

Agenda item 4

## Report of the Secretary General

**Action requested:** The Standing Committee is invited to receive the Secretary General's report and advise as appropriate.

### Introduction

1. This report covers the period since the 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee (SC40), in May 2009. The analysis of some global issues is beyond this time frame, taking into account existing Ramsar Resolutions and ongoing global debate and actions that affect wetlands. At present the Convention has 159 Contracting Parties, with 1886 Ramsar sites, totaling 185,156,612 hectares, designated for inclusion in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. Therefore, the level of activity demanded of the Secretariat continues to increase, as the number of Contracting Parties increases and new challenges are emerging from global debate.

**Secretariat actions to enhance the recognition of the vital contribution of wetlands to human well-being, livelihoods and human health, as well as to biodiversity and climate change adaptation and mitigation:**

2. The most significant achievements made to expand and better characterize the role of the Convention are related to:
  - **Role of Ramsar as one of the biodiversity-related conventions**
3. The Secretariat recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies between the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to the specific objectives of Ramsar, and actively participates in collaborative actions with all biodiversity-related MEAs.
4. The Secretariat, jointly with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), is taking an active part in the deliberations on improving the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The Secretariat and the STRP take part in a process intended to reach agreement on whether to establish an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES).
5. The Secretariat is also working with UNEP in its leadership role in advancing understanding of the economics of biodiversity and ecosystems services and its policy implications, through the study "The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity" (TEEB).
  - **Role of Ramsar as a MEA that contributes to international environmental governance and sustainable development**

6. The Secretariat participates in the debate on the concept of a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; in this regard, the Secretariat is undertaking collaborative work to promote tangible actions that can significantly address current challenges and deliver economic development. It is in this spirit that an MOU has been signed between the Ramsar Secretariat and the UN World Tourism Organization, the World Bank, and the Organization of American States, in order to stimulate joint actions between these organizations and Ramsar Contracting Parties.
  7. The Secretariat also participates in the work of the Environment Management Group (EMG), chaired by the Executive Director of UNEP, in order to cooperate with relevant UN agencies in programming environmental activities in the United Nations system in the areas of biodiversity, land degradation, and green economy.
  8. The Ramsar Secretariat is making all possible efforts to participate in the deliberations of the most relevant Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD); in particular, the Secretariat manages to attend the relevant High-level Segment, with ministerial participation, devoted to a thematic debate on major economic, social and environmental policy issues.
  9. The Secretariat is still seeking consultative status with the ECOSOC so as to be allowed to participate, present written contributions, and make statements to the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The Secretariat hopes that at least one of the following Standing Committee members, which are also ECOSOC members, can assist: Cameroon (2010), China (2010), Mauritius (2011), and the Republic of Korea (2010).
- **The role of the Convention in promoting people's livelihoods through wetlands conservation and wise use**
10. In all of the Secretariat's working relationships with the Contracting Parties and various organizations, the key objective is to raise awareness about wetland values so as to help shape public opinion towards an integrated view on human livelihoods and wetlands and the necessity to ensure healthy and productive wetlands for existing and future generations. The Secretariat is undertaking all possible efforts to influence decisions that aim to convert or alter wetlands through market-based activities that fail to take into account the total costs of service loss. Our efforts are made to stop behaviors that are detrimental to wetland service delivery and to stimulate actions that increase or maintain wetland service delivery to improve human livelihoods. To that end, the secretariat is increasingly working with some major players affecting wetlands through land use change, including cities, tourism industry, extractive industries and decision makers dealing with agriculture.
- **Role of the Convention in adaptation and mitigation of climate change**
11. Ramsar's message to the 15<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC in Copenhagen was prepared in consultation with the STRP and it explained the role of wetlands for mitigation: wetlands are carbon stores that both store and release carbon, and much of this is related to the flooding/drying cycles; climate change may change this as can our management. For adaptation: we need the link with the ecosystem services issues, especially the value of food from wetlands and fresh water supply. That is, effective management, including restoration, under climate change scenario could also support basic

human needs for food and water; keeping in mind that increasing demand for food and water could further undermine wetland management.

○ **Role of the Ramsar Convention as an MEA dealing with water**

12. The major objective of the actions taken by the Secretariat and the STRP is to improve the understanding of the work of the Convention and the role of wetlands in conservation and sustainable development so as to encourage collective actions to implement the Convention's mission. This is done at all levels to encourage the implementation of Ramsar Resolutions through a better use of Ramsar tools:

**At global level**

13. For the first time, the Ramsar Secretariat and the STRP have been able to provide a joint input in the preparation of the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Water Development Report (WWDR4). This input was initiated through the participation of the Ramsar Secretariat as one of the partners to the UN-Water process. The contribution of Ramsar will continue over 2010 in collaboration with some UN agencies, taking the lead of relevant thematic areas.
14. The United Nations World Water Development Report, released every three years in conjunction with the World Water Forum, is the UN's flagship report on water. It is a comprehensive review that gives an overall picture of the state of the world's freshwater resources and aims to provide decision-makers with the tools to implement sustainable use of our water.
15. Through a series of assessments, the Reports provide a mechanism for monitoring changes in the resource and its management and tracking progress towards achieving targets, particularly those of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Reports also offer best practices as well as in-depth theoretical analyses to help stimulate ideas and actions for better stewardship in the water sector.
16. The development of the WWDR, coordinated by WWAP, is a joint effort of the 26 UN agencies and entities which make up UN-Water, working in partnership with governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, including the Ramsar Convention.

**At regional level**

17. The Secretariat is increasing its partnership with River/Lake Basin Organizations, both with specific river or lake organizations as well as with the International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO). The last General Assembly of INBO, held in Dakar, Senegal, gave the Ramsar Secretary General the opportunity to address the Assembly and to discuss six thematic areas of work with the river/lake organizations.

**At national level**

18. The Secretariat is increasingly working with the water sector in Ramsar Contracting Parties, stimulating joint actions between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ministry of Water as well as the technical agencies within the water sector.
- **Role of the Convention as a framework to recognize the connectivity between ecology and socio-economic trends and between land and oceans**
19. In collaboration with some important players, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), NOAA, the USGS, and other scientific bodies, the Secretariat is seeking to improve our knowledge about linkages that need to be taken into account to implement the Convention. Our working relationships with many players have confirmed that the world we live in is completely interdependent. The environment (including wetlands, climate, and biodiversity), the economies, water supplies, food supplies, even the health are globally interdependent. We recognize that in society today, as in nature, all things are connected. Understanding the connectivity between land and sea, especially through the network of riverine wetlands and coastal wetlands, is a key aspect of the work of the Convention. In this regard, it is interesting to consider the challenge for wetland management to establish scientifically confirmed linkages between ecological and socio-economic systems, especially over large geographic scales. It is not enough to show correlation – effective management requires establishing the underlying mechanisms of observed changes. Unfortunately, the data required to support such analyses rarely exist; however, through increasing partnership, we can improve the trends.
- **Legal framework and wetlands**
20. To stimulate positive incentives and discourage negative incentives, the Secretariat organized and led the first workshop with magistrates in West Africa to influence attitudes toward a regulation or a change in legal enforcement to enhance conservation. This judiciary workshop on environmental law was held from 27 to 30 April 2009 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire – it was sponsored by the Ramsar Secretariat, UNEP, IEPF, the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions and Star Alliance through its Biosphere Connection programme, with inputs from the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), CBD, UNCCD, CITES and the Basel Convention Secretariat. Forty-five magistrates practicing in various tribunals, courts of appeal and supreme courts in West and Central African countries took part in the seminar. Trainers came from the Universities of Limoges and Nantes in France and the University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
  21. In addition, the Ramsar Secretary General and the Dean and Vice President of Stetson University have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 18 February 2010, between the Secretariat and the Stetson College of Law, which has an outstanding programme in international environmental law. The main objective of the MoU is to develop a collaborative law and policy programme for sustainable wetland and water resource conservation and management by increasing current consultation and cooperation. Common areas for joint conservation activities are conducting research related to wetland law and policy, collaboration with Ramsar regional initiatives, under the framework of Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015.

### **Key challenge to address**

22. The overall key challenge is about the need to ensure a continued financial support through the payment of regular contributions to the core budget and to obtain significant voluntary funding to enhance the work of the Convention. In this regard, the implementation of Resolution X.7 on *Optimizing the Ramsar Small Grants Fund during the period 2009-2012* is a real challenge, in the context of the ongoing economic crisis.

### **Goal 1: Wise use of wetlands**

23. The Secretariat and the STRP are combining their efforts to identify major players that use or affect wetlands. A good understanding of stakeholders groups, especially the user groups, is a requirement for taking into account their interests and providing them with adequate tools that help them to establish strategic and operational programmes to maintain, improve and enjoy the benefits of the wise use principle of wetlands. In this regard, the ongoing partnership with the following organizations is an approach that adds strength to the Ramsar Convention: UN-HABITAT, UN World Tourism Organization, World Bank, Organization of American States (OAS).
24. The collaborative work with these organizations includes the development and execution of joint projects related to the Ramsar Strategic Plan and the respective mandates of the organizations. For instance with the OAS, the proposed UNEP implemented-OAS executed-GEF funded project entitled "Valuation of Ecosystem Services" is part of the Ramsar Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands.

### **Goal 2. Wetlands of International Importance**

#### **Ramsar site designation and management**

25. Since SC40, the following new Ramsar site designations have been added to the List:  
Africa: 23 sites have been added to the Ramsar List  
Americas: 4 sites have been added to the List  
Asia & Oceania: There have been 8 new Ramsar sites added to the List in Asia since May 2009. There were no new sites for Oceania.  
Europe: Since May 2009 there have been three new Ramsar sites listed by European Parties -- 2 by the UK (in the South Atlantic) and 1 by Turkey. There have been two new Transboundary Ramsar Sites (Poland/Czech and Austria/Hungary), all involving previously existing Ramsar sites.
26. Since SC40, 38 Ramsar sites have been designated bringing the present total at 159 Contracting Parties, 1886 Ramsar sites covering a total surface area of designated sites 185,156,612 hectares.
27. Following Parties' submission of Ramsar site designation documents to the Secretariat, staff are required to evaluate the quantity and quality of the information provided in order to meet the standards required by several Resolutions of the COP. In many cases, the staff need to have additional discussions with the designating authorities in order to bring the Ramsar Information Sheets to the stipulated standard. This is not normally but can sometimes be a lengthy process.

28. Thus, as of 11 March 2010, a considerable number of designations are still “in the pipeline” and have not yet been completed and added to the Ramsar List. For Africa, 48 Ramsar sites still in processing; for the Americas, 26 RIS in process, including 17 in North America, 1 Caribbean, and 8 in the Neotropics; for Asia & Oceania, 9 wetlands are awaiting addition to the List; and for Europe, 33 RIS submitted to the Secretariat in 2009 are still to be checked in early 2010.
29. To enhance wetland management, the Secretariat continues to recommend to the Contracting Parties to include in their Regional Initiatives a strong component on management of sites.

### **Threats to Ramsar sites and the Montreux Record**

See Doc SC41-25 Status of Ramsar sites

### **Goal 3: International cooperation**

30. The main actions taken to use international cooperation to raise the profile of wetlands in global processes and promote their conservation and wise use have been most significant in terms of increased cooperation with the Global Environment Facility:
31. The participation of the Secretary General in the 5th Biennial GEF International Waters Conference, hosted by the Government of Australia in Cairns, North Queensland, October 26 through 29, 2009, offered opportunities to share experiences on various issues, including technical workshops featuring leading Australian experts in complex basin and marine systems, dealing with resolving conflicting demands among diverse stakeholders, and coping with water scarcity and the technical as well as societal impacts of climate change.
32. Working with the GEF international waters focal area can open further opportunities to expand the work of the Convention, since the GEF Focal Area on international waters targets transboundary water systems. This can reinforce and expand the work of the Convention.

### **Managing the Convention**

#### **Goal 4. Institutional capacity and effectiveness.**

33. The Secretariat reiterates its encouragement to Administrative Authorities to take up specific issues (refer also to Goal 1 above) and agree to take the lead on improving their implementation strategy or programmes. In particular, at national level, it is useful to involve all relevant ministries, especially the water sector, as well as groups of civil society, including NGOs and user groups such as farmers, fishermen, tourism operators and city councils. For instance, the recent establishment of a National Council on Wetlands in France has been instrumental in adopting a long-term strategic plan to integrate wetland issues in national planning and sectoral activities.
34. The leadership role can also happen at global or regional level through different means: establishing and leading an ad hoc working group, organizing seminars or other working meetings to further the main issues (such as those specifically addressed in Resolutions X.23-28), e.g. for members of the ad hoc working group, for national focal points, or for

focal points of Ramsar plus other MEAs, etc. The countries taking the lead in this would also have to provide the necessary funds. Several of the Ramsar Contracting Parties already do this for other MEAs, and it is to be hoped that they will be willing to do that for Ramsar as well.

35. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to express our gratitude and appreciation to Australia for providing voluntary funding to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Administrative Reform. We also thank Australia and Chile for co-chairing this working group.

### **Convention financial capacity**

36. The Secretariat is seeking voluntary funding or a secondment of suitable expertise to assist in the preparation and implementation of a strategy to mobilize new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.

### **CEPA activities**

#### **World Wetland Day (WWD) 2010**

37. Materials for WWD 2010 were prepared, with generous financial assistance as usual from the Danone Group, and posted on the website, and hard copies were mailed to the WWD mailing list by October 2009. Reports from WWD actors on their WWD 2010 activities are being posted on the Ramsar website, despite serious staffing overloads in this area.
38. Special “World Wetlands Week” celebrations were held in Victoria, Seychelles. In accordance with Standing Committee decision SC40-36 noting this intention, the World Wetlands Week held in the Republic of Seychelles from the 31st January to the 5th February was a great success. Through the continually fruitful partnership between the Danone-Evian Group and the Ramsar Convention, this event was made a reality. With their generous financial and moral support, a successful six-day programme of events was developed with a specific theme for each one to achieve these objectives.
39. There were several lessons to be learnt from this historic event:
  - i) The need to encourage amongst all Contracting Parties the participation of the civil society, specifically the youth, in activities to raise awareness of the values of the natural environment and the importance of maintaining the invaluable resources.
  - ii) The importance of involving the private sector, both at the international and local level, in similar activities is mutually beneficial.
  - iii) The involvement of the media, at the international and local levels, is an effective way to successfully disseminate and publicize the theme of the World Wetlands Day, to increase the visibility of the Ramsar Convention and the wide range of partners that we work with to achieve our mission.
40. By following a simple framework for organization of an event such as this, one which involves a range of participants and partners from varied backgrounds, it is not beyond reason that similar events could be carried out on an annual basis in the other Ramsar regions.

41. The other aspects of Decision SC40-36 are handled in DOC. SC41-29: Theme for WWD 2012, DOC. SC41-30: Plan for the Convention's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and a special report on World Wetlands Week in the Seychelles.

### **Capacity Building: The Capacity Building Framework**

42. The work on Framework document on capacity building, to assist in improving the capacity of Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other stakeholders, is still underway.

### **STRP work, together with the Ramsar Secretariat**

See Report of the STRP Chairperson, DOC.SC41-26.

### **Membership**

There have been no additional accessions since SC40.

### **Working with International Organization Partners**

See DOC.SC41-21.

### **Partnership with the private sector**

See DOC.SC41-19

## **Annex: Annual Report 2009**



Ramsar Secretariat Annual Report 2009								The way forward
Strategy/Activities	KRAs	Activity(ies)	Team Leader	Other key team members	Success indicator and/or benefit to Convention/	Target date	Achievements/ Lessons learned	
<b>STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector Promote the involvement of the private sector in</b>								
1.10.1 Continue development of the partnership with Danone: 1) Danone Fund for Water	<b>KRA:</b> Continue to work with all relevant partners to develop this Fund and implement its activities.	Contribute to the implementation of CEPA programme, including the production and dissemination of WWD materials; Write activities report and disseminate achievements on the website. Develop the 2011-2014 agreement. Develop strategies and prepare budget.	Project Officer	SRAs, communications team, NGOs and private sector	Increasing awareness of wetland values; better support to the work of the Convention	Dec-09	WWD materials made available to all Parties and to all relevant partners. WWD organized; Various workshops held to support Parties and regional Initiatives;	Renewal of agreement with Danone in 2010 to continue the partnership
2) Continue to support "Ecoles de l'eau Pro	Support projects in Argentina, Nepal and Thailand	Continue to monitor and evaluate the field projects. Reporting and follow up news on the web. Develop a communication with the private sector partner.	Project Officer	Project officer	3 projects implemented and monitored; 3 management wetland management plans established; lessons learned to use in future actions.	Dec-09	3 projects are under implementation with support from Project Officer	
3) Danone Fund for Nature	<b>KRA:</b> Danone Fund for Nature implementation mechanisms finalized; Biosphere Connections utilized to support participation in key Ramsar meetings	Set up a team of experts to prepare guidelines for Carbon Offset; hold an Expert Workshop to initiate the process; Disseminate results of expert workshop; .	Deputy Secretary General	Ad Hoc Expert Group on Carbon Offset; STRP; CEPA Programme Officer; Danone Project Officer; STRP Technical Officer;	Implementation of Carbon Offset Programmes through effective wetland management and wise use, especially in partnership with Danone and IUCN	Nov-09	Workshop delivered; first set of guidelines available for project selection. The main lesson is about the time it takes to "educate" business people to make them familiar with fundamental conservation principles and the operational guidelines of the Ramsar Convention	Continue to work with partners to further develop guidelines on Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS); Clean Development Mechanism (CDM); Project Design Document (PDD); Work on Eligibility and select projects
Continue the "Biosphere Connections" partnership with Star Alliance		Coordinate the "Biosphere Connections" partnership with Star Alliance	CEPA Programme Officer	SRA; Other partners.	Increased capacity of the Secretariat to facilitate the participation of wetland managers in global and regional consultations and debates that integrate wetland issues in conservation and sustainable development processes.	Dec-09	During 2009 18 wetland managers and experts from 14 countries have been able to participate in global or regional debates that include wetland issues and they have been able to bring ideas and new perspectives to the Convention. In addition, all travellers provide a brief story on their work in wetlands and the benefits of the meeting supported by has brought to this work	The agreement with star Alliance is being renewed for the period 2010-2013; the ticket support for the period 2010-2011 is confirmed at 25,000 Euros. In addition, in 2010 the partners will work with Star Alliance on the development of 5 videos on protected areas that will be used in in-flight entertainment systems thus increasing the visibility of the partners and raising environmental awareness. Finally in 2010 the partnership coordinator contracted by Star Alliance will be developing and producing a newsletter about the partnership for use within the Star Alliance network to raise awareness about the work of the partners.
1.10.2 In line with Resolution X.12, work with Contracting Parties and the Ramsar partners to make good use of the <i>Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector</i> , as appropriate, including within the frameworks of existing national, regional, and global initiatives and commitments.	<b>KRA:</b> Resolution X.12 principles applied in any developments of business sector relationships	Finalize TOR for Partnership officer in line with Decision of the Standing Committee	SG	Secretariat Management Group; relevant partners; Executive team of the Standing Committee; interested Parties	Final TOR endorsed by Executive Team	Dec-09	TOR sent to executive Team on Dec	Recruitment of Partnership Coordinator to assist in partnership development/enhancement, including with business sector
<b>STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar site information</b> Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service, including the Ramsar Sites Database, is 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. (STRP, Secretariat, IOPs)								



2.6.1 Advise Parties on Article 3.2, Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) issues	<b>KRA:</b> All Article 3.2 issues raised with the relevant Parties; RAMs prepared and undertaken when requested by Parties	Implement Secretariat's approach relating to Article 3.2.	SRA	Assistants to SRA; DSG; SG; Regional Affairs Officer; Communication officer	Reports to SC made by Secretariat; Parties are addressing challenges and reporting to Secretariat; Threats to wetlands are addressed.	As needed	XX notices received from third parties; XX requests sent from the Secretariat to Parties; XX responses received from Parties; <u>Africa</u> : 6 notices received from third parties; 6 requests sent to Secretariat but 2 responses received from Parties; <u>In the Americas</u> : 8 notices received from third parties; and 8 requests sent from the Secretariat to Parties; 3 responses received from Parties; <u>Asia-Oceania</u> : 26 notices received from third parties; 19 requests sent from the Secretariat to Parties; 9 responses received from Parties; <u>Europe</u> : notices received from third parties concern 35 Ramsar sites, and notices received from Parties (AAs) concern 3 Ramsar sites; requests to Parties (AAs) sent regarding 16 Ramsar sites; responses from Parties (AAs) received regarding 11 Ramsar sites. RAM to Heden (Jameson Land) RS (Denmark, Greenland) held on 8-16.06.2009; RAM to Åkersvika RS (Norway) is under preparation. All together, 42 Ramsar sites are considered	Europe: follow up of Article 3.2. cases; RAM to Åkersvika RS (Norway) is planned for 8-9 April 2010.
<b>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs</b>								
3.1.1 Implement, with the Convention on Biological Diversity, a 4 <sup>th</sup> Joint Work Plan 2007-2010, and develop a 5 <sup>th</sup> JWP for consideration in 2010	<b>KRA:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> JWP implemented and implementation reviewed; 5 <sup>th</sup> JWP drafted	Undertake effective and efficient communication with CBD Secretariat to review the implementation of 4th JWP and initiate the preparation of 5th JWP	DSG	SG; CBD Secretariat; STRP	Results of various meetings with CBD Secretariat, including a review of achievements and the signature of a new JWP with CBD.	Ongoing	Initial work done with CBD Secretariat in Stockholm, Cambridge and follow up in Montreal; Discussions are underway to streamline and make more explicit the roles of the CBD and Ramsar Convention to update our joint work plan. An article has been prepared by the Ramsar secretariat to highlight the way the work of Ramsar contributes to the CBD objectives.	Final materials will be put forward as SBSITTA Information paper in early 2010
3.1.2 Review Joint Work Plans with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)/African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and with UNESCO-Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)	Work plans reviewed with CMS, UNESCO-MAB	Work with CMS and UNESCO MAB to review work plans and sign new agreements	SG	Partnership Officer; DSG; SRAs; UNESCO-MAB, CMS	New joint Work Plans signed and implemented	Ongoing	Initial discussions made with CMS and UNESCO-MAB; Joint RAM missions organized with CMS and AEWA staff for Tanzania and Mozambique	The work of the new Partnership Coordinator will include a continuation of discussions to finalize new agreements.
3.1.3 Use proactively the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) and the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) for the Rio Conventions to improve synergies	<b>KRA:</b> BLG meetings attended at SG/DSG level; JLG meetings attended as observer (SG/DSG level)	Prepare draft revised Joint Work Plans; discuss with CMS Secretariat; AEWA and MAB /UNESCO; prepare final Joint Work Plans; Participate in activities for the International Day on Biodiversity and the International Year of Biodiversity 2010, including the high-level panel of Executive Heads of biodiversity-related conventions immediately before the high-level segment of CBD COP-10 in Nagoya.	SG	Management Group; Executive Assistant to SG.	New Joint Work Plans in place; Effective communication of Ramsar's views on key issues; Ramsar's achievements and future actions are recognized and supported by all biodiversity-related conventions.			

3.1.4 Promote the work of the Convention at important international meetings	<b>KRA:</b> SRA level or above represented Convention at key global and regional meetings	Discuss and reach an agreement about travel plans; undertake approved missions; provide mission reports and publicize key results.	SG	Executive Assistant to SG; Administrative Assistants; Management Group of the Secretariat; STRP Chairperson and other members; STRP Technical Officer; Finance Officer.	Executive Assistant to SG and Administrative assistants prepare missions in consultation with organizers of meetings; Financial Officer reviews and manages travel budget; conclusions of meetings are available and shared with all staff, especially during staff meetings. Lessons for Ramsar are drawn and used.	Ongoing	Priority missions have been undertaken by the SG, the DSG, the SRAs, some Assistants to RSA, the CEPA officer, the Regional Affairs Officers, the STRP Technical Officer and the Danone Project Officers. Ramsar input has been made in major UN meetings, including meetings organized by UNEP, UNESCO, FAO, GEF, UN-HABITAT, WMO, CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CMS; Ramsar input has been made in other global and regional debates including meetings organized by ICRI, the Councils of Environment Ministers in Africa, the African Union, the African Development Bank; the League of Arab states; ASEAN, the European Union, Planet Workshops; World water Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, World water Week in Stockholm, Sweden; Visits to Contracting parties have been undertaken by the SG, the SRAs. One of the lessons learned is that joint actions with CPs, SRTP, IOPs and other partners are more effective in promoting the work of the Ramsar Convention.	The Ramsar secretariat will continue to highlight the role of wetlands in conservation and sustainable development in major global debates; in regional organizations and with Ramsar CPs. The Secretariat will continue to have joint events with Ramsar CPs, with the IOPs and other Ramsar partners to improve general public understanding of wetland values so as to promote wetland management and wise use for human health, food security, water supply, biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation & mitigation, energy, tourism and economic development, urban development and poverty reduction schemes.
3.1.5 Continue to review the effectiveness of Memoranda of Understanding and agreements with other organisations	<b>KRA:</b> All Memoranda and annexed plans either updated, replaced or annulled	Review and update agreement with all IOPs and other partners; Discuss and sign new agreements with UN-HABITAT, UNWTO; WMO, Nile Basin Initiative, and other relevant organizations, including private companies.	SG	All staff	Existing agreements are updated and better functioning; new agreements bring about joint and productive actions. Partners substantially contribute to wetland conservation and wise use.	Ongoing	A draft document reviewing collaboration with IOPs has been jointly prepared with all IOPs. A draft MOU is under review with UN World Tourism Organization and with the Nile Basin Initiative.	A meeting with all IOPs is planned in early 2010 to agree on the way forward and sign a new agreement with each IOP.
3.1.6 Organise Secretariat meetings with partners and other stakeholders, as needed	<b>KRA:</b> Meetings prepared in timely manner	Prepare and approve quarterly work plans, including all meetings organized by Secretariat; handle logistics and make available meeting materials; hold meetings and prepare reports; disseminate reports.	SG	Executive Assistant to SG; Management Group; STRP Technical Officer; Danone Project Officer; Administrative Assistants.	Lessons drawn from meetings and taken into account in planning and implementing future activities. Ramsar Convention better known and wetland issues better integrated into global debates, and considered as part of national and regional priorities.	As needed	The following meetings have been successfully held with Ramsar partners: Meeting with the Ramsar advisory Board on Capacity Building to make progress on the Framework on Capacity Building; Meeting with IUCN to agree on the cost of IUCN services; Meeting with IOPs to initiate the process for reviewing collaboration with IOPs; meetings with UN-HABITAT to discuss areas of mutual interest and initiate joint activities; meeting with the Biodiversity Liaison Group to address shared challenges with 5 other Conventions;	
<b>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives</b> <i>Support existing regional arrangements under the</i>								
3.2.1 Manage the core funding support for, and monitor the implementation of, regional initiatives approved by Resolution X.6	<b>KRA:</b> Approved funds transferred to regional initiatives; advice on implementation progress and issues provided to Standing Committee	Transfer fund to Regional Initiatives in line with SC40 decision. Follow up progress. Provide Report to SC41 on Regional Initiatives in line with SC40 decision	SG	SRAs; Finance Officer;	SRAs to take action in consultation with relevant CPs and Finance Officer with regard to the following Regional Initiatives: Carpathian Wetland Initiative East-Asian Australasian Flyway	Dec-09	Important delays in transferring funds to RAMCEA (Ramsar Centre in East Africa) because contract was not signed and bank account not provided in time. Similar problems were noticed for	Continue to support Regional Initiatives in line with SC41 decisions

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4.1.1 Implement the CEPA Programme, and further develop a comprehensive plan for CEPA internally, including the activities undertaken with Danone Group and other private sector actors, through CEPA Oversight Panel	<b>KRA:</b> CEPA Programme implemented, with input of the CEPA Oversight Panel; and Secretariat CEPA implementation plan prepared and disseminated	1. Complete the WWD assessment and decide upon the format and content of, and complete, the popular report on the findings. 2. Complete the work with consultants on the updating of the Functions and values Fact Sheets. 3. Work with Maria Rivera and Monica Zavagli in developing the workshop for CEPA and STRP NFPS planned for late 2009. 4. Deliver on the WWD preparations; 5. Participate in the WLI-Oceania meeting. 6. Get the CEPA Oversight Panel up and running after SC40 and delivering on its work plan. 7. Work with the Advisory Board consultant on the Capacity Building Framework. 8. Oversee the Biosphere Connections partnership. 9. Maintain the CEPA pages on the web site, animate the CEPA email lists.	CEPA Programme Officer	SRA; Danone Project Officer; Communication Officer; Administrative Officer; Administrative Assistants.	Increased capacity of CEPA. Increased capacity of focal points; increased awareness about wetlands at local, national, regional and global levels. Better integration of wetland issues into national planning and priorities. Better perception of wetland values at global level.	Dec-09	1. WWD assessment was completed and a report published in January 2009. There has not been sufficient staff time available to prepare a popular report on the findings.  2. Work has continued with consultants on the updating of the Functions and Values Fact Sheets (now called Ecosystem Services fact sheets). The sheets are completed in all three languages and will be available as PDF files on the Ramsar web site in early February. The sheets will also be made available in hard copy and will be printed by mid-late February.  3. One CEPA workshop for CEPA National Focal Points (for West Asia) was held in October 2009 and two more are planned for 2010: one in Thailand for east and southeast Asia from April 19-22nd 2010 and another in southern Africa probably in October 2010 in Namibia; a possible third in Europe, time and funding permitting.  4. WWD preparations (see section 4.1.6)	1. Decide upon the format and content of, and complete, the popular report on the findings. 2. complete French and Spanish and print materials in January 2010. 3. more workshops are planned for 2010. 6. planned first meeting at SC41; 7. Meeting with BC partnership to plan next year on 16th December;
4.1.2 Prepare and publish a 4 <sup>th</sup> edition of the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks and Ramsar Technical Reports (RTRs)	<b>KRA:</b> Publication of 4 <sup>th</sup> Edition Handbooks completed; RTRs published in a timely manner	2. Complete the work with consultants on the updating of the Functions and values Fact Sheets. DONE in English, completing French and Spanish and will be printed in January	DSG	Communications Officer; CEPA Programme Officer	4th Edition of Hand Books made available to CPS; Ramsar Technical reports published by the end of 2010.			
4.1.3 Fully redevelop the appearance and structure of the Ramsar Web site	<b>KRA:</b> New-look Ramsar Web site launched and fully functional	Continue cleaning up the new web site; use the new site to increase awareness about wetlands through publication of new materials.	Communications Officer	CEPA Programme Officer; Documentation Officer; Regional Affairs Officer, Project officer	New web site fully operational; Better public access to wetland-related information	Dec-09	New web site fully operational; Better public access to wetland-related information, DONE	Continue cleaning up the new web site; use the new site to increase awareness about wetlands through publication of new materials.
4.1.4 Maintain Ramsar Web site, listserves and other electronic information provision	<b>KRA:</b> Topical Ramsar-related information provided to all stakeholders	Provide responses to inquiries from various stakeholders	SRA	Management Group; Communications Officer	Increased capacity of CEPA Increased commitment and improved capacity of stakeholders.			
4.1.5 Seek to enhance the development of capacity building through the Ramsar Advisory Board on Capacity Building and the regional centres	<b>KRA:</b> Ramsar Advisory Board mechanism to contribute to capacity building for Parties agreed	Finalize Framework document on capacity building and submit to SC41 for consideration and approval; Disseminate framework document;	CEPA Officer	SG; Management Group	Framework document on capacity building made available to CPs; improved capacity of Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other stakeholders.	Dec-09	Work with the Advisory Board consultant on the Capacity Building Framework. DONE;	Final draft to be delivered in early 2010.
4.1.6 Prepare materials and advice for WWD 2010 (and WWD 2009 follow-up)	<b>KRA:</b> WWD 2010 materials prepared and dispatched; WWD 2009 reports placed on Web site	WWD materials made available to all CPs; All CPs organizing WWD; Government of Seychelles and key stakeholders organize special World Wetland Week all over the country with national and international media coverage.	CEPA Officer for all WWD events; SRA for Africa for specific Seychelles' events	Communication Officer; SRA Africa; Project Officer; Administrative Officer; Administrative assistants.	Increased awareness about wetlands; better implementation of the Convention through integration of wetland issues into national and regional priorities.	Dec-09	Reports from WWD actors for WWD 2009 were posted on the Ramsar web site and a separate web page created to record the translations and customisation of the Convention's WWD materials. Materials for WWD 2010 were prepared, posted on the web site, and hard copy mailed to the WWD mailing list by October 2009. Email alerts were sent out regularly on WWD through the Forum and CEPA elists.	Staff time permitting, reports on WWD 2010 will be posted on the Ramsar web site and a special translations page created as necessary

4.1.7 Monitor implementation of COP10 Resolution X.3, the "Changwon Declaration"	<b>KRA:</b> Implementation progress by Parties, Convention Bodies and IOPs compiled, as advised	Effective and continued communication with all CPs Convention Bodies and partners	SG	All Staff	Better implementation of the Convention; Better recognition of wetland values at local, national, regional and global levels.		RRC-East Asia hosted a 'Changwon Declaration Network Meeting' in November 2009 to review implementation of the Declaration by CPs and IOPs.	At Secretariat level: Consultation will continue within the Secretariat and between the Secretariat and CPs to harmonize and enhance the way we use of the Declaration. Asia & Oceania: The RRC-East Asia will host a similar meeting in 2010.
<b>STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity</b> <i>Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance.</i>								
4.2.1 Undertake project evaluations and reviews (SGF, WFF, SFA etc.)	<b>KRA:</b> All project proposals and reports evaluated	Prepare Technical and financial reports, including major achievements and lessons learned from the execution of SGF, WFF and SFA, and Danone Funds; Adopt programmes and budget for 2009. Implement 2009 programmes & budgets	SG	Regional affairs Officer; SRA; DSG; Finance Officer	Increased achievements from concrete actions on the ground; Enhanced management of wetlands.	Dec-09	Americas: 10 new projects approved by WFF for funding in 2009. Publication about the impact of WFF in the implementation of the Convention in LAC ready for launching with the State Department in early 2010. One project approved for funding by Danone in Uruguay.	Americas: Distribution of the publication to all CP and funded organizations as well as to other Parties in other Ramsar regions
4.2.2 Make representations to Parties in arrears with annual contributions	<b>KRA:</b> Meetings with missions made	Organize and hold meetings with missions	SG	SRA; Finance Officer;	Better understanding of the Convention and better recognition of wetland importance for sustainable development by Ministries of Foreign Affairs	Dec-09		
4.2.3 Manage the Convention budget in a timely and efficient manner	<b>KRA:</b> Maintain financial records and make all payments in a timely manner, reporting to Standing Committee Subgroup on Finance	Undertake effective and efficient financial management	Finance Officer	SG; DSG; CEPA OfficerSRA	All Financial reports satisfactory and approved by SC40	May-09		
<b>STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness</b> <i>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)</i>								
4.3.1 Organise and hold Standing Committee 40, May 2009	<b>KRA:</b> SC40 held and outcomes disseminated	Preparation of Logistises; Preparation and dissemination of documents; Joint actions between Ramsar Secretariat and Georgia to organize the meeting.	SG	All staff	All logistics well organized All documents sent to SC by end of March 2009; SC40 held in Gland; outputs of SC40 disseminated and follow up actions taken.	May-09	Done	Preparation of SC41 to be held in Georgia
4.3.2 Provide periodic intersessional briefings to Standing Committee members, as required during the year	<b>KRA:</b> At least two briefings sent to SC	Send Draft 2010 Work Plan to SC on 1st November 2009 for comments;	SG	DSG; SRA	Satisfactory progress made	Dec-09	Draft Work Plan sent to SC members end of November 2009	Brief SC in January and February 2010 about the progress made regarding the preparation of SC41 in Georgia.
4.3.3 Organise and hold STRP15, March 2009	<b>KRA:</b> STRP15 held; work plan developed and transmitted to Standing Committee	Hold STRP 15 in February 2009	DSG	STRP Technical Officer; STRP members	Final report ready and sent to SC in late February 2009	Feb-09	Done	Prepare and hold STRP mid-term meeting in February 2010.
4.3.4 Maintain an electronic system for communication amongst STRP members & with its National Focal Points	<b>KRA:</b> STRP Support Service (SuSe) maintained and redeveloped to support STRP intersessional work; STRP NF-Ps assisted to have improved involvement in STRP's work	Update agreement with Wetlands International on STRP support service; maintain the STRP support service updated as well as new STRP NF-Ps subscribed	DSG	STRP Technical Officer, SG; Wetlands International	Updated agreement with wetlands International	Jun-09	New Agreement signed by the Ramsar SG in December 2009	
4.3.5 Support STRP in its elaboration and delivery of priority tasks in its Work Plan	<b>KRA:</b> STRP supported in initiating implementation of its work plan High Priority tasks	Support and coordinate STRP members in the delivery of high priority tasks ; Mobilize voluntary funding for STRP's work	DSG	STRP Technical Officer; SG; Finance Officer	Financial resource available and STRP work plan implemented	Dec-09	Preparation of the first ever meeting which will bring together Africa STRP NF-Ps.	The African meeting is likely to take place in Pretoria, South Africa, and jointly organized with the South Africa Water Management Commission in 2010. Continue fundraising activities in 2010.





Other activities not covered under any of the above Strategies/KRAs		Include a number of transboundary wetland areas with designated Ramsar sites in the second Assessment of Transboundary Rivers, Lakes and Groundwaters in the UNECE region, being implemented under the UNECE Water Convention	SRA Europe	Assistants to SRA Europe and Asia-Oceania (?), SRA Asia-Oceania (?)	Ramsar Convention, Ramsar sites and wetlands in general are better known	Dec-09	The Ramsar Secretariat team is cooperating with the Secretariat of the UNECE Water Convention and NFPs in CPs concerned; articles on 3 transboundary wetland areas are included in the assessment report on South-Eastern Europe	Continue work in other sub-regions of UNECE region
		Host an IWRM-net (Regional and national research programmes network on Integrated Water Resources Management) workshop aimed at developing research priorities for wetland management in Europe.	SRA Europe	Assistant to SRA Europe, STRP Technical Officer, Administrative Assistants	Discussed links between the Ramsar Convention and the EU Water Framework Directive in the context of identifying research priorities and developing research projects for improving wetland management in Europe	Dec-09	Informal network of experts under the IWRM-net is continuing to develop discussed ideas into proposals that will be considered by the IWRM-net partners.	
Other activities not covered under any of the above Strategies/KRAs	Overall Management of currently 5 intern studios	1) Help the Assistants/Interns with all tasks related to their studios 2) Enhancement of the database of Ramsar contacts	1) Admin. Assistant CAL 2) Regional affairs Officer	1) Assistant to SRA 2) Administrative Officer	1) Satisfactory maintenance of studios; regular payments of all expenses; 2) An external consultant contracted, new functionalities developed	Dec-09	1) Completely done; 2) Database enhanced	