

## Report of the CEPA Oversight Panel

**Action requested:** The Standing Committee is invited to review this report and to endorse the current composition of the Panel; the role of the SC Executive Panel in approving the new CEPA National Focal Point members each triennium; and the Panel's Work Plan for 2013-2015.

### Introduction

1. The Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel met twice face-to-face during the last triennium, the second meeting taking place during the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP11). The full report of that meeting of the Panel for the period 2009-2012 is available on the Convention's web site as the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting report ([www.ramsar.org/CEPA-Panel/](http://www.ramsar.org/CEPA-Panel/)). As in previous triennia, the Panel continued its work by e-mail to the end of 2012.
2. This report focuses on the appointment of the new Panel and its draft work plan for this triennium. It includes some minor changes in the process for the approval of the new CEPA Focal Points for each triennium as well as the appointment and replacement of the additional expert members of the Panel.

### The composition of the CEPA Panel, 2013-2015

3. Following the adoption of Resolution IX.18 (2005) and various decisions taken by Standing Committee (SC) and the Panel since then, the Panel membership for this triennium (see also Annex I) is:

Vice Chair of SC [Chair of the Oversight Panel]: Ms Malta Qwathekana

Chair of the SC Subgroup on Finance: Ms Elizabeth Roberts

Vice-Chair of the STRP: Ms Chris Prietto

STRP CEPA Expert: Ms Chris Prietto

CEPA Government National Focal Point: Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni (South Africa)

CEPA Government National Focal Point: Ms Sari Airas (Finland)

CEPA NGO National Focal Point: Ms Nunia Thomas (Fiji)

CEPA NGO National Focal Point: Ms Shelley Cant (Bahamas, to be confirmed)

IOP representative: Mr. James Clark (IWMI, International Water Management Institute)

Additional expert: Ms Esther Koopmanschap, participatory skills expert (Wageningen UR Centre for Development Innovation)

Additional expert: Mr Chris Rostron, wetland centre expert (Head of Wetland Link International)

Regional Ramsar Centre representative: Mr Suh Seung Oh (Ramsar Regional Centre East Asia)

Ramsar Advisory Board on Capacity Building representative: to be determined – pending clarification of the present status of the Advisory Board.

*Ex officio*: Nick Davidson, Deputy Secretary General; Sandra Hails, CEPA Programme Officer

4. The outgoing Panel approved the nomination letter and forms for new CEPA National Focal Point (NFP) members of the Panel, and the Secretariat launched this process in October 2012. Despite a poor response from Parties, particularly for CEPA NGO NFP nominations, two government and two NGO CEPA NFPs were approved by the SC Executive Team. This is the first time that the SC Executive Team has been requested to make these approvals, and the Panel recommends that this becomes established as the normal practice so that the Panel members can be approved before the first full Standing Committee meeting following each COP.
5. The Panel notes that ‘additional experts’ may be invited by the Panel in response to specific elements of the work plan in any triennium. Such experts should be included in the Panel for that triennium only. However, the two current ‘additional experts’ are considered to provide ‘core’ areas of expertise, and the Panel recommends that their membership should be for a period of two triennia in the first instance.

#### **CEPA Panel work plan, 2013-2015**

6. The summary draft work plan for this triennium is provided in Annex 2. While all tasks should be addressed by the Panel during the triennium, tasks 4 and 5 will need to be completed in time to meet the deadlines for the submission of COP12 documents. The 5<sup>th</sup> report of the Panel includes more details on the discussions so far on these two tasks. Note that the tasks have been renumbered in this document to reflect the start of the new Panel’s work for this triennium.

## Annex I

### Structure of the CEPA Oversight Panel

The structure of the Panel, as determined by the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties and various Standing Committee decisions and reports to Standing Committee by the CEPA Oversight Panel, is outlined below.

**Chair or Vice Chair of SC** [Chair of the Oversight Panel]: to be decided by the Standing Committee Executive Team

**Chair of the SC Subgroup on Finance**

**Vice-Chair of the STRP**

**STRP CEPA Expert**

**CEPA Government National Focal Point\* (2):** A nomination process with agreed criteria is managed by the Secretariat each triennium

**CEPA NGO National Focal Point\* (2):** A nomination process with agreed criteria is managed by the Secretariat each triennium

**IOP representative:** Nominated for a triennium on a rotational basis, with agreement among the 5 Ramsar International Organisation Partners

**Additional expert\*\*:** Participatory management expert

**Additional expert:** Expert on wetland centres

**Regional Ramsar Centre representative:** Nominated for a triennium on a rotational basis

**Ramsar Advisory Board on Capacity Building representative:** Nominated for a triennium by the Ramsar Advisory Board on Capacity Building

\* In reviewing the nominations the Secretariat seeks to achieve a regional balance in the final selection of the four CEPA National Focal Point representatives

\*\* The CEPA Panel may decide upon the need for additional expertise depending on the work plan of the Panel in any triennium.

**Annex II**  
**Draft Work plan summary for 2013 -2015**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Task Description</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1.	Advise the Secretariat on the indicators in the draft National Report to COP12 that assess the CEPA implementation component of the Strategic Plan	Triennial task	This task is repeated each triennium for the appropriate COP National Reporting Format
2.	Ramsar Regional Centres and their capacity building needs.	New task	Resolution XI.5 “REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to work with the representatives of the Ramsar Regional Centres to identify and advise on the capacity building needs for RRC staff to optimize their performance”. This task is closely related to task 3 and the Panel will work on a coordinated response.
3.	Continue working with the Advisory Board on Capacity Building for the Ramsar Convention on identifying priorities for capacity building for wetland management.	Future status of the Advisory Board is an ongoing discussion between the Board and Secretariat	Related to this task, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has a special training and capacity building task in Resolution XI.17 that will likely involve input from the CEPA Panel. Panel member Chris Prietto will be the link between the Panel and STRP: as the CEPA expert on STRP she is familiar with their new task in this area ( <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/res/cop11-res17-e.pdf">www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/res/cop11-res17-e.pdf</a> ).
4.	Review the Convention’s two Resolutions relevant to participation, Resolutions VII.8 and VIII.36, and advise the Convention on whether there is value in consolidating their contents into one Resolution.	Continuing task from last triennium	The Panel will develop a process, working with the STRP and the Secretariat, to review, consolidate and update the guidance adopted by Resolutions VII.8 and VIII.36 and to bring new or revised participatory management guidelines as a Draft Resolution to COP12. The two key documents are: <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_vii.08e.pdf">www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_vii.08e.pdf</a> and <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_viii_36_e.pdf">www.ramsar.org/pdf/res/key_res_viii_36_e.pdf</a>
5.	Review the content and implementation of the current CEPA Resolution X.8 and prepare a draft CEPA Resolution for the period 2016-2022	New task	The Panel discussed this at COP11 and has already agreed on some guiding principles and broad objectives to take this task forward to completion for a draft CEPA Programme to be debated at COP12. Details are available in the Panel’s 5 <sup>th</sup> report.
6.	Suggested new task by Panel member: Strengthening CEPA networks around the world, beginning with the Ramsar CEPA National Focal Points	Potential new task	Through contact with the CEPA Focal Points, propose actions to strengthen the CEPA network around the world. A first step would include contacting the CEPA Focal Points (Government and NGO) to (i) improve understanding on their role in wetland conservation, management and/or wise use in their own countries; (ii) identify their needs; and (iii) gather their recommendations for a strengthened global CEPA network.