

# Agenda item 4.2: STRP Overview



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# OVERVIEW



- STRP composition and mission
- STRP guidance and advice



# SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL

## Composition and Mission



- Core group of 18 Members providing independent guidance and advice
- Nominated by CPs, IOPs, and Observer Organizations; appointed by the Management Working Group
- Supported by IOPs, Observer Organizations, STRP National Focal Points, additional invited experts
- Responsible for providing scientific and technical advice and guidance at the request of Parties, including on emerging issues



# SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL

## IOPs



- BirdLife International
- IUCN
- IWMI
- Wetlands International
- WWF
- WWT



# SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL

## Observer Organisations



### Annex 2

#### Bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP for the 2016-2018 triennium

Observer organizations are defined as global and regional multilateral environmental agreements, global intergovernmental organizations and processes (IGOs), regional intergovernmental organizations and processes (IROs), international organization and other NGOs and organizations devoted to wetlands.

They include, but are not restricted to:

- Conservation International (CI)
- Consultative Group on Biological Diversity
- Ducks Unlimited (DU)
- Environmental Law Institute
- Group on Earth Observation – Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON)
- ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability (Reserve made by Argentina)
- Inter American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Flora and Fauna International (Reserve made by Argentina)
- NatureServe
- Organización del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica
- The Business and Biodiversity Offsets Program (BPOP)
- The Committee on Science and Technology of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- The Coordinating Committee for the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP-coco)
- The European Space Agency – ESRIN (ESA-ESRIN)
- The Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- The Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- The International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)
- The International Society for Ecological Economics (ISEE)
- The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- The Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility
- The Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (SC of CMS)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- The Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, and the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna (CAFF) working group of the Arctic Council
- The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
- The Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
- The Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- The Technical Committee of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)
- The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- The United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF)
- The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)
- The World Bank
- The World Health Organization (WHO)
- Tour du Valat Research Centre for the Conservation of Mediterranean wetlands
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO-IHP)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
- United Nations Regional Economic Commissions



World  
Heritage  
Convention





# SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL

## STRP NFPs

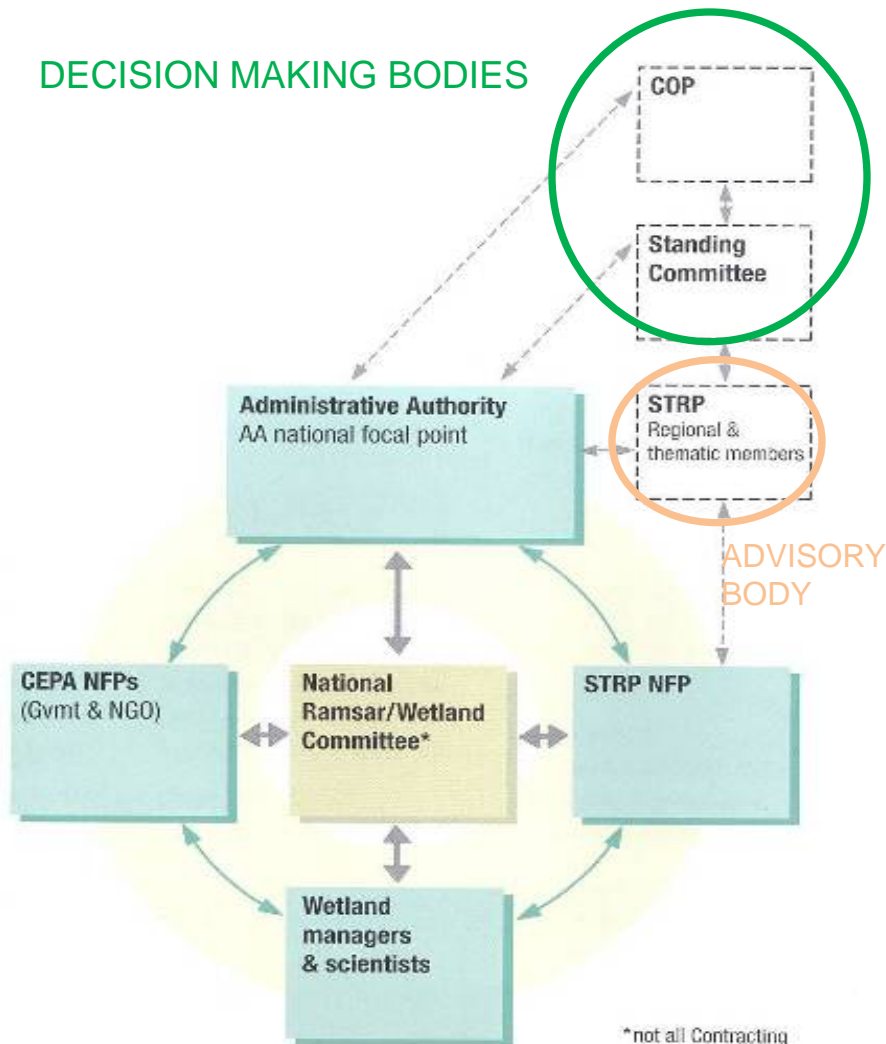


- Contracting Parties may suggest scientific and technical experts to participate as observers in meetings or intersessional processes of the STRP with the approval of the STRP chair.
- Representatives of other organizations not included in Annex 2 requesting to participate as observers in meetings or intersessional processes of the STRP may do so with the approval of the STRP Chair.

# STRP is an advisory body



## DECISION MAKING BODIES



\*not all Contracting Parties have yet established a National Ramsar/Wetland Committee

- **Administrative Authority (AA)** is the main government agency responsible for the application of the Convention
- **STRP national focal point** provides liaison between the STRP members and national experts
- **CEPA** (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) **Government and NGO focal points** provide leadership to spread the Convention's approaches to wetlands management
- **National Ramsar Committee** provides a mechanism to spread the Convention's tools beyond individuals and develops national policies.



# The purpose of the STRP



“The purpose of the STRP is provide scientific and technical guidance and advice to the Ramsar Contracting Parties, the Conference of the Parties, the Standing Committee, the Ramsar Secretariat and to other wetland users working on wetlands issues, in order to foster the implementation of the Convention.”

# The purpose of the STRP



“The STRP should provide in an efficient, timely and effective manner, global, regional and where possible national specific scientific and technical advice, guidance and tools to enable these audiences to respond to the opportunities, challenges and emerging issues of wetland conservation and wise use.”

# STRP: how we work

- Meetings and workshops



STRP17, March 2013

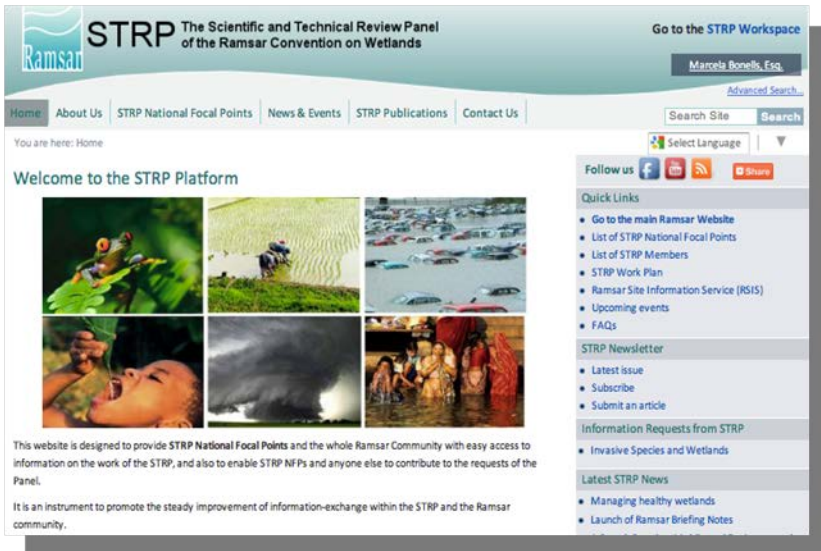


STRP18, September 2014

# STRP: how we work



- STRP Web Portal (and email)



The screenshot shows the STRP Home page. The header includes the Ramsar logo, the title "STRP The Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands", and a "Go to the STRP Workspace" link. A navigation bar contains links for Home, About Us, STRP National Focal Points, News & Events, STRP Publications, and Contact Us. A search bar and a language selector are also present. The main content area is titled "Welcome to the STRP Platform" and features a grid of six images. To the right, there are sections for "Follow us" (social media icons), "Quick Links" (a list of links to various STRP resources), "STRP Newsletter" (links to the latest issue, subscribe, and submit an article), "Information Requests from STRP" (links to invasive species and wetlands), and "Latest STRP News" (links to managing healthy wetlands and launching Ramsar Briefing Notes).

STRP The Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Go to the STRP Workspace

Marcela Bonelli, Esq.

Advanced Search

Home About Us STRP National Focal Points News & Events STRP Publications Contact Us

You are here: Home

Welcome to the STRP Platform

Follow us

Quick Links

- Go to the main Ramsar Website
- List of STRP National Focal Points
- List of STRP Members
- STRP Work Plan
- Ramsar Site Information Service (RSIS)
- Upcoming events
- FAQs

STRP Newsletter

- Latest issue
- Subscribe
- Submit an article

Information Requests from STRP

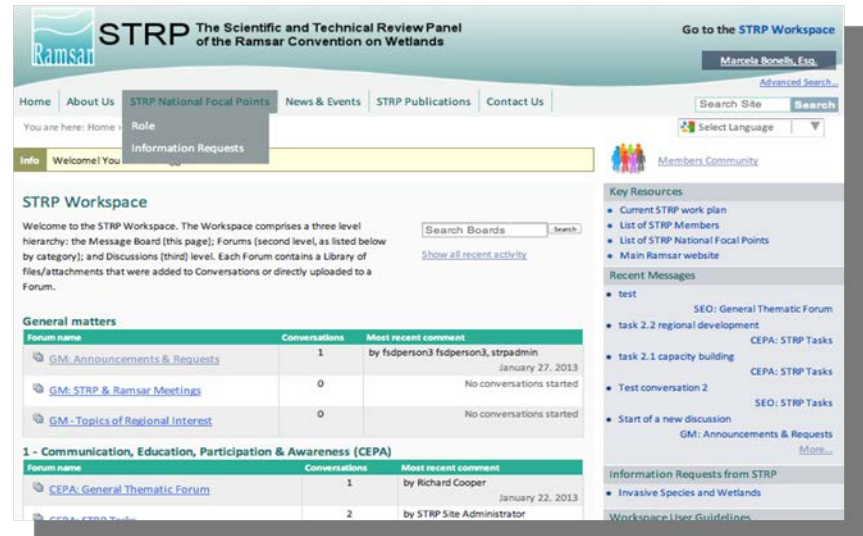
- Invasive Species and Wetlands

Latest STRP News

- Managing healthy wetlands
- Launch of Ramsar Briefing Notes

This website is designed to provide STRP National Focal Points and the whole Ramsar Community with easy access to information on the work of the STRP, and also to enable STRP NFs and anyone else to contribute to the requests of the Panel.

It is an instrument to promote the steady improvement of information-exchange within the STRP and the Ramsar community.



The screenshot shows the STRP Workspace page. The header is identical to the home page. The main content area is titled "STRP Workspace" and includes a welcome message and a search bar. Below this, there are two tables: "General matters" and "1 - Communication, Education, Participation & Awareness (CEPA)". The "General matters" table lists three forums: "GM: Announcements & Requests", "GM: STRP & Ramsar Meetings", and "GM: Topics of Regional Interest". The "1 - Communication, Education, Participation & Awareness (CEPA)" table lists two forums: "CEPA: General Thematic Forum" and "CEPA: STRP Tasks". To the right, there are sections for "Key Resources" (links to current STRP work plan, list of STRP members, list of STRP National Focal Points, and main Ramsar website), "Recent Messages" (links to test, task 2.2 regional development, task 2.1 capacity building, test conversation 2, and start of a new discussion), "Information Requests from STRP" (links to invasive species and wetlands), and "Workspace User Guidelines".

STRP The Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Go to the STRP Workspace

Marcela Bonelli, Esq.

Advanced Search

Home About Us STRP National Focal Points News & Events STRP Publications Contact Us

You are here: Home

Welcome to the STRP Platform

STRP Workspace

Welcome to the STRP Workspace. The Workspace comprises a three level hierarchy: the Message Board (this page); Forums (second level, as listed below by category); and Discussions (third level). Each Forum contains a Library of files/attachments that were added to Conversations or directly uploaded to a Forum.

Search Boards

Show all recent activity

Forum name	Conversations	Most recent comment
GM: Announcements & Requests	1	by fsdperson3 fsdperson3, strpadmin January 27, 2013
GM: STRP & Ramsar Meetings	0	No conversations started
GM: Topics of Regional Interest	0	No conversations started

1 - Communication, Education, Participation & Awareness (CEPA)

Forum name	Conversations	Most recent comment
CEPA: General Thematic Forum	1	by Richard Cooper January 22, 2013
CEPA: STRP Tasks	2	by STRP Site Administrator

Key Resources

- Current STRP work plan
- List of STRP Members
- List of STRP National Focal Points
- Main Ramsar website

Recent Messages

- test
- task 2.2 regional development
- task 2.1 capacity building
- Test conversation 2
- Start of a new discussion

Information Requests from STRP

- Invasive Species and Wetlands

Workspace User Guidelines

- Guidance for COP
- Other scientific and technical guidance

Science-based technical guidance will be the main focus for STRP products. The main audience for the technical guidance will be policy-makers and practitioners, while users of wetlands may also benefit from it.
- Ad-hoc advice



# STRP Guidance and Advice



- Guidance for COP

- Draft resolutions on scientific and technical issues
- Annexes to draft resolutions: guidelines on scientific and technical issues related to Convention implementation
- COP information papers that support scientific and technical draft resolutions



11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

*"Wetlands: home and destination"*

Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012

## Resolution XI.9

### An Integrated Framework and guidelines for avoiding, mitigating and compensating for wetland losses

1. RECALLING that the objective of Contracting Parties, as set out in the preamble of the Convention text, is to "stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future"; that Article 3.1 of the Convention urges Contracting Parties to "formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory"; and that Article 3.2 and subsequent Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties express the Parties' responsibility to detect, report, and respond to adverse human-induced changes in the ecological character of wetlands included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites);
2. NOTING that the term "wetland loss" is taken to cover both loss of wetland area and/or the loss or degradation of the ecological character of a wetland, regardless of whether or not there is any change to its overall area;
3. ALSO RECALLING that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) reported that wetlands were being lost and degraded in many parts of the world and at rates faster than other ecosystems, and that such wetland losses and degradation jeopardise the future provision of their ecosystem services to people;
4. CONCERNED that the total area and condition of natural wetlands in many countries, and the species they support, are still declining;
5. NOTING that these wetland losses are occurring despite the provisions of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the existence of wetland protection laws and practices in many countries that require that adverse wetland impacts be avoided, and where this is not possible, mitigated or compensated by offsets such as wetland restoration;
6. REITERATING that, as agreed in Resolution VII.24 on *Compensation for lost wetland habitats and other functions*, effective wetland protection begins with avoidance of adverse wetland impacts;
7. AWARE that the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP10) instructed the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to "develop guidance on

# STRP Guidance and Advice



- Other guidance
  - Briefing Notes
  - Ramsar Technical Reports
  - Policy Briefs
  - Handbooks
  - Manuals
  - Fact sheets
  - Webinars
  - Videos

## State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People: A compilation of recent analyses

Wetlands continue to decline globally, both in area and in quality. As a result, the ecosystem services that wetlands provide to society are diminished. Contracting Parties and their policymakers are urged to take immediate action to meet the Ramsar Convention's objective to stop and reverse the loss and degradation of wetlands and services to people.



### Background

Ramsar Resolution XI.17 requested the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to report on the state of the world's wetlands and their services to people. The Standing Committee identified this task as among the STRP's highest priorities. As a contribution to this task, the Briefing Note summarizes and highlights for Contracting Parties and other decision makers key points from selected scientific reports and articles published in 2013 and 2014. In particular, the Briefing Note discusses wetland status and trends, the loss of wetland ecosystem services, and calls steps for data collection and assessment.

### Purpose

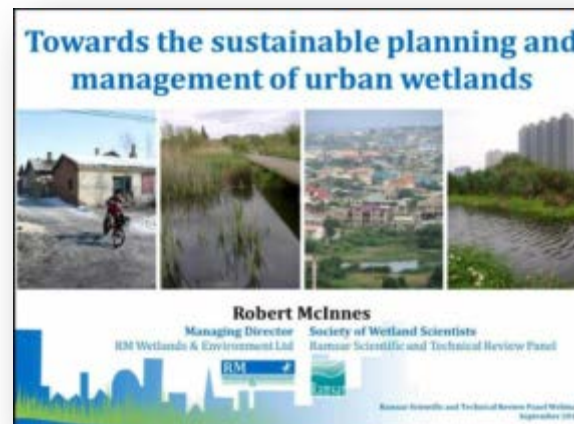
This Briefing Note provides Contracting Parties with an overview of selected aspects of the status and trends of wetlands and the loss of ecosystem services drawn from recently published analyses, as a contribution towards assessing the effectiveness of the Convention. The negative trends shown by recent studies should serve as a call to Contracting Parties to avoid further wetland loss and degradation and to strengthen wetland assessment, monitoring and restoration.

### Key messages

- The global extent of wetlands is now estimated to have declined between 64-71% in the 20th century, and wetland losses and degradation continue worldwide.
- Because of wetland losses and degradation, people are deprived of the ecosystem services that wetlands provide. Adverse changes to wetlands, including coral reefs, are estimated to result in more than \$20 trillion in losses of ecosystem services annually.
- Despite some positive news about Ramsar Sites, even these are under threat. For example, although populations of wetland species appear to be increasing in Ramsar Sites overall, populations of wetland species in Ramsar Sites in the tropics are decreasing.
- While there are ongoing initiatives that will provide a more precise picture of the extent of the world's wetlands, it is clear that there is a negative trend and wetlands are still being lost or degraded, resulting in negative impacts on biodiversity and other ecosystem services.
- Policymakers have sufficient scientific information to understand the urgent need to take appropriate actions to conserve wetlands and their services to people.



www.ramsar.org



- Other guidance
  - Briefing Notes
  - Ramsar Technical Reports
  - Policy Briefs
  - Handbooks
  - Manuals
  - Fact sheets
  - Webinars
  - Videos

The Secretariat will work with the STRP members to determine the type, content, format and design for each technical product.

Additional explanatory summaries, and interpretive information related to the technical guidance directed at policy-makers, will be developed by the Secretariat's communications team.

# STRP Guidance and Advice

- Ad-hoc advice
  - Draft Resolutions prepared by CPs or the Secretariat
  - Ramsar Secretariat (upon request)
  - Ramsar Advisory Missions
  - Montreux Record
  - Specific requests from CPs
  - Emerging issues



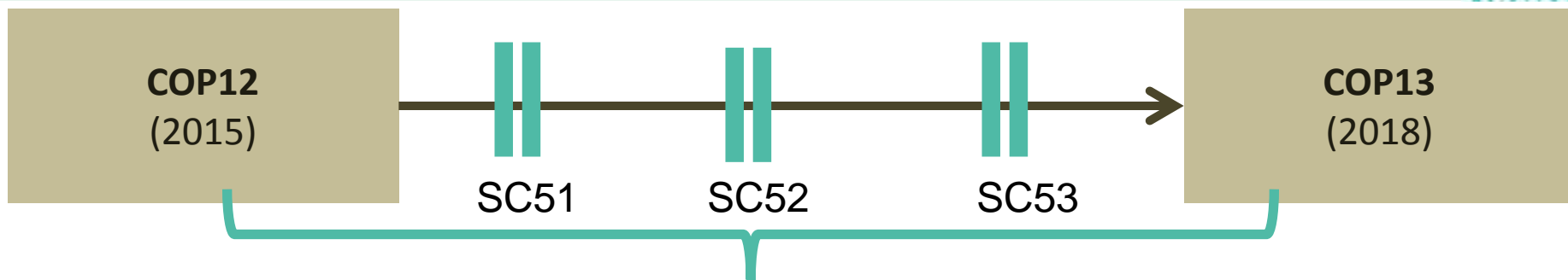
# Expected outcomes of the triennium



- Work plan for 2016-2018
  - **!! draft completed this week for SC51 !!**
- Priority is technical guidance, in line with the high priority thematic areas and the Strategic Plan, aimed at practitioners and policymakers
- Advice, including on emerging issues
- Proposed work plan for 2019-2021



# Keep in mind timing ...



- Products for COP13 must be approved by SC, at least 3 months prior to COP13
- SC requires documents 2 months in advance
- Documents must be sent for translation
- Therefore if COP13 is held in October 2018, then documents for COP13 must be completed by March 2018
- Note: it will be difficult for the Secretariat to work on non-COP related documents in the lead up to COP13

# Questions?

