

STRP 2006-2008 task progress and products: a progress summary, September 2007

Notes.

1. STRP 2006-8 Lower Priority tasks are included in this listing only if STRP has determined that it can make progress on such a task without the need for additional capacity or resources.
2. References to "SuSe" are to the STRP Support Service website.
3. A list of anticipated STRP products (COP10 guidances, draft resolutions and information papers, *Ramsar Technical Reports* and other products) is provided in the Annex at the end of this paper.

WORKING GROUP 1: INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT, MONITORING & INDICATORS

Thematic lead STRP member: **Teresita Borges**. Co-leads: Max Finlayson, Dave Pritchard

Task No. short title & task lead(s)	Priority	Expected products	Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines	Other Comments
52: Review of Ramsar Sites information needs, data management, official reporting and the necessary tools (Teresita Borges; Max Finlayson; Dave Pritchard)	Immediate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COP10 guidance for "Describing wetland ecological character" (+ supporting COP10 Information paper); 2. COP10 overall harmonized guidance on data needs and formats for core inventory, ecological character, and RIS for Ramsar site designation. 3. [possible] Proposals to COP10 (draft Resolution) (if necessary, following review of products 1 & 2) for restructuring of RIS. 4. COP10 Information paper: Data & information needs and management for 	<p>In recognition of the complexity of this task and links with other tasks, STRP's mid-term workshops undertook a significant review and redevelopment of the approach to delivery of task 52, and have linked it directly with task 54 & 56 (see below).</p> <p>Products 1 & 2: 1st draft rationale and background paper prepared by Dave Pritchard August 2007 and posted on SuSe (inventory & assessment WG forum) for comment.</p> <p>Products 3 & 4: drafts to be prepared late 2007 for STRP14 consideration.</p>	<p>There are a number of inter-related sub-tasks within this complex task (see STRP Work Plan), and also close links with other STRP tasks.</p> <p>The approach to delivery is now step-wise, with a key aspect of the task needed before other aspects can be progressed being the description of wetland ecological character.</p>

		Ramsar sites and other wetlands.		
Tasks No. 54 & 56: Process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character; Redesign of the Montreux Record questionnaire (Dave Pritchard)	High	1. COP10 guidance for "detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character" (+ supporting COP10 Information paper)	Discussion paper, prepared by Dave Pritchard, posted on SuSe August 2007 – will form basis of COP10 Information paper. Further work on draft overall framework guidance underway September 2007.	1. Guidance will include an Article 3.2 reporting format, derived from task 52 product 2 structure. 2. Any redesign of Montreux Record questionnaire will now be a subsequent step, and will need to be closely linked with structure of Article 3.2 reporting format.
Task No. 59: Indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention (Dave Pritchard)	Immediate	1. COP10 Guidance for the implementation and reporting of indicators of effectiveness. 2. [possible] COP10 Information paper: examples of effectiveness indicator assessments.	Phase 1 report on further development of indicators and pro-formas completed early 2007; posted on SuSe forum. Phase 2 work to further identify indicator contributors and assessment inputs underway (UNEP-WCMC) – reporting to STRP14	Work is closely linked with GEF 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) project, initiated in Sept 2007.
Task No. 53: Wetland delineation and mapping (IWMI/ESA)	High	1. COP10 guidance for delineation and mapping of wetlands	Discussion paper on delineation and mapping using earth observation (European Space Agency) on SuSe, for comment	
Task No. 60: Additional indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention (Dave Pritchard)	High			Deferred for implementation, pending completion of task 59 work on initial tranche of effectiveness indicators
49: Wetland classification	Lower			Will develop a hydro-geomorphic classification, to complement the existing

				"habitat-based" Ramsar Wetland Type classification, and elaborating the hydro-geomorphic classification approve in groundwater guidelines by COP9.
51: Review of wetland inventory – GRoWI-2	Lower		Initial work reviewing and updating national information in GRoWI-1 (1999) underway by IWMI	
62: Responding to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 (David Stroud)	Lower	1. COP10 guidance on responding to future HPAI scenarios for wetlands and waterbirds. 2. [possible] COP10 Information paper: update on global situation concerning HPAI.	Workshop November 2007 (S Korea) to develop scenarios and guidance. For COP10, a draft Resolution, and a guidance document on preparation and response scenarios, with a 'guide to the available guidance' is envisaged.	

WORKING GROUP 2: WISE USE & ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF WETLANDS

Thematic lead STRP member: Randy Milton. Co-leads: Rebecca D'Cruz, Maria Rivera

Task No. short title & task lead(s)	Priority	Expected products	Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines	Other Comments
14: Wise Use Case Studies – review (Randy Milton)	High	<i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> Update on status of wetland wise use for the wetlands in original wise use case studies Ramsar report.	Work (consultancy – TJEnvironmental) initiated in late 2007; first progress report anticipated for STRP14	Will update original case studies, and add a small number of additional studies, from Ramsar Award winners, and Montreux Record sites.
15: Harmonization of Terms and Definitions re ecosystem services (Royal Gardner)	High	1. COP10 Information paper on global use of terminologies concerning ecosystem services.	Review paper (Stetson University) posted for comment on SuSe spring 2007; further consideration at STRP14	
13: MA Conceptual	High	1. COP10 Information paper	Initial review of MA responses in	MA guidances may be a)

Framework, wise use responses, and Ramsar guidance (Rebecca D'Cruz)		on relevance of MA response options for implementation of the Ramsar Convention 2. [possible] COP10 guidance on the application of MA responses within the Ramsar Wise Use Toolkit	relation to current Wise Use Handbooks provided to mid-term workshops; further work underway to identify responses relevant, and complementary, to Handbooks in progress, reporting to STRP14	supplementary to existing Handbooks guidance themes; or b) covering additional themes; or c) consistent with existing Ramsar guidance. The precise form of any proposals to COP10 on additional guidance will depend on further assessment of guidance in these categories.
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WORKING GROUP 3: RAMSAR SITE DESIGNATION AND MANAGEMENT

Thematic lead STRP member: David Stroud.

Task No. short title & task lead(s)	Priority	Expected products	Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines	Other Comments
109: Making Criterion 9 operational (IUCN-SSC)	Immediate	<i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> "Population estimates and 1% thresholds for the application of Criterion 9 for Ramsar site designation"	1 st draft update of initial tabulation prepared by STRP in 2005 completed by IUCN Species Programme (August 2008). Consultation draft to be posted on SuSe autumn 2007. Publication anticipated spring 2008	
104: Interpretation of the term 'under-represented' wetland type (IWMI)	High	1. <i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> "Biogeographic regionalisation, and distribution and gaps in Ramsar site designations for wetland types" 2. [possible] COP10 supplementary guidance [for Strategic Framework for Ramsar site designation] on the	Initial MEOW assessment of Ramsar site coverage completed and published (MEOW <i>Bioscience</i> paper posted on SuSe summer 2007). Further analysis and draft report (IWMI) for STRP14 consideration.	Tasks 104 & 105 are now being addressed together, with work being undertaken by IWMI, in particular assessing the utility of the recently published "Marine Ecosystems of the World" (MEOW) which provides a global coastal/near-shore bio-regionalisation scheme relevant to Ramsar site selection and designation; with similar work

		application of biogeographic regionalization schemes for Ramsar site designation.		testing utility of 'terrestrial' schemes.
112: Ramsar site-selection criterion ongoing review (David Stroud)	High	<p>1. [possible] COP10 Information paper on effectiveness of application of fish Criteria</p> <p>2. [possible] COP10 Information paper: Needs for restructuring the <i>Strategic framework and guidelines for Ramsar site designation</i></p>	Initial review of fish Criterion application being initiated by Secretariat for STRP autumn 2007, for reporting to STRP14.	<p>Recent assessment of formulation of Criteria, targets and guidelines for site designation, by Secretariat and Dave Pritchard, has identified a number of inconsistencies and mismatches, and that several sets of related guidance for site designation are not fully consolidated. It is anticipated that a discussion paper on these issues (in relation to task 52 ecological character description work) will be prepared for STRP14 consideration.</p> <p>It is unlikely that time then will be any sufficient to prepare substantive revised RIS guidance for COP10 consideration, but that if it considers the issue significant the STRP may propose to COP10 that it received an Immediate priority mandate for 2009-2011 to fully address this matter.</p>
105: Determining an optimal biogeographic	Lower	[see task 104 above]		

regionalisation scheme (IWMI)				
106: Revised RIS (David Stroud)	Lower	[possible] Revised RIS structure for COP10 adoption.	Any proposed revisions to RIS structure and/or content will be developed subsequent to outcomes of ecological character description work under task 52/54 above	Now forms part of task 52 above.
110: Review effectiveness of Ramsar fish criteria (David Stroud/Secretariat)	Lower	[see task 112 above]		Initial review now part of task 112 above
Completion of Ramsar field guide for wetland management planning (Archana Chatterjee – WWF)	Carried over from 2003-5 work plan	“A field guide for wetland managers” – WWF publication	Draft fully revised by STRP Working Group – April 2007 Final design and publication underway. WWF publication (English only) – expected September 2007	

WORKING GROUP 4: WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Thematic lead STRP member: Mike Acreman. Co-leads: Rebecca Tharme, Heather MacKay

Task No. short title & task lead(s)	Priority	Expected products	Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines	Other Comments
81, 82 and 83: RBM/critical path guidance – elaboration & consolidation (Heather MacKay)	Immediate	1. COP10 guidance: “Consolidated guidelines for wetlands and river basin management” 2. <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> “River basin management critical path application case studies”	Working Group writing workshop July 2007 developed scope and approach for COP10 guidance; consolidation work underway. Compilation of river basin management case studies assessing application of the COP9 “critical path” approach undertaken (Lucia	Consolidated guidance will fully merge existing COP7 and COP9 guidelines, plus including additional guidance on environmental water requirements and use of CEPA tools and approaches.

			Scodanibbio) – being finalized by Secretariat (Edgar Kaeslin) for publication early 2008.	
91: Wetlands and water quality (Mike Acreman)	Immediate	<i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "Wetlands and water quality"	2 nd draft report (consultant Jos Verhoven, univ of Utrecht) posted on SuSe and under STRP review.	
89: Implementation of environmental water requirements (Rebecca Tharme)	Immediate	<i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "Environmental flow determination and implementation"	Drafting underway by consultant (Bill Rowston), for STRP consultation December 2008.	Will include an annex of case studies on environmental flow implementation
85: Integrated Coastal Zone Management	High		Deferred by mid-term workshops, pending further needs and scope assessment	
90: Groundwater management	High	<i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "Groundwater management"	Work deferred pending outcome of discussions with World Bank on global groundwater initiative, and sourcing additional funding	<i>RTR</i> will support COP9 guidelines.
87: Review of water & environmental law with respect to environmental flows (Royal Gardner)	Lower	[possible] COP10 Information paper (and/or <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "Environmental flows and water law"	Initial work undertaken led by Stetson University; discussion underway on SuSe.	
Supplementary guidance for the determination of environmental water requirements for wetlands	Carried over from 2003-5 work plan	[now incorporated into task 89 above]		
Determination of environmental water requirements for estuaries, coastal and	Carried over from 2003-5 work plan	<i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> "Determination of environmental water requirements for estuaries,	Draft for STRP review, October 2007	

near-shore wetlands		coastal and near-shore wetlands"		
Determination of environmental water requirements for rivers	Carried over from 2003-5 work plan	<i>Ramsar Technical Report: "Determination of environmental water requirements for rivers"</i>	Draft for STRP review, late January 2008	
Determination of environmental water requirements for palustrine wetlands	Carried over from 2003-5 work plan	[<i>Ramsar Technical Report: "Determination of environmental water requirements for palustrine wetlands"</i>]	Progress delayed pending completion of estuaries and rivers <i>RTRs</i>	

WORKING GROUP 5: WETLANDS AND AGRICULTURE

Thematic lead STRP member: Max Finlayson.

Task No. short title & task lead(s)	Priority	Expected products	Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines	Other Comments
150: Guidelines on agriculture and wetlands (Max Finlayson)	Immediate	1. <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "CA findings on wetlands, water and agriculture" 2. COP10 Information paper: "Progress in developing a framework and guidelines for wetlands and agriculture- the work of the GAWI partnership"	Draft <i>RTR</i> for STRP review. October 2007 (being prepared by IWMI) GAWI expert workshop October 2007; draft progress report to STRP14. At GAWI meeting, a COP10 draft Resolution (updating Res. VIII.34) and an Inf paper with summary of Strategy for guidelines is envisaged.	STRP lead member and Ramsar Secretariat are providing input to the GAWI work.

WORKING GROUP 6: WETLANDS AND HUMAN HEALTH

Thematic lead STRP members: Secretariat (DSG) & STRP Chair.

Task No. short title & task lead(s)	Priority	Expected products	Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines	Other Comments
163: Wetlands and Human Health – review (Phil Weinstein & Max Finlayson)	Immediate	1. <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "Wetlands and human health" 2. COP10 draft Resolution "Wetlands and Human Health"	1 st draft report (coordinating authors Philip Weinstein & Max Finlayson) October 2007, for review at Korea workshop in November 2007; revised draft for STRP14 review December 2007 – following major re-organisation of structure agreed at Korea workshops.	WG1's HPAI work (task 152) will link into this task

WORKING GROUP 7: RESOLUTION VIII.45 AND ONGOING ISSUES

Thematic lead STRP member: Heather MacKay

Task No. short title & task lead(s)	Priority	Expected products	Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines	Other Comments
2: STRP review and advice functions (ongoing) (Heather MacKay)	Immediate		Ongoing, and covered through other tasks	
3: Scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP resolutions (ongoing) (Heather MacKay & Dave Pritchard)	Immediate	1. Paper to SC36 (Feb 2008) – thematic example of retirement/ consolidation options for past COP decisions 2. STRP contribution to any COP10 draft Resolution on this matter	1 st stage covered by Standing Committee task to review all COP Resolutions/Recommendations (Res. IX.17) done (Dave Pritchard); follow-up work in late 2007 for reporting to SC36. Main task 3 work concerning utility of current scientific and technical guidance is being carried out by WG8 (CEPA) – see below.	Further steps dependent on outcomes of task 3 review (see WG8 below)
5: Review and repackage Ramsar technical guidance where appropriate (Heather MacKay)	High			Dependent on outcomes of task 3 review
[New task] wetlands and climate change		1. COP10 Draft Resolution: "Wetlands and climate change" 2. <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> : "Wetlands, water, biodiversity and climate	Joint Ramsar/CBD workshop on "wetlands, water, biodiversity & climate change", March 2007, outcomes discussed at STRP mid-term workshops. Workshop provisional report issued (on CBD	At mid-term workshops, STRP recognized that climate change issues, especially concerning adaptation, need further urgent attention, in follow-up to COP8 debates.

		change”	& Ramsar websites) May 2007; now being prepared for publication as joint <i>Ramsar Technical Report/ CBD Technical Series</i> report (publication 2008)	
[New task] Wetlands and extractive industries		[possible] Draft COP10 Resolution: “Wetlands and extractive industries”.	Initial discussions on scope and range of issues, and likely future scenarios, underway on SuSe forum; issues have been further discussed at Africa COP10 regional preparatory meeting in December 2007.	At mid-term workshops, STRP recognized that pressures on wetlands from extractive industries activities was become an increasing and urgent issue for Convention attention, in the light of requests for assistance received from a number of Contracting Parties
161: Strategy for sector-based guidance and emerging issues (ongoing)	Lower		Initial consideration on strategy at mid-term workshops; to be further developed at STRP14	Outcomes of task 3 review will inform further development of this task.

WORKING GROUP 8: COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)

Thematic lead STRP member: Christine Prietto

Task No. short title & task lead(s)	Priority	Expected products	Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines	Other Comments
3: Review and assessment of scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP resolutions	Immediate	1. COP10 Information paper: “Review of utility of COP scientific and technical resolutions and their availability. 2. [possible] COP10 draft	Questionnaire survey undertaken April/May 2007 by consultant (Gwen van Boven); survey analysis currently underway – draft report posted 3 December 2007 on SuSe for	Questionnaire response rate was poor from AA focal points and STRP and CEPA NFPs – STRP will transmit its issues and recommendations concerning this to Standing Committee.

(Christine Prietto/Secretariat)		Resolution: "Ensuring future utility and availability of Ramsar scientific and technical guidance"	STRP review.	
152: CEPA aspects of technical guidance/products prepared by STRP	Cross-cutting		Immediate priority attention on input to WG4 tasks 80/81/82 delivered: CEPA input to writing workshop July 2007	
153: Preparation of relevant CEPA outreach materials	Cross-cutting		Priority identified as contributions to tasks 168 (see Working group 9) and 13 (see Working group 2); contributions underway	

WORKING GROUP 9: REGIONAL NETWORKING

Thematic lead STRP member: Rebecca D' Cruz. **Co-lead:** Heather MacKay

Task No. short title & task lead(s)	Priority	Expected products	Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines	Other Comments
168: Promoting the role of National STRP Focal Points (Philippe Gerbeaux/Christine Prietto/Secretariat)	Immediate	Promotional Leaflet: "The Ramsar Convention in your country"	Leaflet produced in three Convention languages September 2007; now being circulated	
169: Establishing and strengthening the role and participation of STRP NFPs in STRP processes (Heather MacKay + other regional STRP members)	Immediate/ cross-cutting		Contacts (also through task 3) being sought by STRP regional network members. Contacted NFPs now being subscribed to SuSe to establish fuller involvement. The government of Austria has called an important meeting of European STRP NFPs for September 2007: outcomes will	To facilitate STRP NFPs involvement in reviewing draft STRP materials, new forums will be established shortly on the SuSe.

			be reported to STRP14.	
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ANNEX

List of STRP products expected by the end of 2008

Note. STRP 2006-2008 task numbers are indicated in square brackets [...]. Documents indicated as "Possible" are those which may be further developed pending STRP14 decisions and/or which may not be finalized by the end of the 2006-2008 triennium.

Guidance for Parties (for COP10 approval) – final drafts will need to be provided to Standing Committee 36 (Feb 2008) or SC37 (June 2008) for approval for COP10 consideration:

- Describing wetland ecological character [52]
- Harmonized guidance on data needs and formats for core inventory, ecological character, and the Information Sheet on Ramsar wetlands [52]
- A framework and guidance for detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character [54]
- Guidance for the implementation and reporting of indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention. [59]
- Guidance for delineation and mapping of wetlands [53]
- Responding to future HPAI scenarios for wetlands and waterbirds [62]
- Consolidated guidelines for wetlands and river basin management [81/82/83]

Possible:

- Supplementary guidance on the application of biogeographic regionalization schemes for Ramsar site designation. (for inclusion on the Strategic Framework for Ramsar site designation) [105]
- Revised RIS structure [106]

Draft COP10 Resolutions – final drafts will need to be provided to Standing Committee 36 (Feb 2008) or SC37 (June 2008) for approval for COP10 consideration:

- "Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept" – as for COP9 (Resolution IX.1), this will be a covering draft Resolution, with the guidance listed above provided as Annexes
- "Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention" – as for COP9 (Resolution IX.2) this will provide STRP work plan 2009-2011 tasks and priorities;
- "Wetlands and human health" [163]
- "Wetlands and climate change" [new task]

- “A framework for guidance on wetlands and agriculture” [150]
- “Wetlands and HPAI [62]

Possible:

- Revised structure for the Information Sheet on Ramsar wetlands (RIS) [52]
- The application of MA response options within the Ramsar Wise Use Toolkit [13]
- Wetlands and extractive industries. [new task]
- Ensuring better future utility and availability of Ramsar’s scientific and technical guidance [3]

COP10 Information papers – background and supporting papers provided in COP10 documentation, but not needing Standing Committee sign-off:

- Rationale for describing wetland ecological character and its harmonization with core inventory and the RIS for Ramsar site designation [52]
- Data & information needs and management for Ramsar sites and other wetlands [52]
- Issues and options concerning detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character [54]
- The global use of terminologies concerning ecosystem services [15]
- The relevance response options in the Millennium Ecosystem assessment for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention [13]
- Progress in developing a framework and guidelines for wetlands and agriculture- the work of the GAWI partnership [150]
- Review of utility of COP scientific and technical resolutions and guidelines, and their availability. [3]

Possible:

- Examples of effectiveness indicator assessments [59]
- Update on global situation concerning HPAI [62]
- Issues arising from the effectiveness of the application of fish Criteria 7 and 8 for Ramsar site designation [112]
- Needs for restructuring the *Strategic framework and guidelines for Ramsar site designation* [112]
- Environmental flows and water law [87] (may be issued as *RTR*, depending on STRP14 view)

Ramsar Technical Reports – peer reviewed by STRP and published by the Secretariat as and when each report is finalized; as many as possible will be issued prior to COP10:

- The current status of wetland wise use for the wetlands covered in the original wise use case studies Ramsar report. [14]

- Population estimates and 1% thresholds for the application of Criterion 9 for Ramsar site designation [109]
- Biogeographic regionalisation, and the distribution and gaps in Ramsar site designations for wetland types [104/105]
- River basin management critical path application case studies [81/82/83]
- Wetlands and water quality [91]
- Environmental flow determination and implementation [89]
- Determination of environmental water requirements for estuaries, coastal and near-shore wetlands [carry-over from 2003-2005]
- Determination of environmental water requirements for rivers [carry-over from 2003-2005]
- CA findings on wetlands, water and agriculture [150] (joint publication with CBD Secretariat)
- Wetlands and human health [163]
- Wetlands, water, biodiversity and climate change [new task] (joint publication with CBD Secretariat)

Possible:

- Groundwater management [90] – completion not anticipated until next triennium
- Environmental flows and water law [87] (may be issued as COP10 Information paper, depending on STRP14 view)
- Determination of environmental water requirements for palustrine wetlands [carry-over from 2003-2005] (delayed pending completion of other related *RTRs*)

Other materials

- “A field guide for wetland managers” [carried over from 2003-2005] – being published by WWF Freshwater Programme, autumn 2007
- Paper to SC36 (Feb 2007) – thematic example of retirement/consolidation options for past COP decisions [3]
- Promotional Leaflet: “The Ramsar Convention in your country” [168] (published September 2007)