

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

25th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland: 23 – 27 October 2000

DOC. SC25-19

Agenda item 20

Draft Ramsar Bureau Work Plan 2001

Action requested: The Standing Committee is requested to review the attached draft Work Plan 2001, make amendments as appropriate, and approve the Work Plan.

General introduction

1. The Ramsar Bureau Work Plan includes two sections: Section I contains the Bureau Global and Regional Policy and Technical Work Plan, and Section II the General Administration Work Plan.
2. The presentation of the Bureau Global and Regional Policy and Technical Work Plan for 2001 has been changed from the format presented to the Standing Committee for previous years' Work Plans. Rather than presenting separate plans for the Global work and for the work of each of the Regional Teams, including the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), the 2001 Work Plan presents all the components of the Bureau work in a single tabulation under each of the relevant Actions of the 2000-2002 Convention Work Plan approved by Ramsar COP7.
3. It is anticipated that this form of presentation will facilitate understanding of the respective roles and activities of the Global and Regional Teams in the overall delivery of the Work Plan, and indicate where proposed priorities and actions differ between Regional Teams. A summary of the issues and priorities for global action and for each region sets the context for the proposed actions under each General and Operational Objective.

Draft Ramsar Bureau Work Plan 2001

**Based on the Convention's Work Plan 2000-2002
adopted by Ramsar COP Resolution VII.27**

GLOBAL ACTIONS

1. The actions described in this column are to be undertaken by the Secretary General, the Deputy Secretary General, and the Senior Advisor on Environment and Development Cooperation (SAEDC), in consultation with the Regional Coordinators and other staff as appropriate. The SG and DSG will be supported by Mireille Katz, the Executive Assistant for both of them, and the SAEDC will be assisted by Paulette Kennedy, Finance and Project Administration Assistant.
2. The Global actions also include most of the work of the Communications Team: Dwight Peck, Executive Assistant for Communications; Valerie Higgins, Assistant; and Sandra Hails, Advisor (provided that resource are available to keep her under contract in 2001).
3. The global actions will concentrate mainly on the following priorities:
 - a) to continue to develop synergies with other environment-related treaties and organizations in order to increase the profile of the Convention at the international level, as a means in turn to gain more recognition at the national level. This should facilitate the work of the institutions directly responsible for implementation in each country, and at the same time generate the involvement of other key institutions that so far have not been working with the Convention, such as those responsible for water resources management and land use planning;
 - b) to engage in a more fluid dialogue with the development assistance community, so as to generate more funds for wetland-related projects in developing countries and countries in transition;
 - c) to use the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention as a tool to expand the outreach work of the Bureau, to increase the awareness of wetland values and functions and the visibility of the Convention, as a tool for contributing to sustainable development around the world;
 - d) to generate high-level draft technical and policy documents for submission to the 26th meeting of the Standing Committee in preparation for COP8. This includes working very closely with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and its many Working Groups, most of which should generate outputs that should serve as the basis for COP8 discussion papers and draft resolutions; and
 - e) to assist the Regional Coordinators in their efforts to encourage and support Contracting Parties to:
 - i) deliver on their pledges at COP7 in relation to Ramsar site designations and other aspects of the implementation of the Convention;

- ii) application of the Strategic Framework for the development of the Ramsar List adopted by COP7, including issues related to the updating of the holdings of the Ramsar Sites Data Base;
- iii) full implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention¹; and
- iv) full utilization of the National Report format as a national planning tool.

AFRICA REGION

4. The actions described under this column of the Work Plan are to be undertaken mostly by the Regional Coordinator for Africa and the Assistant to the Regional Coordinator, in consultation with the Administrative Authorities and other staff as appropriate.

Regional Coordinator: Anada Tiega

Intern for Africa: Evans Okong'o

Background

5. The Africa region includes the mainland continent and the island states of Cape Verde, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sao Tome & Principe, and Seychelles, which makes a total of 53 countries. Thirty two of these countries are Contracting Parties to the Convention: Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, The Gambia, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, and Zambia.

Issues and priorities

6. Africa is one of the driest continents with the most irregular rainfall. It has, however, a significant number of pristine wetlands, which have begun to experience immense pressure from human activities, the most pronounced being drainage for agriculture and settlement, excessive exploitation by local communities, and improperly planned development activities such as upstream dams for hydroelectric generation which alter wetland habitats.
7. Other threats to African wetlands include changes in wetland water quality due to the effects of industrial effluent and agricultural pesticides, siltation from highland catchment areas, and introduction of alien species of flora and fauna leading to colonisation by single species and loss of endemic species diversity. In Africa, wetlands are a major source of potable water and securing this resource has to be a priority. The Bureau therefore needs to be a strong advocate of total watershed or catchment level planning and management in Africa. This will also assist with managing the several major water systems which cross national boundaries and where there exists the potential for future conflicts over water access and use.

¹ Article 3.2: "Each Contracting Party shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay to the organization or government responsible for the continuing bureau duties specified in Article 8."

8. In the African Region it must be recognised that there are several obstacles to seeing the Ramsar Convention fully implemented by the Contracting Parties. These include:
 - a) staffing issues, notably: inadequately trained personnel; insufficient number of staff for wetland-related issues; low motivation of staff; and lack of office tenure for staff;
 - b) technical skills and tools, especially: lack of basic tools, equipment and machinery to aid management;
 - c) lack of adequate funds to cover running costs to undertake management and planning.
 - d) government policies and institutional arrangements, including: often lack of, or inadequate, government support and policies; and
 - e) poor, or little, institutional cooperation
9. The important role of wetlands in sustainable development needs to be underscored and communicated to policy makers and economic planners in Africa, so that their values and functions are taken into consideration. It must also be acknowledged that for Ramsar to be effective in Africa it must work in partnership with the many actors that exist there. These are organisations such as river or lake basin commissions and other organisations, some sub-regional institutions, FAO, UNEP, the bilateral and multilateral donors and the International Organization Partners (IOP) of the Convention.

Institutional arrangements in Africa

10. Many of the institutions which are responsible for Ramsar implementation do not enjoy a clear mandate and strong support from the central government. It is therefore important that the stability of these institutions in terms of their set-up, staffing, and financing be clarified and reinforced. At the same time, it is very important that the Convention generates the interest and support of other national institutions that have a significant impact on wetland conservation and management, even when in some instances they do not have the explicit mandate to deal with wetlands. In this sense, it is essential that the Bureau encourages and supports the creation of appropriate national mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention - especially the formation of National Wetlands/Ramsar Committees in every country.

Building the capacity for planning and management

11. Support is urgently needed for the formulation of National Wetland Policies and capacity building within the institutions responsible for wetland and water management.
12. The Convention has now published its “toolkit” for implementation, including all the technical and policy guidelines adopted so far by the Conference of the Parties. A special effort is required to provide encouragement and training for the effective use of these tools. In the case of Africa in particular, there is an urgent need to encourage the support of donor Contracting Parties and the international community at large to make this possible.

AMERICAS REGION

13. The actions described under this column of the Work Plan are to be undertaken mostly by the Regional Coordinator for the Americas and the Assistant to the Regional Coordinator, in consultation with the Administrative Authorities and other staff as appropriate.

Regional Coordinator: Margarita Astrálaga

Intern for the Americas: Marco Flores

Background

14. The Americas region in the Bureau's work includes two of the Ramsar Regions (the Neotropics and North America), involving the following twenty-four Contracting Parties: Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.
15. In addition, there are in the region a number of dependent territories of France (French Guiana, Guadeloupe and Martinique); the Netherlands (Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles Federation); the UK (Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos); and the USA (Virgin Islands), which require involving those Contracting Parties.
16. There are a further eleven Caribbean Island States which are not yet Parties to the Convention: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Issues and priorities

17. Overall, Canada and the USA are well advanced in their implementation of the Convention, while in general the developing nations in the region still require substantial assistance and advice for the effective implementation of the treaty. Capacity building is a priority, in particular for the newest Parties to the Convention, such as Belize, Colombia and El Salvador.
18. Eleven of the Caribbean Island States have not yet joined the Ramsar Convention despite the efforts made jointly by Trinidad and Tobago and the Ramsar Bureau. There are complex reasons for this but they essentially come down to capacity building and financial implications. Many of these countries have few professionals dealing full time with environmental management and they already have made important commitments to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Several of the countries feel that they would have difficulties selecting their first Ramsar site, therefore they make no effort to initiate the process.
19. It is encouraging that there are several countries seriously considering or working towards becoming CPs, such as Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Saint Lucia.

ASIA REGION

20. The actions described under this column of the Work Plan are to be undertaken mostly by the Regional Coordinator for Asia and the Assistant to the Regional Coordinator, in consultation with the Administrative Authorities and other appropriate staff members.

Regional Coordinator: Najam Khurshid

Intern for Asia: Satiraporn Sirisampan (from November 2000)

Background

21. The Asia Region has so far 21 Contracting Parties: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand and Vietnam.

Issues and priorities

22. Increasing membership in the Convention remains a high priority for the Asia region. Lao P.R.D and Tajikistan have shown keen interest to join the Convention. Membership remains weak among the states of the Middle East, while Central Asia is still not represented. There is a need to increase understanding of the obligations and benefits of membership, as well as the new tools and approaches that the Convention has developed and continues to develop.
23. New site designations remains a high priority for the region. Jordan, Malaysia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Syria, Thailand and Vietnam have only one listed site each, designated at the time of accession to the Convention. Efforts will continue to encourage CPs to designate more Ramsar sites. Japan is well advanced in this aspect of the implementation of the Convention, and India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are working to designate more Ramsar sites.
24. In some CPs, frequent changes of agency/department as the Ramsar Administrative Authorities is an obstacle in the implementation of the Convention. This problem is further aggravated by financial constraints and limited knowledge about the obligations and technical aspects of the Convention within Administrative Authorities. This problem could be overcome through the development of stronger linkages with Ramsar International Organization Partners at regional and sub-regional level; some of them have already formal or semi-formal working relations with the Administrative Authorities. The Bureau will continue to encourage and support the Partners in their efforts and explore opportunities to develop new partnerships, particularly in the Middle East and Central Asia.
25. Related to the above, there is an urgent need for capacity building within the Administrative Authorities and among wetland site managers. While there are a number of training initiatives underway in the region, training needs analyses coupled with a review of training opportunities is needed to ensure greater coordination and effectiveness. The Bureau will continue to explore opportunities to establish a region-wide wetland management training initiative.

EUROPEAN REGION

26. The actions described under this column of the Work Plan are to be undertaken mostly by the European Regional Coordinator and the Assistant to the Regional Coordinator, in consultation with the MedWet Coordinator and other staff as appropriate.

Regional Coordinator: Tobias Salathé

Intern for Europe: Inga Racinska (from November 2000)

Background

27. The European Region of the Ramsar Convention comprises 42 Contracting Parties that have together declared 668 Ramsar Sites (as of 13 September 2000), out of which 31 figure on the Montreux Record and many more are threatened by possible or ongoing ecological change. Two additional countries are in the process of accession to the Convention (Bosnia & Herzegovina and Cyprus), which will make European membership in the Convention nearly complete (excluding the three micro-states Andorra, Holy See and San Marino).
28. European countries experience often great wetland management problems due to high population densities in their catchment basins, intensive land-use pressures, and political and linguistic complexities. Given the high number of countries and Ramsar sites, and the increasing pressures on European wetlands, this region is arguably also the most complex and demanding region to be served by the Ramsar Bureau.
29. It is therefore of high importance and value that Contracting Parties with more advanced national wetlands policies and management structure make increased efforts to share their experience with countries in economic transition and in urgent need for external support. In this way, national wetland conservation policies can be brought up to "European standard" levels.

Issues and priorities

30. Increased solidarity between the rich countries with highly developed wetland conservation, management and restoration capacities and the poor European countries in economic transition with needs for technology transfer and institutional capacity-building is a high priority for this beginning third millennium, if the Ramsar Convention is going to achieve its objectives and contribute to wise use of wetlands on the ground. To this end, the Ramsar Bureau will rely, even more so than ever before, on the active technical and financial support from and collaboration with the more advanced western European countries.
31. The elaboration and implementation of appropriate instruments for national wetland policies that ensure the wise use of all remaining wetlands within the territories of all European states is a crucial priority. The Bureau will stimulate and support Contracting Parties on a regular basis to become more active and result-oriented in this field.
32. As the region with by far the largest number of Ramsar sites (although not necessarily by surface area), Europe has many problems with the appropriate management of its Ramsar sites. Improvement of the management of many European Ramsar sites is therefore seen as a priority for the implementation of the Strategic Framework for the future development of the Ramsar Site List. The Bureau will stimulate and support all

Contracting Parties to achieve measurable results in this domain during 2001. Training programmes and exchange of experience, knowledge and know-how will be essential. The alleviation of threats and pressures on many existing Ramsar sites is a high priority. Progress with the establishment of monitoring procedures for an increasing number of sites is anticipated.

33. The development of the third Ramsar pillar: increased international cooperation, so far often neglected or only supported half-heartedly in the region, will be a priority in 2001. As a priority, individual Contracting Parties will be encouraged to progress with the management of shared sites, shared water catchments, and species. The implementation of the Ramsar Guidelines for International Cooperation provide the necessary tools at all levels: in the domain of increased collaboration between Ramsar and other global and regional environmental conventions, in the field of Pan-European cooperation for biodiversity conservation and related issues, as well as in the form of individual technical support to those countries lacking sufficient resources. This is often most pronounced in the public services responsible for wetland conservation in Newly Independent States and countries in economic transition.
34. Finally, the implementation of the many announcements and commitments made, and the Resolutions adopted, at COP7 in 1999 will be a short-term priority in 2001. The first year of the new millennium will be forward-looking, thus laying the ground, during the regional meeting scheduled for October 2001 in Slovenia, for the development of a modern Ramsar Strategy 2003-2008 and an Action Plan that stands up to its expectations.

OCEANIA REGION

35. In the absence of a Regional Coordinator for Oceania in the Bureau, the actions related to this region are included under the Asia Region column of the Work Plan. These actions are to be undertaken mostly by the Deputy Secretary General, with some administrative assistance from the Assistant to the Regional Coordinator for Asia, and working very closely with Wetlands International – Oceania office based in Canberra, which is supported by the Australian Government.

Background

36. There are currently three Contracting Parties in this Ramsar region: Australia, New Zealand, and Papua New Guinea. The Pacific Small Island Developing States remain one of the major gaps in the global membership of the Convention. Several of these, particularly through the work of Wetlands International – Oceania, are now approaching accession. Limitations to such progress are complex, but particularly relate to the need for capacity building and financial implications. Many of these countries have few professionals dealing full time with environmental management and they already have made important commitments to other Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Joint Work Plans and joint actions with other global conventions, such as that with CBD, are considered to help encourage developing the links with Ramsar.
37. Issues related to the Oceania Region were previously dealt with by the former Deputy Secretary General, Dr Bill Phillips, who had a first-hand experience with the region. For the present, and particularly with the recent arrival (in mid-2000) of a new Regional Coordinator for Asia, Najam Khurshid, it is proposed that the responsibility will continue

to be undertaken chiefly by the Deputy Secretary General, with some administrative assistance provided by the Intern for Asia. This will be kept under review during 2001, especially if the number of Contracting Parties in the region increases. If this is the case, obtaining resources for an intern for Pacific Small Island States in the Bureau could become a priority.

Issues and priorities

38. Within this region, Australia and New Zealand are well advanced in their implementation of the Convention. Therefore, the priority will be to assist PNG with implementation of the Convention and the Pacific Small Island Developing States of the region to progress towards accession. Assistance to Australia and New Zealand will be on an 'as requested' only basis.

THE MEDITERRANEAN BASIN

39. The activities and projects under this column of the Work Plan are related to the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) and are the responsibility of the outposted MedWet Team, which includes the MedWet Coordinator and three wetland centres, in close collaboration with the Ramsar Bureau.

MedWet Coordinator: Thymio Papayannis, based in Athens, Greece, reporting to the Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands (a project funded position).

Wetland centres:

- The Greek Biotope / Wetland Centre (EKBY), Thessaloniki (Greece), which includes the MedWet Secretariat with funding from the Greek Government;
- Sede para el Estudio de los Humedales Mediterráneos (SEHUMED), University of Valencia (Spain), supported financially by the Spanish Government and the Generalitat Valenciana; and
- Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat, Le Sambuc, Arles (France), assisted financially by the French Government.

Note: A fourth wetland centre in North Africa was expected to be established in 2000 and to join the MedWet Team. Uncertainties and delays that have occurred, however, may not make this possible in 2000.

40. The Mediterranean, an area with characteristic ecological, historical and cultural unity, includes 25 countries belonging officially to three Ramsar regions (Africa, Asia and Europe). Participation in the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) and in the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) which guides it, is broader than that of Ramsar Contracting Parties. MedWet/Com, formally recognized by Resolution VII.22 "as a forum for collaboration on wetland issues in the Mediterranean and as an advisor to the Convention in this region", is composed of 23 Ramsar Contracting Parties, two states not yet belonging to the Convention (Bosnia & Herzegovina and Cyprus) and the Palestinian Authority, four inter-governmental bodies (European Commission, UNDP, Barcelona and Bern Conventions), and seven non-governmental organisations and wetland centres.

41. The *modus operandi* of the MedWet Team is substantially different from that of the Regional Teams of the Ramsar Bureau itself. It focuses more on specific activities and projects, which it initiates, develops and, in many cases, manages. This is in addition to the MedWet Team's catalytic role in encouraging joint action, sharing of knowledge and expertise, and assisting with training and capacity development for policy and management of wetlands.

Issues and priorities

42. In the Mediterranean, a number of social, economic and political issues result in excessive pressures on wetlands and lead to their degradation or destruction. Thus wetland loss in the region during the 20th century is estimated to average 50%. These issues are: poverty in the South and East of the region with great inequalities throughout, explosive population growth in the poorest countries of the region, strong economic migration trends, and increasing transient population pressure on the coastal zones due to tourism.
43. The resulting major problems are:
- demand for space, especially in the coastal zones, often to the detriment of wetlands;
 - water scarcity due to increased demand for irrigated agriculture and tourism, affecting wetlands;
 - serious water pollution from industrial, domestic, as well as agricultural sources; and
 - unsustainable exploitation of wetland resources, especially fish and game.
44. To face these problems, the MedWet Initiative has focused on actions at three levels. At the international level, promoting collaboration, financial and technical assistance and sharing of experience and know-how. At the national level, encouraging the preparation of national wetland policies, improving legislation, and strengthening the capacity of services concerned with, or having an impact on, wetlands. On the site level, focusing on catalysing management actions, with the involvement of stakeholders.
45. Most of this work is done through methods and tools designed for the Mediterranean context, and through the establishment and strengthening of active partnerships in the region.
46. For the coming year, the MedWet priority sectors include water (through its membership in the Mediterranean Advisory Committee (MEDTAC) of the Global Water Partnership), climate change, sustainable resource use (through membership in the Mediterranean Committee on Sustainable Development of the Barcelona Convention), and the cultural and social aspects of wetlands.

[Note: Shaded cells indicate those actions for which additional resources would be required.]

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 1

TO PROGRESS TOWARDS UNIVERSAL MEMBERSHIP OF THE CONVENTION.

Operational Objective 1.1: To endeavour to secure at least 150 Contracting Parties to the Convention by 2002.

1.1.1 Recruit new Contracting Parties, especially in the less well represented regions (Africa, central Asia, the Middle East and the Small Island Developing States).

Target - 150 CPs by COP8

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue ongoing efforts to recruit new members. Priorities: Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Middle East, Central Asia, and Africa.	<p>African target counties for accession are Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Rwanda, Zimbabwe.</p> <p>Encourage and assist with accession through regular consultations with relevant institutions and people, and with the help of African representations on Standing Committee and partner organisations, through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (sub-)regional and national meetings and workshops; • Dissemination of Ramsar tools, and training in the use of the Ramsar Handbooks; • Field visits to assist with Ramsar site designation. 	Working with the Caribbean representative to the Standing Committee, UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme Coordinating Unit, and other Parties as appropriate, continue to encourage Non-Contracting Parties, largely Caribbean Island States, to accede the Convention, through (sub-)regional meetings and workshops, and through the Geneva Missions and regional meetings of other biodiversity-related Conventions, such as CBD and the SPAW Protocol.	<p>Continue efforts to increase membership especially in the Middle East and Central Asia in collaboration with the members of the Standing Committee and partner organisations. Participation in the related workshops and the regional meetings will be used to motivate other countries in the region.</p> <p>Distribute wetland and Ramsar-related material to generate interest in wetlands and Ramsar among non-CPs.</p> <p>Oceania Working with Wetlands International – Oceania and through (sub)regional meetings, continue to encourage accession by the SIDS in Oceania, with a priority of countries benefiting from previous SGF pre-accession funding: Solomon Islands, Republic of Kiribati, Fiji, Micronesia, Palau and Vanuatu.</p> <p>Continue to seek resources for a Pacific Islands SIDS intern in the Bureau to assist this process.</p>	Working with the MedWet Coordinator, continue to provide support to Bosnia & Herzegovina and to Cyprus to accede to the Convention. Initial contacts with Andorra in 2000 will be followed up. Excluding the Holy See and San Marino, this will complete universal membership of the Convention in Europe.	Take the lead in working with Bosnia & Herzegovina and Cyprus towards their accession to the Convention. Initiate efforts towards the accession of Palestine, should it become an independent country that qualifies for accession.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 2**TO ACHIEVE THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS BY IMPLEMENTING AND FURTHER DEVELOPING THE RAMSAR WISE USE GUIDELINES.**

Operational Objective 2.1: To review and, if necessary, amend national or supra-national (e.g. European Community) legislation, institutions and practices in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the Wise Use Guidelines are applied.

2.1.1 Carry out a review of legislation and practices, and indicate in National Reports to the COP how the Wise Use Guidelines are applied. [CPs]

Target – At least 100 CPs to have comprehensively reviewed their laws and institutions related to wetlands by COP8

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 3 should assist CPs in undertaking their reviews and reporting on this in National Reports to COP8. Continue to encourage CPs to undertake such reviews and explore possible joint pilot projects with IUCN's Environmental Law Centre. Encourage donor support for this activity.	Encourage and assist Parties in undertaking their reviews of national legislation, in line with the guidance in Handbook 3. Identify at least one CP interested in undertaking a pilot review.	Encourage and assist Parties in undertaking their reviews of national legislation, in line with the guidance in Handbook 3. Identify at least one CP interested in undertaking a pilot review.	Encourage and assist Parties in undertaking their reviews of national legislation, in line with the guidance in Handbook 3. Identify at least one CP interested in undertaking a pilot review. Oceania Region As above. Encourage Australia to produce case study paper on its recent legislation concerning Ramsar. The Bureau to translate and distribute it to all CPs.	Encourage and assist Parties in undertaking their reviews of national legislation, in line with the guidance in Handbook 3. Identify at least one CP interested in undertaking a pilot review.	

2.1.2 Promote much greater efforts to develop national wetland policies, either separately or as a clearly identifiable component of other national conservation planning initiatives, such as National Environment Action Plans, National Biodiversity Strategies, or National Conservation Strategies. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target – By COP8 at least 100 CPs with National Wetland Policies or, where appropriate, a recognised document that harmonises all wetland-related policies/strategies and plans, and all CPs to have wetlands considered in national environmental and water policies and plans. The Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (Res. VII.18) will assist these efforts.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 provides CPs with guidance on developing national wetland policies. Continue to encourage CPs to develop such policies. The SAEDC will encourage donors to provide funding for policy development/ application.	Promote the development and/or implementation of National Wetland Policies/Strategies particularly in Botswana, Benin, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, and Zambia.	Promote Government recognition of cross-sectoral National Wetland/Ramsar Committees and the development of National Wetland Policies.	Continue to encourage and support the development of National Wetland Policies/Action Plans/Strategies using the guidelines approved at COP7. Priority to be given to CPs where policy development is already underway.	Publish in a booklet form the analysis on National Wetland Policies in Europe undertaken in 1999/2000, with recommendations for future action by COPs.	Provide support and encouragement to MedWet countries to initiate NWP and provide technical advice in specific areas.

Operational Objective 2.2: To integrate conservation and wise use of wetlands in all Contracting Parties into national, provincial and local planning and decision-making on land use, groundwater management, catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning, and all other environmental planning and management.

2.2.1 Gather and make available to Contracting Parties information on land use planning related to wetlands, and catchment/river basin and coastal zone planning in particular. [Bureau]

Target – COP7 adopted through Resolution VII.18 *Guidelines for integrating wetlands conservation and wise use into river basin management*. In the next triennium guidelines for integrating wetlands into coastal zone planning and management will be developed for consideration at COP8.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>Continue working with the Global Environment Network (based in Malaysia) to develop the “River Basin Initiative” as a joint undertaking with CBD.</p> <p>Continue to support efforts to obtain donor support to implement the project, and implementing partners for the Initiative.</p>	<p>Promote the use of the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands conservation and wise use into river basin management</i>, and other Ramsar Handbooks (and assist in training in their use), and encourage CPs to contribute case studies to the River Basin Initiative.</p> <p>Particular actions will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Chad Basin • Okavango Delta • Bilateral and multilateral joint actions on River/Lake catchments (shared watersheds) 	<p>Promote the use of the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands conservation and wise use into river basin management</i>, and other Ramsar Handbooks (and assist in training in their use), and encourage CPs to contribute case studies to the River Basin Initiative.</p>	<p>Promote the use of the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands conservation and wise use into river basin management</i>, and other Ramsar Handbooks (and assist in training in their use), and encourage CPs to contribute case studies to the River Basin Initiative.</p> <p>Oceania Region As resources permit, promote the use of the <i>Guidelines for integrating wetlands conservation and wise use into river basin management</i>, and other Ramsar Handbooks (and assist in training in their use), and encourage CPs to contribute case studies to the River Basin Initiative.</p>	<p>Promote existing Ramsar tools and those under preparation by STRP and the Bureau at appropriate conferences, workshops and meetings and through individual contacts, ideally with illustrations from real case studies of different existing or potential Ramsar Sites.</p> <p>Promote the designation of large-scale Ramsar sites in individual CPs, as a legal tool to support integrated planning approaches rather than a simple sectoral species protection approach.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Act as focal point for Ramsar involvement (possibly as lead agency) in the development and implementation of a sustainable development plan for the Prespa Park (involving the Ramsar sites in the Prespa Lakes in Albania, Greece, and FYROM. 2. Support Bosnia & Herzegovina and Croatia in the joint management of the Neretva River catchment basin and its wetlands. 3. Develop a project on water management and wetlands through participation in the Mediterranean Advisory Committee of the Global Water Partnership (MEDITAC), in close collaboration with IUCN. 4. Support work in specific areas as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * salinas management in Slovenia; * impact of drought on Cyprus's coastal torrents; * management training in Portugal and Catalonia (Tour du Valat); * Syrian wetlands and El Jabbul (Tour du Valat); * follow-up to work done in Sebkhia El Kelbia and Merja Zerga, Morocco (WWF MedPO and Tour du Valat). 5. Assist in “exporting” the MedWet experience to the Black Sea.
<p>Continue to support the STRP ICZM Working Group in drafting guidelines for integrating wetlands into coastal zone management, for submission to SC26, in</p>		<p>Assist STRP in the preparation of guidelines for integrating wetlands into coastal zone planning and management</p>	<p>Promote the concept of ICZM in relation to wetland management and provide assistance to the interested CPs through networking with other organisations in the River Basin</p>		

preparation for COP8.			and Integrated Coastal Zone Management		
-----------------------	--	--	--	--	--

Operational Objective 2.3: To expand the Guidelines and Additional Guidance to provide advice to Contracting Parties on specific issues not hitherto covered, and examples of best current practice.

2.3.1 Expand the Additional Guidance on Wise Use to address specific issues such as oil spill prevention and clean-up, agricultural runoff, and urban/industrial discharges in cooperation with other bodies. [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

Target - Following COP7, the Bureau, with other appropriate collaborators, will produce a series of Wise Use handbooks, based on the outcomes of Technical Sessions at COP7.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>The nine Wise Use Handbooks were published and circulated in English, French and Spanish in 2000.</p> <p>The STRP, with the assistance of the Bureau and others, is preparing additional guidance on several Wise Use topics for submission to SC26 in preparation for COP8, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inventory - Incentives - Water allocation and management - Wetland management planning (additional guidance) - Invasive Species - ICZM - Compensation for lost wetland areas <p>Finalize guidance, as requested by STRP, on invasive species, jointly with CBD and the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), for submission to SC26 in preparation for COP8.</p>	<p>Distribute, promote and provide training in the use of the new Wise Use Handbooks.</p> <p>Discuss with CPs the utility of the current Handbooks and the need for new or improved guidelines on different topics.</p> <p>Support, as needed, the work of STRP in preparing additional guidelines.</p> <p>Through joint project with IUCN, produce and disseminate additional information materials on invasive species specific to Africa.</p> <p>Seek examples of the management and monitoring of specific RSs that could be used as demonstration cases for the COP8 document on the San José Record.</p>	<p>Distribute, promote and provide training in the use of the new Wise Use Handbooks.</p> <p>Discuss with CPs the utility of the current Handbooks and the need for new or improved guidelines on different topics.</p> <p>Support, as needed, the work of STRP in preparing additional guidelines.</p> <p>Seek examples of the management and monitoring of specific RSs that could be used as demonstration cases for the COP8 document on the San José Record.</p>	<p>Distribute, promote and provide training in the use of the new Wise Use Handbooks.</p> <p>Discuss with CPs the utility of the current Handbooks and need for new or improved guidelines on different topics.</p> <p>Support, as needed, the work of STRP in preparing additional guidelines.</p> <p>Oceania Region</p> <p>Distribute, promote and provide training in the use of the new Wise Use Handbooks.</p> <p>Discuss with CPs the utility of the current Handbooks and on the need for new or improved guidelines on different topics.</p> <p>In Asia and Oceania, seek examples of the management and monitoring of specific RSs that could be used as demonstration cases for the COP8 document on the San José Record.</p>	<p>Distribute, promote and provide training in the use of the new Wise Use Handbooks.</p> <p>Discuss with CPs the utility of the current Handbooks and the need for new or improved guidelines on different topics.</p> <p>Support, as needed, the work of STRP in preparing additional guidelines.</p> <p>Seek examples of the management and monitoring of specific RSs that could be used as demonstration cases for the COP8 document on the San José Record.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to promote the effective use and further development of the MedWet tools prepared under MedWet Projects 1 and 2, in consonance with the new Ramsar “toolkit”. 2. Undertake missions to Egypt, Syria and Turkey to assist in the use of the available tools for full implementation of the Convention. 3. Develop a project on sustainable use of wetland resources (through participation in the Mediterranean Committee on Sustainable Development), with emphasis on tourism (led by SEHUMED).

Operational Objective 2.4: To provide economic evaluations of the benefits and functions of wetlands for environmental planning purposes.

2.4.3 Initiate specific activities which implement the findings on economic evaluations published under 2.4.2 [CPs]

Target - The Bureau has initiated a project, in collaboration with IUCN and supported by funds from the Swiss Government, in the countries of the Southern Africa Development Community on economic valuation of wetlands.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>As decided by STRP9, IUCN's Economic Services Unit and the Bureau are developing a comprehensive programme and resource kit on economic valuation and incentives. A high priority activity, it requires additional resources for full completion.</p> <p>The Senior Advisor on Environment & Development Cooperation (SAEDC) to act as focal point, including preparation of a manual on financing the wise use of wetlands.</p>	<p>Continue to encourage the undertaking and publication of economic valuation of wetlands and their restoration, working with the SAEDC.</p> <p>Encourage implementation of the joint initiative with IUCN-Regional Office for Southern Africa on economic valuation of wetlands in the SADC countries, and seek resources to develop similar activity jointly with IUCN-East Africa Regional Office.</p>	<p>Continue to encourage the undertaking and publication of economic valuation of wetlands and their restoration, working with the SAEDC.</p>	<p>Continue to encourage the undertaking and publication of economic valuation of wetlands and their restoration, working with the SAEDC.</p> <p>Oceania Region Continue to encourage the undertaking and publication of economic valuation of wetlands and their restoration, working with the SAEDC.</p>	<p>Continue to encourage the undertaking and publication of economic valuation of wetlands and their restoration, working with the SAEDC.</p>	

Operational Objective 2.5:

To carry out environmental impact assessments (EIAs) at wetlands, particularly of proposed developments or changes in land/water use which have potential to affect them, notably at Ramsar sites, whose ecological character “is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference” (Article 3.2 of the Convention).

2.5.1 Expand the Additional Guidance on Wise Use by preparing, for a technical session at the 7th COP (1999), the results of a review of environmental appraisal guidelines and examples of current best practice in EIA. [SC, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

Target - In the next triennium, the development of further guidance in this area will be done in collaboration with CBD, CMS, IUCN and the International Association for Impact Assessment.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>STRP's Working Group on EIA has developed a comprehensive proposal linking EIA with valuation, incentives, and financing mechanisms. This is a key part of the Joint Work Plan with CBD and constitutes a high priority. It requires additional resources for effective implementation.</p>	<p>Support the work of STRP as needed.</p> <p>Continue to encourage Parties to ensure that existing national legislation regarding EIAs is fully implemented in relation to wetlands.</p>	<p>Support the work of STRP as needed.</p> <p>Continue to encourage Parties to ensure that existing national legislation regarding EIAs is fully implemented in relation to wetlands.</p>	<p>Support the work of STRP as needed.</p> <p>Continue to encourage Parties to ensure that existing national legislation regarding EIAs is fully implemented in relation to wetlands.</p> <p>Oceania Region As above, as resources permit.</p>	<p>Support the work of STRP as needed.</p> <p>Continue to encourage Parties to ensure that existing national legislation regarding EIAs is fully implemented in relation to wetlands.</p>	

Operational Objective 2.6:

To identify wetlands in need of restoration and rehabilitation, and to implement the necessary measures.

2.6.2 Provide and implement methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Partners]

Target – The addition of appropriate case studies and information on methodologies, etc., to the Convention's Wise Use Resource Centre will be a priority in the next triennium.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue to assist STRP's Working Group on Restoration in its development of a Web-based resource kit of restoration techniques and case studies. Develop cooperation with GISP on providing guidance and methodologies for managing invasive/alien wetland species	Encourage CPs to provide input to STRP's work	Encourage CPs to provide input to STRP's work	Encourage CPs to provide input to STRP's work Oceania Region Encourage CPs to provide input to STRP's work	Encourage CPs to provide input to STRP's work	

Operational Objective 2.7:

To encourage active and informed participation of local communities, including indigenous people, and in particular women, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

2.7.1 Implement Recommendation 6.3 on involving local and indigenous people in the management of wetlands. [CPs, Bureau]

Target - In the next triennium, the implementation of the above Guidelines is to be one of the Convention's highest priorities. By COP8 all CPs to be promoting local stakeholder management of wetlands.

The Bureau has published Handbook 5 on *Establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands*.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Serve in Steering Committee of Ramsar/IUCN/WWF project "Participatory Management Advisory Service". Requires additional resources for full implementation.	Promote the use of Handbook No. 5, including through SGF, Swiss Grant for Africa, and other sources. Encourage Parties to involve local community representatives in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committees and to report on progress made.	Promote the use of Handbook 5, including through the Wetlands for the Future Initiative and SGF. Encourage Parties to involve local community representatives in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committees and to report on progress made.	Promote the use of Handbook 5, including through the SGF and other sources. Encourage Parties to involve local community representatives in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committees and to report on progress made. Oceania Region Working with Wetlands International – Oceania, promote the use of Handbook 5, including through SGF and other sources.	Promote the use of Handbook 5, including through SGF and other sources. Encourage Parties to involve local community representatives in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committees and to report on progress made.	Continue to work towards the establishment of three new wetland networks (as approved by MedWet/Com3): a) MedWet/Regions: work led by Tour du Valat, with support by France and the Languedoc Roussillon region, to establish a network of administrative/autonomous regions within member countries. b) MedWet/Sites: implementation of the MedWet methods and tools on specific sites (lead partner to be identified). c) MedWet/NGOs: The WWF Mediterranean Programme Office has undertaken to organise this network of national NGOs involved with wetland conservation.

2.7.4 Recognise and apply traditional knowledge and management practice of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs]

- Refer to 2.7.1 above.

Target - This will be addressed in the next triennium, possibly in partnership with the Convention on Biological Diversity and Convention to Combat Desertification, which have already initiated work in this area.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>Refer to 2.7.1 above.</p> <p>Continue discussion of input and assistance from CBD, CCD and others to review the current state of knowledge and proposed activities in this area, and develop a suitable draft work programme for Ramsar.</p> <p>Sponsor and participate in the Global Biodiversity Forum (March 2000?) on “Sharing the Benefits of Biodiversity Locally: Enhancing Indigenous People’s Participation in Biodiversity”</p>	<p>Encourage actions for communities' participation through joint programme activity with CBD, CCD, World Heritage and CMS, particularly on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Okavango • Lake Chad • Other Ramsar sites with management plans, and through Ramsar Advisory Missions 	<p>Seek input and assistance from relevant regional bodies to review the current state of knowledge and proposed activities in this area, with a view to developing a suitable programme of work for the Ramsar Convention, if resources permit.</p>	<p>Seek input and assistance from relevant regional bodies to review the current state of knowledge and proposed activities in this area, with a view to developing a suitable programme of work for the Ramsar Convention, if resources permit.</p> <p>Oceania Region As above.</p>	<p>Seek input and assistance from relevant regional bodies to review the current state of knowledge and proposed activities in this area, with a view to developing a suitable programme of work for the Ramsar Convention, if resources permit.</p>	

Operational Objective 2.8: To encourage involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

2.8.1. Encourage the private sector to give increased recognition to wetland attributes, functions and values when carrying out projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Note. In the past triennium the Bureau entered into the innovative “Evian Project” in partnership with the multinational Danone Group and several French government agencies through which projects on training and communications are being sponsored. [Note: The Evian/Danone Group has agreed to continue funding the project in 2001-2002]

Target - In the next triennium the efforts to work in partnership with the private sector will be further escalated and the Bureau will seek to document and make available case studies on some of the more effective and innovative approaches. By COP8 the target is to have private sector support for wetlands conservation in more than 100 CPs.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>Continue the working relations with Evian/Danone.</p> <p>Continue to explore, in cooperation with partners, the involvement of the private sector in Ramsar issues, particularly on the occasion of COP8.</p> <p>Continue efforts to obtain sponsorship for Bureau activities, in particular for the maintenance and further development of the Web site.</p>	<p>Explore possibilities for private sector involvement in consultation with Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Continue to disseminate the Naivasha experience on the role of the private sector in Ramsar site designation, preparation and implementation of a management plan, raising awareness, and using legal instruments, including adoption of code of conduct by each interest group.</p>	<p>Encourage Parties to involve the private sector in the implementation of projects.</p>	<p>Where possible provide information to the private sector (directly or through CPs) about the importance of wetlands, their function and values and encourage CPs to involve private sector in the conservation of wetlands.</p> <p>Oceania region Encourage Parties to involve the private sector in the implementation of projects.</p>	<p>Encourage Parties to involve the private sector in the implementation of projects.</p>	

2.8.2 Encourage the private sector to apply the Wise Use Guidelines when executing development projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target - In the next triennium the application of this tool for promoting Wise Use will be a priority under the Convention. By COP8 the target is to have more than 50 CPs which have completed reviews of their incentive measures.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
See 2.4.3. Incentives was a major theme of CBD's COP5, and forms part of the Joint Work Plan. This is a high priority, but requires additional resources.	Provide regional support as necessary to implement the actions proposed by the Bureau.	Provide regional support as necessary to implement the actions proposed by the Bureau.	Provide regional support as necessary to implement the actions proposed by the Bureau. Oceania Region Provide regional support as necessary to implement the actions proposed by the Bureau.	Provide regional support as necessary to implement the actions proposed by the Bureau.	

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 3

TO RAISE AWARENESS OF WETLAND VALUES AND FUNCTIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND AT ALL LEVELS.

Operational Objective 3.1: To support and assist in implementing, in cooperation with partners and other institutions, an international programme of Education and Public Awareness (EPA) on wetlands, their functions and values, designed to promote national EPA programmes.

3.1.1 Assist in identifying and establishing coordinating mechanisms and structures for the development and implementation of a concerted global programme of EPA on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target - By COP8 to see the global network of proposed CP focal points for Wetland Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) in place and functioning effectively in the promotion and execution of the global Outreach Programme. To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Distribute to CPs the Bureau guide for developing a Wetland CEPA Action Plan prepared at the end of 1999. Maintain the e-mail discussion group started at the end of 2000. Continue to feed the Web-based resources centre concerning CEPA issues. Actively encourage and promote signage at Ramsar sites. Offer to CPs a Power Point presentation on CEPA. Carry out survey through CEPA Focal Points on wetland issues in formal school curricula and distribute "good practice" examples.	Assist with obtaining further designations of CEPA National Focal Points and support at the regional level the Bureau communications and awareness effort. Promote specific joint action with Ramsar partners on education and public awareness activities.	Assist with obtaining further designations of CEPA National Focal Points and support at the regional level the Bureau communications and awareness effort. Promote specific joint action with Ramsar partners on education and public awareness activities. Continue promoting the Wetlands for the Future Initiative through the Web site, the Ramsar-Forum and other list servers, as well as through the Newsletter and other mechanisms.	Assist with obtaining further designations of CEPA National Focal Points and support at the regional level the Bureau communications and awareness effort. Promote specific joint action with Ramsar partners on education and public awareness activities. Give special attention to informing the media within these regions about the Ramsar Convention. Oceania Region As above.	Assist with obtaining further designations of CEPA National Focal Points and support at the regional level the Bureau communications and awareness effort. Promote specific joint action with Ramsar partners on education and public awareness activities.	1. Work with WWF Mediterranean Programme in the design and launching of a Pan-Mediterranean Wetlands Campaign. 2. Develop a project on cultural aspects of wetlands (led by SEHUMED). 3. Publication of two booklets within the MedWet/Tour de Valat series, on: "Culture and wetlands – A link for conservation and sustainable use" (in collaboration with SEHUMED) "MedWet, a Mediterranean adventure – Working together for people and wetlands"

--	--	--	--	--	--

3.1.2 Participate in the identification of regional EPA needs and in the establishment of priorities for resource development. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Targets - Refer to 3.1.1 above.

Operational Objective 3.2: To develop and encourage national programmes of EPA on wetlands, targeted at a wide range of people, including key decision-makers, people living in and around wetlands, other wetland users and the public at large.

3.2.1 Encourage partnerships between governments, non-governmental organizations and other organizations capable of developing national EPA programmes on wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target - By COP8 to see the global network of proposed CP and non-government focal points for Wetland Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) in place and functioning effectively in the promotion and execution of the national Outreach Programmes in all CPs. To secure the resources to increase the Bureau's capacity for implementing the Outreach Programme.

Refer to 3.1.1. above.

Operational Objective 3.3: To improve the Ramsar Bureau's communications activities and to develop a Convention Communications Strategy, capable of further promoting the Convention and its wider application, and of raising awareness of wetland values and functions.

3.3.1 Review the Bureau's communications activities, especially those related to the creation and functioning of regional and national communication networks; develop new material and use of technology, and improve existing material. [Bureau]

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>Keep the communications activities constantly under review to respond to new challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Update the Ramsar info pack in the three official languages and in Arabic, Russian and Chinese. Encourage, and if possible support financially, the translation of the info pack into other languages.</p> <p>Continue to publish regularly the Ramsar List and the Annotated Ramsar List. Translate the Annotated List into French and Spanish.</p> <p>Make the Ramsar "Toolkit" available on the Web and perhaps on CD-ROM, with assistance from the United Nations University.</p> <p>Produce a Ramsar glossary in English, French and Spanish.</p>					

<p>Print and distribute a leaflet addressed to the general public on what are Ramsar sites and their significance, and work with CEPA focal points towards translations in national languages and wide distribution.</p> <p>Encourage celebration of WWD and the Convention's 30th Anniversary by distributing widely the materials produced for that purpose.</p> <p>Produce at least three issues of the <i>Ramsar Newsletter</i>.</p> <p>Consider producing a video on wetlands and arid lands, in cooperation with UNCCD.</p> <p>Respond in a timely manner to requests for information and printed materials.</p>					
---	--	--	--	--	--

3.3.3 Prepare material, complementary to the existing Ramsar information package, to highlight specific regional issues and the benefits of membership for non-Contracting Parties. [SC regional representatives, Bureau, Partners]

This was done for Small Island Developing States and for west Asia.

Target - By COP8 to have produced such material for Africa.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Prepare a publication in English and French about the relevance of the Convention for the African countries.	Assist in the preparation of the special publication for Africa.				

3.3.4 Seek the support of an electronic communications carrier to provide and maintain an electronic mail network and electronic bulletin board/ mailing lists linking the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee members, the STRP, the Bureau, and partner organizations. [All]

The Convention's site on the World Wide Web is increasingly the Bureau's primary communication tool. During the year 1999, the site received an average of 9,000 user sessions per month from 144 nations, with nearly 500,000 pages viewed, and as of September 2000 the Ramsar site (formerly hosted by IUCN's Web site, but presently independent) has grown to nearly 4,200 documents and images. In addition, there are several e-mail groups operating effectively (Ramsar Forum, Ramsar Exchange, STRP and Standing Committee). No private sector support has been sought as yet. The Outreach Programme proposes a continuing escalation in the use and application of the Internet as a communication tool of the Convention. With funds from the "Evian Project" (refer to 2.8.1 above), a number of developing country Administrative Authorities have been assisted to gain access to the Internet during this triennium.

Target - By COP8 to gain a sponsor(s) for the Convention's Web site, to ensure that all CPs have Internet access, to increase the use of French and Spanish in the Ramsar Web site, and to see over 300 Ramsar site managers also communicating with the Bureau, and each other, via the Internet.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue to maintain the Web site as the main communications tool. Keep under review the technical aspects of the site and its design. Add new sections as required.	Support the daily updating of the Web site with provision of relevant information.	Support the daily updating of the Web site with provision of relevant information.	Support the daily updating of the Web site with provision of relevant information.	Support the daily updating of the Web site with provision of relevant information.	Maintain and increase the coverage of the MedWet Web site and contribute to the timely reporting through the Ramsar Web site.
Obtain corporate sponsorship for the Web site, so as to add staff resources to this area of work.	Continue to assist Administrative Authorities and other key institutions for the Convention in CPs with their access to Internet and email facilities.	Continue to assist Administrative Authorities and other key institutions for the Convention in CPs with their access to Internet and email facilities.	Continue to assist Administrative Authorities and other key institutions for the Convention in CPs with their access to Internet and email facilities.	Continue to assist Administrative Authorities and other key institutions for the Convention in CPs with their access to Internet and email facilities.	Actively encourage the contributions to and use of the Ramsar Web-based resources.
Continue to operate in an effective manner the various e-mail groups established by the Bureau, and add new ones if required.	Make active use of e-mail groups for communications with CPs.	Make active use of e-mail groups for communications with CPs.	Make active use of e-mail groups for communications with CPs.	Make active use of e-mail groups for communications with CPs.	
	Actively encourage the contributions to and use of the Ramsar Web-based resources.	Actively encourage the contributions to and use of the Ramsar Web-based resources.	Actively encourage the contributions to and use of the Ramsar Web-based resources.	Actively encourage the contributions to and use of the Ramsar Web-based resources.	

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4

TO REINFORCE THE CAPACITY OF INSTITUTIONS IN EACH CONTRACTING PARTY TO ACHIEVE CONSERVATION AND WISE USE OF WETLANDS.

Operational Objective 4.2:

To identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries, and to implement follow-up actions.

4.2.3 Develop new training activities and general training modules, for application in all regions, concerning implementation of the Wise Use Guidelines, with specialized modules covering [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target - To launch a major wetland manager training initiative under the Convention, possibly in partnership with one or more of the Convention's International Organization Partners, which can promote and take advantage of these new training tools. Refer also to 4.2.4 below regarding the Wetlands for the Future Initiative.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue chairing the Board of the International Course on Wetland Management organized annually by RIZA (The Netherlands) and contribute in the selection of participants.	<p>Main regional priorities for training are: wetland inventories, invasive species and wetland management planning. The regional team will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult Ramsar partners for joint actions on training • Follow up the outcomes of the training activities sponsored by the SGF and the Swiss Grant for Africa • Continue to work with OMPO and seek further assistance for training of wetland managers • Encourage other institutions to sponsor training activities similar to the ones assisted by OMPO. <p>Contribute to organize the 2001 Evian Encounter for Arabic-speaking countries.</p>	Continue to administer the Wetlands for the Future Initiative, including the evaluation of proposals and final reports.	<p>Seek ways of assisting capacity development of institutions in the region to implement training courses on wetland management (based on the RIZA model, and involving staff in the region who have received training through it).</p> <p>Organize the 2001 Evian Encounter for Arabic-speaking countries.</p>		
Seek funding jointly with Wetlands International for the 'Wetlands Training Framework' designed to implement this action.		Where possible, continue to support participation of nationals from the region in wetland-related training courses.	Collaborate with partner organisations and interested agencies in exploring the possibility of developing a mechanism for training in the Asia region.	Establish with CPs their training needs, and contribute, as appropriate, to development and implementation of the proposed Training Framework.	

4.2.4 Provide opportunities for manager training by: personnel exchanges for on-the-job training; holding pilot training courses at specific Ramsar sites; siting wetland manager training facilities at Ramsar sites; obtaining and disseminating information about training courses for wetland managers around the world. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target - Refer to 4.2.3 above. Also to seek the resources from donors or interested CPs to establish Wetlands for the Future Initiatives for the Asia-Pacific, Eastern European and African regions.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>Continue, and if possible expand, the Ramsar Bureau internship programme.</p> <p>The SAEDC to explore donors' interest in supporting training activities.</p>	Continue to explore donors' interest in a Wetland for the Future-type initiative for Africa.	As 4.2.3. Encourage CPs to identify wetland management training priorities.	<p>Continue to explore donors' interest in a Wetland for the Future-type initiative for Asia.</p> <p>Encourage CPs to identify wetland management training priorities.</p> <p>Oceania region Promote attendance in Australian Wetland Managers Training</p>	Explore donors' interest in a Wetland for the Future-type initiative for countries in transition.	

			Programme by SIDS representatives from the region.		
			Continue to encourage training projects in PNG for submission to SGF and Evian.		

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 5**TO ENSURE THE CONSERVATION OF ALL SITES INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE (RAMSAR LIST).**

Operational Objective 5.1: To maintain the ecological character of Ramsar sites.

5.1.3 Review and regularly update the Montreux Record (Res. 5.4, 5.5 and VI.1)

Target – CPs with sites in the Montreux Record, and for which Ramsar Advisory Missions have been completed prior to COP7, are expected to have taken the actions necessary to warrant their removal from the Record before COP8

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>This is an ongoing role for the Bureau. Continue to remind CPs of their commitment under Article 3.2 of the Convention.</p> <p>Keep under review the functioning of the Montreux Record so as to bring forward appropriate recommendations to SC26 for submission to COP8 concerning Art. 3.2</p> <p>Respond to and follow up on all expressions of concern about the ecological character of Ramsar sites.</p>	<p>An ongoing regional role. Follow up with Parties their commitment in relation to Article 3.2 and in taking appropriate management action so as to remove sites from the Record, notably where RAMs have been completed.</p> <p>Liaise with Botswana, Comoros, Guinea, the Gambia and Togo for possible inclusion of Ramsar sites on the Montreux Record.</p> <p>Liaise with Algeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Senegal, South Africa, and Uganda for update on the conservation status of Ramsar sites included in Montreux Record.</p>	<p>An ongoing regional role. Follow up with Parties their commitment in relation to Article 3.2 and in taking appropriate management action so as to remove sites from the Record, notably where RAMs have been completed.</p> <p>Continue the efforts to work with Uruguay on the removal of Bañados del Este from the Montreux Record.</p>	<p>An ongoing regional role. Follow up with Parties their commitment in relation to Article 3.2 and in taking appropriate management action so as to remove sites from the Record notably where RAMs have been completed.</p> <p>Oceania Region An ongoing regional role, in 2001 to follow up with Parties their commitment in relation to Article 3.2</p>	<p>An ongoing regional role. Follow up with Parties their commitment in relation to Article 3.2 and in taking appropriate management action so as to remove sites from the Record notably where RAMs have been completed.</p>	

5.1.4 Increase application of the Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) to provide advice on future management of Ramsar sites. [CPs, SC, Bureau]

Target – refer to 5.1.2 and 5.1.3

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue to promote the use of the RAMs mechanism as resources allow, engaging the assistance, as required, of external organisations, bodies or individuals. Continue to pursue opportunities for joint missions where sites are also listed under the World Heritage Convention.	Undertake or arrange Ramsar Advisory Missions with the participation of partners as appropriate.	Undertake or arrange Ramsar Advisory Missions, with the participation of partners as appropriate.	Undertake or arrange Ramsar Advisory Missions, with the participation of partners as appropriate	Undertake or arrange Ramsar Advisory Missions, with the participation of partners and IUCN as appropriate	Participate in and/or facilitate Ramsar Advisory Missions in the Mediterranean region.

5.1.6 Identify the potential impact on the ecological character of Ramsar sites of global threats, including toxic chemicals (Recommendation 6.14), climate change and sea level change. [STRP, Bureau, Partners]
The STRP has responded in part to this action through the development of a Wetland Risk Assessment Framework (Resolution VII.10).

Targets - By COP8, to see the Wetland Risk Assessment Framework being regularly applied in all CPs. The STRP will prepare for consideration at COP8 a comprehensive review of the potential impacts of climate change on wetlands and the roles that wetlands can potentially play in mitigating the effects of climate change and sea level rise.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Support the STRP Working Group on climate change in preparing a submission to SC26 for transmission to COP8.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.

Operational Objective 5.2: To develop and implement management plans for all Ramsar sites, consistent with the Convention's Guidelines on Management Planning and emphasizing involvement of local communities and other stakeholders.

5.2.1 Review the Guidelines on Management Planning in the light of practical experience and Recommendation 6.13. [COP]

Target - The STRP to prepare for consideration at COP8 the additional guidance on management planning recommended by the review undertaken in this triennium.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Support the STRP Working Group on management planning in preparing a submission to SC26 for transmission to COP8. Finalize submission to SC26 on the "San José Record" for transmission to COP8.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.	Contribute to the STRP work in this area.

5.2.3 Ensure that, by the 8th COP (2002), management plans or other mechanisms are in preparation, or in place, for at least half of the Ramsar sites in each Contracting Party, beginning with pilot programmes at selected sites with input from local communities and other stakeholders. [CPs, Partners]

The National Reports for COP7 indicate that management plans are in place or being prepared for 416 or 44% of Ramsar sites at present (Resolution VII.12).

Target - By COP8 management plans will be in preparation, or in place, for at least three-quarters of the Ramsar sites in each CP and all CPs will seek to ensure that these are being implemented in full.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
The SAEDC to support development of pilot management plans for significant Ramsar sites in each region, including Africa (Okavango), Asia (Mekong), Neotropics (coral reefs and Pantanal), and North Africa.	<p>Disseminate relevant materials on wetland management and contribute to the work of STRP.</p> <p>Explore with partners possible avenues for support to management plans for Ramsar sites and contribute to joint actions such as the project on Lake Chad and the joint initiative on the Okavango Delta.</p> <p>Cooperate with WWF and other partners as appropriate and explore possible actions following the designation of new Ramsar sites, notably those designated through the WWF Living Waters Campaign.</p> <p>Encourage submission of projects that support management plans for Ramsar sites (SGF, Swiss Grant for Africa, GEF and other sources of funding)</p> <p>Evaluate reports on existing initiatives relating to management of wetlands and draw lessons from these experiences (especially SGF and Swiss Grant projects).</p>	<p>Disseminate relevant materials on wetland management and contribute to the work of STRP.</p> <p>Continue to promote the development and implementation of management plans for Ramsar sites.</p> <p>Encourage submission of projects that support management plans for Ramsar sites (SGF, GEF and other sources of funding)</p> <p>Evaluate reports on existing initiatives relating to management of wetlands and draw lessons from these experiences (especially SGF).</p>	<p>Disseminate relevant materials on wetland management.</p> <p>Continue to promote the development of management plans for Ramsar sites.</p> <p>Encourage submission of projects that support management plans for Ramsar sites (SGF, GEF and other sources of funding)</p> <p>Oceania Region Encourage and assist PNG to submit proposal (SGF or other donors) for management planning on their Ramsar sites.</p>	<p>Disseminate relevant materials on wetland management and contribute to the work of STRP.</p> <p>Continue to promote the designation of new Ramsar sites, as well as the development and implementation of management plans for the designated sites.</p>	

Operational Objective 5.3:

To obtain regularly updated information on wetlands of international importance, in accordance with the approved standard format.

5.3.1 Ensure that the maps and descriptions of Ramsar sites submitted to the Ramsar Database by the Contracting Parties at the time of designation are complete, in the approved standard format of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, and provide sufficient detail to be used for management planning and monitoring of ecological character. [CPs, Bureau, Wetlands International]

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
This is an ongoing function of the Bureau, assisted by Wetlands International under the contract for maintenance of the Ramsar sites database.	<p>Assist new Contracting Parties and countries that are in the process of accession to ensure that maps and RIS are appropriate.</p> <p>Assist Benin, Gabon and Libya in the production of suitable maps and RIS.</p>	<p>Continue to assess the available information in the Ramsar sites database and its quality, in co-ordination with Wetlands International, to identify existing gaps and deficiencies in the RIS.</p> <p>Review the quality of RISs and</p>	<p>Continue to assess the available information in the Ramsar sites database and its quality, in co-ordination with Wetlands International, to identify existing gaps and deficiencies in the RIS.</p> <p>Review the quality of RISs and</p>	<p>Continue the major exercise begun in 2000 to assess the information on RISs and maps and its quality as held by the Ramsar sites database and at the Bureau, and encourage those countries for which information is inadequate to submit complete</p>	

	Review the quality of RISs and map for all new Ramsar site designations and take the necessary actions if these are not satisfactory.	map for all new Ramsar site designations and take the necessary actions if these are not satisfactory.	map for all new Ramsar site designations and take the necessary actions if these are not satisfactory. Oceania reigon As above.	information.	
--	---	--	--	--------------	--

5.3.3 Ensure that data sheets on Ramsar Sites are regularly updated, at least for every second meeting of the COP, so that they can be used for reviewing the achievements of the Convention, for future strategic planning, for promotional purposes, and for site, regional and thematic analysis (Resolution VI.13). [CPs, STRP, Bureau, Wetlands International]

Target - By the end of 1999, for there to be no Ramsar sites designated before 31 December 1990 for which updated sites descriptions are required.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue to urge CPs to provide updated Ramsar Information Sheets (RISs) at least every 6 years, and to report substantive changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites. Note: As of September 2000, for 560 Ramsar sites no updated RIS had been received from CPs since 1994. Finalize document on interpretation of Articles 2.5 and 4.2 for submission SC26 and transmission to COP8.	Analyse RISs and identify the ones to be updated.	Analyse RISs and identify the ones to be updated.	Analyse RISs and identify the ones to be updated. Oceania Region Analyse RISs and identify the ones to be updated.	Analyse RISs and identify the ones to be updated.	

Operational Objective 5.4:

To keep under review the content and structure, as well as the hardware and software, of the Ramsar Database, in order to ensure that it retains its relevance in light of evolving information and communication technology.

5.4.2 Upgrade and update the database to meet assessed needs and revise its structure accordingly, including the feasibility of developing a Geographical Information System (GIS). [Bureau, Wetlands International]

Target - By COP8, or sooner, to have the Ramsar sites Database on-line on the World Wide Web, complete with mapping GIS and facility for interactive interrogation of the database.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue to pursue the collaborative action with Wetlands International as the contracted managers of the Ramsar Sites Database: it is anticipated that during 2001 the database will be substantively redeveloped so as to incorporate more complete information as provided by RISs and make this information more	Assist Wetlands International /CIESIN in establishing for which Ramsar sites GIS maps are available, and assist in arranging their availability.	Assist Wetlands International /CIESIN in establishing for which Ramsar sites GIS maps are available, and assist in arranging their availability.	Assist Wetlands International /CIESIN in establishing for which Ramsar sites GIS maps are available, and assist in arranging their availability. Oceania Region As above	Assist Wetlands International/CIESIN in establishing for which Ramsar sites GIS maps are available, and assist in arranging their availability.	

accessible.					
Continue to support the development by Columbia University's Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), working with Wetlands International, of the Ramsar Data Gateway, which is providing an interactive Web site capacity for the Convention as part of a larger project supported by NASA. This will include mapped information about Ramsar sites.					

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 6

TO DESIGNATE FOR THE RAMSAR LIST THOSE WETLANDS WHICH MEET THE CONVENTION'S CRITERIA, ESPECIALLY WETLAND TYPES STILL UNDER-REPRESENTED IN THE LIST AND TRANSFRONTIER WETLANDS.

Operational Objective 6.1: To identify those wetlands that meet the Ramsar criteria, and to give due consideration to their designation for the List.

6.1.2 Establish, update and disseminate national scientific inventories of wetlands which identify potential Ramsar sites and wetlands of provincial or local importance in the territory of each Contracting Party. [CPs, Partners]

Target – By COP8 to have national wetland inventories completed by over 50 CPs and the information housed in databases (Refer 5.4.4) which are accessible globally.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue to support the work of STRP in the area of inventory for submission to SC26 and transmission to COP8.	Encourage Parties to develop projects to carry out national and regional inventories, including through proposals to SGF.	Encourage Parties to develop projects to carry out national and regional inventories, including through proposals to SGF.	Encourage Parties to develop national wetland inventory, including through proposals to SGF and participation in the Asian Wetland Inventory project, and to use these to identify potential Ramsar sites.	Encourage Parties to develop national wetland inventory, including through proposals to SGF, and to use these to identify potential Ramsar sites.	Continue to further refine and integrate the work on inventory done by ICN (Portugal) and EKBY (Greece) and encourage full use in Mediterranean countries.
Continue discussion with Wetlands International regarding project development of standard inventory databases.	Encourage Parties to prepare proposals for undertaking wetland inventories with the support of the SGF, the Swiss Grant for Africa, or other sources.		Oceania region Encourage national wetland inventory proposals to SGF and other sources, so as to assist countries in implementation or progress towards accession through identification and designation of Ramsar sites.		
The SAEDC to explore donors' interest to support inventory work.	Follow up the outcomes of the African workshop on wetland inventories.				
	Cooperate with Ramsar partners on possible joint actions on wetland inventories.				

6.1.3 Utilise information from regional wetland directories, national scientific inventories of wetlands and other sources, to begin development of a quantification of global wetland resources, as baseline information for considering trends in wetland conservation or loss. [Bureau, Partners]

- The Report prepared by Wetlands International (Refer to 5.4.4 and 6.1..2 above) on the extent of the global wetland resource provides an estimate of area, but not with great confidence given the poor state of wetland inventory globally.

Target - By COP8 to have undertaken a more detailed follow-up study to the Wetlands International Report to ensure that the Convention has available the best possible information relating the extent of the world's wetland resources. As national wetland inventories are completed (refer to 6.1.2), include the findings into the global dataset.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Serve in the Board of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) - Strengthening Capacity to Manage Ecosystems Sustainably for Human Well-Being, and contribute to the work of the Working Groups.	Cooperate, as required and feasible, with the local, national and regional assessments under the MA project.	Cooperate, as required and feasible, with the local, national and regional assessments under the MA project.	Cooperate, as required and feasible, with the local, national and regional assessments under the MA project.	Cooperate, as required and feasible, with the local, national and regional assessments under the MA project.	Cooperate, as required and feasible, with the local, national and regional assessments under the MA project.
See 6.1.2 above. Continue to support development by Wetlands International and CIESIN of a follow-up proposal to the Global Review of Wetland Resources and Priorities for Wetland Inventory reported at COP7. Without additional resources this work cannot be advanced.					

6.1.4 Support the work of Wetlands International and IUCN in updating information on population sizes of waterfowl and other taxa, and utilise these data in identification of potential Ramsar sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target – Draft of the 4th edition of *International Waterfowl Population Estimates* to be prepared for presentation at COP8.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Encourage Wetlands International to complete the delayed 3 rd edition of <i>Waterbird Population Estimates</i> for presentation to COP8.					

Operational Objective 6.2:

To increase the area of wetland designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, particularly for wetland types that are under-represented either at global or national level.

6.2.1 Promote the designation for the Ramsar List of an increased area of wetlands, through listing by new Contracting Parties, and through further designations by current Contracting Parties, in particular developing countries, in order to ensure the listing of a representative range of wetland types in the territory of each Contracting Party and in each Ramsar region. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target – As proposed in the Strategic Framework, the short-term target of the Ramsar List should be to achieve the designation of 2000 sites [...], by the time of COP9 in the year 2005. In addition the COP8 target is to have at least 20 CPs that are applying a systematic approach to site selection nationally

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
--------	---------------	-----------------	-------------	-----------------	--------

<p>Support Wetlands International to obtain the required resources to provide advice on the distribution and location of wetlands, in order to support CPs in their implementation of the Strategic Framework for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.</p> <p>Continue to work with WWF's Living Waters Campaign, which is providing assistance to countries in selection and designation of further Ramsar sites.</p> <p>The SAEDC to support Ramsar site designations through his work with the donor community.</p>	<p>An ongoing role in the region. Includes working closely with the WWF Living Waters Campaign in promoting further Ramsar site designations.</p> <p>Assist Algeria, Chad, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Niger, the Gambia, Uganda and Zambia in their endeavours to designate additional Ramsar sites.</p>	<p>An ongoing role in the region. Includes working closely with the WWF Living Waters Campaign in promoting further Ramsar site designations.</p> <p>Work as a matter of priority with CPs that have pledged Ramsar site designations at COP7 and those with no new designations in the past two or more years.</p>	<p>An ongoing role in the region. Includes working closely with the WWF Living Waters Campaign in promoting further Ramsar site designations.</p> <p>Work as a matter of priority with CPs that have pledged Ramsar site designations at COP7 and those with no new designations in the past two or more years.</p> <p>Oceania Region An ongoing role in the region, with the assistance of Wetlands International – Oceania.</p>	<p>An ongoing role in the region. Includes working closely with the WWF Living Waters Campaign in promoting further Ramsar site designations.</p> <p>Work as a matter of priority with CPs that have pledged Ramsar site designations at COP7 and those with no new designations in the past two or more years.</p>	
---	--	---	--	---	--

6.2.2. Provide assistance and advice to Contracting Parties in the process of ensuring that wetlands being considered for Ramsar designation meet the criteria (Res. 5.3) [Bureau]

This is an ongoing part of the Bureau's responsibilities and will continue to be so.

6.2.3 Give priority attention to the designation of new sites from wetland types currently under-represented on the Ramsar List, and in particular, when appropriate, coral reefs, mangroves, sea-grass beds and peatlands. [CPs]

Targets - The long-term targets are set by the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VII.11). Based on this, short-term targets for each wetland type will be derived.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
	Continue to encourage the designation of currently under-represented wetland types as Ramsar sites.	Continue to encourage the designation of currently under-represented wetland types as Ramsar sites.	Continue to encourage the designation of currently under-represented wetland types as Ramsar sites. Oceania region As above.	Continue to encourage the designation of currently under-represented wetland types as Ramsar sites.	

Operational Objective 6.3: To keep under review the Ramsar Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance (Resolution VI.3).

6.3.1 Keep general criteria under review to ensure they reflect global wetland conservation priorities and values. [COP, STRP, Bureau]

Target – STRP to prepare for consideration at COP8 draft additional guidance for the identification and designation of peatland, wet grassland, mangrove, and coral reef wetland types as Ramsar sites.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Support the STRP in preparing	Provide support to the STRP as	Provide support to the STRP as	Provide support to the STRP as	Provide support to the STRP as	

additional guidance for submission to SC26 and transmission to COP8 on the selection and designation of peatlands, coral reefs, mangroves and wet grasslands.	required, including seeking experiences of Parties on the success and limitations of current Ramsar criteria for listing sites.	required, including seeking experiences of Parties on the success and limitations of current Ramsar criteria for listing sites, in particular in relation to coral reefs and mangroves.	required, including seeking experiences of Parties on the success and limitations of current Ramsar criteria for listing sites. Oceania Region As above, with input from Wetlands International – Oceania	required, including seeking experiences of Parties on the success and limitations of current Ramsar criteria for listing sites.	
---	---	---	--	---	--

6.3.3 Provide further guidance on the application of existing criteria in different regions. [COP, STRP, Bureau]

This is provided by the Strategic Framework for the List document referred to above.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 7

TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND MOBILIZE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WETLAND CONSERVATION AND WISE USE IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND AGENCIES, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL.

Operational Objective 7.2:

To strengthen and formalise linkages between Ramsar and other international and/or regional environmental conventions and agencies, so as to advance the achievement of shared goals and objectives relating to wetland species or issues.

7.2.1 Participate in, or initiate, consultations with related conventions to foster information exchange and cooperation, and develop an agenda for potential joint actions. [SC, Bureau]

Target – A Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention on the Convention to Combat Desertification which sees cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue to work with the CCD Secretariat in the preparation of a joint work plan, focussing on regional and national implementation projects and joint promotion of wetlands in drylands issues, and to link with joint actions on the topic in the CBD/Ramsar JWP.	Establish and strengthen tangible working relationships with relevant units of the CCD secretariat.	Establish and strengthen tangible working relationships with relevant units of the CCD secretariat.	Establish and strengthen tangible working relationships with relevant units of the CCD secretariat	Establish and strengthen tangible working relationships with relevant units of the CCD secretariat.	Contribute to identification and development of joint projects with CCD, mostly in North Africa.
The SAEDC to support these actions with the donor community.	Collaborate with the UNCCD/ Global Mechanism so as to promote a joint action plan for the management of shared waters courses between Niger and Nigeria.	Explore possibility of a joint Ramsar/CCD workshop on wetlands and arid lands in South America (possible venue Chile).	Explore the possibility to develop regional work plans, on a bilateral basis, for cooperation between the conventions with which Ramsar has Memoranda of Cooperation or Understanding – CBD, CMS, CCD, World Heritage and Barcelona.	Explore the possibility to develop regional work plans, on a bilateral basis, for cooperation between the conventions with which Ramsar has Memoranda of Cooperation or Understanding – CBD, CMS, CCD., World Heritage, Barcelona, Danube, and Baltic Sea.	Act as the main focal point for implementation of MOU with Barcelona Convention (about to be signed).
Continue involvement in the implementation of actions designed to harmonise the information management of the Convention (WCMC Report to COP7), and to seek to involve	Explore the possibility to develop regional work plans, on a bilateral basis, for co-operation between the conventions with which Ramsar has Memoranda of Cooperation or Understanding – CBD, CMS, CCD, World	Explore the possibility to develop regional work plans, on a bilateral basis, for cooperation between the conventions with which Ramsar has Memoranda of Cooperation or Understanding – CBD, CMS, CCD, World Heritage and Cartagena..			Participate in the work of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Barcelona Convention).

<p>other Conventions in this work. Provide input, as resources permit, to the next phases which are anticipated in 2001 following a UNEP-WCMC workshop in late 2000.</p> <p>Continue involvement with the UN University (Tokyo) in their project on synergies among Conventions.</p>	Heritage and Barcelona.				
--	-------------------------	--	--	--	--

7.2.2 Prepare project proposals together with other conventions and partner organizations, and submit them jointly to potential funding agencies. [CPs, SC, Bureau, Partners]

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>This will be a focus of work for the SAEDC, working with regional teams. A priority here during 2001 will be to develop at least one on-the-ground project, probably in Africa, designed to demonstrate co-delivery of conventions' requirements.</p>	<p>Work closely with conventions and partner organisations and the SAEDC in identifying opportunities and priorities and drafting proposals. In particular:</p> <p>Collaborate with relevant national authorities, the Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and other relevant sub-regional institutions, the UNCCD secretariat/Global Mechanism, GEF/the World Bank/UNDP and other partners on the development and the implementation of a joint programme on Lake Chad Basin; and use this process to support designation of Lake Chad as a transboundary Ramsar site, after the accession to the of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and Nigeria; and</p> <p>Work in partnership with the Botswana government, OKACOM, IUCN, the UNCCD, CMS and CBD secretariats and interested donors on the Okavango Delta; and initiate collaborative work with Angola, Botswana and Namibia (OKACOM) and explore</p>	<p>Work closely with conventions and partner organisations and the SAEDC in identifying opportunities and priorities.</p>	<p>Work closely with conventions and partner organisations and the SAEDC in identifying opportunities and priorities.</p>	<p>Work closely with conventions and partner organisations and the SAEDC in identifying opportunities and priorities.</p>	

	possibilities for the development and the implementation an integrated management plan of the Okavango Basin.				
--	---	--	--	--	--

7.2.3 Strengthen cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular as regards inclusion of wetland concerns in national biodiversity strategies, and planning and execution of projects affecting wetlands. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target - To see the Joint Work Plan implemented in full and resulting in cooperative implementation of both Conventions at the international, national and local levels

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
The second Joint Work Plan (2000-2001) was approved by CBD COP5 in May 2000, and the Bureau has a high priority to progress delivery during 2001 of its joint actions. Given the high acceptance of this second plan, the Bureau will need to prepare, with the agreement of CBD Secretariat, a further Joint Work Plan to take effect from 1 January 2002.	As resources permit, work with CBD secretariat and related partners on the regional implementation of the CBD/Ramsar joint work plan , including the use of case studies on the application of the ecosystem approach	As resources permit, work with CBD secretariat and related partners on the regional implementation of the CBD/Ramsar joint work plan , including the use of case studies on the application of the ecosystem approach	As resources permit, work with CBD secretariat and related partners on the regional implementation of the CBD/Ramsar joint work plan , including the use of case studies on the application of the ecosystem approach Oceania Region As above, if resources permit	As resources permit, work with CBD secretariat and related partners on the regional implementation of the CBD/Ramsar joint work plan , including the use of case studies on the application of the ecosystem approach	1. Follow up and contribute to implementation of GEF/FFEM MedWet Coast project involving Albania, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Tunisia and the Palestinian Territories. 2. Implement project on monitoring biodiversity with key indicator species (Colonial Waterbirds Atlas) [Tour du Valat and BirdLife]. 3. Contribute to identify and develop other projects for implementation of JWP with CBD.

7.2.4 Develop cooperation with the World Heritage Convention and UNESCO's Programme on Man and the Biosphere (MAB), especially as regards wetlands designated as World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and/or Ramsar sites. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ramsar Bureau and the World Heritage Centre was signed at COP7. Links with the Man and the Biosphere programme have yet to be established and this will be a priority over the next triennium.

Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with the Man and the Biosphere Programme, leading to Joint Work Plans with the MAB Programme and with the World Heritage Convention which sees cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
The MoU with the World Heritage Centre will be implemented, with development of joint activities. The Bureau will develop a joint work plan with the MAB programme, as resources permit. The possibility of both these areas of activity being placed under the umbrella of an MoU with UNESCO will be explored.	Identify steps to initiate the implementation of the MoU with the World Heritage Centre at the regional level. Identify opportunities for promoting the co-management of Ramsar sites and Biosphere Reserves.	Identify steps to initiate the implementation of the MoU with the World Heritage Centre at the regional level. Identify opportunities for promoting the co-management of Ramsar sites and Biosphere Reserves.	Identify steps to initiate the implementation of the MoU with the World Heritage Centre at the regional level. Identify opportunities for promoting the co-management of Ramsar sites and Biosphere Reserves. Oceania Region As above, if resources permit	Identify steps to initiate the implementation of the MoU with the World Heritage Centre at the regional level. Identify opportunities for promoting the co-management of Ramsar sites and Biosphere Reserves.	

7.2.5 Enhance Ramsar's contribution to international cooperation on shared wetland species, notably through cooperative arrangements with the Convention on Migratory Species, flyway agreements, networks and other mechanisms dealing with migratory species (Recommendation 6.4). [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

- The Ramsar Convention has a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the Convention on Migratory Species (Resolution VII.4).
- The *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* propose an escalation of the joint efforts between Ramsar and CMS (Resolution VII.19)

Target - A Joint Work Plan between the Conventions which sees cooperative implementation of both at the international, regional and national and local levels.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Progress Joint Work Plan with CMS, provided human resources permit.	Support regional implementation of the CMS African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) as appropriate, working with Wetlands International.	Assist in the development of regional links with CMS and its relevant Agreements.	Participate in the development, with partner organisations as appropriate, of waterbird flyway conservation strategies and networks in the region.	Support regional implementation of the CMS African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) as appropriate, working with Wetlands International.	Develop a project on conservation of wetland-related species in collaboration with BirdLife International. Identify possible field projects for joint MedWet/AEWA action.

7.2.6 Develop Ramsar's contribution to wildlife trade issues affecting wetlands, through increased interaction with CITES. [Bureau]

- The *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* propose an escalation of the joint efforts between Ramsar and CITES (Resolution VII.19)

Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with CITES, leading to a Joint Work Plan between the Conventions and which sees cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
If human resources allow, discussion of elements of a MoC and joint work plan will be initiated in 2001 with CITES secretariat and IUCN.					

7.2.7 Initiate links with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in view of the potential impacts on wetlands of climate change. [CP, Bureau]

- These links have yet to be established and this will be a priority over the next triennium.

Target - A Memorandum of Cooperation with UNFCCC, leading to a Joint Work Plan between the Conventions and which sees cooperative implementation of both at the international, national and local levels.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
See also 5.1.6. Following further discussion with UNFCCC secretariat, it is proposed to develop a joint action plan during 2001, which will capitalise on the climate change work by STRP for COP8, on the basis of an updated version of IUCN's 1999 position paper detailing the areas of potential cooperation, synergy and partnership. As a step to developing the work plan, with IUCN hold a workshop to					Develop a project on climate change and its impact on Mediterranean wetlands, possible in collaboration with IUCN.

involve the secretariats, IPCC, NGOs and other relevant groups. Links with IPCC in support of the preparation of advice to COP8 will be developed.					
--	--	--	--	--	--

7.2.8 Extend cooperation with conventions and agencies concerned with conservation and wise use of wetlands at regional level, and in particular: with the European Community, as regards application of its Habitats Directive to wetlands, and adoption and application of measures like the Habitats Directive for wetlands outside the states of the European Union; with the Council of Europe (Bern) Convention on the conservation of European wildlife and natural habitats as regards the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy; with the Barcelona Convention and Mediterranean Action Plan in relation to the MedWet initiative; with the Western Hemisphere Convention; with UNEP programmes, in particular the Regional Seas Conventions; and with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). [CPs, Bureau]

- These links are at differing stages in their evolution and each will be advanced as resources allow over the next triennium.

Target - With the European Commission and SPREP - develop and sign a Memorandum of Cooperation, prepare and implement a Joint Work Plan. For Medwet, secure the long-term funding base for this important initiative and continue to develop new programmes of regional action. For the others referred to, and others which are appropriate, develop an appropriate working relationship.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
<p>This area of Bureau activity will be pursued chiefly by the relevant regional teams.</p> <p>European Commission – further evaluate the best course of action for putting in place a more formal understanding regarding cooperation.</p> <p>United Nations – explore possibilities of an MoU, as requested by Resolution VII.19.</p> <p>Submit Ramsar inputs to the preparation of the report of the UN Secretary General for the Rio+10 evaluation, and participate in preparatory meetings, as appropriate. Provide advice to Ramsar Administrative Authorities on their involvement in the process at the national and regional levels.</p>		<p>Define joint actions that could be carried out with the Caribbean Environment Programme RCU within the recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation.</p> <p>Discuss possible cooperation agreement with CEC - Commission for Environmental Cooperation for North America</p>	<p>Continue to pursue discussions on a possible memorandum of understanding between Ramsar Bureau and ASEAN (Association for South-East Asian Nations) Secretariat as a first step towards formalising the relationship between the Convention and ASEAN. Continue to build on initial dialogues with ROPME (Regional Organisation for Protection of the Marine Environment) and MRC (Mekong River Commission).</p> <p>Continue to seek opportunities to establish dialogue with the secretariats of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation).</p> <p>Oceania Region SPREP – implement SC25 decisions in relation to the Barbados Plan of Action.</p>	<p>Continue discussion with the European Commission on developing more formal understanding on cooperation.</p> <p>Continue to participate in the work of PEBLDS as appropriate.</p> <p>Pursue completion and implementation of the MoU with HELCOM concerning coastal and marine conservaiton in the Baltic Sea.</p> <p>Develop understanding with the Council of Europe concerning the management of wetland sites listed in the Annexes of the Berne Convention.</p>	<p>Continue to work with the EC for possible funding/ joint projects in the region.</p> <p>Continue to with the Emerald Network (Council of Europe/Bern Convention) for possible joint projects.</p> <p>Support the RC for Europe in work related to PEBLDS.</p>

7.2.9 Develop relationships with other specialized agencies that deal with wetland-related issues, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the World Water Council (Resolution VI.23). [Bureau]

Target - To progress to closer working relations with these and other relevant initiatives, as appropriate.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
ICRI – continue efforts to work	Encourage the participation of	Encourage the participation of CPs	Continue to maintain contact with	Encourage the participation of	See action 3 under 2.2.1

more closely with ICRI. World Water Council, Global Water Partnership –continue to push for wetland and water and the environment issues to be fully taken into account in the aftermath of the World Water Forum (the Hague, 2000), working with IUCN and WWF, and through the development of partnerships under the River Basin Initiative.	CPs in the Global Water Partnership, International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and GREEN and work with these programs and networks on suitable projects in the regions.	in the Global Water Partnership, International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and GREEN and work with these programs and networks on suitable projects in the regions. Participate in the Interamerican Dialogue on Water (Iguazu, Brazil, April 2001).	SEATAC (South-East Asia Technical Advisory Committee, & SASTAC (South Asia Tec.) of the Global Water Partnership. Provide support to ICRI (International Coral Reef Initiative) activities in the region. Oceania Region Support ICRI activities in the region, as resources permit.	CPs in the Global Water Partnership and other networks in the region, and work with these programs and networks on developing suitable projects.	
--	--	--	---	--	--

Operational Objective 7.3: To ensure that the development assistance community, and multinational corporations, follow improved wetland practices such as the Wise Use Guidelines in developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition.

7.3.1 Identify representative examples of best practice in wetland projects supported by development agencies and/or initiated by multinational corporations. [Bureau, Partners]

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
To be done by the SAEDC in the course of his contacts with donor agencies.					

7.3.2 Work with multilateral and bilateral development agencies and multinational corporations towards a full recognition of wetland values and functions (Recommendation 4.13), and assist them to improve their practices in favour of wetland conservation and wise use taking account of the *Guidelines for Aid Agencies for Improved Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical and Sub-Tropical Wetlands*, published by OECD's Development Assistance Committee (Recommendation 6.16). [Bureau, Partners]

Target - At the Bureau level, to consider ways and means to increase its ability to work more systematically in this area, so as to increase the level of donor agency support for wetland conservation and wise use activities, and to see an increasing number of multinational corporations adopting voluntary codes of conduct for protecting wetlands.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
The SAEDC will give priority to developing further the working relations with the GEF and its implementing agencies (UNDP, UNEP and WB), European Commission, Parliament and Council, Asian Development Bank, and OECD/ DAC.	Work with the SAEDC, as appropriate.	Work with the SAEDC, as appropriate.	Work with the SAEDC, as appropriate, with special focus on formalising linkages with the Asian Development Bank.	Work with the SAEDC, as appropriate.	

7.3.3 Interact with multilateral development agencies and through bilateral development programmes, to assist developing countries in meeting their Ramsar obligations, and report on actions taken and results achieved (Recommendation 5.5). [CPs]
Refer to 7.4.2 to 7.4.6 below.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
The SAEDC to consider providing training for national	Work with the SAEDC, as appropriate.	Work with the SAEDC, as appropriate.	Work with the SAEDC, as appropriate.	Work with the SAEDC, as appropriate.	Work with the SAEDC, as appropriate.

<p>authorities on the setting up of environment funds.</p> <p>Seek to publish a Ramsar Handbook on financing the wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>Investigate potential interest for debt-for-wetland swaps as a means to finance restoration of degraded wetlands, in particular Ramsar sites.</p>					
---	--	--	--	--	--

Operational Objective 7.4: **To obtain funds to fulfil obligations contracted under the Convention, notably for developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition.**

7.4.2 Include projects for conservation and wise use of wetlands in development plans funded by development assistance agencies, and ensure the latter consult the Ramsar administrative authority in each Contracting Party. [CPs]

Target - To see this trend escalate such that all eligible CPs are receiving donor support for a range of major wetland-related projects by the time of COP8.

Refer to 7.3.2 and 7.3.3 above.

7.4.3 Maintain close working relations with multilateral agencies that provide development assistance in relation to project screening, development and evaluation, notably:[Bureau]
Refer to 7.3.2 and 7.3.3. above.

Target - By COP8 to have increased the Bureau's capacity in this area and to see these relationships mature to full and frequent dialogue and advice.

Refer to 7.3.2 and 7.3.3 above.

7.4.4 Mobilize direct funding support from multilateral and bilateral development assistance agencies, to assist developing countries and countries whose economy is in transition, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands and in implementation of the present Strategic Plan. [CPs. Bureau]

Target - By COP8 to have all the bilateral donors from appropriate CPs with funds earmarked for wetlands projects, and for all of these CPs to have in place mechanisms for consultation between the development assistance agency and their Ramsar Administrative Authority.

Refer to 7.3.2 and 7.3.3 above.

7.4.5 Assist developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition to prepare wetland projects for funding by other agencies. [Bureau, Partners]

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
The SAEDC to secure, in cooperation with the Regional Coordinators, a portfolio of at least two major wetland projects in each of the Ramsar regions for submission to potential bilateral and/or multilateral donors.	as 7.3.2.	as 7.3.2.	as 7.3.2.	as 7.3.2.	Continue with the catalytic efforts for the establishment of an effective and efficient collaboration network in North Africa.

7.4.6 Assist bilateral development assistance agencies in the screening, development and evaluation of wetland projects. [STRP, Bureau]

Target - Refer to 7.4.4.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Assistance and advice will be given as resources allow.	Assistance and advice will be given as resources allow.	Assistance and advice will be given as resources allow.	Assistance and advice will be given as resources allow.	Assistance and advice will be given as resources allow.	Assistance and advice will be given as resources allow.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE 8**TO PROVIDE THE CONVENTION WITH THE REQUIRED INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AND RESOURCES.**

Operational Objective 8.1: To maximize achievement of Ramsar's mission and objectives by evaluating and, if necessary, modifying the Convention's institutions and management structures.

8.1.1 Reorganize, as of the 7th COP (1999), the meeting into a business session, focusing upon administrative matters, and a technical session, focusing upon wetland conservation and wise use priorities, with smaller working groups as required. [SC, Bureau]

Target – The Standing Committee to review the structure and organization of the Conference of Contracting Parties and adopt changes to facilitate its implementation and effectiveness.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Assist, support and advise the Standing Committee regarding these issues, and prepare the required documentation on these matters for COP8.	Assist CPs in preparing for COP8 through regional or sub-regional meetings in 2001, as determined by the Standing Committee. Assist CPs in the use of the new National Reports format.	Assist CPs in preparing for COP8 through regional or sub-regional meetings in 2001, as determined by the Standing Committee. Assist CPs in the use of the new National Reports format.	Assist CPs in preparing for COP8 through regional or sub-regional meetings in 2001, as determined by the Standing Committee. Assist CPs in the use of the new National Reports format. Oceania Region As above.	Assist preparations for and participate in the European regional meeting (October 2001) hosted by Slovenia. Meeting will aim to assess the implementation of Ramsar obligations and COP7 Resolutions by European CPs; evaluate first experiences with the new National Report format/Planning Tool; and provide input on issues to be dealt with by COP8, in particular the draft Strategic Plan 2003-2008.	Organize the 4 th meeting of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (Portugal, June 2001), in cooperation with ICN. Start making arrangements for the 5 th meeting (Turkey has offered to host it).

8.1.2 Keep under review the regional representation in the Standing Committee as the number of Contracting Parties increases. [COP, SC]

Refer to Resolution VII.1 entitled *Regional categorisation of countries under the Convention and composition, roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee, including duties of Standing Committee members*

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
The Bureau will provide support to the Standing Committee and STRP as required on issues of regionalisation.	Provide support to the African Regional members of Standing Committee and STRP as required	Provide support to the Americas Regional members of Standing Committee and STRP as required.	Provide support to the Asia Regional members of Standing Committee and STRP as required. Oceania Region As above.	Provide support to the European Regional members of Standing Committee and STRP as required.	

8.1.4 Review the working priorities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) at each meeting of the COP. [COP, SC]

These priorities are determined by the Convention's Work Plan and the Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by COP7.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
--------	---------------	-----------------	-------------	-----------------	--------

<p>Continue to urge those CPs which have yet to designate their STRP National Focal Point to do so.</p> <p>Provide support for the involvement of STRP National Focal Points, including management of the STRP e-mail listserve.</p> <p>Note: The full impact of maintaining the National Focal Point Network on staff resources has yet to be established.</p> <p>Provide support to the STRP in the evaluation of its <i>modus operandi</i> and in preparing recommendations for SC26.</p>	Facilitate the involvement of National Focal Points.	Facilitate the involvement of National Focal Points.	Facilitate the involvement of National Focal Points.	Facilitate the involvement of National Focal Points.	
--	--	--	--	--	--

8.1.5 Review requirements for the Bureau's staff structure and size in line with decisions on programme, and review linkages between the Bureau, other convention secretariats and partner organizations. [COP, SC]
Resolution VII.4 reviews linkages between the Bureau and other Convention secretariats, and Resolution VII.3 between the Bureau and International Organization Partners.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Provide advice to the Standing Committee on staff matters and seek to find ways and means to increase the Bureau capacity to absorb significantly larger demands, due to the Convention's increased visibility.					

8.1.6 Evaluate and report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan at each meeting of the COP and prepare for every other meeting a draft Strategic Plan for the forthcoming two triennia. [COP, SC, Bureau]

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue to support the work of the SC Subgroup on the Strategic Plan to finalize the draft for consideration by SC26 and transmission to COP8.	Regional/sub-regional CPs meetings will review the draft 2003-2008 Strategic Plan.	Regional/sub-regional CPs meetings will review the draft 2003-2008 Strategic Plan.	Regional/sub-regional CPs meetings will review the draft 2003-2008 Strategic Plan. Oceania Region As above.	Regional/sub-regional CPs meetings will review the draft 2003-2008 Strategic Plan.	Continue to provide input to the preparation of the draft Strategic Plan.

8.1.7 Prepare annual Bureau Business Plans, based on the Strategic Plan and Triennial Programmes approved by the COP, for the consideration and approval of the Standing Committee. [SC, Bureau]

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
--------	---------------	-----------------	-------------	-----------------	--------

Prepare the Work Plan 2002 for submission to SC26.	Contribute to the preparation of the Work Plan 2002.	Contribute to the preparation of the Work Plan 2002.	Contribute to the preparation of the Work Plan 2002. Oceania Region As above.	Contribute to the preparation of the Work Plan 2002.	Contribute to the preparation of the Work Plan 2002.
--	--	--	--	--	--

8.1.8 Develop liaison mechanisms based with Contracting Parties or partner organizations to enhance implementation of the Convention in the regions, in coordination with the Bureau. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target - To see more of these types of arrangements being supported by CPs.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Formalize an agreement with a CP in the Mediterranean region to host the MedWet Coordination function. No other new arrangements of this type are envisaged.			Oceania Region Continue the collaboration in relation to the Pacific island states with Wetlands International – Oceania, based in Canberra and supported by the Australian Government.		

8.1.9 Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees to provide the opportunity for input from, and representation of, governmental and non-governmental organisations, key stakeholders, indigenous peoples, the private sector and interest groups, and land use planning and management authorities. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target – By COP8 to see a co-ordinating mechanism in place in all CPs, and more particularly to see National Ramsar Committees including government and non-government stakeholder representatives in place in more than 100 CPs. In addition, by COP8 all CPs that have reported the existence of NRCs at COP7 to have evaluated their effectiveness

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Prepare review of membership, terms of reference and operations of National/ Wetland Committees for consideration by SC26 and transmission to COP8 (Res. VII.27)	Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees in Parties lacking them in the region and encourage effective operation of existing ones. Seek opportunities to participate in, or provide input for the preparation of, meetings of National Ramsar Committees.	Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees in Parties lacking them in the region and encourage effective operation of existing ones. Seek opportunities to participate in, or provide input for the preparation of, meetings of National Ramsar Committees.	Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees in Parties lacking them in the region and encourage effective operation of existing ones. Seek opportunities to participate in, or provide input for the preparation of, meetings of National Ramsar Committees. Oceania region Encourage establishment of a National Ramsar Committee and Wetlands Policy in PNG.	Promote the establishment of National Ramsar Committees in Parties lacking them in the region and encourage effective operation of existing ones. Seek opportunities to participate in, or provide input for the preparation of, meetings of National Ramsar Committees.	

8.1.11 Establish and ensure regular implementation of processes for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of all Ramsar Convention institutions, mechanisms, and programmes, including National Reports to the COP (Resolution VI.21); implement recommendations arising, and report to the COP and Standing Committee on the results obtained. [COP, SC, Bureau]

- The Standing Committee at its 24th meeting will review the National Report format from COP7 and adopt the format for COP8. This is to be distributed to all CPs in early 2000.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
--------	---------------	-----------------	-------------	-----------------	--------

<p>The National Planning Tool and National Report format was provided to CPs in 2000. The Bureau will continue to review the progress by CPs in using this tool.</p> <p>The Bureau will report to Standing Committee on the Parties' achievements towards meeting the regional targets under the Convention Work Plan 2000-2002, which were agreed in 1999.</p>	<p>Through sub-regional/regional workshops and meetings:</p> <p>a. seek feedback on the effectiveness and efficiency of all Ramsar Convention institutions, and programmes; and</p> <p>b. provide training in the use of the National Report format.</p>	<p>Through sub-regional/regional workshops and meetings:</p> <p>a. seek feedback on the effectiveness and efficiency of all Ramsar Convention institutions, and programmes; and</p> <p>b. provide training in the use of the National Report format.</p>	<p>Through sub-regional/regional workshops and meetings:</p> <p>a. seek feedback on the effectiveness and efficiency of all Ramsar Convention institutions, and programmes; and</p> <p>b. provide training in the use of the National Report format.</p> <p>Oceania Region As above.</p>	<p>Through sub-regional/regional workshops and meetings:</p> <p>a. seek feedback on the effectiveness and efficiency of all Ramsar Convention institutions, and programmes; and</p> <p>b. provide training in the use of the National Report format.</p>	
---	--	--	---	--	--

Operational Objective 8.2: To provide the financial resources required to carry out Ramsar activities.

8.2.3 Ensure the Bureau has adequate staff to play a catalytic role in presenting projects to potential donors for funding. [COP]

Target – The Bureau to consider establishing a post of Development Assistance Officer by 1 January 2000 (Resolution VII.28).

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Review at SC26 the work of the Senior Advisor – Environment & Development Cooperation (SAEDC), on board since 1 August 2000.					

8.2.4 Give priority to funding for training programmes, education and public awareness work, development of the Ramsar Database, and the Convention's Communications Strategy. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Target - To secure the resources needed to establish regional training initiatives (like Wetlands of the Future) in other regions, to allow the Bureau to progress the implementation of the Outreach Programme and to support the proposed developments for the Ramsar Sites Database into a fully online and Web-based promotional and planning tool of the Convention.

Refer to actions under General Objective 4.

Operational Objective 8.3: To maximize the benefits of working with partner organizations.

8.3.1 Strengthen cooperative planning mechanisms with the partners and improve communications and information exchange, including exchange of staff. [CPs, Bureau, Partners]

Refer to 8.3.2.

8.3.2 Review and renew formal agreements with partners to ensure there is no duplication of effort and to maximise effective use of resources, and establish new partnerships, especially in relation to the Wise Use Guidelines.

Target – To review the existing cooperative arrangements with all International Organisation Partners by 31 December 1999 and in the light of COP7 decisions.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
--------	---------------	-----------------	-------------	-----------------	--------

<p>Work with the IOPs to review existing memoranda of cooperation, as required.</p> <p>Formally invite partners to add an “IOPs column” to this Work Plan in order to obtain a systematic view of their contribution to the work of the Convention.</p> <p>Coordinate as much as possible with the IOPs the Bureau work with the donor agencies.</p>	<p>Work with regional and country offices of the IOPs in the implementation of the Work Plan 2001.</p>	<p>Work with regional and country offices of the IOPs in the implementation of the Work Plan 2001.</p>	<p>Work with regional and country offices of the IOPs in the implementation of the Work Plan 2001.</p>	<p>Work with regional and country offices of the IOPs in the implementation of the Work Plan 2001.</p>	<p>Act as the focal point for Ramsar cooperation with Ramsar IOPs in the region, in particular the WWF Mediterranean Programme (based in Rome) and the IUCN Mediterranean Office (to be established in Malaga).</p>
--	--	--	--	--	---

Operational Objective 8.4: To secure at least one million US dollars per annum for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetlands Conservation and Wise Use (Resolutions 5.8 and VI.6) and to allocate these funds effectively.

8.4.1 Develop a strategy for securing at least one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, to be approved by the first full meeting of the Standing Committee after the 6th COP (1996) and proceed immediately to its implementation. [Bureau, SC, CPs, Partners]

- Refer to Resolution VII.5.
- The contributions to the SGF remain unpredictable on a year by year basis.

Target - To establish a mechanism to ensure one million US dollars annually for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund (Resolution VII.28).

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
The SAEDC will give priority to pursuing the possibility of establishing a funding mechanism for the Ramsar SGF.					

8.4.2 Evaluate critically, at the 7th COP (1999), the performance of the Small Grants Fund. [COP, SC, Bureau]

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Completed for COP7. To be revisited again, in particular in relation to the advisability or not of maintaining the SGF if no effective funding mechanism can be established before COP8.					

8.4.3 Encourage and assist the preparation of high quality applications to the Small Grants Fund. [SC, Bureau, Partners]
Refer to the review of the SGF – Resolution VII.5 - for suggested improvements to be made in this area in the next triennium.

Global	Africa Region	Americas Region	Asia Region	European Region	MedWet
Continue with the SGF cycle in 2001 and prepare	Review Africa SGF proposals and manage and keep under review the	Review Americas (Neotropics) SGF proposals and manage and	Review Asia SGF proposals and manage and keep under review the	Review European SGF proposals and manage and keep under review	

recommendations for SC26 on projects to be funded.	<p>current SGF projects. Undertake follow-up actions where necessary for previous SGF projects. Where possible, visit SGF project sites during missions to the region.</p> <p>Encourage submission of priority projects if there are clear indications that resources will be available.</p>	<p>keep under review the current SGF projects. Undertake follow-up actions where necessary for previous SGF projects. Where possible, visit SGF project sites during missions to the region.</p> <p>Encourage submission of priority projects if there are clear indications that resources will be available.</p>	<p>current SGF projects. Undertake follow-up actions where necessary for previous SGF projects. Where possible, visit SGF project sites during missions to the region.</p> <p>Encourage submission of priority projects if there are clear indications that resources will be available.</p> <p>Oceania Region As above.</p>	<p>the current SGF projects. Undertake follow-up actions where necessary for previous SGF projects. Where possible, visit SGF project sites during missions to the region.</p> <p>Encourage submission of priority projects if there are clear indications that resources will be available.</p>	
--	--	--	---	--	--

Section II Administration Work Plan 2001

1. Financial administration
2. Project management and reporting
3. Personnel management
4. Meeting preparations and logistics

The actions described in this Section are mostly to be undertaken by the Finance Team (Ibrahim Shaame, Accountant, and Paulette Kennedy, Finance Assistant and Projects Administrator) and the Administration Coordinator (Annette Keller), assisted by the Office Clerk (Montse Riera).

1. Financial Administration

Core budget administration

In addition to day-to-day management, monitoring and reporting of the core budget, the following actions will be required for 2001 and beyond.

- a) Prepare financial reports, including audited accounts for 2000, and the 2001 budget projection for review by the 26th meeting of the Standing Committee.
- b) Send reminders of unpaid invoices twice yearly.
- c) Invoice Parties for 2002 dues.

General Administration

Monthly:

- Petty Cash
- Long distance telephone calls
- Annual contributions - to date (acknowledge each with a Diplomatic Note)
- Projects - Income and Expenditures
- Investment of surplus funds

Year-End Statements for:

- Core Budget
- Projects with earmarked contributions
- Annual Contributions

Standing Committee Statements:

- Core Budget
- Projects with earmarked contributions
- Annual Contributions
- Bureau budget projection for 2002

COP8

- Draft triennial budget for SC26
- Triennial report on Projects with earmarked contributions

2. Project management and reporting

Small Grants Fund (activities in conjunction with Regional Coordinators and Interns)

Implement the SGF in accordance with the Operational Guidelines 2000-2002 and the internal system for the SGF projects administration established in early 2000.

Wetlands for the Future, Swiss Grant for Africa, and Evian Projects

During 2001 the Bureau will continue to administer funds provided by the USA for the Wetlands for the Future Initiative and by Switzerland for projects in Africa, as well as the Bureau's corporate sector partnership with the Danone Group – the Evian project.

Other projects supported or administered by the Bureau

As required, administer projects supported by either core or external funds. These include funds for the MedWet Initiative, for example.

Reporting to donors

Continue the reporting to donors and generally build on the good relations with donors that the Bureau currently enjoys.

Support the Senior Advisor on Environment and Development Cooperation in his work in general and in particular in relation to his efforts for the establishment of a funding mechanism for the SGF.

3. Personnel Management

As required, provide general support to the senior managers of the Bureau with respect to all aspects of staff recruitment and termination of services.

Support necessary personnel management activities as instructed by the Secretary General. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- maintain staff files (on current staff, past staff, applicants, and general directives)
- liaise with IUCN's Human Resources Management Division on Ramsar staff issues, including the drawing up of staff contracts as required
- prepare draft position vacancies
- prepare letters for staff who have successfully completed their probation period
- prepare or draft letters of reference
- recruit and interview for administrative support positions within the Bureau
- write appointment or rejection letters.

Finalize Bureau Manuals for new staff, in particular foreigners, and on internal Bureau procedures.

The Internship program (4 interns for a period of 12 to 18 months each)

- Respond to inquiries
- Receive and acknowledge applications
- Process rejection, short list letters and final rejection letters.
- Assist interns with their arrival, settling in, and departure arrangements.
- Manage the four apartments rented by the Bureau in Gland to provide accommodation to the interns.

4. Meeting preparations and logistics and general office administration

Preparations for the 26th Standing Committee Meeting

Provide organizational and logistical support for the 26th meeting of the Standing Committee, to be held in late 2001. This will include all general meeting arrangements (travel, accommodation, venue arrangements) as well as the distribution of papers, etc.

Support to other Ramsar meetings (STRP, Evian Encounter, etc.)

Provide organizational and logistical support for the 10th meeting of the STRP and the Evian Encounter for Arabic-speaking countries in 2001. This will include all general meeting arrangements (travel, accommodation, venue arrangements) as well as the distribution of papers, etc.

COP8

As required, assist the Secretary General with advance preparations for COP8.

General office administration

Ensure an efficient functioning of the office concerning use of space, office supplies and equipment, publications and documents storage and distribution, archives and files maintenance, mail reception and dispatching, etc.