

The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Renewed Call for the nomination of candidates to serve as regional members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for the 2003-2005 triennium

1. Contracting Parties are invited to nominate technical and scientific experts for appointment to the Ramsar Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for the 2003-2005 triennium. **Nominations should reach the Ramsar Bureau not later than 30 January 2003. Transmission by e-mail or fax is strongly recommended.**
2. Contracting Parties are requested to ensure that their nomination of a candidate for STRP membership is done through a diplomatic note or under cover of a letter of nomination signed by the Head of the Administrative Authority responsible for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in their country, and that a copy of the attached questionnaire is completed and signed by the nominee.
3. A Contracting Party may submit more than one nomination, if it so wishes.
4. Contracting Parties should note that members are appointed in their own right for their relevant expertise, and not as representatives of the country which nominates them.

Role and responsibilities of members of the STRP

5. The role and responsibilities of the STRP are to provide expert technical and scientific advice and guidance to the Convention in support of the implementation of the Convention by Contracting Parties. The Terms of Reference of the STRP and its members are set out in the *modus operandi* of the Panel adopted by the 8th meeting of the Conference of Parties, (paragraph 13 of the Annex to Resolution VIII.28).
6. Members of the STRP are expected to establish and maintain contact with the STRP National Focal Points (NFPs) in their region or subregion in order to ensure that the views and expertise of the NFPs is available to the Panel.
7. Membership of the STRP is as established by Resolution VII.2 (1999), i.e., that it shall have the same regional structure as the Standing Committee, that the same proportional system of the Standing Committee will apply for determining its composition, and that members of the STRP ought, as far as possible, come from Contracting Parties different from those Parties elected to the Standing Committee. This means that, with the current 134 Contracting Parties to the Convention, the numbers of members who will be appointed from each Ramsar Region are as follows: Africa 3; Asia 3; Europe 4; Neotropics 2; North America 1; Oceania 1.
8. Concerning Asia, COP8 determined that owing to the accession to the Convention of the Kyrgyz Republic on 13 November 2002, the number of Contracting Parties in the Asia region was now 25 and that, in accordance with Resolution VII.1, a third member of the Standing Committee for Asia should be appointed, with full participation from 13 March

2003 when the Convention comes into force in the Kyrgyz Republic. Since the first meeting of the STRP for the 2003-2005 triennium will take place after this date, in line with Resolution VII.2 a third member of the STRP from the Asia region should also be appointed.

9. Concerning the Neotropics, COP8 determined that in view of some imminent accessions of new States to the Convention, as soon as the treaty comes into force for the 25th Contracting Party from this region, a third country from the region will join the Standing Committee. Accordingly it will be appropriate for a third member of the STRP from the Neotropics to be identified for appointment in line with this decision concerning the Standing Committee.
10. Under the new *modus operandi* of the Panel (Ramsar Resolution VIII.28), the Standing Committee shall appoint the members of the Panel, from the list of candidates submitted by Contracting Parties, as soon as feasible after the close of the COP, seeking to ensure that appointed members have the expertise relevant for the delivery of the priority tasks identified in the STRP Work Plan. Appointments to the STRP for 2003-2005 will therefore be made by the Standing Committee at its 29th meeting on 26-28 February 2003.
11. Under the revised *modus operandi* of the Panel, it is anticipated that the Panel will meet twice during the 2003-2005 triennium. The first meeting will take place no later than six months after COP8 and the second meeting approximately nine months before COP9. It is anticipated that each meeting will last for three to four days and will be held in Gland, Switzerland. The first meeting will be on 8-11 April 2003.
12. In addition, each of the Working Groups established by the Panel at its first meeting will meet, resources permitting, for a workshop approximately mid-way through the triennium (i.e., in early 2004). Members of the Panel who become members of a Working Group would be expected to participate in these workshops. Venues and duration of such workshops will be determined after establishment of Working Groups by the first meeting of the Panel.

Qualifications and expertise of candidates

13. In line with the new *modus operandi* of the STRP, including the Terms of Reference of the members of the Panel, adopted by COP8 (Resolution VIII.28), nominees should:
 - i) Have expertise in one or more of the topics anticipated to be included as substantive tasks in the Panel's Work Plan for 2003-2005. These topics are listed in the attached questionnaire, and a provisional list of STRP tasks is annexed to this note.
 - ii) Have, as far as possible, international as well as national expertise in their topics.
 - iii) Have experience and expertise in the transfer of scientific and technical knowledge for use by managers and decision-makers responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and should not therefore have solely scientific research experience.
 - iv) Have written and spoken fluency in English, since the Panel works only in this language.

- v) Provide, at the time of nomination, a declaration that they are able to commit the necessary time, including attendance at meetings, to fulfill their role as an STRP member.
- vi) Confirm, at the time of nomination, that their institution or employer has agreed that they may commit the necessary time to the work of the Panel.
- vii) Complete, as part of their nomination, a short questionnaire concerning their experience and expertise.

Continuity of membership

14. The attention of Contracting Parties is drawn to the proposals in the revised *modus operandi* of the STRP to ensure continuity of membership of the Panel through the reappointment, where appropriate, of approximately half the regional members for a second term, with reappointments being, as far as possible, equitable amongst Ramsar regions. Members being proposed for reappointment must have demonstrated the ability to contribute effectively to the review work of the Panel and have confirmed their willingness to be reappointed. The Standing Committee will seek the advice of the outgoing Chair of the STRP concerning appropriate candidates for reappointment.
15. Contracting Parties are encouraged to consider nomination, as appropriate, of current members of the Panel for reappointment.
16. Although there is no remuneration for members of the STRP, the travel and subsistence costs for attendance at STRP meetings by members from developing countries and countries with economies in transition are covered by the Convention.

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ANNEX

Provisional list of tasks for the Work Plan of the STRP 2003-2008

Operational Objectives themes: draft Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008	Provisional STRP tasks 2003-2005
Draft Strategic Plan Actions and COP8 draft Resolution numbers are shown in square brackets [...].	
1. Inventory and assessment	
1.1. Wetland inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further review application of remote sensing data, low-cost GIS, and classification systems in wetland inventory, reporting to COP9 [DR 6]
1.2 Wetland assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further review and, as appropriate, advice 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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type, (bio)geographical regionalization schemes, and their application in defining and reporting the ecological character of wetlands; b) 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; c) the clear definition of the ecological character features in the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), including recommendations for changes to the structure and content of the RIS and, as appropriate, further guidance on the application of the Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance in the <i>Strategic Framework and Vision for the List</i> (Resolution VII.11) [and the additional guidelines for the identification and designation of under-represented wetland types (Resolution VIII.xx)] in the definition of the ecological character of Ramsar sites; [d) harmonization 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> (Resolution VIII.xx)]; e) 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;

- f) practical methods, including indicators, for monitoring wetlands and for the rapid assessment of wetland biodiversity, including both inland waters and coastal and marine systems;
 - g) incorporation of environmental impact and strategic environmental assessment into wetland risk assessment procedures;
 - h) the relevance and application of adaptive management methods to Ramsar sites and other wetlands, including as a response to the effects of global climate change; and
 - i) harmonization of definitions and terms throughout the suite of Ramsar guidance on inventory, assessment, monitoring and management of the ecological character of wetlands [DR 7]
- Consider consolidation of existing Convention guidance and develop an integrated framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring [DR 7]
 - Contribute to, review, and utilise the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in reporting to COP9 on wetland status and trends [1.2.1]
 - Prepare guidelines for rapid assessment (including indicators) of wetland biodiversity and functions (with CBD), by COP9 [1.2.3] Contribute to development of CBD guidance on rapid assessment of marine and coastal biodiversity [DR 4]
 - Develop methodologies for vulnerability assessment of wetlands [1.2.4]

2. Policies and legislation, including impact assessment and valuation

2.2 Development, review and amendment of policies, legislation, institutions and practices

- Prepare a synthesis of lessons learned from cases, including indications of linkages with existing Ramsar guidance on other topics where relevant [DR 9]
 - 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 [DR 9]
 - 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 [DR 9]
 - Prepare advice for Contracting Parties on applying strategic environmental assessment in the context of the Convention's
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	<p>guidelines [DR 9]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop economic valuation methodologies [2.2.4]
3. Integration of wetland wise use into sustainable development	
3.1 Methodologies for wetland conservation and wise use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the Wise Use concept [3.1.1] • Compile advice, methods and best practice studies on wise use of wetlands, including application of the ecosystem approach [3.1.2] • Develop new tools to assist Parties with the implementation of the wise use principle [17.1.5]
3.2 Peatlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands and its preparation of an implementation plan for global action on peatlands [DR 17]
3.4 Integration of wetland policies into broader planning and management from local to national scales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River basin management: 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] • Dams: Prepare guidelines for assessing impacts of dams on wetland and river systems for COP9 [3.4.4] • Prepare report on environmental flow methodologies, to assist in management of dam-related impacts [DR 2] • 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 [DR 2] (also relates to 10.1) • Water allocation and management: 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 [DR 1]. Prepare guidance, as appropriate, on sustainable use of groundwater to maintain wetland ecosystem functions [3.4.5] • Climate change: Further review and analyse role of wetlands in facilitating climate change adaptation, and vulnerability assessment methods (including indicators) of wetlands to climate change and sea-level rise [DR 3] • Agriculture: Develop regionally-focused management guidelines for enhancing the positive role that agriculture may have vis-à-vis the conservation and wise use of wetlands, with advice on minimising the adverse impacts of agricultural practices on wetland conservation and sustainable use goals [Draft COP8 Resolution]

4. Restoration and rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop tools and guidance on wetland restoration, including a glossary of wetland restoration terminology and guidance on small dams and wetland restoration [DR 16] • Prepare guidance on wetland mitigation in response to Resolution VII.24 [DR 16]
5. Invasive alien species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile further guidance for wetland managers on invasive species, recognising the particular significance of threats from invasive species on islands and in Small Island Developing States [DR 18] • Continue to develop practical guidance on prevention, control and eradication of alien species [5.1.2]
6. Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare criteria and methods for the development of appropriate policies and management actions on the cultural aspects of wetlands, through establishment of a Working Group on the cultural aspects of wetlands [DR 19]
8. Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to identify wetland-related elements of existing guidelines on incentive measures [DR 23]. Report on progress in design, implementation, monitoring, and assessment of incentive measures and identification and removal of perverse incentives [8.1.3] • Investigate the linkages between incentives and related topics, including financial mechanisms, trade, impact assessment and valuation, reporting to COP9 [DR 23]
9. Communication, education, and public awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) Working Group (Parties to consider nomination of CEPA experts as STRP members) [draft DR 31]. Priority tasks are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure that CEPA issues are considered fully and reflected appropriately in the guidance developed by STRP for Parties' consideration at COP9; 2. Review and develop guidance on using CEPA to deliver the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008; 3. Develop additional guidance on the role of CEPA in local management action; 4. Review and develop additional guidance to indicate how CEPA can be integrated into existing Ramsar guidance (in the Wise Use 'toolkit'); 5. Advise on developing harmonised CEPA approaches with other conventions and agreements; 6. Develop Terms of Reference for pilot projects to evaluate a range of approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands; 7. Review and report on existing models, case studies and lessons learnt in undertaking wetland CEPA activities.
10. Designation of Ramsar sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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] (relevant also
10.1. Application of the Strategic Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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] (relevant also

to 10.1 above)

- 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 *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* [DR 21]
- Prepare further guidance on identification and designation of other coastal wetland types, including *inter alia* intertidal and subtidal mud and sand flats and seagrass beds. [DR 4]
- Prepare guidance of identification and designation of artificial reservoirs and dams for the Ramsar List [DR 2] (see also 3.4 above)
- Review progress in achieving the Vision and Objectives of the *Strategic Framework* (Ramsar Handbook 7) [10.2.4]
- Contribute to development of CBD guidance on marine and coastal protected areas [DR 4]

11. Management planning and monitoring of Ramsar sites

- 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 [DR 14]
- Contribute to the implementation of the “San José Record” for Ramsar sites whose management plans and their implementation fully meet the Ramsar management planning guidelines adopted by COP8 [11.1.3]. Assist the Bureau to establish the procedures for the creation and maintenance of the “San José Record” [DR 15]

11.2 Monitoring the condition of Ramsar sites, including application of Article 3.2 and Montreux Record

- 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 [DR 8]. Review change in ecological character of Ramsar sites [10.2.4]
- 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 [DR 8]
- Prepare further consolidated guidance on the overall process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character, including criteria for determining when such a change is too trivial to require reporting [DR 8]

13. Collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions

- Exchange information, cooperate and coordinate activities, where appropriate, with subsidiary bodies of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and relevant regional instruments, including the implementation of actions in Joint Work Plans [DR 5]

14. Sharing of expertise and information

- Assist in promoting sharing of knowledge (traditional, indigenous and more recently derived technologies and methods) [14.1.1]
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Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Nomination of candidate for appointment to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for 2003-2005

This form should be completed and signed by the candidate being nominated and submitted to the Ramsar Bureau by the Contracting Party, either through a diplomatic note or under cover of a letter of nomination signed by the Head of the Ramsar Administrative Authority of that Contracting Party, and should reach the Ramsar Bureau not later than 30 January 2003.

Please complete this form in English only

Name of Contracting Party making the nomination:

Contact details of candidate

Given Name(s): **Family Name:**

Gender: Female: Male:

Title: Prof. Dr Ms Mrs Mr **Other** (please state):

Organisation or Institution:

Position held in Organisation or Institution:

Mailing address:

Tel.:

Fax:

E-mail:

University degree(s) and other relevant qualifications:

Brief synopsis of work experience and areas of expertise relevant to the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including national and international experience (maximum 300 words):

Experience of Ramsar Convention processes and procedures (e.g., participation in STRP, Standing Committee, Conferences of Parties, National Ramsar Committees, etc.) (maximum 100 words):

Experience of other environmental conventions and agreements (maximum 100 words):

Areas of expertise in relation to STRP's potential work programme 2003-2005:	Tick box(es) as appropriate
Wetland inventory (including remote sensing and GIS)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetland assessment (including indicators, rapid assessment & vulnerability assessment methods)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact assessment (including strategic environmental assessment)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic valuation methodologies	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wise (sustainable) use and the ecosystem approach	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peatlands	<input type="checkbox"/>
River basin management	<input type="checkbox"/>
Water allocation and management	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dams	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restoration and rehabilitation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mitigation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive alien species	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural aspects of wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Incentives	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication, education, and public awareness	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designation of Ramsar sites:	
Application of Ramsar Criteria	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designation of coastal and marine wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>
Designation of artificial reservoirs and dams	<input type="checkbox"/>
Management planning:	
Zonation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ecological character and status and trends	<input type="checkbox"/>
Good practice in wetland management	<input type="checkbox"/>
Migratory species and flyway networks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Training and capacity-building	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you consider that your English is fluent:

a) Written English: Yes: No:

b) Spoken English: Yes: No:

Are you able to commit the necessary time, including review of frequently substantial documents and participation in all meetings, to fulfill your role as an STRP member, if appointed:

Yes: No:

Do you have the agreement of your institution or employer that you can commit the necessary time to the work of the Panel: Yes: No:

Will you require financial assistance to attend meetings of the Panel and/or any relevant working groups it may establish: Yes: No:

Signature of candidate:

Date: