

RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran 1971)  
8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEPA Oversight Panel  
Skype call

## Report of the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEPA Oversight Panel 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2016

### **Present:**

**Members:** David Papps (Chair), Abdou Salam Kane, Sari Airas, Christine Prietto, Chris Rostron, Pyae Phyo Aung

**Secretariat staff:** Camilla Chalmers, Magdalena Luczak

**Apologies:** Channa Bambaradeniya (middle of the night in the US), Arturo Dominici (middle of the night in Panama), Molefe Mokhatla

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### **Welcome and introductory remarks**

1. David Papps, CEPA Panel Chair, welcomed Panel members to the 8<sup>th</sup> CEPA Oversight Panel meeting and thanked the Secretariat for organizing the meeting. The Chair proposed the duration time of the meeting for 45mins to one hour.

### **Brief introduction of formation of the new Oversight Panel & Members**

2. The Chair invited the Panel members to briefly introduce themselves.

3. Camilla Chalmers referred to the SC51 when she presented the new Panel members and the process of formation / dissolution of Panel, the rest of the presentation was not given due to lack of time.

Camilla Chalmers drew attention to the work done by the Secretariat Internal Comms Officer in redesigning the CEPA pages on the website where the Terms of Reference for the CEPA Oversight Panel (Annex to Ramsar COP9 Resolution IX.18) and a paragraph for each new Panel member are now available under "Ramsar CEPA Programme".

Camilla Chalmers requested that Abdou Salam Kane send through a photograph to be included within the pages.

### **Adoption of the agenda**

4. The agenda was adopted without amendments.

### **Establishing & prioritising Panel's tasks during the triennium:**

5. Confirming working practices / meetings

- The Panel agreed to have 2 or 3 meetings per year, 1 meeting in person during the triennium;
- The Chair and the Secretariat agreed on more regular communication mainly by email.

### **CEPA Oversight Panel / CEPA Working Group**

6. Roles and responsibilities of Panel

- Christine Prietto, the longest active Panel member (this is her 4<sup>th</sup> triennium!) emphasized that the CEPA Panel's work has evolved into a clear mandate. Today it is an established body of the Convention with a major role in monitoring the CEPA plan within the Convention and report on delivering it.
- The biggest challenge for the Panel is to meet in person.

7. Process of collaboration

- The Chair will reach out to the Chair of the WG (USA) in advance of Working Group meeting and during SC52 to talk about working processes and collaboration.
- The CEPA Panel should start to work on the Panel's work plan.

**CEPA Action Plan**

9. Process for development: documents for SC52

- Camilla Chalmers gave an over view of the development of the Secretariat CEPA Action Plan since it's initiation to set the historical context for the current document.

As the CEPA Resolution had been one of the first Resolutions to be completed, and with a view to getting 'ahead of the game', a draft CEPA Action Plan had been tabled as Info.doc 26 for COP12, to be used as a discussion point with Parties on both overall content and prioritisation. Unfortunately limited time for such discussions precluded significant development. In SC50 the USA requested the establishment of a CEPA Working Group to work with the Secretariat to guide and shape the Action Plan.

Any further proposed Action Plan should therefore be drafted in full consultation with the Panel and the new Working Group.

Restrictions on Parties' time and the packed agenda of SC51 meant that this group have yet to meet.

In the meantime, the Secretariat has produced a revised working document mapping proposed activities more clearly to the CEPA Resolution Goals and Targets (under the umbrella of the Strategic Plan) which had been shared with the Panel.

- Based on this context, and following additional discussions with the Oversight Panel Chair, Camilla Chalmers outlined the proposed next steps for the evolution of the Secretariat CEPA Action Plan namely that:
  - It be treated as a working document for further discussions with the Panel;
  - Comments and inputs would be collated in a transparent manner within the Panel over the next three weeks;
  - An updated Secretariat CEPA Action Plan would then be submitted by the Secretariat to the 9<sup>th</sup> CEPA Oversight Panel Meeting for further discussion;
  - The agreed document could then be submitted for translation for the CEPA Working Group to review during SC52 (or before pending confirmation of teleconference meeting);
  - A summary info.doc of this process would be submitted to SC52 as an overview of the agreed steps with a link to the working document as of 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016;
  - The Chair of the Oversight Panel (with support from the Secretariat) would give a review of this process during a verbal presentation at SC52;
  - Throughout this process the priorities of the Executive Team (website & RSIS) and the already agreed requirements of the Secretariat such as the update of the Ramsar Handbook Series would continue so that no momentum was lost.
- Christine Prietto confirmed that the Panel had always maintained a close working relationship with the CEPA Programme Officer and had offered guidance and comments into the Secretariat Work Plan previously.
- Camilla Chalmers emphasised the need to liaise with the CEPA WG and ensure expectations were being met.

10. Prioritisation (Executive Team priority areas)

- Camilla Chalmers outlined current main Communications tasks (Executive Team priority areas) which are the Ramsar website, RSIS and updating handbooks;
- The Chair agreed on these priorities.

11. Next steps

- CEPA Oversight Panel Work Plan – Christine Prietto clarified the specific requirement for the Panel to have its own Work Plan and provided useful background to the Panel’s previous rolling work plan, drawing attention to the Reports from the preceding seven Panel meetings. CP agreed to send round related documents relevant for the establishment of the new Work Plan.
- The Chair thanked Christine Prietto for her advice and recommended that he works closely with the Secretariat on developing a plan for the next triennium.
- Panel discussed inviting capacity building expert, Esther Koopmanschap, to work with the Panel, but before inviting the expert the objectives of capacity building need to be clarified.

**Any other business**

12. Next Panel meeting

- The Chair proposed to organise another CEPA Panel meeting before the SC52;
- For the SC52 reports from the 8th and 9th CEPA Oversight Panel meetings will be provided.

13. Format of the next meeting

- During 8<sup>th</sup> Panel meeting (skype call) Panel’s members Abdou Salam Kane, Pyae Phyo Aung and Sari Airas dropped out due to connection issues. The next meeting will be organized as a teleconference hopefully being more reliable.

**Proposed Timing Plan leading into SC52**

**7.3.16** 8th CEPA Oversight Panel Meeting

**04.4.16** Feedback from Oversight Panel on the working draft ‘Secretariat CEPA Action Plan’

**11.4.16** Revision and update of the Secretariat CEPA Action Plan

**20.4.16** Potential date for 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CEPA Oversight Panel

**25.4.16** Agreement and sign-off on working document ‘Secretariat CEPA Action Plan’

**02.5.16** Translation into French and Spanish and distribution to the CEPA Working Group for further discussion

**17.6.16** Report of CEPA Oversight Panel Chair to SC52