CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

52nd Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 13-17 June 2016

**SC52-08 Rev.1**

**Secretariat Work Plan for 2016**

**Actions requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to take note of and approve the Secretariat 2016 Work Plan, which is based upon the triennium workplan and also includes the priority actions requested by the Executive Team in the Interim Arrangements for Secretariat Administration of November 2015.

1. The 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties concluded with 16 Resolutions, containing decisions and specific instructions to the Secretariat.
2. The activities of the Secretariat have been defined for each of the decisions derived from the COP12 Resolutions, and then mapped against the goals and targets of the Ramsar 4th Strategic Plan (SP4), to develop the Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium.
3. This workplanning was done in a collaborative workshop involving the participation of all staff members of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, from 21-24 July 2015. The workshop resulted in a detailed spreadsheet of activities and tasks for the triennium, mandated by COP12 Resolutions, and cross-referenced against the targets of SP4. Each activity has a leader within the Secretariat, with the detailed tasks being allocated to various Secretariat staff in a collaborative way. Ongoing Secretariat duties are also considered within this spreadsheet. The 2016 workplan for the Secretariat as well as individual 2016 workplans for Secretariat staff members are derived from the spreadsheet.
4. Standing Committee Decision SC51-10 instructed the Secretariat to prepare a revised Secretariat Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium. The annual Work Plan for 2016 in Annex 1 below was derived from the Work Plan for the 2016-2018 triennium. It also includes the priority action items requested by the Executive Team in the Interim Arrangements for Secretariat Administration (see Document SC52-04 Annex 1) as follows :

* MOU for the COP13 (and other MOUs deemed appropriate by the Executive Team);
* An audit of the Budget to ensure it properly aligns to priorities;
* Preparations for SC52 in 2016;
* Complete implementation of working webpage and RSIS;
* Review consultancies and rationalize where possible;
* Review resource mobilization, especially as it relates to fund-raising, to ensure the capture of work undertaken already so that an incoming SG is in a position to reinvigorate this program. This review should be undertaken in conjunction with the Resource Mobilization Working Group;
* Evaluation of COP12 (this was completed in December 2015 and thus is not included in the 2016 workplan).

**Annex 1**

**Secretariat 2016 Work Plan**

**Goal 1**

**Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation**

| **Target** | **Activities** | **Indicator** | **Team Leader(s)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Target 1:** 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. | 1.1 Support Contracting Parties to increase attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands benefits, through National Wetland Committees collaborating with relevant government departments (Resolution XII.9 target 1.2). Develop best practice examples targeted towards specific sectors. | Number of National Wetland Committees supported throughrelevant guidance (e.g. TEEB report, Ramsar Handbooks), case studies and best practices. | SG/DSG/Comms/SRAs |
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| **Target 2:** Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone. | 2.1 Dissemination of Ramsar Handbooks, Factsheets, Briefing Notes and other STRP products on water related guidance, river basin management, water allocation and management, managing groundwater as well as other related guidance in IWRM and good practices to CPs and water users to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are applied. | Ramsar guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems disseminated to all Parties to support decision-making on water resource management, as a contribution to achieving of SDG 6.6.. | SG/Head of Comms/ SRAs |
| 2.2 Increase efforts to integrate wetland management plans into integrated water resources management plans and efficiency plans at basin level, as well as into spatial planning/land-use plans. | Guidelines and projects developed together with river basin commissions to strengthen integration of wetland management plans into their work, with the aim of mobilizing GEF7 funding (SDG 6.6). | DSG/SRAs |
| 2.3 Increase efforts to communicate on the values of ecosystem services of wetlands in other sectors’ strategies, plans and regulations, and integrate them into a basin approach to land-use plans and other relevant local, national and global decisions, as set out in Resolution XII.3 para.55. | Values of ecosystem services of wetlands and the basin approach mainstreamed in other development sectors’ strategies and plans. | DSG/SRAs/Comms |
| **Target 3:** The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. | 3.1 Promote the involvement of the public and private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Prepare and apply a strategy for working with business sector; identify potential partners in the business sector; prepare due diligence studies and make proposals to Standing Committee. | Benefits of maintaining wetlands and their ecosystem services recognized by relevant actors, especially World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD). Private sector actors in water, aquaculture, tourism, forestry, mining, and agriculture targeted. | SG/DSG/Head of Partnerships/ SRAs |
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| 3.2 Build on existing Partnerships (Resolution XII.3), conclude MOU with UAE for COP13, and make good use of the *Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector* (Resolution X.12) | Number of new MoUs signed (with care to not sacrifice quality over quantity), MoU for COP13 concluded and signed and engage private sector. | SG/DSG/SRAS/Head of Comms/ Head of Partnerships |
| 3.3 Continue existing Partnership between Ramsar and Danone and “Biosphere Connections” partnership with Star Alliance. | MOU 2017-2021 negotiated with Danone and Annual Danone work plan and budget approved; work plan and budget fully implemented; progress meeting with Danone to take place in June/July 2016. | SG/Head of Comms |
| Evaluation of the Ramsar experts supported to attend RAMs and meetings on wetlands with increased Star Alliance help. Number of contributions to the Biosphere Connections e-newsletter ensured, including travel reports and general Ramsar news distributed, with articles supplied from Secretariat (Danone supported), to readers of the Star Alliance e-newsletter (Star Alliance airline travellers) | DSG/SRAs/ Head of Comms |
| **Target 4:** Invasive alien species (IAS) and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment. | 4.1 Encourage Contracting Parties to develop national policies or guidelines, and a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar Sites (Resolution VIII.18 IAS *formats*) through disseminating global guidance. | Number of countries supported for application of national IAS policies, number of countries supported for national inventories of IAS, orientation of IAS, and number of countries which implement or use these tools. | DSG/ SRAs |
|  | 4.2 |  |  |

**Goal 2**

**Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network**

| **Target** | **Activities** | **Indicator** | **Team Leader(s)** |
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| **Target 5:** The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management and the indicators updated on the RSIS. | 5.1 Promote the use of the R-METT (Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool) in line with Resolution XII.15, as well as the *Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring* in Resolution IX.1, Annex E. | Number of countries using R-METT, or appropriate Protected Area Management Evaluation tools (PAME), to assess the management effectiveness of their Ramsar Sites in their National Report to COP13. (Resolution XII.15, para.21 and 22). | DSG/SRAs |
|  | 5.2 Assist and encourage Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, eg. with direct advice on the application of the wise use principles, or, proposing to Parties to add the Site(s) to the Montreux Record or to invite a Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) (Resolution XII.6.18). | Funds raised for RAMs. Number of RAMs carried out. Number of sites included in the Montreux Record. | DSG/SRAs |
| 5.3 Use tools and information provided by technical partners in assessing changes to the ecological character of Ramsar Sites (Resolution XII.6 para.22). | List of available tools compiled and made available to CPs. | DSG/SRAs/Comms/STRP |
| **Target 6:** There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and Transboundary Sites. | 6.1 Ensure the development, maintenance and operation of the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS). Ensure that the RSIS delivers a range of tools and support to Contracting Parties to aid their identification of gaps and priorities for further Ramsar Site designation. | Effective and efficient services to Parties dealing with Ramsar Sites designation and updates by supplying relevant data that will help parties identify gaps and priorities; improved worldwide communication on Ramsar Sites. | RSIS Core Team/Comms |
| 6.2 Support countries to fulfil, as a matter of urgency, the terms of Resolution VI.13 and submit updated information of Ramsar Sites at least every six years using the online format of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS), also for designating new Sites and extending existing Sites. | RSIS training videos produced. Number of updated Sites in the RSIS. | DSG/SRAs/Comms |
|  | 6.3 Manage and process Ramsar Sites’ new designations and updates, ensure complete RSIS data and maps (Resolution XII.6 para.12). Encourage wetland inventories and new Ramsar Site designation. | All RIS duly completed and updated; information on all Ramsar Sites summarized and made available; letters and certificates delivered. Increase in area of wetlands designated as Ramsar Sites. Increase in number of Ramsar Sites. | DSG/SRAs/Comms |
| 6.4 Encourage all CPs to designate as a new Ramsar Site at least one peatland area that is suitable for awareness raising about the wise use of peatlands and their services (Resolution XI.11 para.22). | Number of new peatlands designated as Ramsar Sites | DSG/IT Officer |
| **Target 7:** Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed. | 7.1 Advise Parties on Article 3.2, Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) issues; follow up on regular basis with Parties with all cases of potential and actual risk and work towards resolution of problems. | Number of open Article 3.2 cases resolved. Number of Sites removed from the Montreux Record. | DSG/SRAs |

**Goal 3**

**Wisely Using All Wetlands**

| **Target** | **Activities** | **Indicator** | **Team Leader(s)** |
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| **Target 8:** National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands. | 8.1 Build an online library of national wetland inventories, also including peatlands (Resolution XII.11 para.24). Develop a global wetland observation system, through partnerships, to be covered by voluntary contributions, to increase accessibility of data and information on wetlands. Build up global knowledge on state and extent of wetlands under SOWWS and other means, in order to support monitoring of SDG and Aichi targets. | An easily accessible web-based meta-database in place, managed by the Secretariat, populated with information on all national wetland inventories, and linked to national and other international relevant databases. (Integrated with RSIS?)  Global wetland distribution and status data and information available through web-portal mechanisms, derived from satellites and other sources. | SG/DSG/Head of Comms |
| 8.2 Convey request to IPBES for a thematic assessment on wetlands and their condition, to build into the regional and global assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Support STRP involvement in IPBES (Resolutions XII.2 para.24; XII.3 para.48). | Request drafted and submitted. STRP contributes to IPBES assessment, evaluation report | SG/DSG/STRP |
| **Target 9:** 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. | 9.1 Support Contracting Parties in promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in other sectoral policies, plans or strategies. | Toolkit prepared with revised Ramsar handbooks on water related guidance, river basin management, water allocation and management, groundwater, wise use of wetlands (Resolution IX. 1 Annex A and C, Resolution XI.21), IWRM and good practices (ibidem target 2). | DSG//Comms/STRP |
| **Target 10:** 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 peoples and local communities at all relevant levels. | 10.1 Parties to foster active and informed participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands (Resolution XII.2 para.19). | Ramsar guidelines prepared and disseminated, RCN supported to establish and strengthen local communities’ and indigenous peoples’ participation in the management of wetlands. Relevant case studies published and disseminated. | SRAs/STRP |
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| **Target 11:** Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. | 11.1 Support Parties to propose cities in their territory to be Wetland Cities (Resolution XII.10 paras.11 and 12) | . |  |
| Number of cities supported for accreditation as Wetland Cities. | Head Comms/ DSG/SRAs |
| 11.2 Hold workshops and webinars: to deliver capacity-building training to a wide audience in a cost effective way. | Number of workshops and webinars held. | DSG/SRAs |
| 11.3 Produce a quarterly newsletter highlighting the work of the Convention to a broad audience, to raise awareness and provide wise use tools and training. | Number of newsletters published. | Head of Comms/ DSG/SRAs |
| **Target 12:** 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. | 12.1 Emphasise the importance of conserving, restoring and wise use of wetlands for disaster risk reduction (Resolution XII.13 para.22) and ecosystem based adaptation (EcoDRR and EbA), working together with STRP and IOPs. | Joint reports developed with other organizations, including through PEDRR; case studies and methods on EcoDRR and EbA disseminated to Contracting Parties. | DSG/SRAs |
| **Target 13:** 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. | 13.1 Prepare a report on opportunities for the Convention to strengthen its contribution to the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs, as related to wetlands. Estimate the costs of options for working with relevant partners, for strengthening Parties’ access to data and monitoring tools related to the SDGs (Resolution XII.3 paras.41 and 53). | Report on Ramsar’s contribution towards the SDGs prepared for COP13.  Costs of access to data and monitoring tools estimated. | DSG/SRAs |

**Goal 4**

**Enhancing Implementation**

| **Target** | **Activities** | **Indicator** | **Team Leader (s)** |
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| **Target 14:** Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language. | 14.1 Support STRP to develop workplan for the triennium in full coherence with SP4. Continue to support STRP as detailed in Annex 1 (Resolution XII.5 paras. 20 and 22). | STRP supported in preparation and implementation of its work plan and thematic areas. STRP workplan approved by SC52. | DSG/SG/ STRP Chair/ STRP Officer/Comms |
| 14.2 Integrate STRP website into the Ramsar website (Resolution XII.9 target 9.4). | STRP website integrated into main Ramsar website. | STRP Officer |
| 14.3 Finalise the new version of *The State of the World’s Wetlands and their Services to People* and explore modalities for its subsequent improvement and updating as a periodic flagship report of the Convention (Resolution XII.5 para.25). | SOWWS writing workshop held September 2016 (during INTECOL). First draft developed. Modalities for including information from National Reports as well as earth observation projects (GlobWetland Africa, Global Mangrove Watch, SWOS) explored. | DSG/STRP Chair/Head of Partnerships |
| **Target 15:** Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. | 15.1 Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements with new regional initiatives (Resolution XII.8). | Ramsar Regional Initiatives support priority activities, one annual collaborative workshop (to be determined) together with the Ramsar Secretariat. | DSG/SRAs |
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| 15.2 Publicize at global level regional initiatives as an operational means to provide support for the implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention. | RRIs’ websites upgraded and linked with the Ramsar website. RRI activities and achievements published and made more visible on the Ramsar website. | DSG/SRAs/Head of Comms |
| 15.4 Publish information provided by RRIs on the Convention’s website (Resolution XII.8 paras.18 and 20). | Update website | Comms |
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| **Target 16:** Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness. | 16.1 Preparation, production, dissemination and follow up of WWD materials for the triennium. | Final WWD materials produced and provided to users and use and extent measured. | SG/Head of Comms/SRAs |
| 16.2 Wide-reaching programmes and campaigns undertaken with diverse partners to raise awareness, in particular through the use of social media (Resolution XII.9 target 6.1) | Social media participation measured. WWD events take place globally with support as necessary by Secretariat staff. | SG/Head of Comms/SRAs |
| 16.3 Developing the Ramsar website further to be fit for purpose and a useful platform for the sharing of information and resources (Resolution XII.9 target 3.3) | Web-based materials such as training modules provided. | DSG/ Head of Comms |
| 16.4 Encourage those Contracting Parties with established, or proposed, wetland education centres or similar facilities to provide information on those centres as key places of learning and training about wetlands; set up a comprehensive database of wetland education centres (Resolution XII.9 target 7.5). | Database of wetland education centres developed in conjunction with WLI. | DSG/ Head of Comms/SRAs |
| 16.5 Develop libraries of photos, videos and other similar tools to support awareness-raising (Resolution XII.9.6.4). | Ramsar website provides clear and simple access to photos and videos relating to wetlands. |
| 16.8 Improve the current Ramsar website to serve the purpose of the different targeted audience, and report on the progress of website improvement to the SC and to COP13 (Resolution XII.9 paras.26 and 27) | Ramsar website revised and improved, and user satisfaction survey completed prior to COP13. | SG/DSG/Head of Comms/ STRP |
| **Target 17:** Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. |  | Number of Parties with outstanding contributions reduced by 30%. 50% of the amount of the arrears reduced by COP13. | SG/Finance Officer |
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| 17.3 Manage the Convention budget in a timely and efficient manner. Ensure that the budget reflects the priorities. | Efficient financial management undertaken. Audit of budget undertaken. All financial reports satisfactory and approved by SC52. | SG/Finance Officer |
| 17.4 Review consultancies and rationalize where possible. | Consultancies reviewed and rationalized. | SG/Finance Officer |
| 17.5 Ensure that COP13 delegate sponsoring is a priority for fundraising over the triennium (Resolution XII.1.12). | Resource mobilization strategy to prioritize fundraising for COP13 delegate sponsorship. | SG/Finance Officer |
| 17.6 Continue to build up relationship with UNESCO’S World Heritage Convention to drive comparable practices, standards and management of globally important sites, and support work on sites where multiple designations exist. Implement Joint Work Plan with CMS. Strengthen relationship with AEWA. | CMS/AEWA and UNESCO-World Heritage joint work plans followed up. | SG/DSG/SRAs/ Head of Partnerships |
| **Target 18:** International cooperation is strengthened at all levels. | 18.1 Prepare a strategy for the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Ramsar Convention (Resolution XII.3 para.26), subject to the availability of resources. | Strategy developed, outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Ramsar Convention. | SG/SRA Asia |
| 18.2 Work with the Biodiversity Liaison Group to enhance coherence and cooperation and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related conventions. | BLG meetings attended, coherence and cooperation enhanced, unnecessary overlap and duplication reduced. | SG/DSG |
| 18.3 Facilitate selection of representatives and participate in synergies workshop led by CBD in February 2016 (Resolutions XII.3 paras.44 and 46). | CBD workshop attended by CPs and Secretariat staff. | SG/DSG |
| 18.4 Work with UNEP on the implementation of the MOU and report progress of the activities concerned (Resolution XII.3 para.45). | MOU with UNEP implemented, joint actions reported. | SG/DSG/Head of Partnership |
| 18.5 Implement the Joint Work Plan with UNCBD to promote awareness of, and capacity-building for, ecosystem-based solutions for water management as a contribution to sustainable development, in line with CBD Decision XI/23 | Joint Work Plan actions implemented, side event about the Ramsar Convention organized at the next CBD COP. National Report template modified to reflect important Aichi targets and SDG. | SG/DSG/ Head of Partnerships |
| **Target 19:** Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced. | 19.1 Communicate ongoing Ramsar information to reach stakeholders. | Online library of official and non-official government translated and Ramsar documents made accessible on the Ramsar website, given that Parties provide such documents to the Secretariat. | SG/DSG/Head of Comms/ SRAs |
| 19.2 Build up an online library of official and non-official government translated Ramsar documents to be publicly accessible (Resolution XII.3 para.30). | Online library of official and non-official government translated and peer-reviewed Ramsar documents made accessible on the Ramsar website, given that Parties provide such documents to the Secretariat. | SG/DSG/Head of Comms/ SRAs |
| 19.3 Support the Contracting Parties in their efforts to apply management effectiveness tools, through capacity building (Resolution XII.15 para.21) (R-METT, RSIS). | Capacity built on the application of the R-METT tool, by developing workshops together with partners including IUCN, UNEP etc. Number of workshops held. Training materials developed. | DSG/SRAs/Head of Comms |
| 19.4 Develop the COP13 National Report Template to provide a more user-friendly, online instrument that reflects the goals and targets of SP4 (Resolution XII.2.17). | New National Report Template prepared with inputs from key stakeholders and CPs taking into account Aichi targets and SDG | SG/DSG/SRAs |
| 19.5 Organize and hold Standing Committees 52. | All documents prepared, translated and posted on the web site 3 months in advance. Document review process by Parties proposed. All logistics for sponsored delegates well organized. Outputs of SC52disseminated and follow-up actions taken. | SG/all staff |
| **Target 20:**  **Other Secretariat activities**  Other ongoing Secretariat activities not covered under any of the above targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 | 20.2 Periodic briefings of missions in Geneva on activities taking place between Standing Committee meetings. | Number of briefings. Missions in Geneva fully aware of the Convention’s work and importance of wetlands in their countries. | SG/DSG/SRAs |
| 20.3 Undertake general administration of the Secretariat and Convention. | Secretariat provides responsive, timely and effective service to Parties and other stakeholders. | SG/all staff |
| 20.4 With the Management Working Group (MWG), keep under review the existing management structures of the Secretariat and Convention and discuss relevant issues as appropriate. |  | SG |