

**Communication, capacity building, education, participation
and awareness (CEPA):
Report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel**

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to note the present report of the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel.

Background

1. This report provides an overview of the work which has been carried out by the CEPA Oversight Panel since the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC63).
2. Virtual meetings of the Panel took place on 27 June and 11 September 2024. During these meetings, activities and deliverables within the workplan of the CEPA Oversight Panel, which had been approved in Decision SC62-27, were reviewed and discussed.
3. At the 11 September meeting, the Panel (on the recommendation of the Executive Team) selected Zambia as the Vice-Chair to replace WWT, which was no longer able to serve in the role due to a change in personnel. Zambia accepted the nomination and will serve as the Vice-Chair of the Panel for the remainder of the triennium. As Zambia is a member of the Strategic Plan Working Group, it will provide an important link between the CEPA Oversight Panel and the development and implementation of the Fifth Strategic Plan.

Work undertaken by the Panel

4. Since SC63, a number of CEPA resources have been developed and updated. Notably, the CEPA handbook has been revised by the Secretariat, and will be published on the Convention's website in the three languages before the end of the year. The revised handbook provides actionable guidance for CEPA Focal Points and practitioners. A "welcome brochure" for new CEPA government and NGO Focal Points has been developed and is available in the three languages both online and in print format. When the Secretariat is notified by a Contracting Party of a change in a CEPA Focal Point, the new Focal Point will receive this brochure along with information about other CEPA resources. A suite of digital assets that provide an overview of the CEPA Programme and explain the different CEPA elements (communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness) has been developed. A poster, infographics and social media cards are accessible on the Convention's website and can be downloaded and customized by Contracting Parties and other CEPA practitioners.

5. As instructed by the Standing Committee in Decision SC63-24, the Secretariat has prepared a draft resolution reflecting the consolidation of Recommendations and Resolutions on CEPA submitted in Document SC63 Doc.16 and approved through Decision SC63-22, and the views of the Standing Committee on the process and timeline for nominating the Panel for the 2025-2028 triennium. This draft resolution has been reviewed by the CEPA Oversight Panel and their comments reflected in the draft resolution on CEPA submitted to SC64 for consideration.
6. The Panel has discussed on several occasions that the name “CEPA” is difficult to understand and lacks relevance, and that referring to the programme differently could have benefits. While the elements of CEPA would remain the same, the Panel is proposing referring to CEPA as the “People and Wetlands Programme” or the “People and Wetlands Programme of the Convention on Wetlands”. This new language has been included in the draft resolution to be considered by SC64.
7. The Panel will convene virtually in November to review materials and plans for World Wetlands Day 2025 and provide their suggestions and recommendations for effective implementation of the campaign by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders.