force members	Brian Richter, Mike Acreman, Bruce Gray, Jay O'Keefe, Mark Smith (IUCN); Bruce Gray (Dept. of the Environment and Heritage, Australian Government, GWP)
Additional experts to be invited to contribute (not all confirmed yet):	Brian Richter (TNC); Angela Arthington (Griffith University); Janine Adams (UPE); Hugh Turrall (basin water management; IWMI); Jackie King/Cate Brown (Southern Waters); Jay O'Keefe (UNESCO-IHE); Nick Schofield (Australia); John Scanlon (external legal advisor MDBC); International Water Law Centre (Scotland); WWF. Possible reviewer(s): Rafik Hirji (World Bank); Steve Mitchell (WRC, SA); Vladimir Smakhtin (IWMI); David Molden (CA, IWMI).
Type of product/output(s):	Guidelines. Possible supporting technical report as second step. Target audience: primarily wetland managers, but including guidance in terms relevant to and understandable by water resource managers.
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	Yes, 45 days plus travel and running costs.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	1. Finalise Thematic Work Area task membership, review and finalise TOR, and appoint lead consultant. <i>Jun 2006</i> 2. Develop framework for guidelines. <i>Oct-Dec 2006. (submit to STRP Oct, incorporate STRP comments by Dec)</i> 3 (a) Collate and analyse environmental flow assessment & other appropriate case studies, to (i) extract lessons learned; and (ii) include the knowledge in the draft guidelines, and report back to STRP mid-term workshop on status of guidelines. 3 (b) Conduct a parallel literature search to identify any new literature/approaches pertinent to implementation. 3 (c) Incorporate Item D. Lower priority task 87: Action 1: Review of water and environmental law (<i>in parallel with subtasks (a) and (b)</i>) and inclusion of additional key issues & contexts in framework for guidelines. <i>Mar 2007</i> 4. Prepare guidance document for submission at COP10 <i>Jun-Dec 2007</i>
Additional	Links: CEPA, water quality, RBM critical path and Wise Use case studies; see Annex 4: Environmental flows for links to other

comments/information	STRP tasks. Scope: focus on practical context- and issues-specific guidance. Incorporates Item D. Lower priority task 87: Action 1: Review of water and environmental law.
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Working Group 4: High Priority tasks

Task No. 85: Integrated Coastal Zone Management	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	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, including in relation to coastal/upstream interactions, and lessons learned in responding to disasters, such as the impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami, and other natural hazards.
Task lead person:	M Acreman
Task force members	To be confirmed.
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Green Coast Project (WI et al.) - peer review function and gap filling of guidance.
Type of product/output(s):	Start with TOR, then review of existing information for mid-term workshop March 2007. Then if needed and of value to Ramsar, guidance can be developed.
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	Yes, required resources not yet quantified, pending outcome of initial literature review and discussion. Roy Gardner's post-graduate student can undertake the initial literature review without additional funding.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	The Group considers that there is already a lot of material available in this sector, should first review this material and draw on it or utilise it as far as possible. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define terms of reference for literature review via STRP forum 2. Review existing Ramsar guidance, and other guidance available from other institutions/processes, in context of current issues to see how far it can be used as basis for this task (including recent guidance such as RBM/Critical path guidance, estuaries & nearshore EF guidance, post-tsunami guidance) <i>Ready for STRP mid-term workshops (March 2007)</i> 3. Develop detailed approach & terms of reference for the task, decide at the mid-term meetings whether to advance the task further, if funds are available.
Additional	Might be rolled into RBM task. Combine analysis with RBM case studies

comments/information	Links to other tasks: will provide input to RBM/Critical Path approach in task 81 Link to environmental water requirements of estuaries, coastal and near-shore wetlands.
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Task No. 90 Groundwater management	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	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 at minimizing or mitigating the impacts of groundwater abstraction, and make other updating amendments as necessary.
Task lead person:	M Acreman
Task force members	Africa de la Hera, Brian Adams, H MacKay, Mark Smith (IUCN)
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	David Molden (IWMI) Comprehensive Assessment team on groundwater and agriculture
Type of product/output(s):	Review report to midterm workshop – Technical Report. Possible guidance document for COP10.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review reports on groundwater wetland interactions and the use and management of groundwater to maintain ecosystem functions. Recommend detail of further work (steps 2 and 3) and resources required to complete the work <i>- for mid-term STRP workshop (March 2007)</i> 2. Develop further guidance on strategies for groundwater management. Initial guidance was developed under the STRP Work Plan 2003-2005. <i>- for COP 10</i> 3. Review and update framework for the development of groundwater management strategies to maintain wetlands that was developed under the initial guidance as a task of the STRP Work Plan 2003-2005. <i>revised guidance to COP10?</i>
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	Yes, 30 days plus travel & running costs.
Additional comments/information	Information sources: USGS Britain; Spanish experts; GWP centre for groundwater studies; groundwater and environmental flows chapter (Rebecca Tharme); CA groundwater book chapter. Links: Technical report on methods for determining environmental water requirements of groundwater-dependent wetlands. Environmental water requirements for wetlands, especially palustrine wetlands

Working Group 4: Lower Priority tasks

Task No. 87: Review of water & environmental law with respect to environmental flows	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Conduct an international review of water and environmental law to identify practical approaches for policy, law and regulation to support determination and implementation of environmental flows and other water-related aspects of wetland management; [review Ramsar guidance related to law and policy and identify scope for strengthening in relation to these water-related issues, based on the international review.] (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)
Task lead person:	H MacKay
Task force members	R Tharme, R Gardner, M Acreman
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	IUCN Environmental Law Centre, TNC
Type of product/output(s):	
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>Divide the task into 2 parts:</p> <p>(1) review of water & environmental law with respect to EF implementation to be undertaken under task 89. <i>Note: Elevated in priority during STRP13 and fully incorporated and budgeted for in Task 89 on environmental flows implementation.</i></p> <p>(2) initial international review of water and environmental law and of Ramsar guidance should be undertaken. Mike Acreman to approach International Water Law Centre at University of Dundee to see if this could be undertaken by a graduate student for a small fee (CHF 5,000). This review would make proposal for a more substantial work task in the next triennium. <i>Note: Roy Gardner and Heather MacKay to take forward - review of guidance on water law and policy and identify any possible supplementary guidance needed.</i></p>
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	Yes. See budget allocation for task 89.

Task No. 80: CEPA-related guidance for water issues (refer to CEPA working group task 152)	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Prepare guidance on issues of a largely CEPA nature concerning mainstreaming Ramsar issues within the water sector. (STRP12).
Task lead person:	Chris Prietto

Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Now addressed in the CEPA group's workplan under Task 152. CEPA group will address CEPA issues pertaining to immediate priority Water tasks first, then address any extra CEPA tasks that could be undertaken at the mid-term workshop, after immediate priorities for the Water TWA have been completed.
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?	No. See CEPA task budget.

Task No. 84: Impacts of dams on wetland and river systems	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Prepare an annotated bibliography identifying <i>inter alia</i> available guidance for considering impacts of dams on wetland and river systems. (STRP12; relates also to Strategic Plan action 3.4.4).
Task lead person:	M Acreman
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Mike Acreman to discuss with Matthew McCartney (IWMI) to see if work undertaken for the World Commission on Dams can cover this task. Link to task 108. Assessment of benefits (positive impacts) of small to large reservoirs. Mike A. to liaise with IWMI, and to report back to STRP.

Task No. 86: Water resources management in dry and sub-humid lands	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Develop guidelines on water resources management in dry and sub-humid lands, including in relation to climate change and desertification. (STRP 2003-2005 work plan; 3 rd CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan).
Task lead person:	M Acreman
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Suggested approach: joint work with Convention on Combating Desertification (Ndegwa Ndiang'ui). Link to CCD, in line with outcomes of CCD Nairobi meeting. Mike Acreman to liaise with CCD and CBD, and to report back to STRP. CBD contact is Jaime Webbe: jaime.webbe@biodiv.org , with cc to jo.mulongoy@biodiv.org

Task No. 88: Good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands.	
Task description (from	Prepare a report for COP10 on successes achieved and lessons learnt from demonstrating good practice in water allocation and

Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	management for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.1, STRP 2003-2005 work plan)
Task lead person:	R Tharme
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>This task will be covered as far as possible through integration of lessons learnt into the guidelines on environmental flows implementation.</p> <p>Suggested approach: May be able to use some of the case studies from RBM task (81/82) to provide information for this task. Include EF questions in the criteria for identification of case studies and in recording of case studies.</p> <p>This task links directly to Task No. 89 on environmental flows implementation. It is likely that this task will be fully covered by the guidance provided for Tasks No. 81, 82, 85, 89 (in particular) and 90.</p>

Working Group 4: Tasks carried over from 2003-2005 triennium

(a). Supplementary guidance for the determination of environmental water requirements for wetlands

Task description:	Updated guidance on environmental water requirements for wetlands. It will draw upon outputs from the three technical reports on environmental water requirements of: rivers; estuaries, coasts and near-shore; and palustrine wetlands.
Task lead person:	R Tharme
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>Current status: Second Draft with WG leads at present. Available for STRP review Sep 2006. To be published as Ramsar Technical Report in 2007.</p> <p>Cost estimate: None. Funded in 2003-2005</p> <p>Links to other tasks: 81, 82, 89, 90, 91.</p>

(b). Determination of environmental water requirements for estuaries, coastal and near-shore wetlands

Task description:	Ramsar Technical Report: Review on environmental water requirements for estuaries, coastal and near-shore wetlands.
Task lead person:	R Tharme
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>Current status: In draft</p> <p>Actions: Add input from Australian cases & experience. Draft available July 2006 for circulation to WG for comment</p> <p>Abstract submitted to "Catchment to coasts" conference, Cairns July 2006</p> <p>Journal paper to be written.</p>

	Cost estimate: none for 2006-2008, funded by WRC in 2003-2005. Links to other tasks: 85, 89
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(c). Determination of environmental water requirements for palustrine wetlands	
Task description:	Ramsar Technical Report: Review of environmental flow requirements for palustrine wetlands, with emphasis on groundwater dependent wetlands.
Task lead person:	R Tharme
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Current status: First outline for draft report Mar 2006. Final draft for STRP review Dec 2006. To be published 2007. Actions: STRP lead to provide guidance to lead authors to refine outline of content and identify and fill any major information gaps. Cost estimate: None. Funded by WRC in 2003-2005 Links to other tasks: Info from Australia on mound springs and Great Artesian Basin. Could also incorporate information from task 90 on groundwater-dependent wetlands.

(d). Determination of environmental water requirements for rivers	
Task description:	Ramsar Technical Report: Review of methods for setting environmental water requirements for wetlands focusing on rivers.
Task lead person:	R Tharme
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Current status: Second draft for STRP review Dec 2006. To be published 2007. Cost estimate: Funded in 2003-2005 Links to other tasks: Task 89

WORKING GROUP 5: WETLANDS AND AGRICULTURE

Thematic Work Area name:	Wetlands and Agriculture
Thematic lead STRP member:	Max Finlayson
Working Group members:	George Lukacs, Lucilla Spini, Mark Smith, Rebecca Tharme, Doug Taylor, Archana Chatterjee
Additional experts to be invited to contribute (with name of organization and email if possible):	Douglas Baird

Working Group 5: Immediate Priority tasks

Task No. 150: Guidelines on agriculture and wetlands	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	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.
Task lead person:	Max Finlayson
Type of product/output(s):	Ramsar Technical Report: an assessment of wetlands and agriculture interactions; plus review and guidance on agriculture and wetlands management
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	Yes. 60 days plus running & travel expenses
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The STRP, at its 13th meeting in May 2006, discussed and developed a provisional plan for developing such guidelines. In doing so, it was also noted that there was insufficient capacity within the STRP to prepare a report on wetland-agriculture/fisheries interactions as part of the Comprehensive Assessment (CA) as had been agreed at STRP12. 2. In parallel to the STRP discussion, a consortium has been developed to undertake a project entitled Guidelines on Agriculture, Wetlands and Water Resources Interactions Project (GAWI). The consortium comprises the UN Food &

	<p>agriculture Organisation (FAO), Wageningen University and Research (Netherlands), Wetlands International, International Water Management Institute and MedWet Initiative. This aims to respond to aspects of Ramsar Resolution VIII.34, through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Developing a supporting framework and associated guidelines for the sustainable management of different types of wetland-agriculture systems impacted by the full range of water resources, agricultural and wetland policies, systems, and practices; ii. Building capacity to implement the guidelines; and iii. Promoting the use of the guidelines. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. At STRP13, it was also agreed that, building on the provisional work plan responding to the issues relating to wetlands and agriculture, the Lead Member and Invited Expert would continue discussions with the STRP Chair and Deputy Secretary General especially in relation to the separate work being developed by the non-STRP (GAWI) consortium that could provide significant synergies, and also how to better incorporate the STRP12 questions on fisheries/agriculture and wetlands into the workplan. 4. As the GAWI project now covers a large part of the task originally requested in Resolution VIII.34 which then led to the COP9 request made to the STRP, the GAWI consortium has been approached and has agreed to provide its output materials to the STRP to review and incorporate (through the formal Ramsar procedures) into the material to be provided to the Standing Committee for presentation at COP10, with the consortium retaining propriety rights over copyright to its materials. As the GAWI partners have a wider agricultural/fisheries network than the STRP working group this will enable a wider constituency to contribute to the guidelines. The consortium also intends to test the guidelines after COP10 through practical case studies and to undertake extensive outreach and dissemination and capacity building. The GAWI work is funded from non-Ramsar resources. 5. The GAWI partners have agreed to work closely with the STRP to develop the guidelines and ensure they meet Ramsar's requirements. This was confirmed with GAWI partners at a meeting in Wageningen, on 8 Nov 2006. It was further proposed that GAWI may wish to publish its review reports through the Ramsar Technical Report Series. 6. A further advantage from this arrangement is that it enables the STRP to turn its attention to and complete the "CA report" mentioned above – namely - an assessment of wetland-agriculture/fisheries interactions based on a set of questions provided by STRP12, as a component of the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture which is sponsored by the CGIAR, FAO, Ramsar and CBD. The "CA report" will complement the knowledge consolidation component of the GAWI proposal. It would also build on the Wetland Synthesis report undertaken as part of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in which agriculture and water management were identified as the main drivers of adverse change in many wetlands.
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	7. Key members of the GAWI partnership have also been invited to participate in the STRP Working Group 5 on wetlands and agriculture, so as to contribute their expertise to this work.
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WORKING GROUP 6: WETLANDS AND HUMAN HEALTH

Thematic Work Area name:	Wetlands and Human Health
Thematic lead STRP member:	Secretariat (DSG) & STRP Chair
Working Group members:	(as currently signed-up to Support Service Forum) Nick Davidson, Heather MacKay, Peter Bridgewater, Teresita Borges, Rebecca D’Cruz, Sergey Dereliev, Bruce Gray, Tunde Ojie, Lucilla Spini, Sophadze

Working Group 6. Immediate Priority tasks

Task No. 163: Wetlands and Human Health	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Review and map out the relationships and issues concerning the wise use of wetland ecosystems and human health, including from information in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its synthesis reports, and explore possible links between the Ramsar Convention and the World Health Organization
Task lead person:	Nick Davidson
“Task force members” (if different from overall Working Group membership):	To be confirmed
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Input from the World Health Organisation (including their panel on environmental management for health control (PEEM)) will be sought; and from International Food Policy Research Institute (CGIAR) and CBD’s COHAB initiative; other wetlands and human health experts are being identified and contacted.
Type of product/output(s):	<i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> , and potentially other general information products derived from it.
Main target audience(s)	

Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	Yes. 20 days
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>1. With advice from WHO and others, develop scope and ToR for review work and identify consultant to lead work;</p> <p>2. Report on progress and initial review stages at mid-term workshops;</p> <p>3. Finalise review report for Ramsar Technical Report publication, late 2007.</p> <p>4. STRP14 to review and make recommendations on any follow-up, including the potential for, and scope of, any further guidance for Parties.</p> <p>The scope of the review needs to address several aspects of the interaction between wetlands and human health, including issues on livelihoods. The overall frame for the work should be ‘illness and wellness’. So the review will need to cover: how and which types wetlands negatively affect human health and well-being, and how these can be ameliorated with minimized damage to wetland ecological character (but also including trade-offs between ecosystem maintenance and human disease risks); and the ways in which wetlands can and do maintain or enhance human health and well-being through livelihood provision. Amongst aspects of the issues affecting human health which should be covered, identified by STRP13, are <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - declines in water quantity and quality; - water-related diseases; - waterborne pollutants (chemical and microbiological); - disease emergence related to small and large dams; - increased land-use in marginal landscapes leading to closer disease contacts; - human nutrition and wetlands; - wetlands as sources of beneficial drugs (including for local communities). <p>The implications of the Millennium Development Goals, especially the MDG on water and sanitation, should also be covered, in the light of the MA’s view that MDG delivery can run counter to maintaining ecosystem services.</p>
Additional comments/information	<p>This work has potential links also to STRP’s task 19 on wetlands and poverty reduction, and conversely this and WI’s work of its “Wetlands and Livelihoods Working Group” on this topic could provide valuable inputs. The review may also have important relevance to broader COP10, if Wetlands and Human Health is selected as the COP10 theme and/or a World Wetlands Day theme (to be decided at SC35, February 2007).</p> <p>Information on wetlands, waterbirds and HPAI (see task 62) will also provide an input to this task.</p>

WORKING GROUP 7: RESOLUTION VIII.45 AND ONGOING ISSUES

Thematic Work Area name:	Resolution VIII.45 and the “ongoing” functions of the STRP
Thematic lead STRP member:	Heather MacKay
Working Group members:	Rebecca D’Cruz, Dave Pritchard, Chris Prietto, Deputy Secretary General

Working Group 7: Immediate Priority tasks

Task No. 2: STRP review and advice functions (ongoing)	
Task description	Give increased emphasis, alongside specific mandated guidance drafting tasks, to performing 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.
Task lead person:	Chair, Vice-chair
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	To be identified as needed, on a case-by-case basis.
Type of product/output(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Advice & recommendations on reactive basis; – Execution of STRP work programme as approved at COP; – Proactive advice & recommendations on emerging issues and scientific issues of strategic importance to Convention implementation.
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	No
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – New <i>modus operandi</i> already provides good structure for proactive preparation of guidance; – Strengthen regional STRP networks to ensure good communication with implementation level (see Task 169 in working group 9);

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Encourage “blue sky” thinking on emerging issues (with respect to the proactive role of STRP in longer term strategic scientific guidance for the Convention); – Track and maintain the list of emerging issues, by keeping it as a regular agenda item for all STRP meetings, arranging for provision of updates, discussions and actions as needed in the intersessional periods.
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Task No. 3: Scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP resolutions (ongoing)	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Maintain an overview of progress with scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of COP Resolutions, both in relation to indicators of effectiveness and more widely, through structured review and assessment.
Task lead person:	Chris Prietto
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Now addressed in Working Group 8 (CEPA) workplan as Task 3.
Additional comments/information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This should be an ongoing aspect of STRP work, that continues beyond just a single triennium. However, a substantial amount of work in the 2006-2008 triennium will be aimed at an initial structured review and assessment, that can serve as a baseline and framework for maintaining an overview of progress in the future. – Indicators of effectiveness is a separate aspect, and is addressed under the inventory and assessment thematic area (Tasks 59 and 60 – lead: Dave Pritchard).

Working Group 7. High Priority tasks

Task No. 5: Review and repackaging Ramsar technical guidance where appropriate	
Task description	Review the range of existing Ramsar guidance (in conjunction with actions requested in Resolution IX.17), with a view <i>inter alia</i> to identifying gaps (including by reference to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment <i>Conceptual Framework</i>), repackaging older guidance into updated documents, retiring or withdrawing outdated documents (including Recommendation 4.10 and Resolution 5.6), and make recommendations in this regard to COP10.
Task lead person:	D Pritchard for Step 1 below. S Hails for Steps 2,3,4 below.
Task force members	Chris Prietto, Heather MacKay, Dave Pritchard, Sandra Hails.

Type of product/output(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Frameworks for each thematic area – Recommendation to COP10
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	<p>Yes, 10 days.</p> <p>Parts of the task can and will be undertaken without external resources (see notes below).</p>
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review existing resolutions & guidance to check for redundancies, inconsistencies, out of date materials. Identify guidance documents and/or resolutions to be retired or withdrawn. Cross-ref Res IX.17. [Dave Pritchard]. <i>Notes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>This step will be done by Dave Pritchard even if Task 5 is not undertaken in its entirety. Thematic leads and task leads to provide input to Dave Pby end of July 2006 to identify linkages between his review task and the several thematic tasks that require review of existing guidance and resolutions.</i> – <i>Thematic & task leads to check for references to ecological character and wise use that may need to be updated – thematic leads to co-ordinate with Randy Milton.</i> 2. Propose ideal design for structure of guidance, including individual guidance documents as well as packages/sets of guidance within a thematic area. Use current frameworks (as per Res IX.2) as starting points for this exercise, incorporate recommendations arising from Task 3 review. <i>Notes: Some work has already been done by the Secretariat on this step (Sandra Hails leading), as indicated in the proposed structure for re-organisation of the Ramsar handbooks.</i> 3. Evaluate existing guidance against proposed ideal design structure, with a view to (a) identifying gaps in current guidance, (b) repackaging older guidance into updated redesigned documents, and (c) assessing need for new guidance on either current or new topic areas. 4. Possible recommendation to COP10 – annotated outline for comprehensive package of Ramsar guidance, updated and laid out into groups of topics as per “ideal design” (late 2007)
Additional comments/information:	<p>Following discussion at STRP13 and subsequently, it has become clear that overall this task is strongly dependent on the outcomes of task 3, and so should follow-on from that assessment, as necessary.</p>

Working Group 7. Lower Priority tasks

Task No. 161: Strategy for sector-based guidance and emerging issues (ongoing)	
Task description	Review and as necessary develop an overall strategy for (a) identifying, prioritizing and developing sector-based guidance under the Convention and (b) identifying and addressing emerging issues of relevance to the Convention.
Task lead person:	Heather MacKay, Deputy Secretary General
Type of product/output(s):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Emerging issues and recommendations for sector-based guidance should be covered in STRP Chair's report(s) to Standing Committee and in recommendations to COP10 if any emerging/sectoral issues lead to proposed tasks for future STRP work programme – For 2006-2008, may also include an internal STRP document, possibly in the form of an annex to the current <i>modus operandi</i>, providing details on the recommended process.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agree on process for identifying, validating and prioritising needs for sector-based guidance and guidance on new & emerging issues. (The approaches so far utilized for dealing with avian influenza and the health theme can serve as models for ways of tracking and dealing with emerging issues.) Write up an outline of the process as a possible annex to the STRP <i>modus operandi</i> (HM, DSG) 2. Maintain master list and standing agenda item(s) for STRP meetings. 3. Record STRP decisions & recommendations and initiate actions as necessary.

WORKING GROUP 8: COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)

Thematic Work Area name:	Technical Aspects of Communication, Education and Public Awareness: applications for VIII.45/STRP Functions, Wise Use and Ecological Character, Water-related Guidance with contributions towards other Thematic areas.
Thematic lead STRP member:	Christine Prietto
Co-lead(s):	Heather Mackay, Randy Milton, Teresita Borges, Mike Acreman, David Stroud, Max Finlayson, Rebecca D’Cruz (Once CEPA applications have been confirmed, leads will identify one or more members who can be contacts within the working group for the CEPA work. They can also assist the WI Specialist Group member in their role as specialist advisor.)

Working Group 8: Immediate Priority tasks

Task No 3: Review and assessment of scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP resolutions	
Task description	Conduct an overview of progress with scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of COP Resolutions, focusing on the suite of substantive guidance materials prepared by the STRP for Parties (as compiled in Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks), through structured review and assessment of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – uptake of STRP guidance by Contracting Parties; – experiences in using and implementing STRP guidance; – perceptions of the usefulness to CPs of selected STRP guidance documents; – contribution of the STRP guidance to achievement of outcomes which are the subject of the Convention’s indicators of effectiveness (see also task 59).
Task lead person:	Chris Prietto
Task force members	Dave Pritchard, Heather MacKay, Teresita Borges, Randy Milton, Mike Acreman, David Stroud.
Type of product/output(s):	Report to STRP and Standing Committee, possible report to COP10
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	Yes. 30 days, plus attendance at mid-term workshop.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for	1. Work with relevant thematic leads to clarify what information they are seeking in their task and who is the target audience for the interview, if possible integrate these questions into the structured interview questions regarding the

delivering the work:	<p>implementation of Ramsar guidance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Develop questions that will collect the desired information. 3. Conduct a Review of a sample of National Reports from COP9 as a possible indicator of improved implementation OR information gaps. 4. Use this as an additional guide in the development of a structured interview process. 5. Develop the interview framework and consult with thematic leads 6. Identify the target countries or organizations, and individuals within those countries or organizations, to be interviewed, using review of National reports, advice from the consultation conducted in the last triennium, and advice from the Secretariat's Senior Regional Advisors. 7. Conduct the interviews. 8. Analyse the results to extract information that can guide the development of future guidance 9. Prepare and submit the report to STRP
Additional comments/information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This task feeds in to several others in the various thematic work areas and to Task 5, so should be advanced as soon as possible to ensure that the thematic groups have access to advice and guidance on the content, layout and target audience for new guidance being developed in this triennium. – Indicators of effectiveness is a separate aspect, and is addressed under the monitoring & assessment thematic area (Tasks 59 and 60 - Dave Pritchard). – Related work underway in the Neotropics through the CREHO Panama Centre will be linked to, and inform the development of, this STRP task.

Working Group 8: Cross-cutting tasks

Task No. 152: CEPA aspects of technical guidance/products prepared by STRP	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	Assure 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.
Task lead person:	Christine Prietto
Task force members	STRP thematic and task leads, others to be determined as STRP work progresses.
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	To be determined as STRP work progresses.

Type of product/output(s):	To be determined as STRP work progresses.
Will funds be needed for contracting an expert consultant for this work?:	Yes. Days of work featured under relevant tasks in thematic work areas.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Work with STRP task leads to implement actions as appropriate.
Approach	<p>Cross-references to CEPA responsibilities on specific tasks in other thematic work areas:</p> <p>Task No. 80/81/82 (Working group 4). Immediate priority. Working with the water group, develop and provide material on CEPA-related aspects of the RBM Critical Path guidance. Responsible for preparing components of RBM Critical Path guidance related to CEPA techniques, skills and objectives that support Critical Path planning and implementation. CEPA lead Christine Prietto.</p> <p>Task No. 5 (Working group 7). High priority. Provide guidance and input to possible repackaging of technical guidance. CEPA lead Chris Prietto</p> <p>Maintain a watching brief on all other STRP tasks and materials/products in progress, to ensure that CEPA issues are addressed in early stages of development of products/guidance/reports. CEPA lead Christine Prietto</p>

Task No. 153: Preparation of relevant CEPA outreach materials	
Task description (from Resolution IX.2 Annexes):	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.
Task lead person:	Christine Prietto
Task force members	To be determined as STRP programme progresses.
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	To be determined as STRP programme progresses.
Type of product/output(s):	As appropriate
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	Yes. Costs related to task-specific or product-specific CEPA activities should be budgeted against those tasks in the relevant thematic work areas.

Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Work with STRP task leads to implement actions as appropriate.
Additional comments/information	<p>Cross-references to CEPA responsibilities on specific tasks in other thematic work areas:</p> <p>Task No. 168 (Working group 9). Immediate priority: Develop a small brochure that sets out the roles of the key focal points at the national level for Ramsar implementation, including the National STRP Focal Points. CEPA lead Phillippe Gerbeaux</p> <p>Task No. 13 (Working group 2): High priority. Following the first phase of review of the MA reports in Task 13, elaborate ways in which to effectively package and transfer the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to relevant audiences, with particular reference to the <i>Wetlands and Water Synthesis Report</i>, especially those concerning response options. CEPA lead: Chris Prietto</p>

WORKING GROUP 9: REGIONAL NETWORKING

Thematic Work Area name:	Regional networking to support execution of the STRP's work programme and to support implementation of scientific and technical aspects of COP resolutions
Thematic lead STRP member:	Rebecca D'Cruz
Co-lead(s):	Heather MacKay

Working Group 9: Immediate priority tasks

Task 168: Promoting the role of National STRP Focal Points	
Task description	Develop a small brochure that sets out the roles of the key focal points at the national level for Ramsar implementation, including the National STRP Focal Points
Task lead person:	Philippe Gerbeaux

Task force members	Christine Prietto, Sandra Hails
Additional experts to be invited to contribute:	Rebecca D’Cruz, Bruce Gray
Type of product/output(s):	Brochure
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant?:	Yes - for design, production and possible translation costs. 20 days approx.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	Prepare first draft of brochure to provide advice on the three NFP positions and National Wetland Committees. Clarify the roles for the NFP positions, profile the sectors from which these individuals should be drawn and the activities they will be involved in.

Working Group 9: Cross-cutting tasks

Task 169: Establishing and strengthening the role and participation of STRP NFPs in STRP processes	
Task description	Undertake a range of activities in order to encourage and strengthen links between STRP NFPs and the STRP processes, as well as with their NFP colleagues at country and regional level.
Task lead person:	Rebecca d/Cruz
Task force members	STRP regional networking members
Type of product/output(s):	Various, as appropriate
Funds needed for contracting an expert consultant ?	Depends on nature of activities. Secretariat support will be needed in many cases.
Approach/steps (including timelines) for delivering the work:	<p>From the STRP13 discussion sessions on regional networking, the following points emerged as possible activities that could strengthen the participation of the STRP NFPs in STRP and general Ramsar processes. There are a range of tasks within the 2006-2008 work programme where NFP participation would be valuable, both to the STRP in terms of improving applicability and targeting of guidance, and to the NFPs and CPs in terms of supporting later implementation of guidance at country levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Promote the role of the STRP NFPs, and increase their understanding of relationships between various NFPs, Ramsar-related bodies. (See task 168 above).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refine terms of reference for STRP NFPs to clarify expectations, responsibilities, time commitments, criteria for selection (Secretariat). - Encourage and help to initiate in-country communication between the various Ramsar NFPs, where necessary. - Encourage in-country communication and networking between Ramsar NFPs and those from other conventions. (May need backup eg formal letter of introduction from Secretariat) - Make NFPs aware that they can also be proactive and ask the STRP, IOPs and regional advisers for advice and guidance if needed; identify and utilize opportunities for capacity building at country and regional level, as resources allow. - Provide information on role and functions of STRP NFPs in the NFP manual and training programme being prepared for NFPs in the Africa region. - Improve visibility of NFPs in STRP communications and exchanges; encourage them to share experiences; frequent communication with STRP via the support service and the regional members will help to build confidence of NFPs to engage with STRP. - Problems and solutions (to NFP networking) differ between regions. Encourage development of suitable approaches to regional networking that reflect regional differences. Adapt mechanisms for engagement and networking to suit country or region. Be aware of cultural differences. - STRP regional members need to assist by summarizing and reporting back on STRP discussions to the NFPs. - Provide material to explain the roles and connections between all the various Ramsar-related bodies at country and regional level. - Ensure the Parties recognize the role and importance of STRP NFPs, and are aware of the resources needed by STRP NFPs (eg access to email, documents etc).
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