

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

**29th Meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland, 26-28 February 2003**

DOC. SC29-4

Agenda item 6.1

Priorities for the STRP Work Plan 2003-2005 and the first meeting of the STRP

Action requested: The Standing Committee is requested to review the attached list of tasks requested of the STRP by COP8, and determine the priorities for the work of the STRP for the 2003-2005 triennium. The Committee is also requested to confirm the dates for the first meeting of the STRP and approve the outline structure proposed for the meeting.

Establishment of priorities for the STRP Work Plan 2003-2005

1. The Actions adopted in Section II of Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25) and the additional Actions called for in other COP8 Resolutions include a very large number of major tasks requested of the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel.
2. During COP8 it was fully recognized that, even allowing for more efficient and effective work of the Panel operating under its new *modus operandi*, it would likely have insufficient capacity and resources to undertake all these tasks. Accordingly, COP8 Resolution VIII.26 requests the Standing Committee at its first meeting of the triennium to determine the priority activities which should be undertaken by the STRP during 2003-2005.
3. Based on the actions pertinent to the STRP Strategic Plan 2003-2005 and other relevant actions called for in Resolutions adopted by COP8, the Bureau has prepared a full list of these tasks, provided in the Annex to this note. The Standing Committee should note that this full task list covers the STRP work for the coming two triennia, and that not all tasks therefore need to be delivered for consideration by COP9.
4. On the basis of this list of tasks and priorities indicated by COP8, the Bureau has suggested a proposed priority for the Panel for 2003-2005.
5. From the experience gained in 1999-2002, the Bureau strongly recommends that the Standing Committee identify for the STRP a maximum of six priority areas for its work during 2003-2005 (noting that each work area may include several tasks for the Panel).
6. The Standing Committee is invited to note that several options exist for allocating a priority to each STRP task for the 2003-2005 triennium, including:
 - i) the task is a high priority for the 2003-2005 triennium;

- ii) the task is a lower priority for the 2003-2005 triennium, to be undertaken only if additional capacity or resources can be identified, for example through an IOP or observer organization to the STRP agreeing to undertake the task;
 - iii) the task is a low priority for 2003-2005, and should be deferred for further consideration during the 2005-2008 triennium
7. It should also be noted that certain STRP tasks are wholly dependent upon other work first being undertaken or provided by others, for example the preparation and provision of case studies by Contracting Parties and other organizations. Such tasks are indicated in the Annex to this note. For these tasks the Standing Committee may consider requesting the STRP to prepare at its 2003 meeting an outline proposal for undertaking its part of work, which would be subsequently initiated in 2004, capacity and time permitting, once the relevant materials become available.
8. In determining STRP's priority tasks, the Standing Committee should also recall that Action 17.1.5 of the Strategic Plan indicates that ongoing priority actions of the STRP are:
- a) development of new tools to assist Parties with the implementation of the wise use principle; and
 - b) review of the Ramsar Criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance, to ensure that these reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities.
9. On the basis of this analysis, the Bureau recommends that the Standing Committee consider indicating the following as top priorities for 2003-2005 for the core work to the STRP:
- i) **Wetland inventory and assessment:** preparation of further guidance; contributing to update of *Global Review of Wetland Resources and priorities for wetland inventory* (if funding for this project becomes available); preparation of further guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment and monitoring, and consolidation and harmonisation of all guidance through an integrated framework for inventory, assessment and monitoring;
 - ii) Review, updating and elaboration of the **Wise Use Concept** and guidelines;
 - iii) **Water resource management:** preparation of new guidance, including on environmental flow methodologies, wetlands and groundwater;
 - iv) **CEPA:** establishment of a CEPA Expert Working Group to contribute to all other areas of STRP work;
 - v) **Ramsar site designation:** preparation of substantial further guidance on the application of the *Strategic Framework*, including developing and harmonising the Ramsar Information Sheet with ecological character statements, and the development of additional socio-economic and cultural designation criteria in relation to CBD's Annex 1 list of features of biological diversity;

- vi) **Managing and monitoring Ramsar sites:** preparation of a 'field guide' for using Ramsar's management planning guidance, further guidance on zonation and monitoring, including detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character, and analysis of status and trends of ecological character of Ramsar sites in their broader context.
10. It is recommended that the following other work areas should be undertaken through the STRP process during 2003-2005 only if one or more contributing organizations (IOPs, observer organizations) has the appropriate capacity and agrees to fully undertake the work and provide it for review by the second full meeting of the Panel:
- i) **Climate change:** if prepared by IPCC, review of Technical Paper and preparation and peer review of key issues synthesis;
 - ii) **Environmental and strategic impact assessment;**
 - iii) **Peatlands:** participation in Global Action Coordinating Committee, once established;
 - iv) **Restoration and rehabilitation,** including compensation for wetland losses;
 - v) **Invasive alien species;**
 - vi) **Local communities and indigenous peoples:** guidance on implementing Participatory Environmental Management;
 - vii) **Incentives;**
 - viii) **Ramsar site designation:** further guidance on 'under-represented' wetland types; and
 - ix) **Sharing of expertise and information:** assisting information sharing of traditional, indigenous and more recent technological knowledge.
11. The Standing Committee should note that, as identified in DOC. SC29-12, whilst the Convention's budget for 2003-2005 includes funding for attendance at STRP meetings by members from OECD-DAC list countries, as well as for the STRP Support Service, no funds are available from the Convention's core budget for the substantive work of the Panel for its preparation of reports and guidelines, and that voluntary contributions will need to be sought for such work.

The first meeting of the STRP

12. The first meeting of the STRP is planned for Tuesday 8 to Friday 11 April 2003, in Gland, Switzerland. All nominees for Panel membership have been advised of these planned dates.
13. This timing is in line with the schedule outlined in the STRP's *modus operandi*. The Bureau considers that this is the earliest dates on which, logistically, the meeting can be held after the appointment of the Panel's members and Chair by the Standing Committee, since it

leaves only five weeks to inform the appointees and make their travel arrangements, and prepare and issue the Agenda and papers for the meeting. Owing to the timing of the Easter holiday in mid-April, holding the first STRP meeting after these dates would mean a considerable delay to STRP initiating its agreed work for COP9.

14. The Bureau proposes that this meeting will last for four days. The first morning will be devoted an “induction and briefing session” as called for in the *modus operandi*, designed to ensure that all participants, and especially members appointed for the first time, are fully aware of their respective roles and responsibilities.
15. As established by its *modus operandi*, the first meeting of the Panel has a major set of tasks to deliver, as follows:
 - i) establish the STRP work plan for the triennium, based on the tasks and priorities identified by the COP and Standing Committee, also taking into account issues arising from the Panel’s role in strategically reviewing the current tools and guidance available to Parties and the new and emerging issues for the Convention;
 - ii) establish an Expert Working Group for each substantive task in the STRP work plan, identify the members of each Working Group, and agree the *modus operandi* for each Working Group to undertake its tasks;
 - iii) identify additional experts to be invited to contribute to the work of each Working Group, either in the drafting of materials or in reviewing them. In doing that, the STRP should give due consideration to geographical and gender balance and to the language abilities of the proposed experts; and
 - iv) identify key additional strategic issues for consideration by the STRP during the triennium and establish a Working Group to progress these for reporting to the next COP.
16. In undertaking tasks ii) and iii) the Panel will be assisted by the STRP Support Service (see Agenda item 6.2).
17. A proposed outline agenda and schedule of work for the meeting is as follows:

Tuesday 8 April

a.m. Induction and briefing session
 Election of STRP Vice-Chair

p.m. Review of 2003-2005 work priorities as determined by the Standing
 Committee

Wednesday 9 April

a.m. & p.m. Development of outline STRP Work Plan 2003-2005, establishment of
 Expert Working Groups and their core membership

Thursday 10 April

a.m. & p.m. Expert Working Groups: break-out meetings to develop their *modus operandi*, including proposed products, additional experts to invite to participate, schedule, estimation of additional resources needed for the work etc.

Friday 11 April

a.m. Identification of key additional strategic issues for STRP consideration
Agreement on procedures for delivering on-going STRP work tasks

p.m. Finalization of STRP Work Plan 2003-2005
Date and venue of next full STRP meeting

18. The full Agenda will be drafted and agreed with the Chair of STRP in the first week of March 2003, after the decisions on STRP's Work Plan by the Standing Committee.

ANNEX

List of tasks requested of the STRP for the period 2003-2008

Derived from Actions in Section II of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25), and all other relevant actions called for in Resolutions adopted by COP8

Operational Objectives themes: Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008	Provisional STRP tasks 2003-2005	Notes and Proposed 2003-2005 priorities
Strategic Plan Action and COP8 Resolution Action numbers are shown in square brackets [...].		
1. Inventory and assessment		
1.1. Wetland inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to update of the <i>Global Review of Wetland Resources and Priorities for Wetland Inventory</i>, reporting to COP9 [1.1.5] • Further review application of remote sensing data, low-cost GIS, and classification systems in wetland inventory, reporting to COP9 [R1.1.i] (Resolution VIII.6) 	High (if project resource become available) High
1.2 Wetland assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further review and, as appropriate, develop guidance and report to COP9, concerning identified gaps and disharmonies in defining and reporting the ecological character of wetlands through inventory, assessment, monitoring and management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, giving priority to advice and guidance on practical matters on issues that should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) the Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type, (bio)geographical regionalization schemes, and their application in defining and reporting the ecological character of wetlands; ii) determining the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, including techniques for delineating and mapping wetlands and for evaluating the values and functions, goods and services provided by wetlands; iii) incorporation of assessment and management processes and practical methods (including multi-scalar methods for wetland assessment and monitoring) developed by other programmes, including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), into the Ramsar "Toolkit" of Wise Use Handbooks; iv) practical methods, including indicators, for monitoring wetlands and for the rapid assessment of wetland biodiversity, including both inland waters and coastal and marine systems; v) incorporation of environmental impact and 	High

	strategic environmental assessment into wetland risk assessment procedures; and	
	vi) harmonization of definitions and terms throughout the suite of Ramsar guidance on inventory, assessment, monitoring and management of the ecological character of wetlands [R1.2.viii] (Resolution VIII.7)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider consolidation of existing Convention guidance and develop an integrated framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring [R1.2.ix] 	High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to, review, and utilise the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment in reporting to COP9 on wetland status and trends [1.2.1] 	ongoing, through MA STRP focal points
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to assessment of contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to fisheries maintenance, and recommend sustainable management practices [1.2.6] 	defer to 2005-8 triennium
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop guidelines for rapid assessment (including indicators) of wetland biodiversity and functions for inland and coastal and marine ecosystems (with CBD), for COP9 [1.2.3] 	High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop methodologies for vulnerability assessment of wetlands to change in ecological character (incl. to impacts of climate change, alien species invasion and agricultural practices [1.2.4] 	High

2. Policies and legislation, including impact assessment and valuation

2.2 Development, review and amendment of policies, legislation, institutions and practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare advice for Contracting Parties on applying strategic environmental assessment in the context of the Convention's guidelines [R2.2.v] (Resolution VIII.9) 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a synthesis of lessons learned from case studies [of impact assessment on wetlands] submitted by CPs, including indications of linkages with existing Ramsar guidance on other topics where relevant [R2.2.viii] (Resolution VIII.9) 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review references to impact assessment in Ramsar COP decisions, guidelines and other Ramsar publications, and in particular identify and seek to correct if necessary any inconsistencies of approach, and make the results of such a review available as an updated index of references to impact assessment in Ramsar materials [R2.2.ix] (resolution VIII.9) 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to identify wetland-related elements of existing guidelines on impact assessment, to identify important gaps where such guidance is failing fully to meet the needs of Contracting Parties, and to investigate possible ways of filling such gaps, taking into account CBD's COP6 guidance on impact assessment in relation 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified

	to sacred and indigenous and local communities' lands [R2.2.x] [(Resolution VIII.9)]	
3. Integration of wetland wise use into sustainable development		
3.1 Methodologies for wetland conservation and wise use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Wise Use concept, its applicability and consistency with sustainable development objectives [3.1.1] 	High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compile advice, methods and best practice studies on wise use of wetlands, including application of the ecosystem approach [3.1.2] 	High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new tools to assist Parties with the implementation of the wise use principle [17.1.5] 	High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to technology transfer initiatives for sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems [R3.1.iv] 	Lower
3.2 Peatlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands and its preparation of an implementation plan for global action on peatlands [R3.2.i] (Resolution VIII.17) 	Lower (depends on Coordinating Committee mechanism being established)
3.4 Integration of wetland policies into broader planning and management from local to national scales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River basin management: Review case studies compiled through the River Basin Initiative and prepare additional guidance (as necessary) on integrating wetlands, biodiversity and river basin management [3.4.3] 	Depends on provision of case studies – defer to 2005-8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dams: Develop guidelines for considering full environmental, social and economic impacts of large dam construction on wetland and river systems, for COP9 [3.4.4] 	Lower
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare report on environmental flow methodologies, to assist in management of dam-related impacts, for COP9 [R3.4.v] (Resolution VIII.2) 	High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water allocation and management: Contribute to report to COP9 on successes achieved and lessons learnt from demonstrating good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands [R3.4.ix] (Resolution VIII.1) 	Depends on provision of case studies – defer to 2005-8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Resolutions VIII.1 and VIII.2 and prepare further guidance, if required, for COP9 [R3.4.xi] (Resolution VIII.1) 	Defer to 2005-8, for review and consolidation of COP8 and COP9 guidance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater: Review and prepare guidelines, as appropriate, on the role of wetlands in groundwater recharge and storage and of groundwater in maintaining the ecological character of wetlands, and on the impacts of groundwater abstraction on wetlands [Resolution VIII.1]. Prepare guidance, as appropriate, on sustainable use of groundwater to maintain wetland ecosystem 	High

	functions [3.4.5]	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Coastal Zone Management: Review case studies (from CPs) of integrating wetlands and ICZM, as basis for preparing further guidance on wetlands and ICZM. [R3.4.vi] (Resolution VIII.4) 	Depends on provision of case studies – defer to 2005-8
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change: Collaborate with IPCC and UNFCCC to promote management of wetlands and mitigation of climate change impacts (particularly in context of land use, land use change and rising sea levels, forestry, peatlands and agriculture [3.4.8]) 	Lower
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If, as requested, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has prepared a Technical Paper on the relationship between wetlands and climate change, in time for consideration at the second STRP meeting prior to COP9, develop, on the basis of the IPCC Technical Paper, a synthesis of key issues on wetlands and climate change as an information paper, which should undergo a review process as determined by the STRP, for consideration by Contracting Parties at COP9. [R3.4.xxi] Resolution VIII.3) 	High (but depends on IPCC agreement to undertake paper preparation)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture: Ensure that adequate consideration of agriculture and wetland issues is incorporated into other relevant areas of work that the STRP may be dealing with, including global climate change, groundwater and its interaction with surface water, toxic chemicals and desertification [R3.4.xxii] (Resolution VIII.34) 	(Cross-cutting task for other STRP work)
4. Restoration and rehabilitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile information on new research and methodologies for restoration and rehabilitation of lost wetlands and disseminate this information [4.13] 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to identification of training opportunities and expertise in wetland restoration and creation of relevant training modules as part of the Ramsar Wetland Training Initiative, once established. [R4.1.vi] (Resolution VIII.16). 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute relevant addition information on wetland restoration projects and experience to Ramsar's restoration Web site, and particularly provide demonstration projects that illustrate the application of the principles and guidelines adopted by Resolution VIII.16. [R4.1.ix] (Resolution VIII.16) 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further develop tools and guidance on wetland restoration, including a glossary of wetland restoration terminology and guidance on small dams and wetland restoration [R4.1.x] (Resolution VIII.16) 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare guidance on compensation for wetland losses, in response to Resolution VIII.24, and report to COP9 [R4.1.xi] (Resolution VIII.16) 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified

5. Invasive alien species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop (with GISP, CBD, IOPs and interested Parties) practical guidance on prevention, control and eradication of alien species [5.1.2] 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
6. Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare for COP9 methodologies or guidelines, including case studies, for effective implementation of Participatory Environmental Management. [R6.1.ii] (Resolution VIII.36) 	Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified
8. Incentives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to contribute to development of the Internet-based resource kit (http://www.biodiversityeconomics.org/incentives/policies-07-00.htm) on positive incentives prepared and maintained by IUCN—the World Conservation Union. [8.1.2] Advise the Ramsar Bureau on the relevance, quality, and accessibility of the information provided on the web-based resource kit (see Action 8.1.2) and indicate further needs regarding information on incentive measures. [R8.1.iv] (Resolution VIII.23) Report to COP9 on progress in design, implementation, monitoring, and assessment of incentive measures and identification and removal of perverse incentives [8.1.3] Investigate linkages between incentives and related topics including financial mechanisms, trade, impact assessment and valuation (in collaboration with IUCN, IAIA, other relevant bodies and experts and the Bureau) [R8.1.v] (Resolution VIII.23) Continue to identify wetland-related elements of existing guidelines on incentive measures, so as to recognize important gaps where such guidance is failing to meet fully the needs of the Parties, investigate possible ways of filling such gaps, and to prepare a report on these matters for COP9 (in collaboration with IUCN, the subsidiary bodies of other environmental conventions, and other relevant organizations) [R8.1.vi] (Resolution VIII.23) 	<p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p> <p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p> <p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p> <p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p> <p>Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified</p>
9. Communication, education, and public awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) Working Group [R9.i.iii]. Priority tasks are to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> For each task within the STRP's programme of work for the triennium, provide ongoing input to the various working groups to ensure CEPA issues are considered fully and reflected appropriately in the guidance developed for Parties' consideration at COP9. Evaluate the CEPA-related information provided in the National Reports submitted for COP8 and identify the major impediments and constraints being 	High

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- experienced by Parties in this area. Provide summary advice on this to the STRP and Standing Committee, and use it to guide the actions of this Working Group.
3. Review existing Ramsar guidance, and develop additional guidance, as required, for Parties, STRP, Bureau and IOPs, on CEPA issues and on opportunities which exist in the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 to further the objectives of the CEPA Programme.
 4. Develop for consideration at COP9 additional guidance based on practical experiences to enhance Ramsar's *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* (Resolution VIII.14), *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* (Resolution VII.8), and the *Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites* annexed to Resolution VIII.19, in order to show the role of CEPA in local management action.
 5. Review Ramsar's other guidance for Parties (as contained in the Wise Use "Toolkit") and, where appropriate, develop additional guidance to indicate how CEPA can be integrated into these policy and planning approaches.
 6. Review the CEPA programmes and activities of other international conventions and programmes, including but not restricted to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB), and provide advice to the Ramsar Bureau on how to advance more harmonised approaches.
 7. Develop the scope and Terms of Reference for pilot projects to evaluate a range of approaches for applying CEPA in promoting the wise use of wetlands
 8. Review existing models and case studies for undertaking wetland CEPA activities and document the lessons learned from these experiences. Make these conclusions and case studies available to the Ramsar Bureau for distribution to Contracting Parties and other interested bodies.
 9. In coordination with the Ramsar Bureau, ensure that the conclusions from the reviews and revision of National Wetland CEPA Action Plans are available to all Contracting Parties, as working examples of CEPA
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Action Plans.

10. Designation of Ramsar sites

10.1. Application of the Strategic Framework

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide interpretation of the term ‘under-represented type’ in the context of available information on the global extent of different wetland types and representation of these in the Ramsar List, and investigate methods for defining targets for representation of wetland types in the Ramsar List in the context of the Strategic Framework for the future development of the List (Resolution VII.11), and report to COP9. [R10.1.iii] (Resolution VIII.11) | High |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare guidance for the clear definition of the ecological character features in the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), including recommendations for change to the structure and content of the RIS and, as appropriate, further guidance on the application of the Criteria for the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance in the <i>Strategic Framework and future development of the Ramsar List</i> (Resolution VII.11) and the additional guidelines for the identification and designation of under-represented wetland types (Resolution VIII.11) in the definition of the ecological character of Ramsar [R10.1.x](Resolution VIII.7) | High |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep under review the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance to ensure that these reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities [17.1.5] | High |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop, for consideration by COP9, additional Criteria and guidelines for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites concerning their socio-economic and cultural values and functions that are relevant to biological diversity, as listed in Annex 1 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which would be applied on each occasion in conjunction with one or more existing criteria for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites; and include in this work a full analysis of the implications for Contracting Parties of the implementation of such criteria for the management of Ramsar sites, including Contracting Party obligations and responsibilities for maintaining the ecological character of any such sites so selected so as to ensure that the coherent national networks of Ramsar sites fully incorporate all relevant aspects of the biological diversity of wetlands. [R10.1.xi] (Resolution VIII.10) | High |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider allocating an open field in section of the Ramsar Information Sheet concerning wetland types, to facilitate the process of review of the Ramsar wetland | |

classification system with a view to including additional types [R10.1.xii] (Resolution VIII.13) High

- Harmonize of the layout and information fields of the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) and the core data fields recommended in the Ramsar *Framework for Wetland Inventory* [R10.1.xiii] (Resolution VIII.7) High

- Investigate the inclusion of a core data field in the Ramsar Information Sheet to allow for the insertion of a precise site boundary description and consider the preparation of guidance about this field for inclusion in the accompanying RIS *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* [R10.1.xiv] (Resolution VIII.21) High

- Provide further guidance concerning Ramsar site maps on: High
 - i) where the additional information called for in paragraphs 14-16 of Annex III to the RIS *Explanatory Notes and Guidelines* (Resolution VIII.13) would be incorporated into the RIS;
 - ii) the value and feasibility of supplying digital mapping (called for in paragraphs 17-22 of Annex III);
 - iii) the compatibility of such data at a global scale;
 - iv) the use of such data by third parties; and
 - v) issues of data licencing, copyright, access and fees.

[R10.1.xv] (Resolution VIII.13)

- Prepare further guidance on identification and designation of other coastal wetland types, including *inter alia* intertidal and subtidal mud and sand flats and seagrass beds. [R10.1.xvii] (Resolution VIII.4) Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified

- Review the ecological roles of artificial reservoirs and dams, including use by waterbirds, and prepare guidance on identification and designation of such wetlands for the Ramsar List (if indicated as priority by Standing Committee) [R10.1.xviii] (Resolution VIII.2) Undertake 2003-2005 if lead organization identified

- Review the multiple sources of information available on Ramsar Sites, including RISs, the *Ramsar Sites Directory*, site management plans, and data that might be collected under other international instruments; review the needs for such information, their uses and users; and make recommendations to COP9 as to how the supply and international reporting of information on Ramsar Sites might be better harmonized to give possible efficiency and cost savings. [R10.1.xix] (Resolution VIII.13) High
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10.2 Maintenance and analysis of Ramsar Sites Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to reviewing change in ecological character and progress in achieving the Vision and Objectives of the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i>, based on RIS information supplied by CPs, at each COP. [10.2.4] 	Lower
11. Management planning and monitoring of Ramsar sites		
11.1 Maintain ecological character of all Ramsar sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a field guide for the practical application of the guidelines [on management planning] adopted by Resolution VIII.14, recognizing that there may be circumstances that limit the application of the guidelines in full. [R11.1.viii] (Resolution VIII.14) Working in close cooperation with relevant international organizations, and with input from STRP National Focal Points and drawing on the review conducted by the IOPs (see Action R3.3.i): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) establish a framework for identifying, documenting and disseminating good agriculture-related practice, including site-specific and crop-specific information, and policies that demonstrate sustainable use of wetlands for agriculture; and b) use this framework to develop for consideration at COP9, and possible incorporation into the site-management guidelines annexed to Resolution VIII.14, wetland-type specific management guidelines to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) enhance the positive role that sustainable agricultural practices may have vis-à-vis the conservation and wise use of wetlands; ii) minimize the adverse impacts of agricultural practices on wetland conservation and sustainable use goals; and iii) include examples based on wetland-type specific needs and priorities that take into account the variety of agricultural systems. <p>[R11.1.ix] (Resolution VIII.34)</p>	<p>High</p> <p>Depends on prior review work under Action R3.3.i by IOPs and others</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist the Bureau to establish the procedures for the creation and maintenance of the “San José Record” [11.1.3] 	Lower
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and prepare further guidance on zonation and 	High (but largely

	monitoring programmes and methodologies for Ramsar sites and other wetlands, including indicators and rapid assessment methodologies and the use of remote sensing [R11.1.xiii]	covered by work under 1.2 above)
11.2 Monitoring the condition of Ramsar sites, including application of Article 3.2 and Montreux Record	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare further consolidated guidance on the overall process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character, including guidelines for determining when such a change is too trivial to require reporting, having regard to the reasons why a given site is important, and the conservation objectives set for it [R11.2.ii] (Resolution VIII.8) 	High
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and evaluate the Man and the Biosphere Programme's procedure for Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring (BRIM), once developed, and advise on its application to the monitoring of the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands [R11.2.iii] (Resolution VIII.7) 	Defer to 2005-8, pending full availability of BRIM methodology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise on CP requests for removal of Ramsar sites from the Montreux Record, as required [11.2.6] <p>Prepare an analysis and report of the status and trends in the ecological character of sites in the Ramsar List, and set, as far as possible, the status and trends of Ramsar sites within the wider context of the status and trends of marine, coastal and inland wetlands, drawing upon the results of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and other assessment initiatives as appropriate [R11.2.ix] (Resolution VIII.8)</p>	As required
12. Management of shared water resources, wetlands and wetland species		
12.2 Cooperative monitoring and management of wetland-dependent species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to promotion and dissemination research into the population dynamics and sustainable harvesting of wetland dependent species, especially migratory waterbirds [12.2.4] 	Lower – defer to 2005-8
13. Collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange information, cooperate and coordinate activities, where appropriate, with subsidiary bodies of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and relevant regional instruments, including the implementation of actions in Joint Work Plans [13.1.1] 	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Become involved in any work undertaken through invitation to the IPCC and UNFCCC to focus some of their future work on issues related to region-specific wetland data, and to improve knowledge on the vulnerability of wetlands to climate change and the capacity to project impacts on wetlands, reporting on the status of international discussions at COP9. [R13.1.iv] (Resolution VIII.3) 	Defer, pending initiation of any IPCC/UNFCCC work

14. Sharing of expertise and information

- Assist in promoting sharing of knowledge (traditional, indigenous and more recently derived technologies and methods), through STRP National Focal Points [14.1.1]

Lower
