

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands Actions for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China and Geneva, Switzerland, 5-13 November 2022**

Ramsar COP14 Inf.4

**Terms of References of the CEPA Oversight Panel
as part of the new CEPA approach**

Note from the Secretariat:

Germany on behalf of the 27 Member States of the European Union has proposed an Annex 3 to document COP14 Doc.18.10 *Draft resolution on the new CEPA approach* with “Terms of References of the CEPA Oversight Panel as part of the new CEPA approach”. The Conference requested this Annex be published as an information document for Parties to review.

Functions of the CEPA Oversight Panel (hereafter referred to as the Panel):

1. Deliver results originating from specific CEPA requests “included in COP resolutions and the Strategic Plan.
2. Examine CEPA needs and gaps in implementation in order to identify CEPA activities to be integrated in the Strategic Plan.
3. Monitor and report on current CEPA issues within the Convention and the progress of implementation of current CEPA Priorities, especially with reference to the CEPA activities included in the Strategic Plan as well as COP resolutions.
4. Advise the Standing Committee and the Secretariat on the CEPA work priorities at the national and international level, including the CEPA priorities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).
5. Liaise with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to improve CEPA synergies across conventions.

Composition of the CEPA Panel

The CEPA Panel for each triennium should be comprised of 10-15 people guided by the criteria below. All members should be nominated in advance of each meeting of the Conference of the Parties. It is the task of the Secretariat to ensure the timely distribution of the requests for nominations as well as the compilation of nominations for approval at each meeting of the Contracting Parties. Should a need for further expertise arise during the triennium that cannot be

met by the selected composition of the Panel, it is recommended that the Panel invite additional CEPA experts as required.

Selection criteria

- i. CEPA activities are diverse and thus require a range of expertise. This diversity of expertise should be reflected in the composition of the Panel.
- ii. The Panel should have balanced representation from all Ramsar geographic regions.
- iii. The Panel should ideally be comprised of at least one CEPA NGO Focal Point and one CEPA Government Focal Point.
- iv. International Organization Partners should select one representative that will act as the liaison between the Panel and the six IOPs.
- v. The Panel should comprise of a youth representative.
- vi. The Panel should comprise of an indigenous peoples' representative as feasible.
- vii. The Panel should be supported by two Ramsar Secretariat staff members with responsibility to work on CEPA implementation.
- viii. To ensure institutional memory, it is recommended that at least one of the Panel's members has served as Panel member during the previous triennium.
- ix. In order to ensure collaboration and information exchange between the CEPA OP and other Convention bodies, specifically the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, a representative from each body should be nominated to serve on the CEPA OP.

Modus operandi

1. Members should be appointed for the period of each triennium between meetings of the Conference of the Parties with the option to extend their appointment.
2. The Panel for each triennium will convene for the first time at the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which it was established. At this occasion it will select its Chair and Vice-Chair for the triennium.
3. The CEPA Focal Point representatives should, as much as possible, and as necessary, consult with and seek input from all other government and NGO CEPA Focal Points.
4. The Panel will operate as much as possible through electronic means (e-mail, video conferences, etc.). If it is thought necessary, and if funding permits, the Panel may seek to meet during the triennium.
5. The Panel should report on its progress to each meeting of the Standing Committee.
6. Due to financial limitations, the main working language of the Panel will be English and the results shall be translated into the official languages of the Convention and other languages and posted on the Ramsar website as well as the Ramsar CEPA electronic network.