



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

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

### Resolution XII.5

#### **New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention**

1. RECALLING the establishment by Resolution 5.5 (1993) of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention as a subsidiary body of the Convention to provide scientific and technical guidance to the Conference of the Parties, to the Standing Committee, and to the Ramsar Secretariat;
2. ALSO RECALLING Resolutions VI.7, VII.2, VIII.28, IX.11, X.9, and XI.18 on this same matter, which made successive modifications to the way in which the STRP and its work were organized;
3. THANKING all members of the STRP and its observer organizations and invited experts for their contributions since the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and for their expert advice on numerous scientific and technical issues of importance to the implementation of the Convention;
4. ALSO THANKING the many governments which have supported the work of the STRP with financial contributions, and EXPRESSING GRATITUDE to observer organizations and the Convention's International Organization Partners for their sustained contributions to the work of the Panel;
5. RECALLING that through Resolution XI.16 the Contracting Parties decided to undertake a review of the delivery, uptake and implementation of scientific and technical advice and guidance to the Convention, for consideration by the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
6. WELCOMING the report of the review committee established by the Standing Committee in its Decision SC46-25 and the findings of the review which it undertook and which is posted on the Ramsar website (at [http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/final\\_report\\_and\\_components\\_ramsar\\_scientific\\_technical\\_advice.pdf](http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/final_report_and_components_ramsar_scientific_technical_advice.pdf));
7. RECOGNIZING that the review and the recommendations of the review committee revealed that, while Ramsar scientific and technical guidance is well appreciated and has contributed to scientific and technical knowledge on wetlands, it does not reach all of its intended audiences, and therefore does not fully respond to the needs of Contracting Parties and people in their countries who may contribute to the implementation of the Convention;
8. NOTING the ten specific challenges which were identified through the review process and the 30 recommendations outlined in the report of the review committee on the Ramsar website proposed to respond to these challenges;

9. FURTHER RECOGNIZING the recommendations of the review committee to amend the structure and processes of the STRP and thereby make it more responsive to the current and future needs of Contracting Parties;
10. EXPRESING GRATITUDE to the authors and institutions providing inputs and support to the State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People, based on a compilation of recent analyses; and
11. ALSO RECOGNIZING the potential of a report on the State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People to promote the objectives of the Convention, in particular to strengthen broader attention to wetlands in other forums and to assess progress on delivery of aspects of the Conventions Strategic Plan;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

12. DECIDES to restructure the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) as established by Resolution V.5 and amended by successive Resolutions, to further help Contracting Parties respond to challenges of wetland conservation and wise use with an integral, holistic and inclusive focus, by providing scientific and technical guidance to the COP and regionally and as appropriate nationally, in an efficient, timely and effective manner, following the processes described in Annex 1;
13. RECOGNIZES the traditional and local knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities, as one of the knowledge bases of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel work;
14. REAFFIRMS the critical importance to the Convention of the work of the STRP in developing and providing scientific and technical guidance, linking wetland science to effective technical communications, and building understanding of the target guidance needs of the audiences;
15. AFFIRMS that this Resolution supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP and the successive modifications on the way in which the STRP and its work have been organized;
16. CONFIRMS that the organization and the processes of the STRP adopted by this Resolution will apply for the 2016-2018 triennium and beyond unless amended by subsequent COP decisions as a result of a future review;
17. FURTHER CONFIRMS that the Conference of Parties will approve the STRP priority thematic work areas for each triennium, that the Standing Committee will continue to have overall responsibility for the delivery of this programme, and that the Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on the Panel's progress with tasks, and propose for the consideration of the Standing Committee any adjustments to the programme which the Panel considers necessary;
18. DECIDES that the priority thematic work areas for the STRP for the 2016-2018 triennium are identified in Annex 3;
19. DECIDES to dissolve the STRP Oversight Committee and INSTRUCTS the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee to take over the role of the STRP Oversight Committee which was established in Resolution IX.11, and to oversee the work of the STRP as indicated in Annex 1 to this Resolution;

20. INSTRUCTS the STRP to develop its work plan/ work programme for the 2016-2018 triennium for the Standing Committee's approval and in full coherence with the 2016-2024 Strategic Plan of the Convention;
21. DECIDES that the Standing Committee at its 51<sup>st</sup> meeting will approve the STRP work programme for the coming triennium, built around the priority thematic work areas determined and approved by the Conference of the Parties, in line with the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024;
22. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue to provide support to the STRP as detailed in Annex 1;
23. RECOGNIZES the continuing need to ensure both that the Panel has the resources to undertake its work effectively and that the Secretariat has sufficient capacity to support this work, and URGES Contracting Parties in a position to do so and others to assist in securing continuity of such funding;
24. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to mobilize additional resources for implementation of technical guidance and advice, and including for supporting Contracting Parties' implementation of recommendations for conservation and wise use of Ramsar wetlands;
25. REQUESTS the STRP and the Secretary General, subject to the availability of resources, to finalize the production of the current version of *The State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People* and to explore modalities for its subsequent improvement and updating as a periodic flagship report of the Convention and thereby also contributing to the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* of the Convention on Biological Diversity and report on progress in this matter to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
26. INVITES Contracting Parties, other governments and funding agencies to provide financial and other support to *The State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People*;
27. APPROVES the list, in Annex 2 of this Resolution, of bodies and organizations which may be invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP and INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to amend the list during the triennium as appropriate<sup>1</sup>; and
28. INVITES the bodies and organizations listed in Annex 2 to consider establishing close working arrangements with the STRP on matters of common interest, particularly in relation to priority thematic areas identified in Annex 3 during the 2016-2018 triennium.

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<sup>1</sup> Its participation will be subject to the Secretariat's receipt of a response to the letters sent.

## **Annex 1**

### **How the Scientific and Technical Review Panel works**

#### **Purpose of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel**

1. The purpose of the STRP is to 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.
2. 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.

#### **Oversight of the STRP**

3. The priority thematic work areas of the STRP and the budget to implement the work planned will be approved at each meeting of the COP. The Standing Committee at a subsequent meeting will approve the STRP work plan for the coming triennium. The work plan will be built around the priority thematic work areas determined and approved by the Conference of the Parties, in line with the current Strategic Plan.
4. Between the COPs, the Standing Committee and Management Working Group will continue to direct and oversee the implementation of the programme, review priority tasks and amend them as necessary, and approve the allocation of funds. The Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on the Panel's progress and recommend for the consideration of the Standing Committee any adjustments as necessary.
5. The Standing Committee's Management Working Group will oversee the work of the STRP, replacing the STRP Oversight Committee, according to the terms defined for that Committee in Resolution IX.11 and with the following responsibilities:
  - i) to appoint the members of the STRP and appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair from among them;
  - ii) to oversee the implementation of the STRP's programme, and report progress to each Standing Committee with recommendations for action as required;
  - iii) to guide and support the Panel as required;
  - iv) to recommend the allocation of funds for STRP tasks to the Standing Committee Sub-group on Finance; and
  - v) to work with the Secretariat to oversee STRP expenditures.
6. The Secretariat will continue to support the STRP. Relevant staff includes the Deputy Secretary General, Senior Regional Advisors, the Head of Communications and the Scientific and Technical

Support Officer. The Head of Communications will serve as the CEPA expert defined in Resolution IX.11. The Secretariat's responsibilities include:

- i) facilitating the work of the STRP, including by organizing and administering its meetings and maintaining the STRP Workspace;
- ii) fostering opportunities for collaboration with other conventions, international organizations, including financial organizations, intergovernmental institutions, and national and international NGOs, and facilitating such collaboration as required;
- iii) facilitating linkages between potential experts within countries, regions and globally, including indigenous peoples and local communities;
- iv) identifying the needs of potential audiences and thematic priorities in different countries or regions to suggest to the Parties for their consideration;
- v) creating a comprehensive database of contacts including Administrative Authorities, STRP CEPA and general National Focal Points, National Ramsar Committees, managers of Ramsar Sites, wetland organizations, past STRP members and other relevant contacts and other relevant organizations and conventions and disseminating to them Ramsar decisions, Resolutions and Recommendations of the COP and the Standing Committee;
- vi) keeping the Contracting Parties, the Ramsar community, and the public informed of developments related to the Convention, including the availability of finalized STRP products;
- vii) ensuring all written materials from the STRP that are developed for target audiences are clear and readable;
- viii) publishing and disseminating the guidance, materials and products of the STRP, ensuring that policy-makers and other identified audiences have timely and accessible clear guidance they need on identified priority issues; and
- ix) monitoring the application of the guidance.

### **Structure of the Panel**

7. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel will be made up of 18 members with appropriate scientific and technical knowledge, plus observers representing the International Organization Partners (IOPs), scientific and technical expert(s) recommended by Contracting Parties and other organizations recognized by the COP. They will include:
  - i) six scientific members<sup>2</sup> (academic community);
  - ii) 12 technical expert members<sup>3</sup> (practitioners), including six regional expert representatives and six other experts on issues identified for action during the triennium;

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<sup>2</sup> Responsible for providing advice on the strategic direction of scientific work needed to enhance the development of STRP products, and ensure the scientific quality of the finished products.

<sup>3</sup> Responsible for preparation of technical products in the form of guidance, technical briefing notes, Ramsar Technical Reports, etc., and solicit input and feedback on these from stakeholders and partners in all the Ramsar regions.

- iii) one observer representative of each of the Convention's International Organization Partners;
  - iv) a small number of observer experts from scientific and technical organizations and networks recognized by the COP (and listed in Annex 2), who may be invited to support the work of the Panel as appropriate.
  - v) The chairs of scientific and technical subsidiary bodies and relevant secretariat staff of other multilateral environmental agreements will continue to be invited to participate as observers.
8. The IOPs, and other organizations in Annex 2 where appropriate, will be asked to nominate a representative who is able to access the organization's national, regional and international networks of wetland experts and who is committed to serve for the entire triennium to ensure continuity of participation.
  9. 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.
  10. 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.
  11. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be selected from among the appointed members to the Panel.

#### **Role and responsibilities of the STRP members**

12. The main collective responsibilities of the Panel members are to:
  - i) establish the scope, deliverables and approach to delivery for each assigned task, including through scoping workshops as appropriate, and in so doing ensure input from the network of STRP National Focal Points, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, and any other relevant organizations;
  - ii) ensure appropriate peer review of draft materials, and consult with peers and the Communications team of the Secretariat on how best to ensure their effective communication and implementation;
  - iii) review all scientific and technical materials drafted by Convention bodies, consulting with STRP Focal Points as required, before they are shared with Parties and the Conference of the Parties and thereafter, in line with the terms of Resolution VIII.45;
  - iv) encourage their own national and international networks of wetland experts to contribute more widely to the work of the Panel and disseminate its final products;
  - v) Assist the Ramsar Secretariat with scientific and technical issues upon request and on Ramsar Advisory Missions, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources; and
  - vi) To avoid any conflict of interest, STRP members will not be compensated for their contributions to the STRP. Members preparing substantive work should not be involved in

reviewing it. All members should sign a “conflict of interest” declaration when they accept the nomination to the panel.

13. The STRP Chair must have broad knowledge of wetland issues and be familiar with the work of the Panel and the Convention. The Chair will:
  - i) prepare the agendas for STRP meetings. The Chair also prepares relevant meeting papers with the assistance of the Secretariat and Vice-Chair;
  - ii) chair plenary sessions of STRP meetings and oversee the conduct of all aspects of those meetings;
  - iii) manage the implementation of the STRP work plan and ensure timely delivery of the STRP’s products;
  - iv) lead the STRP’s work and coordinate the Panel’s advice to the next COP concerning new and emerging priorities the Parties may wish to consider for the Panel’s work in the next triennium;
  - v) appoint leads and co-leads of any thematic working groups established by the Panel, and advise them on the membership of groups;
  - vi) with the STRP Vice-Chair, agree upon the division of responsibilities regarding oversight of the thematic working groups or specific task groups established by the Panel;
  - vii) coordinate inputs from the Panel, its thematic working groups and the Secretariat on new and emerging priorities and with the assistance of the panel, identify priority tasks and draft the priority thematic areas of the STRP work plan for the coming triennium with the STRP members, for approval by the Standing Committee;
  - viii) report to each meeting of the COP and the Standing Committee the progress of the STRP work plan and the priority tasks included in it, and STRP-related matters, and provide feedback and guidance to the STRP;
  - ix) resources permitting, represent the STRP at meetings of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other processes and initiatives relevant to the STRP’s work, such as meetings of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);
  - x) at the request of the Secretary General represent the Convention’s scientific and technical work externally by maintaining relationships with partner organizations and, resources permitting, by participating in scientific forums and conferences;
  - xi) recommend to the Standing Committee Management Working Group for its consideration the names of members eligible for reappointment for a subsequent triennium based on their contributions to the STRP’s work and the relevance of their expertise to the COP-assigned priority tasks; and
  - xii) maintain records of the hours devoted to contributing to the work of the Panel, to facilitate reporting of inputs.

14. The STRP Vice-Chair must also have broad knowledge of wetland issues and be familiar with the work of the Panel and the Convention. The Vice Chair will:

- i) help the Secretariat and STRP Chair prepare agendas and other papers for STRP meetings;
- ii) substitute for the STRP Chair in chairing plenary sessions of STRP meetings and overseeing the conduct of all aspects of STRP meetings;
- iii) advise, along with the STRP Chair and the Secretariat, the leads and co-leads of working groups on the membership of groups;
- iv) with the STRP Chair, agree upon the division of responsibilities regarding oversight of the thematic working groups or specific task groups established by the Panel;
- v) resources permitting, substitute for the Chair in representing the STRP at meetings of other MEAs and relevant processes and initiatives;
- vi) represent the Convention's scientific and technical work externally, through maintaining relationships with partner organizations and, resources permitting, by participating at scientific forums and conferences; and
- vii) when requested, substitute for the STRP Chair in any other of his or her functions; and maintain records of the hours devoted to contributing to the work of the Panel, to facilitate reporting of inputs by the STRP Chair.

15. The members will:

- i) ensure the scientific quality of finished products;
- ii) provide independent advice to the Secretary General and STRP Chair on emerging scientific issues;
- iii) support and champion the STRP and its work;
- iv) prepare guidance to inform policy-makers and practitioners, and seek input and feedback on these from stakeholders and partners in all the Ramsar regions; and
- v) assist CEPA as appropriate with the review, dissemination, promotion and implementation of guidance in relevant networks, countries and regions.

16. IOP nominees should be wetland experts and have a role within their IOPs for maintaining and accessing the wetland conservation and wise use expertise of their organization's regional and global networks. The STRP's IOP observers are expected, in addition to the role for all STRP Members (above), to:

- i) seek the views of experts within their organizations (including relevant specialist groups and networks) of the work plan of the STRP;
- ii) participate in working groups and task forces established by the Panel;



- iii) ensure that the scientific and technical capacity of their organization's networks of wetland experts is available to the Panel, and establish mechanisms to identify and engage experts from their networks in the work of the STRP; and
- iv) leverage the outreach capacity of their organization to promote and disseminate the outputs of the STRP.

17. Representatives of Observer Organizations are invited to:

- i) ensure that the scientific and technical capacity of their organizations' national, regional and international networks of wetland experts (where applicable) are available to the Panel, and establish mechanisms to identify and engage experts from their networks in the work of the STRP;
- ii) identify to the Panel and its working groups any work relevant to STRP tasks already in existence or underway through their processes and initiatives;
- iii) advise on emerging and priority development issues and trends;
- iv) participate in any relevant working group and task forces established by the Panel;
- v) support and promote the STRP's work;
- vi) create opportunities for partnerships, collaborations and financing; and
- vii) leverage the outreach capacity of their organization to share information about and help disseminate STRP products after they are finalized.

18. The STRP National Focal Points of each Contracting Party act as a liaison between their national wetland practitioners, other Ramsar Focal Points and the STRP. They are appointed to the role for their scientific and technical expertise in wetland conservation, management and wise use. The Secretariat should ensure a more effective link between STRP and national STRP Focal Points in such a way that Parties technical needs be addressed in the STRP work plan and are expected to:

- i) provide technical and scientific input and support to the implementation of the work plan of the STRP;
- ii) maintain regular contact with other Ramsar National Focal Points in their country (Ramsar Focal Point and CEPA Focal Points);
- iii) mobilize local capacity and, to the extent possible, consult with and seek input from other experts and bodies and wetlands centres in their country, including focal points of other MEAs;
- iv) the STRP National Focal Points should provide advice to, and participate in, meetings of the National Wetland/Ramsar Committee or similar bodies (e.g., National Biodiversity Committees) where they exist, and provide advice in the preparation of National Reports to Conferences of Contracting Parties. They should also assist in disseminating information on the work of the STRP, interpreted as appropriate to the national context, to relevant individuals and bodies in their countries;

- v) provide technical support to national wetland activities such as the preparation of wetland inventory; and
- vi) help disseminate STRP products and information on its work, adapted as appropriate to the national context.

### **Selection of Panel members**

19. Immediately after the COP, the Secretariat will make a call for nominations of the STRP members for the coming triennium, which includes information on the specific profiles required for the technical and scientific members.
20. The members and observer representatives for each triennium will be appointed by the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee as soon as possible after the COP, from the candidates nominated according to the process below.
21. Administrative Authorities from each region will reach agreement internally and nominate one technical expert for each region who will be accepted automatically.
22. Administrative Authorities will nominate member per needs as identified and the nominations will then be reviewed and shortlisted by region by the Standing Committee members.
23. Administrative Authorities of Contracting Parties will also make nominations for the six scientific members and six technical members, and may identify candidates for STRP Chair and Vice-Chair, including from candidates nominated under paragraph 21.
24. IOPs and observer organizations will make nominations for the six scientific and six technical members.
25. STRP members will be appointed in their personal capacity for their scientific and technical expertise, and will not represent any organization or government in their interaction with the STRP. Selections will be made to secure the scientific and technical expertise required for the STRP's work during the triennium, and ensure regional and gender balance.
26. Each International Organization Partner will nominate its representative member. IOP observers may serve for more than one triennium.
27. Any observer organization may nominate a representative as observer to the Panel. Observer organizations may serve for more than one triennium.
28. Organizations nominating members or observers must provide a letter of recommendation summarizing the expertise of the candidate and the relevance of their work to the Panel's work plan.
29. Nominees will provide a curriculum vitae and a declaration that they are willing to be considered for appointment to the Panel and that they have, where relevant, the required support of their organizations on a voluntary basis to deliver the work expected of Panel members and the time and availability for meetings. They will note whether they will need any financial support to participate in meetings and will provide a brief summary of how their skills and expertise might contribute to the Panel's work.

30. The Secretariat will forward all nominations and make recommendations for appointments for consideration by the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee, which will reach its decisions through electronic communication and teleconferences as soon as possible after each COP, to enable the Panel to start work as early as possible.
31. If a vacancy for a member of the Panel arises between COPs, the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee will review among the other proposed nominations and appoint a replacement member as soon as practicable.
32. Candidates for appointment as members of the STRP must have the following:
  - i) capacity and experience in local, national and international networking with wetland conservation and wise use experts, including when appropriate STRP National Focal Points;
  - ii) recognized experience and expertise in one or more aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, particularly those relevant to the identified priorities for the forthcoming work of the Panel;
  - iii) full access to electronic mail and the online systems which the Panel will use;
  - iv) proficient comprehension of at least one of the three official languages of the Convention; and
  - v) commitment to undertake the work of the Panel and its working groups, and the support, where relevant, of their organization, enabling them to deliver the work expected of Panel members on a voluntary basis.

#### **Term of Panel membership**

33. Beginning with the 2016-2018 triennium, membership of the panel will not in principle be for more than one triennium with the possibility to be reelected for a second term, to allow rotation in the panel composition. However, those experts whose experience is considered relevant for the tasks of the STRP could be reelected for a third term. The maximum tenure of any member including the Chair and Vice-chair will be three triennia (nine years).
34. For each triennium, whenever possible at least six members of the outgoing STRP will be retained to ensure continuity. On each occasion, the STRP Chair and Vice-Chair and the Secretariat will propose the STRP members for reappointment, based on the priority thematic work areas for endorsement by the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee.
35. Members being proposed for reappointment must have demonstrated the ability to contribute effectively to the work of the Panel and must confirm their willingness to be reappointed.

#### **Operation of the STRP**

36. The STRP will develop collaborative relationships with the International Organization Partners, thematic experts and regional organizations relevant to its priority work areas, and where feasible, directly with wetland managers and users of wetlands.

37. The STRP and the communications team of the Secretariat will also work with Administrative Authorities and CEPA Focal Points, with IOPs and other bodies, to build up a network of wetland practitioners and users, and the Secretariat will maintain regular contact with them.
38. The STRP will meet face-to-face annually to review progress on identified tasks, to consider urgent emerging issues and, in the year leading up to the COP, to discuss the areas of work to recommend to the Conference of Parties for its consideration for the next triennium.
39. The appointed STRP members will, where appropriate and with the assistance of the Secretariat, establish working groups at the start of each triennium and lead or co-lead them as appointed by the STRP Chair.
40. Meetings of the STRP will operate in the three official Convention languages and meeting documents will be made available in the Convention languages, subject to the availability of resources.

### **The STRP's three-year cycle of work**

41. There are six stages in the STRP's triennial cycle of work. Each has specific targets to be met before the STRP can progress to the next stage.

#### **Stage 1: Setting the priorities for the coming triennium**

42. The STRP will report to the final full meeting of the Standing Committee before each COP on the status of issues addressed in the triennium, including all tasks agreed by Contracting Parties in previous COPs.
43. The STRP will propose how it will complete any remaining tasks, or propose alternative solutions if necessary.
44. The STRP, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Standing Committee, will identify scientific and technical priorities for the coming triennium, and funding needs, and indicate potentially relevant partner organizations, for the consideration of the Conference of Parties.
45. The list of priorities will reflect the content of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for the coming triennium, resolutions of the last COP, and other priority issues which have been identified by regional or global wetland networks.

#### **Stage 2: COP approval of priorities for STRP programming**

46. A draft resolution will be presented to the COP which reports on the products delivered during the last triennium, and proposes a list of potential themes for the coming triennium (Annex 3) and a revised list of potential observer organizations (Annex 2).
47. The COP will approve a maximum of five priority thematic work areas for each triennium, and approve an appropriate allocation of core funds. Selection of these five areas of work will take into account their relationship and alignment with the Strategic Plan and tasks already assigned by the previous COP.

#### **Stage 3: Convening the STRP**

48. The STRP will convene as soon as possible after the COP. The Management Working Group of the Standing Committee will select the STRP members intersessionally, as soon as possible after

receiving the nominations from the Secretariat. The Management Working Group will first select the Chair and Vice-Chair, who will participate in the selection of the other members.

#### **Stage 4: Developing the STRP work plan**

49. The STRP will examine the table in Annex 3 and make recommendations on specific tasks to facilitate Parties' implementation of the actions identified in the related Strategic Plan goal / target / indicator. The resulting products will be aimed at target audiences identified in paragraph 54 (Annex 1) and produce the types of guidance identified in paragraph 55 (Annex 1) with support from the Secretariat's CEPA programme .
50. In developing these recommendations the STRP will (1) undertake a literature survey of available STRP guidance and other relevant information and (2) consult with STRP National Focal Points, the Secretariat CEPA programme and the Senior Regional Advisors, who will be responsible for securing data and information from their respective regions' Administrative Authorities and National Focal Points.
51. The first task of the new STRP will be to develop the work plan, in consultation with the Secretariat (Secretary General / Deputy SG, Senior Regional Advisors and communications team), based on the thematic work areas selected by the Contracting Parties and taking into account ongoing scientific work in other international processes, in particular IPBES.

#### **Stage 5: Approval by the Standing Committee of the work plan**

52. The STRP Chair will present the work plan to the Standing Committee at its first full meeting after the COP.

#### **Stage 6: Deliver and disseminate the products**

53. The various scientific and technical products will be prepared and communicated to target audiences during the triennium, with assistance from the Secretariat's communications team.

#### **Target audiences and the process of developing guidance materials**

54. Two target audience categories have been identified for the materials to be developed by the STRP for the 2016-2018 triennium (subject to future review):
  - i) Policy-makers, including those from the environment and water sectors and other related sectors such as energy, health and sanitation, agriculture, infrastructure; and
  - ii) Practitioners and in particular wetland managers and stakeholders, but also others from related fields, such as protected area managers and staff of wetland education centres.
55. The STRP will produce the following types of guidance:
  - i) Scientific guidance, which provides the basis for technical guidance for policy makers and practitioners.
  - ii) Science-based technical guidance, which responds to specific methodological needs of policy-makers and practitioners with each receiving a different type of technical guidance.
56. The main audience for the scientific guidance will be practitioners. The STRP guidance will draw on published peer-reviewed research and other scientific sources to help advance implementation of the Convention.

57. Technical guidance will be the main focus for STRP products. All STRP guidance will be science based.
58. The main audience for the technical guidance will be policy-makers and practitioners, while users of wetlands may also benefit from it. It will be delivered through formats including handbooks, manuals, fact sheets, webinars and videos with support of the Secretariat's CEPA programme.
59. Contracting Parties will request scientific and technical guidance from the STRP through the Secretariat and STRP Chair which will facilitate the fulfilment of the support requested by parties, as appropriate.
60. The approach to the development of guidance will reflect national needs but also seek a regional approach. Senior Regional Advisors and the STRP National Focal Points will collaborate to define national and regional priorities and needs.
61. The Secretariat's communications team will ensure all materials are clear and accessible, and relevant to targeted audiences. It will monitor and evaluate the reach and impact of the products, and report its findings to the STRP.
62. The process for developing guidance will be as follows:
  - i) The Contracting Parties will identify the audience for each of the proposed technical products, and the Secretariat will help to define the needs of each audience group.
  - ii) The Secretariat will work with the STRP members to determine the type, content, format and design for each technical product.
  - iii) The STRP members will identify sources of information and existing guidance, and then develop the guidance, in line with the thematic priorities and the current Strategic Plan.
  - iv) Additional explanatory summaries, and interpretive information related to the technical guidance directed at policy-makers, will be developed by the Secretariat's communications team.
  - v) The Secretariat will communicate and distribute the guidance, with assistance from STRP members, International Organization Partners, STRP National Focal Points and other partners.
  - vi) The Secretariat will lead on monitoring the application of the guidance and report on this to the STRP and the Standing Committee.
  - vii) The Secretariat will commission a periodic review of the use of the guidance and report on this to the Standing Committee.

## 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



## Annex 3

### STRP priority thematic work areas for 2016-2018

STRP priorities were selected based on the following criteria (a) the ones with the most overlap in prioritization across regions that provided views (Africa, Americas and Asia) combined with (b) the strongest case vis-à-vis matching the strategic plan goals and targets.

<b>STRP Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024</b>	<b>Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024 [Strategic Goals in Resolution XII.5 have been updated in line with the outcome of the discussion on Resolution XII.2]</b>
<p>Best practice methodologies / tools to monitor Ramsar Sites, including surveying, mapping, and inventorying recognizing traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.</p>	<p><b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b></p> <p><b>Target 5</b> The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management</p> <p><b>Target 7</b> Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed</p> <p><b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Target 10</b> The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.</p> <p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 14</b> Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Best practices for developing and implementing management plans, action plans and other tools for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands.</p>	<p><b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Target 8</b> National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p>

	<p><b>Target 9</b> The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p> <p><b>Target 11</b> Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p><b>Target 12</b> Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 14</b> Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Methodologies for the economic and non-economic valuation of the values of the goods and services of wetlands.</p>	<p><b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation.</b></p> <p><b>Target 1</b> Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.</p> <p><b>Target 3</b> The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.</p> <p><b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Target 8</b> National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p><b>Target 9</b> The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p>

	<p><b>Target 11</b> Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p><b>Target 12</b> Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 14</b> Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Balancing wetland conservation and development e.g. infrastructure, urbanization, forestry, extractive industries, and agriculture.</p>	<p><b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation.</b></p> <p><b>Target 1</b> Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.</p> <p><b>Target 3</b> The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.</p> <p><b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Target 8</b> National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p><b>Target 9</b> The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p> <p><b>Target 11</b> Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p><b>Target 12</b> Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority</p>

	<p>to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><b>Target 13</b> Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.</p> <p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 14</b> Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Climate change and wetlands: innovative methodologies for wetlands restoration.</p>	<p><b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Target 8</b> National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p><b>Target 9</b> The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p> <p><b>Target 11</b> Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p><b>Target 12</b> Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p><b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b></p> <p><b>Target 14</b> Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>