



11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands: home and destination”

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Ramsar COP11 DOC. 6

Report of the Chair of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP)

1) Introduction

1. This report covers the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) under its 2009-2012 work plan. It has been prepared by the Chair of the STRP, assisted by STRP members and the Ramsar Secretariat. For interim reports on STRP work and progress since the 10th Conference of Contracting Parties (COP10), readers are referred to the STRP reports to the 41st, 42nd and 43rd meetings of the Ramsar Standing Committee¹.

2) Overview of the 2009-2012 cycle

Appointed STRP members

2. The appointed members of the Panel for the 2009-2012 cycle have been as follows:

A) Chair and Vice-chair

Chair: Dr Heather MacKay

Vice-Chair: Ms Rebecca d’Cruz

B) Regional representatives, with networking responsibilities

Africa: Dr Stanley Liphadzi

Europe: Ms Rebecca Lee

Neotropics: Dr Montserrat Carbonell

North America: Mr Randy Milton

Oceania: Mr Philippe Gerbeaux

Asia: Ms Rebecca d’Cruz

C. Thematic experts (for STRP Thematic Work Areas)

Wetland inventory, assessment, and indicators: Mr Dave Pritchard

Ramsar site designation: Mr David Stroud

Wetland restoration and management: Mr Kevin Erwin

Wetlands and climate change: Prof Max Finlayson

Wetlands and human health: Dr Pierre Horwitz

¹ http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/sc/41/sc41_report.pdf, <http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/sc/42/sc42-report-final.pdf>, <http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/sc/43/sc43-report.pdf>

Wetlands and water resources: Prof Mike Acreman

Wetlands and agriculture: Mr George Lukacs

Communications, Education, Participation & Awareness (CEPA): Ms Christine Prietto

D. The Convention's five International Organization Partners (IOPs)

BirdLife International: Dr Vicky Jones

Wetlands International: Mr Ritesh Kumar

IWMI: Dr Matthew McCartney

IUCN: Dr Mark Smith

WWF: Ms Archana Chatterjee

Observers and invited experts

3. A full list of the 31 organizations that were invited as STRP observers for 2009-2012 can be found on the Ramsar website.²
4. A number of invited experts have assisted in delivery of specific STRP tasks during the 2009-2012 cycle. These include:

Ms Aileen Anderson (Wetlands and energy)

Dr Kym Morton (extractive industries)

Dr Colin Lloyd (carbon storage and cycling in wetlands)

Prof Royal Gardner (Avoid, Mitigate, Compensate framework)

Ms Ruth Cromie (Wildlife diseases)

Prof Lijuan Cui (wetland restoration)

Mr Rob McInnes (urban planning and wetlands)

Prof Philip Weinstein (wetlands and human health)

Meetings and workshops

- A) Full meetings of the Panel
5. The 15th meeting of the Panel took place in March-April 2009, and the 16th meeting took place in February 2011. Reports of these meetings can be found on the Ramsar website.³
- B) Workshops and intersessional meetings of the Panel
6. The mid-term workshops of the STRP were held in Gland in February 2010, and another STRP workshop took place in Wallingford, United Kingdom, in June 2011. Reports of these meetings can be found on the Ramsar website.⁴ A number of other smaller intersessional workshops were held during the 2009-2012 where working group members met to work on specific tasks in the STRP Work Plan (see Annex 2 for list).

² At http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-about-bodies-strp-strpbodies/main/ramsar/1-36-71-74%5E24693_4000_0

³ Reports of STRP meetings: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strp-strp-meetings-archive-strp-meetings-archive/main/ramsar/1-31-111-464%5E24715_4000_0

⁴ Reports of workshops: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strp-strp-meetings-archive-strp-meetings-archive/main/ramsar/1-31-111-464%5E24715_4000_0

C) STRP National Focal Points meeting

7. A particular highlight of the 2009-2012 cycle was the very successful meeting of the African STRP National Focal Points in Johannesburg, South Africa, in December 2010. The workshop was attended by some 50 participants including STRP National Focal Points in Africa, STRP members, Ramsar Secretariat members, IOPs, delegates from the South African Administrative Authority, the Water Research Commission, and other organizations. The workshop offered the opportunity to meet face to face with the STRP Focal Points and other experts to discuss wetland issues across the region, to address specific STRP tasks and future priorities, and to help the NFPs better understand STRP and convention processes. The full report of the workshop proceedings, including recommendations, has been published in the Water Research Commission's report series.⁵ A critical success factor for the workshop was the availability of resources for interpretation, since this allowed the group to share much new information on scientific work being carried out on wetlands in both Anglophone and Francophone Africa. The STRP wish to express our appreciation to the sponsors of the workshop, namely the governments of Switzerland (through the "Swiss Grant for Africa" programme), Norway, Tanzania, and South Africa, the Water Research Commission of South Africa, the Ramsar Secretariat, and the Convention's partnership with Star Alliance /Biosphere.

D) Meetings convened by other organizations

8. Panel members represented the Ramsar Convention or the STRP in a large number of meetings convened by other organizations. A full list of these meetings can be found in Annex 2 of this report.

Funding and in-kind support for STRP work

9. The work of the STRP is supported by funds and contributions from a number of sources, including
 - a) The core STRP budget, allocated from Convention funds;
 - b) Voluntary financial contributions received from Contracting Parties; and
 - c) In-kind and *pro bono* contributions of staff time from observer organizations and Panel members.
10. A summary provided in Table 1 indicates how the various resources were allocated across the STRP Work Plan for 2009-2012. Voluntary contributions for specific tasks in the Work Plan represent a significant portion of the STRP's resources, and the STRP is grateful to the Contracting Parties and organizations which provided this funding in the 2009-2012 cycle.
11. In previous triennia we have recognized that the value of in-kind contributions to STRP is unknown but likely to be considerable, principally through staff time provided by observer organizations and STRP members themselves. While we did not ask Panel members and

⁵ Both English and French versions of the workshop report are available in the Water Research Commission's report series (WRC Report No. SP9/11), available at http://www.wrc.org.za/Knowledge%20Hub%20Documents/Special%20%28ad-hoc%29%20Publications/SP%209_11.pdf

observers to keep formal records of time spent on STRP work in the period January 2009 to May 2012 (excluding time spent in formal STRP meetings), we did request estimates for the purpose of preparing this report. Eleven people (7 panel members, 1 IOP panel member, 2 Panel representatives, and 1 invited expert) responded to this request. The estimates of time contributed by different individuals were highly varied: STRP members reported between 34 and 188 full-time day equivalents (the STRP Chair reported 322 full-time day equivalents); observer organization representatives reported between 40 and 171 full-time day equivalents; the IOP panel member reported 80 full-time day equivalents; and the invited expert reported 35 full-time day equivalents. At a modest professional consulting rate of CHF 800/day, the approximate value of the in-kind time reported here would be CHF 837,600.

12. There are three points worth considering about this in-kind contribution to the Panel's work:
 - First, the in-kind contribution of staff time to STRP work is of significant financial value compared to the core budget allocation and the voluntary contributions received. The fact that organizations are willing to provide this contribution and to continue their participation and collaboration reflects well on Ramsar and the STRP itself for its perceived relevance and effectiveness in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
 - Secondly, this in-kind support is generally provided for specific and clearly defined tasks in the work plan such as development of guidance and preparation of reports or analyses which can be undertaken either during formal meetings of the STRP or at the contributors' desks in their home institutions. It is much more difficult for organizations to commit staff time, through participation in the STRP, to ad hoc or on-the-ground scientific and technical support to Parties.
 - Thirdly, this in-kind contribution is highly variable in each cycle, depending on the individuals present as well as the degree to which contributing organizations' work priorities are aligned with the work priorities of the STRP. This also makes it a vulnerable source of support, one that cannot be taken for granted, and hence one that is difficult to plan for. Fewer organizations are now able to offer staff time outside formal meetings without financial compensation (for further discussion of this issue, see also COP11 DOC. 26, the information paper which supports DR16, "Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention").
13. We recommend that in the next triennium, Panel members and observers should be asked to keep accurate records of time spent on STRP-related work, as this is important information for the effective management and delivery of the STRP work plan.

Table 1. Funding and support for STRP 2009-2012

Source	For:	Allocations & totals (CHF)
Ramsar core STRP budget		
	Support officer salary, STRP meetings, Chair's travel	2,119,000
	STRP work plan tasks: Task STRP Support Service redevelopment Task 8.4 RIS (on-line submission demonstration) Task 4.8 Indicators of effectiveness Task 6.1 Carbon storage and wetlands Task 7.4 Wetlands and water storage issues Task 4.6 Detecting ecological character change – 'LAC' review Task 4.2.1 Global Wetland Observing System Task 2.10 HPAI continuing review Task 2.4 Wetlands and energy issues	138,000 ⁶
	TOTAL (core budget)	2,257,000
Voluntary contributions		
Australia	Role of biodiversity in global water cycle	18,000
via CBD Secretariat (various donors)	Role of biodiversity in global water cycle	6,7060
Danone Fund for Nature	2009 wetlands and carbon workshop	29,300
Norway	Task 4.8 effectiveness indicators + TWA10 CEPA	9,000
Finland	Task 9.2 restoration	50,650
United Kingdom	Tasks 2.3 extractives; 9.1 mitigation/compensation; 2.4 energy review	54,930
Tanzania	Africa STRP NFPs meeting	5,000
South Africa	Africa STRP NFPs meeting	17,000
Switzerland	Africa STRP NFPs meeting	30,000
Water Research Commission (South Africa)	Africa STRP NFPs meeting	28,000
Danone/UN-HABITAT	Tasks 6.1/6.2 climate change (2009 carbon storage and offsets workshop)	33,680
	TOTAL (voluntary contributions)	342,620
In-kind contributions to work plan tasks		
STRP members and observer organizations	Delivery of priority tasks in work plan, provision of ad hoc advice, helping to prepare draft resolutions, representing Ramsar or STRP in other meetings. (Excludes formal STRP meetings.)	Not recorded formally (see text)

Highlights of the 2009-2012 cycle

Revision of the Ramsar Information Sheet and the Strategic Framework

14. The rationale of the revisions proposed for the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) and the Strategic Framework (see COP11 DR8) relate to several inter-linked issues. These are the need to:

⁶ Includes an additional CHF 50,000 from the Reserve Fund in 2010.

- streamline for Contracting Parties the process of describing Ramsar Sites at designation and subsequently;
 - improve the coherence and completeness of the guidance to Parties related to the identification, selection and description of potential Ramsar Sites;
 - better ensure the comparability of information on the status of Ramsar Sites over time, thus developing an enhanced ability to assess change within the global Ramsar Site network;
 - for the first time, systematically collect information on ecosystem services at Ramsar Sites, thus enhancing the ability to demonstrate the importance to human populations of these wetlands;
 - enhance the availability of data and information reported by Contracting Parties for a wide range of Convention purposes and uses;
 - move towards the potential for on-line submissions of Ramsar Information Sheets resulting in long-term cost savings and greater efficiency in the use of Secretariat staff time; and
 - better enable the Convention in future to share data and information on Ramsar Sites efficiently with other multilateral environmental agreements and other organizations.
15. The proposals made in COP11 Draft Resolution 8 (DR8) address these issues and have the potential to be a very significant step forward in the way the Convention collects, manages, reports and otherwise uses data and information on Wetlands of International Importance.

Further development of the package of “sectoral guidance”

16. In recent years, the Convention has adopted various Resolutions that speak to the influence and potential impacts of specific sectors on wetlands and wetland ecosystem services. These have been adopted by the Conference of the Parties with the objectives of promoting cross-sectoral collaboration and ensuring that the role, importance and values of wetlands, and their ability to support human and economic development goals, are sufficiently recognized in other sectoral policies, plans and projects. Examples of such sectoral Resolutions already adopted by the COP include Resolution X.19 (on river basin management), Resolution X.26 (extractive industries), Resolution X.25 (biofuels), and Resolution X.31 (rice paddies).
17. The STRP has continued in this cycle to work on developing the “package” of Ramsar guidance related to other sectors whose policies and plans can have significant impacts upon wetlands and whose business depend on wetlands in one way or another. Sectoral Draft Resolutions for consideration at COP11 that are directed towards this purpose include those on energy (DR10), poverty eradication (DR13), management of urban and peri-urban wetlands (DR11), and wetlands and health (DR12).

STRP Newsletters

18. During the cycle 2009-2012 communication between the Panel, the STRP NFPs, and the broader Ramsar constituency have been supported by the STRP Newsletter (since March 2009, 10 newsletter editions have been issued). The newsletter is used by the Panel to share updates on the progress of different tasks, and it has allowed STRP NFPs and Ramsar’s

Observer organizations to share their wetlands-related news as well. All STRP Newsletters can be downloaded from the Ramsar website.⁷

Introduction of Scientific and Technical Briefing Notes

19. In response to increasing demand and a recognized need for additional ways in which Ramsar could rapidly communicate interesting and important scientific and technical information on wetlands, in 2012 the STRP introduced a new type of communication product: Ramsar's series of *Scientific and Technical Briefing Notes*.
20. Briefing Notes are intended to be short, relatively informal communications, easily accessible in pdf format and written in less technical language than might be the case for a scientific article or a Ramsar Technical Report. The intention of publishing in a series is to make the Briefing Notes easy to find and to use as an information source.
21. The STRP will use Briefing Notes to:
 - share information on current STRP work in progress, particularly where the work is part of a longer STRP task which might be proceeding in phases over several years;
 - share STRP views on an emerging issue of importance or urgency for the Convention in the future, or of general interest, or
 - bring relevant scientific and technical information related to wetlands to the attention of Contracting Parties, wetland managers, and policy makers, without necessarily being limited to the schedule of COPs for dissemination of such information.
22. Four Briefing Notes have been published between March and June 2012, with several more in preparation. All current Briefing Notes can be accessed on the Ramsar website.⁸ The STRP greatly appreciates the efforts of Rebecca Lee, Monica Zavagli, and Dwight Peck in developing the layout and style for the series.

Redevelopment of the STRP Support Service

23. A high priority task for this triennium is the redevelopment of the STRP Support Service. The current platform for the Support Service was developed in the late 1990s, and while it has served us well, it can no longer provide the functionalities needed by the Panel. In late 2010 an electronic survey was conducted among the Support Service users to identify priority functions, gaps and recommendations for the new work space. On the basis of the survey feedback and various consultations, a concept note and cost-benefit analysis of various options for the redevelopment of the STRP Platform was prepared during 2011. The new STRP Platform, which will include a public interface (the STRP Portal) and private area for STRP work (the Support Service), is currently being built and it is expected to be completely operational in November 2012.

⁷ See http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strp-strp-archive-strp-archives/main/ramsar/1-31-111-465%5E24716_4000_0

⁸ See http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strp-strp-bn/main/ramsar/1-31-111%5E25610_4000_0

3) Work plan progress and outputs during the 2009-2012 cycle

Overview

24. The STRP work plan tasks were grouped within a number of Thematic Work Areas (TWAs: see Table 2), in order to facilitate the delivery and oversight of these tasks. Working groups were established for each TWA at the first meeting of the 2009-2012 cycle. These working groups communicated via the STRP Support Service and email to advance the top priority tasks in the Work Plan, as well as other tasks which were taken forward through collaboration with observer organizations and through voluntary contributions provided specifically for some tasks.

Table 2. STRP Thematic Work Areas

Thematic Work Area	Description of TWA objectives and scope
1. Regional networking	To support further development of the principles behind the establishment of the roles, functions and contributions of STRP National Focal Points (NFPs) in STRP processes; and as far as is practically possible, to ensure that the ways to reach out existing expertise and knowledge from the regions are brought into the work produced by the STRP; to work with NFP networks to as well as to disseminate Ramsar guidance on the ground and support uptake and implementation of guidance by Contracting Parties.
2. Strategic, ongoing and emerging issues	To fulfill the responsibilities of the STRP in its review and advisory role for the Convention. As well as providing wetland-related information, advice and recommendations in response to ad hoc requests by Contracting Parties, the Secretariat and other relevant organizations, the scope of this TWA includes a “horizon-scanning” role whereby the Panel keeps under review various emerging and more strategic issues of relevance for the Convention which may require action or advice in the near- or medium-term future. Tasks in this TWA are overseen by the STRP Chair with assistance from specific task leads as needed.
3. Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring and reporting	To provide data and tools to meet overall Convention data and information needs, as well as to develop guidance concerning different aspects of assessment of, reporting on and response to changes in ecological character of wetlands.
4. Wetlands and human health	Work in this TWA focuses on the interconnections between wetlands and human health, including consideration of the positive values of wetlands in contributing to achievement of public health objectives, and also providing guidance for managing the potential negative interactions between wetlands and human health.
5. Wetlands and climate change	Work in this TWA tends to be crosscutting, since the implications of climate change, including both mitigation and adaptation, are critically important in almost all aspects of the wise use of wetlands, and must be reflected in most guidance and products prepared by STRP. This TWA also includes tasks related to the provision of wetland-related scientific information for other global, regional and national processes related to policy for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

6. Wetlands and water resources management	This TWA focuses on the connections between water and wetlands, especially in providing guidance for incorporating wetlands into water resources management and water infrastructure planning and development, in ways that support both the wise use of wetlands and the sustainable management of water resources. From more practical guidance in the last few cycles, the focus here is shifting to strategic engagement with water sector policy development and planning and global, regional and national levels, in order to influence water sector activities towards the wise use of wetlands.
7. Wetlands of International Importance	Work in this TWA is closely focused on supporting Parties in meeting their specific commitments for the designation and management of Ramsar Sites.
8. Wetland restoration and management	The work of this TWA is focused on providing further guidance for implementing various aspects of wetland restoration, and on guidance for avoiding, mitigating and compensating for wetland losses.
9. Wetlands and agriculture	The objective of work in this TWA is to continue the development of guidance related to agriculture/wetlands interactions.
10. Communication, education, participation & awareness (CEPA)	Work under the TWA on CEPA is addressed through providing general advice on the work of the STRP and specific tasks under other TWAs in order to assure from the planning phase that what is being produced is relevant for the target audience.

Summary of progress and outputs against the 2009-2012 STRP work plan

25. The STRP work plan for 2009-2012 contains detailed descriptions of each task in the plan, including objectives, scope of work, working group members and responsibilities for delivery where relevant. The work plan has been updated at intervals through the 2009-2012 cycle to reflect progress in advancing tasks (or decisions by the Panel to not progress specific tasks). The work plan now serves as a record of progress and outcomes across the full suite of STRP tasks and can be downloaded from the Ramsar web site.⁹
26. A full list of products arising from the work of the STRP in the 2009-2012 cycle can be found in Annex 1 of this report. This list includes:
 - COP11 Draft Resolutions (some with scientific and technical guidance annexed);
 - COP11 Information Papers;
 - Scientific and Technical Briefing Notes;
 - Ramsar Technical Reports;
 - Other STRP-contributed products and outputs for Ramsar;
 - Ramsar-related book chapters and journal papers of a scientific nature;
 - Other miscellaneous reports and products.
27. A comprehensive list of meetings, workshops and processes convened by other organizations (including other conventions), in which STRP members represented either Ramsar or the STRP, can be found in Annex 2. This list includes a range of events, from workshops and meetings at national and regional level where STRP members and

⁹ <http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/strp/STRPworkplanMarch2010.pdf>

observers provided advice and support to Ramsar implementation processes, through international scientific and technical conferences to intergovernmental meetings such as those related to the establishment of the IPBES (Inter-Governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).

4) Emerging scientific and technical issues

Wetlands and ecosystem services – new Thematic Area proposed for 2013-2015

28. Several times during the 2009-2012 cycle the STRP have addressed the issue of ecosystem services and tools to establish the value of ecosystem services for planning and policy purposes. With inclusion of ecosystem services as an integral component of ecological character, and the adoption of Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) conceptual framework for ecosystems and human well-being as a framework for delivery of wise use, further work is required on harmonizing the ecosystem services concept within various response options for conservation and wise use of wetlands.
29. Additionally, several assessments (TEEB - The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity being the most recent and prominent) have highlighted the need to explicitly recognize, value and capture the ecosystem services benefits to address the ‘economic invisibility’ of ecosystem services in societal policy and decision making. This need has also been expressed under the various STRP guidance products, particularly those focused on cross-sectoral linkages (e.g., wetlands and human health; poverty eradication; extractive industries; agriculture; urban development; avoidance, mitigation and compensation for wetland losses). Recent progress on ecosystem services assessment and valuation indicate several possibilities for augmenting the wise use of wetlands through rationalizing incentive systems and creating partnership opportunities for economic sectors. Hence we propose to establish a new TWA aiming, *inter alia*, to address the key results under Ramsar’s Strategic Area 1.4 (cross sectoral recognition of wetland services). The scope and direction of this area of work will be informed by an initiative with the TEEB started in 2012 on the economics of water and wetlands, the first output of which – a TEEB “water and wetlands synthesis report” – is to be launched in late 2012.

Inter-governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

30. The Secretary General, the STRP Chair, and STRP Vice-Chair have been involved in the process of discussing and establishing the IPBES. Although the IPBES has the potential to significantly strengthen science-policy interfaces related to biodiversity at all levels from global to local, it is important to recognize that within Ramsar, we already have science-policy interfaces at various levels. For example, the recent study of National Ramsar Committees¹⁰ suggests that these committees might operate as interfaces at national and subnational levels. While the effectiveness of these existing science-policy interfaces varies, depending on individual situations, such internal interfaces could usefully be examined with the intention of strengthening them and making them more effective while the IPBES gathers momentum.

¹⁰ See http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-nationalramsarcommittees/main/ramsar/1-63-516_4000_0_.

31. We recognize that there will be transaction costs associated with continuing engagement with the IPBES. It will take time and effort particularly on the part of the STRP, for example in formulating terms of reference, assisting in execution of work and data provision, and reviewing outputs from IPBES. Contracting Parties may need to be involved in this scientific work, too, especially in accessing data related to wetlands from subregional, national and lower levels. However, the potential benefits for enhancing Convention implementation are likely to outweigh the costs, and it is worth being involved in the process now in order to be able to influence initial ideas and priorities for the IPBES work programme.

Designation of Ramsar Sites for ecosystem services, including water-related and carbon storage and cycling services

32. During the 2009-2012 cycle, several people raised the question of whether the Ramsar Site designation criteria could be interpreted to allow designation for importance in terms of ecosystem services. This led to some lively discussion within the STRP, and the consideration that, in fact, Criterion 1 already provides the basis for designation on these grounds, once again highlighting the farsightedness of the original Convention text and the subsequently developed Criteria.
33. The question of whether wetlands could be considered internationally important in terms of their role in water-related (hydrological) services and the storage and cycling of carbon was also discussed. Again, we felt that Criterion 1 can support designation on the basis of regional or international importance of a wetland for hydrological services and for carbon cycling and especially for carbon storage, but that we do not yet have any specific scientific guidance for establishing the level of importance of a particular wetland in terms of carbon cycles and other services. The inclusion of significant carbon cycling in the current proposal for designation of a wetland in Denmark should offer a good opportunity for informing development of such guidance in future, particularly now that there is increasing attention in the scientific literature on carbon dynamics in wetland ecosystems.

5) Issues related to management and delivery of the STRP programme of work

The STRP *modus operandi*

34. Only minor adjustments have been proposed to the current *modus operandi* for the STRP (see COP11 DR18). The current *modus operandi* has proven effective and robust in this cycle for delivery of the work requested of the Panel by COP10.

Review of STRP “operating procedures” and processes for management of the STRP work programme

35. A feature of this 2009-2012 cycle has been the ongoing effort to review, refine and where necessary formalize some of the operating procedures and processes related to management and delivery of the STRP work programme. The STRP work plan is broad and diverse, and in many cases different tasks are closely interconnected. When we add to this an equally diverse Panel and a large number of active observer organizations and partners, managing the delivery of work products becomes challenging.

36. It has been important for us to retain the flexibility, creativity and spirit of cooperation that has long characterized STRP meetings and work. However, as the Convention matures and the profile of Ramsar grows, both in the policy arena and in the scientific arena, there is a need to strengthen some of STRP's key internal management processes in order to meet external expectations and to ensure greater transparency.
37. We have considered five different qualities in reviewing and refining our internal processes. This review is a work in progress, and it will need to be aligned with any recommendations arising from COP11 DR16 ("Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention"). However, where appropriate, we have begun to introduce revised internal working procedures and will formalize these into a "STRP operating manual" during the remainder of the 2009-2012 cycle. These qualities are listed below, in no particular order of importance, along with a brief explanation of their relevance and some early actions taken along these lines:

Independence. The current *modus operandi* helps to ensure the relative independence of the STRP, in that we should provide objective and balanced advice to the Convention. The appointment of individual experts to the Panel (as experts in their own right) is a key factor in ensuring independence, but we may need also to implement a register of interests for Panel members in future.

Credibility. We are working on documenting formal procedures for peer review of STRP products, including Briefing Notes, Ramsar Technical Reports, and other regular and occasional scientific and technical products. This is particularly important where STRP products are intended for use in other assessment processes, as might be the case in future collaboration with the IPBES.

Quality. Ensuring the quality of STRP products is in part addressed through the appointment of qualified panel members and invited experts, but also through robust peer review procedures. However, we also need a system for proper management and archiving of documents as they go through the various stages of the review, comment and revision process.

Transparency. Meetings of the STRP are intense, large and complex. We also recognize that both STRP meetings and the development of scientific and technical products by STRP are often not at all transparent to others. We have aimed to address this in part through introduction of a number of more accessible communication tools, such as Briefing Notes, STRP Newsletters, and the STRP Portal as part of the Support Service redesign. This should afford more opportunities for communication between the Contracting Parties and the STRP, and we hope this will help to strengthen communications at national level (between Administrative Authorities and STRP National Focal Points).

Utility. STRP products need to be usable and used both within and outside the Convention. Additional steps are being built into STRP work processes to improve how we identify user needs and test the usability of early draft products with users and implementers. Specific changes to the *modus operandi* have been proposed in COP11 DR18 to begin to address this.

Review of science delivery in the Convention

38. The STRP, while responsible for drawing the COP's attention to trends, opportunities and emerging issues, operates always under a work programme that has been formally mandated by the Parties themselves through COP decisions.
39. The STRP is working hard to make its outputs more used and more usable by practitioners on the ground by doing more to canvass opinion, assess needs, target defined user groups, tailor document presentation, test impact, network with regional and national contacts, and undertake other forms of outreach. There is more that can and will be done in future to help with this (including, for example, user-friendly web-based interfaces and portals), and the Panel is always mindful of the need to serve Parties first and foremost and to avoid mission-creep and minority relevance. At the same time, as the Convention matures and problems become more complex, it must be expected that STRP outputs will also often have a degree of complexity. Supporting Parties in their implementation of more complex products will require targeted allocation of resources to such efforts.
40. As noted in paras. 9-13 above, under its current construct and *modus operandi* the STRP is well placed to deliver guidance, strategic inputs, advice on policy issues, technical reports and analyses. These are delivered through work done at actual STRP meetings and intersessionally through voluntary contributions and in-kind contributions of staff time by Panel members and observer organizations. The STRP is much less able to provide on-the-ground support, since our resources and capacity are severely limited outside the formal STRP meetings.
41. Accordingly, the STRP welcomes the proposal to review current delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention (COP11 DR16). We believe that it is essential for Ramsar to "step back" at this time and consider the roles and responsibilities of all the Convention bodies in collaboratively identifying, developing and delivering scientific and technical support for Convention implementation.

6) Concluding remarks and acknowledgements

42. In conclusion, the 2009-2012 cycle has been a productive one for the STRP, in terms not only of outputs but also of growing collaboration with other organizations whose goals and objectives can strengthen the achievement of Ramsar's strategic priorities. As the Convention looks forward to the next 40 years, we also look forward to the continued evolution of the STRP to meet the challenges of delivering scientific and technical support to a Convention which itself continues to grow and mature.
43. The achievements and progress of this cycle would not have been possible without the generous support and enthusiastic participation of our Panel members, STRP observers, invited experts, STRP National Focal Points, and the Secretariat. We extend our great thanks to all of the STRP "family and friends" for their ongoing commitment to the wise use of wetlands.

Annex 1

Products from the work of the STRP 2009-2012

1. This annex provides a list of the outputs and products which the STRP, its Thematic Work Areas (TWAs) and task groups and members and experts have prepared or are finalizing during the 2009-2012 cycle.
 2. The list of outputs and products is organized in seven categories:
 - A) COP11 Draft Resolutions (some with annexed scientific and technical guidance, indicated by *);
 - B) COP11 Information Papers (COP11 DOCs);
 - C) Scientific & Technical Briefing Notes;
 - D) Ramsar Technical Reports (RTRs);
 - E) Other STRP-contributed products and outputs for Ramsar;
 - F) Ramsar-relevant scientific and policy journal papers;
 - G) Other miscellaneous reports and products.
- A) COP11 Draft Resolutions (COP11 DRs)**
3. The list includes Draft Resolutions (and annexed guidance) which have been prepared by the STRP and transmitted to COP through the approval of the Standing Committee, and other COP11 Draft Resolutions to which the STRP has contributed.
 - Tourism and wetlands* - COP11 DR7
 - Streamlining procedures for describing Ramsar Sites at the time of designation and subsequently* - COP11 DR8
 - Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision - COP11 DR8, annex 1
 - *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)* – 2012 revision - COP11 DR8, annex 2
 - An Integrated Framework for avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for wetland losses* - COP11 DR9
 - Wetlands and energy issues* - COP11 DR10
 - Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands* - COP11 DR11
 - Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach* - COP11 DR12
 - An Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication* - COP11 DR13
 - Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP11 DR14
 - Agriculture-wetland interactions: rice paddy and pesticide usage - COP11 DR15
 - Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention - COP11 DR16
 - Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2013-2015* - COP11 DR17

- Adjustments to the *modus operandi* of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for the 2013-2015 triennium - COP11 DR18

B) COP11 Information Papers (COP11 DOCs)

- Scientific and technical priorities for the implementation of the Convention 2013-2015: task pro-formas (DOC. 21)
- The Ramsar Site Information Sheet and *Strategic Framework* – 2012 revisions: background, rationale and implementation (DOC. 22)
- Background and context to the development of overarching principles and guidance for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands (COP11 DR11) (DOC. 23)
- Limits of acceptable change: The definition and operation of concepts and approaches for “limits of acceptable change” which may be applicable to the Ramsar context of defining and detecting change in the ecological character of wetlands (DOC. 24)
- Wetlands and water storage: current and future trends and issues (DOC. 25)
- Ensuring efficient, effective delivery of scientific and technical support to the Convention (DOC. 26)
- Avoiding, Mitigating, and Compensating for loss and degradation of Wetlands in National Laws and Policies (DOC. 27)
- Supporting information on wetlands and energy issues (COP11 DR10) (DOC. 28)
- The benefits of wetland restoration (DOC. 29)
- Agriculture and wetland interactions: background information concerning rice paddy and pesticide usage (COP11 DR15) (DOC. 31)
- Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (DOC. 32)
- Agriculture and wetland interactions: recent progress and STRP-related activities 2009-2012 (DOC. 33)
- Uptake of the “Changwon Declaration” (Resolution X.3) since COP10 (DOC.35)
- Approaches to the future engagement of the Ramsar Convention in the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (DOC. 36)

C) Scientific & Technical Briefing Notes

4. This category of STRP outputs of Briefing Notes (initiated in 2012) is designed to provide information and advice to Contracting Parties and others on issues arising from STRP’s work, but they are generally shorter than the detailed technical reviews and methodological reports published as Ramsar Technical Reports. They are published and available on the Ramsar website (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strp-strp-bn/main/ramsar/1-31-111%5E25610_4000_0_) in English, as well as in French and Spanish when the availability of additional translation resources permits.
 - *Introduction to the Briefing Notes series*. MacKay, H. No. 1. 2012.
 - *Wetlands and water storage: current and future trends and issues*. Acreman, M. No. 2. 2012.

- *Avoiding, mitigating and compensating for loss and degradation of wetlands in national laws and policies.* Gardner, R. et al. No. 3. 2012.
- *The benefits of wetland restoration.* McInnes, R. & Alexander, S. No. 4. 2012.
- *Evaluating the risk to Ramsar wetlands from climate change-induced sea-level rise.* Lacko, L., Jaiteh, M. & de Sherbinin, A. No. 5 (to be published later in 2012)

D) Ramsar Technical Reports

5. Ramsar Technical Reports (RTRs) provide detailed technical background reviews and reports prepared by the STRP at the request of Contracting Parties which would previously have been made available in most instances only as “Information Papers” for a Conference of the Parties (COP). Publication of these materials as RTRs is designed to ensure increased and longer-term accessibility of such documents. All Ramsar Technical Reports are peer-reviewed by the members and observers appointed to the STRP and by independent experts. RTRs are published and available on the Ramsar website (http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-reports-tech-rpts/main/ramsar/1-30-99%5E21374_4000_0_) in PDF electronic format and in English only, unless resources are available to provide them also in French and Spanish.

Published in 2009-2012:

- *A framework for a wetland inventory meta-database.* Lowry, J. 2010. Ramsar Technical Report No. 4.
- *Vulnerability assessment of wetlands: Guidance on methodologies for the vulnerability assessment of wetlands to change in ecological character.* 2011. Gitay, H., Finlayson, C.M. & Davidson, N.C. Ramsar Technical Report No. 5/CBD Technical Series No. 57.
- *“Healthy wetlands, healthy people”: a review of wetlands and human health interactions.* 2012. Horwitz, P., Finlayson, C.M. & Weinstein, P. (coordinating lead authors). Ramsar Technical Report No. 6 (joint publication with the World Health Organization – also available at http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/2012/review_of_wetlands/en/index.html)
- *Ramsar Wetland Disease Manual: Guidelines for Assessment, Monitoring and Management of Animal Disease in Wetlands.* 2012. Cromie, R.L., Lee, R., Delahay, R.J., Newth, J.L., O’Brien, M.F., Fairlamb, H.A., Reeves, J.P. & Stroud, D.A. Ramsar Technical Report No. 7.

In preparation for publication later in 2012

- *Waterbird Flyway Initiatives: outcomes of the 2011 Global Waterbird Flyways Workshop to promote exchange of good practice and lessons learnt.* Ramsar Technical Report No. 8 (joint with CMS, AEWa and the East Asia-Australasia Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).
- *Population estimates and 1% thresholds for the application of Criterion 9 for Ramsar site designation*

- *Determination of environmental water requirements for estuaries, coastal and near-shore wetlands*

Under review/in preparation for later publication

- *Biogeographic regionalisation and the distribution and gaps in Ramsar Site designations for different wetland types*
- *Environmental flow determination and implementation*
- *A review of Ramsar Sites and fisheries management*
- *Methods and models for assessing the role of wetlands in the global carbon cycle*
- *River basin management: critical path application case studies*
- *Determination of environmental water requirements for rivers*
- *The Convention's development of Criteria and guidelines for Ramsar Site designation 1971-2010*
- *A low-cost flyway-scale methodology for identifying wetlands likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of extractive industries (joint report by Ramsar and AEWIA)*

E) Other STRP-contributed products and outputs for Ramsar

- *STRP Newsletters* (for STRP National Focal Points and Administrative Authorities):
 - Nine issues since 2009. Available at http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strp-strp-archive-strp-archives/main/ramsar/1-31-111-465%5E24716_4000_0
- Website supporting information on Ramsar Information Sheet and Strategic Framework – 2012 versions <http://ris-2012.wikispaces.com>
- Redeveloped STRP Web portal and Support Service (for launch in late 2012)
- *A review of the utility of Ramsar guidance* (available at http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/strp/Use_utility_Ramsar_guidance_report.pdf)
- *Wetlands in the Americas: the role of the Ramsar Convention and the benefits of Ramsar Site designation*. (Ramsar Secretariat 2011) (Royal Gardner: general editor with María Rivera)
- *National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees across the six Ramsar regions: diversity and benefits* Bonells, M. and Zavagli, M. Ramsar Convention Secretariat 2011 (also published in *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy* (2011))
- *Ramsar Workshop for the STRP National Focal Points in Africa and other wetland experts. Meeting Report*. Undated. WRC Report No. SP 9/11. Water Research Commission, South Africa.

F) Ramsar-relevant scientific and policy book and journal papers

2009

The role of Earth Observation (EO) technologies in supporting the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. 2009. MacKay, H., Finlayson, C.M., Fernandez-Prieto, D., Davidson, N.C., Pritchard, D., & Rebelo, L.-M. *J. Environmental Management* 90 (7): 2234-2242.

Remote sensing and GIS for wetland inventory, mapping and change analysis. Rebelo, L.-M., Finlayson, C.M. & Nagabhatla, N. 2009. *Journal of Environmental Management* 90: 2144-2153.

African Wetlands of International Importance: Assessment of Benefits Associated with Designations Under the Ramsar Convention. 2009. Kim Diana Connolly, Pierre Horwitz & Abou Bamba. *Georgetown Intl. Env'tl. L. Rev.* 257.

Wetlands of Sub-Saharan Africa: distribution and contribution of agriculture to livelihoods. Rebelo, L.-M., McCartney, M.P. & Finlayson, C.M. 2009. *Wetlands Ecology and Management* 18: 57–572.

Water Ecology and Health. Ecosystems as 'settings' for health and sustainability. 2009. Parkes, M. and Horwitz, P. *Health Promotion International* 24: 94-102.

Wetlands and Global Climate Change: The Role of Wetland Restoration in a Changing World. 2009. Erwin, K.L. *Wetlands Ecol Manage* 17:71–84.

Investigation of aquaculture dynamics at a Ramsar site using Earth Observation systems in conjunction with socio-economic assessment. 2009. Nagabhatla, N., Pattnaik, C., Prasad, N., Seneratna Sellamuttu, S., Wickramasuriya, R. & Finlayson, M. *Lakes & Reservoirs* 14: 325–336.

A Strategic Framework for Monitoring Coastal Change in Australia's wet-dry tropics- concepts and progress . 2009. Finlayson, C.M., Eliot, I. & Eliot, M. *Australian Geographic* 47: 109-123.

2010

Payments for environmental services for sustainable water management in Loktak Lake. 2010. Kumar, R. *Mountain Forum Bulletin.* Volume X, Issue1, January 2010.

Changing character: the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and climate change in the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia. 2010. Pittock, J., Finlayson, C.M., Gardner, A. & McKay, C. *Environmental and Planning Law Journal*, 27, 401-42.

A multi-scale geospatial study of wetland distribution and agricultural zones, and the case of India. 2010. Nagabhatla, N., Wickramasuriya, R., Prasad, N. & Finlayson, C.M. *Tropical Conservation Science* 3: 344.-360.

An evaluation of ecological information on Australia's northern tropical rivers and wetlands. 2010. Lukacs, G.P. & Finlayson, C.M. *Wetlands Ecology and Management* 18: 597–625.

Managing water in agriculture to deal with trade-offs and find synergies among food production and other ecosystem services. 2010. Gordon, L, Finlayson, C.M. & Falkenmark, M. *Agricultural Water Management* 97: 512–519.

2011

The Ramsar Convention. Royal C. Gardner and Nicholas C. Davidson. 2011. Pp. 189-203 In: *Wetlands – Integrating Multidisciplinary Concepts.* Ed: Ben Lepage. Springer.

Journal of International Law & Wildlife Policy 14 (3-4): Special Issue: The Fortieth Anniversary of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. 2011 (Guest editor Royal Gardner):

The Ramsar Convention and Ecosystem-Based Approaches to the Wise Use and Sustainable Development of Wetlands. C. Max Finlayson, Nick Davidson, Dave Pritchard, Randy Milton & Heather MacKay. *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy*: 14 (3-4): 176-198.

The Ramsar Convention and Synergies for Operationalising the Convention on Biological Diversity's Ecosystem Approach for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use. 2011. Nick Davidson & David Coates. *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy*: 14(3-4): 199-205.

Responding to emerging challenges: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1, and the response of the Ramsar Convention and other MEAs. 2011. Ruth Cromie, Nick Davidson, Colin Galbraith, Ward Hagemeyer, Pierre Horwitz, Rebecca Lee, Taej Mundkur & David A. Stroud. *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy*: 14(3-4): 206-242.

National Ramsar/Wetlands Committees Across the Six Ramsar Regions: Diversity and Benefits. 2011. Marcela Bonells & Monica Zavagli. *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy* 14(3-4): 261-292.

The Lukanga Swamps: Use, Conflicts, and Management. 2011. Matthew McCartney, Lisa-Maria Rebelo, Everisto Mapedza, Sanjiv de Silva & C. Max Finlayson. *Journal of International Wildlife Law & Policy* 14(3-4): 293-310.

Assessment of the links between wetland ecosystem services and poverty: a general framework and case study. 2011. Ritesh Kumar, Pierre Horwitz, G. Randy Milton, Sonali S. Sellamuttu, Sebastian T. Buckton, Nick C. Davidson, Ajit K. Pattnaik, Monica Zavagli & Chris Baker. *Hydrological Sciences Journal*: 56(8): 1602-1621.

The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971). 2011. Pritchard, D. E. In Bosselmann, K, Fogel, D S and Ruhl, J B, (eds): *The Encyclopedia of Sustainability, Vol 3, the law and politics of sustainability.* Berkshire Publishing, Great Barrington, USA.

The relationship between water, health and global environmental change, as interpreted through five key Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). 2011. Horwitz, P., Spini, L., Campbell, K., Thomas, R., & Molungoy, J. *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* 3: 520-526.

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Opportunities and Challenges for Ecological Restoration within REDD+. 2011. Sasha Alexander, Cara R. Nelson, James Aronson, David Lamb, An Cliquet, Kevin L. Erwin, C. Max Finlayson, Rudolf S. de Groot, Jim A. Harris, Eric S. Higgs, Richard J. Hobbs, Roy R. Robin Lewis III, Dennis Martinez and Carolina Murcia. *Restoration Ecology* 19: 683-689.

Australia's Murray-Darling Basin: freshwater ecosystem conservation options in an era of climate change. 2011. Jamie Pittock & C. Max Finlayson *Marine and Freshwater Research* 62: 232–243.

A study of wetland hydrology and ecosystem service provision: GaMampa wetland, South Africa. 2011. McCartney, M., Morardet, S., Rebelo, L.-M. & Finlayson, C.M. *Hydrological Sciences Journal* 56: 1452-1466.

Australia's Murray Darling Basin: freshwater ecosystem conservation options in an era of climate change. 2011. Pittock, J. & Finlayson, C.M. *Marine and Freshwater Research* 62: 232–243.

The application of geospatial analyses to support an integrated study into the ecological character and sustainable use of Lake Chilwa. 2011. Rebelo, L.-M., McCartney, M.P. & Finlayson, C.M. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 37: 83–92.

Insight to ecosystem based approach (EBA) at landscape level using a geospatial medium. 2011. Nagabhatla, N., Senaratna Sellamuttu, S., Bobba, A.G., Finlayson, M., Wickemasuriya, R., van Brakel, M., Prasad, N. & Pattanaik, C. *Journal of Indian Society for Remote Sensing* 40: 47–64.

Linkages between changes in land cover (use) patterns, local perceptions and livelihoods in a coastal wetland system in Sri Lanka. 2011. Senaratna Sellamuttu, S., Finlayson, C.M., Nagabhatla, N. & Diphoorn, L. *Journal of the National Science Foundation Sri Lanka* 39: 391-402.

2012

Editorial: Forty years of wetland conservation and wise use. 2012. C. Max Finlayson *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems* 22 (2): 139-143.

Water and Health: on the notion of a healthy wetland. 2012. Horwitz, P. & Finlayson, C.M. *Human Evolution/ Global Bioethics* 27: 65-69.

A case study approach to demonstrate the use of assessment and monitoring tools for participatory environmental governance. 2012. Nagabhatla, N., Dhyan, S., Finlayson, C.M., Senaratna Sellamuttu, S., van Brakel, M., Wickramasuriya, R., Pattanaik, C. & Narendra Prasad, S. *Ecologia* 2: 60-75.

A horizon scanning assessment of current and potential future threats facing migratory shorebirds. 2012. William J. Sutherland, Jose A. Alves, Tatsuya Amano, Charlotte H. Chang, Nicholas C. Davidson, C Max Finlayson, Jennifer A. Gill, Robert E. Gill, Jr., Patricia M. González, Tómas Grétar Gunnarsson, David Kleijn, Chris J Spray, Tamás Székely & Des B.A. Thompson. *Ibis*: in press.

G) Other miscellaneous reports and products

The status and trends of inland waters biological diversity. 2009. Pritchard, D. E. Consultant report for Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Review of the effectiveness of indicators for assessing progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target and sub-targets related to inland waters/ wetlands; and reflections on possible sub-targets and indicators for wetlands in the post-2010 period. 2009. Pritchard, D. E. Consultant report for Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

- International Waterbird Census review - results of stakeholder consultation on scope.* 2009. Pritchard, D. E. Consultant report to Wetlands International.
- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in developing countries (REDD) - the link with wetlands.* 2009. Pritchard, D. E. Consultant report for Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD), London.
- Biorights in theory and practice. A financing mechanism for linking poverty alleviation and environmental conservation.* 2009. Eijk, P. Van & Kumar, R. Wetlands International, Wageningen, The Netherlands.
- International Waterbird Census review - Expanded treatment of relevant mandates from Multilateral Environmental Agreements.* 2010. Pritchard, D. E. Consultant report to Wetlands International.
- Conclusions and recommendations of the Third Technical Meeting of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds.* 2010. Cromie, R.L., Lee, R. & Stroud, D.A. FAO, Rome; 15-16 March 2010. 22 pp.
- Integrated management planning for conservation and wise use of Chilika Lake, India.* 2011. Wetlands International South Asia. Technical Report for the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. Wetlands International South Asia, New Delhi, India.
- Ecosystems for food and water security.* 2011. Boelee E (ed.), Atapattu S, Baron J, Bindraban P, Bunting SW, Coates D, Descheemacker K, Eriyagama N, Finlayson M, Gordon L, Khaka E, Lloyd GJ, Molden D, Muthuri C, Nguyen-Khoa S, Peden D, Pert P, Sinclair F, Solowey E, Stanford L, Stentiford D, Thiombiano L. United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi & International Water Management Institute, Colombo. 248 pp.
- Are There Wetlands of International Importance in the Pacific Northwest?* 2012. MacKay, H., Luchessa, S., & Seebacher. *Newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the Society of Wetland Scientists*, Spring 2012.

Annex 2

Participation by STRP in intersessional meetings and events

1. This annex provides a non-exhaustive list of conferences, meetings and other events which have included participation or presentations by STRP members and experts on Ramsar-related issues. It does not include participation in intersessional Ramsar Convention meetings such as Standing Committee and pre-COP11 regional preparatory meetings. A list of intersessional STRP task workshops is provided at the end. Meetings are listed in chronological order.

2009

World Wetlands Week celebrations, the Seychelles, March 2009. (Kevin Erwin)

Conference on *Global Biodiversity mechanisms – a thematic review of recent development and future evidence needs*, organised by Joint Nature Conservation Committee, London, UK, 20 May 2009. (Dave Pritchard)

WETWin project meeting, Ecuador, May 2009. (Heather MacKay)

Society of Wetland Scientists Conference 2009, Madison WI, USA, June 2009. (Royal Gardner: speaker and symposium organizer “The Ramsar Convention in the United States: Designation Procedures, Site Obligations, and Resulting Benefits”)

Vermont Law School, South Royalton, VT, USA, June 2009. (Royal Gardner: presentation on “The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands”)

International expert workshop on “*the 2010 biodiversity indicators and post-2010 indicator development*”, convened by UNEP-WCMC with CBD and the UK Government, Reading, UK, 6-8 July 2009. (Dave Pritchard; presentation on “Effective communication of the 2010 indicators, and the post-2010 regime of targets and indicators”)

Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP) annual meeting, Paris, 29 June - 2 July 2009 (Kevin Erwin)

Electronic conference organised by the European Platform for Biodiversity Research Strategy, 26 August - 16 September 2009. Pritchard, D E (2009). (Dave Pritchard: Keynote paper “How can we use the experience of the existing 2010 biodiversity target to set up new targets and indicators post 2010? “)

Workshop on “*Cultural and Natural Values of Wetlands - an integrated approach*”, organised by Mediterranean Institute for Nature and Anthropos, Prespa, Greece, 23-27 September 2009. (Dave Pritchard)

CEPA workshop, organized by Wetland Link International, 28-30 October 2009, Newcastle, Australia (Christine Prietto, Pierre Horwitz, George Lukacs, Max Finlayson)

3rd meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB), Nairobi, October 2009. (Heather MacKay)

2nd stakeholder meeting for the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), Nairobi, October 2009. (Heather MacKay)

National Training Course for Canadian Ramsar Site Managers, Creston Valley Wildlife Management Area, Creston, British Columbia, Canada, 5-8 October 2009) (Royal Gardner: course instructor)

Emerging Wetland Issues for the Oceania Region. Newcastle, Australia, October 2009. (Pierre Horwitz: Keynote speaker “Wetlands and Human Health”)

EMG UN Issue Management Group writing team meeting on a *UN system-wide contribution to the post-2010 biodiversity agenda*, organised by UNEP, Rome, Italy, 10-11 November 2009. (Dave Pritchard)

Workshop on linkages between Important Bird Areas monitoring, the Asian Waterbird Census and the Ramsar Convention, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2-4 November 2009. (Dave Pritchard: Papers presented on: “Making use of your results: how site monitoring from IBAs and the AWC supports implementation of the Ramsar Convention” and “The Ramsar Convention - its instruments, mechanisms and potential”)

2010

Louisiana State University, School of the Coast and Environment, Baton Rouge, LA, USA, 29 January 2010. (Royal Gardner: presentation on “The Ramsar Convention: Wetlands in a Global Context”)

World Wetland Day celebrations, Maun, Botswana, 2 February 2010. (Max Finlayson)

Third Technical Meeting of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds. FAO, Rome; 15-16 March 2010. (David Stroud)

Globwetland II meeting, organized by European Space Agency, Brussels, Belgium, 4 May 2010. (Dave Pritchard)

University of Victoria Restoration Institute workshop, Victoria, Canada, May 2010 (Heather MacKay)

3rd stakeholder meeting for the IPBES, Busan, RoK, June 2010. (Heather MacKay)

Climate change and wetlands adaptation workshop, Canberra, Australia, 12-14 July 2010. (Max Finlayson)

Wetland climate change and wise use writing workshop, Albury, Australia, 15-17 July 2010 (Max Finlayson)

Mediterranean Wetland Observatory meeting on indicators, Ede, Netherlands, 15-16 September 2010. (Dave Pritchard)

Second Triennial Meeting of U.S. National Ramsar Committee & Ramsar Site Representatives, Trempealeau, Wisconsin, October 11-13 2010. (Kevin Erwin: presentation on STRP review of Ramsar's wetland restoration guidance; Royal Gardner: presentation on "The Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel and Ramsar Site Managers")

CBD COP10, Nagoya, Japan, October 2010 (Dave Pritchard; Rob McInnes)

Opening of Cixi Wetlands Centre in Hangzhou Bay, China, October, 2010 (Christine Prietto: Keynote speaker)

CEPA workshop, organized by Wetland Link International, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 22-25 November 2010 (Christine Prietto, Max Finlayson)

Wetland restoration GEF project expert workshop, Volga River, Astrakhan & Volgograd, Russia, 15-18 Nov 2010 (Max Finlayson, Rob McInnes)

U.S. National Ramsar Committee Webinar, 15 December 2010. (Royal Gardner: moderator for "A Refuge Perspective on the Upper Mississippi River Floodplain Wetlands Ramsar Site")

2011

Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Huatulco, México, 31 Jan – 2 Feb 2011. (Montserrat Carbonell; Royal Gardner: presentation on "Legal Aspects of the Ramsar Convention")

4th meeting of the CSAB, Gland, February 2011. (Heather MacKay)

Wetlands International General Members Meeting, Edinburgh, UK, 22-23 February 2011. (Max Finlayson; Dave Pritchard)

Wetlands International symposium on *Valuing wetland ecosystems in a changing climate*, Edinburgh, UK, 24 February 2011 (Max Finlayson; Dave Pritchard)

Western Australian Wetlands Management Conference, February 2011. (Pierre Horwitz: Keynote Speaker: The Ramsar Convention and the "Forests and Wetlands" theme)

Global Forum on Wetlands for the Future, Tehran, I.R. Iran, 5-6 March 2011. Presentation on '40 years of Ramsar Site designations' (David Stroud; Dave Pritchard)

Monterey Institute for International Studies, Monterey, CA, USA, 11 May 2011 (Royal Gardner: presentation on "The Ramsar Convention: Wetlands in a Global Context")

University of Victoria Restoration Institute workshop, Victoria, Canada, May 2011 (Heather MacKay)

Wetland restoration workshop, Beijing, China, 20-24 June 2011 (Kevin Erwin, Rob McInnes, Max Finlayson)

CMS Secretariat meeting to prepare Ramsar-CMS Joint Work Plan 2012-2014 (now tabled for COP11 as COP11 DOC 19), Bonn, Germany, 19-20 July 2011. (Dave Pritchard)

Asian Wetlands Symposium, Wuxi City, China, September 2011. (Christine Prietto: keynote speaker)

TEEB-India Workshop, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, 15 September 2011 (Ritesh Kumar: presentation on “Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – An Approach for Inland Waters”)

Workshop to draft a *new CEPA strategy for the East Asia-Australasia Flyway Partnership*, Singapore, October, 2011 (Christine Prietto)

1st plenary meeting for the IPBES, Nairobi, October 2011. (Heather MacKay)

2012

Symposium on *Water and Wetlands in the Mediterranean*, organised by Ramsar, MedWet and the Government of Morocco, Agadir, Morocco, 6-8 February 2012. (Dave Pritchard)

5th meeting of the CSAB, Dublin, March 2012. (Heather MacKay)

6th World Water Forum, Marseilles, France, March 2012. (Ritesh Kumar: presentation on “Water management and ecosystems – a challenge for development”)

Workshop on Resilience Thinking, International Red Cross, The Hague, Netherlands, March 2012. (Ritesh Kumar: presentation on “Resilience – a socio-ecological systems perspective”)

National Consultation Workshop, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, 12-13 April, 2012 (Ritesh Kumar: presentation on “Valuing coastal and marine ecosystem services – Research Gaps”)

Annual Conference of British Ornithologist’s Union, UK, April 2012. (David Stroud: presentation on ‘*Ecosystem Services and the Ramsar Convention: new spin on old concepts*’)

9th INTECOL Wetlands Conference & SWS Annual Conference, Orland, Florida, USA, June 2012. (George Lukacs, Max Finlayson, Kevin Erwin, Rob McInnes: Symposium on the Ramsar Convention and SWS).

STRP intersessional task workshops

STRP intersessional workshop on indicators, hosted by UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, 7-8 January 2009.

STRP intersessional workshop on indicators, hosted by UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, 3-5 March 2009.

Health TWA Ramsar Technical Report writing group, Fremantle, Aust. 29 Aug-2 September 2009.

STRP intersessional workshop on indicators, hosted by UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, 19-21 October 2009.

STRP intersessional writing workshops on energy RTR and on mitigation/compensation (AMC Framework), Tampa, USA, 5-9 October 2010.

STRP intersessional workshop on the RIS and Strategic Framework 2012 revisions, Gland, Switzerland, 2-5 November 2010.

Data and information needs workshop, STRP and UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK, 18-19 January 2011.

STRP/CBD workshop for scoping the review of the role of biodiversity in the global water cycle, hosted by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH), Wallingford, UK, 29 June - 3 July 2011.

Technical scoping workshop for the Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS), hosted by Wetlands International, Ede, Netherlands, 8-9 December 2011.