

The status of sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance

Action requested. The Standing Committee is invited to contribute updated information where needed and approve the draft text for the report by the Secretary General to the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP11) pursuant to Article 8.2 of the Convention concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and to review the outline for the Draft Resolution on the same topic, which will be updated just prior to COP11 for consideration and adoption by the Parties. Standing Committee members are kindly requested to contact the Parties they are representing in their region and urge them to send to the Secretariat any necessary updates on the information provided below, as rapidly as possible, at the latest two weeks before the opening of COP11.

1. This document relates to Article 8.2 of the Convention which states that the continuing duties of the Secretariat shall be, *inter alia*,
 - “b) to maintain the List of Wetlands of International Importance and to be informed by the Contracting Parties of any additions, extensions, deletions or restrictions concerning wetlands included in the List provided in accordance with paragraph 5 of Article 2;
 - c) to be informed by the Contracting Parties of any changes in the ecological character of wetlands included in the List provided in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 3;
 - d) to forward notification of any alterations to the List, or changes in character of wetlands included therein, to all Contracting Parties and to arrange for these matters to be discussed at the next Conference;
 - e) to make known to the Contracting Party concerned, the recommendations of the Conferences in respect of such alterations to the List or of changes in the character of wetlands included therein.”
2. Since COP2 in 1983, the Secretariat has fulfilled this duty through the submission of specific reports to each meeting of the COP, pursuant to the above points of Article 8.2. The draft report on this matter for COP11 follows below.
3. Parties are invited to update the content of this draft Report at the latest two weeks before the opening of COP11, in order that the most up-to-date summary information can be used for inclusion into the Draft Resolution on the Status of Ramsar Sites to be adopted by COP11. The text structure for this Draft Resolution is also annexed below.

Draft Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance

Explanatory note by the Secretariat for SC43

This paper will be updated to provide information received at the Secretariat up to 2 June 2012, and the Contracting Parties are requested to provide the Secretariat with written updated information, as necessary, before that date.

Parties are requested not to reiterate orally during the plenary session the content of their written updates that have been provided to the Secretariat, but simply to refer briefly to them, “in order to save time spent on corrections and comments during plenary sessions” (Decision SC42-7).

1. The present report of the Secretary General conveys to the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties the information requested under Article 8 concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance (“Ramsar List”) since the close of Ramsar COP10 on 4 November 2008.

Additions of new Ramsar Sites to the List (Article 2.5)

2. The Ramsar Secretariat maintains up to date the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, always available in the Ramsar website and in hard copy in two versions: a) the basic List organized in alphabetical order of Contracting Parties with the name of the sites also in alphabetical order, date of designation, state/province where the site is located, area of the site, and geographical coordinates of the centre-point of the site (www.ramsar.org/pdf/sitelist.pdf); and b) the Annotated List, which in addition contains a brief description of each site (www.ramsar.org/anno-list).
3. In the case of the designation of new Ramsar Sites or extension of the area of existing sites, once the Secretariat is satisfied that the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) and map for each new site or extension has been supplied by the Contracting Party in accordance with COP Resolutions on the required data for Ramsar sites (notably Resolution VIII.13), the Secretary General authorizes the addition or change in the List, the announcement is made to the public on the Ramsar website and the Ramsar Forum e-mail list, as well as to each Contracting Party via the Ramsar Exchange e-mail list in English, French, and Spanish, and an official letter and certificate confirming the addition to the List or extension of area is sent to the Party concerned.
4. Pursuant to Article 8.2 (d), Annex 1 of this report provides a list of the sites added to the List in the period under review. Some 131 new Ramsar Sites have been designated with designation dates between the close of COP10 (4 November 2008) and 31 August 2011 (Africa 37, Asia 35, Europe 27, North America 17, Neotropics 15). In addition, China (6 sites) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (1 site) designated new Ramsar Sites subsequent to COP10 with earlier effective dates.
5. The global total as of 31 August 2011 is 1,951 Ramsar Sites covering a total of just over 190 million hectares. Only sites actually present on the Ramsar List on 31 August 2011 are included – several Parties have announced the designation of additional sites but the

necessary paperwork for these has not yet been completed. Very likely, some of these will be completed and added to the List prior to the opening of COP11.

Extensions of existing Ramsar Sites (Article 2.5)

6. During the period under review, four Parties – Australia, Bolivia, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Switzerland – have significantly extended the boundaries and area of one existing Ramsar Site in each of their territories. This does not include a few Ramsar Sites for which an increase or decrease in area is a result, not of a change in boundaries, but of a more precise boundary definition and/or a recalculation or correction of errors in the area of the site (Resolution VIII.21), usually with the benefit of more modern technology. Routine minor corrections of this type, frequently communicated in the updated Ramsar Information Sheets, have been noted on the Ramsar List but not mentioned here or in the news pages of the Ramsar website.

Restrictions or deletions of Ramsar Sites in the List (Article 2.5)

7. No Ramsar Site on the List has been substantially reduced or deleted from the List since the closing of COP10 on 4 November 2008.

Changes in the ecological character of specific Ramsar Sites (Article 3.2)

8. Article 3.2 of the Convention stipulates that “Each Contracting Party shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay to the organization or government responsible for the continuing bureau duties specified in Article 8”, i.e. the Ramsar Secretariat.
9. In most cases, information on ecological change or likely change at Ramsar Sites is provided at an early time to the Secretariat by third parties, e.g. concerned citizens, wetland experts, local people having a professional stake at wetland ecosystem services, or non-governmental organizations. The Secretariat has established a rapid procedure to respond to this and to put those informants in contact with the national Administrative Authorities, notably the designated Ramsar National Focal Points in their country, in order that they are informed as early as possible and are able to fulfil their reporting duties spelt out in Article 3.2.
10. This procedure includes proposing to the informants that they contact the Ramsar National Focal Point directly in cases perceived by the Secretariat to be of minor gravity or less imminent threat. These cases, where no direct contact was established between the Secretariat and the Ramsar National Focal Point or the Administrative Authority on the issue, are not listed below, because the Secretariat assumes that it was possible to clarify and solve these cases through the direct contacts between the National Focal Point and the informant.
11. In cases where this was finally not possible, and in all other cases where the Secretariat, based on the information received, perceives the threat of ecological change to be significant, it regularly requests further information from the National Focal Point or the head of the Administrative Authority in the country concerned. This is done to obtain a

comprehensive view about the status of the Ramsar Site in question from the Administrative Authority, as required by Article 3.2.

12. In the majority of cases this approach helps to clarify the on-site situation rapidly, based on a transfer of relevant information by the National Focal Point to the Secretariat, i) either indicating that the perceived problem was solved in the meantime or ii) that measures to solve it are being applied. In more complicated cases, the Secretariat supports the Administrative Authority in its quest to find lasting solutions by providing advice if asked, by putting the authorities in contact with specific experts, or by helping with the preparation of a Ramsar Advisory Mission, i.e. a specific procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties (through Recommendation 4.7, 1990) in which a mission of special experts addresses the problems encountered at a given Ramsar Site in more detail during an on-site visit, with the aim of providing advice to the Administrative Authority of the country concerned on how to find lasting solutions.
13. All Ramsar Sites where relevant information about issues addressed in Article 3.2 was exchanged between the Secretariat and the Administrative Authority during the reporting period (4 November 2008 to 31 August 2011) are shown in the following two lists, in alphabetical order by country.
14. The first is a list of “closed files”: cases where perceived or real problems of ecological change at Ramsar Sites were considered to be resolved by the Administrative Authority during the reporting period. The authorities involved are to be congratulated for the efforts they made to solve the issues under consideration. The list mentions all Ramsar Sites where it was possible to “close” a formerly open Article 3.2 file at the Secretariat during this reporting period.
15. The second list of “open files” summarizes all cases where the Secretariat has been informed about occurring or possible ecological change at Ramsar Sites during the reporting period, or before it, and has contacted the Administrative Authority about this.
16. This list includes two situations: i) cases where the Secretariat still expects to receive further information from the national Administrative Authority and ii) cases where the Authority has already informed the Secretariat that efforts to solve the problems that threaten the ecological character of the Ramsar Site are being undertaken. The Secretariat looks forward to resolving all of these issues together with the relevant Administrative Authorities in the near future, notably in cases where the Article 3.2 file has already been “open” for a long time (sometimes dating back several years). The Secretariat is available to provide more detailed information on these cases on request. Ramsar Sites included in the Montreux Record are dealt with separately below; they are not included in these two lists.

“Closed files” – closed since 4 November 2008

Ramsar Sites with no longer occurring ecological change (or likely change)

Argentina	Humedales del Chaco, Bahía de Samborombon, Otamendi
Australia	Bowling Green Bay, Corner Inlet/Nooramunga, Gippsland Lake/Macleod Morass, Great Sandy Strait (including Great Sandy Strait, Tin Can Bay and Tin Can Inlet), Pulu Keeling, Western Port Bay
Barbados	Graeme Hall Swamp
Canada	Malpeque Bay, Beverly

Cape Verde	Lagoa de Pedro Badejo
China	Dalai Lake National Nature Reserve
France	Rives du Lac Léman
Jamaica	Palisadoes
Japan	Nishinoko-part of Biwa-ko
El Salvador	Bahía de Jiquilisco
Lebanon	Palm Islands Nature Reserve
Malaysia	Kuching Wetlands National Park
Mali	Delta intérieur du Niger
Morocco	Merja Sidi Boughaba
Sri Lanka	Bundala National Park
Mexico	Laguna el Caiman, Area de Protección Cuatro Ciénagas, Reserva de la Biosfera Chamela-Cuixmala
Peru	Zona Reservada Los Pantanos de Villa, Reserva Nacional Paracas
Poland	Milicz Fishponds Nature Reserve
South Africa	Langebaan
Sweden	Umeälv Delta
United Arab Emirates	Ras Al Khor Wildlife Sanctuary
United Kingdom	Lewis Peatlands, Lough Neagh and Lough Beg, Strangford Loch

“Open files”

Ramsar Sites wher ecological change is taking place or is likely to take place

Albania	Butrint, Lake Shkodra and River Buna
Armenia	Lake Sevan
Australia	Gippsland Lakes, Maquarie Marshes
Austria	Stauseen am Unteren Inn, Untere Lobau
Bangladesh	Sundarbans Reserved Forest
Belarus	Osveiski, Yelnia, Sporovsky Biological Reserve, Zvanets
Belgium	Marais d'Harchies
Belize	Sarstoon Temash National Park
Colombia	Sistema Lagunar Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hutovo Blato
Bulgaria	Belene Islands Complex
Congo	Cayo-Loufoualeba
Congo, Democratic Republic of	Parc National des Virunga
Croatia	Delta Neretve
Czech Republic	Sumava peatlands
Denmark	Nissum Fjord, Ulvedybet & Nibee Bredning, Vadehavet, Heden on Jameson Land (Greenland)
Estonia	Endla Nature Reserve
France	Camargue
Georgia	Ispani Mire, Wetlands of Central Kolkheti
Germany	Mühlenberger Loch
Greece	Artificial lake Kerkini, Evros Delta, Lake Mikri Prespa
Honduras	Parque Nacional Jeannette Kawas
Iceland	Gunnafjörður, Myvatn-Laxá region, Thjörðsárver
India	East Calcutta Wetlands, Sambhar Lake
Kazakhstan	Ural River Delta and adjacent Caspian Sea coast
Mexico	Marismas Nacionales and Huisache Caimanero, Xcalcel, Xcalcelito, Parque Nacional Cabo Pulmo
Moldova	Lower Prut Lakes
Montenegro	Skadarsko Jezero
Mozambique	Marromeu Complex

Nepal	Gosaikunda and Associated Lakes
Netherlands	Bargerveen, Naardermeer
Norway	Aakersvika, Froan Nature Reserve & Landscape Protection Area, Giske Wetland System, Ilene & Pesterødkilen, Kurefjorde,n Nordre Øyeren, Øra
Pakistan	Kinjhar (Kalri) Lake, Haleji Lake,
Poland	Biebrzanski National Park
Portugal	Ria Formosa
Romania	Danube Delta, Small Island of Braila
Russian Federation	Moroshechnaya River, Selenga Delta, Volga Delta, Torey Lakes
Serbia	Slano Kopova, Stari Begi/Carska Bara Special Nature Reserve
Slovenia	Lake Cerknica and its environ, Skocjan Caves, Secovlje salt pans
South Africa	Ndumo Game Reserve
Spain	Albufera de Valencia, Laguna y Arenal de Valdoviño, Marjal de Pego-Oliva, Mar Menor, Ria del Eo, Saladar de Jandía, S'Albufera de Mallorca, Txingudi
Syria	Sabkhat al-Jabbul Nature Reserve
Tanzania	Lake Natron Basin
Thailand	Kuan Ki Sian of the Thale Noi Non-Hunting Area Wetlands
The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Prespa Lake
Turkey	Gediz Delta, Lake Seyfe, Lake Uluabat, Sultan Marshes
Ukraine	Kyliiske Mouth, Northern Part of the Dniester Liman, Tendrivska Bay and Yagorlytska Bay
United Kingdom	Akrotiri (Southern Base Area, Cyprus), South East Coast of Jersey

Ramsar Sites included in the Montreux Record to facilitate the finding of solutions to cope with changes to their ecological character

17. The table below summarizes the current status of the Ramsar Sites on the Montreux Record. During the reporting period (4 November 2008 to 31 August 2011), one Ramsar Site was added to the Record, and four were removed from the Record:
18. Iraq placed Hawizeh Marsh on the Montreux Record on 28 April 2010 as a result of lowering water level due to excessive drainage in the 1990s, the construction of upstream dams that have decreased the flow from the rivers that enter the marsh, and a lack of agreement with riparian states over the sharing of water that enters the marsh. All of which has been exacerbated by a decrease in rainfall in the catchment due to climate change.
19. Four Parties have successfully removed one site each from the Montreux Record because by reason of management responses the conditions for which they had been placed on the Record have been resolved: Algeria (Lac Tonga, removed 07/09/09), Islamic Republic of Iran (Alagol, Ulmagol & Ajigol Lakes, 17/07/09), Italy (Stagno di Cagliari, 25/11/08), and Mauritania (Parc National du Diawling, 08/09/09).
20. In addition, three Ramsar Sites were placed on the Montreux Record by the USSR and have subsequently been redesignated or acknowledged as Ramsar Sites by successor states to the Soviet Union (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyz Republic). The Secretariat is pursuing discussions with those three Contracting Parties concerning the present status of those sites vis-à-vis their listing on the Montreux Record, and all three former USSR sites have been removed from the Record pending the outcomes of those deliberations. These

sites are Isyk-Kul State Reserve with the Lake Isyk-Kul (Kyrgyz republic), Kirov Bays (Azerbaijan), and Lakes of the lower Turgay & Irgiz (Kazakhstan).

21. Currently the Montreux Record includes 48 Ramsar Sites that were listed because of human-induced threats creating ecological change. Some of them have been included in the Record for many years (some in fact up to twenty years), according to the public list provided at www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-montreux-montreux-record/main/ramsar/1-31-118%5E20972_4000_0__.
22. The Secretariat hopes that the ongoing process to remove the four sites listed in column A of the table below can be finalized soon. These sites are close to removal, and the Secretariat remains at the disposal of the respective national Administrative Authorities to bring the removal process to a rapid conclusion.
23. Information received by the Secretariat on progress with work concerning another eleven sites listed in column B of the table below indicates that solutions to deal with their problems of ecological change are actively addressed.
24. For the remaining Ramsar Sites, listed in column C in the table below, the Secretariat hopes to receive information from the Administrative Authorities in time before COP11, clarifying whether these sites can be removed from the Record because the problems causing their ecological change were resolved in the meantime or, on the contrary, if the problems remain and still need to be actively addressed.

Contracting Parties	A: Ramsar Sites with ongoing removal process from the MR	B: Ramsar Sites where the change in ecological character is actively addressed	C: Ramsar Sites in need of clarification if they should be removed, or if the causes of their ecological change need to be addressed
Argentina Austria Azerbaijan Belgium		Laguna de Llanquanelo	Donau-March-Thaya-Auen Kirov Bays De Ijzerbroeken te Diksmuide en Lo-Renige, Schorren van de Beneden Schelde Durankulak Lake
Bulgaria Chile	Srebarna	Carlos Anwandter Sanctuary Parc National des Virunga	Parc National des Mangroves
Congo, Democratic Republic of Costa Rica Croatia Czech Republic		Palo Verde	Kopacki Rit Litovelske Pomoravi, Floodplain of lower Dyje River, Poodrí, Trebon fishponds Parc national des Mangroves
Democratic Republic of Congo Denmark		Ringkøbing Fjord	

Egypt	Lake Bardawil		Lake Burullus
Germany	Wattenmeer, Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer & Dollart		
Greece			Amvrakikos gulf, Axios Ludias Aliakmon delta, Kotychi laggons, Lake vistonis Porto Lagos Lake Ismaris & adjoining lagoons, Lakes Volvi & Koronia, Messolonghi lagoons, Nestos delta & adjoining lagoons Laguna del Tigre Keoladeo National Park, Loktak Lake
Guatemala			
India			
Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	Anzali Mordab complex	Shurgol Yadegarlu & Dorgeh Sangi Lakes	Hamun-e-Puzak south end, Hamun-e-Saberi & Hamun- e-Helmand, Neiriz Lakes & Kamjan Marshes, Shadegan Marshes & mudflats of Khor-al Amaya & Khor Musa, Hawizeh Marsh Azraq Oasis Lakes of the lower Turgay & Irgyz Isyk-Kul State Reserve with the Lake Isyk-Kul
Iraq			
Jordan			
Kazakhstan			
Kyrgyz Republic			
Morocco		Embochure de la Moulaya	
Nicaragua			Sistema de Humedales de la Bahia de Bluefields
South Africa			Blesbokspruit, Orange River Mouth, Ndumo Game Reserve
Spain		Doñana	Las Tablas de Daimiel
Tunisia			Ichkeul
Uganda			Lake George
United Kingdom		The Dee Estuary, Ouse Washes	
USA			Everglades
Uruguay		Bañados del Este y Franja Costera	

Ramsar Advisory Missions

25. Special attention is given to assisting Parties in the management and conservation of listed sites whose ecological character is threatened. This is frequently carried out through the Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM), a formal mechanism for technical assistance that has been benefiting the Parties for more than twenty years.
26. In most cases the RAM consists of a visit by a team of experts who produce a report on their findings and recommendations. The team's report, after review by the authorities,

becomes a public document which can provide the basis for conservation action at the site and a resource for others, and may help to attract Ramsar or external funding for implementing its recommendations.

27. The first RAM was carried out in February 1988 at a Belgian Ramsar Site, followed by a further 70 missions since that time. Advice elaborated and provided to the Parties is consolidated and based on best available knowledge and understanding of the views of the experts, team members and stakeholders, on the actual situation prevailing at the Ramsar Site and in its water catchment. Increasingly, the Parties are recognizing the usefulness and value of such advice, and they are requesting the undertaking of an increasing number of Ramsar Advisory Missions.
28. According to Recommendation IV.7, the final report of the mission becomes a public document (via the Ramsar website), once the Party concerned has had an opportunity to study the report and its recommendations and to comment on them. The reports (cf. www.ramsar.org/ram) serve as reference of the issues to be considered for the further and improved management of the site in question, as well as for the managers of other Ramsar Sites who may be experiencing similar pressures.
29. Since the close of COP10 (4 November 2008), 13 Ramsar Advisory Missions have been undertaken, and some examples are briefly summarized following this list:

60	Alagol, Ulmagol & Ajigol Lakes	Islamic Republic of Iran	May 2009
61	Ramsar in Greenland	Denmark	Jun 2009
62	Marromeu Complex	Mozambique	Aug 2009
63	Bahía de Panamá y San San-Pond Sak	Panama	Nov 2008
64	Åkersvika	Norway	April 2010
65	Laguna del Tigre	Guatemala	May 2010
66	Cayo-Loufoualeba	Congo	June 2010
67	Marismas Nacionales and Laguna Huisache Caimanero	Mexico	June 2010
68	S'Albufera de Mallorca	Spain	October 2010
69	Humedal Caribe Noreste	Costa Rica	November 2010
70	Doñana	Spain	January 2011
71	Embouchure de la Moulouya	Morocco	October 2010
72	Refugio de Vida Silvestre del Río San Juan	Nicaragua	March 2011

30. In the Republic of Congo, RAM N°66 took place to Cayo-Loufoualeba in June 2010 to evaluate potential impacts of a proposed potassium chloride mine due to the abstraction of large water volumes. This was a joint mission with the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA). The report and its recommendations have been published on the Ramsar website.
31. In Costa Rica, RAM N°69 took place in December 2010 to the Ramsar Site Caribe Nordeste, and its report has already been published. In April 2011, another RAM visited Costa Rica and the site Palo Verde in order to assess the restoration measures implemented for the restoration of the site. Its report will soon be finalized and published.
32. In Greenland (Denmark), RAM N°61 took place in June 2009 triggered by the planned molybdenum mining project at Malmbjerg affecting the Ramsar Site Heden (Jameson Land) in eastern Greenland. A first meeting in Copenhagen dealt with this project. It was followed by a mission to Greenland to investigate a wider array of Ramsar-related issues, and the report of the mission is available on the Ramsar website.
33. In Guatemala, RAM N°65 took place in May 2010 to the Laguna del Tigre considering the renewal of an oil exploitation contract inside the Ramsar Site. The final report is due to be soon published. In Mexico, RAM N°67 took place in June 2010 to Ramsar Sites Marismas Nacionales and Huisache Caimanero considering the proposals for a tourist development project and to construct dams at both sites. In Nicaragua, RAM N°72 took place in March 2011 to Ramsar Site Refugio de Vida Silvestre del Río San Juan concerning a project to improve navigation conditions on the river. The final report and recommendations will soon be published.
35. In Morocco, RAM N°71 took place in October 2010 to the Embouchure de la Moulouya to evaluate the potential impacts of tourist and related coastal developments. The final report is due to be published soon.
37. In Norway, RAM N°64 took place in April 2010 to Ramsar Site Åkersvika following the approval by the Norwegian Parliament to upgrade a road crossing the site from two to four lanes. In Spain, RAM N°68 took place in September/October 2010 to S'Albufera de Mallorca to assess the situation created by the development of a golf course in a former dune area at the edge of the Ramsar Site. And again in Spain, RAM N°70 took place in January 2011 to Doñana. This was a joint mission with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), acting as UNESCO's adviser on natural sites, to assess the current status and potential threats to the site from mining, energy, navigation and other development proposals. Final reports of these missions have published on the Ramsar website and, in the case of Doñana, on the World Heritage website as well.

Regular updating of Ramsar Sites information

38. The Contracting Parties have established a system of recording the most important data on Ramsar Sites in the "Ramsar Site Information Sheet" (RIS). With Resolution VI.13 adopted at COP6 (1996), Parties urged themselves "to revise the data provided at least every six years (i.e., every second Meeting of the Conference) for monitoring purposes."

39. With the increasing number of listed Ramsar Sites, and the limited capacities (of both Parties and the Secretariat) to revise, update and integrate Ramsar Site information in the Ramsar Sites Information System (publicly accessible through <http://ramsar.wetlands.org>), the Secretariat suggests that Parties revise and update Ramsar Site information on a “rolling” basis, i.e., site by site whenever a particular opportunity or need arises. Such a rolling update is preferable to undertaking major revisions and updates for all Ramsar Sites at national level only every six years.
40. Providing updated Ramsar Site information to the Secretariat individually for each site, whenever the need for an update arises, at intervals no longer than six years, allows better spreading of the efforts needed for revision and update across time. This helps to avoid the need to find additional resources to undertake substantial revision and updating campaigns at national level, particularly for Parties that have designated a large number of Ramsar Sites.
41. Since the close of COP10 on 4 November 2008, the Secretariat has received one or more Ramsar Information Sheets or updated sheets from the following Parties: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Benin, Brazil, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Chile, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, and United States of America.
42. The Secretariat draws attention to the strong wish expressed in Resolution X.13 (2008), para. 13, for “those Parties within whose territories lie designated Ramsar Sites for which official descriptions have still not been provided, and/or for which suitable maps have still not yet been submitted, to provide as a matter of the greatest urgency the Ramsar Information Sheets and/or maps in one of the convention’s official working languages”.
43. The Secretariat continues to contact regularly those Parties which were not yet able to do so completely, as instructed by Resolution X.13, para. 31. They are included in the list below, which contains 128 Parties (80% of all 160 Parties).

Albania	Canada	Egypt
Algeria	Cape Verde	El Salvador
Antigua and Barbuda	Central African Republic	Equatorial Guinea
Argentina	Chad	Estonia
Austria	China	Finland
Azerbaijan	Colombia	France
Bangladesh	Comoros	Gabon
Barbados	Congo	Gambia
Bahrain	Congo, Democratic	Georgia
Belarus	Republic of	Germany
Belgium	Croatia	Ghana
Belize	Czech Republic	Greece
Benin	Denmark (Greenland)	Guatemala
Bolivia	Djibouti	Guinea
Bulgaria	Dominican Republic	Guinea-Bissau
Burkina Faso	Ecuador	Honduras

Iceland	Mongolia	Slovenia
India	Montenegro	South Africa
Iraq	Morocco	Spain
Ireland	Myanmar	Sri Lanka
Indonesia	Nepal	Suriname
Iran, Islamic Republic of	Netherlands	Sweden
Italy	Nicaragua	Switzerland
Jamaica	Niger	Syrian Arab Republic
Japan	Nigeria	Tajikistan
Jordan	Norway	Tanzania, United Republic of
Kazakhstan	Pakistan	Thailand
Kenya	Palau	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Korea, Republic of	Panama	Togo
Kyrgyz Republic	Paraguay	Trinidad and Tobago
Latvia	Peru	Tunisia
Lebanon	Philippines	Uganda
Libyan Arab Jamhuriya	Poland	Ukraine
Liechtenstein	Portugal	United Kingdom
Luxemburg	Romania	United States of America
Madagascar	Russian Federation	Uruguay
Malawi	Rwanda	Uzbekistan
Malaysia	Saint Lucia	Venezuela
Mali	Samoa	Viet Nam
Malta	Sao Tome and Principe	Yemen
Mauritania	Senegal	
Mauritius	Serbia	
Mexico	Sierra Leone	
Moldova	Slovakia	

Annex 1

Newly designated Ramsar Sites since COP10

Algeria	Garaet Timerganine	18/12/09
Algeria	Ile de Rachgoun	05/06/11
Algeria	Lac du barrage de Boughezoul	05/06/11
Algeria	Marais de Bourdim	18/12/09
Algeria	Oum Lâagareb	05/06/11
Algeria	Site classé Sebkhet Ezzmoul	18/12/09
Algeria	Site Ramsar du Lac Boulhilet	18/12/09
Algeria	Vallée de l'oued Soummam	18/12/09
Argentina	Glaciar Vinciguerra y Turberas Asociadas	16/09/09
Argentina	Lagunas Altoandinas y Puneñas de Catamarca	02/02/09
Argentina	Palmar Yatay	05/06/11
Belarus	Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve	25/01/10
Brazil	Abrolhos Marine National Park	02/02/10
Brazil	Reserva Particular del Patrimonio Natural (RPPN) "Fazenda Rio Negro"	22/05/09
Brazil	Rio Doce State Park (Parque Estadual do Rio Doce)	15/03/10
Bulgaria	Dragoman Marsh Karst Complex	11/02/11
Burkina Faso	Barrage de Bagre	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Barrage de la Kompienga	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Barrage de la Tapoa	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Cône d'Épandage de Banh	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Forêt Classée et Réserve Partielle de Faune Comoé-Léraba	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Forêt Galerie de Léra (Nan, Tchêfoun	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	La Vallée du Sourou	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Lac Bam	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Lac de Tingrela	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Lac Dem	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Lac Higa	07/10/09
Burkina Faso	Réserve Totale de Faune d'Arly (Parc National d'Arly)	07/10/09
Cameroon	Estuaire du Rio Del Rey	20/05/10
Cameroon	Partie Camerounaise du Lac Tchad	02/02/10
Central African Rep.	Rivière Sangha située en République Centrafricaine	05/11/09
Chile	Parque Andino Juncal	22/05/10
Chile	Salar de Aguas Calientes IV	14/08/09
Chile	Salar de Pujsa	14/08/09
China	Hangzhou Xixi Wetlands	07/07/09
Congo	Les Rapides du Congo-Djoué	03/04/09
Congo	Sangha-Nouabalé-Ndoki	03/04/09
Costa Rica	Humedal Maquenque	22/09/10
Dominican Rep.	Refugio de Vida Silvestre Laguna Cabral o Rincón	02/02/11
El Salvador	Complejo Güija	16/12/10
El Salvador	Complejo Jaltepeque	02/02/11
El Salvador	Laguna de Olomega	02/02/10
Gabon	Bas Ogooué	02/02/09
Gabon	Chutes et Rapides sur Ivindo	02/02/09

Gabon	Rapides de Mgoungou Badouma et de Doumé	02/02/09
Hungary	Fishponds and Marshlands south of Lake Balaton (Dél-balatoni halastavak és berkek)	09/06/11
Indonesia	Rawa Aopa Watumohai National Park	06/03/11
Indonesia	Sembilang National Park	06/03/11
Islamic Rep.of Iran	Choghakhor Wetland	03/03/10
Islamic Rep.of Iran	Kanibarazan Wetland	17/01/11
Italy	Palude del Brusà – Le Vallette	25/01/10
Kazakhstan	Alakol-Sasykkol Lakes System	25/11/09
Kazakhstan	Koibagar-Tyuntyugur Lake System	07/05/09
Kazakhstan	Kulykol-Taldykol Lake System	07/05/09
Kazakhstan	Naurzum Lake System	12/07/09
Kazakhstan	Ural River Delta and adjacent Caspian Sea coast	10/03/09
Kazakhstan	Zharsor-Urkash Lake System	12/07/09
Kyrgyz Republic	Son-Kol Lake	23/01/11
Lao P.D.R.	Beung Kiat Ngong Wetlands	16/06/10
Lao P.D.R.	Xe Champhone Wetlands	16/06/10
Madagascar	Rivière Nosivolo et affluents	17/09/10
Mauritania	Lac Gabou et le réseau hydrographique du Plateau du Tagant	13/02/09
Mexico	Canal del Infiernillo y esteros del territorio Comcaac (Xepe Coosot)	27/11/09
Mexico	Ecosistema Arroyo Verde APFF Sierra de Álamos Río Cuchujaqui	02/02/10
Mexico	El Jagüey, “Buenavista de Peñuelas”	02/02/11
Mexico	Humedales de Bahía Adair	02/02/09
Mexico	La Alberca de los Espinos	02/02/09
Mexico	La Mintzita	02/02/09
Mexico	Lago de Chapala	02/02/09
Mexico	Lago de San Juan de los Ahorcados	02/02/09
Mexico	Laguna de Hanson	02/02/10
Mexico	Laguna de Hueyapan (El Texcal)	02/02/10
Mexico	Manglares y Humedales del Norte de Isla Cozumel	02/02/09
Mozambique	Lake Niassa and its Coastal Zone (Lago Niassa e Zona Costeira)	26/04/11
Norway	Atnsjømyrene	12/11/10
Norway	Bear Island (Bjørnøya)	12/11/10
Norway	Evenes Wetland System	12/11/10
Norway	Glomådeltaet	12/11/10
Norway	Hedmarksvidda Wetland System	12/11/10
Norway	Hopen	12/11/10
Norway	Målselvutløpet	12/11/10
Norway	Nordenskiöldkysten	12/11/10
Norway	Reisautløpet	12/11/10
Norway	Røstøyan	12/11/10
Norway	Rott-Håstein-Kjør	12/11/10
Norway	Sklinna	12/11/10
Norway	Sørkapp	12/11/10
Norway	Ulendeltaet	12/11/10
Panama	Humedal de Importancia Internacional Damani-Guariviara	09/03/10

Republic of Korea	1100 Altitude Wetland	29/10/09
Republic of Korea	Dongbaekolongsan	14/03/11
Republic of Korea	Gochang and Buan Tidal Flats	01/02/10
Republic of Korea	Seocheon Tidal Flat	02/12/09
Republic of Korea	Ungok Wetland	01/04/11
Romania	Iron Gates Natural Park	18/01/11
Seychelles	Aldabra Atoll	02/02/10
Seychelles	Mare Aux Cochons High Altitude Freshwater Wetlands	02/02/10
South Africa	Ntsikeni Nature Reserve	02/02/10
Spain	Paraje Natural Laguna Grande	17/09/09
Spain	Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico de Chiclana	17/09/09
Spain	Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico de Puerto Real	17/09/09
Spain	Reserva Natural Complejo Endorreico Lebrija-Las Cabezas	17/09/09
Spain	Reserva Natural Lagunas de Archidona	17/09/09
Sri Lanka	Kumana Wetland Cluster	29/10/10
Sri Lanka	Vankalai Sanctuary	12/07/10
Sudan	Dongonab Bay – Marsa Waiai	02/02/09
Sudan	Suakin – Gulf of Agig	02/02/09
Thailand	Kut Ting Marshland	19/06/09
Turkey	Lake Kuyucuk (Kuyucuk Gölü)	28/08/09
Turkmenistan	Turkmenbashy Bay	03/03/09
Uganda	Rwenzori Mountains Ramsar Site	13/05/09
United Arab Emirates	Wadi Wurayah National Park	07/10/10
United Kingdom	Gough Island	20/11/08
United Kingdom	Inaccessible Island	20/11/08
USA	Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary	23/03/09
USA	Humbug Marsh	20/01/10
USA	Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetland Complex	16/04/10
USA	Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge	01/04/11
USA	Roswell Artesian Wetlands	20/01/10
USA	Upper Mississippi River Floodplain Wetlands	05/01/10
Vietnam	Ba Be (Ba Be National Park)	02/02/11

COP11 Draft Resolution xx [model]

The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance

1. RECALLING Article 2.1 of the Convention, which states that “each Contracting Party shall designate suitable wetlands within its territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance”, and Resolution VIII.11 (2002), in which the Parties established that the Vision of the Ramsar List is to be achieved through the designation of coherent and comprehensive national and international networks of Ramsar Sites;
2. ALSO RECALLING Article 8.2 of the Convention on the duties of the Secretariat concerning reporting on the status of Ramsar Sites for the consideration and recommendations by the Parties at ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on these matters, and Article 6.2(d) concerning the competence of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to make general or specific recommendations to the Contracting Parties regarding the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands;
3. CONGRATULATING the XX Contracting Parties that since the close of COP10 (4 November 2008) have designated a total of XX Ramsar Sites covering a total of XX hectares as of 26 June 2012 [country names], and ALSO CONGRATULATING the following XX Contracting Parties that have designated or are preparing to designate a further xx Ramsar Sites which are being finalized with the Secretariat for adding to the List: country names;
4. NOTING, however, that despite the fact that this represents a xx% increase in the number of sites being included in the List since COP10, there remain significant gaps in the comprehensiveness and representativeness of the global network of Ramsar Sites and that the total of xxxx sites on the Ramsar List as of 26 June 2012 falls below the targets of 2,000 sites set for the year 2005 by Resolution VII.11 (1999) and of 2,500 sites by the year 2010 that the Parties established in the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the development of the Ramsar List* (2005);
5. CONCERNED that for xxx Ramsar Sites (xx% of all Ramsar Sites) in xxx countries (see Annex 1 to this Resolution), Ramsar Information Sheets (RISs) or adequate maps have not been provided or updated RISs and maps have not been supplied to the Secretariat for more than six years, so that information on the current status of these sites is not available;
6. NOTING that changes to Ramsar Site boundaries and areas reported to the Secretariat in updated Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) concern only extensions or recalculations of areas including through more precise boundary delininations;
7. AWARE that Article 3.2 of the Convention provides that “each Contracting Party shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay to the [Ramsar Secretariat]”;

8. RECALLING that in Resolution VIII.8 (2002) the COP expressed concern that many Contracting Parties do not have in place the mechanisms to fulfil Article 3.2, and that it urged Contracting Parties to promptly “put in place mechanisms in order to be informed at the earliest possible time, including through reports by national authorities and local and indigenous communities and NGOs, if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory included in the Ramsar List has changed, is changing or is likely to change, and to report any such change without delay to the Ramsar [Secretariat] so as to fully implement Article 3.2 of the Convention”;
9. CONCERNED that of the xx Ramsar Sites included in the Montreux Record as of 26 June 2012 only x sites have been removed from the Record since COP10, and NOTING that Contracting Parties have placed xx further Ramsar Sites on the Montreux Record since COP10 [country names];
10. NOTING that xx Contracting Parties provided information in their National Reports to COP11, rather than by reporting to the Ramsar Secretariat without delay as stipulated in Article 3.2 of the Convention, concerning ecological character change issues to a further xx Ramsar Sites (as listed in Annex 2 to this Resolution);
11. AWARE, however, that in general few Parties have reported instances of change or likely change in the ecological character of their Ramsar Sites in line with Article 3.2, and CONCERNED at the number of reports first received by the Secretariat of Ramsar Sites facing human-induced change or likely change in their ecological character came from third parties, as reported to this meeting in the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (d) concerning xx sites in more than xx countries;
12. NOTING that some of these sites are parts of transboundary wetlands and river systems, such that change in their ecological character may affect the status of those parts of the wetland, including any Ramsar Sites, lying within the territory of neighbouring countries, and RECALLING that Article 5 of the Convention states that “the Contracting Parties shall consult with each other about implementing obligations arising from the Convention especially in the case of a wetland extending over the territories of more than one Contracting Party or where a water system is shared by Contracting Parties”; and
13. RECOGNIZING that the pressures on Ramsar Sites are likely to increase and that many Ramsar Sites have undergone or are undergoing change in their ecological character, or are likely to undergo such change, by virtue of the land use and other pressures affecting them;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

14. REAFFIRMS the commitment made by the Parties in Resolution VIII.8 to implement fully the terms of Article 3.2 on reporting change and to maintain or restore the ecological character of their Ramsar Sites, including employing all appropriate mechanisms to address and resolve as soon as possible the matters for which a site may have been the subject of an Article 3.2 report; and, once those matters have been resolved, to submit a further report, so that both positive influences at sites and changes in ecological character may be fully reflected in the reporting to meetings of the Conference of the Parties in order to establish a clear picture of the status and trends of the Ramsar Site network;

15. CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE Contracting Parties to adopt and apply, as part of their management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, a suitable monitoring regime, such as that outlined in the annex to Resolution VI.1 (1996), and to incorporate within these monitoring regimes the Convention's *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* (Resolution VII.10), in order to be able to report change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites in line with Article 3.2;
16. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to those xx Contracting Parties that have provided Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat about xx Ramsar Sites where human-induced changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or may occur, as listed in paragraph 10 above;
17. ALSO EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to those xx Contracting Parties that in their National Reports to this meeting provided information on a further xx Ramsar Sites where human-induced changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or may occur, as listed in Annex 2 to this Resolution;
18. CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE Contracting Parties, when submitting a report in fulfillment of Article 3.2, to consider whether the site would benefit from listing on the Montreux Record, and to request such listing as appropriate;
19. REQUESTS Contracting Parties with sites on the Montreux Record to regularly provide the Secretariat with an update on progress in addressing the issues for which those Ramsar Sites were listed on the Record, including reporting on these matters in their National Reports to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
20. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat, in conjunction with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel's task on redesigning the Montreux Record questionnaire, to consider desirable frequencies of progress reporting by Contracting Parties concerning resolution of issues that led to the inclusion of sites in the Montreux Record, and so to allow the Record to be updated before each COP;
21. REQUESTS those Contracting Parties with Ramsar Sites for which the Secretary General has received reports of change or likely change in their ecological character to advise the Secretary General at the earliest opportunity of steps taken to address these changes, or likely changes, in ecological character;
22. REQUESTS Contracting Parties to use the most up-to-date format of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) in their designations of new sites, extensions to existing sites, and updates on existing sites;
23. EXPRESSES APPRECIATION to those Contracting Parties that have brought their Information Sheets for Ramsar Wetlands (RISs) up to date for all the Ramsar Sites within their territory;
24. STRONGLY URGES those Parties within whose territories lie Ramsar Sites for which official descriptions have still not been provided, and/or for which suitable maps have still not yet been submitted, to provide as a matter of the greatest urgency the Ramsar Information Sheets and/or maps in one of the Convention's official working languages,

and INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to contact the Contracting Parties listed in Annex 1 to this Resolution and request them to do so;

25. WELCOMES the statements made in the National Reports to COP10 or during this meeting concerning planned extensions to existing Ramsar Sites, and future designations of new or extended Ramsar Sites, from the following xx Contracting Parties: country names (number of Ramsar Sites); and
24. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to consider options for assisting and encouraging Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in ecological character.

Annex 1

List of Contracting Parties from which one or more Ramsar Information Sheets or updated Sheets are needed as a matter of priority

(as at 26 June 2012)

Annex 2

Ramsar Sites with reports of human-induced negative changes having occurred, occurring or likely to occur (Article 3.2)

List of all sites with information received by the Secretariat and followed-up with the Administrative Authorities. Initial information was received either by the Administrative Authorities or by third parties or was included in National Reports to COP11.

Party

Ramsar Site