

**CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

**11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel  
Gland, Switzerland, 8-11 April 2003**

**Draft DOC. STRP11-5**

Agenda items 5.5 & 6

**Priorities and guidance established by the Standing  
Committee for the STRP Work Plan 2003-2005**

**Action required:** the Panel is requested to apply the Standing Committee's advice provided below concerning priorities for 2003-2005 in developing the draft STRP Work Plan 2003-2005

**The Context for establishing priorities for the STRP Work Plan 2003-2005**

1. The Actions adopted in Section II of Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25) and the additional Actions called for in other COP8 Resolutions include a very large number of major tasks requested of the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel.
2. During COP8 it was recognized that, even allowing for more efficient and effective work of the Panel operating under its new *modus operandi*, it would likely have insufficient capacity and resources to undertake all of these tasks. Accordingly, COP8 Resolution VIII.26 requested the Standing Committee at its first meeting of the triennium to determine the priority activities which should be undertaken by the STRP during 2003-2005.
3. Based on the actions pertinent to the STRP Strategic Plan 2003-2005 and other relevant actions called for in Resolutions adopted by COP8, the full list of STRP tasks is provided in the Annex to this note. This full task list covers the STRP work for the coming two triennia. Therefore, not all tasks need to be delivered for consideration by COP9.
4. On the basis of this list of tasks and priorities indicated by COP8, the Standing Committee instructs the STRP to address the priorities summarised below, and specified in the Annex to this note, in preparing its detailed work plan for 2003-2005.
5. In recognition of the capacity of the STRP and from the experience gained in 1999-2002, the Standing Committee advises the STRP that it should undertake a maximum of six priority areas for its work during 2003-2005 (noting that each work area may include several tasks for the Panel).
6. The Standing Committee advises the STRP that in establishing its detailed Work Plan 2003-2005 several options exist for undertaking its work on each task identified by COP8 during the 2003-2005 triennium. These include:
  - i) the task is undertaken as a high priority for the 2003-2005 triennium;

- ii) the task is undertaken as a lower priority for the 2003-2005 triennium, to be taken up only if additional capacity or resources can be identified, for example through an IOP or observer organization to the STRP agreeing to undertake the task;
  - iii) the task is undertaken as a low priority for 2003-2005 and deferred for further consideration during the 2005-2008 triennium
7. The Standing Committee recognizes that amongst the high priority tasks identified for the STRP, some will require substantial capacity and resources but others are anticipated to require only a small commitment.
8. It should also be noted that certain STRP tasks are wholly dependent upon other work first being undertaken or provided by others, for example the preparation and provision of case studies by Contracting Parties and other organizations. Such tasks are indicated in the Annex to this note. For these tasks the Standing Committee requests the STRP to prepare at its 2003 meeting an outline proposal for undertaking its part of work, which would be subsequently initiated in 2004, capacity and time permitting, once the relevant materials become available.
9. Ongoing priority actions (recognized by Action 17.1.5 of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008) of the STRP are:
- a) development of new tools to assist Parties with the implementation of the wise use principle; and
  - b) review of the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance, to ensure that these reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities.
10. Other ongoing tasks of the STRP, including *inter alia* advising on requests for the removal of Ramsar sites from the Montreux Record, advising on Small Grants Fund projects, advising on the review and evaluation of other wetland projects, collaboration with other Convention's subsidiary bodies, and input to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) process, should be undertaken as and when requests for STRP advice are made, and in some cases should be delivered by STRP through the identification of STRP focal points for such work (as is already the case for MA inputs).
11. The Standing Committee confirms the following areas of work as the top priorities for the core work of the STRP during 2003-2005:
- i) Operational Objective 1.1/1.2 - **Wetland inventory and assessment**: preparation of further guidance; contributing to update of *Global Review of Wetland Resources and priorities for wetland inventory* (if funding for this project becomes available); preparation of further guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment and monitoring, and consolidation and harmonisation of all guidance through an integrated framework for inventory, assessment and monitoring;
  - ii) Operational Objective 3.1 - Review, updating and elaboration of the **Wise Use Concept** and guidelines;

- iii) Operational Objective 3.4 - **Water resource management**: preparation of new guidance, including on environmental flow methodologies, wetlands and groundwater, and river basin management case studies;
  - iv) Operational Objective 10.1 - **Ramsar site designation**: preparation of substantial further guidance on the application of the *Strategic Framework*, including developing and harmonising the Ramsar Information Sheet with ecological character statements, and the development of additional socio-economic and cultural designation criteria in relation to CBD's Annex 1 list of features of biological diversity;
  - v) Operational Objective 11.1/11.2 - **Managing and monitoring Ramsar sites**: preparation of a 'field guide' for using Ramsar's management planning guidance, further guidance on zonation and monitoring, including detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character, and analysis of status and trends of ecological character of Ramsar sites in their broader context;
  - vi) Operational Objective 17 – **Assessing the effectiveness of implementation of the Convention**: providing advice on matters addressed by the STRP to the Standing Committee in its review of the process of preparation of Resolutions and Recommendations for COPs 6, 7 and 8 (Resolution VIII.45); drafting of, and consultation on, technical Resolutions (Resolution VIII.45); and preparing key indicators in relation to the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan during the 2003-2005 triennium (Resolution VIII.26);
12. Concerning **Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)**, the Standing Committee reaffirms that CEPA is a high priority for the Convention, but advises that it does not regard the full range of tasks identified to be undertaken through an STRP CEPA Working Group by Resolution VIII.31 as being an effective process for delivering this area of work. The Standing Committee further advises that the Bureau should explore an alternative mechanism for the establishment and operation of a CEPA working group which should, as its first task, review and establish the priorities for undertaking the work requested of it by Resolution VIII.31. However, the Standing Committee recognizes that a high priority for the CEPA-related work of the STRP should be to secure input from CEPA experts to each Working Group established by STRP so as to ensure that CEPA issues are fully incorporated. Other CEPA tasks identified by Resolution VIII.31 for an STRP CEPA Working Group are a lower priority for implementation.
13. The following other work areas should be undertaken through the STRP process during 2003-2005 only if one or more contributing organizations (IOPs, observer organizations) has the appropriate capacity and offers at the first meeting of the STRP to fully undertake the work, or if another mechanism is identified at the first meeting of the STRP. Such organizations would take the lead in preparing the required outputs for review by the second full meeting of the Panel, under the guidance of an STRP Working Group (or, if appropriate, STRP lead focal points) which should be established by the Panel for any such topics:
- i) Operational Objective 2.2 - **Environmental and strategic impact assessment**;
  - ii) Operational Objective 3.2 - **Peatlands**: participation in Global Action Coordinating Committee, once established;

- iii) Operational Objective 3.4 - **Climate change**: if prepared by IPCC, review of Technical Paper and preparation and peer review of key issues synthesis;
  - iv) Operational Objective 4 - **Restoration and rehabilitation**, including compensation for wetland losses;
  - v) Operational Objective 5 - **Invasive alien species**;
  - vi) Operational Objective 6 - **Local communities and indigenous peoples**: guidance on implementing Participatory Environmental Management;
  - vii) Operational Objective 8 - **Incentives**;
  - viii) Operational Objective 10.1 - **Ramsar site designation**: further guidance on 'under-represented' wetland types; and
  - ix) Operational Objective 14 - **Sharing of expertise and information**: assisting information sharing of traditional, indigenous and more recent technological knowledge.
14. The Standing Committee recognizes, as identified in DOC. SC29-12, that whilst the Convention's budget for 2003-2005 includes funding for attendance at STRP meetings by members from OECD-DAC list countries, as well as for the STRP Support Service, no funds are available from the Convention's core budget for the substantive work of the Panel for its preparation of reports and guidelines.
15. Accordingly the Standing Committee urges interested Parties to consider, as a matter of priority, the provision of voluntary contributions for this priority work of the STRP, taking into account the advice from the STRP at its first meeting in April 2003 on the precise nature of the work it will undertake on the priority tasks that were identified by the Standing Committee, as embodied in its Work Plan, which will be proposed to the Standing Committee for approval.

## ANNEX

## List of tasks requested of the STRP for the period 2003-2008

Derived from Actions in Section II of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25), and all other relevant actions called for in Resolutions adopted by COP8

Operational Objectives themes: Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008	Provisional STRP tasks 2003-2005	Notes and Proposed 2003-2005 priorities
<b>1. Inventory and assessment</b>		
<b>1.1. Wetland inventory</b>	a) Contribute to update of the <i>Global Review of Wetland Resources and Priorities for Wetland Inventory</i> , reporting to COP9 [1.1.5] b) Further review application of remote sensing data, low-cost GIS, and classification systems in wetland inventory, reporting to COP9 [R1.1.i] (Resolution VIII.6)	High [if project resourcing become available]  High
<b>1.2 Wetland assessment</b>	a) Further review and, as appropriate, develop guidance and report to COP9, concerning identified gaps and disharmonies in defining and reporting the ecological character of wetlands through inventory, assessment, monitoring and management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, giving priority to advice and guidance on practical matters on issues that should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="582 1122 1193 1240">i) the Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type, (bio)geographical regionalization schemes, and their application in defining and reporting the ecological character of wetlands;</li> <li data-bbox="582 1249 1193 1413">ii) determining the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, including techniques for delineating and mapping wetlands and for evaluating the values and functions, goods and services provided by wetlands;</li> <li data-bbox="582 1422 1193 1637">iii) incorporation of assessment and management processes and practical methods (including multi-scalar methods for wetland assessment and monitoring) developed by other programmes, including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), into the Ramsar "Toolkit" of Wise Use Handbooks;</li> <li data-bbox="582 1646 1193 1809">iv) practical methods, including indicators, for monitoring wetlands and for the rapid assessment of wetland biodiversity, including both inland waters and coastal and marine systems;</li> <li data-bbox="582 1818 1193 1906">v) incorporation of environmental impact and strategic environmental assessment into wetland risk assessment procedures; and</li> <li data-bbox="582 1915 1193 2033">vi) harmonization of definitions and terms throughout the suite of Ramsar guidance on inventory, assessment, monitoring and management of the ecological character of</li> </ul>	High [all sub-tasks – STRP should determine how to consolidated guidance on these should be developed]  [guidance should address both socio-economic and ecological valuation techniques]

	wetlands [R1.2.viii] (Resolution VIII.7)	
	b) Consider consolidation of existing Convention guidance and develop an integrated framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring [R1.2.ix]	High
	c) Contribute to, review, and utilise the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in reporting to COP9 on wetland status and trends [1.2.1]	ongoing, through MA STRP focal points
	d) Contribute to assessment of contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to fisheries maintenance, and recommend sustainable management practices [1.2.6]	defer to 2005-8 triennium
	f) Develop methodologies for vulnerability assessment of wetlands to change in ecological character (incl. to impacts of climate change, alien species invasion and agricultural practices) [1.2.4]	High
<b>2. Policies and legislation, including impact assessment and valuation</b>		
<b>2.2 Development, review and amendment of policies, legislation, institutions and practices</b>	a) Prepare advice for Contracting Parties on applying strategic environmental assessment in the context of the Convention's guidelines [R2.2.v] (Resolution VIII.9)	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	b) Prepare a synthesis of lessons learned from case studies [of impact assessment on wetlands] submitted by CPs, including indications of linkages with existing Ramsar guidance on other topics where relevant [R2.2.viii] (Resolution VIII.9)	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	c) Review references to impact assessment in Ramsar COP decisions, guidelines and other Ramsar publications, and in particular identify and seek to correct if necessary any inconsistencies of approach, and make the results of such a review available as an updated index of references to impact assessment in Ramsar materials [R2.2.ix] (resolution VIII.9)	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	d) Continue to identify wetland-related elements of existing guidelines on impact assessment, to identify important gaps where such guidance is failing fully to meet the needs of Contracting Parties, and to investigate possible ways of filling such gaps, taking into account CBD's COP6 guidance on impact assessment in relation to sacred and indigenous and local communities' lands [R2.2.x] [(Resolution VIII.9)	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified

3. Integration of wetland wise use into sustainable development		
<b>3.1 Methodologies for wetland conservation and wise use</b>	a) Review the Wise Use concept, its applicability and consistency with sustainable development objectives [3.1.1]	High
	b) Compile advice, methods and best practice studies on wise use of wetlands, including application of the ecosystem approach [3.1.2]	High
	c) Develop new tools to assist Parties with the implementation of the wise use principle [17.1.5]	High
	d) Contribute to technology transfer initiatives for sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems [R3.1.iv]	Lower
<b>3.2 Peatlands</b>	a) Participate in the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands and its preparation of an implementation plan for global action on peatlands [R3.2.i] (Resolution VIII.17)	Lower [depends on Coordinating Committee mechanism being established]
<b>3.4 Integration of wetland policies into broader planning and management from local to national scales</b>	a) <b>River basin management:</b> Review case studies compiled through the River Basin Initiative and prepare additional guidance (as necessary) on integrating wetlands, biodiversity and river basin management [3.4.3]	High
	b) <b>Dams:</b> Develop guidelines for considering full environmental, social and economic impacts of large dam construction on wetland and river systems, for COP9 [3.4.4]	Lower
	c) Prepare report on environmental flow methodologies, to assist in management of dam-related impacts, for COP9 [R3.4.v] (Resolution VIII.2)	High
	d) <b>Water allocation and management:</b> Contribute to report to COP9 on successes achieved and lessons learnt from demonstrating good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands [R3.4.ix] (Resolution VIII.1)	Depends on provision of case studies – defer to 2005-8
	e) Review Resolutions VIII.1 and VIII.2 and prepare further guidance, if required, for COP9 [R3.4.xi] (Resolution VIII.1)	Defer to 2005-8, for review and consolidation of COP8 and COP9 guidance
	f) <b>Groundwater:</b> Review and prepare guidelines, as appropriate, on the role of wetlands in groundwater recharge and storage and of groundwater in maintaining the ecological character of wetlands, and on the impacts of groundwater abstraction on wetlands [Resolution VIII.1]. Prepare guidance, as appropriate, on sustainable use of groundwater to maintain wetland ecosystem functions [3.4.5]	High
	g) <b>Integrated Coastal Zone Management:</b> Review case studies (from CPs) of integrating wetlands and ICZM, as basis for preparing further guidance on wetlands and ICZM. [R3.4.vi] (Resolution VIII.4)	Depends on provision of case studies – defer to 2005-8
	h) <b>Climate change:</b> Collaborate with IPCC and UNFCCC to promote management of wetlands and mitigation of climate change impacts (particularly in context of land use, land use change and rising sea levels, forestry, peatlands and agriculture [3.4.8]	Lower
	i) If, as requested, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has prepared a Technical Paper on the relationship	High (but depends on IPCC agreement to

	<p>between wetlands and climate change, in time for consideration at the second STRP meeting prior to COP9, develop, on the basis of the IPCC Technical Paper, a synthesis of key issues on wetlands and climate change as an information paper, which should undergo a review process as determined by the STRP, for consideration by Contracting Parties at COP9. If the IPCC is unable to undertake preparation of a Technical Paper on the relationship between wetlands and climate change, the STRP is requested to prepare an information paper, based on the IPCC Third Assessment Report and other authoritative, updated information, that synthesizes key issues on wetlands and climate change, which should undergo a rigorous peer review process as directed by the Standing Committee upon the advice of the STRP, and which should be made available for consideration by the Parties at COP9. [R3.4.xxi] (Resolution VIII.3)</p> <p>j) <b>Agriculture:</b> Ensure that adequate consideration of agriculture and wetland issues is incorporated into other relevant areas of work that the STRP may be dealing with, including global climate change, groundwater and its interaction with surface water, toxic chemicals and desertification [R3.4.xxii] (Resolution VIII.34)</p>	<p>undertake paper preparation) [if IPCC unable undertake task, alternative STRP role is recognized]</p> <p>High [Cross-cutting task for other STRP work]</p>
<p><b>4. Restoration and rehabilitation</b></p>	<p>a) Compile information on new research and methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost wetlands and disseminate this information [4.13]</p> <p>b) Contribute to identification of training opportunities and expertise in wetland restoration and creation of relevant training modules as part of the Ramsar Wetland Training Initiative, once established. [R4.1.vi] (Resolution VIII.16).</p> <p>c) Contribute relevant addition information on wetland restoration projects and experience to Ramsar's restoration Web site, and particularly provide demonstration projects that illustrate the application of the principles and guidelines adopted by Resolution VIII.16. [R4.1.ix] (Resolution VIII.16)</p> <p>d) Further develop tools and guidance on wetland restoration, including a glossary of wetland restoration terminology and guidance on small dams and wetland restoration [R4.1.x] (Resolution VIII.16)</p> <p>e) Prepare guidance on compensation for wetland losses, in response to Resolution VIII.24, and report to COP9 [R4.1.xi] (Resolution VIII.16)</p>	<p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p> <p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p> <p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p> <p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p> <p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p>



<b>5. Invasive alien species</b>	a) Continue to develop (with GISP, CBD, IOPs and interested Parties) practical guidance on prevention, control and eradication of alien species [5.1.2]	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
<b>6. Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values</b>	a) Prepare for COP9 methodologies or guidelines, including case studies, for effective implementation of Participatory Environmental Management. [R6.1.ii] (Resolution VIII.36)	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
<b>8. Incentives</b>	a) Continue to contribute to development of the Internet-based resource kit ( <a href="http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/incentives/policies-07-00.htm">http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/incentives/policies-07-00.htm</a> ) on positive incentives prepared and maintained by IUCN—the World Conservation Union. [8.1.2]	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	b) Advise the Ramsar Bureau on the relevance, quality, and accessibility of the information provided on the web-based resource kit (see Action 8.1.2) and indicate further needs regarding information on incentive measures. [R8.1.iv] (Resolution VIII.23)	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	c) Report to COP9 on progress in design, implementation, monitoring, and assessment of incentive measures and identification and removal of perverse incentives [8.1.3]	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	d) Investigate linkages between incentives and related topics including financial mechanisms, trade, impact assessment and valuation (in collaboration with IUCN, IAIA, other relevant bodies and experts and the Bureau) [R8.1.v] (Resolution VIII.23)	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	e) Continue to identify wetland-related elements of existing guidelines on incentive measures, so as to recognize important gaps where such guidance is failing to meet fully the needs of the Parties, investigate possible ways of filling such gaps, and to prepare a report on these matters for COP9 (in collaboration with IUCN, the subsidiary bodies of other environmental conventions, and other relevant organizations) [R8.1.vi] (Resolution VIII.23)	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
<b>9. Communication, education, and public awareness</b>	a) Establish a Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) Working Group [R9.i.iii]. Priority tasks are to:	Lower, except for task 1. [refer to paragraph 12. of covering note]
	1. For each task within the STRP's programme of work for the triennium, provide ongoing input to the various working groups to ensure CEPA issues are considered fully and reflected appropriately in the guidance developed for Parties' consideration at COP9.	High
	2. Evaluate the CEPA-related information provided in the National Reports submitted for COP8 and identify the major impediments and constraints being experienced by Parties in this area. Provide summary advice on this to the STRP and Standing Committee, and use it to guide the actions of this Working Group.	Lower
	3. Review existing Ramsar guidance, and develop additional guidance, as required, for Parties, STRP, Bureau and IOPs, on CEPA issues and on	Lower

opportunities which exist in the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 to further the objectives of the CEPA Programme.

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| 4. | Develop for consideration at COP9 additional guidance based on practical experiences to enhance Ramsar's <i>New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> (Resolution VIII.14), <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands</i> (Resolution VII.8), and the <i>Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites</i> annexed to Resolution VIII.19, in order to show the role of CEPA in local management action. | Lower |
| 5. | Review Ramsar's other guidance for Parties (as contained in the Wise Use 'Toolkit') and, where appropriate, develop additional guidance to indicate how CEPA can be integrated into these policy and planning approaches.   | Lower |
| 6. | Review the CEPA programmes and activities of other international conventions and programmes, including but not restricted to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), and provide advice to the Ramsar Bureau on how to advance more harmonised approaches.   | Lower |
| 7. | Develop the scope and Terms of Reference for pilot projects to evaluate a range of approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands   | Lower |
| 8. | Review existing models and case studies for undertaking wetland CEPA activities and document the lessons learned from these experiences. Make these conclusions and case studies available to the Ramsar Bureau for distribution to Contracting Parties and other interested bodies.  | Lower |
| 9. | In coordination with the Ramsar Bureau, ensure that the conclusions from the reviews and revision of National Wetland CEPA Action Plans are available to all Contracting Parties, as working examples of CEPA Action Plans.   | Lower |

## 10. Designation of Ramsar sites

### 10.1. Application of the Strategic Framework

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| a) | Provide interpretation of the term 'under-represented type' in the context of available information on the global extent of different wetland types and representation of these | High<br>[all sub-tasks: STRP should determine how |
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in the Ramsar List, and investigate methods for defining targets for representation of wetland types in the Ramsar List in the context of the Strategic Framework for the future development of the List (Resolution VII.11), and report to COP9. [R10.1.iii] (Resolution VIII.11)	consolidated guidance on these should be developed]
b) Prepare guidance for the clear definition of the ecological character features in the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), including recommendations for change to the structure and content of the RIS and, as appropriate, further guidance on the application of the Criteria for the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance in the <i>Strategic Framework and future development of the Ramsar List</i> (Resolution VII.11) and the additional guidelines for the identification and designation of under-represented wetland types (Resolution VIII.11) in the definition of the ecological character of Ramsar [R10.1.x](Resolution VIII.7)	High
c) Keep under review the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance to ensure that these reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities [17.1.5]	High
d) Develop, for consideration by COP9, additional Criteria and guidelines for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites concerning their socio-economic and cultural values and functions that are relevant to biological diversity, as listed in Annex 1 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which would be applied on each occasion in conjunction with one or more existing criteria for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites; and include in this work a full analysis of the implications for Contracting Parties of the implementation of such criteria for the management of Ramsar sites, including Contracting Party obligations and responsibilities for maintaining the ecological character of any such sites so selected so as to ensure that the coherent national networks of Ramsar sites fully incorporate all relevant aspects of the biological diversity of wetlands. [R10.1.xi] (Resolution VIII.10)	High
e) Consider allocating an open field in section of the Ramsar Information Sheet concerning wetland types, to facilitate the process of review of the Ramsar wetland classification system with a view to including additional types [R10.1.xii] (Resolution VIII.13)	High
f) Harmonize of the layout and information fields of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) and the core data fields recommended in the Ramsar <i>Framework for Wetland Inventory</i> [R10.1.xiii] (Resolution VIII.7)	High
g) Investigate the inclusion of a core data field in the Ramsar Information Sheet to allow for the insertion of a precise site boundary description and consider the preparation of guidance about this field for inclusion in the accompanying RIS <i>Explanatory Notes and Guidelines</i> [R10.1.xiv] (Resolution VIII.21)	High
h) Provide further guidance concerning Ramsar site maps on:	High (all sub-tasks)

	<p>i) where the additional information called for in paragraphs 14-16 of Annex III to the RIS <i>Explanatory Notes and Guidelines</i> (Resolution VIII.13) would be incorporated into the RIS;</p> <p>ii) the value and feasibility of supplying digital mapping (called for in paragraphs 17-22 of Annex III);</p> <p>iii) the compatibility of such data at a global scale;</p> <p>iv) the use of such data by third parties; and</p> <p>v) issues of data licencing, copyright, access and fees. [R10.1.xv] (Resolution VIII.13)</p>	
	<p>i) Prepare further guidance on identification and designation of other coastal wetland types, including <i>inter alia</i> intertidal and subtidal mud and sand flats and seagrass beds. [R10.1.xvii] (Resolution VIII.4)</p>	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified [and after clarification of task 10.1 a)]
	<p>j) Review the ecological roles of artificial reservoirs and dams, including use by waterbirds, and prepare guidance on identification and designation of such wetlands for the Ramsar List (if indicated as priority by Standing Committee) [R10.1.xviii] (Resolution VIII.2)</p>	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified [and after clarification of task 10.1 a)]
	<p>k) Review the multiple sources of information available on Ramsar Sites, including RISs, the <i>Ramsar Sites Directory</i>, site management plans, and data that might be collected under other international instruments; review the needs for such information, their uses and users; and make recommendations to COP9 as to how the supply and international reporting of information on Ramsar Sites might be better harmonized to give possible efficiency and cost savings. [R10.1.xix] (Resolution VIII.13)</p>	High
<b>10.2 Maintenance and analysis of Ramsar Sites Database</b>	<p>a) Contribute to reviewing change in ecological character and progress in achieving the Vision and Objectives of the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i>, based on RIS information supplied by CPs, at each COP. [10.2.4]</p>	Lower
<b>11. Management planning and monitoring of Ramsar sites</b>		
<b>11.1 Maintain ecological character of all Ramsar sites</b>	<p>a) Develop a field guide for the practical application of the guidelines [on management planning] adopted by Resolution VIII.14, recognizing that there may be circumstances that limit the application of the guidelines in full. [R11.1.viii] (Resolution VIII.14)</p> <p>b) Working in close cooperation with relevant international organizations, and with input from STRP National Focal Points and drawing on the review conducted by the IOPs (see Action R3.3.i):</p> <p>a) establish a framework for identifying, documenting and disseminating good agriculture-related practice, including site-specific and crop-specific information, and policies that demonstrate sustainable use of wetlands for agriculture; and</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Lower [depends on prior review work under Action R3.3.i by IOPs and others]</p>

	<p>b) use this framework to develop for consideration at COP9, and possible incorporation into the site-management guidelines annexed to Resolution VIII.14, wetland-type specific management guidelines to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) enhance the positive role that sustainable agricultural practices may have vis-à-vis the conservation and wise use of wetlands;</li> <li>ii) minimize the adverse impacts of agricultural practices on wetland conservation and sustainable use goals; and</li> <li>iii) include examples based on wetland-type specific needs and priorities that take into account the variety of agricultural systems. [R11.1.ix] (Resolution VIII.34)</li> </ul> <p>c) Assist the Bureau to establish the procedures for the creation and maintenance of the “San José Record” [11.1.3]</p> <p>d) Review and prepare further guidance on zonation and monitoring programmes and methodologies for Ramsar sites and other wetlands, including indicators and rapid assessment methodologies and the use of remote sensing [R11.1.xiii]</p>	<p>Lower</p> <p>High [but largely covered by work under 1.2 above]</p>
<b>11.2 Monitoring the condition of Ramsar sites, including application of Article 3.2 and Montreux Record</b>	<p>a) Prepare further consolidated guidance on the overall process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character, including guidelines for determining when such a change is too trivial to require reporting, having regard to the reasons why a given site is important, and the conservation objectives set for it [R11.2.ii] (Resolution VIII.8)</p> <p>b) Review and evaluate the Man and the Biosphere Programme’s procedure for Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring (BRIM), once developed, and advise on its application to the monitoring of the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands [R11.2.iii] (Resolution VIII.7)</p> <p>c) Advise on CP requests for removal of Ramsar sites from the Montreux Record, as required [11.2.6]</p> <p>d) Prepare an analysis and report of the status and trends in the ecological character of sites in the Ramsar List, and set, as far as possible, the status and trends of Ramsar sites within the wider context of the status and trends of marine, coastal and inland wetlands, drawing upon the results of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and other assessment initiatives as appropriate [R11.2.ix] (Resolution VIII.8)</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Defer to 2005-8, pending full availability of BRIM methodology</p> <p>As required</p> <p>High</p>
<b>12. Management of shared water resources, wetlands and wetland species</b>		
<b>12.2 Cooperative monitoring and management of wetland-dependent species</b>	<p>a) Contribute to promotion and dissemination research into the population dynamics and sustainable harvesting of wetland dependent species, especially migratory waterbirds [12.2.4]</p>	<p>Lower – defer to 2005-8</p>
<b>13. Collaboration with other multilateral environmental</b>	<p>a) Exchange information, cooperate and coordinate activities, where appropriate, with subsidiary bodies of other Multilateral</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<b>agreements and institutions</b>	<p>Environmental Agreements and relevant regional instruments, including the implementation of actions in Joint Work Plans [13.1.1]</p> <p>b) Become involved in any work undertaken through invitation to the IPCC and UNFCCC to focus some of their future work on issues related to region-specific wetland data, and to improve knowledge on the vulnerability of wetlands to climate change and the capacity to project impacts on wetlands, reporting on the status of international discussions at COP9. [R13.1.iv ] (Resolution VIII.3)</p>	Defer, pending initiation of any IPCC/UNFCCC work
<b>14. Sharing of expertise and information</b>	a) Assist in promoting sharing of knowledge (traditional, indigenous and more recently derived technologies and methods), through STRP National Focal Points [14.1.1]	Lower [Note. This task is a contribution which would be undertaken through the STRP Support Service, but which in turn could link to providing input to review of socio-economic and cultural site designation criteria (see 10.1 d) above)]
<b>17. Institutional mechanisms of the Convention</b>	a) Prepare a series of key indicators in relation to the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan in the next triennium, to be used as part of the National report Format [indicators to be adopted by the Standing Committee at its annual meeting in 2004 so that Parties may use them to complement their National Reports to COP9] (Resolution VIII.26)	High
	b) Assist the work of the Standing Committee in reviewing the process of the preparation, and adoption of Resolutions and Recommendations by COP (Resolution VIII.45)	High
	c) Prepare draft Technical Resolutions, circulate for consultation to STRP National Focal Points and review for transmission to the Standing Committee (Resolution VIII.45)	High