



4.2 Overview of the Convention's Strategic Plan and preparations for the next Strategic Plan

Progress, issues and questions

Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015



The story so far...

- 1st Strategic Plan adopted COP6 (1996), the first for a global environmental convention
- Three Strategic Plans so far – each for 6 years (two triennia)

Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015

- Calls for actions by the Parties themselves but also by the Secretariat and the IOP's;
- Depending on their circumstances, each Party can establish their own priorities with a work plan for implementation;
- COP12 needs to consider adopting a 4th Strategic Plan



Mission

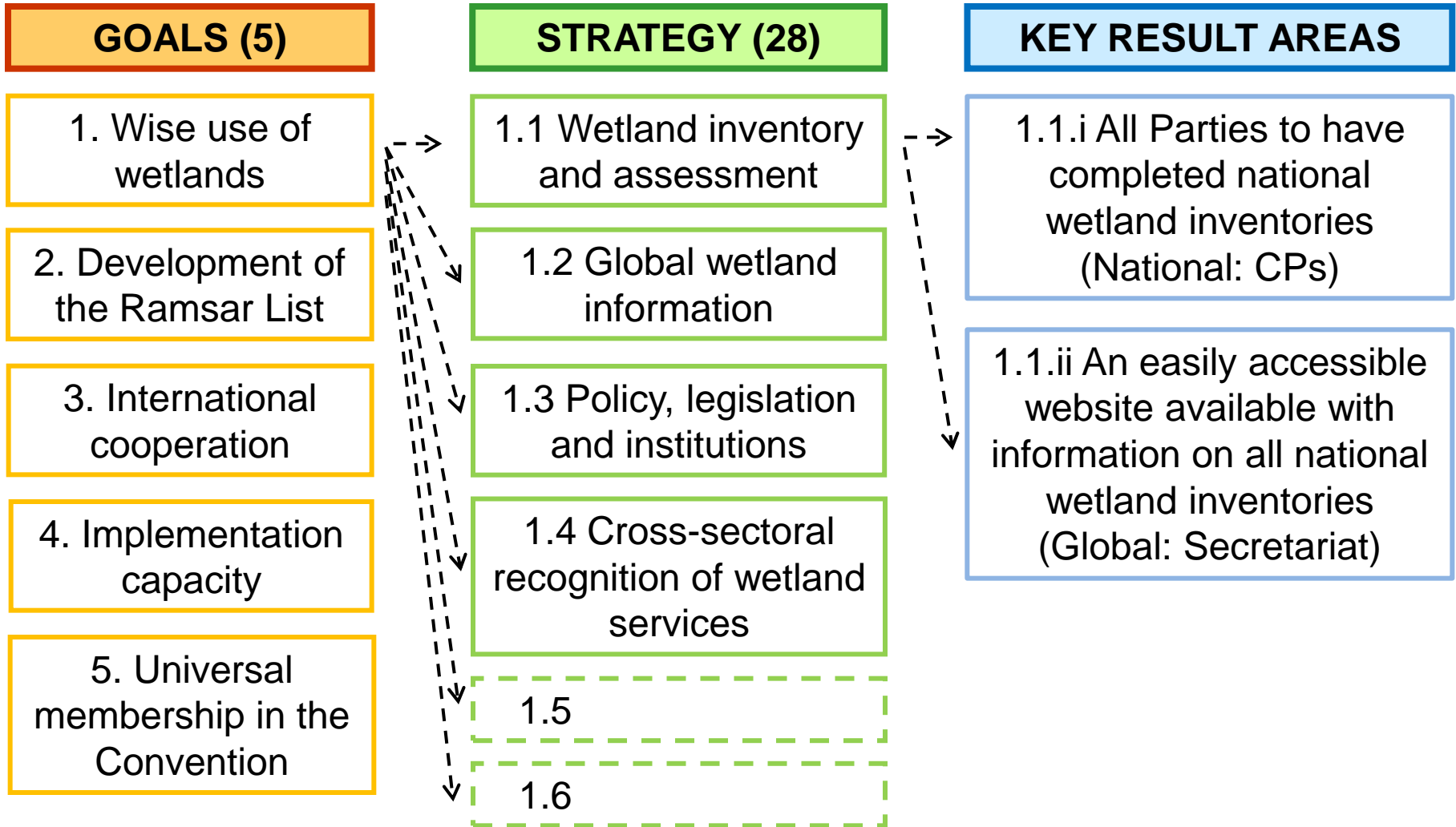
“Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.”

‘Vision’

“To achieve this Mission it is essential that the vital ecosystem services, and especially those related to water and those that wetlands provide to people and nature through their natural infrastructure, are fully recognized, maintained, restored and wisely used.”



Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015



Discussions at SC46



SC46 established a *Strategic Plan Working Group*

Core membership: Finland & France (leads), Burundi, Chile, Cuba, USA, **Indonesia**, Australia, **I.R. Iran**, Switzerland, UNEP, BirdLife International (for IOPs), STRP Chair, Secretariat

- Discussed the issues and process
- Prepared initial views on scope, content, title etc.
- Next steps: engage consultant to conduct further scoping and wide stakeholder consultation
 - Prepare outline 1st draft for SC47 consideration (March 2014)



Initial *Strategic Plan Working Group* thinking



- Not just for Ramsar – but for all those using/working with wetlands
- **Scope:** wetlands and water, ecosystems (and their services) and people (including their culture)
- **Title:** “*Strategic Plan for wetlands and water-related ecosystems and their services*”
 - but note that as all ecosystems depend on water ... perhaps better “*Strategic Plan for wetlands and water*”?
- **Period:** 2015-2021 (two triennia)
- **Alignment with other MEAs:** e.g. Aichi Targets, new CMS Strategic Plan being developed, other processes



Initial *Strategic Plan Working Group* thinking



- Clear **Targets** and **Indicators**
 - Set in context of state of the (changing) world, its wetland ecosystems and water – and implementation progress
 - Informed by draft *State of the World's Wetlands* report and COP11 National Reports analyses
- **Scalable**
 - Global and regional objectives



A possible 2-part structure



Part 1: Strategic Plan

- *Context/situation analysis:*
 - State of world and its wetlands; key issues and challenges
 - Ramsar role and positioning in water and wetlands issues
- *Goals*
 - Strategies (under each Goal)
 - Indicators (under each Strategy)
- *Annex:*
 - alignment of Targets with those of other MEAs and other global processes



A possible 2-part structure



Part 2: Implementation strategy

- Specifically for Ramsar Parties and other Ramsar bodies and processes
- **Strategies**
 - Each with implementation progress **Indicators**
 - c.f. current set of implementation indicators in CP's National Report Format

Notes:

1. Other 'wetlands and water stakeholders' could be encouraged to develop complementary strategies for their own Strategic Plan implementation



Questions for discussion

Do you agree with these views on:

- Scope,
- Title,
- Duration,
- Structure
- Content

Is the suggested 2-part structure a good way to:

- Keep the Strategic Plan clear and simple
- Provide, through an Implementation Strategy, continuity of implementation (and its progress) by Ramsar Parties and others of current Strategic Plan and National Report formats



Questions for discussion

What should the new Strategic Plan's Goals be?

- Continue with the current SP 5 Goals (concerning Wise use, Ramsar Sites etc.); or
- Different focus, and more externalised for all wetlands and water stakeholders, could be:
 - A. Address the underlying causes of wetland loss and degradation by mainstreaming wetlands and water across government and society;
 - B. Reduce the direct (and indirect) pressures on wetlands and promote sustainable use;
 - C. Improve the status of wetlands by safeguarding their ecosystems, species and genetic diversity;
 - D. Enhance the benefits to all from wetland ecosystem services;
 - E. Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building.



Discussed at the 46th Standing Committee meeting (April 2013)

Secretariat prepared a paper (DOC. SC46-9) raising a range of issues for consideration, on:

- Scope and focus (including the need for cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services)
- Whether it should be an internal Ramsar Strategic Plan – or an SP for all wetland stakeholders
- Extent of alignment with Strategic Plan for Biodiversity & its 20 Aichi Targets
- Should it follow the form of the existing Plan or should it be a more high-level strategy?
- Structure (should specific Targets be included?)
- Time-period
- Title



THANK YOU!

