DOC. SC37-18

Agenda item 8.1

# A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs

**Action requested:** The Standing Committee is invited to review the attached draft Resolution and annexed guidance and advise on its finalisation for COP10 consideration.

## Note by the Ramsar Secretariat

1.  One component of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel's complex priority task 52 in its work plan 2006-2008 concerns the development of an overall scheme for data needs for wetlands, addressed to both the global level and the site level. The attached Framework for data and information needs speaks to this aspect of STRP task 52.

2.  The work to prepare this first Framework has been greatly facilitated by the support to the STRP and its Working Group 1 from the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and its hosting and facilitation of two working meetings involving UNEP-WCMC staff, STRP member Dave Pritchard, and the Ramsar Secretariat, held in January and March 2008. The Secretariat and STRP greatly thank UNEP-WCMC for its help and support in progressing this aspect of the STRP's work.

3.  Following exploration of various options for structuring an overview of Convention data and information needs, the Working Group and STRP concluded that it would be most useful for Parties and others responsible for Convention implementation to organize the data and information needs in relation to the structure and Strategies of the draft Strategic Plan 2009-2014, also being considered by the Standing Committee and the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, so that the global and national/local needs for data and information to support the implementation and delivery of each of the Plan's Strategies and Key Result Areas could be seen clearly.

4.  Thus the attached Framework provides a mechanism for recognizing all the different categories of data and information needed to implement the Convention's Strategic Plan. Thus, as well as scientific and technical information on wetlands, the Framework identifies the need for information on matters such as policies, institutional arrangements, and measures taken.

5.  Since there may be amendments made to the current draft of the Strategic Plan itself by SC37 and COP10, the Framework should be viewed as a 'work in progress' and will need to be updated and finalized following approval of the Strategic Plan by COP10.

6.  The Framework should also be seen as a 'work in progress' at this stage since there are certain aspects of it that are currently being further reviewed by the STRP, and because certain aspects of the Framework will need further elaboration and input by the STRP as part of its 2009-2011 priority tasks, notably in relation to the full range of data and

information needs for Ramsar site identification and designation. The data and information needs identified in the attached Framework should therefore be seen at this stage as 'indicative' rather than comprehensive.

7. An update on aspects of these matters will be provided, as appropriate, to SC37.

# Draft Resolution X.00

# A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs

1. AWARE of the suite of technical and scientific guidelines and other materials prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to support Contracting Parties in their implementation of wetland conservation and wise use;

2. NOTING that the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP9) instructed the STRP to prepare further advice and guidance for consideration by the Parties at their 10th meeting, which would focus on the immediate and high priority tasks set out in Annex 1 to Resolution IX.2; and

3. THANKING the STRP for its work in preparing the advice and guidance annexed to this Resolution as part of its high priority work during the 2006-2008 triennium; and ALSO THANKING the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) for its support for the development of this guidance;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

4. WELCOMES the "Framework for Ramsar data and information needs" provided in the annex to this Resolution, and URGES Contracting Parties, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;

5. INSTRUCTS the STRP to include in its work plan for the 2009-2011 triennium work to

   a) update and further develop the Convention's Framework for Ramsar data and information needs, drawing upon implementation experience, end-user perspectives, and analysis of further needs defined in the decisions of COP10, in particular in relation the data and information needs for identification and designation of Ramsar sites;
   b) produce a companion document identifying actions and action gaps of relevance to meeting the needs defined in the Framework at different scales; and
   c) make use of the Framework *inter alia* to inform harmonisation/interoperability activities with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), construction and prioritisation of relevant project proposals either developed or supported by the Ramsar Convention, and the future development of the Ramsar Sites Information Service; and

6. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to disseminate widely this Framework, especially through amendment and updating of the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks.

## Annex

## A Framework for Ramsar data & information needs

**1)   Background**

1.   Access to sound, relevant data and information, including good practice advice,  is key to supporting good decision-making and implementation of commitments made by Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention to secure the wise us of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character.

2.   Such relevant data and information is needed, not only about wetlands themselves but also about the drivers of change to wetlands by many different stakeholders in, and affecting, the Ramsar process, from local to global scales, including those responsible for wetland (including Ramsar site) management, national governments and their Ramsar Administrative Authorities, other government administrations from local to national level, National Ramsar/Wetland Committees, and global processes such as the Convention's Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), and Secretariat.

3.   The "Framework for Ramsar data and information needs" which forms the basis of this guidance has been developed in recognition of these needs – it has been prepared by the STRP and its Working Group 1, with input from the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), as a response to one aspect of the STRP's 2006-2008 work plan priority task 52.

4.   In order to support clearly the implementation of the Convention through its Strategic Plan and identified priorities, the Framework provided below is structured in line with the Goals and Strategies of the Convention's [draft] Strategic Plan 2009-2014, and it will thus need to be revised and updated, as necessary, following the adoption by Contracting Parties at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the final form and content of that Strategic Plan.

5.   In addition to providing guidance for Contracting Parties and others on such data and information needs, it is anticipated that this Framework will also assist the STRP in identifying gaps in current data and information, including guidances, and establishing priorities for filling these gaps.

**2)   Purposes for needing data and information under the Convention**

6.   Whilst the efficient and effective use of data and information is essential for effective implementation of the Convention at all levels, a key to this is ensuring that the purpose for which this data and information is being collected is clearly established and recognized.

7.   Eight broad categories of "purpose" can be defined which identify the ways in which data and information are necessary to support and assess implementation of the Convention at different levels. These are:

a)   baseline knowledge
b)   compliance and accountability

c)   performance against targets
d)   learning lessons
e)   identifying new and emerging issues
f)   promoting benefits; CEPA
g)   targeted problem solving
h)   selecting sites for designation

8.   This broad-scale "taxonomy of purposes" has been applied in the Framework table below to cross-check against the data and information "needs" identified for each of the Strategies in the Strategic Plan 2009-2014, as a means of validating what data and information has been identified under each Strategy.

9.   It is important to note that for each type or category of data or information there is often more than one specific purpose for its collection, provision and/or dissemination, and this should be taken into account when developing and implementing information strategies and services.

**3)   Guiding principles for this data and information needs assessment**

10.  In order to ensure a common understanding of the scope of this data and information needs assessment, and hence a common approach to its implementation, the following guiding principles for the scope of the assessment were established:

i)    The assessment should cover basic data and information in the forms of both analysed and assessed data and of implementation guidance.

ii)   The assessment should cover anticipated data and information needs at all levels, including the needs of Parties, Secretariat, STRP, Standing Committee and COP.

iii)  The assessment should be driven by purpose and mandate, focusing on key data and information needs for guiding the Convention implementation process.

iv)   The assessment should focus on delivering data and information that is relevant and fit for purpose, not simply listing all data and information which might be useful.

v)    The assessment should recognize and address the close links with strategic planning, national reporting, effectiveness indicators, and so on, which cross-cut all Convention activities.

vi)   While the assessment should recognize and build on data and information products and processes already in place, it should be driven by what is needed, not what already exists.

11.  With respect to guiding principle vi) above, it is recognized that some data and information provision and mechanisms are already in place (e.g., existing implementation guidelines) and others will need to be developed or will require further work. The status of current response to each identified data and information need will have to be identified, so as to help identify current gaps and future priorities.

**4)    The approach to developing the data and information needs assessment**

12. After evaluation of several different available categorizations of the Convention's mandates (provided in Appendix 1), including Dave Pritchard's analysis of COP decisions in response to Resolution IX.17, the themes identified by the UNEP-funded *tematea* (issue-based modules) project, and the Wise Use Handbook (3rd edition) themes and topics, the approach identified as most logical and helpful to Parties and others responsible for aspects of implementation is to base the data and needs assessment on the Ramsar Strategic Plan in order to ensure that the needs identified relate directly to implementation of the Plan's Strategies and Key Result Areas.

13. Thus the attached "framework" provides a mechanism for recognizing all the different categories of data and information needed to implement the Convention's Strategic Plan. As well as scientific and technical information on wetlands, the framework therefore identifies the need for data and information on matters such as policies, institutional arrangements, and measures taken.

14. The Framework table provided below identifies for each of the Strategic Plan's Strategies, the data and information needs at the national/subnational level and at the international level separately.

15. The following explanatory notes are provided to aid in understanding the table's presentation and contents:

    i) Where "guidance" information is indicated, a cross-reference to existing guidance (Handbooks, 3rd edition) [will be] is included. An "x" against "guidance" indicates that such guidance may need to be developed in the future.

    ii) "National level" data and information needs may range from site to country level, including Administrative Authorities, other government sectors, within-country scientific/technical expertise, wetland managers (Ramsar sites and other wetlands), and so on.

    iii) "International level" data and information needs cover the anticipated needs of global Convention bodies (SC, STRP, CEPA Panel, COP, etc.) and the Secretariat, as well as supra-national/regional scales including transboundary systems.

    iv) Data and information types are listed in the column relevant to the spatial scale at which they are developed or provided.

16. It is also anticipated that following further review, the STRP should continue to elaborate the Framework, including further developing the lists of data and information types provided in the tables, for example through the addition of further information on Ramsar site data and information needs; providing guidance on data and information flows between the national/subnational and international scales; and adding a further column to the Framework tables providing information on current availability of data/information.

# A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs, with indicative lists of data and information types, based on the [draft] Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2014

**GOAL 1 Wise Use. To work towards the wise use of all wetlands by ensuring that all Contracting Parties develop, adopt and use the necessary and appropriate instruments and measures.**

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment** Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetlands and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle. (CPs, advised by STRP and assisted by IOPs) | <ul><li>Location, distribution of wetland types (National wetland inventory)</li><li>Ecological character description(s)</li><li>Ecological character status (could be a subset of the ecological character description)</li><li>Management objectives</li><li>Change in ecological character time series (through monitoring and surveillance)</li><li>Wetland values (services)</li><li>Impacts, vulnerability and risk</li><li>National status and trends</li><li>Identification of data and information sent to the Secretariat</li></ul> | <ul><li>International status and trends</li><li>Status of national wetland inventories</li><li>Guidelines and definitions</li><li>Identification of data and information received from Parties and others by the Secretariat</li></ul> |
| **STRATEGY 1.2: Global wetland information** Develop a global wetland information system, through partnerships, to increase accessibility of data and information on wetlands including *inter alia* for research and assessment and further identification and designation of Ramsar sites (CPs, Secretariat, advised by STRP and assisted by IOPs) | [to be further developed by STRP following scoping of the proposed Global Wetland Observing System – G-WOS] | [to be further developed by STRP following scoping of the proposed Global Wetland Observing System – G-WOS] |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions** Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied. (CPs, Secretariat) | • National wetland policies<br>• Policy linkages to other sectors (water, human health and physical planning)<br>• Legal, institutional and governance frameworks<br>• Capacity needs<br>• Effectiveness indicators<br>• SEAs for policies affecting wetlands | • Effectiveness indicators<br>• Guidelines and definitions<br>• Case studies/best practice |
| **STRATEGY 1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services** Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, climate change mitigation, food security, poverty reduction, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat, STRP, IOPs) | • Value of ecosystem services<br>• Key players in other sectors<br>• Opportunities (role or potential role of wetlands in……)<br>• Effectiveness indicators | • Effectiveness indicators<br>• Guidelines and definitions<br>• Case studies/best practice<br>• Opportunities (role or potential role of wetlands in……)<br>• Value of ecosystem services |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **Strategy 1.5 Recognition of role of the Convention** Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes. (CPs, Secretariat, STRP, IOPs) | [added following SC36 and under review] | [added following SC36 and under review] |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 1.6 Integrated Water Resources Management** Ensure policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, is included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and adaptation/mitigation responses to climate change. (CPs, STRP, IOPs) | Current water resources: <ul><li>policies and practices</li><li>current water allocations</li><li>Effectiveness indicators</li><li>case studies/best practice</li><li>wetland - climate change adaptation and mitigation</li></ul> | <ul><li>Effectiveness indicators</li><li>Guidelines and definitions</li><li>Case studies/best practice</li><li>Catchment level water resource management</li><li>Review methods for ecosystem based water management</li><li>Wetland - climate change adaptation and mitigation</li></ul> |
| **STRATEGY 1.7 Wetland restoration** Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social, or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs) | <ul><li>Inventory of sites suitable for wetland restoration/rehabilitation (cf inventory of wetlands/assessment/monitoring)</li><li>Measures that have been taken</li><li>Impacts of measures taken</li></ul> | <ul><li>Case studies/best practice</li></ul> |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 1.8 Invasive alien species** Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological characters of wetlands, especially Ramsar sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive species in wetland systems. (CPs, STRP, other agencies, IOPs) | • Actual or potential invasive problems <br> • Measures that have been taken <br> • Impacts of measures taken | • Case studies/best practice |
| **STRATEGY 1.9 Private sector** Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat) | • Stakeholders and rights holders <br> • Case studies/best practice <br> • Incentives and their impacts/potential impacts | • CEPA material on wetland friendly consumer choice <br> • Case studies/best practice <br> • Incentives and their impacts/potential impacts |
| **STRATEGY 1.10 Incentive measures** Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use principle. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs) | [to be identified subsequently] | • Good practice guidance on positive incentives, and removal of perverse incentives |

**GOAL 2 Wetlands of International Importance. To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands that are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life by ensuring that all Contracting Parties appropriately implement the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance.***

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar site designation** Apply the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Handbook 14). (CPs) | • National wetland inventory and/or ecological character description <br> • National datasets, - to test against each Criterion <br> • List of candidate sites derived from national wetland inventory/ecological character description and other national/international datasets to test against each criterion <br> [Note. Further STRP work in 2009-2011 will elaborate this listing by Criterion] | • Criteria and guidance <br> • International datasets (to test potential sites against criteria) <br> • Status of whatever candidate listing process is applied <br> [Note. Further STRP work in 2009-2011 will elaborate this listing by Criterion] |
| **STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar site information** Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service, including the Ramsar Sites Database, are available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat. (CPs, STRP, Secretariat, IOPs) | • Data and information necessary for completion of the RIS as may be defined by COP and COP nominated processes <br> • Identification of data and information sent to the Secretariat | • For designated sites: completed RIS as defined by COP and COP nominated processes <br> • For candidate sites - national lists as provided by CPs <br> • Guidelines <br> • Identification of data and information received from Parties and others by the Secretariat |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning – new Ramsar sites** Encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management. (CPs, IOPs, Secretariat) | • Candidate list for Ramsar sites • Data and information for management plan development (including ecological character description) | • Guidance (Handbook 16 3<sup>rd</sup> edition) |
| **STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar site ecological character** Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar sites, through planning and management. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs) | • Ecological character description(s) • Site management objectives, and limits of acceptable change • Ecological character status • Change in ecological character time series (through monitoring and surveillance) | • Guidelines and definitions, including format for describing ecological character • Effectiveness indicators – status & trends reporting |
| **STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar site management effectiveness** Review all existing Ramsar sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance.* (CPs, STRP) | • Effectiveness indicators • Guidance on applying management effectiveness tools in national context • Management objectives • Monitoring results | • Guidance on management effectiveness tools • Effectiveness indicators |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar site status** Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites and address negative changes is their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar sites, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs) | • Case studies on individual sites • Results from monitoring against management objectives and RAM • EIA for development proposals • Identification of data, information and reports sent to the Secretariat | • Article 3.2 report format and reports • Montreux Record questionnaires • Article 2.5 reports • Article 4.2 – compensation reports • RAM reports • Identification of data, information and reports received from Parties and others by the Secretariat |

**GOAL 3 International cooperation. To achieve international cooperation in the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the active application of the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention.***

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies with MEAs and IGOs** Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs). (CPs, Secretariat) | • Shared information on MEAs and IGOs focal points and institutional arrangements | • MEA/IGO focal points and institutional arrangements • Joint work plans and other collaborative working arrangements • Harmonized international information and reporting systems |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives** Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs) | • Knowledge network – list – who's who and why <br> • Opportunities for resources and capacity | • Knowledge network (wise use resource centre ) to deliver case studies, best practice, guidelines, experts list, (wetlands clearing house mechanism), <br> • Guidance (initiative development) |
| **STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance** Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs) | • Who will fund what where in my country? Eg GEF | • Who will fund what, where |
| **STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise** Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat) | • Knowledge network – list – who's who and why - CEPA and STRP NFPs and NRCs and beyond <br> • Shared information management capacity for national reporting | • Knowledge network (wise use resource centre ) to deliver case studies, best practice, guidelines, experts list, (wetlands clearing house mechanism), <br> • National reports and synthesis |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 3.5 Transboundary wetlands, basins and species** Promote inventory and integrated management of transboundary wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of transboundary wetland-dependent species. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs) | • National level inventory, which are shared systems <br> • Available/existing collaborative mechanisms | • Guidance/case studies/best practice – how to collaborate on management |

**GOAL 4 Institutional capacity and effectiveness. To progress towards fulfilment of the Convention's mission by ensuring that it has the required mechanisms, resources, and capacity to do so.**

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA** Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution [X.x]) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation, and awareness (CEPA). (CPs, Secretariat, training centres, IOPs, Advisory Board on Capacity Building) | • Communication mechanisms (elaborated in the Convention's CEPA Programme)<br>• stakeholders and rights holders<br>• cultural benefits and services<br>• case studies<br>• training needs identification<br>• training courses and tools available | • The Convention's CEPA Programme 2009-2014<br>• Ramsar CEPA website<br>• Guidelines on participatory management (Handbook 5)<br>• Training and capacity-building framework |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity** Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties; explore and enable options and mechanisms for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.. (CPs, Secretariat) | • Regularly updated information on national contributions | • Budget reports<br>• Regularly updated information on national contribution |
| **STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness** Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention. (CPs, Secretariat) | | • Secretariat reports to COP and Standing Committee |

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others** Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others. (Secretariat, IOPs) | • Information from IOPs on capacity and support available in different countries | • Reports from the IOPs • Regular updated list of contact people • MOUs and other collaborative arrangements |

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

| Strategy | National level: Information/data/metadata on: | International level: Information/data/metadata on: |
|---|---|---|
| **STRATEGY 5.1 Membership** Secure universal membership of the Convention and provide an appropriate level of service. (CPs, Secretariat) | | • Obligations and processes for accession guidance • Accession guidance for prospective Parties |

**Appendix 1**
**Different available categorizations of Convention mandates**

| CATEGORIES OF MANDATE | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Resolution IX.17 review** | **Wise Use Handbooks, 3rd edition** | **UNEP "Issue-based Modules" (*tematea*)** | **Ramsar Strategic Plan ([draft] 2009-2014)** |
| • Convention governance and administration<br>• Regional issues<br>• Strategic Plans, work plans and national reports<br>• Finance and membership<br>• Partnerships, coordination, synergy, and international cooperation (not development assistance – see below)<br>• Development assistance; poverty reduction<br>• Wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring<br>• Ecological character, responses to change, management and restoration<br>• Listing of Ramsar sites (process, rather than specific sites)<br>• Conservation of specific areas | • Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands<br>• Developing and implementing National Wetland Policies<br>• Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands<br>• The Convention's Programme on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) 2003-2008<br>• Establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands<br>• An Integrated Framework for the Convention's water-related guidance<br>• Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management<br>• Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of | • Assessments<br>• Legislative measures and national policies<br>• Management<br>• Economic instruments<br>• Provision of resources<br>• Communication, education and public awareness<br>• Cooperation<br>• Cross-cutting obligations | • Inventory and assessment<br>• Policy, legislation and institutions<br>• Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services<br>• Integrated Water Resources Management<br>• Wetland restoration<br>• Invasive species<br>• Participation<br>• The private sector<br>• Incentive measures<br>• Designation of Ramsar sites<br>• Management planning<br>• Maintenance of ecological character of Ramsar sites<br>• Management of shared wetland systems<br>• Cooperation with other MEAs and international processes<br>• Exchange of |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| • Wise use (including peatlands, IWRM, ICZM, national planning and public participation etc)<br>• Water<br>• Communication, education, public awareness and capacity-building | wetlands<br>• Managing groundwater to maintain wetland ecological character<br>• Wetland issues in Integrated Coastal Zone Management<br>• An Integrated framework for wetland inventory, assessment, and monitoring<br>• A Ramsar framework for wetland inventory<br>• Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment<br>• Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance<br>• Addressing change in ecological character<br>• Frameworks for managing Ramsar sites and other wetlands<br>• Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands | | knowledge<br>• Regional initiatives<br>• Communication, education, participation and awareness<br>• Development assistance<br>• Convention budget<br>• Convention institutions and governance<br>• Cooperation with IOPs<br>• Capacity building<br>• Membership of the Convention |