

Future scientific and technical priorities for the implementation of the Convention

Action requested. The Standing Committee is invited

- i) to provide advice on the attached Draft Resolution, and
- ii) since adjustments may be needed following any recommendations from the informal working group established by Decision SC42-23 and from Contracting Parties at their regional COP11 preparatory meetings, to request the Secretariat to revise this Draft Resolution if necessary and circulate it electronically to the Standing Committee in early 2012 for SC approval for consideration by the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Note by the Secretariat and the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

1. Standing Committee members will recall that each meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) adopts guidance for the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and other Convention bodies on tasks and priorities for scientific and technical aspects of future Convention implementation, and that this guidance then informs the development by STRP of its work plan for the triennium.
2. The attached Draft Resolution and its annexes provides a proposed framework for this guidance, which at this stage incorporates the proposals from the STRP both on its own future tasks and priorities and on scientific priorities for Convention's implementation which may be led by others with STRP support and advice. The annexes provide a summary tabulation of the suggested tasks and priorities for 2013-2015, and a supporting Information Paper for COP11 will provide more detailed descriptions of each task and its anticipated outputs.
3. The structure of the DR annex (and eventually of the COP11 Information Paper) broadly follows that of the equivalent materials adopted for 2009-2012 by Resolution X.10, with proposed tasks grouped into thematic areas. It should be noted that this list of proposed tasks represents the overall scientific and technical priorities for the Convention as a whole – while many of these tasks are proposed for inclusion in the STRP's work programme, and as such will be led by the STRP or by other organizations in collaboration with STRP, some of the other tasks may more appropriately be led by other Convention bodies such as the Secretariat, the CEPA Oversight Panel, and Regional Centres operating under the framework of the Convention, with the advice and support of the STRP to be provided as and when needed.
4. The Standing Committee is invited to note that, in response to a number of requests from Parties for the Convention to provide better advice and information on the monetary and non-monetary values of the ecosystem services delivered by different wetlands to support their decision-making, the STRP has proposed a new thematic area on "Wetlands and

ecosystem services”. This will build on the planned work for the Ramsar Convention by the Economics of Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services group (TEEB) to prepare a “TEEB Water and Wetlands” report, which it is anticipated will be initiated in the very near future and be reported to COP11.

5. These draft scientific and technical priority documents are being provided to Contracting Parties at their regional COP11 preparatory meetings, so that they may provide their views on the scope and priorities for the work to be undertaken in the coming triennium, and they may at the same time identify any other tasks that they would wish to be undertaken in addition to those listed here.
6. The Standing Committee will also recall that discussions are ongoing with the Committee, the Secretariat, and the STRP on a range of aspects of how the Panel should work most effectively in the future to meet the evolving needs of the Convention and its Contracting Parties, including what types of work the STRP should and should not undertake and what types of work are more appropriately undertaken by other Convention mechanisms and bodies. In particular, the 42nd meeting of the Standing Committee established an informal working group to undertake a review of these matters, including drafting a Draft Resolution for COP11:

Decision SC42-23: The Standing Committee recognized the importance of the work of the STRP as a key mechanism for supporting and guiding the delivery of wetland conservation and wise use on the ground, and it recognized that the mechanisms and strategies for achieving these objectives should evolve over time. To ensure that the STRP’s objectives and strategies for their delivery are as targeted and as effective as possible in a rapidly changing world, the SC decided to establish an informal working group to draft a COP11 Resolution for SC43 consideration designed to review and take these matters forward. The Committee requested the Secretariat to establish this group and invited those interested in contributing to the work of this group to contact the Secretariat.

7. The Secretariat anticipates that following the advice of the Standing Committee, Contracting Parties at their regional meetings, and the informal working group established by Decision SC42-23, there will need to be revisions to the attached DR, which will also have to be reflected in the COP11 Information Paper.
8. Accordingly, the Standing Committee is requested to comment and advise on the attached Draft Resolution and to request the Secretariat, working with the informal working group, to prepare a further version of this DR that incorporates any recommendations from the working group and Contracting Parties, and then to recirculate it to the Committee in early 2012, following as many of the regional preparatory meetings as possible, for approval for consideration of COP11.

Draft Resolution XI.xx

Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2013-2015

1. RECALLING that in Resolutions IX.2 (2005) and X.10 (2008) the Contracting Parties adopted a complete, unified and prioritized programme of scientific and technical implementation activities for a triennium, and AFFIRMING that experience indicates this to have been an effective way of providing an overall picture of such activities, for planning and delivering work, deciding further priorities, and allocating resources;
2. ALSO RECALLING Resolution IX.11 on the revised *modus operandi* of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), as updated and refined by Resolution X.9 [and further adjusted by Resolution XI.xx adopted by the present meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties];
3. THANKING the STRP for its significant work during the 2009-2012 triennium, as summarized in the Report of the Chair of the STRP (COP11 DOC. xx), and for the preparation of further advice and guidance for Contracting Parties [adopted by the present meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties], but AWARE that it has not been possible to progress some elements of the STRP's priority work in the 2009-2012 triennium and that full delivery of the Panel's work programme remains subject to the availability of resources, in particular to voluntary contributions from Parties and others; and
4. WARMLY THANKING those Parties and organizations that have contributed financially and in kind to the work of the STRP in the 2009-2012 triennium, and NOTING the significant benefits to the scope of the Panel's work that are afforded by voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

5. APPROVES the full list of tasks in Annex 2 as the basis for the programme of scientific and technical work for the STRP and for other Convention bodies, and ALSO APPROVES the 18 tasks listed in Annex 1 to this Resolution as the top priority tasks for delivery in the 2013-2015 period;
6. INSTRUCES the Secretariat to consolidate into Annex 2 of this Resolution any additional or amended scientific and technical implementation actions for the STRP arising from other Resolutions adopted by the present meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
7. CONFIRMS that this Resolution supersedes all those aspects of Resolution X.10 and its annexes that relate to the work of the STRP; and
8. URGES Contracting Parties, donors, intergovernmental agencies, International Organization Partners (IOPs), national NGOs, and others to use this list, including the costed programme for Top Priority actions in Annex 1, in deciding priorities for their financial and other material support towards the scientific and technical implementation of

the Ramsar Convention, and FURTHER URGES Parties to consider making voluntary contributions to support the Convention's programme of scientific and technical work, particularly for those tasks indicated as being top priorities.

Annex 1

Top priority scientific and technical tasks for the 2013-2015 triennium and estimated costs for their delivery

1. The 18 tasks listed in the table below, and their estimated costs, have been selected from the full range of scientific and technical tasks listed in Annex 2 and recommended by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), Ramsar Secretariat, [and COP11] as top priority activities for the STRP and other Convention bodies for 2013-2015.
2. Provisional estimated costs are based on each task requiring the engagement of an expert (or experts) to undertake the work required. Estimated costs have been provided by the STRP and Secretariat – more precise costings and ways and means for the delivery of these tasks will be developed at the beginning of the 2013-2015 cycle and reported to the Standing Committee at that time.
3. The provisional figure for total estimated funds needed for the 2013-2015 top priority tasks are CHF 2,821,000. Of this, some support (CHF 150,000) has already been provided by donor countries for the task “The role of and biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle”.
4. There are three major cost top priority tasks listed below:
 - i) “Reporting on the state of the world’s wetlands and their services to people, and Convention effectiveness” (CHF 100,000), and supporting that task;
 - ii) the “Development and coordination of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership” (CHF 520,000). It is anticipated that this work will be the subject of a major specific fund-raising effort by a consortium of STRP partner organizations which is under development in 2012;
 - iii) “Implementation of the of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision” (CHF 400,000), which will include the essential redevelopment of the Ramsar Sites Database and related Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) and include the provision of an on-line submission system for the Ramsar Information Sheet – 2012 revision. This is a task for the Secretariat, with advice from the STRP,[and in the Convention budget for 2013-2015 it is recognized as a specific non-funded line item.]
5. [In the funded budget line for the STRP in the Convention’s core budget for 2013-2015 ([Resolution XI.xx]), there is an annual allocation of CHF 130,000 to cover the costs of STRP meetings and the STRP Chair’s stipend. Depending upon STRP meeting costs, it

can be anticipated that approximately CHF 20,000-30,000 per annum (i.e., 60,000-90,000 over the triennium) may be available to support STRP top priority task implementation.]

6. Other than these tasks and fundings, the estimated cost of the other top priority tasks for the triennium is approximately CHF 1,700,000.
7. Annex 2 provides further details of each of these tasks and their outputs. [A full task description is provided in COP11 DOC. xx.]

Top priority tasks 2013-2015	Lead Convention body/process	Provisional estimated cost (Swiss francs)
Regional & global networking		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRP communication & dissemination support: a) web-platform 	STRP	50,000
Strategic, emerging & ongoing issues		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic scientific & technical advice 	STRP	15,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing ad hoc advisory functions 	STRP	[depends upon specific requests]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of COP Draft Resolutions from Parties 	STRP	0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sectoral and/or emerging issues for possible future priority work 	STRP	0
Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring & reporting		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people, and Convention effectiveness 	STRP	100,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and coordination of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership 	STRP partners	520,000
Wetlands & human health		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance on "Wetlands and Human Health" for the health sector 	STRP	50,000
Wetlands & climate change		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of climate change for Convention processes 	STRP	20,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advice on adaptation to climate change 	STRP	15,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application of REDD+ for forested wetlands 	STRP	10,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for and constraints on carbon sequestration in wetlands 	STRP	15,000
Wetlands & water resource management		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle 	STRP, with CBD Secretariat	[150,000 - funded]
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of a strategy for engaging in the global water debate 	STRP	20,000
Wetlands of International Importance		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision 	Secretariat	400,000
Wetlands & agriculture		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture 	STRP	120,000
Wetlands & ecosystem services		

• 'Economics of Wetland Ecosystem Services'	STRP	80,000
CEPA		
• Assessing and supporting the capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties in applying Ramsar guidance	STRP/Secretariat	95,000
TOTAL		2,821,000 [150,000 currently funded]

Annex 2

Summary of scientific and technical tasks for the work of the STRP and other Convention bodies 2013-2015

1. The scientific and technical tasks are organized under 10 broad themes, as follows:
 - Regional & global networking
 - Strategic, emerging & ongoing issues
 - Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring & reporting
 - Wetlands & human health
 - Wetlands & climate change
 - Wetlands & water resource management
 - Wetlands of International Importance
 - Wetlands & agriculture
 - Wetlands & ecosystem services
 - CEPA

2. The categorisation of types of tasks is coded as follows:
 1. New or revised Ramsar Guidance for Contracting Parties.
 2. Technical support and advice – ongoing and ad hoc.
 3. Global information products and engagement in other global or sectoral processes
 4. Advice on new and emerging issues
 5. Scientific or technical products/initiatives undertaken by other relevant organizations

Theme: Regional & global networking

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
Capacity-building support for STRP National Focal Points	Lower	2	Secretariat (with input from STRP and Regional Centres)	<p>Hold regional workshops for STRP National Focal Points (at least 1 per triennium).</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcomes: Enhanced understanding of Convention processes by STRP NFPs; improved input by STRP NFPs to STRP of national and regional implementation needs.</p>	[This column to be completed subsequently]	100,000 per workshop
STRP communication & dissemination support: a) web platform	Top	2	Secretariat (with input from STRP regional members & STRP NFPs)	<p>Develop and maintain, and as necessary further develop, the new STRP web platform for input to and dissemination of STRP work by STRP NFPs and others.</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcome: fully functional and up-to-date web tool for sharing information, reviewing drafts, and archiving the STRP's work</p>		50,000

STRP communication & dissemination support: b) newsletters	Top	2	Secretariat (with input from STRP regional members & STRP NFPs)	Produce regular STRP newsletters and seek to provide newsletters and key STRP documents in all Convention languages. Ongoing from 2009-2012. Outcome: information on STRP's work and activities widely available to STRP and other Convention NFPs		15,000
STRP communication & dissemination support: c) STRP NFPs bulletin	Lower	2	Secretariat (with input from STRP regional members & STRP NFPs)	Issue annual STRP NFPs' bulletin of activities. New. Outcome: STRP NFPs' experiences and activities shared		1,000

Theme: Strategic, emerging and ongoing issues

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
Strategic scientific & technical advice	Top	3/4/5	STRP	Provide proactive and reactive advice to the Convention on relevant strategic scientific and technical matters, including overall progress with scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of COP Resolutions, trends, emerging issues, and other priority matters requiring expert review. Ongoing from 2009-2012 Outcomes/outputs: Includes reports, STRP Briefing Notes, STRP Support Service communications, presentations to meetings or conferences.	[This column to be completed subsequently]	15,000 [time and travel costs]

Ongoing ad hoc advisory functions	Top	2/3	STRP	<p>Provide advice to Secretariat and Parties, including on Ramsar Site designation, article 3.2 issues, Montreux Record, Ramsar Advisory Missions, RSIS, wetland projects, participation in CSAB, and other issues.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: varies</p>		[Dependent on specific requests to STRP]
Review of COP Draft Resolutions from Parties	Top	1	STRP	<p>Advise Standing Committee on proposals from Contracting Parties for COP Resolutions with scientific or technical content.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: advice taken up in Draft Resolutions</p>		-
Sectoral and/or emerging issues for possible future priority work	Top	4	STRP	<p>Maintain rolling list of global and regional sectoral and/or emerging issues that have potential implications for the wise use of wetlands;</p> <p>Provide recommendations when any of these issues might need to be addressed by the STRP or the Convention.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: advice to SC/COP; STRP Briefing Notes</p>		-

Wetlands & poverty reduction	Lower	1	STRP (with IHDP, UNDP, FAO, UK-DFID)	Further tools and guidance to support the implementation of Resolutions IX.14, X.28 & [COP11 DR XI.xx]. Continuation from 2009-2012 Outcomes/outputs: Guidance on indicators relating wetland wise use to livelihoods and poverty eradication; Information Paper with structured guide to available guidance; a glossy publication on case studies on wetlands and poverty interlinkages.		20,000
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)	Lower	1	STRP with Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza & Wild Birds	Maintain an active overview of and input to issues relating to highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), especially in relation to surveillance, information-exchange, and response strategies. Ongoing Outcomes/outputs: updated advice/technical guidance		-
Engagement with IPBES	Lower	3	STRP (with Secretariat)	On behalf of the Ramsar Convention, maintain active participation in the development and execution of the scientific work programmes of the IPBES, in order to: - support an effective science/policy interface for wetland biodiversity, and - ensure that high-quality scientific information and understanding of wetlands is incorporated into policy-making. Ongoing Outcomes/outputs: IPBES is responding to Ramsar Convention needs for advice/reports		15,000 [meetings participation]

<p>Planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands</p>	<p>Lower</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>STRP (with UN HABITAT, Global Partnership on Cities and Biodiversity, CBD, ICLEI, IOPs)</p>	<p>Embedding principles on wetlands and urbanization in existing processes and development of guidance to assist in managing urban and peri-urban wetlands.</p> <p>Continued from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs:</p> <p>i) Guidance briefing note for UN-HABITAT and others in the sector including local authorities, planning departments and municipal authorities on issues and response options for urbanization and the wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>ii) Guidance briefing note for local wetland managers on issues and response options for urbanization and the wise use of wetlands.</p>		<p>40,000</p>
<p>Wetlands and tourism – development of guiding principles for tourism in and around wetlands</p>	<p>Lower</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>STRP (with Secretariat, UNWTO)</p>	<p>Development of further advice, including key messages and/or guiding principles for tourism in and around wetlands (drawing upon <i>inter alia</i> the analysis of case studies provided in the joint Ramsar–UNWTO publication on “Wetlands and Tourism”)</p> <p>Continued from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Note/ guiding principles for Parties</p>		<p>10,000</p>

Waterbird flyway initiatives - knowledge sharing	Lower	1	STRP with CMS, AEWA, and other international flyway initiatives	<p>Contribute to establishing a mechanism for sharing knowledge and experience on best practices in the development and implementation of flyway-scale waterbird conservation policies and practices.</p> <p>Continued from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: input on Ramsar issues to the establishment of any coordination mechanisms recommended by 2011 workshop.</p>		-
Invasive species and wetlands	Lower	1	STRP, with IUCN-SSC and others	<p>Development of a guide to guidance and available information related to alien invasive species in wetlands.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: STRP Briefing Note & COP12 Information Paper</p>		-

Theme: Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring & reporting

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
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<p>Reporting on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people, and Convention effectiveness</p>	<p>Top</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>STRP (with input from GWOS partnerships, etc.)</p>	<p>Preparation and publication of 1st edition of a periodic State of the World's Wetlands and their services (SoWWS)/Global Wetland Outlook (GWO) reporting.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: 1st edition State of the World's Wetlands and their services (SoWWS)/Global Wetland Outlook (GWO). (Note. The potential for IPBES to contribute to this output will be further assessed in 2012.)</p>	<p>[This column to be completed subsequently]</p>	<p>100,000 (provisional estimate)</p>
<p>Development and coordination of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership</p>	<p>Top</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>STRP (with Secretariat, Wetlands International, TNC, GEO-BON, EO agencies and others)</p>	<p>Establishment of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS) partnership mechanism (and portal), designed to access data and information for and facilitate SoWWS/GWO reporting (see above).</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: a functioning GWOS mechanism delivering enhanced wetland data & information to the Convention and others.</p>		<p>20,000 for inception and design; 500,000 (provisional estimate) for implementation & maintenance</p>

Detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character - further guidance	Lower	1	STRP	<p>Update and rationalisation of guidance on issues relating to Article 3.2 of the Convention, including the role and operation of the Montreux Record; approaches to establishing the range of natural variability of wetland sites and defining Limits of Acceptable Change; the need for and scope of guidance on determining confidence limits and degree of likelihood in cases of “likely” change in the context of Article 3.2; and the need for and scope of guidance on the application of a precautionary approach in the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: further guidance for Parties on these issues</p>		20,000
Describing ecological character –guidance and support	Lower	1	STRP (with external experts and Parties)	<p>Guidance on development and use of conceptual models for describing ecological character; and further guidance for completing ecological character description (ECD) sheet adopted by COP10 and ECD components of the RIS – 2012 revision.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: guidance for Parties; training and support modules</p>		20,000 (provisional estimate)
Maintaining an overview of the status of wetland inventory	Lower	3	STRP (with WI, IWMI, UNEP-WCMC and others)	<p>Establishment and maintenance of a web-based wetland inventory metadatabase</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: on-line metadatabase (potentially linked to RSIS) available; gap analysis of available wetland inventories</p>	Strategy 1.1 (KRA 1.1.ii)	t.b.d.

Implementing harmonised MEA information systems at national level	Lower	1	STRP, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC and others	<p>Guidance for Parties on utilizing tools and processes for harmonizing information management, including national reporting</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: guidance for Parties; “route-map” to harmonisation and interoperability facilities, and support for progress towards streamlined national approaches to MEA reporting</p>	Strategy 3.1 (KRA 2.1.v)	20,000
Enhanced support for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan	Lower	1	STRP (with Secretariat, UNEP-WCMC and others)	<p>Development of data and information needs framework (COP10) as a searchable web portal, including options for on-line national reporting.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - depending on outcomes of initial user needs survey and assessment, the design and roll-out of web-based portal version of data & information framework (successor to the annex to Resolution X.14). - guidance for Parties and others on making optimal use of relevant data and information in support of the Ramsar Strategic Plan. - report on options for an on-line reporting (and potentially a site data submission) system for Ramsar 		t.b.d.

Theme: Wetlands and human health

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
Wetlands and human health case studies	Lower	3	STRP	Preparation of case studies of wetlands and human health interactions Carried over from 2009-2012 Outcomes/outputs: case study publication	[This column to be completed subsequently]	25,000
Guidance on “Wetlands and human health” for the health sector	Top	3	STRP/WHO	Guidance on “Wetlands and human health” for the health sector Carried over from 2009-2012 Outcomes/outputs: developed from the 2011 Ramsar Technical Report on wetlands and human health interactions, which was designed for wetland practitioners, a publication for use by human health practitioners		50,000
Guidance on specific wetland-related diseases	Lower	1	STRP/WHO and others	Guidance (fact-sheets) for wetland managers on different wetland-related human diseases Further development of 2009-2012 Wildlife Diseases Manual Factsheets for adding to Wildlife Diseases Manual.		15,000

Development of wetland & health indicators	Lower	1	STRP, with BIP, EID groups and organisations	<p>Development of indicators of the relationship between wetland ecosystem services and health, with an emphasis on developing early warning indicators for the emergence or re-emergence of diseases, and neglected, persistent and endemic diseases.</p> <p>New [COP11 Draft Resolution on wetlands and human health]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: indicator descriptions and implementation design</p>		10,000
Review of Ramsar guidance in relation to human health	Lower	1	STRP	<p>Review existing Ramsar text and guidance for its relevance to wetlands and human health issues.</p> <p>Partly carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Note: guide to existing Ramsar guidance</p>		10,000
Including health cost and benefit assessment in economic models and wetland valuation	Lower	1, 3	STRP	<p>Development of strategic mechanisms to ensure that health costs and benefits are satisfactorily included in economic models that seek to value the contributions that wetland management makes to human health and well-being, including preparing wetland-related inputs to burden-of-disease assessments.</p> <p>New [COP11 Draft Resolution on wetlands and human health]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Note</p>		10,000

Guidance for wetland managers on human and animal health impact assessments in wetlands	Lower	1	STRP	<p>Prepare guidance for wetland managers on the conduct of human and animal health impact assessments in wetlands</p> <p>New [COP11 DRxx on wetlands and human health]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: guidance for wetland managers and training package</p>		t.b.d.
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Theme: Wetlands and climate change

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
Implications of climate change for Convention implementation	Top	1	STRP	<p>Guidance on the implications of climate change for Convention implementation, in particular for maintaining the ecological character of wetlands and establishing limits of acceptable change reference or baseline conditions for management, including restoration, and the emergence of novel ecosystems.</p> <p>Revised; partly carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: guidance/advice for Contracting Parties</p>	[This column to be completed subsequently]	20,000
Advice on adaptation to climate change	Top	1	STRP, with partner organizations	<p>Advice on adaptation to climate change and maintaining ecological character, and addressing the influence of large climate events, such as storms, floods and droughts, on wetlands.</p> <p>Revised; partly carried over from 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report</p>		15,000

The application of REDD+ for forested wetlands	Top	1	STRP, with partner organizations including WI & SER	<p>Advice on the application of UNFCCC REDD+ for forested wetlands, including the maintenance of ecological character, in particular the wider ecosystem services/benefits for local communities.</p> <p>New: builds on requests in Resolution X.24 and UNFCCC decisions</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report</p>		10,000
Opportunities for and constraints on carbon sequestration in wetlands	Top	1	STRP, with partner organizations	<p>Advice on opportunities for and constraints on carbon sequestration in wetlands and maintenance of ecological character and restoration</p> <p>Revised; builds on initial work in 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report</p>		15,000
Incorporation of social vulnerability into wetland vulnerability assessment	Lower	1	STRP, with partner organizations	<p>Advice on the incorporation of social vulnerability (sensitivity to change and coping capacity) into wetland vulnerability assessment.</p> <p>New: responds to Resolution X.24 and gaps identified in Ramsar Technical Report no. 5.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report</p>		15,000
Ramsar Sites boundary migration in response to sea level rise and other climate change effects	Lower	1	STRP, with CIESIN and others	<p>Advice to Parties on the implications of sea level rise for coastal Ramsar Sites, particularly those for which adaptation could be constrained due to, <i>inter alia</i>, the proximity of existing and expanding urban areas.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: possible guidance for Parties; Ramsar Technical Report</p>		t.b.d.

Theme: Wetlands and water resource management

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
The role of biodiversity and wetlands in the global water cycle	Top	1, 3, 5	STRP, with CBD Secretariat	<p>Establish an expert group on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to continue to support the water cycle (as requested by CBD COP10 Decision X/28 and approved by SC42).</p> <p>Ongoing, initiated in 2009-2012</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: i) technical review of the contribution of biodiversity to sustaining the water cycle, and current and potential changes occurring in this relationship (RTR/CBD Technical Series report); ii) key policy-relevant messages for decision-makers.</p>	[This column to be completed subsequently]	[150,000, funding already provided by donors]
Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of strategy for engaging in the global water debate	Top	1, 3	STRP & Secretariat	<p>Develop a strategy for Ramsar to engage fully in the global water debate, focusing on the role of wetlands as natural water infrastructure. This includes specifying aims, mechanisms for engagement, and products needed to support the engagement. [Note. The Secretariat's 2011 development of a "Vision 40+" for the Convention contributes to this strategy.]</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012 (task 7.7.a)</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar engagement strategy and possible refinements to 2013-2015 work programme (for Parties, Secretariat, and STRP) in the global water debate.</p>		20,000

Theme: Wetlands of International Importance

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
Implementation of the of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision	Top	1, 2	Secretariat, with advice from STRP	<p>Development of streamlined tools and mechanisms for enhanced and streamlined Ramsar Site designation and data and information management, including redevelopment of the Ramsar Sites Database and on-line submission tools for RIS.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: on-line accessible database capable of receiving and handling all data and information in the RIS – 2012 revision; on-line RIS submission tool; further guidance and training for Parties, as needed.</p>	[This column to be completed subsequently]	400,000
Understanding national site designation processes and impediments to national Ramsar Site networks	Lower	1	STRP, with input from Parties	<p>The <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (and associated Resolutions) calls for the designation of national networks of Ramsar Sites, yet few Parties have undertaken strategic reviews of potentially qualifying sites or have designated a comprehensive network of internationally important wetlands. This task is designed to help the STRP and Secretariat better understand the various constraints and impediments to this activity, as a basis for the STRP and Secretariat better supporting Parties in their future Ramsar Site designations.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: initially, an STRP Briefing Note.</p>		10,000

Target development to support the objectives for the Ramsar List	Lower	1	STRP	<p>Development of an integrated suite of targets to respond to and support the five Objectives for the Ramsar List included in the <i>Strategic Framework – 2012 revision</i>, including linking to the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Strategic Framework targets for consideration by COP12.</p>		10,000
Consideration of relationships between criteria for internationally important sites for biodiversity	Lower	5	IUCN-WCPA/SSC, with input from STRP	<p>Contribution to current initiative led by IUCN’s World Commission on Protected Areas and Species Survival Commission to review and possibly consolidate criteria for the identification of important sites for biodiversity conservation, in order to ensure that Ramsar Site criteria are fully taken into account.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: report to SC/COP on implications for Ramsar.</p>		5,000
Ecosystem services in the context of Ramsar Site selection criteria	Lower	1	STRP	<p>Consideration of the need for additional guidance on ecosystem services in the application of Ramsar Site selection criteria.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: advice/guidance to COP.</p>		5,000

Theme: Wetlands and agriculture

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
Guidance on rice, pesticides and wetlands	Lower	1, 5	IRRI, IWMI, FAO, Wageningen University, with STRP	<p>Develop and disseminate guidance on rice farming best practices, particularly in relation to negative effects of pesticide usage.</p> <p>New task: from Resolution X.31 & [COP11 Draft Resolution]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Notes (for Parties and the rice sector); Ramsar Technical Report</p>	[This column to be completed subsequently]	120,000
Guidance on enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems	Lower	1, 5	IRRI, IWMI, FAO, with STRP	<p>Prepare guidance building on best practice experience on enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems; based upon Asia workshops in previous triennium, develop further through workshops in Africa and South/Central America.</p> <p>New task: from Resolution X.31 & [COP11 Draft Resolution]</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Notes (for Parties and the rice sector); Ramsar Technical Report</p>		80,000

Wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture	Top	1	STRP, with FAO, World Fish Centre, WWF	<p>Building on lessons learnt from best practices on sustainable aquaculture, develop guidance for the wise use of wetlands in relation to coastal and inland aquaculture – recognizing that global dependence on aquaculture is growing, wild stocks continue to be depleted, and meeting the need for seafood is resulting in significant direct (habitat loss, wild harvest of species) and indirect impacts (pollution, contamination) on wetlands.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Notes</p>		120,000
Re-engineering agricultural landscapes	Lower	1	STRP, with Czech government, EU, OECD, FAO	<p>Prepare guidance on re-engineering agricultural landscapes. Revitalisation of wetland biodiversity within agricultural landscapes is an emerging issue with the transformation of past collective farming systems (e.g. in Central Europe) to individual landholdings. Community aspirations to develop eco-agricultural farming systems as part of such transformations need to be supported by technical/scientific guidance on best practices.</p> <p>New task.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Briefing Notes; guidance for Parties</p>		145,000

Wetlands and biofuels	Lower	1	STRP, with IOPs and others	<p>Working with international organizations addressing biofuel issues:</p> <p>i) review the global distribution of biofuel production in relation to impacts on wetlands;</p> <p>ii) review and collate existing best management practice guidance and social and environmental sustainability criteria for growing biofuel feedstocks in relation to wetlands, and where appropriate develop such guidance and criteria; and</p> <p>iii) consider further discussion among the Contracting Parties on addressing sustainable biofuel issues in relation to wetlands.</p> <p>Carried over from 2009-2012 (task 6.3).</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: Ramsar Technical Report & guidance/briefing notes for Parties</p>		
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Theme: Wetlands and ecosystem services

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
Economics of wetland ecosystem services	Top	1	STRP with IEED, IOPs, UNECE water convention and others	<p>Building on the work of TEEB and others (& the TEEB water and wetland synthesis report):</p> <p>a) Conduct a user needs analysis for Ramsar Parties & wetland (site) managers) on tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making;</p> <p>b) Conduct a scoping review of the advancements in ecosystem services (description / recognition, valuation, capture) to support wise use of wetlands, in particular cross sectoral integration;</p>	Strategy 1.4	80,000

				<p>c) Develop a guide to guidance on best practices for integrating ecosystem services values within the response options for wetland management;</p> <p>d) Conduct a scoping review of technical aspects of relevance to the Ramsar Convention in the finance, banking, investment, insurance and other economic sectors.</p> <p>Carried forward and further developed from 2009-2012.</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs:</p> <p>i) Information Paper + communication product on synthesis of ecosystem service values related to water and wetlands (building from TEEB and linked to SOWW)</p> <p>ii) Needs assessment of tools, knowledge, methodology and data required to support integration of ecosystem service values in planning and decision making;</p> <p>iii) Guide to guidance/guidance/ Information Paper(s) on:</p> <p>a) Recognizing wetland ecosystem services: linking ecosystem services to inventory, assessment and monitoring framework; management planning; risk and vulnerability assessments, etc.;</p> <p>b) Valuing wetland ecosystem services: best practices on economic valuation; participatory valuation techniques;</p> <p>c) Capturing wetland ecosystem services through use of market and non-market mechanisms: payments for ecosystem services; ecosystem services markets; linkages with banking, credit and insurance sectors, etc.;</p> <p>d) Case studies on application of ecosystem</p>		
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				services values for promoting wise use of wetlands.		
Wetlands and disaster risk reduction	Lower	1, 3	STRP, with IOPs, UNISDR, UNEP, UNDP, Stockholm Resilience Centre and others	<p>Develop guidance for Parties and the disaster risk management sector on the role of healthy wetlands in disaster risk reduction (floods, droughts, landslides, storm surges, etc.).</p> <p>Carried forward from 2009-2012 (task 5.1).</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: sectoral guidance on managing wetlands and disaster risk – Briefing Note and/or Ramsar Technical Report</p>		20,000

Theme: Communication, Education, Participation & Awareness (CEPA)

Task	Priority for delivery	Category of task	Who leads task?	Task summary, and expected outputs/outcomes	Supports Strategic Plan Strategy/KRA:	Estimated cost (CHF)
Assessing and supporting capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties in applying Ramsar guidance	Top	1	STRP (assessment & training package development); Secretariat, Regional Centres, IOPs and others (training delivery)	<p>Develop effective ways of providing training and capacity-building for relevant stakeholders in Contracting Parties (including Administrative Authorities & wetland managers) to assist with the interpretation and implementation of scientific and technical guidance and other materials adopted by the Convention, with the assessment and definition of future needs.</p> <p>Carried forward from 2009-2012 (task 10.3)</p> <p>Outcomes/outputs: i) scoping study regarding the optimum capacity-building approaches for Contracting Parties to support their use of guidance; ii) training package/modules on Ramsar guidance</p>	[This column to be completed subsequently]	<p>15,000 (scoping study)</p> <p>80,000 (development of training package)</p>
CEPA advice on guidance preparation	Lower	1	STRP	<p>Ensure that the preparation of STRP guidance and advice materials draws fully on CEPA expertise available to the Convention in order to optimize the effective drafting, design, targeting and uptake of such materials.</p> <p>Ongoing from 2009-2012 (task 1.4)</p>		15,000