

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
9th Meeting of the CEPA Oversight Panel
Tele-conference

Report of the 9th Meeting of the CEPA Oversight Panel
2nd June, 2016

Members: David Papps (Chair), Channa Bambaradeniya, Sari Airas, Chris Rostron, Pyae Phyo Aung, Arturo Dominicci

Ramsar Convention Secretariat staff: Ania Grobicki, Camilla Chalmers, Magdalena Luczak

Apologies: Christine Prietto, Molefe Mokhatla, Abdou Salam Kane (out of office)

Welcome and introductory remarks

- 1. David Papps, CEPA Panel Chair, welcomed Panel members to the 9th CEPA Oversight Panel meeting and thanked the Secretariat for the work accomplished so far.

Adoption of the agenda

- 2. The agenda was adopted without amendments.

Review of actions from last Oversight Panel Meeting

- [Report of the 8th CEPA Oversight Panel meeting](#) was circulated to Panel members on the 7th of March 2016;
- David Papps reached out to the CEPA Working Group, more detail to follow below in the report;
- CEPA Secretariat Action Plan feedback was compiled and an updated, simplified version of the Action Plan was sent to Panel members;
- Christine Prietto has sent guidance on the CEPA Oversight Panel workplan;
- Camilla Chalmers confirmed that the Secretariat continues the work on main tasks which are the Ramsar website, RSIS, and updating handbooks (Executive Team priority areas);
- The second Panel meeting in 2016 was organized before the SC52 as a teleconference as planned.

Secretariat's CEPA Action Plan

- 3. Process for development: documents for discussion

- David Papps confirmed that the current version of the CEPA Secretariat Action Plan is a working document for discussion with the CEPA Working Group;
- David Papps confirmed that the current version is still a work in progress, the document is still open to contributions and comments from Panel members;
- Camilla Chalmers confirmed that while some of the tasks within the Action Plan are already completed or ongoing, the Secretariat would very much welcome feedback from the Panel on priorities;
- Ania Grobicki emphasized that the current CEPA Action Plan is an integral part of the proposed Secretariat Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium, to be discussed by Parties during SC52. An updated version of the plan cross-referenced with the Secretariat Work Plan and Strategic Plan will be finalized and distributed.

- 4. Liaising with CEPA Working Group

- David Papps confirmed the ongoing talks with the CEPA Working Group Chair and further face to face meetings are taking place before the SC52 and the Working Group meeting on the 13th of June. SC52 will clarify the respective roles of the CEPA Oversight Panel and the CEPA Working Group and the nature of work between these entities so there is no duplication in work but the collaboration is complementary. CEPA Working Group's desire is to refine and re-focus the CEPA Action Plan considering the limited resources of the Secretariat; CEPA priorities need to be identified. The SC52 should bring an absolute clarity about the CEPA work content and roles.

- Ania Grobicki shared her understanding of the respective roles of the CEPA Oversight Panel and the CEPA Working Group in terms of demand and supply: on the demand side, the Oversight Panel advises on CEPA issues and priorities at the national and international levels, while on the supply side, the WG ensures that the Secretariat Action Plan will supply the relevant materials and actions to help implement the CEPA Programme.
- Camilla Chalmers emphasized the valuable historical role the OP has played.

5. Reporting to SC52

- Camilla Chalmers confirmed times of CEPA meetings during the SC52:
 - Monday, 13 June 2016 Meeting of the Working Group on CEPA Implementation;
 - Friday, 17 June 2016, CEPA and Secretariat Communications.

CEPA Oversight Panel Work Plan

- Sari Airas raised a question if the CEPA Panel TOR still applies for the Panels' work;
- David Papps confirmed that yes, the Res. XII.9, paragraph 11 states "REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to continue to monitor and report on CEPA issues at the national level within the Convention and the progress of implementation of the CEPA Programme as established by this Resolution, and to advise the Standing Committee and the Secretariat on the CEPA work priorities at the national and international levels". [Terms of Reference for the CEPA Oversight Panel](#) still apply.

Any other business

- Chris Rostrom raised the matter of the "face to face" CEPA Panel meeting in the future and offered that the WWT could host the next meeting at the London Wetland Centre in the UK;
- David Papps thanked Chris Rostrom for this proposition and confirmed that the "face to face" Panel meeting will be considered after the SC52 when there is clarity on CEPA roles and actions.

Next steps

- Chris Rostrom and Sari Airas will share with Panel members previous CEPA Panel Work Plans;
- Secretariat to send a link to reports of 7 previous CEPA Panel meetings;
- Secretariat will circulate the CEPA Action Plan cross-referenced with the Secretariat Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium;
- Secretariat will also circulate CEPA Programmes of other Conventions;
- Secretariat will share with Panel relevant CEPA section from National Report for reference.