



**9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.1

**Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing
the Ramsar wise use concept**

1. AWARE of the suite of technical and scientific guidelines and other materials prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to support Contracting Parties in their implementation of wetland conservation and wise use;
2. NOTING that the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP8) instructed the STRP to prepare further advice and guidance for consideration by Contracting Parties at COP9 on topics including, *inter alia*, inventory and assessment, wise use, water resource management, Ramsar site designation and management, and assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention;
3. THANKING the STRP for its work in preparing the advice and guidance annexed to this Resolution, as well as for the supporting technical reviews and reports being made available to Contracting Parties and others as *Ramsar Technical Reports*; and
4. ALSO THANKING the Government of Sweden and IUCN, WWF, the World Fish Centre, and the Water Research Commission (South Africa), which have provided financial support to the Panel and its Working Groups for the preparation of this advice and guidance and technical reports, and EXPRESSING GREAT APPRECIATION to the many organizations that have provided significant in-kind support to the work of the Panel;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

5. APPROVES the *Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character* (Annex A to this Resolution) and its updated definitions of “wise use” and “ecological character”, and CONFIRMS that these supersede all previous definitions of these terms;
6. ALSO APPROVES the revised *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Annex B to this Resolution), INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to introduce these changes in the preparation of a new edition of Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, including revisions to the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), and URGES all Contracting Parties preparing a RIS for the designation of a new site for the Ramsar List and for updating the RIS for an existing site to submit the information to the Ramsar Secretariat in this revised format;

7. WELCOMES the frameworks, guidelines and other advice provided as annexes C, D, and E to this Resolution and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of them as appropriate, adapting them as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances and within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;
8. URGES Contracting Parties to draw these frameworks, guidelines and other advice to the attention of all relevant stakeholders, including *inter alia* government ministries, departments and agencies, water and basin management authorities, non-governmental organizations, and civil society; and FURTHER URGES Contracting Parties to encourage these stakeholders to take these guidelines into account, together with those of the Ramsar 'Toolkit' of Wise Use Handbooks 2nd edition, in their decision-making and activities which relate to the delivery of the wise use of wetlands through the maintenance of their ecological character; and
9. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to disseminate widely the frameworks and guidelines annexed to this Resolution, including through amendment and updating of the Ramsar 'Toolkit' of Wise Use Handbooks.

Annexes

- Annex A** **A Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character**
- Annex B** ***Revised Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance***
- Annex C** **An Integrated Framework for the Ramsar Convention's water-related guidance**
Additional guidances annexed, as follows:
- i) *River basin management: additional guidance and framework for analysis of case studies;*
 - ii) *Guidelines for the management of groundwater to maintain wetland ecological character.*
- Annex D** **Ecological 'outcome-oriented' indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention**
- Annex E** **An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring (IF-WIAM)**
Additional guidance annexed, as follows:
- i) *Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity*



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Resolution IX.2

Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention

1. RECALLING Resolution VIII.45, in which the Contracting Parties recognized the need to make more effective and efficient the process of drafting, considering, adopting and implementing Resolutions and Recommendations;
2. RECOGNIZING that with an increasingly large suite of technical and scientific guidance and other materials available to Parties, the provision of a number of overarching frameworks for different major aspects of Convention implementation -- including a Framework for the implementation of the Convention (Resolution IX.8), the Conceptual Framework for the wise use concept (Resolution IX.1 Annex A), a revised *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the further development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution IX.1 Annex B), a Framework for Ramsar's water-related guidance (Resolution IX.1 Annex C), and an *Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring* (Resolution IX.1 Annex E) -- represents a helpful step in better equipping Parties to implement the Convention and also in identifying gaps in existing guidance;
3. WELCOMING the preparation of a *Ramsar Technical Report Series* with the purpose of publishing detailed technical methodologies, reviews and reports on wetland ecology, conservation, wise use and management, as an enhanced information support service to Contracting Parties and the wider wetland community in support of implementation of the Ramsar Convention;
4. ALSO RECOGNIZING that some scientific and technical implementation actions are specified in a number of other Resolutions of the present meeting of the Conference of Parties and that such Resolutions have the purpose of focusing on specific priority areas of evolving policy under the Convention, whilst the purpose of this Resolution is to provide an overall picture of key scientific and technical implementation actions for the Convention for 2006-2011;
5. RECALLING that Resolution VIII.28 established a mechanism for the prioritisation of the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP); and
6. AWARE that it has not been possible to progress significant elements of STRP's priority work in the 2003-2005 triennium, and that full delivery of the Panel's programme remains subject to resources, in particular to voluntary contributions from Parties and others;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. APPROVES the immediate and high priority actions for the STRP for the 2006-2008 triennium in Annex 1 to this Resolution and ALSO APPROVES the schedule of actions in Annex 2 as a scientific and technical implementation programme for the Convention for the period 2006-2011;
8. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to consolidate into Annex 2 to this Resolution, as appropriate, any additional scientific and technical implementation actions arising from other Resolutions adopted by the present meeting of the Conference of Parties;
9. REQUESTS the Secretariat to consolidate Annexes 1 and 2 to this Resolution with the Annex to Resolution Resolution IX.8 to form the Convention's Work Plan 2006-2008, and to make this available to Contracting Parties and others without delay; and
10. URGES Parties, donors, intergovernmental agencies, International Organization Partners, national NGOs, and others to use this programme, including the costed programme for immediate and high priority STRP actions in Annex 1 to this Resolution, in deciding priorities for their financial and other material support towards the future scientific and technical implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

Annex 1

Immediate priority and high priority tasks and the estimated costs for their delivery, for the STRP's programme of work 2006-2008

The following 26 tasks and their estimated costs have been recommended by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and COP9 as priority activities for its work plan for the 2006-2008 triennium. These are divided into two categories:

- i. *Immediate Priority* tasks: those which should be initiated by the STRP as early as possible in the 2006-2008 triennium using available resources; and
- ii. *High Priority* tasks: those which should be initiated during the 2006-2008 triennium as and when the resources available to the STRP permit. Some of these High Priority tasks are also dependent on the prior delivery of Immediate Priority tasks.

Twelve tasks are identified as *Immediate Priorities* for the STRP. These cover the following topics:

- Performing an ongoing strategic scientific and technical “review” function and a “response” function for preparing guidance on emerging issues;
- Reviewing implementation of scientific and technical COP Resolutions;
- Reviewing existing Ramsar guidance, to identify gaps and to repackage/retire guidance as appropriate;
- Reviewing data and information needs for Ramsar sites and other wetlands, and developing guidance on *inter alia* describing wetland ecological character and Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) amendments;
- Establishing mechanisms for the implementation and assessment of the indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention (Resolution IX.1 Annex D);
- Developing an adaptation to the Ramsar context of the “Critical Path” approach for river basin management (Resolution IX.1 Annex C i) and preparing operational guidance to include the application of CEPA tools;
- Preparing guidelines for Parties on the implementation of environmental water requirements for wetlands;
- Undertaking a strategic review of water quality and wetland issues;
- Elaborating and updating the list of appropriate population estimates and 1% thresholds for the application of Criterion 9 (Resolution IX.1 Annex B);
- Preparing guidelines on good agricultural practices and policies for different wetland types;
- Seeking opportunities to prepare materials for outreach purposes, including on mainstreaming Ramsar issues within the water sector; and
- Reviewing the relationships and issues concerning the wise use of wetland ecosystems and human health.

Provisional estimated costs are based on each task requiring the engagement by the STRP of an expert (or experts) to undertake the work required. Estimated costs have been provided by the STRP and its expert Working Groups – more precise costings and ways and means for the delivery of these tasks, not all of which may prove to need such funded expert consultancies, will

be developed at the onset of the 2006-2008 triennium through the mechanisms established under the revised STRP *modus operandi* (Resolution IX.11) and reported to the Standing Committee.

Provisional estimated costs for the twelve *Immediate Priority* tasks are CHF 250,000, and for the other fourteen 2006-2008 *High Priority* tasks are CHF 190,000.

Abbreviated titles of some tasks are given in this Annex. Reference should be made to the relevant numbered task in Annex 2 for the full description of each task

I. Issues arising from Resolution VIII.45 and the “ongoing” functions of the STRP

Task and product	Provisional estimated cost (Swiss francs)
2. Perform a true “review” function of addressing issues of strategic scientific and technical direction for the Convention, acting as a response mechanism to give scientific and technical advice to the Convention on emerging issues, with an overall aim of achieving a balance between these proactive guidance and reactive advice functions. Immediate priority	Minimal (will be covered within the <i>modus operandi</i> for STRP meetings and processes)
3. Maintain an overview of progress with scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of COP Resolutions. Immediate priority	20,000 (if, once scoped, the task requires consultation with site managers, Contracting Parties and others)
5. Review the range of existing Ramsar guidance (in conjunction with actions requested in Resolution IX.17), with a view to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identifying gaps, - repackaging older guidance into updated documents, and - proposing retiring or withdrawing outdated documents. Immediate priority	5,000
Subtotal:	25,000

II. Issues relating to the *Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character* (Resolution IX.1 Annex A)

Task and product	Provisional estimated cost (Swiss francs)
14. Review the case studies in <i>Toward the Wise Use of Wetlands</i> (Ramsar, 1993) and other relevant case studies, review subsequent implementation progress with these cases, and provide updated studies. High priority	30,000
15. Further review the harmonization of	To be costed

definitions and terms related to ecosystem benefits/services (with reference to Resolution VIII.7 paragraph 15 and COP9 DOC. 16, and taking into account the usage of such terms in other international fora).	
High priority	
Subtotal:	30,000

III. Issues relating to the *Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring* (Resolution IX.1 Annex E) and indicators of Convention effectiveness (Resolution IX.1 Annex D)

Task and product	Provisional estimated cost (Swiss francs)
52.	
i. Conduct a review of data and information needs for Ramsar sites and of the implications for official reporting, the further development of the Ramsar Sites Information Service, and the scope for harmonizing such reporting with the needs of other multilateral environmental agreements.	i. (data needs review): 30,000
ii. In light of the conclusions of this review, conduct a fundamental review of the structure of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS), having regard to Resolution VIII.6 on a <i>Framework for wetland inventory</i> , Resolution IX.1 Annex A on a <i>Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character</i> , including its revised definition of the term “ecological character”, and other relevant COP9 decisions. Priority issues to address include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation of guidance for the description of the ecological character of wetlands; • development of protocols for the electronic submission of Ramsar Information Sheets; • harmonization of the layout and information fields of the RIS with the core data fields of the <i>Framework for wetland inventory</i> and the description of ecological character; • approaches to handling transboundary sites; and 	ii. RIS review and ecological character guidance etc.): 15,000

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • investigation of the possible inclusion of a core data field in the RIS to allow for the insertion of a precise site boundary description. 	
iii. In conjunction with these reviews, develop a scheme of data needs for wetlands more generally, addressing separately both the global level and the site level. Immediate priority	iii. (wetland data needs review): 15,000
53. Prepare advice on delineating and mapping wetlands, in conjunction with the description of their ecological character, including issues concerning digital mapping. High priority	15,000
54. Prepare further consolidated guidance on the overall process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character. High priority	20,000
59. Establish and implement mechanisms for the collection, collation, analysis, assessment, reporting, publishing and disseminating of the results and conclusions of the indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention. Immediate priority	25,000 (Note. This task will include identification of any additional costs concerning analysis, assessment, reporting and dissemination of each indicator, depending on the mechanisms established.)
60. Develop, test and put forward for use by Parties further indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention. High priority	15,000
Subtotal:	135,000

IV. Issues relating to the *Integrated Framework for Ramsar's water-related guidance* (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)

Task and product	Provisional estimated cost (Swiss francs)
81. Develop in more detail an adaptation to the Ramsar context of the "Critical Path" approach for river basin management and (as appropriate) coastal zone management, including case study analysis, and prepare operational guidance, including for the application of CEPA tools. Immediate priority	30,000
85. Develop guidance on good practice in the integration of wetlands into Integrated	15,000

Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), based on case studies to be sought from Parties. High priority	
89. Prepare guidelines for Parties on the implementation of environmental water requirements for wetlands. Immediate priority	15,000
90. Prepare technical review reports on: i. groundwater-wetland interactions; and ii. the use and management of groundwater to maintain ecosystem functions. Once these reports are complete, review the present Integrated Framework for Ramsar's water-related guidance (Resolution IX.1 Annex C) and prepare detailed technical guidance on developing groundwater management strategies which aim at maintenance of wetland ecosystems and minimizing or mitigating the impacts of groundwater abstraction, and make other updating amendments as necessary. High priority	20,000 for review reports 10,000 for further guidance on strategies etc. 5,000 for reviewing and updating framework
91. Undertake a strategic review of water quality and wetland issues; develop a medium-term plan and terms of reference for addressing water quality issues in Ramsar guidance; and subsequently prepare guidance for Parties on including water quality in environmental water requirement determination and implementation. Immediate priority	25,000
Subtotal:	120,000

V. Issues relating to the revised *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution IX.1 Annex B)

Task and product	Provisional estimated cost (Swiss francs)
104. Develop an interpretation of the term 'under-represented' wetland type and investigate methods for defining targets for representation of wetland types in the Ramsar List. High priority	15,000
107. Review existing guidance on designation of specific wetland types, assess the need for additional guidance, and as necessary develop such guidance. High priority	25,000

109. Elaborate and update the list of appropriate population estimates and 1% thresholds for non-avian animal species for the application of Criterion 9 (Resolution IX.1 Annex B). Immediate priority	10,000
112. Keep the Ramsar Criteria and guidelines as a whole under review to ensure that they reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities. High priority	5,000
Subtotal:	55,000

VI. Issues relating to wetland management (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 8)

No immediate or high priority STRP tasks for 2006-2008.

VII. Issues relating to wetlands and agriculture

Task and product	Provisional estimated cost (Swiss francs)
150. Prepare guidelines on good agricultural practices and policies for different wetland types, drawing on information provided by the Comprehensive Assessment on water management in agriculture (CA) and other initiatives, and in line with existing legal frameworks. Immediate priority	20,000
Subtotal:	20,000

VIII. Technical aspects of communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)

Task and product	Provisional estimated cost (Swiss francs)
152. Ensure that CEPA issues are fully covered in each of the substantive guidance documents prepared by the STRP through input to the Panel's work from CEPA experts. High priority	15,000
153. Seek opportunities to prepare materials for outreach purposes, particularly for decision-makers and those in other sectors, on topics which are the subject of substantive guidance prepared by the STRP, including on mainstreaming Ramsar issues within the water sector. Immediate priority	15,000 for water issues materials (other costings will depend on identification of other specific opportunities)
Subtotal:	30,000

IX. Development of further sectoral guidance by STRP

Task and product	Provisional estimated cost (Swiss francs)
163. Review the relationships and issues concerning the wise use of wetland ecosystems and human health. Immediate priority	25,000
Subtotal:	25,000

TOTAL PROVISIONAL ESTIMATED COSTS for 2006-2008: CHF 440,000

Annex 2

Schedule of actions for scientific and technical implementation of the Ramsar Convention, 2006-2011

Important note: the actions in the sections below on “Actions by others” cover only those actions of a scientific and technical nature: other actions for Contracting Parties and other bodies and organizations in the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and other decisions adopted by the Conferences of the Contracting Parties concerning policy, procedural and administrative issues are not addressed in this Annex (see Resolution IX.8).

List of sections in this Annex

- I. Issues arising from Resolution VIII.45 and the “ongoing” functions of the STRP
- II. Issues relating to the *Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character* (Resolution IX.1 Annex A)
- III. Issues relating to the *Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring* (Resolution IX.1 Annex E) and indicators of Convention effectiveness (Resolution IX.1 Annex D)
- IV. Issues relating to the *Integrated framework for Ramsar’s water-related guidance* (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)
- V. Issues relating to the revised *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution IX.1 Annex B)
- VI. Issues relating to wetland management (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 8)
- VII. Issues relating to wetlands and agriculture
- VIII. Technical aspects of communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)
- IX. Development of further sectoral guidance by STRP

I. Issues arising from Resolution VIII.45 and the “ongoing” functions of the STRP

I(a) Actions by the STRP

- 1. Review and comment on proposals from Parties for COP Resolutions with technical content, and provide this advice to the Standing Committee and COP. (Standing Committee Subgroup on COP9)
- 2. Give increased emphasis, alongside specific mandated guidance drafting tasks, to performing a true “review” function of addressing issues of strategic scientific and technical direction for the Convention, acting as a response mechanism to give scientific and technical advice to the Convention on emerging issues, with an overall aim of achieving a balance between these proactive guidance and reactive advice functions. (STRP 12) **STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority**
- 3. Maintain an overview of progress with scientific and technical aspects of the implementation of COP Resolutions, both in relation to indicators of effectiveness (see section III below) and more widely. (STRP 12) **STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority**

4. Continue to provide advice under the following ongoing functions:
 - i) advising, when requested, on Ramsar site designation and management issues, including on Article 3.2 reports concerning change in ecological character;
 - ii) advising the Secretariat on requests from Contracting Parties for removing Ramsar sites from the Montreux Record of sites facing damaging change in ecological character;
 - iii) establishing and maintaining contact with STRP National Focal Points so as to ensure that their advice and expertise are fully contributing to the work of the Panel;
 - iv) advising on any request from a Contracting Party to participate in the activities of a different Ramsar region to that which it is assigned under the regional categorization of the Convention;
 - v) at the request of the relevant Administrative Authority, ensuring the involvement of the STRP National Focal Point in monitoring and evaluating an SGF project;
 - vi) upon request, assisting Contracting Parties and bilateral development agencies in screening, developing and evaluating wetland projects;
 - vii) receiving progress reports and advising on future needs and developments of the Ramsar Sites Information Service, maintained for the Convention by Wetlands International; and
 - viii) ensuring cooperation, exchange of information, and coordination of activities, where appropriate, with other MEAs' scientific and technical subsidiary bodies (and their related processes), including through actions in Joint Work Plans.

(Resolution VIII.28; Resolution IX.11)

5. Review the range of existing Ramsar guidance (in conjunction with actions requested in Resolution IX.17), with a view *inter alia* to identifying gaps (including by reference to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment *Conceptual Framework*), repackaging older guidance into updated documents, retiring or withdrawing outdated documents (including Recommendation 4.10 and Resolution 5.6), and make recommendations in this regard to COP10. (STRP12, Resolution IX.1 Annex A, COP9 DOC 16) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**

I(b) Action by others

6. In general give a higher priority, as far as appropriate, to full implementation of existing Resolutions and Recommendations than to putting forward proposals for new and additional Resolutions. [CPs] (SC Subgroup on Resolution VIII.45)
7. Develop an index of current Resolutions and Recommendations by subject matter and geographic relevance, to assist Parties in concentrating on the implementation of

Resolutions and Recommendations that are most relevant to their situations. [Secretariat] (SC Subgroup on Resolution VIII.45)

8. Promote outreach mechanisms to disseminate Resolutions and Recommendations to stakeholders beyond the Convention's national Administrative Authorities. [Parties, Secretariat, and others] (SC Subgroup on Resolution VIII.45)
9. When drawing up proposals for new or additional Resolutions, endeavour to make them as concise and user-friendly as possible, with a view to their ease of use by site managers and other stakeholders, including through the use of summaries and case studies. [CPs, STRP] (SC Subgroup on Resolution VIII.45)
10. Provide to each COP at its outset, and to a meeting of the Standing Committee in advance of the COP, as complete an outline as possible of the potential scientific and technical tasks which appear from proposals and draft Resolutions tabled by that stage to be likely to be allocated to the STRP, the Secretariat and the Parties in the succeeding triennium, so that the COP will be able to make decisions informed by the overall scale of such tasks and the financial and other implications of undertaking them. [Secretariat; STRP] (Resolution IX.2)
11. Provide case studies of implementation of Resolutions and Recommendations where there is relevant experience to share, including wherever possible the identification of lessons learned, identifying the specific locations of site-based experiences. [CPs, IGOs, IOPs, other NGOs]
12. Support the budget for the work of the STRP with voluntary contributions, upon which the work of the Panel relies. [Parties, donors and others] (Resolution IX.2)

II. Issues relating to the *Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character* (Resolution IX.1 Annex A)

II(a) Action by the STRP

13. Elaborate ways in which to utilize to best effect the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, especially those concerning response options, including in relation to the *Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character*. (STRP 12, Resolution IX.1 Annex A)
14. Review the case studies in *Toward the Wise Use of Wetlands* (Ramsar, 1993) and other relevant case studies (including those requested in actions 66, 69 and 72), review subsequent implementation progress with these cases, and provide updated studies, including advice on the application of the ecosystem approach. (Strategic Plan action 3.1.2; STRP 2003-2005 work plan; STRP12 report) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**
15. Further review the harmonization of definitions and terms related to ecosystem benefits/services (with reference to Resolution VIII.7 paragraph 15 and COP9 DOC. 16, and taking into account the usage of such terms in other international fora), and report to COP10. (Resolution IX.1 Annex A). **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**

16. Having regard to such progress as may be achieved with the Convention's indicators of implementation effectiveness, to the review of gaps in guidance described in action 5 above, and to the implementation of Resolution VIII.45, develop such new tools as may be necessary to assist Parties with the implementation of the wise use concept. (Strategic Plan action 17.1.5; STRP 2003-2005 work plan)
17. Assess the contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries and recommend sustainable management practices which can contribute to the WSSD target of maintaining or restoring depleted fish stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield. (Strategic Plan action 1.2.6)
18. Consider ways and means of elaborating the Annex to Resolution IX.4, taking into account the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (CA), and other relevant assessments, in order to provide further guidance for Contracting Parties on wetlands and their relation to sustainable fisheries. (Resolution IX.4)
19. Develop guidelines for the implementation of Resolution IX.14 on "Wetlands and poverty reduction". (Resolution IX.14)
20. Consider the relevance and applicability of the tools and approaches for cross-biome planning and management of wetlands within the context of ongoing work and priorities, namely the following priority tasks in Resolution IX.2 Annex 1: task 5 - review of existing Ramsar guidance; task 81 – further development of river basin and coastal zone management approach(es); and task 112 - review of Ramsar site Criteria and guidelines to reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities. (Resolution IX.20)

II(b) Action by others

21. Review the use of terms covered by the guidance in Resolution IX.1 Annex A in policy documents and other contexts, and adapt such usages where necessary in order to remain consistent with those now advised in the guidance. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex A)
22. In undertaking interventions which make use of Ramsar guidance Handbooks, address choices about the focus for such interventions by reference where appropriate to the Conceptual Framework deriving from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and as adapted in the guidance in Resolution IX.1 Annex A. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex A)
23. Establish multi-hazard analyses that define areas suitable for development and for appropriate contingency planning that recognizes pre-disaster measures for impact prevention and minimization involving wise wetland management. [CPs] (Resolution IX.9)
24. Work together urgently to promote and to actively support the recovery of coastal wetlands and associated community livelihoods in countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 as well as the reduction of the vulnerabilities of coastal communities and wetlands through:
 - assistance with reduction of the impact of natural disasters, ensuring the implementation of ecologically sustainable management and redevelopment

approaches and enhanced integrated coastal zone management throughout the region, in order to assist with the mitigation of impacts of any future tsunami and storm damage;

- establishment or maintenance of coastal greenbelts of mangroves and other appropriate species;
- mitigation of impacts of future tsunami and storm damage;
- strengthening of regional initiatives and other existing regional fora to share experience and expertise and support collective efforts in natural disaster prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of coastal wetland ecosystems; and
- assistance with monitoring of long-term ecological impacts of disasters on Ramsar sites and other wetlands.

[CPs, others] (Resolution IX.9)

25. In relation to attention to fisheries as one example area of the application of the wise use concept, use the habitat and species conservation provisions of the Convention to support the introduction and/or continuance of management measures that mitigate the environmental impacts of fishing, including the use of spatial management approaches as appropriate. [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)
26. Review, and where necessary enhance, national and regional programmes for the systematic collection of ecological and socio-economic data on fisheries, including artisanal fisheries, and data on aquaculture, of relevance to Ramsar sites and associated areas, and undertake inventories, assessments and monitoring of fisheries resources which depend on wetlands. [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)
27. Carefully control aquaculture (e.g., pond and cage culture) practices in Ramsar sites and in areas that are liable to impact on Ramsar sites and other wetlands so as to prevent adverse changes to the ecological character of wetlands, applying the provisions of the 1997 FAO Code of Conduct and its associated Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries – Aquaculture Development and the 2000 Bangkok Declaration and Strategy for Aquaculture Development (Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)/FAO)). [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)
28. Review policies, laws and programmes for regulating the introduction of aquatic biota for aquaculture and the aquarium industry, so as to control the accidental movement of species for example through ballast water and to avoid introduction of invasive and/or alien species, and undertake the necessary measures to prevent the introduction or spread of known alien and/or invasive aquatic biota (including invasive alien genes), in order to maintain the ecological character of wetlands, in line with Resolution VIII.18. [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)
29. Assist fishers in gaining access to environmentally friendly technologies for fisheries and related activities. [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)
30. Work with other conventions, instruments and organizations concerned with the conservation of biodiversity and the management of natural resources (including FAO at an international and regional level), in order to promote the synergy and alignment of planning and management approaches that benefit the conservation and sustainable

management of fisheries resources and that foster recognition of the contribution this makes towards meeting CBD targets, WSSD goals, and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.4)

31. Pursue appropriate partnerships with expert bodies or organizations such as The WorldFish Center and FAO that are concerned with fisheries resources/resource conservation and sustainable use, in order for the Ramsar Convention to gain further advice and to fulfill its mandate. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.4)
32. Promote and disseminate research into the population dynamics and sustainable harvesting of wetland-dependent species, especially migratory waterbirds, and ensure that national hunting legislation is consistent with the wise use principle for migratory waterbird and other wetland-dependent species, taking into account geographical range, life-history characteristics of species, and research on sustainable harvesting. [CPs; others] (Strategic Plan actions 12.2.4, 12.2.5)
33. Promote and secure the wise use of peatland ecosystems and their benefits/services, as a demonstration of the application of the Convention's wise use concept, including through the work of the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands (GGAP) as a multi-sectoral mechanism and the delivery of the Implementation Plan and priorities it has developed under Resolution VIII.17 for Global Action on Peatlands (to be made available as a *Ramsar Technical Report*), emphasizing the dissemination of information, monitoring implementation of GGAP by Parties and others, identification of gaps, and assistance in fundraising for further GGAP implementation. [GGAP Coordinating Committee; CPs; Secretariat] (STRP12)
34. Develop and implement a survival plan for tropical peat swamp forests. [CPs, GGAP Coordinating Committee, donors] (STRP12)
35. Contribute to initiatives concerning the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for the sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems. [CPs; others] (Resolution VIII.32)
36. Continue to review existing or evolving policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands, identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use, and investigate linkages between incentives and related topics including financial mechanisms, trade, impact assessment, and valuation. [CPs] (Strategic Plan action 8.1.1 & Resolutions VIII.23, VIII.34 and VIII.40)
37. In consultation with and with the support of indigenous people, document and encourage the application of appropriate traditional knowledge and management practices of indigenous people and local communities in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. [CPs] (Strategic Plan action 6.1.2; Resolution VIII.39)
38. When reviewing land tenure policies, consider, where appropriate, wetland tenure systems and user rights in a manner that promotes fair, transparent and sustainable management of wetlands and their resources. [CPs] (Resolution VIII.34)

39. Working with others as appropriate, undertake, where possible, studies of the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration and in mitigating the impacts of sea level rise. [CPs] (Resolution VIII.3)
40. Review, in cooperation with the private sector, domestic and international trade in wetland-derived plant and animal products, both exports and imports, and as appropriate implement the necessary legal, institutional and administrative measures to ensure that harvesting is sustainable and in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). [CPs] (Strategic Plan action 7.1.5)
41. Take action to contribute to poverty reduction, especially in the following areas:
 - *human life and safety*: measures to protect against impacts such as cyclones, storm surges, saline intrusions, droughts and floods through the sustainable use and restoration of wetlands;
 - *access to resources*: measures to improve access to and develop capacity to use, on a sustainable basis, land, water and wetland resources such as fish, in full respect of international and national legislation, respecting the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples consistent with national law and applicable international obligations;
 - *ecological sustainability*: measures to enhance the priority given to sustainability in all relevant mainstream policy sectors, including ecosystem restoration measures;
 - *governance*: measures to improve the empowerment of the poor in decision-making processes and management institutions;
 - *economies*: measures to maintain or improve, on an ecologically sustainable basis, the ecosystem benefits/services that wetlands provide.[CPs] (Resolution IX.14)
42. Implement the wetland component (Programme Area 2) of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), building upon the decisions contained in Resolution VIII.44 (*New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Africa*) and drawing links between implementation of NEPAD and poverty reduction. [African CPs] (Resolution IX.14)
43. Make available to Contracting Parties the information, tools, and approaches on integrated cross-biome planning and management of wetlands, and further apply and develop the tools and approaches and, in particular, further evaluate their utility in assisting Parties to more effectively implement the provisions and guidance of the Ramsar Convention and CBD. [WWF] (Resolution IX.20)
44. Include within integrated planning the development of site networks of protected areas, including Ramsar sites, to ensure that the ecosystem benefits/services delivered by the various biomes are recognized and incorporated into management regimes and land and water use activities, also taking into account, *inter alia*, the provisions of CBD decision VII/28 on protected areas, in particular Programme Element 1 of the annex to that decision which refers to direct actions for planning, selecting, establishing, strengthening, and managing protected area systems and sites. [CPs] (Resolution IX.20)

45. Identify and analyze further case studies of wetlands with significant cultural values and make them widely known, thus increasing the knowledge and understanding of the relationship between cultural processes and wetland conservation and wise use. [CPs] (Resolution IX.21)
46. Incorporate cultural values in wetland policies and strategies, as well as in wetland management plans, and communicate the results, thus contributing to the development of comprehensive and integrated approaches. [CPs] (Resolution IX.21)
47. Complete, through a broad participatory process, the work prescribed in paragraph 17 of Resolution VIII.19 concerning the guidance to be provided on cultural values, and establish a multi-disciplinary working group on the cultural values of wetlands, with a balanced geographic representation, under the supervision of Standing Committee, with appropriate input from the STRP, to coordinate the activities. [Secretariat, Standing Committee, STRP] (Resolution IX.21)
48. Analyse the activities carried out to incorporate cultural values in the work of the Convention during the triennium 2006-2008 and the experience gained, and report to the Standing Committee and COP10. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.21)

III. Issues relating to the *Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring* (Resolution IX.1 Annex E) and indicators of Convention effectiveness (Resolution IX.1 Annex D)

III(a) Action by the STRP

49. Develop, test and publish a hydro-geomorphically-based system of classification of wetland type, including an evaluation of how this might relate to other possible systems and to the current Ramsar classification system, having regard *inter alia* to groundwater issues and to relevant outputs of the European Space Agency GlobWetland remote sensing project, and prepare a report with advice for Parties at COP10. (STRP12)
50. Make available a Web-based wetland inventory meta-database, populated with information on all national wetland inventories and updatable by Contracting Parties. (Strategic Plan action 1.1.4)
51. As and when the update of the *Global Review of Wetland Resources and Priorities for Wetland Inventory* (GroWI-2) can be progressed, ensure that appropriate input to it is made, drawing upon inventory meta-data information. (STRP 2003-2005 work plan)
52.
 - i) Conduct a review of data and information needs for Ramsar sites and of the implications for official reporting, the further development of the Ramsar Sites Information Service, and the scope for harmonizing such reporting with the needs of other multilateral environmental agreements.
 - ii) In light of the conclusions of this review, conduct a fundamental review of the structure of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS), having regard to Resolution VIII.6 on a *Framework for wetland inventory*, Resolution IX.1 Annex A on a *Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character*,

including its revised definition of the term “ecological character”, and other relevant COP9 decisions.

Priority issues to address include:

- preparation of guidance for the description of the ecological character of wetlands;
- development of protocols for the electronic submission of Ramsar Information Sheets;
- harmonization of the layout and information fields of the RIS with the core data fields of the *Framework for wetland inventory* and the description of ecological character;
- approaches to handling transboundary sites; and
- investigation of the possible inclusion of a core data field in the RIS to allow for the insertion of a precise site boundary description.

- iii) In conjunction with these reviews, develop a scheme of data needs for wetlands more generally, addressing separately both the global level and the site level.

STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority

53. Prepare advice on delineating and mapping wetlands, in conjunction with the description of their ecological character, including issues concerning digital mapping identified in Resolution VIII.13. (STRP 2003-2005 work plan) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**
54. Prepare further consolidated guidance on the overall process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character, including guidelines for determining when such a change is too trivial to require reporting, having regard to the reasons why a given site is important and the conservation objectives set for it. (Resolution VIII.8, STRP 2003-2005 work plan) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**
55. Review and evaluate the Man and the Biosphere Programme’s procedure for Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring (BRIM), once developed, and advise on its application to the monitoring of the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands. (Resolution VIII.7)
56. Prepare advice on redesigning the Montreux Record questionnaire, *inter alia* to ensure consistency with the Article 3.2 reporting format. (STRP 2003-2005 work plan)
57. Prepare an analysis of the status and trends in the ecological character of sites in the Ramsar List, set as far as possible in the context of the status and trends of wetlands more generally and drawing as appropriate on the Ramsar Sites Database, the Convention’s indicators of implementation effectiveness, and the results of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and other assessment initiatives. (Resolution VIII.8, STRP 2003-2005 work plan)
58. Linked to task 57 above, prepare synthesis reports on aspects of the status and trends of wetlands and their biological diversity, as an input to assessments of progress in relation to the World Summit on Sustainable Development/Convention on Biological Diversity 2010 target for significant biodiversity loss-rate reduction, and in particular to the CBD’s

indicators on “trends in selected biomes” and “water quality”, aiming to publish one such report in 2008 (having regard also to contributions to the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and the UNEP Global Environment Outlook – GEO-4), and one in 2011. [STRP, Secretariat, IOPs] (STRP12)

59. Establish and implement mechanisms for the collection, collation, analysis, assessment, reporting, publishing and disseminating of the results and conclusions of the indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention. [Secretariat; CPs; IOPs; STRP] (STRP12; Resolution IX.1 Annex D) **STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority**
60. Develop, test and put forward for use by Parties further indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention, including indicators addressing wise use policy issues and benefits/services provided by wetlands to humans. (Resolution IX.1 Annex D) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**
61. In addition to the mechanisms described in preceding paragraphs, assist in monitoring the performance of the Convention by utilizing the Key Result Areas and associated indicators in the “Framework for the implementation of the Convention’s Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period” annexed to Resolution IX.8. [STRP; CPs; Secretariat] (Resolution IX.8)
62. Continue participation in the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza as resources and competencies permit; provide relevant input on practical measures to reduce the risk of disease transmission between wild, captive and domesticated birds, to those agencies developing contingency and wetland management plans related to HPAI; and assist, with relevant international agencies and the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza, in sharing information, including practical advice that will assist countries to respond to this serious and rapidly developing situation, reporting back on progress to the Standing Committee and to COP10. [STRP; Secretariat] (Resolution IX.23)

III(b) Action by others

63. Make use of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment experience and methods for subglobal ecosystem assessments in the assessment of wetland ecosystems at the local, national and supranational scale, including through international cooperation on the assessment of transboundary aquatic ecosystems. [CPs, others] (Resolution VIII.7)
64. When designing and undertaking monitoring of wetlands or wetland biodiversity according to the Ramsar Framework, consider also the possibility in appropriate circumstances of using relevant rapid assessment tools/methodologies according to the guidance in Resolution IX.1 Annex Ei for longer term hypothesis-driven monitoring by repeated surveys using such methods.] [CPs, others] (Resolution IX.1 Annex Ei)
65. When undertaking national inventories of wetlands, identify those wetlands where restoration or rehabilitation would be appropriate because of their present and/or former ecosystem benefits/services, on the basis of the guidelines adopted by Resolutions VII.16 and VIII.6. [CPs, others] (Resolutions VII.16, VIII.6)

66. Finalise development of a simple form for Parties to use in recording change or potential change in ecological character of Ramsar sites under Article 3.2. [Secretariat; Wetlands International] (STRP12)
67. Establish contact with the relevant national contact points from within the networks of the International Association for Impact Assessment with a view to identifying sources of expertise and advice for assisting with wetland-related impact assessment. [CPs; IAIA] (Resolution VIII.9)
68. Monitor and assess the impacts of natural disasters on the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands and on the livelihoods of affected people dependent upon these wetlands and, for designated Ramsar sites, report this information to the Ramsar Secretariat so that it can be made available to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to assist in its reporting to subsequent COPs on the status and trends in the ecological character of sites in the Ramsar List and other wetlands, as called for in Resolution VIII.8. [affected CPs] (Resolution IX.9)
69. Undertake assessments of the economic, social, cultural and livelihood values of individual wetlands and wetlands in general and the benefits/services they deliver, with a view to enhancing sustainable livelihoods utilizing a wise use approach. [CPs, with UNEP, UNDP, the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs, IOPs, national and international NGOs and others] (Resolution IX.14)
70. Continue monitoring and assessing the status and trends of specific wetland issues as determined in previous COP Resolutions, for example, the extent and conservation status of coastal wetlands (Resolution VIII.4); extent, conservation status and levels of use of mangroves (Resolution VIII.32); impacts of dams (Resolution VIII.2); threats to temporary pools (Resolution VIII.33); risks from alien invasive species (Resolution VIII.18); and impacts of drought and other natural disasters (Resolution VIII.35), where applicable in conjunction with activities related to Ramsar's indicators of implementation effectiveness. [CPs; IOPs; others] (COP8 Resolutions VIII.4, VIII.32, VIII.2, VIII.33, VIII.18 and VIII.35)
71. Those responsible for protecting and managing Ramsar sites: establish for each site an effective monitoring programme, ideally as part of the site management plan, which is designed to detect and provide early warning of changes in ecological character, using the Convention's *Framework for designing an effective monitoring programme* and its *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework*, and additionally, linked to this, use Ramsar sites as baseline and reference areas for national, supranational/regional, and international environmental monitoring to detect trends in the loss of biological diversity, climate change, and the processes of desertification. [CPs] (Strategic Plan actions 11.2.1 and 11.2.2; Resolution IX.15).
72. Explore possibilities for establishing partnerships so as to support the development of long-term funding for monitoring schemes that are relevant to the Convention's interests, and as soon as possible. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.23)
73. Apply waterbird monitoring data, and analyses drawn from them, when appropriate, as a means of providing objective information for site management planning and the evaluation of national or regional wetland policies. [CPs] (Resolution VIII.38)

74. Update and submit revised Ramsar Information Sheets as frequently as necessary to record changes in the status of sites, at least at intervals of not more than six years, so that they can be used for reviewing progress in achieving the Vision and Objectives of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Handbook 7) at each meeting of the COP. [CPs] (Strategic Plan action 10.2.4)
75. Establish a repository for the contribution by Parties of summarized national (or, where appropriate, provincial) assessments of changes in the status of wetland resources, as the basis for regular analysis and improved reporting on the status of wetland resources, as a mechanism linked to the inventory meta-database (see action 50). [Secretariat] (Strategic Plan action 1.2.2)
76. Consider how best to simplify and reduce duplication in the reporting required and/or requested in relevant Resolutions adopted by previous COPs, make further recommendations on streamlining and simplifying reporting requirements, and develop a simpler and less duplicative reporting format (taking into account the implementation of COP9 Resolutions IX.1 Annex D and IX.8); and continue working with UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements concerning more effective convention implementation. Topics could include, *inter alia*, and as appropriate, the development and implementation of issue-based modules and harmonization of national reporting requirements subject to the mandate of each individual convention bearing in mind their Contracting Parties. [Secretariat; Standing Committee; MEAs] (Resolutions IX.5 and IX.8)
77. Develop ways and means at national level of improving liaison between Ramsar Convention Administrative Authorities and focal points for related conventions and agreements, and communicate with the Secretariat on their progress with respect to harmonizing information management and reporting for the biodiversity-related conventions. [CPs] (Resolution IX.5)
78. Continue to be fully involved in proceedings of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) established under the *aegis* of the CBD and report regularly to Standing Committee on progress achieved by this group; and cooperate closely with relevant conventions, including through the Joint Liaison Group for the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD), with UN agencies such as UNEP, UNESCO and FAO, and with other relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), UNEP-WCMC, and the CGIAR networks, and seek to reduce duplicative activities. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.5)
79. Monitor the performance of the Convention by utilizing the Key Result Areas and associated indicators in the *Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period* annexed to Resolution IX.8. [CPs, SC, Secretariat, IOPs] (Resolution IX.8)

IV. Issues relating to the *Integrated framework for Ramsar's water-related guidance* (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)

IV(a) Action by the STRP

General

80. Prepare guidance on issues of a largely CEPA nature concerning mainstreaming Ramsar issues within the water sector. (STRP12)

Concerning River Basin Management/ Coastal Zone Management

81. Develop in more detail an adaptation to the Ramsar context of the “Critical Path” approach for river basin management and (as appropriate) coastal zone management, and prepare operational guidance, including for the application of CEPA tools. (STRP 12)
STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority
82. Compile, collate and analyze case studies of river basin management using the Critical Path approach, including good practice examples of water allocation and management and case studies of environmental flows, including examples involving dams. (STRP 12)
83. Prepare i) a consolidation of Ramsar guidance on river basin management, to bring together Wise Use Handbook 4 and the COP9 guidance in Resolution IX.1 Annex Ci, and ii) additional guidance on those aspects of river basin management identified in Resolution IX.1 Annex Ci as gaps and priorities. (STRP12)
84. Prepare an annotated bibliography identifying *inter alia* available guidance for considering impacts of dams on wetland and river systems. (STRP12; relates also to Strategic Plan action 3.4.4)
85. Develop guidance on good practice in the integration of wetlands into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), based on case studies to be sought from Parties, including in relation to coastal/upstream interactions, and lessons learned in responding to the impacts of the Indian Ocean tsunami. (Resolution VIII.4; Asia COP9 regional meeting) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**
86. Develop guidelines on water resources management in dry and sub-humid lands, including in relation to climate change and desertification. (STRP 2003-2005 work plan; 3rd CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan)
87. Conduct an international review of water and environmental law to identify practical approaches for policy, law and regulation to support determination and implementation of environmental flows and other water-related aspects of wetland management; review Ramsar guidance related to law and policy and identify scope for strengthening in relation to these water-related issues, based on the international review. (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)

Concerning environmental water requirements

88. Prepare a report for COP10 on successes achieved and lessons learnt from demonstrating good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands. (Resolution VIII.1, STRP 2003-2005 work plan)

89. Prepare guidelines for Parties on the implementation of environmental water requirements for wetlands, drawing upon the material and case studies contained in the *Ramsar Technical Reports* on this topic prepared by the STRP during the 2003-2005 triennium. (STRP WG3). **STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority**

Concerning groundwater issues

90. Prepare technical review reports on: i) groundwater-wetland interactions; and ii) the use and management of groundwater to maintain ecosystem functions. Once these reports are complete, review the present Integrated Framework for Ramsar's water-related guidance (Resolution IX.1 Annex C) and prepare detailed technical guidance on developing groundwater management strategies which aim at maintenance of wetland ecosystems and at minimizing or mitigating the impacts of groundwater abstraction, and make other updating amendments as necessary. (STRP12; STRP 2003-2005 work plan, (Resolution IX.1 Annex C iii) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**

Concerning water quality

91. Undertake a strategic review of water quality and wetland issues; develop a medium-term plan and terms of reference for addressing water quality issues in Ramsar guidance; and subsequently prepare guidance for Parties on including water quality in environmental water requirement determination and implementation. (STRP12) **STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority**

IV(b) Action by others

General

92. Relevant ministries, agencies and departments within Parties: engage in cooperative planning and management processes in ways that ensure that those responsible for wetland management and those responsible for water resources management operate to a coordinated agenda, especially in relation to decision-making on water allocations. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)
93. Ensure that institutional and governance structures relating to water resources enable the voice of civil society to be integrated into planning and decision-making on water issues. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)
94. Bring Resolutions VI.23, VII.18, VIII.1, and COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex C and its appendices and the *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands* (Ramsar Handbook 12) to the attention of national, regional and local authorities in charge of water management for their integration into, and their multisectoral implementation through, national Integrated Water Resources Management plans so as to include an ecosystem approach consistent with the Ramsar Convention. [CPs] (Resolution IX.3)
95. Ensure that the maintenance of wetlands and their functions is fully taken into account in the design, planning and implementation of water-related projects, poverty reduction strategy papers, and coastal zone planning. [CPs; institutions] (Resolution IX.3)

96. Cooperate with the Secretariat of the Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico, 2006) and other relevant global and regional water initiatives in the future in order to ensure that the importance of wetland ecosystem benefits/services is recognized in the Forum outputs as a key element to effectively managing water resources whilst maintaining the ecosystem functioning of wetlands. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.3)
97. Update the *Integrated Framework for Ramsar's water-related guidance* and relevant Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks as and when relevant additional Resolutions and guidance are adopted. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)

Concerning River Basin Management/ Coastal Zone Management

98. Those responsible for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM): ensure that such management is closely connected to approaches and initiatives for planning and management in the terrestrial, marine and atmospheric realms, and to Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) at the freshwater-marine interface. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)
99. Water resources management authorities: ensure, given that many of the values people derive from water depend on that water being a component of healthily functioning ecosystems, that better operational linkages are made between the management of water supply and management of the water resources which are the origin of that supply. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)
100. Promote and implement, with Contracting Parties, relevant and key elements of the decision taken at CSD13 on Integrated Water Resources Management, including *inter alia* enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and benefits/services for human well-being and economic activity and developing innovative means of financing their protection; protecting and rehabilitating catchment areas for regulating water flows and improving water quality, taking into account the critical role of ecosystems; and supporting more effective water demand and water resource management across all sectors, especially in the agricultural sector. [Secretariat; CPs] (Resolution IX.3)
101. Report to the 34th meeting of the Standing Committee on an action plan for the Convention in promoting the themes in paragraph 100 above in order for the Standing Committee through the Secretary General to provide input to the CSD report-back session in 2008; and prepare a report for COP10 on the Convention's activities in promoting these themes. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.3)

Concerning environmental water requirements

102. Those responsible for drawing up and implementing plans for abstraction of water from river basins or discharge of water or waste into river basins: take into account the water requirements of all types of wetlands (including peatlands and other inland and coastal wetlands), including both requirements to be met from surface runoff and those to be met from groundwater. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex C)

Concerning groundwater issues

103. Wetland managers and groundwater managers: undertake screening studies at a river basin or regional aquifer scale to assess the potential for interaction between wetlands and groundwater; undertake more detailed studies of water balance, etc., as appropriate; develop a conceptual model of groundwater-wetland interactions for each wetland that may be impacted by current or future groundwater exploitation; and undertake a wider situation assessment of combined impacts, status and trends. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex C iii)

V. Issues relating to the revised *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* [Resolution IX.1 Annex B]

V(a) Action by the STRP

(See also tasks on Ramsar site data needs and the Ramsar Information Sheet, covered in section III above)

104. Develop an interpretation of the term ‘under-represented’ wetland type and investigate methods for defining targets for representation of wetland types in the Ramsar List, including in relation to relevant indicators of Convention effectiveness. (Resolution VIII.11, STRP 2003-2005 work plan, Resolution IX.1 Annex D) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**
105. Conduct a study of different available biogeographical regionalization schemes in the context of the application of Criteria 1 and 3, and make recommendations on a small number of preferred options for use in the selection of Ramsar sites, for consideration and possible adoption by COP10. (Resolution VIII.7; STRP12)
106. Prepare a revised RIS and additional guidance as appropriate from the actions in paragraph 52 above for inclusion in the accompanying RIS Explanatory Notes and Guidelines. (Resolutions VIII.7, VIII.13, and VIII.21, STRP 2003-2005 work plan)
107. Review the suite of existing guidance for selection of Ramsar sites of specific wetland types and examine its usefulness to Parties in the light of their experience of its application; assess the need for additional guidance on these or other wetland types, in the context *inter alia* of a response to the request of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Decision VII/4) to elaborate additional site selection guidelines and related issues. (STRP12) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**
108. Review the ecological roles played by reservoirs and other human-made wetlands, including their use by aquatic and other water-dependent biota, and prepare guidance for Contracting Parties concerning the identification and designation of such wetlands for the Ramsar List, taking into account the experience gained by Parties that have already done so. (Resolution VIII.2; STRP 2003-2005 work plan).
109. Work with appropriate Specialist Groups of IUCN-the World Conservation Union to further elaborate and update the list of appropriate population estimates and 1% thresholds

for the application of Criterion 9, for availability by COP10 and subsequent COPs.
(STRP12; Resolution IX.1 Annex B) **STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority**

110. Review the application and utility of the Ramsar site Criteria relating to fish and their associated guidance, and make any revisions needed. (STRP12)
111. Consider coordination of efforts in integrating Ramsar sites into other systems of protected areas. (Resolution IX.22)
112. In addition to specific actions listed above concerning reviews of aspects of the Ramsar Criteria, keep the Criteria and guidelines as a whole under review to ensure that they reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities, including their relationship to other relevant schemes such as Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including for 2006-2008 paying particular attention to the development of further guidance on designation of human-made wetlands in relation to wetlands whose conversion has damaged their ecological character. (Strategic Plan 17.1.5, STRP 2003-2005 work plan; COP9 Report) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**

V(b) Action by others

113. Make such editorial amendments to the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List* regarding terminology and time-limited references and contexts, etc., as are consequent on the amendments adopted at COP9. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.1 Annex B)
114. Use the revised format of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) prepared by the Secretariat to incorporate the amendments introduced by Resolution IX.1 Annex B in the designations of new sites, extensions to existing sites, and updated information on existing sites. [CPs] (Resolution IX.15)
115. Assist Wetlands International and BirdLife International through the continued collection and supply of population data on waterbirds, *inter alia*, to assist with Ramsar site designation. [CPs, Wetlands International, BirdLife International] (Resolution VIII.38)
116. Continue to prepare updated editions of *Waterbird Population Estimates* to be available at each COP, having first undertaken international scientific consultation on its contents and in line with Resolution VI.4 that 1% thresholds should not be revised more frequently than every third COP (unless populations are previously poorly known or are known to be changing rapidly), so that the population estimates and 1% thresholds it contains may be used as the basis for the application of Criterion 6 in the succeeding triennia. [Wetlands International] (Resolution VIII.38)
117. Make available to Parties and others information from the Important Bird Areas (IBAs) programme, including regional analyses of IBAs and potential Ramsar sites, and consider the preparation of such analyses for regions not covered so far. [BirdLife International] (Resolution VIII.38)
118. Accelerate efforts to designate further Ramsar sites that are internationally important for conserving fish biodiversity and/or supporting sustainable fisheries, and consider the

designation of such sites in such a way as to encompass the entire life cycle of fish species, especially threatened, long distance migrant species moving between freshwater and marine environments. [CPs] (STRP12)

119. When assessing potential for Ramsar site designation, in addition to considering potentially qualifying fish interests as above, carefully and systematically review other “less visible” potentially qualifying aquatic flora and fauna. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex B)
120. Identify and assess sites potentially qualifying under new Criterion 9 adopted at COP9 and add suitable sites to the List as a contribution to the long-term target for such sites agreed at COP9. [CPs] (Resolution IX.1 Annex B)
121. When assessing human-made wetlands for consideration for Ramsar site designation, take into account the additional guidance on these matters provided in Resolution IX.1 Annex B. [CPs; Secretariat] (Resolution IX.1 Annex B)
122. Apply the guidance and procedures set out in the Annex to Resolution IX.6 when contemplating the deletion of a site from the List of Wetlands of International Importance or a restriction to the boundaries of such a site, and provide to the Ramsar Secretariat information on experiences and lessons learned in the application of this Resolution. [CPs] (Resolution IX.6)
123. Take into account the guidance in the Annex to Resolution IX.6 when advising Contracting Parties on issues concerning reduction or deletion of a site from the List of Wetlands of International Importance, including on the provision by Contracting Parties of updated Information Sheets on Ramsar Wetlands. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.6)
124. Consider, wherever possible, developing processes which integrate efforts aimed at broader protected areas system development with Ramsar site network expansion, the nomination of World Heritage sites, and the identification of Biosphere Reserves. [CPs] (Resolution IX.22)
125. Review national processes for implementation of CBD’s Jakarta Mandate programme of work on coastal and marine biodiversity to ensure that such reviews integrate fully the identification and designation of Ramsar sites. [CPs who are also CBD CPs] (Resolution IX.22)

VI. Issues relating to wetland management (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 8)

VI(a) Action by the STRP

126. Develop for Contracting Parties a set of restoration guidelines that may be implemented following natural disasters in general, including drawing on existing and new guidance relating to the role of wetlands in ICZM in implementing responses to ecosystem rehabilitation and vulnerability, and updating existing guidelines which emphasize the role of wetland ecosystems in mitigating the effects of natural disasters, as appropriate. [STRP, with IOPs and other relevant agencies] (Resolution IX.9)

127. Compile and disseminate information on new research and methodologies for the restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands, and further develop tools and guidance on wetland restoration. (Strategic Plan action 4.1.3; Resolution VIII.16)
128. Prepare guidance on compensation for wetland losses, in response to Resolution VII.24. (Resolution VIII.16)

VI(b) Action by others

129. Monitor and assess the outcomes and the effectiveness of management measures undertaken in relation to Ramsar sites, and synthesise the results into relevant reports. [CPs, STRP National Focal Points] [Resolution IX.1 Annex E]
130. Monitor and review experiences of implementing the Ramsar Field Guide on wetland management planning, and feed results through STRP National Focal Points to the STRP in the context of the implementation of paragraph 3 of the Annex of Resolution VIII.14. [CPs, STRP National Focal Points] (STRP 12)
131. Implement wetland management in ways which increase the resilience of the sites to climate change and extreme climatic events and which reduce the risk of flooding and drought in vulnerable countries. [CPs] (Resolution VIII.3)
132. Compile and disseminate information on new research and methodologies for the restoration and rehabilitation of lost or degraded wetlands. [CPs, IOPs, others] (Strategic Plan action 4.1.3)
133. Establish wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, where feasible, at destroyed or degraded wetlands, especially those associated with major river systems or areas of high nature conservation value. [CPs, wetland managers] (Resolution VII.17)
134. Link wetland restoration to poverty reduction by incorporating the provision of work, skills and opportunities into restoration projects and by focusing on the restoration of ecosystem benefits/services upon which communities depend. [CPs] (Resolution IX.14)
135. Fully implement the terms of Article 3.2 on reporting change and on maintaining or restoring the ecological character of Ramsar sites, including utilizing all appropriate mechanisms to address and resolve as soon as practicable the matters for which a site may have been the subject of a report pursuant to Article 3.2; and, once those matters have been resolved, to submit a further report, so that both positive influences at sites and changes in ecological character may be fully reflected in reporting under Article 3.2 and in the reporting to meetings of the COP in order to establish a clear picture of the status and trends of the Ramsar site network at three-year intervals (see also section III) [CPs] (Resolution IX.15)
136. Consider options for assisting and encouraging Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in ecological character within the context of paragraph 20 of Resolution VIII.8. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.15)

137. Provide developing countries with assistance, including capacity building, in order to help reverse, where possible, the factors leading to consideration of deletion or restriction of a designated Ramsar site. [CPs] (Resolution IX.6)
138. Maintain or restore Ramsar sites, other wetlands, and associated ecosystems to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters in accordance with their natural hydrological regimes, bearing in mind the Convention's guidance to assist with restoration of ecological systems affected by natural disasters, in order to ensure that they can continue to deliver their full range of ecosystem benefits/services for people and for biological diversity, as called for in Resolution VIII.1. [CPs] (Resolution IX.9)
139. Ensure that wetland ecosystems are managed and restored, as part of contingency planning, in order to mitigate the impacts of natural phenomena such as floods, provide resilience against drought in arid and semi-arid areas, and contribute to wider strategies aimed at mitigating climate change and desertification and thus reduce the incidence or magnitude of natural phenomena induced or enhanced by such change. [CPs; River Basin Authorities] (Resolution IX.9)
140. Develop and act on decision-support tools for all affected ecological zones, so as to ensure integrated and socially equitable management of wetland ecosystems to prevent, mitigate and adapt to flooding and tidal surges, drought, invasive alien species, and other forms of natural disasters. [Secretariat, with CPs, other partners] (Resolution IX.9)
141. Develop guidance on a set of responses which can be initiated by governments and others immediately following the onset of a natural disaster affecting or likely to affect wetlands, especially sites in the Ramsar List. [Secretariat, working with relevant international organizations and agencies, especially the joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit and including *inter alia* ISDR, WMO and UNEP, as well as, where appropriate, the IOPs] (Resolution IX.9)
142. Ensure that national policy responses to the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, including revegetation and management, afforestation and reforestation, do not lead to damage to the ecological character of wetlands. [CPs] (Strategic Plan action 3.4.9)
143. Ensure that those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites incorporate into their management planning processes, in line with Resolution VIII.14 on management planning, measures to maintain the ecological benefits/services of wetlands, including sustainable fisheries. [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)
144. Ensure that the activities of fisheries authorities responsible for managing fisheries within, adjacent to, or associated with Ramsar sites support the maintenance of the ecological character of the Ramsar site (or sites). [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)
145. Take necessary steps within policies and national systems of protected areas for establishment and recognition of inland, coastal and marine protected areas as a tool for biodiversity conservation and fisheries resources management. [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)

146. Take into account the provisions of Resolution VII.36. which highlights the importance of participatory management to be considered in policies, actions and programs, for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources. [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)
147. Take the necessary steps within frameworks for integrated river basin and coastal zone management to maintain or reinstate aquatic biota migration pathways, to reduce the impacts of point source and diffuse pollution in all its forms, to establish and implement environmental flow allocations supporting the conservation of aquatic biota, to protect critical spawning and nursery grounds, and to restore relevant habitats where these have become degraded, taking into account the guidance adopted in Resolutions VIII.1 on water allocation, VIII.4 on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and VIII.32 on mangrove ecosystems. [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)

VII. Issues relating to wetlands and agriculture

VII(a) Action by the STRP

148. Provide input as appropriate to the “Comprehensive Assessment on water management in agriculture” (CA) and “Water for food and ecosystems” initiatives, in the context of Resolution VIII.34 and Resolution IX.4. (STRP12)
149. Once the “Comprehensive Assessment” (including its preparation of a report on agriculture, water and wetlands for the Ramsar Convention) and “Water for food and ecosystems” initiatives have concluded, review which elements of Resolution VIII.34 and Resolution IX.4 may, in the light of the conclusions of those initiatives, remain outstanding needs, and address them as appropriate. (STRP 2003-2005 work plan; STRP12)
150. Prepare guidelines on good agricultural practices and policies for different wetland types, drawing on information provided by the CA and other initiatives, and in line with existing legal frameworks. (STRP 2003-2005 work plan). **STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority**

VII(b) Action by others

151. Review and document the significance for fisheries of rice cultivation within Ramsar sites and promote more efficient combination “rice-fish” management practices. [CPs] (Resolution IX.4)

VIII. Technical aspects of communication, education and public awareness (CEPA)

VIII(a) Action by the STRP

152. Ensure that CEPA issues are fully covered in each of the substantive guidance documents prepared by the STRP through input to the Panel’s work from CEPA experts. (Annex to Resolution IX.11) **STRP 2006-2008 high priority**
153. Seek opportunities to prepare materials for outreach purposes, particularly for decision-makers and those in other sectors, on topics which are the subject of substantive guidance prepared by the STRP. (STRP12) **STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority**

VIII(b) Action by others

154. Establish an Oversight Panel to monitor and report on the implementation of the CEPA Programme established under Resolution VIII.31 and to examine and set priorities for communication, education and capacity building in collaboration with the Wetlands International CEPA Specialist Group and the Ramsar Advisory Board on Capacity Building, and report to COP10 on the activities of the Panel and its value in advancing the Convention's CEPA Programme. [Standing Committee] (Resolution IX.18)
155. Review national needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA and use this review to define capacity-building priorities within national wetland CEPA action plans. [CPs] (Resolution VIII.31)
156. Review formal educational curricula to ensure that they are incorporating information on the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands, promoting the wise use principle, and recognizing the importance of CEPA in pursuing the objective of wise use. [CPs] (Resolution VIII.31)
157. Draw attention to the important role of wetlands in fisheries resources conservation and sustainable use through ongoing CEPA activities, in particular through future World Wetlands Day celebrations and events. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.4)
158. Through the Convention's CEPA Programme, develop materials, resources permitting, that highlight lessons learned from around the globe with regard to appropriate pre-disaster measures for impact prevention and minimization through contingency planning involving wise wetland management. These materials should exemplify successful approaches to disaster impact abatement and serve to raise societal awareness and capacity with regard to the role of wetlands as buffers. [Secretariat] (Resolution IX.9)
159. Consider the usefulness of establishing periodic regional scientific and technical fora where they do not already exist, drawing on the experiences of the Asian Wetland Symposia, as a means of increasing scientific and technical support for the implementation of the Convention including, *inter alia*, any regional initiatives established under the Convention. [CPs, international NGOs, and other relevant scientific and technical organizations] (Resolution IX.19)
160. Encourage and develop linkages between Ramsar Regional Meetings, including subregional meetings, and such regional wetland fora, so as to ensure that the outcomes of the fora are made fully available to Contracting Parties and governments in support of their implementation of the Convention through exchange of experiences and innovative practices discussed at such fora. [Secretariat; Standing Committee] (Resolution IX.19)

IX. Development of further sectoral guidance by STRP

IX(a) Issues/sectors identified by STRP as a potential focus for attention

161. Review and as necessary develop an **overall strategy and framework for sector-based guidance** under the Convention. (STRP12)

162. Develop further guidance on **fisheries**, including fin fisheries, shell fisheries and aquaculture, in relation to issues raised in Resolution IX.4. (STRP12)
163. Review and map out the relationships and issues concerning the wise use of wetland ecosystems and **human health**, including from information in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its synthesis reports, and explore possible links between the Ramsar Convention and the World Health Organization. (STRP12) **STRP 2006-2008 immediate priority**
164. Consider opportunities for development of sectoral guidance on the **tourism/eco-tourism** sector. (STRP12)
165. Identify relevant initiatives underway concerning **forest ecosystems and forestry** and explore adequate representation in these of wetland issues. (STRP12)
166. Develop guidance on wetland mitigation issues. (Resolution VII.24; STRP12)

IX(b) Issues/sectors for which the need for future work should be further assessed

167. Consider what priority, if any, might need to be given to work or further work in relation to the following additional sectors/topic areas:
 - flood alleviation;
 - mining and other extractive industries;
 - energy generation and distribution;
 - other industrial sectors;
 - transport infrastructure;
 - urban development and housing;
 - spatial planning/regional policy;
 - finance, banking and insurance;
 - trade;
 - wildlife conservation and management;
 - subsistence hunting;
 - recreational hunting;
 - other recreation;
 - education, including formal education.



**9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.3

**Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing
multilateral processes dealing with water**

1. ACKNOWLEDGING the United Nations “World Water Development Report”, showing the worsening water crisis due to water mismanagement and RECOGNIZING that global climate change and variability are likely to exacerbate this crisis;
2. RECALLING the commitments made by governments in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to reduce by half by the year 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation; to develop by 2005 integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans; and to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity;
3. ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING the vital contribution that wetlands make to the protection, purification, retention and provision of water resources for water and food supplies and their key role in groundwater recharge and flood control on which the well-being of people and their livelihoods depend, and AWARE of the decision adopted by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its 13th session (CSD13) in April 2005, which emphasized the same themes;
4. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that CSD13 decided on a follow-up on water and sanitation by devoting, in 2008 and 2012, a separate segment of CSD review sessions to monitoring and following up the implementation of decisions taken at CSD13 on water and sanitation and their interlinkages;
5. AWARE of the Global Water Partnership and the range of tools and technical guidance it provides on integrated water management;
6. WELCOMING the outcome of the FAO-Netherlands conference on “Water for Food and Ecosystems – Make it Happen” on the implementation of actions for an integrated approach to balancing water resources for food production and proper ecosystem functioning, which highlighted the necessary components of such an approach, *viz.* scientific knowledge base, enabling environments, and valuation methodologies for water ecosystem benefits/services;
7. AWARE of the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) that global wetlands account for almost half of the total value of all ecosystems combined, but that wetland ecosystems seem to be deteriorating at a faster rate than any other ecosystem, and

aware of the MA conclusions that the survival of wetlands and related ecosystems and their important contributions to global development depend upon the achievement of a balance between the human need for ecosystem benefits/services and the need for continued functioning of wetland ecosystems;

8. RECOGNIZING that wetland ecosystems play a critical role in water management;
9. RECOGNIZING the crucial role wetlands play in relation to poverty reduction and natural disaster preparedness, mitigation and adaptation as reflected in Resolutions IX.9 and IX.14;
10. RECALLING the analysis of all regional COP9 preparatory meetings of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention of the possibilities and limitations for regional cooperation in the management of transboundary / cross-border water resources and of Ramsar sites and the migratory species and populations which depend upon them;
11. RECOGNIZING the momentum provided by the international organizations associated globally with the Ramsar Convention, whose initiatives aim at achieving the wise use of wetlands with the involvement of all sectors; and
12. ALSO RECOGNIZING the contributions to the global and regional water debates/meetings/sessions of the three World Water Forums held in Marrakech, Den Haag and Kyoto, and PLEASED by the prospective celebration of the Fourth Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006;

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13. AFFIRMS that the conservation and wise use of wetlands is critical for the provision of water for people and nature, and that wetlands are a source, as well as a user, of water, in addition to supplying a range of other ecosystem benefits/services;
14. ALSO AFFIRMS that priorities for water management should reflect the goals of safekeeping and maintaining water resources, as well as maintaining the ecological character of wetlands;
15. CALLS on Contracting Parties to bring Resolutions VI.23, VII.18, VIII.1, and COP9 Resolution IX.1 Annex C and its appendices and the "*Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands*" (Ramsar Handbook 12) to the attention of national, regional and local authorities in charge of water management for their integration into, and their multisectoral implementation through, national Integrated Water Resources Management plans so as to include an ecosystem approach consistent with the Ramsar Convention;
16. UPHOLDS the principle that governments should commit to informing and organizing the meaningful participation of all sectors of society in decision-making on the conservation, distribution, use and management of water at local, regional and national levels;

17. RENEWS its call to governments and institutions at all levels to ensure that the maintenance of wetlands and their functions are fully taken into account in the design, planning and implementation of water-related projects, poverty reduction strategy papers, and coastal zone planning;
18. CONFIRMS the need to consider an enhanced focus on collaboration amongst Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on the issue of wetland conservation for the wise management of water resources;
19. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico, 2006) and other relevant global and regional water initiatives in the future in order to ensure that the importance of wetland ecosystem benefits/services is recognized in the Forum outputs as a key element to effectively managing water resources whilst maintaining the ecosystem functioning of wetlands;
20. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to promote and implement, with Contracting Parties, relevant and key elements of the decision taken at CSD13 on Integrated Water Resources Management, including *inter alia* enhancing the sustainability of ecosystems that provide essential resources and benefits/services for human well-being and economic activity and developing innovative means of financing their protection; protecting and rehabilitating catchment areas for regulating water flows and improving water quality, taking into account the critical role of ecosystems; and supporting more effective water demand and water resource management across all sectors, especially in the agricultural sector; and ALSO INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to report to the 34th meeting of the Standing Committee on an action plan for the Convention in promoting these themes in order for the Standing Committee through the Secretary General to provide input to the CSD report-back session in 2008; and
21. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to prepare a report for COP10 on the Convention's activities in promoting these themes.



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“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.4

The Ramsar Convention and conservation, production and sustainable use of fisheries resources¹

1. RECOGNIZING the important role that inland, coastal and near-shore marine wetlands play in supporting aquatic species populations and fisheries resources;
2. CONSCIOUS that fishing is of great social, cultural and economic importance throughout the world;
3. RECOGNIZING that fisheries resources are a vital source of food and income for millions of people, which can assist in the further reduction of poverty, and CONCERNED that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has reported that fisheries yields in many parts of the world are declining due to unsustainable harvest, habitat degradation, and loss of fisheries resources spawning and nursery grounds, as well as feeding and refuge areas and NOTING that the different fisheries techniques and related activities within or adjacent to wetlands (from catch to consumption) may impact on other biota;
4. CONCERNED by the loss of fisheries resources and the increasing number of aquatic species recognized in the IUCN Red List as globally threatened, and AWARE of the important role that some Ramsar sites play in the conservation of endangered aquatic biota;
5. AWARE of the lack of sound scientific data on fisheries resources in many wetlands;
6. RECALLING the relevance of the guidance adopted by the Convention on integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management (Resolution VII.18) and coastal zone management (Resolution VIII.4) to securing the integrated management of wetland ecosystems upon which fisheries resources depend;
7. ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution VIII.2 the Conference of the Parties encouraged “Contracting Parties, wherever possible and appropriate, to take the necessary steps in order to maintain the migration access for indigenous [native] fish and other species past dams”;
8. COMMENDING those Parties that have taken actions to conserve or restore native aquatic species populations and their habitats, such as through habitat restoration, the

¹ “fisheries resources”: fish, crustaceans, mollusks and algae.

provision of fish passages past in-stream infrastructure, the control of invasive alien species competitors, the control of unsustainable aquaculture practices and/or the reduction of water pollution impacts;

9. NOTING the comparative ecosystem benefits gained from supplying protein from sustainable fisheries, thereby alleviating agricultural pressure on land and in reducing water pollution;
10. ALSO NOTING the widespread growth in aquaculture, its potential benefits for increasing fish resources and reducing environmental costs, and the need for careful planning and management to avoid negative impacts upon native aquatic species and wetland ecosystems;
11. AWARE of the adoption by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the *Code of conduct for responsible fisheries* (1995) and its subsequent associated range of Technical Guidelines, and of the recognition that these give to the need to promote sustainable use of fisheries resources and to mitigate negative impacts of aquaculture practices;
12. ALSO AWARE of the ongoing work of the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (CA) led by the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and its relevance to issues of wetlands, capture fisheries and aquaculture;
13. RECALLING that Action 1.2.6 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 calls for an assessment of “the contribution of Ramsar sites and other wetlands to the maintenance of fisheries, including utilizing information available from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and other assessment programmes, and [recommendation of] sustainable management practices which can contribute to the WSSD target of, where possible by 2015, maintaining or restoring depleted fish [fisheries resources] stocks to levels that can produce the maximum sustainable yield” and ALSO RECALLING the Programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on inland waters and coastal and marine biodiversity;
14. RECOGNIZING that coral reefs are amongst the most complex, species-rich and productive of marine ecosystems, covering less than 1% of the ocean’s area yet home to one-third of all marine fish species, that coral reef fisheries are estimated to yield 6 million metric tons of fish catch annually, with one-quarter of the total worldwide fish production being in developing countries with coral reefs, and that they provide a habitat for a significant proportion of marine biodiversity;
15. RECOGNIZING that several environmental benefits/services are provided by mangrove ecosystems including coastal protection, nutrients and sediments retention and carbon dioxide sink, their special relevance as nurseries of various aquatic species, and their protective role to the existing associated ecosystems such as coral reefs and sea grass beds, and HIGHLIGHTING the importance of mangrove ecosystems, including their associated tidal flats, and estuaries as a source of fisheries resources to several coastal communities;
16. AWARE that, according to the FAO World Mangrove Atlas, mangrove areas are being destroyed at a rate of 1% a year, despite their relevance to fisheries production;

17. ALSO AWARE that sea grass beds are vital as spawning grounds, habitat and refuge for many marine species at different stages in their life cycle;
18. RECALLING Resolution VIII.10 which recognized these ecosystems as being under-represented on the Ramsar List;
19. AWARE of the WSSD Plan of Implementation actions concerning the establishment of marine protected areas, the CBD COP7 Decision VII/5 on marine and coastal biological diversity, the CBD Programme of work on protected areas (Decision VII.28), and the recent work of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (CoFi) on the role of marine protected areas (MPAs) in fisheries management; and NOTING the urgent need to address the under-representation of protected areas in marine and coastal habitats and in inland waters through National Plans for Protected Areas;
20. NOTING with satisfaction the financial support provided by IUCN, WWF and the World Fish Centre in the implementation of Action 1.2.6 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and their role as advocates and technical advisors in relation to aquatic resources and sustainable fisheries, and FURTHER NOTING their collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel through the preparation of a 'Review of Ramsar Sites and Fisheries Maintenance', to be published as a *Ramsar Technical Report*, and the outline of issues and recommendations concerning wetlands and the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources annexed to this Resolution; and
21. ALSO NOTING that Wetlands International and IUCN-The World Conservation Union have established a Freshwater Fish Specialist Group that will provide advice on priority actions for freshwater fish conservation to Contracting Parties, river basin organizations and others;

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22. CONFIRMS that this Resolution covers issues in inland, coastal and marine fisheries in wetlands within the scope of Article 1 and Ramsar sites within the scope of Article 2.1 of the Ramsar Convention;
23. URGES Contracting Parties to apply as appropriate the recommendations annexed to this Resolution when addressing issues of the sustainable use of fisheries resources in relation to the conservation and wise use of Ramsar sites and other wetlands;
24. URGES Contracting Parties to review their policy frameworks and institutional arrangements, in line with Resolutions VII.6 on National Wetland Policies and VII.7 on reviewing laws and legislation, so as to ensure that fisheries management authorities and those involved with conserving and/or managing aquatic biodiversity are aware of, complement and support national, subnational and local efforts to implement the Convention;
25. REQUESTS fisheries authorities responsible for managing fisheries within, adjacent to, or associated with Ramsar sites to ensure that their activities support the maintenance of the ecological character of the Ramsar site (or sites);

26. URGES Contracting Parties and INVITES relevant organizations to use the habitat and species conservation provisions of the Convention to support the introduction and/or continuance of management measures that mitigate the environmental impacts of fishing, including the use of spatial management approaches as appropriate, and ALSO URGES the Ramsar Secretariat to work with other conventions, instruments and organizations concerned with the conservation of biodiversity and the management of natural resources (including FAO at an international and regional level), in order to promote the synergy and alignment of planning and management approaches that benefit the conservation and sustainable management of fisheries resources and recognition of the contribution this makes towards meeting CBD targets, WSSD goals, and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
27. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to liaise with relevant partners to undertake inventories, assessments and monitoring of fisheries resources which depend on wetlands;
28. REQUESTS those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites to incorporate into their management planning processes, in line with Resolution VIII.14 on management planning, measures to maintain the ecological benefits/services of wetlands including sustainable fisheries;
29. REQUESTS Contracting Parties to review and, where necessary, enhance national and regional programmes for the systematic collection of ecological and socio-economic data on fisheries, including artisanal fisheries, and data on aquaculture of relevance to Ramsar sites and associated areas;
30. URGES Contracting Parties to take the necessary steps within their frameworks for integrated river basin and coastal zone management to maintain or reinstate aquatic biota migration pathways, to reduce the impacts of point source and diffuse pollution in all its forms, to establish and implement environmental flow allocations supporting the conservation of aquatic biota, to protect critical spawning and nursery grounds, and to restore relevant habitats where these have become degraded, taking into account the guidance adopted in Resolutions VIII.1 on water allocation, VIII.4 on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and VIII.32 on mangrove ecosystems;
31. URGES Contracting Parties carefully to control aquaculture (e.g. pond and cage culture) practices in Ramsar sites and in areas that are liable to impact on Ramsar sites and other wetlands so as to prevent adverse changes to the ecological character of wetlands, applying the provisions of the 1997 FAO Code of Conduct and its associated Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries – Aquaculture Development and the 2000 Bangkok Declaration and Strategy for Aquaculture Development (Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific (NACA)/FAO));
32. STRONGLY URGES each Contracting Party to enforce existing policies and legislation to suspend any promotion, creation of new facilities, or expansion of unsustainable aquaculture activities harmful to wetlands, in line with Resolution VII.21 on intertidal wetlands;
33. ALSO STRONGLY URGES Contracting Parties with mangrove ecosystems in their territories, taking into account the provisions of Resolution VIII.32, to review and, as

appropriate, to modify any of their national policies and strategies that have or could have harmful effects on these ecosystems, and to implement measures to protect and restore the benefits of these ecosystems for human populations, recognizing their rights, uses and traditional customs and the maintenance of biodiversity, and to cooperate at the international level to agree regional and global strategies for the maintenance of these ecosystems;

34. FURTHER STRONGLY URGES each Contracting Party, in order to maintain the ecological character of wetlands, to review its policies, laws and programmes for regulating the introduction of aquatic biota for aquaculture and the aquarium industry, to control the accidental movement of species for example through ballast water, to avoid introduction of invasive and/or alien species, and to undertake the necessary measures to prevent the introduction or spread of known alien and/or invasive aquatic biota (including invasive alien genes), in line with Resolution VIII.18;
35. URGES each Contracting Party with coral reef, sea grass beds and other associated ecosystems in their territories to implement national programs for the protection of these ecosystems through the establishment of effective protected areas, monitoring programs, awareness programmes and cooperation for innovative coral reef, sea grass beds and associated ecosystem restoration projects;
36. ALSO URGES each Contracting Party to take necessary steps within their policies and national systems of protected areas for establishment and recognition of inland, coastal and marine protected areas as a tool for biodiversity conservation and fisheries resources management;
37. REQUESTS each Contracting Party to take into account the provisions of Resolution VII.36. which highlights the importance of participatory management to be considered in policies, actions and programs for the conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources;
38. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat to draw attention to the important role of wetlands in fisheries resources conservation and sustainable use through its ongoing CEPA activities, in particular through future World Wetlands Day celebrations and events;
39. REQUESTS the Secretary General to pursue appropriate partnerships with expert bodies or organizations such as The WorldFish Center and FAO that are concerned with fisheries resources/resource conservation and sustainable use, in order for the Ramsar Convention to gain further advice and to fulfill its mandate;
40. REQUESTS the STRP to consider ways and means of elaborating the annex to this Resolution, taking into account the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA), the Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (CA), and other relevant assessments, in order to provide further guidance for Contracting Parties on wetlands and their relation to sustainable fisheries; and
41. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to assist fishers in gaining access to environmentally friendly technologies for fisheries and related activities.

Annex

Issues and recommendations for Contracting Parties concerning the management of sustainable fisheries in Ramsar sites and other wetlands

Note: these recommendations cover issues in both inland and coastal fisheries in wetlands within the scope of Article 1 and Ramsar sites within the scope of Article 2.1 of the Convention. .

Issue 1: Aquaculture

- Aquaculture is practiced in many Ramsar sites and in the waters adjacent to such sites and is sensitive to social, economic and technological changes that can impact on the nature of associated wetlands. Aquaculture also carries with it many risks to the environment and to native fisheries resources, and conversion of, for example, natural mangrove systems to aquaculture can greatly reduce the total value of the ecosystem benefits/services for people.

Aquaculture (e.g. pond and cage culture) practices in Ramsar sites or in areas that are liable to impact on Ramsar sites should be carefully controlled. Specifically, governments are encouraged to enforce relevant national legislation, apply the provisions of the FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries – Aquaculture Development (FAO 1997) (STRP to check whether guidelines or also the code), the Bangkok Declaration and Strategy for Aquaculture Development (NACA/FAO 2000).

Sustainable aquaculture may be facilitated through the use of native species and genomes where possible, and the minimization of the use of chemicals and the prioritization of new sustainable technologies for aquaculture

Issue 2: Rice cultivation

- Rice cultivation is sustainably practised at many Ramsar sites, and there are opportunities to improve the total yield of such areas by “rice-fish” systems in these and other wetlands cultivated for rice.

The significance of fisheries in sustainable rice cultivation within Ramsar sites should be further explored and documented and a more efficient combination of “rice-fish” management practices promoted.

Encouragement of the cultivation of native species of fish in association with rice and reducing as much as possible the use of chemicals may enhance the conservation of wetlands.

Issue 3: Management of fisheries

- In some countries, fisheries management based on central governmental control has generally failed to halt the degradation of fisheries resources stocks. A participatory approach is recommended for the inclusion of all stakeholders in the management process.

Participatory management in appropriate sites should be encouraged and facilitated by revising any existing laws and regulations that exclude it, supporting research, and establishing suitable management systems at international, national and basin levels.

- Co-management systems are frequently difficult to establish because of social traditions, land and water use practices, and legislation.

Fisheries legislation and regulations should promote the participation of stakeholders in the formulation of policies for the management of the resource.

- Growing numbers of people using a fishery can mean that the resource is increasingly overfished.

Measures should be adopted to control to the use of fisheries in Ramsar sites and other wetlands where these are not already in place.

- By-catch of globally-threatened and other wetland-dependent species in fishing gear (such as turtles and waterbirds in gill-nets) continues to threaten the survival of these species.

Measures should be put in place to minimize or prevent by-catch through the use of appropriate fishery techniques.

- Ecologically damaging fishing gear continues to be used in many fisheries.

Where ecologically damaging fishing practices or gear (which may include activities which significantly alter habitat structure, prevent movement of species, or otherwise alter ecological character), are affecting, or are likely to affect, a listed Ramsar wetland, appropriate action should be taken to address the threat of damage to that site caused by such use.

Issue 4: Management of the fisheries resources

- The introduction of alien and/or invasive species in natural fisheries areas poses a growing threat that puts at risk the survival of native species or genomes.

Many inland and coastal fisheries rely on regular stocking programmes: such stocking programmes should preferably use indigenous fish species or genomes.

Contracting Parties are encouraged to adopt effective legal tools and programmes to prevent and minimise the introduction of alien and/ or invasive species within wetlands.

A code similar to the ICES Code of Practice on the Introductions and Transfers of Marine Organisms and the GEF/UNDP/IMO International Convention for the Control and

Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments should be applied rigorously so that Ramsar sites are not placed at risk through unplanned introductions of aquatic species.

Reasonable practices should be adopted to reduce the risks from unregulated stocking programmes.

Issue 5: Sustainable management of wetland ecosystems for fisheries

- There is a general decline in the environmental health of most inland and coastal ecosystems caused by the impacts of human uses, declines found by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) to be already more severe and to be occurring at faster rates in these ecosystems than in others. An area of major concern is the increasing withdrawal of water from inland systems that is affecting the functioning of rivers and the hydrological balance of lakes and coastal waters.

Environmental flow assessments in all rivers and associated wetlands that are threatened by flow-modifying activities such as the construction of dams, levee-ing of river channels, and water abstractions should include specific attention to fisheries resources and fisheries related aspects (see also Resolution VIII.1 and Resolution IX.1 Annex C).

Strategies for the mitigation of negative impacts on the environment from the activities of other users of the aquatic resource should be formulated. Where such impacting uses have ceased, the possibility of rehabilitation of damaged ecosystems should be explored (with reference to COP8 Resolution VIII.16).

The establishment of formal conservation and harvest reserves within selected sites of importance to fisheries should be considered.

Issue 6: Conflicts and multi-purpose use

- A number of human uses compete with fisheries for water and aquatic environmental resources, and these risk fisheries sustainability on Ramsar sites.

Local, national and international mechanisms should be established, as appropriate, whereby allocation of essential resources for the protection of aquatic resources and specifically fisheries resources are negotiated among all users of the resource. Similar mechanisms are needed for the resolution of conflicts between competing uses.

Issue 7: Increasing awareness of the importance of wetland management for fisheries

- There is an urgent need to ensure wider and better understanding of the importance of maintaining both coastal and inland wetlands for the benefit of fisheries maintenance.

Training programmes should be carried out under the Convention's programme on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) to promote mutual understanding of the problems of the diverse sectors involved with wetland management and conservation including fisheries.

- Coastal and inland water fishers often operate at a small scale and need support.

Self-motivated initiatives such as community outreach, wildlife monitoring, codes of conduct, certification and education, and awareness-raising should be fostered within fishing communities that are fishing within, adjacent to or in ways which impact upon Ramsar sites.

Issue 8: Enhancing international cooperation

- Maintenance of fisheries in shared wetlands and seas needs the countries concerned to develop enhanced collaboration.

Countries sharing rivers, coastal lagoons, seas and lakes with significant fisheries should seek to establish common mechanisms for research, information sharing and management of their aquatic resources and specifically fisheries. If possible, such mechanisms should be incorporated into existing institutions, but where no such institutions exist measures should be taken to establish them.

Issue 9: Applying existing international agreements

- The application of a number of international agreements and existing guidance can help to ensure that fisheries in or affecting Ramsar sites and other wetlands are sustainable.

The *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries* (FAO, 1995) and its various Technical Guidelines should be taken as the guiding principles in regulating marine and freshwater fisheries and aquaculture. Technical guidelines cover: 1. Fishing operations (1996); 2. Precautionary approach to capture fisheries and species introductions (1996); 3. Integration of fisheries into coastal area management (1996); 4. Fisheries management (1997); 5. Aquaculture development (1997); 5. (supplement 1) Aquaculture development: good aquaculture feed manufacturing practice (2001); 6. Inland Fisheries (1997); 7. Indicators for sustainable development of marine capture fisheries. (1999); 8. Responsible fish utilization. (1998); 9. Implementation of the International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (2002), and 10. the ecosystem-approach to fisheries.

Management strategies for the conservation of fisheries and aquatic biota especially in relation to Ramsar sites should take into account any endangered species listed in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), in accordance with the application of Criterion 2 of the Ramsar *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VII.11), as amended by Resolution IX.1 Annex B.

Issue 10: The status of fisheries in Ramsar sites

- Information on most fisheries pursued in or affecting Ramsar sites, as supplied in Ramsar Information Sheets, is sparse and generally qualitative. However, the information which does exist confirms that fisheries are practised in many Ramsar sites or in the larger wetland ecosystems with which Ramsar sites are associated. It is clear that Ramsar sites and their associated systems also provide employment to many commercial fishers and

subsistence fishers and collectors. Available evidence suggests that inland and small-scale coastal fisheries, including of the types that presently dominate in Ramsar sites, have declined due to habitat modification, overfishing and other human activities.²

National and regional programmes for the systematic collection of fisheries data at Ramsar sites and associated areas should be initiated or reinforced. As a minimum this should include data on weight and size of catch, numbers and effort of fishermen, and social and economic aspects of the fishery.

Issue 11: Coverage of the Ramsar site network for fish

- Since Criteria 7 and 8 for the designation of Ramsar sites for fish were adopted at the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (1996), 264 Ramsar sites have been designated using these Criteria (as of 21 April 2005), although these occur in only 77 of the current 145 Contracting Parties (as of September 2005). It is clear that for fish the Ramsar site network is not yet the coherent and comprehensive national and international network envisaged by the 1999 *Strategic Framework*. Some systems lack representative sites to cover essential habitats for some important fish species.

Additional Ramsar sites should be designated, especially by those Contracting Parties that have not yet designated Ramsar sites under Criteria 7 and/or 8, to complete the global network of sites of international importance for their fish populations

² A key finding of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) is that: “The use of two ecosystem services - capture fisheries and freshwater - is now well beyond levels that can be sustained even at current demands, much less future ones. At least one quarter of important commercial fish stocks are overharvested (high certainty). Humans increased the capture of marine fish up until the 1980s by harvesting an ever-growing fraction of the available resource. Marine fish landings are now declining as a result of the overexploitation of this resource. Inland water fisheries, which are particularly important in providing high-quality diets for poor people, have also declined due to habitat modification, overfishing, and water withdrawals.” (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005. *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*. Island Press, Washington, DC).



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.5

Synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements

1. AWARE that at their 7th meeting, in 2004, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted Decision VII/26, which, *inter alia*,

Urged further enhanced cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing cooperative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programs, within existing resources;

Requested in this context, the Executive Secretary, to invite the secretariats of the other four biodiversity conventions (CITES, Ramsar, CMS and World Heritage Convention) to form a liaison group to enhance coherence and cooperation in their implementation, and to report on progress made to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

Requested the Executive Secretary, drawing on the experience gained in the exercise mentioned above, and in close collaboration with relevant conventions, organizations and bodies, to examine options for a flexible framework between all relevant actors, such as a global partnership on biodiversity, in order to enhance implementation through improved cooperation, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting on possible ways forward;

2. NOTING Resolution VIII.3 on *Climate change and wetlands: impacts, adaptation and mitigation* and the associated need to strengthen cooperation with the UNFCCC;
3. FURTHER AWARE that the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) held a consultative workshop on the issue of Harmonized National Reporting (Haasrode, Belgium, September 2004), that this issue has also been discussed by the Biodiversity Liaison Group established under CBD Decision VII/26, and that this workshop specifically noted seven key issues concerned with the harmonization of national reporting (COP DOC. 32);
4. RECALLING that Ramsar COP8 Resolution VIII.5 *inter alia*:

URGED Contracting Parties, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the Standing Committee, and the Bureau, in cooperation with the governing and subsidiary bodies and the secretariats of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the International Organization Partners, and other collaborators, to implement fully the actions contained in Operational Objective 13 of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 on 'Collaboration with other institutions'; and

FURTHER URGED Contracting Parties to make renewed efforts to increase collaboration at the national level between the institutions and focal points responsible for the implementation of MEAs, including through ensuring their participation in National Ramsar Committees, so as to foster synergies and harmonisation;

5. RECOGNISING that a number of Contracting Parties have found difficulties in completing their National Reports for the triennium 2003-2005, due to the length and complexity of the National Report Format; and
6. AWARE of the decision 23/1 of the 23rd UNEP Governing Council requesting the Executive Director of UNEP to intensify efforts to support implementation by parties to MEAs of their obligations under such agreements;

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7. REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue to be fully involved in proceedings of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) established under the *aegis* of the CBD and to report regularly to Standing Committee on progress achieved by this group;
8. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary General to cooperate closely with relevant conventions, including through the Joint Liaison Group for the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD), with UN agencies such as UNEP, UNESCO and FAO, and with other relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), UNEP-WCMC, and the CGIAR networks, and to seek to reduce duplicative activities;
9. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary General, in consultation with Standing Committee, to consider how best to simplify and reduce duplication in reporting required and/or requested in relevant Resolutions adopted by previous COPs, to make further recommendations on streamlining and simplifying reporting requirements, and to develop a simpler and less duplicative reporting format (taking into account the implementation of COP9 Resolutions IX.1 Annex D and IX.8);
10. ADDITIONALLY REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue working with UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements concerning more effective convention implementation. Topics could include, *inter alia*, and as appropriate, the development and implementation of issue-based modules and harmonization of national reporting requirements subject to the mandate of each individual convention bearing in mind their Contracting Parties; and

11. URGES Contracting Parties to develop ways and means at national level of improving liaison between Ramsar Convention Administrative Authorities and focal points for related conventions and agreements, and to communicate with the Secretariat on their progress with respect to harmonizing information management and reporting for the biodiversity-related conventions.



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Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.6

Guidance for addressing Ramsar sites or parts of sites which no longer meet the Criteria for designation

1. RECALLING that Article 2.5 of the Convention makes provision for site deletions or restrictions and states that “any Contracting Party shall have the right . . . because of its urgent national interests, to delete or restrict the boundaries of wetlands already included by it in the List”, and that Article 4.2 states that “where a Contracting Party in its urgent national interest, deletes or restricts the boundaries of a wetland included in the List, it should as far as possible compensate for any loss of wetland resources, and in particular it should create additional nature reserves for waterfowl and for the protection, either in the same area or elsewhere, of an adequate portion of the original habitat”;
2. ALSO RECALLING that Resolution 5.3 established a review procedure for listed sites which may not qualify under any of the Criteria established by Recommendation 4.2;
3. NOTING that Resolution VIII.20 provides general guidance for interpreting “urgent national interests” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and for considering compensation under Article 4.2;
4. FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution VIII.22 recognized that there are situations other than the urgent national interest provision of Article 2.5 of the Convention text in which Ramsar site boundaries may warrant further definition, and further that there may be situations where:
 - a) a Ramsar site never met the Criteria for designation as a Wetland of International Importance;
 - b) part or all of a Ramsar site unavoidably loses the values, functions and attributes for which it was included, or was included in error; or
 - c) a Ramsar site at the time of listing met the criteria but, whilst its values, functions and attributes remain unchanged, it later fails to meet the Criteria because of a change in those Criteria or in the population estimates or parameters which underpin them;
5. ALSO NOTING that Resolution VIII.21 provides guidance for defining Ramsar site boundaries more accurately in the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), in order to address situations where boundaries were erroneously or inaccurately defined at the

time of listing, and that Resolution VIII.13 provides further guidance for the application and completion of the RIS, including the provision of maps;

6. FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution VIII.22 recognized that no guidance has been provided by the Convention to assist Contracting Parties where a Ramsar site ceases to fulfill the Criteria for designation as a Wetland of International Importance, with the exception of Resolution 5.3 which includes as its annex a Review Procedure for sites which did not meet the Criteria at the time of listing; and that no guidance has been provided on situations where part of a site either unavoidably loses the values, functions and attributes for which it was included, or was included in error;
7. AWARE that Resolution VIII.22 requested that the Standing Committee, with support from the Ramsar Bureau and International Organization Partners, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), appropriate legal and other experts, and interested Contracting Parties, develop for consideration and possible adoption at COP9 guidance for Contracting Parties about:
 - a) identification of scenarios in which a listed Ramsar site may cease to fulfill the Criteria for designation as a Wetland of International Importance;
 - b) obligations of Contracting Parties under the Convention and the possible application of compensation measures under Article 4.2;
 - c) procedures that could be applied should the deletion or restriction of boundaries need to be contemplated in such situations; and
 - d) their relationship to the issues covered by Resolutions VIII.20 and VIII.21;
8. NOTING that in the Information Paper COP9 DOC. 15, ten scenarios are identified under which a listed Ramsar site or part(s) of a site may cease to fulfill the Criteria for designation; and
9. REAFFIRMING that it is an overarching principle that a wetland should remain designated as a Ramsar site, and that the whole of its original extent should remain designated, whenever possible and appropriate;

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10. ADOPTS the guidance in the Annex to this Resolution concerning how to address issues of Ramsar sites or parts of sites which cease to fulfil or never fulfilled the Criteria for designation;
11. REQUESTS Contracting Parties to apply the guidance and procedures set out in this Annex when contemplating the deletion of a site from the List of Wetlands of International Importance or a restriction to the boundaries of such a site;
12. URGES Contracting Parties to provide developing countries with assistance, including capacity building, in order to help reverse, where possible, the factors leading to consideration of deletion or restriction of a site;

13. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to take into account the guidance in the Annex to this Resolution when advising Contracting Parties on issues concerning reduction or deletion of a site from the List of Wetlands of International Importance, including on the provision by Contracting Parties of updated Information Sheets on Ramsar Wetlands; and
14. ALSO INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat, with the advice of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, to report to COP10 on these matters under Article 8.2 and URGES Contracting Parties to provide to the Ramsar Secretariat information on their experiences and lessons learned in their application of this Resolution.

Annex

Guidance for the consideration of the deletion or restriction of the boundaries of a listed Ramsar site

1. This guidance covers principles and procedures for situations not foreseen in the treaty text concerning the loss or deterioration of the ecological character of wetlands on the List of Wetlands of International Importance under circumstances other than those addressed by Article 2.5.
- I. The relationship between this guidance and issues covered by Resolutions VIII.20 and VIII.21**
2. This guidance covers situations under which the terms of Article 2.5 of the Convention text concerning “urgent national interests” for situations of loss of the ecological character of a listed Ramsar site have not been invoked by the Contracting Party concerned, or where such “urgent national interest” cannot be justified. Procedures and responsibilities of Parties in relation to Article 2.5 are covered by the guidance adopted by COP8 as the Annex to Resolution VIII.20.
3. In relation to boundary restrictions of listed Ramsar sites, this guidance concerns those situations where reductions in the area of the site are being contemplated owing to the loss or deterioration of the ecological character of the site, where the proposed changes would affect the fundamental objectives, and the application of the Criteria for designation, for which the site was listed.
4. Situations concerning improvements only to the accuracy of defining the boundary of a listed site (for example, through the availability and use of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)), whether this leads to a reduction or an increase in the measured area of the site, are covered in Resolution VIII.21.
5. Contracting Parties at COP5 (1993) through the Annex to Resolution 5.3 established a review procedure for listed sites which may not qualify under any of the Criteria (at that time those established by Recommendation 4.2). The guidance below incorporates relevant aspects of the Resolution 5.3 procedure.

II. Scenarios under which deletion or restriction might be contemplated

6. The following 10 scenarios have been identified in the review prepared by the Ramsar Secretariat (see COP9 DOC. 15). Of the 10 scenarios described, at the time of preparation of this guidance seven have already arisen in documented cases, and an eighth, while not having been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, may have arisen. Seven of the scenarios fall under one or other of the three situations identified in Resolution VIII.22:

A Ramsar site never met the Criteria for designation as a Wetland of International Importance:

- i) At the time of accession a Party supplies, as required by the Convention text, only a name and boundary map but not a completed Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS).

Subsequently, in compiling the RIS, it becomes apparent that the site does not fulfil any of the Criteria. This scenario was addressed by the annex to Resolution 5.3.

- ii) The site was designated incorrectly owing to inadequate or incorrect information being available at the time of preparation of the RIS (or pre-RIS information provided at the time of listing), and it subsequently becomes apparent that the site as a whole does not fulfill any of the Criteria. This scenario was also addressed by the annex to Resolution 5.3.

Part of a Ramsar site unavoidably loses the components, processes, and services for which it was included, or was included in error:

- iii) A Ramsar site is designated after completion of a domestic protected areas procedure under national legislation, such that the Ramsar site boundary follows that established for the site first selected for its national importance, and the boundaries of the nationally-designated site are then changed.
- iv) All or part of a Ramsar site loses the components, processes, and services of its ecological character as a wetland for which it was listed, for reasons other than changes covered by Article 2.5.
- v) A set of linear boundaries has been used to define the Ramsar site boundaries which do not relate directly to the eco-geography of the wetlands or their associated catchments.

A Ramsar site met the Criteria but the Criteria or the parameters underpinning them are subsequently changed:

- vi) The site's values, functions and attributes remain unchanged, but it subsequently fails to meet the Criteria owing to a change in those Criteria.
 - vii) The site's values, functions and attributes remain unchanged, but it subsequently fails to meet the Criteria owing to a change in the population estimates or parameters which underpin them.
7. Two other scenarios do not fall directly within any of the three categories identified in Resolution VIII.22:
- i) A Ramsar site designated by a former Contracting Party is now within the territory of a successor country which is presently acceding to the Convention and indicating a different boundary and area for that site.
 - ii) Part or all of a listed Ramsar site is proposed for deletion in order to permit possible future developments or other land use change in that area which cannot be justified as "urgent national interest".
8. One other scenario can be envisaged which could arise from one or other of the specific scenarios listed above:

- i) A Contracting Party has designated only one Ramsar site (at the time of its accession) and that site ceases to qualify under the Criteria.

III. Obligations of Parties under the Convention, especially Articles 2.1, 2.5, 3.1, 3.2 and 4.2: general principles for the contemplation of deletion or restriction of listed Ramsar sites

9. The obligations of Parties under Articles 2.1 and 3.1 of the Convention text are that Parties should designate Ramsar sites and implement planning so as to promote their conservation (i.e., maintain their ecological character). This has been further elaborated by Resolution VIII.8 in which the Parties committed themselves to maintain or restore the ecological character of their Ramsar sites.
10. If a human-induced change to the ecological character of a Ramsar site has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur, under Article 3.2 it is the obligation of the Party concerned to report this “without delay” to the Ramsar Secretariat.
11. The Convention text (Article 2.5) allows for the deletion or restriction of the boundary of a designated Ramsar site only if this is justified as being in the “urgent national interests”.
12. Resolution VIII.22 concerns particular situations in which ecological character loss of a designated Ramsar site is or was “unavoidable”. It follows that if such a situation is or was avoidable, the appropriate steps to take are to avoid such loss.
13. Under some of the scenarios, deletion or boundary restriction should not be considered to be acceptable under the Convention, notably when such deletion or restriction is being proposed in order to permit or facilitate future developments or other land use change in that area which is not justified as in the “urgent national interests” (i.e., para. 7 ii above).
14. Parties have already indicated that compensation for the loss or degradation of wetlands, including listed sites, should be applied under three circumstances:
 - i) in cases of change leading to considerations of boundary restriction or deletion of listed sites where an “urgent national interest” applies (Article 4.2 and Resolution VIII.20);
 - ii) in cases of change resulting in loss of wetland ecosystem components, processes and services, but not leading to considerations of boundary restriction or deletion (Resolution VII.24); and
 - iii) in cases of sites which did not, at the time of designation, qualify under any of the criteria for designation (Resolution 5.3).
15. Since the provision of compensation (Article 4.2) is expected even when “urgent national interest” is considered to override the other provisions of the Convention text, when no such justification applies the other obligations of the Convention text, notably Article 3.1, and those of Resolution VII.24 apply. Thus if the loss of ecological character was “unavoidable” (Resolution VIII.22, paragraph 6 b) at least equivalent provision of compensation should be made, if practicable, in line with the considerations in the Annex to Resolution VIII.20 (paragraph 4). This is also the approach which was adopted in the

procedure annexed to Resolution 5.3 for a site which proves not to have fulfilled the Criteria at the time of designation.

16. Parties should consider, if such policies and legislation are not already in place, establishing policies and legislative mechanisms for addressing third-party damage to the ecological character of listed Ramsar sites, including the issue of compensation, as is called for in Resolution VII.24, and applying the guidance in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 3 ("Laws and Institutions") adopted by Resolution VII.7, as necessary.
17. If a deletion or boundary restriction is still contemplated after all such other considerations and options have been weighed, the procedures for such an action should follow the terms of Article 8.2 (b), (d) and (e): i.e. for the Secretariat to forward notification of such an alteration to the List to all Contracting Parties; to arrange for the matter to be discussed at the next Conference of the Contracting Parties; and to make known to the Contracting Party concerned the recommendations of the Conference in respect of such alterations.

IV. Procedures to apply should deletion or restriction be contemplated

18. Drawing upon issues raised under the scenarios outlined above, the following steps should be followed for any consideration of boundary restriction of part of a listed site or delisting of an entire site in circumstances where Article 2.5 does not apply. Restriction of boundary should be considered first and only in exceptional circumstances should delisting of the site be considered.
19. The approach focuses on scenarios where part or all of a site appears to have lost the wetland ecosystem components, processes and/or services for which it was originally designated. Additional information on a range of issues to consider under each of these scenarios is provided in COP9 DOC. 15.
20. A Party should consult with the Ramsar Secretariat at an early stage in their contemplation of any deletion or restriction of a listed site (as is already expected under Resolution 5.3 for a site which may not have fulfilled the Criteria at the time of designation).
21. **Step 1.** Substantiate and confirm the reasons why the case at hand is one where Article 2.5 of the Convention does not apply.
22. **Step 2.** If the ecological character of part or all of the listed site has changed owing to human-induced activities in line with Resolution VIII.8, make an Article 3.2 report without delay to the Ramsar Secretariat.
23. **Step 3.** At the same time, consider:
 - i) whether it would be helpful to seek the advice of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP);
 - ii) whether adding the site to the Montreux Record would be a helpful step, in line with the purposes set out in Resolution VIII.8, paragraph 21;
 - iii) whether a Ramsar Advisory Mission should be requested; and/or

- iv) whether requesting emergency assistance under the Ramsar Small Grant Fund is appropriate.
- 24. **Step 4.** Undertake an assessment of the present ecological character of the site, and establish whether the site still qualifies as a Wetland of International Importance under one or more of the current Criteria. It may be that the changed character of the site leads to it qualifying under another Criterion or other Criteria than those for which it was originally listed, and/or that such other Criteria may have always been applicable but were not used at the time of listing.
- 25. **Step 5.** As part of the assessment in Step 4, establish whether the change in ecological character that has led to the site, or part of the site, ceasing to qualify is truly irreversible. If the change appears to have a chance of reversibility, define the conditions under which the change may reverse or be reversed, and the management actions (including restoration) needed to secure this, as well as the likely timescales needed to permit the recovery of the character of the site.
- 26. Such reversibility could arise through, *inter alia*, recovery from damage caused by a natural disaster, the natural inter-annual variability of the size of waterbird or other populations, and/or management interventions including restoration or rehabilitation of the affected part(s) of the site.
- 27. **Step 6.** If there is potential for reversibility, monitor the key ecological features of the site for the time period necessary as identified under Step 5, and then re-assess the status of the site in relation to its qualification under the Criteria.
- 28. **Step 7.** Report on the recovery of the site, including through a further Article 3.2 report to the Secretariat, requesting removal of the site from the Montreux Record if appropriate, and prepare and submit an updated Ramsar Information Sheet which clearly identifies the changes which have occurred.
- 29. **Step 8.** If the loss of part or all of the listed site is irreversible, and the attempts at recovery or restoration have failed in terms of its qualification for the Ramsar List, or if there is clear evidence that the site was listed in error in the first place, prepare a report on the restriction of the site's boundary or its removal from the List, as appropriate. This report should include, *inter alia*, a description of the loss of ecological character and the reasons for it, a description of any assessments made and their results, the steps taken to seek the recovery of the site, and proposals for the provision of compensation (including in line with Resolutions 5.3, VII.24 and VIII.20), accompanied by relevant maps. If the intention is for a boundary restriction, this should include an updated Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS).

V. Procedures for confirming a boundary restriction or deletion of a listed site

- 30. The following procedure should be followed when a Party wishes to confirm restriction or delisting a Ramsar site:
 - i) The Party should submit its intent, covering the aspects of the issue as outlined in Step 8 above, to the Ramsar Secretariat, which will make arrangements to advise all Contracting Parties, in line with Article 8.2 (d);

- ii) All such cases and their outcomes will be reported for discussion at the next COP, in line with Article 8.2 (d), which may wish to make recommendations to the Party concerned, in line with Article 8.2 (e);
- iii) The Secretariat will transmit any such recommendations made by the COP to the Contracting Party concerned (Article 8 (e)).



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Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.7

Regional initiatives in the framework of the Ramsar Convention

1. RECALLING that the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19) provide the appropriate framework for promoting international collaboration amongst Contracting Parties and other partners;
2. ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution VIII.30 the Contracting Parties recognized the importance of regional initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Convention and established *Guidelines for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands*;
3. RECOGNIZING that the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) Coordination Unit already operates under the authority of the Secretary General and was recognized by the Parties in Resolution VIII.30 as a model example of such regional initiatives, and ALSO RECOGNIZING that the High Andean Regional Wetlands Strategy has been endorsed by the Council of Environment Ministers of the Andean Community of Nations;
4. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Government of Greece has offered to continue hosting and contributing financially to the operation of the MedWet Coordination Unit in Athens for the triennium 2006-2008;
5. RECALLING Resolution VIII.42 on *Small Island Developing States in the Oceania Region* and RECOGNIZING the success of the out-posted Ramsar regional support officer for Oceania during 2005; and
6. AWARE that a number of regional initiatives for wetland conservation and wise use are under development in different parts of the world, NOTING the submissions by Contracting Parties to the Standing Committee of proposals for developing regional initiatives to be recognized as working within the framework of the Convention (COP9 DOC. 21), and FURTHER NOTING the following additional regional initiatives announced by Contracting Parties during COP9 as being under development:
 - La Plata/Paraguay-Parana Wetlands System Sustainability Programme – Neotropics
 - Black Sea Wetlands Initiative (BlackSeaWet) – Europe
 - Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme – Africa
 - Nile River Basin Conservation and Development Initiative – Africa

- Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute, International Wetland Training Programme – Africa;

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7. ENDORSES the Regional Initiatives listed in Annex I.A to this Resolution as being within the framework of the Convention on Wetlands in line with the Annex to Resolution VIII.30 and UNDERLINES their value for implementation of the Convention at regional level;
8. RECOGNIZES the potential for those regional initiatives listed in Annex I.B to this Resolution to become operative within the framework of the Convention, subject to further development, and URGES the Parties concerned to progress their development and report to COP10 for consideration for endorsement;
9. AGREES to contribute financial support from the Convention core budget line “Support to Regional Initiatives” for the 2006-2008 triennium for specific regional initiatives, which qualify by fully meeting the conditions for support set out in the Annex to Resolution VIII.30, specifically paragraphs 8-10, at the levels indicated in Annex I.C for 2006; and ALSO AGREES that levels of financial support for 2007 and 2008 will be determined by the Standing Committee based on recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance;
10. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, intergovernmental agencies, IOPs, national NGOs and other donors to support such regional initiatives seeking financial assistance from the Ramsar Convention with additional voluntary contributions, and STRONGLY URGES those regional initiatives that receive financial support from the core budget to use this support *inter alia* to seek alternative flows of sustainable funding;
11. RECOGNIZES that financial support for the outposted Ramsar Oceania regional support officer is included in the Staff Costs of the Secretariat for 2006-2008 (Resolution IX.12, Annex I, *Financial and Budgetary Matters*);
12. AUTHORIZES the Secretary General to conclude, where appropriate, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with relevant governments and appropriate bodies with regard to the specific financial and institutional arrangements of the regional initiatives identified in the annex, and DIRECTS the Secretary General to report to the Standing Committee and COP10 on progress with these MoUs and the progress of regional initiatives in general;
13. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee to approve, between meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, qualifying initiatives which have zero financial implications for the Convention’s core budget, and ALSO AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, within the global allocation for the triennium of the Convention core budget line “Support to Regional Initiatives”, to reallocate funding, if considered appropriate, depending on shifts in priorities and needs in response to requests from initiatives, and REQUESTS the Standing Committee to report to COP10 on the development and funding of the suite of initiatives established by 2008;
14. INSTRUCTS all initiatives under the present Resolution, and particularly those funded from the core budget, to submit to the Standing Committee a report on progress and

operations of the initiatives concerned, and specifically their success in complying with the Guidelines contained in Annex I to Resolution VIII.30 and actions taken to replace Ramsar funds with alternative sustainable funds. The Standing Committee and Secretariat, particularly in relation to those initiatives funded by the core budget, should review their success and submit a summary report for consideration at COP10;

15. RECOGNIZES specifically the critical importance of financial and political support from Contracting Parties of the region to the MedWet Initiative, and especially from the host country of its Coordination Unit, EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE to the Government of Greece for hosting the MedWet Coordination Unit in Athens, ACCEPTS the generous offer of the Government of Greece to continue providing office facilities and financial support during the triennium 2006-2008 for the same purpose and INSTRUCTS the Secretary General to renew as appropriate the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Greece for hosting the MedWet Coordination Unit for the triennium 2006-2008; and
16. APPROVES the budget for the operation of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee and the Coordination Unit for the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative in the framework of the Ramsar Convention as contained in Annex II of this Resolution.

Annex I

A. Regional initiatives for wetland conservation and wise use endorsed as operating within the framework of the Ramsar Convention and considered appropriate for funding in 2006-2008

i) Regional (and subregional) networks for capacity-building and cooperation:

- West African Coastal Zone Wetlands Network (WacoWet) – Africa
- ChadWet - Africa
- NigerWet - Africa
- WSSD Type II Partnership for the conservation and sustainable use of sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds in East Asia, South East Asia and Australasia (The Partnership) – Asia/North America/Oceania
- Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands - Neotropics
- Regional initiative for the protection and wise use of wetlands for the Pacific Islands – Oceania

ii) Regional (and subregional) centres for training and capacity-building:

- Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia in Iran (RRC-CWA) - Asia
- Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO) – Neotropics/North America

B. Regional initiatives recognized as having potential for operating within the framework of the Ramsar Convention, subject to acceptance by the Contracting Parties concerned and further development and consideration by COP10

- Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA) - Africa
- Himalayan Initiative - Asia
- Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) - Europe
- The Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative (NorBalWet) – Europe

C. Financial support to regional initiatives from the Convention's core budget line "Support for regional initiatives" for 2006

	Swiss Francs (for year 2006)
MedWet Initiative:	26,000
West African Coastal Zone Wetlands Network (WacoWet)	60,000
Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia in Iran (RRC-CWA)	20,000
Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands	20,000 ¹

Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO)	80,000
TOTAL	206,000

- ¹ Subject to the provision to the 34th meeting of the Standing Committee of a satisfactory budget. If this budget allocation is not confirmed by SC34, the funds should be allocated to the STRP budget line for 2006.

Annex II

Budget for the operation of the MedWetCom and Coordination Unit of the MedWet Initiative

INCOME (in Swiss Francs)

	2006	2007	2008
1. Host country (Greece) for the Coordination Unit of the MedWet Initiative	263,483	263,483	263,483
2. Ramsar core budget	26,000	15,499	10,849
3. MedWet countries	146,354	149,020	149,700
4. Projects	166,678	189,180	214,719
5. To be secured	20,497	30,998	35,647
TOTAL INCOME	623,012	648,180	674,399
Budgeted expenditure	623,012	648,180	674,399

Notes on Income

- Contribution by the Host Country (Greece), as confirmed in the letter of the Ministry of Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works to the Secretary General of the Convention, dated 3 June 2005.
- Contribution from the Ramsar core budget for the triennium 2006-2008 (budget line – Support to Regional Initiatives).
- Additional annual contributions from the Contracting Parties participating in MedWet earmarked to cover costs of the MedWet Coordination Unit (see Table 1 for the list of contributions for 2006). These figures assume that 100% of contributions will be made by these countries.
- Income from project overheads and project implementation undertaken by and through the MedWet Coordination Unit.

Note on Expenditure

The expenditure side of the budget shall continue as in the year 2005 (as approved in the Annex to Resolution VIII.30) and shall be revised, as necessary, as soon as the Terms of Reference of the MedWet Initiative are approved by the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee.

Table 1: Additional country contributions earmarked for MedWet Coordination Unit costs (in Swiss Francs)

Name of Country	UN %	Ramsar %	2006	2007	2008
			corrected for minimum CHF 550	corrected for minimum CHF 550	corrected for minimum CHF 550
Albania	0.0050	0.0314	550	550	550
Algeria	0.0760	0.4777	672	685	681
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0.0030	0.0189	550	550	550
Bulgaria	0.0170	0.1068	550	550	550
Croatia	0.0370	0.2325	550	550	550
Cyprus	0.0390	0.2451	550	550	550
Egypt	0.1200	0.7542	1,061	1,081	1,075
France	6.0300	37.8993	53,308	54,332	53,997
Greece	0.5300	3.3311	4,685	4,775	4,746
Israel	0.4670	2.9352	4,128	4,208	4,182
Italy	4.8850	30.7028	43,185	44,015	43,744
Jordan	0.0110	0.0691	550	550	550
Lebanon	0.0240	0.1508	550	550	550
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.1320	0.8296	1,167	1,189	1,182
Malta	0.0140	0.0880	550	550	550
Monaco	0.0030	0.0189	550	550	550
Morocco	0.0470	0.2954	550	550	550
Portugal	0.4700	2.9540	4,155	4,235	4,209
Serbia & Montenegro	0.0190	0.1194	550	550	550
Slovenia	0.0820	0.5154	725	739	734
Spain	2.5200	15.8385	22,278	22,706	22,566
Syrian Arab Republic	0.0380	0.2388	550	550	550
FYR Macedonia	0.0060	0.0377	550	550	550
Tunisia	0.0320	0.2011	550	550	550
Turkey	0.3720	2.3381	3,289	3,352	3,331
TOTALS		100	146,353	149,019	148,150

Note. This table is calculated using the UN scale of contributions for 2006. The calculations for 2007 and 2008 are indicative only: the exact figures will be calculated on the basis of the UN scale for each year, when it is known. The minimum contribution is set to 550 Swiss Francs.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

*“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining
livelihoods”*

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.8

Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2003-2008

1. RECALLING that in Resolution VIII.25 the Contracting Parties adopted the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 as the basis for the implementation of the Convention during that period;
2. AWARE that the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008, prior to its adoption by the COP, was prepared by the Standing Committee through a wide consultative process with Contracting Parties, the Convention's International Organization Partners and others, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;
3. RECOGNIZING that the implementation by Contracting Parties and others of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002 permitted a more coherent and effective realization of the Convention, but AWARE that there remain many and increasing challenges to achieving a globally consistent delivery of wetland conservation and wise use, and that most of the 2003-2005 global targets agreed in the Convention's Work Plan 2003-2005 (Resolution VIII.26) have not been achieved by the time of COP9;
4. AWARE that to achieve the Convention's objectives in wetland conservation and wise use, a comprehensive but simple and easy-to-use document would be helpful to Contracting Parties for the promotion and implementation of the Convention, and RECOGNIZING the need for a clear document by which the Standing Committee can monitor the effectiveness of the Convention's implementation in terms of resources and staff time; and
5. ALSO RECOGNIZING that each Contracting Party is free to choose the extent to which it will implement the Strategic Plan, the resources it will allocate to the implementation, and the timeframes to be followed;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

6. ACCEPTS the use of the attached *Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period* as a working tool for the Standing Committee to refine implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 adopted by Resolution VIII.25, recognizing that the document will undergo review, editing and change during the coming triennium;

7. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to revise the text of this Framework to take into account the Resolutions adopted by the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and ALSO INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to attach to it the Annexes to Resolution IX.2 concerning future scientific and technical tasks and priorities, in order to form the Convention's Work Plan 2006-2008 for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the coming triennium and, following approval by the Standing Committee, to circulate this to Contracting Parties and other relevant organizations without delay;
8. RECOGNIZES that the *Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period* provides a basis for the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to trial a new approach to promoting, monitoring and measuring the implementation of the Convention in the 2006 -2008 triennium, and INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to develop and implement a comprehensive and inclusive process for the development of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009 -2014, for consideration by Ramsar COP10;
9. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to design a simplified COP10 National Report Format based on the *Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006-2008 period*, taking into account reporting issues in Resolutions IX.1 Annex D and IX.5 and, in so doing, to ensure that the new format will reduce the overall reporting burden on Contracting Parties by:
 - i) reducing duplication required and/or requested in relevant Resolutions adopted by this and previous COPs;
 - ii) ensuring that any new reporting requirements are compensated for by removal of existing requirements, so as to ensure at least no net increase in reporting requirements;
 - iii) considering reporting requirements of other relevant conventions and agreements and ways to use the information collected for these purposes rather than requiring the collection of additional information; and
 - iv) also considering the contribution of Ramsar reporting to other conventions' equivalent processes including *inter alia* the 2010 biodiversity target; and
10. URGES all Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, the Secretariat, and the Convention's International Organization Partners to use the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and its appendices to take on the renewed challenge of promoting, implementing and monitoring the performance of the Convention, including through the application of the ecological "outcome-oriented" indicators of the effectiveness of the Convention's implementation (Resolution IX.1 Annex D) .

Annex

A Framework for the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 in the 2006 -2008 period

Preamble

1. The 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands, held in Spain on 18-26 November 2002, adopted a Strategic Plan for the application of the Convention during the period 2003-2008. That Strategic Plan recognized the adoption by the Convention of a broader approach to wetland conservation and sustainable use in achieving full application of the wise use principle and safeguarding wetland resources. Developing and simplifying this plan, the Conference of the Parties meeting in Kampala, Uganda, November 2005, has agreed this Framework to be used in conjunction with the Strategic Plan during the second triennium. COP9 agreed five Goals to be achieved through a series of strategies, each with key result areas and key performance measures to measure effectiveness. This framework will also interact with the developing STRP ecological "outcome-oriented" indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention.
2. This Framework helps interpret the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (Resolution VIII.25) and contributes to:
 - achievement of Millennium Development Goal 7 (Ensuring Environmental Sustainability);
 - the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico 2006;
 - achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity targets; and
 - implementation of decisions from the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD13) policies on water and sanitation.

What are we about? – The mission of the Convention

3. *"Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world."* The Convention stresses that it is essential to integrate conservation of wetlands and sustainable use as a contribution to the health and well-being of people through sustainable development everywhere.

What do we want to achieve? – Our goals

Conservation and wise use of wetlands and water resources

GOAL 1. The wise use of wetlands: To stimulate and assist all Contracting Parties to develop, adopt and use the necessary and appropriate instruments and measures (including guidance on wise use of wetlands as modified by Resolution IX.1 Annex A) to ensure the wise use of wetlands within their borders, when necessary applying *inter alia* the ecosystem approach *sensu* CBD.

Delivers Articles 3.1, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 of the Convention.

GOAL 2. Wetlands of International Importance: To stimulate and support all Contracting Parties in the appropriate implementation of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance*, including the monitoring and management of listed sites as contributions to implementing outcomes of the 13th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD13) and implementation of the 2010 targets for biodiversity.

Delivers Articles 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2 of the Convention.

GOAL 3. International cooperation: To promote international cooperation through the active application of the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* and in particular to mobilize additional financial and technical assistance for wetland conservation and wise use.

Delivers Article 5 of the Convention.

Managing the Convention

GOAL 4. Implementation capacity: To ensure that the Convention has the required implementation mechanisms, resources and capacity to achieve its mission.

Delivers Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Convention.

GOAL 5. Membership: To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.

Delivers Articles 2.4 and 9 of the Convention.

*How are we going to do what we want? (Our strategies),
What are the results we want to achieve? (Our Key Results Areas - KRAs),
and
How effective are we being? (Our Key Performance Measures – KPMs).*

Notes

In this section each key strategy is linked numerically to one of the five goals. In addition to this linkage some strategies and Key Result Areas will, in the end, inevitably satisfy more than one goal. Measurement of Key Performance Measures will be undertaken by the Secretariat working with the Standing Committee. “Budget impact” gives specific costs where these are known and an indication of staff time targets needed from the Secretariat (presumed total of 19). Each strategy is cross-referenced to the operational objectives of the Strategic Plan. Where a strategy is formed from more than one Operational Objective, some slight re-wording of the objectives has been made to ensure clarity of the strategy.

STRATEGY 1.1 (Operational objective 1.1)

Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle. (CPs, advised by STRP and assisted by IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10:

- All Parties without completed inventories to have initiated action in line with the Ramsar *Framework for Wetland Inventory*, and as far as possible to have completed and disseminated comprehensive national wetland inventories, including information on wetland importance, potential Ramsar sites, wetlands for restoration, location of under-represented wetland types, and ecosystem benefits/services, in particular in relation to poverty eradication strategies.
- A Web-based metadatabase in place and populated with information on all national wetland inventories, managed by the Secretariat.

KPM

All stakeholders to have access to wetland inventories.

Budget impact: STRP work programme; Web database development, 0.5stt.

STRATEGY 1.2 (Operational objective 2.1+2.2)

Develop, review, amend when necessary, and implement national or supranational policies, legislation, institutions and practices, including impact assessment and valuation, in all Contracting Parties, to ensure that the wise use principle of the Convention is being effectively applied, where possible specifying the appropriate policy instrument(s) in each CP which ensures wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRAs

By COP10:

- At least 50 CPs to have undertaken water quality and quantity assessments.
- National Wetland Policy or equivalent instrument fully integrated into other strategic and planning processes by all Parties, including poverty reduction strategies, water resources management and water efficiency plans, and national strategies for sustainable development in line with WSSD targets. SC/Secretariat to identify at least 100 Parties to initiate and if possible complete comprehensive reviews of their laws and institutions.
- SC/Secretariat to have identified at least 50 Parties to have in place Strategic Environmental Assessment for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands.

KPM

Number of policies, strategies and programmes in place and being implemented by CPs.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.5stt.

STRATEGY 1.3 (Operational objective 3.1 -3.3)

Increase recognition of the significance of wetlands for reasons of water supply, coastal protection, flood defense, climate change mitigation, food security, poverty reduction, cultural heritage, and scientific research, with a focus on under-represented ecosystem types, through developing and disseminating methodology to achieve wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10:

- Development and implementation of wise use wetland programmes and projects that contribute to poverty reduction objectives and food and water security plans at local and national levels in place.
- Full implementation of the *Guidelines for global action on peatlands* (VIII.17) through the activities of the Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands.
- The social and cultural heritage of wetlands to be fully taken into account in their wise use and management.

KPM

- An analysis of the ecosystem benefits/services of Ramsar sites achieved for all CPs.

Budget impact: Staff time for analysis, 0.2stt.

STRATEGY 1.4 (Operational objective 3.4)

Integrate policies on the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in decision-making processes at national, regional, provincial and local levels, particularly concerning territorial management, groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and responses to climate change, all in the context of implementing Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). (CPs, STRP, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10

- All CPs to have made available the guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision-making on water resource management, as a contribution to achieving the WSSD target on water resources management and water efficiency plans.
- River Basin Initiative (RBI) fully operational.
- Information on wetlands and their role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change completed.

KPM

- The Convention's role in IWRM plans established as part of international environmental governance.

Budget impact: STRP work programme – and RBI management – some extra support from GEF funds if RBI is operational (1.5stt if RBI GEF funds allocated, 0.5 if not)

STRATEGY 1.5 (Operational objective 4.1)

Identify priority wetlands where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10:

- All CPs with lost or degraded wetlands to have identified priority sites for restoration; restoration projects underway or completed in at least 100 CPs.

- New case studies and methods added to Ramsar wetland restoration pages on the Web site.

Budget impact: Staff time for Web site management, 0.1stt.

STRATEGY 1.6 (Operational objective 5.1)

Develop guidance and promote protocols and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive alien species in wetland systems. (CPs, STRP, other agencies, IOPs)

KRA

- By COP10 CPs to have identified problems posed by invasive species in wetland ecosystems documented in a decisive and holistic manner, making use, as appropriate, of the tools and guidance developed by various institutions and processes.

KPM

- Comprehensive and up-to-date guidance on invasive species management in general use.

Budget impact: Staff time for interaction with institutions, 0.2stt.

STRATEGY 2.1 (Operational objective 10.1)

Apply the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Handbook 7). (CPs, STRP)

KRA

- By COP10 all CPs implementing the Strategic Framework for Ramsar sites, adapted as required for the domestic situation in each Contracting Party.

KPM

- Adequate management planning processes submitted with all new site nominations.

Budget impact: Staff time needed for additional inputs and management of the List, 4stt.

STRATEGY 2.2 (Operational objective 10.2)

Maintain the Ramsar Sites Information Service and constantly update it with the best available information, and use the Ramsar Sites Database as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance. (CPs, STRP, Secretariat, IOPs, other agencies/organizations as appropriate)

KRAs

By COP10:

- The Secretariat to have received all necessary updated Ramsar Information Sheets, and all new designations to conform to the latest version of the RIS.
- Ramsar Sites Database to have improved its functionality and accessibility to stakeholders, including through links between the Database, the Ramsar Sites Directory Web presentation, the Ramsar Web site, and other interactive systems, as well as the publication of special reports and other outputs.

KPM

- The Ramsar Sites Database information used as a key resource by all Ramsar stakeholders.

Budget impact: Staff time for Web site management, funding for external data base management (CHF 200,000 pa), 1.0stt.

STRATEGY 2.3 (Operational objective 11.1)

Maintain the ecological character of all Ramsar sites. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10:

- Zoning measures for larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves, and other wetlands (Recommendation 5.3 and Resolution VIII.14) and strict protection measures for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity in place.
- Cross-sectoral site management committees in place for Ramsar sites, involving relevant government agencies, local community representatives, and other stakeholders, including the business sector in place.

KPM

- CPs in implementing their obligations under Articles 3 and 8.2 using the integrated package of Convention tools for site management, as presented in Ramsar Handbook 8, as well as the supplementary guidance adopted by COP9.

Budget impact: Core budget funding for Secretariat support to CPs, 0.4stt.

STRATEGY 2.4 (Operational objective 11.2)

Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites, notify the Ramsar Secretariat without delay of changes affecting Ramsar sites as required by Article 3.2, and apply the Montreux Record and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

- All CPs with Ramsar sites whose ecological character has changed, is changing or is likely to change owing to human-induced actions to have reported this, without delay, to the Ramsar Secretariat, in line with Article 3.2.
- For all sites on the Montreux Record which have not been subject to a Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM), CPs to request such a Mission prior to COP10.
- Implementation of relevant STRP ecological outcome-oriented indicators.

KPM

- The Montreux Record being used as part of the Convention's governance process, in parallel with nomination and management planning of sites.

Budget impact: Staff time and funding for RAMs, 0.2stt.

STRATEGY 2.5 (Operational objectives 12.1 + 12.2)

Promote inventory and integrated management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10:

- All CPs to have identified their transboundary wetlands; where appropriate, CPs to have identified cooperative management mechanisms.
- Where appropriate CPs with shared basins and coastal systems to be part of joint management commissions or authorities.

KPM

- Regional site networks and initiatives in place for wetland-dependent migratory species, as exemplified *inter alia* by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and the Central Asian Flyway Initiative.

Budget impact: Some staff time to monitor progress and for visits, 0.2stt.

STRATEGY 2.6 (Operational objective 12.3)

Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRAs

- Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) and its related action programme, the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) and its Coordination Unit continuing to develop.
- Development of regional arrangements under the Convention, applying the *Guidance for the development of Regional Initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands* (Resolution VIII.30), resulting in the establishment of new regional initiatives and/or centers.

KPM

- Effectiveness of the Convention working in a regional way, within a global context.

Budget impact: New funding required in core budget to support additional initiatives start-ups, 0.6 stt.

STRATEGY 3.1 (Operational objective 13.1)

Collaboration with other institutions: Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other agencies. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRAs

- CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan and CMS/AEWA Joint Work Plan being implemented and full participation in the CBD Biodiversity Liaison Group. UNESCO-MAB Joint Work Plan being delivered. Joint activities developed with

UNCCD and UNFCCC, including through participation in the Joint Liaison Group and the Biodiversity Liaison Group.

- NEPAD's Action Plan to have fully incorporated Ramsar issues and mechanisms and being implemented by relevant CPs, in lines with WSSD targets.
- Partnership approaches initiated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and other relevant UN agencies, as well as through UN Water.

KPM

- Effectiveness of partnerships with biodiversity-related conventions at national, regional and international level.

Budget impact: Funding required in core budget to support liaison activities, mainly travel for staff, 0.5stt.

STRATEGY 3.2 (Operational objective 14.1)

Sharing of expertise and information: Promote the sharing of expertise and information. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRA

- Less time spent by CPs on managing information for national reports, but better quality and more timely reports produced.

KPM

- Harmonized information management and reporting systems available and widely used with the appropriate MEAs.

Budget impact: staff time in secretariat, 0.5stt

STRATEGY 4.1 (Operational objective 6.1)

Local communities, indigenous people, and cultural values: Encourage active and informed participation of local communities and indigenous people, including women and youth, in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including in relation to understanding the dynamics of cultural values. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRA

- By COP10 further guidance developed on the application of the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* (Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 5).
- By COP10 an approach developed to including cultural benefits/services of wetland ecosystems in aspects of the Convention's work.

KPM

- More participative management of wetlands seen in all CPs, and an awareness of the importance of cultural ecosystem benefits/services in wetlands developed.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.25stt.

STRATEGY 4.2 (Operational objective 7.1)

Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRA

- By COP10, private sector applying the wise use principle (Ramsar Handbooks 1 to 6) in their activities and investments affecting wetlands.

KPM

- Increased private sector engagement in the wise use of wetlands, particularly at Ramsar sites.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.25stt.

STRATEGY 4.3 (Operational objective 8.1)

Promote measures which encourage the application of the wise use principle. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRA

- By COP10, 50 CPs to have reviewed policy and legal and institutional frameworks to give effect to the promotion of the wise use of wetlands.

KPM

- Better design, implementation, monitoring and assessment of positive and negative incentive measures.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.1stt.

STRATEGY 4.4 (Operational objective 9.1)

Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Communication, Education, and Public Awareness Programme (Resolution VIII.31) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through public participation and communication, education, and public awareness (CEPA). (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRA

By COP10:

- At least 50 CPs to have established national Ramsar-CEPA action plans.
- At least 75 CPs to have established at least one wetland education centre at a Ramsar site.
- Complete re-design of Secretariat's outreach strategy, including re-designed Web site, comprehensive media strategy, and novel approaches to promoting WWD.

KPM

- Extent to which CEPA is used throughout all aspects of the Convention's activities.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, funding for design and delivery of global outreach products, 1.6stt.

STRATEGY 4.5 (Operational objective 15.1 + 15.2)

Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)

KRA

- Each CP with a bilateral donor agency to have encouraged it to give priority for funding for wetland conservation and wise use projects in relation to poverty reduction and other WSSD and MDG targets and priorities.

KPM

- Proposed grants, loans, and development projects from international development agencies, including banks, financial institutions and private investors and developers, include environmental safeguards and environmental assessments of possible impacts.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.1stt.

STRATEGY 4.6 (Operational objective 16.1)

Provide the financial resources required for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRA

- Better governance of the Convention and more effective promulgation of decisions by COP10.

KPM

- Adequate resources and supporting financial policies in place to enable the Convention to discharge its responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 1.4stt.

STRATEGY 4.7 (Operational objective 17.1)

Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Ramsar Secretariat are operating at a high level of efficiency and effectiveness to support implementation of this Framework. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRAs

By COP10:

- A comprehensive and flexible staffing policy for the Secretariat in place allowing response to key issues as they emerge.
- National Reports used to evaluate and report on the implementation of the Strategic Plan at each meeting of the COP, and to prepare an updated Framework for the forthcoming triennium within a rolling six-year plan.

KPM

- The organs of the Convention have adequate funding and logistic support to deliver their agreed *modus operandi* and work plans, with full use of the staff time targets.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 4.2stt

STRATEGY 4.8 (Operational objective 18.1)

Develop the capacity within, and promote cooperation among, institutions in Contracting Parties to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands. (CPs)

KRA

- By COP10, existing national institutions responsible for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, reviewed and revised arrangements in place.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.2stt.

STRATEGY 4.9 (Operational objective 19.1)

Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others. (Secretariat, IOPs)

KRA

- By COP10, each IOP and the Secretariat to have established a programme of joint work in support of the Convention, including, where relevant and appropriate, joint actions by several IOPs.

KPM

- Support for the Convention's scientific, technical and policy work integrated into the ongoing programmes of IOPs.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.5stt.

STRATEGY 4.10 (Operational objective 20.1)

Identify the training needs of institutions and individuals concerned with the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly in developing countries and countries in transition, and implement appropriate responses. (CPs, Secretariat, training centres, IOPs)

KRAs

By COP10:

- The RIZA-Ramsar cooperative effort being fully implemented, linking existing and proposed training centres.
- At least half of CPs to have assessed national and local training needs.
- An appropriate capacity-building effort in place for all CPs.

KPM

- Capacity-building accepted and understood as part of the Convention's activities.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.5stt.

STRATEGY 5 (Operational objective 21.1)

Membership of the Convention: Secure universal membership of the Convention. (CPs, Secretariat)

KRA

- Achieve membership of at least 160 parties by COP10.

KPM

- Rate of new parties joining the Convention increasing over the last triennium.

Budget impact: Staff time in Secretariat, 0.1stt.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.9

The role of the Ramsar Convention in the prevention and mitigation of impacts associated with natural phenomena, including those induced or exacerbated by human activities

1. RECALLING that at COP8 the Contracting Parties adopted Resolution VIII.35 on *The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems*, but RECOGNIZING that the spectrum of natural disasters is much wider than was covered in that document, as witnessed by continuing extreme climatic and other events and especially the devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean on 26 December 2004;
2. AWARE that the joint United Nations Environment Programme / UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Environment Unit (UNEP/OCHA) is the UN coordinating body mandated to mobilize international assistance in case of environmental emergencies and natural disasters with environmental impacts;
3. RECALLING that the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan, 2005) has adopted the Hyogo Framework for Action, the scope of which encompasses disasters caused by hazards of natural origin and related environmental and technological hazards and risks, which thus reflects a holistic and multi-hazard approach to disaster risk management and the relationships between the various hazards which can have a significant impact on social, economic, cultural and environmental systems;
4. RECOGNIZING the important role that the Ramsar Convention can play as one of the international actors potentially involved in disaster avoidance and mitigation and in post-disaster restoration;
5. ALSO RECOGNIZING that floods are natural phenomena that play an essential role in ensuring ecosystem functioning and the provision of their benefits/services to society;
6. ACKNOWLEDGING that conservation of natural wetland ecosystems such as mangroves, as well as wise use of such wetlands in the coastal zone, contributes to natural flood and tidal surge mitigation, and that protection and rehabilitation of peatlands and other catchment or floodplain wetlands contribute to natural flood prevention;
7. AWARE that a number of regions in the world have been seriously affected by severe fires in wetlands, especially peatlands, and that such fires and associated smoke-haze affect the lives of millions of people and cause major environmental, social, and economic

impacts; and ALSO AWARE that negative impacts associated with natural phenomena may be exacerbated by different human activities such as drainage;

8. RECALLING that through Resolution VIII.1 Contracting Parties have emphasized the critical importance of maintaining water allocations to ensure that wetlands can continue to deliver their many benefits/services, including, *inter alia*, water retention and purification, groundwater recharge, and the provision of water, food and fiber for people and for the maintenance of global biological diversity, and that this need is particularly high in a post-disaster phase;
9. RECOGNIZING the significance of synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and agencies with a particular focus on the impacts of natural disasters, especially the joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit and including the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the World Health Organization (WHO), The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Global Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP), the Program for the Mitigation of Natural Disasters (World Bank), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the International Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, and ALSO RECOGNIZING the role that can be played in the immediate aftermath of a natural disaster by governmental, non-governmental (NGOs), and civil organizations, especially the Ramsar Tsunami Group comprising the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) together with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and the Global Environment Centre (GEC); and
10. BEARING IN MIND the importance of Decision 17 of the Forum of Environment Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 31 October to 4 November 2005, and RECOGNIZING the importance of the impacts on wetlands of recurring extreme climatic events in the countries of the Wider Caribbean Area and other regions affected by such phenomena, as well as the need for financial resources to assist in prevention, early warning, rehabilitation, monitoring and other activities which may help to ensure that these wetlands continue to fulfill ecological functions;

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11. UNDERLINES the devastating impacts of natural disasters on the delivery of ecosystem benefits/services, and thus on the maintenance of the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance and other wetlands in affected countries;
12. URGES Contracting Parties to maintain or restore Ramsar sites, other wetlands, and associated ecosystems to reduce their vulnerability to natural disasters in accordance with their natural hydrological regimes, bearing in mind the Convention's guidance to assist with restoration of ecological systems affected by natural disasters, in order to ensure that they can continue to deliver their full range of ecosystem benefits/services for people and for biological diversity, as called for in Resolution VIII.1;

13. SUPPORTS the expansion of measures being undertaken in different regions of the world to protect and rehabilitate peatlands to reduce the risk of fires and to provide water supply in times of drought;
14. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and River Basin Authorities to ensure that wetland ecosystems are managed and restored, as part of contingency planning, in order to mitigate the impacts of natural phenomena such as floods, provide resilience against drought in arid and semi-arid areas, and contribute to wider strategies aimed at mitigating climate change and desertification and thus reduce the incidence or magnitude of natural phenomena induced or enhanced by such change;
15. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat in collaboration with Contracting Parties and other partners to develop and act on decision-support tools for all affected ecological zones, so as to ensure integrated and socially equitable management of wetland ecosystems to prevent, mitigate and adapt to flooding and tidal surges, drought, invasive alien species, and other forms of natural disasters;
16. REQUESTS affected Contracting Parties to monitor and assess the impacts of natural disasters on the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands and on the livelihoods of affected people dependent upon these wetlands and, for designated Ramsar sites, to report this information to the Ramsar Secretariat so that it can be made available to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to assist in its reporting to subsequent COPs on the status and trends in the ecological character of sites in the Ramsar List and other wetlands, as called for in Resolution VIII.8;
17. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to establish multi-hazard analyses that define sensible areas for development and appropriate contingency planning that recognizes pre-disaster measures for impact prevention and minimization involving wise wetland management;
18. CALLS upon Contracting Parties and others to work together urgently to promote and to actively support the recovery of coastal wetlands and associated community livelihoods in countries affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004 as well as the reduction of the vulnerabilities of coastal communities and wetlands through
 - assistance with reduction of the impact of natural disasters, ensuring the implementation of ecologically sustainable management and redevelopment approaches and enhanced integrated coastal zone management throughout the region, in order to assist with the mitigation of impacts of any future tsunami and storm damage,
 - establishment or maintenance of coastal greenbelts of mangroves and other appropriate species,
 - mitigation of impacts of future tsunami and storm damage,
 - strengthening of regional initiatives and other existing regional fora to share experience and expertise and support collective efforts in natural disaster prevention, mitigation and rehabilitation of coastal wetland ecosystems; and
 - assistance with monitoring of long-term ecological impacts of disasters on Ramsar sites and other wetlands;

19. REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat and international donors to recognize the need for prioritization in the search for funds, resource mobilization and international cooperation in the context of the agreements to be established with each country in order to contribute with those governments to satisfying the needs derived from the implementation of actions aimed at mitigating, restoring, rehabilitating, and monitoring the impacts of these extreme climatic events on the wetlands of the countries of the Wider Caribbean Area and other regions affected by similar events, with a view to maintaining the ecological benefits/services provided by wetlands;
20. INSTRUCTS the STRP, working with relevant agencies and IOPs, to develop for Contracting Parties a set of restoration guidelines that may be implemented following natural disasters in general, including drawing on existing and new guidance relating to the role of wetlands in ICZM in implementing responses to ecosystem rehabilitation and vulnerability, and updating existing guidelines which emphasize the role of wetland ecosystems in mitigating against the effects of natural disasters, as appropriate;
21. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, through the Convention's CEPA Programme, to develop materials, resources permitting, that highlight lessons learned from around the globe with regard to appropriate pre-disaster measures for impact prevention and minimization through contingency planning involving wise wetland management. These materials should exemplify successful approaches to disaster impact abatement and serve to raise societal awareness and capacity with regard to the role of wetlands as buffers; and
22. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, working with relevant international organizations and agencies, especially the joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit and including *inter alia* ISDR, WMO and UNEP, as well as, where appropriate, the IOPs, to develop guidance on a set of responses which can be initiated by governments and others immediately following the onset of a natural disaster affecting or likely to affect wetlands, especially sites in the Ramsar List.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.10

Use of the term and status of the “Ramsar Secretariat”

1. RECALLING Article 8 of the Convention which specifies the continuing bureau duties to be performed, as well as Articles 2.1, 6.1 and 10~~bis~~ 3 of the Convention which refer to “the Bureau” as an administrative unit performing those duties which amount to the Convention’s secretariat functions;
2. NOTING the legal opinion of the IUCN Centre for Environmental Law (COP9 DOC. 19) that, in line with modern practice, the term “Bureau” is not satisfactory;
3. RECOGNIZING that, for the Secretariat in its external relations as well, the term “Bureau” is not satisfactory;
4. ALSO RECOGNIZING the need to allow the Secretariat to use a more suitable descriptor in such relations;
5. AFFIRMING that this Resolution does not intend to change the functions of the Bureau as established in the Convention text and in related decisions and Resolutions of the Convention bodies; and
6. NOTING that the Ramsar Convention is recognized as an intergovernmental treaty and that the Contracting Parties remain sovereign with regard to its functioning;

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7. DECIDES that in its external relations the Ramsar Bureau may use the descriptor “the Ramsar Secretariat” in its official statements and documents when such a descriptor is considered to be more suitable;
8. REAFFIRMS that this use of the descriptor “Secretariat” shall not affect the Bureau’s functions as provided for in the Convention text and in related decisions and Resolutions of the Convention bodies;
9. INSTRUCTS the Secretary General to engage in a consultative process with appropriate bodies such as IUCN and UNESCO, as well as the government of the host country and other interested organizations and governments, regarding the options, as well as legal and practical implications, for the transformation of the status of the Ramsar Secretariat towards an International Organization or other status whilst still recognizing and maintaining its links with IUCN and the host country; and

10. REQUESTS the Secretary General to report on the outcome of these consultations through the Standing Committee to COP10.



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Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.11

Revised *modus operandi* of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

1. RECALLING the establishment by Resolution 5.5 of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), to be made up of members with appropriate scientific and technical knowledge, appointed by the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), but participating as individuals and not as representatives of their countries of origin;
2. ALSO RECALLING Resolution VI.7 and Resolution VII.2 on this matter, which made successive modifications in the way in which the STRP and its work were organized;
3. FURTHER RECALLING Resolution VIII.28 which established the STRP's *modus operandi* implemented during the 2003-2005 triennium;
4. THANKING members of the STRP and its observer organizations and invited experts for their contributions since COP8, and for their expert advice on numerous scientific and technical issues important for implementation of the Convention, including the new and revised guidelines and reports provided to this meeting of the Conference as the Annexes to Resolution IX.1 and others being prepared as *Ramsar Technical Reports*;
5. ALSO THANKING the Government of Sweden, WWF International, IUCN, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (with funds from the United Nations University) and the WorldFish Centre for their financial contributions in support of the substantive work of the STRP during 2003-2005, and the Water Research Commission (South Africa), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), BirdLife International, Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC – UK), the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources, and the Environmental Research Institute of the Supervising Scientist (eriss - Australia) for their in-kind support to the work of the Panel, as well as Wetlands International staff for their implementation of the STRP Support Service during the 2003-2005 triennium;
6. AWARE that the STRP has reviewed its *modus operandi*, has expressed grave concern about aspects of its operations and its capacity and resourcing to deliver all of its required tasks, and has made a number of proposals for amending its *modus operandi* designed to enhance its capacity and efficiency; and ALSO AWARE that the Standing Committee at its 31st meeting recognized these concerns in relation to the structure and process of the STRP as constraining the Panel in delivering its work in an efficient and timely manner;

7. RE-EMPHASIZING the need to establish a close link between the STRP and the network of scientists and experts in each Contracting Party, so that the Convention may benefit from the array of existing knowledge and experience;
8. AWARE of the core budget allocation (Resolution IX.12) for the support of the STRP for the 2006-2008 triennium, with an immediate priority task being the development and engagement of the network of STRP National Focal Points (NFPs) in all stages of the work of the STRP;
9. RECOGNIZING the importance for the STRP to work in partnership with the scientific and technical bodies of those conventions and programmes with which Memoranda of Cooperation and/or joint work plans are in place, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the Convention to Combat Desertification, the World Heritage Convention, the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme, and other conventions and agreements;
10. ALSO RECOGNIZING the need for continuing cooperation between the STRP and a number of expert networks, specialist groups and societies which exist, some in association with the official International Organization Partners of the Convention; and
11. FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the immediate and high priorities for the work of the STRP for 2006-2008 are identified in Annex 1 to Resolution IX.2;

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12. REAFFIRMS the critical importance to the Convention of the work and advice of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in providing reliable guidance to the Conference of the Contracting Parties for the Parties' implementation of the Convention;
13. APPROVES the revised *modus operandi* for the STRP as annexed to this Resolution;
14. ESTABLISHES an STRP Oversight Committee, reporting to the Standing Committee and comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the STRP, and the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General *ex officio*, to deliver the responsibilities set out in the Annex to this Resolution;
15. CONFIRMS that the Standing Committee will continue to have overall responsibility for the work of the STRP, and that the Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on the Panel's progress with its programme of work and priorities as established by the COP and Standing Committee (Resolution IX.2) for the triennium and advise on any adjustments to its programme it considers necessary and on the emerging issues;
16. ALSO CONFIRMS that the STRP support functions, with an immediate priority on the development and engagement of the network of STRP National Focal Points (NFPs), will be provided during the 2006-2008 triennium from the Ramsar Secretariat;
17. RECOGNIZES the urgent need to ensure both that the Panel is provided with the necessary resources to undertake its work effectively and that the Ramsar Secretariat has

sufficient capacity to support this work, and URGES Contracting Parties and others to contribute to securing continuity of such funding;

18. ALSO RECOGNIZES that a high priority for 2006-2008 is to develop the involvement and capacity of the STRP National Focal Point network to contribute to the work of the Panel, and URGES those Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to appoint a National Focal Point for the STRP, as outlined in Resolution VII.2, so that all Parties may contribute fully to, and be more effectively assisted by, the work of the Panel;
19. REVISES as follows the list of bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings of the STRP during the 2006-2008 triennium, and INVITES these bodies and organizations to consider establishing close working cooperative arrangements with the STRP on matters of common interest:
 - the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - the Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
 - the Committee on Science and Technology of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
 - the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
 - the Secretariats of the CBD, CMS, CITES, UNCCD, UNFCCC, the World Heritage Convention (WHC) and UNESCO – Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)
 - the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
 - the UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
 - The World Health Organization (WHO)
 - the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
 - the International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)
 - the International Peat Society (IPS)
 - the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 - Ducks Unlimited (DU)
 - the Institute for Inland Water Management and Wastewater Treatment (RIZA) (The Netherlands)
 - the Global Water Partnership (GWP)
 - the World Water Council (WWC)
20. FURTHER EMPHASIZES the value of participation by STRP members in meetings of the COP and Standing Committee, and REQUESTS Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, and the Ramsar Secretariat to seek to secure any additional funding which might be necessary for this purpose; and
21. AFFIRMS that the *modus operandi* annexed to this Resolution replaces that adopted by COP8 Resolution VIII.28.

Annex

Revised *modus operandi* of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

(Note. See Figure 1 for a graphical summary of the STRP schedule and process for the 2006-2008 triennium)

I. Key objective of the revised STRP *modus operandi*

1. The key objective of this *modus operandi* is to establish ways and means of ensuring that the STRP mechanism delivers the best available scientific and technical advice to the Convention, in the most efficient and cost-effective manner, through the work of widely recognized wetland conservation and wise use experts and networks.

II. Establishment and responsibilities of the STRP Oversight Committee

2. The STRP Oversight Committee will report to the Standing Committee and will be composed of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the STRP, and the Secretary General and the Deputy Secretary General *ex officio*. The Oversight Committee will be chaired by the Chair of Standing Committee.
3. The responsibilities of the STRP Oversight Committee are to:
 - i) appoint the members, Chair and Vice-Chair of the STRP;
 - ii) provide intersessional advice, guidance and support to the operations and work of the Panel;
 - iii) keep under review, and advise the Standing Committee on, the operations of the Panel under this revised *modus operandi*; and
 - iv) provide advice to the Secretariat on expenditures under the STRP budget line.
4. The Standing Committee continues to have overall responsibility for the work of the STRP, and the Chair of the STRP will report to each Standing Committee meeting on progress with the STRP programme of work and priorities as established by the COP and Standing Committee (Resolution IX.2 Annex 1 for the 2006-2008 triennium).

III. Criteria and characteristics of candidate STRP members

5. Candidates for appointment as members of the STRP must have the following:
 - i) demonstrated capacity for networking with wetland conservation and wise use experts at local, national and international scales¹; and/or

¹ Note that access to such networks is also one of the key purposes of the standing membership on the STRP of the Convention's International Organization Partners (and is a recognized key role for all such IOPs) and the invitation of relevant scientific and technical organizations as observers to the Panel.

- ii) widely recognized experience and expertise in one or more aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, particularly those relevant to the priority work areas and tasks identified by the COP for the forthcoming work of the Panel;
- iii) experience of working with wetland experts at local, regional and national levels, including *inter alia* STRP National Focal Points;
- iv) full access to electronic mail and Web-based communication systems, through which the intersessional work of the Panel will take place;
- v) fluency in understanding, and written and oral communication in, English (which will remain the working language of the Panel); and
- vi) commitment to undertake the work required of the Panel and its Working Groups with the support, where relevant, of the member's organization or institution.

IV. Composition of the Panel

6. One Panel member shall be appointed from each Ramsar region. These members shall have experience with, and access to, networks of wetlands experts (at local, regional and/or international scales). Six further Panel members shall be appointed as wetlands experts with recognized experience and expertise in aspects of wetland conservation and wise use relevant to the thematic work areas of the Panel.
7. For the latter six members (paragraph 6 above), regional balance will be sought, with appointed members based in different Ramsar countries or regions and/or from northern and southern parts of the world. Gender balance will also be sought.
8. One additional member will be appointed with expertise in Communications, Education & Public Awareness (CEPA), with a role to provide input to all stages of the Panel's work on each task from scoping the needs of the identified users to the finalization of outputs, drawing *inter alia* on the Convention's CEPA networks and those of the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs).
9. The anticipated main thematic work areas for which appointments will be made, following approval of Resolution IX.2 are:
 - i) wetland inventory and assessment, including indicators;
 - ii) wise use and ecological character;
 - iii) water resource management;
 - iv) Ramsar site designation and management;
 - v) wetlands and agriculture; and
 - vi) wetlands and human health.
10. In recognition of their ongoing scientific and technical support role for the Convention, each of the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) will continue to be a member of the Panel. However, so as to ensure continuity of representation throughout STRP processes and meetings during a triennium, each IOP will be requested to nominate its representative on the Panel, and this nomination will be considered and confirmed by

the STRP Oversight Committee as part of their Panel appointment role. Such IOP nominees should be wetland experts and have a role within their IOPs for maintaining and accessing the wetland conservation and wise use expertise of their organization's regional and global networks.

11. The appointed members will lead (or co-lead) the STRP's Working Groups (see below) responsible for delivering the COP-approved tasks on these themes, and will oversee the work of any task forces established within a Working Group to deliver a specific priority task, and should be prepared to undertake such a role.
12. The thematic work areas for which Panel members will be appointed will be reviewed for each triennium and will be approved by the COP. The thematic work areas will depend on the priority themes and tasks identified by the Standing Committee and COP for the STRP in the next triennium, as in Annex 1 to Resolution IX.2 for the 2006-2008 triennium.
13. The schedule of Panel meetings will be confirmed by the STRP Oversight Committee and may be up to two plenary meetings during a triennium, one meeting not later than six months after the previous COP, and the other not later than six months before the next COP.

V. Procedure for identification and appointment of candidates

14. Appointments for each triennium will be made by the STRP Oversight Committee.
15. Nominations of candidates for appointment will be invited from:
 - i) the Convention's national Administrative Authorities;
 - ii) STRP National Focal Points (in consultation with their Administrative Authority);
 - iii) the current Chair and Vice-Chair of the STRP; and
 - iv) current STRP members and observers.
16. Nominations can include existing appointed STRP members, observers, and invited experts if they have a proven track record of expert contribution to the work of the Panel. Appointment of such experts to the Panel will ensure continuity in the Panel's work on ongoing thematic work areas.
17. Nominations are not restricted to people from the same country of origin as the nominator, since it is networking capacity and/or relevant expertise which is being sought, regardless of the nationality or country of current domicile of the expert.
18. The nominator of each candidate will provide the Oversight Committee with a short summary of the expertise and experience of the candidate and the relevance of this to the work of the Panel for the triennium, in the form of a letter of recommendation.
19. Candidates being nominated will provide a declaration that they are willing to be considered for appointment to the Panel, that they have the full support of their organizations or institutions to deliver the work expected of Panel members, including time and availability for meetings, and that they have the necessary English language skills to engage fully in the work of the Panel; they will note whether they will need financial

support to participate in meetings and will provide a brief summary of how they see their skills and expertise contributing to the Panel's work, along with a *curriculum vitae*.

20. On the basis of the nominations received, the Secretariat will prepare an assessment and recommendations for appointments for consideration by the STRP Oversight Committee, which will reach its decisions on appointments through electronic communication and teleconferences as soon as possible after the start of the triennium, in order to permit the Panel to initiate its new programme of work as early as possible.
21. In the event that a vacancy for a member of the Panel arises during the triennium, the STRP Oversight Committee will review other nominees and appoint a replacement member as soon as practicable.

VI. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel

22. The STRP Oversight Committee will review the appointments of Panel members and identify from these appointments candidates to invite to act as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Panel during the triennium. The outgoing STRP Chair and Vice-Chair shall excuse themselves from this decision.

VII. STRP observer organizations

23. The work of the Panel will continue to benefit from the involvement and input of other relevant scientific and technical organizations and their networks, invited by the COP as observers to the Panel. Each organization invited by the COP as an observer to the STRP will be requested to nominate its representative on the Panel, in order to ensure continuity of participation. The representative should have the capacity to access his or her organization's national, regional and international network of wetland experts. In order to continue contributing to the efforts to streamline and harmonise the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements, invited observers to the STRP will continue to include the chairs of the equivalent scientific and technical subsidiary bodies and relevant staff of the secretariats of other environmental conventions and agreements.

VIII. Establishment and operation of Working Groups and task forces

24. The appointed STRP members will, where appropriate and with the assistance of the Secretariat's STRP support, establish Working Groups at the start of the triennium and will act as their leads or co-leads to develop and progress the tasks requested by the COP. This is a continuation of the STRP mechanism during the 2003-2005 triennium.
25. Membership of any Working Group will be established by its lead or co-leads, with the advice of the STRP Chair and Vice-Chair and the Secretariat. Membership may include *inter alia* other appointed STRP members, representatives of STRP observer organizations, STRP National Focal Points with relevant expertise, and other invited experts with relevant expertise.
26. As part of the Panel's work in its strategic review function on emerging issues and related matters, the person(s) appointed to lead this work will coordinate the Panel's advice to the next COP concerning immediate, high, and emerging priorities for its work in the next triennium, as provided for 2006-2008 in Annex 1 of Resolution IX.2.

27. Concerning the CEPA-related work of the Panel, the role established during the 2003-2005 triennium will continue, whereby in implementation of Resolution VIII.31 CEPA input and advice to the work of the Panel is made by the STRP/Wetlands International CEPA Specialist Group from its national, regional and international network.
28. Each Working Group will develop the scope and contents of any advice, guideline, review or other output requested by COP within its thematic work area as an immediate or high priority for the triennium; will identify the mechanism for its delivery (including through an expert consultancy contract where necessary and resources permitting); and will oversee and review progress in the drafting and finalization of such materials.
29. As soon as possible after their appointment, the Working Group lead or co-leads will establish the initial membership of his or her Working Group and will undertake initial scoping work for undertaking each of the immediate and high priority tasks, for circulation in advance of, and discussion during, the first plenary meeting of the Panel in the triennium.
30. When appropriate, a Working Group can establish a small task force for the delivery of a particular immediate or high priority task in the STRP's programme for the triennium.
31. Each Working Group will keep under review opportunities for initiating other tasks requested of the Panel within its thematic work area (as listed for 2006-2011 in Annex 2 of Resolution IX.2), and will develop mechanisms for the delivery of any such tasks as and when capacity permits. If opportunity arises to initiate new tasks during the triennium, the Chair of the Panel will seek the advice of the STRP Oversight Committee as to establishing appropriate ways and means of developing this work.
32. Each Working Group will work largely electronically (through e-mail, the Web-based STRP support mechanism, and teleconferences) but will, resources permitting, meet in a workshop at least once during the triennium, in order to progress its work efficiently.

IX. Ensuring continuing national and regional applicability in the work of the STRP

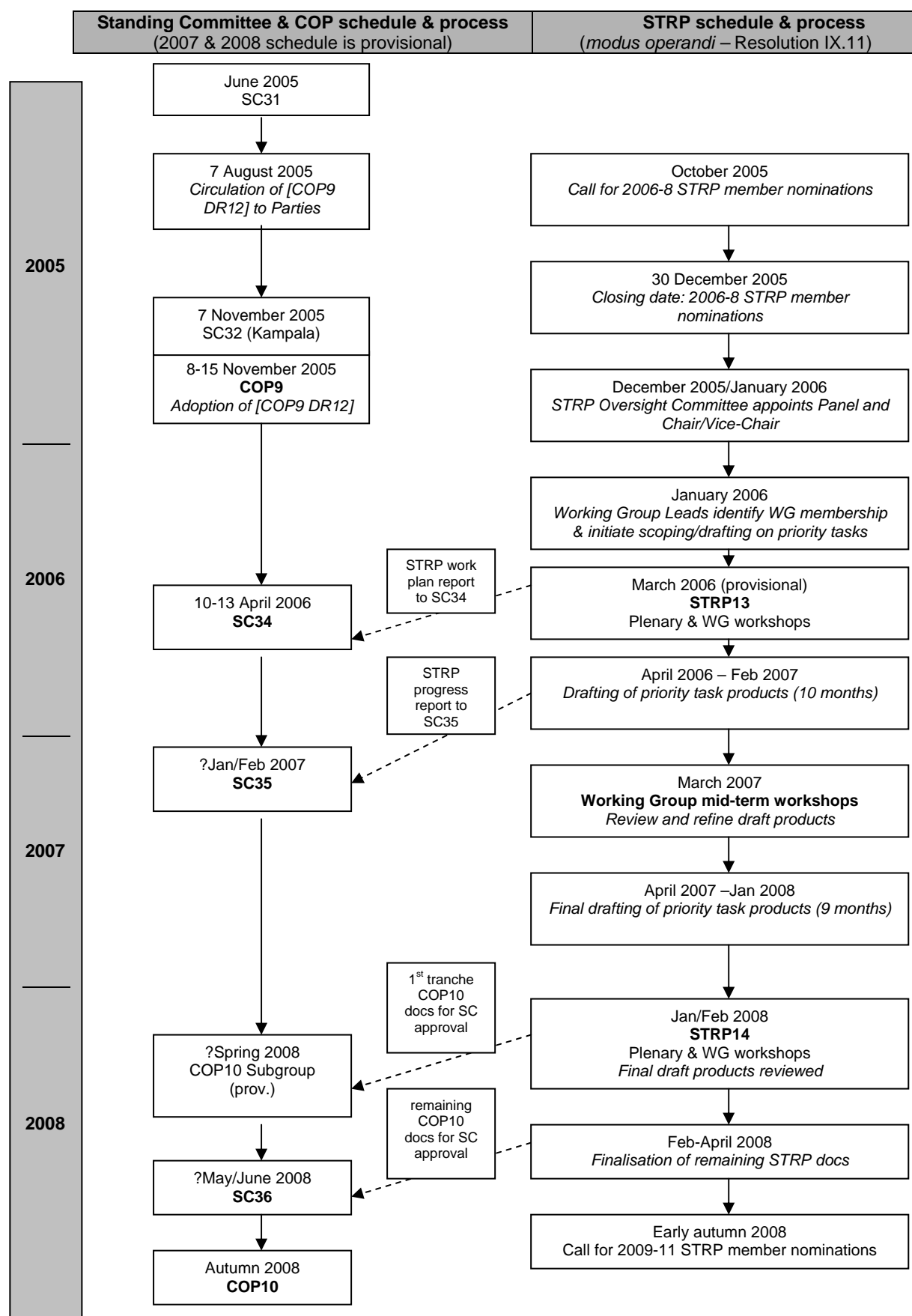
33. One key to ensuring full national and regional input to the STRP's work is the activation in the 2006-2008 triennium of the network of STRP National Focal Points (NFPs) appointed by each Contracting Party. The anticipated development of this important network was hindered during the 2003-2005 triennium by a reduction in funds available for the delivery of this aspect of the STRP's work.
34. In particular, for the 2006-2008 triennium, STRP NFPs will:
 - i) be invited to make nominations of candidates for appointment as members of the Panel for the triennium;
 - ii) be requested to identify their thematic areas of wetland conservation and wise use interest and expertise (through a short questionnaire) and, on the basis of that, be considered for membership of relevant STRP Working Groups;

- iii) be invited to join any relevant STRP Working Groups from the onset of the work for the triennium, so as to contribute to the development of the scope of delivery of each task;
 - iv) have full access to the Web-based STRP support mechanism so that they may have input to all stages of the Panel's work, including review of draft materials as they are prepared by the Working Groups and task forces; and
 - v) be invited to contribute to the peer review of reports and other documents being considered for publication in the *Ramsar Technical Report* series.
35. These roles of STRP NFPs are added to those listed in the Terms of Reference approved in Resolution VIII.28.
36. The Secretariat will support the development of the STRP National Focal Point network through identification of the capacity needs of STRP National Focal Points, including seeking ways and means of supporting their development of national networks.
37. A second aspect of ensuring regional input to, and relevance of, the STRP is to have as part of its mandate the task of responding to regional scientific and technical priorities. In doing so the STRP will consult with Contracting Parties through their STRP National Focal Points. The Panel will develop, during the 2006-2008 triennium, mechanisms for the delivery of this aspect of its work, which may include *inter alia* responding to regional scientific and technical priorities identified by Ramsar regional meetings and those identified by regional initiatives operating under the framework of the Convention (Resolution IX.9).

X. Continuity of Panel membership

38. In order to ensure continuity of expertise and working practices, a minimum of one-third of the appointed members of the STRP should be reappointed for a second term, as appropriate.
39. The Chair of STRP, following appropriate consultations with current members, will recommend to the STRP Oversight Committee the names of those members who should be considered for reappointment, on the basis of their contributions to the work of the Panel and the relevance of their areas of expertise to the priority tasks assigned to the Panel by COP.
40. Members being proposed for reappointment must have demonstrated a capability of contributing effectively to the work of the Panel and have confirmed their willingness to be reappointed.

Figure 1. STRP schedule and process for the 2006-2008 triennium





9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.12

Financial and budgetary matters

1. RECALLING the budgetary provisions established by Article 6, paragraphs 5 and 6, of the Convention;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the prompt payment by the majority of Contracting Parties of their contributions to the core budget of the Convention, but NOTING WITH CONCERN that a number of Parties are significantly in arrears (COP9 DOC. 34);
3. NOTING WITH GRATITUDE the additional financial contributions made by many Contracting Parties through their Ramsar Administrative Authorities and other agencies, including some development assistance agencies, and also the contributions made by non-governmental organizations and the private sector for activities undertaken by the Secretariat, including the following sources: BirdLife International, Danone Group, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, the MAVA Foundation, Minera Escondida, Rio Tinto, UNEP, the University of California at Berkeley, Wetlands International, the World Bank, and WWF International;
4. ACKNOWLEDGING ONCE MORE WITH APPRECIATION the effective financial and administrative services provided to the Secretariat by IUCN – The World Conservation Union; and
5. NOTING that Contracting Parties have been kept informed of the financial situation of the Convention Secretariat through the financial audited reports for fiscal years 2003 and 2004 and the reports of the Standing Committee meetings in 2003, 2004 and 2005 that have been circulated to Contracting Parties;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

6. NOTES WITH PLEASURE that since Ramsar COP8 in 2002 the Secretariat has managed the Convention's funds prudently and efficiently, despite the problems with the overly optimistic income projections adopted at COP8 in Resolution VIII.27, and LOOKS FORWARD to seeing improved financial reporting arising from the new management arrangements with IUCN;
7. URGES the Secretary General, in managing the budget, to attempt to refill the Reserve Fund established by Resolution VI.17, which will also partly fulfil the need to have a prudent reserve in the unlikely event of the sudden dissolution of the Secretariat;

8. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Contracting Parties that have served in the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee during the past triennium, and in particular to Canada, which acted as Chair of the Subgroup;
9. DECIDES that the Terms of Reference for the Financial Administration of the Convention contained in Annex 3 to Resolution 5.2 shall be applied *in toto* to the 2006-2008 triennium;
10. FURTHER DECIDES that the Subgroup on Finance, as established by Resolution VI.17, shall continue to operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in that Resolution;
11. APPROVES the budget for the 2006-2008 triennium as attached as Annex I to enable the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
12. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to ensure that the presentation of financial information concerning all of the Convention's income and expenditures is improved so that the information is clearer and easier to track;
13. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to change budgetary allocations between budget lines in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the triennium to the rates of inflation and interest income projected in the budget;
14. AGREES that the staff of the Ramsar Secretariat will not exceed 25 members in the core budget of the Convention without the authorization of the Standing Committee;
15. CHARGES the Standing Committee to propose to COP10 a restructuring of the Subgroup on Finance that strengthens continuity of membership across triennia;
16. REQUESTS the Secretariat to investigate ways and means of managing the database needs of the Convention in a manner which reduces the line item for the Ramsar Sites Database;
17. DECIDES that the contribution of each Contracting Party to this budget (other than those making voluntary contributions) should be in accordance with the scale of assessments for the contribution of Member States to the United Nations budget as approved by the UN General Assembly, except in the case of Contracting Parties which, in applying the UN scale, would make annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention budget of less than SFR 1,000, in which case the annual contribution shall be that amount. The difference between the assessed contribution for these Contracting Parties according to the UN scale and the minimum threshold of SFR 1,000 shall be allocated, when actual payments have been effected, to another budget line or lines of the core budget, on the advice of the Standing Committee's Subgroup on Finance. All other Contracting Parties will continue to be assessed in accordance with the UN scale of contributions as indicated in Annex II, except in the case of those Contracting Parties making voluntary contributions, as indicated in Annex I;

18. CALLS UPON all Contracting Parties to pay their contributions promptly by 1 January of each year, URGES Contracting Parties in arrears to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible, and AGREES that the Standing Committee at its 34th meeting should consider options for dealing with Parties which are consistently in arrears with payments to the Convention, based on an analysis by the Secretary General of the practices in other conventions; and
19. AFFIRMS that the rate of increase of the Ramsar Convention budget for the triennium 2006-2008 shall not be considered as setting a precedent for the budget of any other international convention and has been passed noting the official position of concerned Parties supporting zero nominal growth for all international conventions.

Annex I

Core budget 2006-2008 (Swiss francs)

Income

The forecast income for 2006-2008 represents a 4% increase per year, based on the COP8-budgeted Party allocations for 2005 (Resolution VIII.27 Annex I and Annex II of this document). The annual 4% increase encompasses an indexation of 1.5% to cover inflation for the budget lines concerning staff, administration and operating costs, and travel and subsistence costs (see the Comments column on the Expenditure chart on the next page).

	2005 (Forecast)	2006	2007	2008
1. Contributions from Parties	2,843,619	2,965,864	3,080,436	3,200,413
2. Voluntary contribution USA	787,322	836,526	868,841	902,681
3. Swiss income tax rebate	240,000	240,000	245,000	250,000
4. Interest	15,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
TOTAL INCOME	3,885,941*	4,054,390	4,206,277	4,365,094
Budgeted expenditure	3,885,941*	4,090,861	4,206,277	4,365,094
Difference		- 36,471**	0	0

* The forecast income and expenditure figures given here are lower than the COP8-approved figures as provided in the Expenditure table on the following page, and are those following budget adjustments determined by the 30th meeting of the Standing Committee (see also paragraph 6 of the Resolution).

** The Reserve Fund will cover the SFr 36,471 negative difference for 2006, as illustrated in the Expenditure table in Annex I.

Notes on income:

line 1. Annual contributions from Contracting Parties (see Annex II for the list of contributions for 2006).

line 3. The Swiss Government, in addition to paying its annual contributions, allows the Secretariat to retain for the Ramsar core budget the income tax that would have been owed by the non-Swiss Secretariat staff.

line 4. Interest earned on deposits of cash not immediately needed for disbursement.

Core budget 2006-2008 (Swiss francs)

Expenditure

Budget lines	2006	2007	2008	Comments
1. STAFF COSTS				
a) Salaries and social charges	2,392,483	2,428,370	2,464,796	Indexation at 1.5% p.a.
b) Other employment benefits	97,015	98,470	99,947	Indexation at 1.5% p.a.
c) Staff hiring and departure costs	25,000	25,375	26,756	Indexation at 1.5% p.a.
Sub-total	2,514,498*	2,552,215	2,590,499	
2. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SERVICES				
a) Ramsar Sites Database	160,000	160,000	170,000	
b) STRP	200,675	203,310	205,985	
3. SUPPORT TO REGIONAL INITIATIVES				
a) Regional networks (cooperation)	106,000	102,382	179,190	**
b) Regional centers (training & capacity-building)	100,000	100,000	100,000	**
Sub-total	206,000**	202,382	279,190	
4. TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS (International)	120,000	121,800	123,627	Indexation at 1.5%
5. PURCHASE & MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT/ OFFICE SUPPLIES (including depreciation)	25,000	25,000	25,000	
6. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES & OPERATING COSTS				
a) IUCN Services	531,812	546,816	567,462	13% of budget
b) Operating Costs	70,000	91,500	99,617	
c) Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings	25,000	25,375	25,756	Indexation at 1.5%
d) Communications & Reporting	125,000	142,250	150,903	
7. OUTREACH / CEPA	17,201	39,268	30,000	
8. SUBSIDIARY BODIES				
a) Standing Committee delegates' support	45,675	46,360	47,056	Indexation at 5%
9. MISCELLANEOUS				
a) Bad debt provision	50,000	50,000	50,000	
b) Exchange loss				
COP related costs incurred by the Bureau				
TOTAL FORECAST EXPENDITURE	4,090,861	4,206,277	4,365,094	
FORECAST INCOME	4,054,390	4,206,277	4,365,094	
<i>Borrowed from reserve fund</i>	36,471			
Difference	0	0	0	

Explanatory notes:

* The 2006 total salaries includes the outposted Ramsar regional officer for Oceania.

** Regional Initiatives allocations, for 2006 only (see also Resolution IX.7), are:

MedWet Initiative SFR 26,000

WacoWet (West Africa) SFR 60,000

High Andean Initiative SFR 20,000

Ramsar Centre, I.R. Iran
CREHO (Panama Centre)

SFR 20,000
SFR 80,000

Annex II

Annual Contributions – 2006 invoices (Swiss francs)

Note: Annual contributions for 2006 are fixed; depending on the 2007-2009 UN percentage calculations schedule, those for 2007 and 2008 may vary.

Member state	UN Rate %	Ramsar Rate %	2005 Amount SFr	2006 Amount SFr	Change %	2007 Amount SFr	Change %	2008 Amount SFr	Change %
Albania	0.0050	0.0051	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Algeria	0.0760	0.0778	2,785	2,896	4.00%	3,012	4.00%	3,133	4.00%
Antigua & Barbuda	0.0030	0.0031	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Argentina	0.9560	0.9786	35,033	36,434	4.00%	37,892	4.00%	39,407	4.00%
Armenia	0.0020	0.0020	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Australia	1.5920	1.6296	58,339	60,673	4.00%	63,099	4.00%	65,623	4.00%
Austria	0.8590	0.8793	31,478	32,737	4.00%	34,047	4.00%	35,408	4.00%
Azerbaijan	0.0050	0.0051	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Bahamas	0.0130	0.0133	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Bahrain	0.0300	0.0307	1,099	1,143	4.00%	1,189	4.00%	1,236	4.00%
Bangladesh	0.0100	0.0102	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Belarus	0.0180	0.0184	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Belgium	1.0690	1.0942	39,174	40,741	4.00%	42,371	4.00%	44,065	4.00%
Belize	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Benin	0.0020	0.0020	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Bolivia	0.0090	0.0092	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.0030	0.0031	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Botswana	0.0120	0.0123	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Brazil	1.5230	1.5589	55,811	58,043	4.00%	60,365	4.00%	62,780	4.00%
Bulgaria	0.0170	0.0174	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Burkina Faso	0.0020	0.0020	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Burundi	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Cambodia	0.0020	0.0020	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Canada	2.8130	2.8794	103,083	107,206	4.00%	111,495	4.00%	115,954	4.00%
Cape Verde	0.0010	0.0010	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Chad	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Chile	0.2230	0.2283	8,172	8,499	4.00%	8,839	4.00%	9,192	4.00%
China	2.0530	2.1015	75,233	78,242	4.00%	81,372	4.00%	84,627	4.00%
Colombia	0.1550	0.1587	5,680	5,907	4.00%	6,143	4.00%	6,389	4.00%
Comoros	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Congo	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Congo, Democratic Republic of	0.0030	0.0031	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Costa Rica	0.0300	0.0307	1,099	1,143	4.00%	1,189	4.00%	1,236	4.00%
Côte d'Ivoire	0.0100	0.0102	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Croatia	0.0370	0.0379	1,356	1,410	4.00%	1,467	4.00%	1,525	4.00%
Cuba	0.0430	0.0440	1,576	1,639	4.00%	1,705	4.00%	1,773	4.00%
Cyprus	0.0390	0.0399	1,429	1,486	4.00%	1,546	4.00%	1,607	4.00%
Czech Republic	0.1830	0.1873	6,706	6,974	4.00%	7,253	4.00%	7,543	4.00%

Member state	UN Rate %	Ramsar Rate %	2005 Amount SFr	2006 Amount SFr	Change %	2007 Amount SFr	Change %	2008 Amount SFr	Change %
Denmark	0.7180	0.7349	26,311	27,363	4.00%	28,458	4.00%	29,596	4.00%
Djibouti	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Dominican Republic	0.0350	0.0358	1,283	1,334	4.00%	1,388	4.00%	1,443	4.00%
Ecuador	0.0190	0.0194	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Egypt	0.1200	0.1228	4,397	4,573	4.00%	4,756	4.00%	4,946	4.00%
El Salvador	0.0220	0.0225	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Equatorial Guinea	0.0020	0.0020	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Estonia	0.0120	0.0123	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Finland	0.5330	0.5456	19,532	20,313	4.00%	21,126	4.00%	21,971	4.00%
France	6.0300	6.1723	220,971	229,810	4.00%	239,002	4.00%	248,562	4.00%
Gabon	0.0090	0.0092	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Gambia	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Georgia	0.0030	0.0031	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Germany	8.6620	8.8665	317,421	330,118	4.00%	343,323	4.00%	357,055	4.00%
Ghana	0.0040	0.0041	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Greece	0.5300	0.5425	19,422	20,199	4.00%	21,007	4.00%	21,847	4.00%
Guatemala	0.0300	0.0307	1,099	1,143	4.00%	1,189	4.00%	1,236	4.00%
Guinea	0.0030	0.0031	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Guinea-Bissau	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Honduras	0.0050	0.0051	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Hungary	0.1260	0.1290	4,617	4,802	4.00%	4,994	4.00%	5,193	4.00%
Iceland	0.0340	0.0348	1,246	1,296	4.00%	1,348	4.00%	1,402	4.00%
India	0.4210	0.4309	15,428	16,045	4.00%	16,687	4.00%	17,354	4.00%
Indonesia	0.1420	0.1454	5,204	5,412	4.00%	5,629	4.00%	5,854	4.00%
Iran, Islamic Republic of	0.1570	0.1607	5,753	5,983	4.00%	6,222	4.00%	6,471	4.00%
Ireland	0.3500	0.3583	12,826	13,339	4.00%	13,873	4.00%	14,428	4.00%
Israel	0.4670	0.4780	17,113	17,798	4.00%	18,509	4.00%	19,250	4.00%
Italy	4.8850	5.0003	179,012	186,172	4.00%	193,619	4.00%	201,364	4.00%
Jamaica	0.0080	0.0082	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Japan	19.4680	19.9275	713,409	741,945	4.00%	771,623	4.00%	802,488	4.00%
Jordan	0.0110	0.0113	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Kenya	0.0090	0.0092	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Korea, Republic of	1.7960	1.8384	65,815	68,448	4.00%	71,186	4.00%	74,033	4.00%
Kyrgyz Republic	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Latvia	0.0150	0.0154	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Lebanon	0.0240	0.0246	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Lesotho, Kingdom of	0.0010	0.0010	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Liberia	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.1320	0.1351	4,837	5,030	4.00%	5,232	4.00%	5,441	4.00%
Liechtenstein	0.0050	0.0051	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Lithuania	0.0240	0.0246	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Luxembourg	0.0770	0.0788	2,822	2,935	4.00%	3,052	4.00%	3,174	4.00%
Madagascar	0.0030	0.0031	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Malawi	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Malaysia	0.2030	0.2078	7,439	7,737	4.00%	8,046	4.00%	8,368	4.00%
Mali	0.0020	0.0020	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Malta	0.0140	0.0143	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%

Member state	UN Rate %	Ramsar Rate %	2005 Amount SFr	2006 Amount SFr	Change %	2007 Amount SFr	Change %	2008 Amount SFr	Change %
Marshall Islands	0.0010	0.0010	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Mauritania	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Mauritius	0.0110	0.0113	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Mexico	1.8830	1.9274	69,003	71,763	4.00%	74,634	4.00%	77,619	4.00%
Moldova, Republic of	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Monaco	0.0030	0.0031	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Mongolia	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Morocco	0.0470	0.0481	1,722	1,791	4.00%	1,000	-44.16%	1,000	0.00%
Mozambique	0.0010	0.0010	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Myanmar	0.0100	0.0102	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Namibia	0.0060	0.0061	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Nepal	0.0040	0.0041	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Netherlands	1.6900	1.7299	61,930	64,407	4.00%	66,983	4.00%	69,663	4.00%
New Zealand	0.2210	0.2262	8,099	8,423	4.00%	8,760	4.00%	9,110	4.00%
Nicaragua	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Niger	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Nigeria	0.0420	0.0430	1,539	1,601	4.00%	1,665	4.00%	1,731	4.00%
Norway	0.6790	0.6950	24,882	25,877	4.00%	26,912	4.00%	27,989	4.00%
Pakistan	0.0550	0.0563	2,015	2,096	4.00%	2,179	4.00%	2,267	4.00%
Palau	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Panama	0.0190	0.0194	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Papua New Guinea	0.0030	0.0031	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Paraguay	0.0120	0.0123	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Peru	0.0920	0.0942	3,371	3,506	4.00%	3,646	4.00%	3,792	4.00%
Philippines	0.0950	0.0972	3,481	3,620	4.00%	3,765	4.00%	3,916	4.00%
Poland	0.4610	0.4719	16,893	17,569	4.00%	18,271	4.00%	19,002	4.00%
Portugal	0.4700	0.4811	17,223	17,912	4.00%	18,628	4.00%	19,374	4.00%
Romania	0.0600	0.0614	2,199	2,287	4.00%	2,378	4.00%	2,474	4.00%
Russian Federation	1.1000	1.1260	40,310	41,922	4.00%	43,599	4.00%	45,343	4.00%
Saint Lucia	0.0020	0.0020	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Samoa	0.0010	0.0010	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Senegal	0.0050	0.0051	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Serbia and Montenegro	0.0190	0.0194	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Seychelles	0.0020	0.0020	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Sierra Leone	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Slovak Republic	0.0510	0.0522	1,869	1,944	4.00%	2,022	4.00%	2,102	4.00%
Slovenia	0.0820	0.0839	3,005	3,125	4.00%	3,250	4.00%	3,380	4.00%
South Africa	0.2920	0.2989	10,700	11,128	4.00%	11,573	4.00%	12,036	4.00%
Spain	2.5200	2.5795	92,346	96,040	4.00%	99,881	4.00%	103,877	4.00%
Sri Lanka	0.0170	0.0174	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Sudan	0.0080	0.0082	-	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Suriname	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Sweden	0.9980	1.0216	36,572	38,035	4.00%	39,556	4.00%	41,139	4.00%
Switzerland	1.1970	1.2253	43,864	45,619	4.00%	47,443	4.00%	49,341	4.00%
Syrian Arab Republic	0.0380	0.0389	1,393	1,449	4.00%	1,507	4.00%	1,567	4.00%
Tajikistan	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%

Member state	UN Rate %	Ramsar Rate %	2005 Amount SFr	2006 Amount SFr	Change %	2007 Amount SFr	Change %	2008 Amount SFr	Change %
Tanzania,	0.0060	0.0061	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
United									
Republic of									
Thailand	0.2090	0.2139	7,659	7,965	4.00%	8,284	4.00%	8,615	4.00%
The FYR of	0.0060	0.0061	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Macedonia									
Togo	0.0010	0.0010	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Trinidad And	0.0220	0.0225	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Tobago									
Tunisia	0.0320	0.0328	1,173	1,220	4.00%	1,269	4.00%	1,319	4.00%
Turkey	0.3720	0.3808	13,632	14,177	4.00%	14,744	4.00%	15,334	4.00%
Uganda	0.0060	0.0061	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Ukraine	0.0390	0.0399	1,429	1,486	4.00%	1,546	4.00%	1,607	4.00%
United	6.1270	6.2716	224,525	233,506	4.00%	242,846	4.00%	252,560	4.00%
Kingdom									
Uruguay	0.0480	0.0491	1,759	1,829	4.00%	1,903	4.00%	1,979	4.00%
Uzbekistan	0.0140	0.0143	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Venezuela	0.1710	0.1750	6,266	6,517	4.00%	6,777	4.00%	7,048	4.00%
Viet Nam	0.0210	0.0215	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
Zambia	0.0020	0.0020	1,000	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%	1,000	0.00%
			2,965,864			3,080,436		3,200,413	
Other	22.0000	22.00	787,322	836,526	6.25%	868,841	3.86%	902,681	3.89%
Contributions									
USA	98.2020	100.00	3,633,191	3,802,390		3,949,277		4,103,094	



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.13

Evaluation of the Ramsar Endowment Fund as a mechanism to resource the Small Grants Fund

1. RECALLING paragraph 12 of Resolution VIII.29 establishing a Ramsar Endowment Fund to resource the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF), which was to become operational when the Standing Committee established its *modus operandi*;
2. NOTING WITH CONCERN that although the Ramsar Secretariat prepared a draft *modus operandi* for the Ramsar Endowment Fund, consensus by the Standing Committee on that *modus operandi* could not be obtained;
3. FURTHER RECALLING paragraph 13 of Resolution VIII.29 which established the following principles, taking into account the views expressed by Contracting Parties, as the basis for the establishment of the *modus operandi* of the Ramsar Endowment Fund:
 - a) the contributions to the Ramsar Endowment Fund shall be voluntary;
 - b) the operation and management of the Ramsar Endowment Fund shall be under the authority of this Conference of the Parties;
 - c) the Ramsar Endowment Fund shall become operational when the Standing Committee has agreed the Fund's *modus operandi* and when a certain threshold level of capital has been guaranteed;
 - d) there shall be an interim review of the Endowment Fund at COP9 based on recommendations from the Standing Committee, and a comprehensive review at COP10 where, if the threshold capital has not been guaranteed by that time, the continued existence of the Endowment Fund shall be re-examined; and
 - e) the Standing Committee shall create a body of financial experts to manage the finances of the Endowment Fund;
4. RECOGNIZING the challenge to raise the proposed capital threshold of five million Swiss francs for the Ramsar Endowment Fund, and AWARE THAT, from its establishment in 1991 through 2004, the SGF has only attracted a total amount of funding of 6,620,624 Swiss francs;
5. NOTING WITH CONCERN the financial and staffing commitment required by the Ramsar Secretariat to promote and raise the capital threshold for the Endowment Fund; and

6. RECOGNIZING that the Standing Committee at its 30th meeting considered that the Ramsar Endowment Fund is not the most effective mechanism to raise funds to resource the SGF and agreed the need to identify further options to resource the Fund;

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7. REAFFIRMS its conviction that the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) is an extremely valuable mechanism for facilitating the implementation of the Convention in developing countries and countries with economies in transition;
8. RESCINDS its decision in Resolution VIII.29 to establish a Ramsar Endowment Fund to resource the SGF;
9. URGES the Standing Committee, with the assistance of the Ramsar Secretariat, to nonetheless actively pursue alternative funding mechanisms to resource the SGF;
10. INSTRUCTS the Secretary General to propose to Standing Committee at its 34th meeting strategies for improving the status and resourcing of the SGF, with a particular focus on ensuring that dedicated sources of funding similar to “Wetlands for the Future” are developed for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and CALLS ON development assistance agencies and other organizations to support the establishment of such a mechanism for all regions; and
11. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to bring to COP10 new proposals for establishing a more vigorous mechanism to support the SGF, including the possible development of regional support funds.



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Resolution IX.14

Wetlands and poverty reduction

1. EMPHASIZING the relevance to poverty reduction of a number of decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, including Resolutions 5.6 on the *Wise use of wetlands*, VII.8 on *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands*, VIII.23 on *Incentive measures as tools for achieving the wise use of wetlands*, and VIII.36 on *Participatory Environmental Management (PEM) as a tool for management and wise use of wetlands*, and ALSO EMPHASIZING the relevance of Decision IV/4 of the Convention on Biological Diversity concerning the status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and options for conservation and sustainable use;
2. NOTING the relevance of the Ramsar Convention as an important element in the delivery of the internationally agreed development strategies, including the Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7 (“Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger” and “Ensure environmental sustainability”) and the World Summit on Sustainable Development’s Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPoI, 2002), which promoted, *inter alia*, the adoption of integrated water resource management plans by 2005;
3. ALSO NOTING the outcome of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness;
4. FURTHER NOTING the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in particular the key messages in its report to the Ramsar Convention (“Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Wetlands and Water. Synthesis”), to the effect that:
 - wetland ecosystems deliver a wide range of critical benefits/services for human well-being;
 - the projected continued loss and degradation of wetlands will result in further reduction in human health and well-being, especially for vulnerable people in less developed countries;
 - maintaining the natural functioning of wetlands, however, will enable them to continue to deliver their benefits/services to human populations; and
 - a cross-sectoral approach to the management of water resources is needed urgently from policy- and decision-makers that emphasizes securing wetland ecosystem benefits/services in the context of achieving sustainable development;
5. CONSIDERING that the 13th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in its final communiqué on water sanitation and human settlements proposed further

measures to assist the reduction of poverty while enhancing environmental sustainability;
and

6. AWARE that much of the body of Ramsar guidance available in the Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands is of value in helping to promote the wise use of wetlands and thus contribute to poverty reduction;

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7. URGES all Contracting Parties and other governments to take action to contribute to poverty reduction, especially in the following areas:
 - *human life and safety*: measures to protect against impacts such as cyclones, storm surges, saline intrusions, droughts and floods through the sustainable use and restoration of wetlands;
 - *access to resources*: measures to improve access to and develop capacity to use, on a sustainable basis, land, water and wetland resources such as fish, in full respect of international and national legislation, respecting the rights of local communities and indigenous peoples consistent with national law and applicable international obligations;
 - *ecological sustainability*: measures to enhance the priority given to sustainability in all relevant mainstream policy sectors, including ecosystem restoration measures;
 - *governance*: measures to improve the empowerment of the poor in decision-making processes and management institutions;
 - *economies*: measures to maintain or improve, on an ecologically sustainable basis, the ecosystem benefits/services that wetlands provide;
8. FURTHER URGES all Contracting Parties, bearing in mind the examples outlined in Ramsar COP9 DOC. 33, to take or support action to:
 - raise awareness of the self-perpetuating cycles that result from the relationship between wetland degradation and poverty;
 - give priority or support to conservation and wise use of water and wetlands in national poverty reduction strategy papers, integrated water resource management and water efficiency plans and similar policies;
 - create new partnerships between local communities, developers and conservationists to ensure that local perspectives are included and existing sustainable livelihood strategies are respected;
 - review and improve existing financing mechanisms and encourage new thinking in finance institutions, such as the Global Environment Facility, for wetland management to help address poverty reduction, and new ideas such as local agreements with wetland communities to enable the maintenance of ecosystem benefits/services;
 - ensure that gender equality and sensitivity to local communities are taken into account in sustainable wetland management strategies;
9. ESPECIALLY URGES Contracting Parties in Africa to implement the wetland component (Programme Area 2) of the Environment Initiative of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), building upon the decisions contained in Resolution VIII.44 (*New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and implementation of the Ramsar*

Convention in Africa) and drawing links between implementation of NEPAD and poverty reduction;

10. ENCOURAGES Parties to work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs, the Ramsar International Organization Partners, national and international NGOs and others to:
 - undertake assessments of the economic, social, cultural and livelihood values of individual wetlands and wetlands in general and the benefits/services they deliver, with a view to enhancing sustainable livelihoods utilizing a wise use approach;
 - build capacity within communities and relevant advisory services to sustainably use wetlands and their resources in order to improve livelihoods through activities designed to increase food security, diversify economies, and add value to wetland products, using the wise use principle; and
 - encourage these institutions to undertake a wider consultation of the Parties to define programmes and possibilities for support for poverty reduction in order to address the real necessities of the Parties;
11. INSTRUCTS the STRP to develop guidelines for the implementation of this Resolution; and
12. REAFFIRMS the value of linking wetland restoration to poverty reduction, by incorporating the provision of work, skills and opportunities into restoration projects and by focusing on the restoration of ecosystem benefits/services upon which communities depend.



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Resolution IX.15

The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance

1. RECALLING Article 2.1 of the Convention, which states that “each Contracting Party shall designate suitable wetlands within its territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance”, and Resolution VIII.11, in which the Parties established that the Vision of the Ramsar List is to be achieved through the designation of coherent and comprehensive national and international networks of Ramsar sites;
2. AWARE of Article 3.1 of the Convention, which specifies that “the Contracting Parties shall formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory”;
3. CONGRATULATING the 60 Contracting Parties which have designated since COP8 a total of 246 Ramsar sites covering a total of 18,311,510 hectares: Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay;
4. WELCOMING the 15 Contracting Parties that have very recently designated a total of 96 Ramsar sites: Belize, Benin, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, El Salvador, Finland, Guinea, India, Japan, Niger, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom and Zambia;
5. RECOGNIZING however that despite this representing an almost 20% increase in the number of sites included in the List, and in the total area designated since COP8, there remain significant gaps in the comprehensiveness and representativeness of the global network of Ramsar sites and that the 1555 designated Ramsar sites as of the 1st November 2005 falls below the target of 2000 sites by COP9 set by Resolution VII.11;
6. CONCERNED that for 619 Ramsar sites (41% of sites included in the List) in 104 countries (see the Annex to this Resolution), Ramsar Information Sheets (RISs) or adequate maps have not been provided or updated RISs and maps have not been supplied

to the Secretariat for more than six years, so that information on the current status of these sites is not available;

7. AWARE of Article 3.2, which provides that “each Contracting Party shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay to the [Ramsar Secretariat]”;
8. RECALLING Resolution VIII.8, which expressed concern that (according to available information, including the National Reports to COP8) many Contracting Parties do not have in place the mechanisms to comply with Article 3.2 or that these are not being implemented, and which urged Contracting Parties, as a matter of high priority, to “put in place mechanisms in order to be informed at the earliest possible time, including through reports by national authorities and local and indigenous communities and NGOs, if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory included in the Ramsar List has changed, is changing or is likely to change, and to report any such change without delay to the Ramsar Bureau so as to fully implement Article 3.2 of the Convention”;
9. EXPRESSING CONTINUING CONCERN that according to available information (including the National Reports to COP9) this situation does not appear to have improved;
10. AWARE that, despite information provided in their National Reports to COP9 concerning monitoring of the ecological character of Ramsar sites, few Parties have reported to the Ramsar Secretariat issues of change, or likely change, in the ecological character of their designated Ramsar sites in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention;
11. ALSO EXPRESSING CONCERN that this lack of Article 3.2 reporting has meant that the Convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has been unable to prepare a report to COP9 on the status and trends in the ecological character of Ramsar sites, as requested by Resolution VIII.8;
12. RECOGNIZING that many Ramsar sites have undergone or are undergoing change in their ecological character, or are likely to undergo such change, by virtue of the land use and other pressures affecting them;
13. EXPRESSING CONCERN at the number of reports received by the Ramsar Secretariat from third parties of Ramsar sites facing human-induced change, or likely change, in their ecological character as reported to this Conference in the Report of the Secretary General (COP DOC. 6) in accordance with Article 8.2 (d);
14. NOTING WITH CONCERN some cases involving engineering works, such as the construction of the deep-water Bystroe navigation canal in the Danube Delta, where there is a degree of international concern over the environmental impact (including possible transboundary impacts) of the project which appears to be in conflict also with commitments under several multilateral environmental agreements, and FURTHER NOTING the recommendations of the 2003 joint UNESCO-MAB Programme and Ramsar Convention Advisory Mission to Ukraine (Kylliske Mouth) that the Bystroe route “would represent the worst solution” and that a comprehensive environmental impact

assessment should be undertaken since “the reports already established and presented to the mission do not yet fulfil this need”;

15. RECOGNIZING that some of these sites are parts of transboundary wetlands and river systems, so that change in their ecological character may affect the status of those parts of the wetland, including any Ramsar sites, lying within the territory of neighbouring countries, and RECALLING Article 5 of the Convention which states that “the Contracting Parties shall consult with each other about implementing obligations arising from the Convention especially in the case of a wetland extending over the territories of more than one Contracting Party or where a water system is shared by Contracting Parties”, but;
16. CONCERNED that in the management of some transboundary Ramsar sites, such as those in the Danube Delta, in relation to developments causing or likely to cause change in ecological character, fruitful international cooperation has not been achieved;
17. CONCERNED that of the 57 Ramsar sites included in the Montreux Record only three sites, all in Ukraine, have been removed from the Record since COP8;
18. RECOGNIZING the submission of Article 3.2 reports by: the government of Australia concerning damage to part of the Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses Ramsar site and its further reporting of the steps being taken to restore the ecological character of this Ramsar site; the government of Bulgaria concerning current GEF project implementation activities which are intended to improve the ecological character of the Belene Islands Complex Ramsar site; the government of Cyprus concerning lead poisoning of flamingos at the Larnaca Salt Lake Ramsar site, a problem which has now been resolved through the removal of contaminated sediments; the government of the Czech Republic concerning the continuing potential threat of the planned Danube-Oder navigation canal to two Ramsar sites, which have now been placed on the Montreux Record; and the government of Norway concerning a pollution accident linked to works adjacent to the Ilene & Pesterødskilen Ramsar site; and
19. RECALLING that under Article 2.5 a Contracting Party has the right, because of its urgent national interests, to delete or restrict the boundaries of wetlands already included in the List, and that the Party shall at the earliest possible time inform the Ramsar Secretariat of any such changes; ALSO RECALLING that Resolution VIII.20 provided “General guidance for interpreting “urgent national interests” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and considering compensation under Article 4.2”, and NOTING that, since COP8, Article 2.5 has been invoked by Georgia concerning construction works started for the Kulevi oil terminal at the Black Sea coast inside the Central Wetlands of Kolkheti Ramsar Site;

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20. REAFFIRMS the commitment made by the Parties in Resolution VIII.8 to fully implement the terms of Article 3.2 on reporting change and to maintain or restore the ecological character of their Ramsar sites, including utilizing all appropriate mechanisms to address and resolve as soon as practicable the matters for which a site may have been the subject of a report pursuant to Article 3.2; and, once those matters have been resolved, to submit a further report, so that both positive influences at sites and changes in ecological character may be fully reflected in reporting under Article 3.2 and in the reporting to

meetings of the COP in order to establish a clear picture of the status and trends of the Ramsar site network at three-year intervals;

21. CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE Contracting Parties to adopt and apply, as part of their management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands, a suitable monitoring regime, such as that outlined in the annex to Resolution VI.1, and to incorporate within these monitoring regimes the Convention's *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* (Resolution VII.10), so as to be able to report change, or likely change, in the ecological character of Ramsar sites in line with Article 3.2 of the Convention;
22. ALSO CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE Contracting Parties, when submitting a report in fulfillment of Article 3.2, to consider whether the site would benefit from listing on the Montreux Record, and to request such listing as appropriate;
23. EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION to those 28 Contracting Parties which in their National Reports to this Conference provided information, in relation to Article 3.2 of the Convention, on at least 102 Ramsar sites where human-induced changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or may occur, namely: Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Finland, Islamic Republic of Iran, Gambia, Germany, Hungary, Kenya, Liberia, Norway, Peru, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, The FYR of Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA, and Zambia; and URGES all of these Contracting Parties to consider, at the earliest opportunity, the possible inclusion of these sites onto the Montreux Record, if they are not already included, in line with the further guidance provided in Resolution VIII.8 on the purpose and role of the Record;
24. REQUESTS Contracting Parties with sites on the Montreux Record to regularly provide the Ramsar Secretariat with an update on their progress in taking action to address the issues for which these Ramsar sites were listed on the Record, including reporting fully on these matters in their National Reports to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
25. REQUESTS those Contracting Parties with Ramsar sites for which the Secretary General has received reports of change, or likely change, in their ecological character to advise the Secretary General at the earliest opportunity of steps taken to address these changes, or likely changes, in ecological character;
26. CONGRATULATES Contracting Parties for their statements made concerning addressing site-specific ecological character and boundary issues, notably:
 - a) The government of Australia for its actions taken to resolve and restore damage to the ecological character of part of the Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses Ramsar site;
 - b) The government of Bulgaria for its stated intention to improve the ecological character of the Belene Islands Complex Ramsar site through GEF project implementation activities;
 - c) The government of Cyprus for its actions to resolve lead poisoning of flamingos at the Larnaca Salt Lake Ramsar site through the removal of contaminated sediments;

- d) The government of Ukraine for its successful application of the Montreux Record procedure and the subsequent removal of three Ramsar sites (Karkinitski & Dzharylgatska Bays, Tendrivska Bay, and Yagorlytska Bay) from the Montreux Record;
 - e) The government of Algeria for its stated intention to remove the Oasis de Ouled Saïd Ramsar site from the Montreux Record, following improvements to its ecological character;
 - f) The government of Poland for its stated intention to remove two Ramsar sites (Jezioro Siedmiu Wysp and Slonsk Reserve) from the Montreux Record, following improvements in their ecological character; and
 - g) The government of Spain (in the context of Resolution VIII.10, paragraph 42d) for the steps taken to revise its National Hydrological Plan so as to manage rivers in an integrated way that will better conserve wetlands, such as the Ebro River Delta Ramsar site, and also Spain's designation of 14 Ramsar sites since COP8;
27. RECOMMENDS, pursuant to Article 8.2 (e), the following with respect to alterations to the List or changes in the ecological character of specific Ramsar sites and other wetlands included in the Report of the Secretary General to this Conference (COP9 DOC.6) or otherwise brought to the attention of this Conference:
- i) that the government of Australia prepare and make available to all Contracting Parties advice on lessons learned from the application of national legislation in addressing issues of change in the ecological character of part of the Gwydir Wetlands: Gingham and Lower Gwydir (Big Leather) Watercourses Ramsar site;
 - ii) that the government of Germany submit an updated Ramsar Information Sheet and map for the Mühlenberger Loch Ramsar site showing the reduced boundaries of the site, and a consolidated report on the compensation measures taken under Article 4.2 and their effectiveness in line with Resolution VIII.20;
 - iii) that the government of Georgia submit an updated Ramsar Information Sheet and map for the Central Wetlands of Kolchheti Ramsar site showing the reduced boundaries of the site, and a consolidated report on the compensation measures taken under Article 4.2 and their effectiveness in line with Resolution VIII.20;
 - iv) that, in respect of the development of the deep water Bystroe navigation channel in the Danube Delta, the government of Ukraine:
 - a) suspend further works pending a full environmental impact assessment being conducted and its findings acted upon;
 - b) make available full documentation including the findings of the environmental impact assessment for Phase II of the project to all stakeholders, including the government of Romania as a potentially affected state;

- c) ensure that compensatory provision is made for any damage to the ecological character of designated Ramsar sites and other wetlands caused by the works which have already been carried out;
 - d) establish, in cooperation with relevant international organizations and the government of Romania, a programme of international monitoring of the ecological character of the Ramsar sites and Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve, in line with the Convention's guidance on wetland monitoring (Annex to Resolution VI.1; Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 8); and
 - e) in line with Article 5 of the Convention, apply international norms in the provision of information, consultation and involvement in decision-making processes of all stakeholders concerning Phase II of the project;
- v) that the government of Peru advise the Secretary General of steps taken to maintain the ecological character of the Paracas Ramsar site in relation to the construction of the port facility in Lobería beach within the buffer zone of the Ramsar site;
 - vi) that the government of Colombia advise the Secretary General of steps taken to maintain the ecological character of the Sistema Delta Estuarino del Río Magdalena, Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta Ramsar site in relation to the development of a multi-purpose port facility in Palermo;
 - vii) that the government of Kenya advise the Secretary General of the implications for the maintenance of the ecological character of the Lake Naivasha Ramsar site of the court action halting implementation of the management plan for the site, and the steps taken to resolve this matter;
 - viii) that the government of Chile advise the Secretary General of the steps being taken, including establishment of monitoring programmes, to restore the ecological character of the Carlos Anwandter Sanctuary Ramsar Site, and evaluate the possibility of inscribing this site on the Montreux Record in order to facilitate and obtain all the necessary assistance to develop actions to restore the ecological characteristics of the site;
 - ix) that the government of the Dominican Republic advise the Secretary General of the current situation concerning the enactment of legislation weakening the status of protected areas, including Ramsar sites;
 - x) that the government of the Republic of Korea advise the Secretary General of the current situation concerning the sea-wall construction and reclamation of the Saemangeum coastal wetlands, and the impact of the construction works undertaken to date on the internationally important migratory waterbird populations dependent upon these wetlands;
 - xi) that the government of Greece advise the Secretary General on the general steps being taken to restore the ecological character of the seven Greek Ramsar sites included in the Montreux Record with a view to removing these sites from the Record, and further advise the Secretary General of steps taken to maintain the

ecological character of the three sites removed from the Montreux Record in 1999;
and

- xii) that the governments of the Contracting Parties listed in Annex 3b of COP9 DOC.6, and which have not already done so, make a report to the Ramsar Secretariat without delay under Article 3.2 concerning reports of change or likely change to the ecological character of those Ramsar sites listed in this Annex;
28. REQUESTS Contracting Parties to use the revised format of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) prepared by the Secretariat to incorporate the amendments introduced by Resolution IX.1 – Annex B in their designations of new sites, extensions to existing sites, and updated information on existing sites;
 29. STRONGLY URGES those Parties within whose territories lie Ramsar sites for which official descriptions have not been provided in one of the three working languages of the Convention, and/or for which suitable maps have not yet been submitted, to submit those materials to the Secretariat as a matter of the highest priority;
 30. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to contact the Contracting Parties listed in the Annex to this Resolution and request them to provide or update, as a matter of high priority, Ramsar site descriptions (Ramsar Information Sheets and/or maps), using the Ramsar Information Sheet as revised to incorporate the amendments introduced by Resolution IX.1 Annex B, in one of the Convention's official working languages;
 31. WELCOMES the statements made in the National Reports to COP9 or during this meeting concerning planned extensions to existing Ramsar sites, and future designations of new or extended Ramsar sites, from the following 49 Contracting Parties: Albania, Argentina (1 site), Armenia (1 site), Bahamas (2 sites), Belgium, Brazil, Burkina Faso (3 sites), Cambodia (1 site), Canada, Chile, Congo (5 sites), Ecuador (3 sites), El Salvador (5 sites), Estonia (13 sites), France (4 sites), Georgia (3 sites), Germany, Ghana (1 site), Guatemala (3 sites), Honduras (4 sites), Indonesia (2 sites), Islamic Republic of Iran, Jamaica (2 sites), Kenya (3 sites), Lesotho, Liberia (4 sites), Malaysia (4 sites), Mauritius (1 site), Morocco (20 sites), Mozambique, Nepal (10 sites), Netherlands, Norway (20 sites), Paraguay (2 sites), Peru (3 sites), Poland, Republic of Moldova (1 site), Samoa (1 site), Seychelles (3 sites), Slovak Republic, Slovenia (1 site), Sweden, Sudan, Trinidad and Tobago (2 sites), Tunisia (15 sites), Turkey (8 sites), Togo (2 sites), Uganda (15 sites), and Vietnam; and
 32. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to consider options for assisting and encouraging Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in ecological character within the context of paragraph 20 of Resolution VIII.8.

Annex

List of Contracting Parties from which one or more Ramsar Information Sheets or updated Sheets are needed as a matter of priority

ALBANIA	HONDURAS
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	HUNGARY
ARGENTINA	ICELAND
ARMENIA	INDIA
AUSTRALIA	INDONESIA
AUSTRIA	IRELAND
BAHAMAS	ISRAEL
BAHRAIN	ITALY
BELARUS	JAMAICA
BELGIUM	JAPAN
BENIN	JORDAN
BOLIVIA	LEBANON
BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA	LESOTHO
BOTSWANA	LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA
BRAZIL	LIECHTENSTEIN
BULGARIA	LITHUANIA
BURKINA FASO	LUXEMBOURG
CAMBODIA	MADAGASCAR
CHAD	MALAWI
CHILE	MALAYSIA
CHINA	MALTA
COMOROS	MEXICO
CONGO	MONGOLIA
COSTA RICA	MAURITANIA
CROATIA	MAURITIUS
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF	MOZAMBIQUE
CONGO	NAMIBIA
ECUADOR	NETHERLANDS
EGYPT	NORWAY
EL SALVADOR	PAKISTAN
ESTONIA	PALAU
FRANCE	PANAMA
GABON	PAPUA NEW GUINEA
GAMBIA	PARAGUAY
GEORGIA	PERU
GERMANY	PHILIPPINES
GHANA	POLAND
GREECE	PORTUGAL
GUATEMALA	ROMANIA
GUINEA.	RUSSIAN FEDERATION
GUINEA-BISSAU	SAINT LUCIA

SAMOA
SENEGAL
SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
SIERRA LEONE
SLOVAK REPUBLIC
SLOVENIA
SOUTH AFRICA
SPAIN
SURINAME
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC
THAILAND
THE FYR OF MACEDONIA
TOGO
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
TUNISIA
TURKEY
UGANDA
UKRAINE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
VENEZUELA
VIETNAM



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.16

The Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs)

1. RECALLING that a number of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) played a significant role in the inception of the Convention, and AWARE that these and an increasing number of other INGOs and intergovernmental organizations are contributing to, or have the potential to contribute to, the development and implementation of the Convention's mission at local, national and global scales;
2. ALSO RECALLING Resolution VII.3, in which the Contracting Parties established rules for conferring the status of International Organization Partner (IOP) of the Convention, and in which they conferred this status upon BirdLife International, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Wetlands International, and the World Wide Fund for Nature;
3. FURTHER RECALLING that in Resolution VII.3 the Parties decided that international non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations meeting the criteria established by those rules and interested in formal recognition as Partners of the Convention should present an application to the Ramsar Secretariat for consideration by the Standing Committee for recommendation to the Conference of the Contracting Parties for its final decision; and
4. AWARE that the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) has made such an application to the 31st meeting of the Standing Committee;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

5. REAFFIRMS the rules established in the Annex to Resolution VII.3 for conferring the status of International Organization Partner (IOP) of the Convention to organizations that meet the criteria established in those rules;
6. RECONFIRMS the status of International Organization Partner (IOP) of the Convention for BirdLife International, IUCN-The World Conservation Union, Wetlands International, and the World Wide Fund for Nature;
7. FORMALLY CONFIRMS this status for the International Water Management Institute (IWMI);
8. ENCOURAGES other relevant and interested organizations to consider applying for the status of IOP of the Convention, so as to continue to strengthen the range and scope of

networks supporting the work of the Convention in the development of policies and technical and scientific tools of the Convention and their implementation; and

9. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to keep under review from time to time the performance of International Organization Partners in supporting Convention implementation, and to report on such reviews to the Conference of the Contracting Parties.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.17

Review of the decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

1. RECALLING that a considerable body of material on technical, scientific, and policy guidance has been adopted by the previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP);
2. ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution VIII.45 the Parties directed the Standing Committee to undertake a general review of the effectiveness of the process of drafting, considering, adopting and implementing Resolutions and Recommendations adopted by the 6th, 7th, and 8th meetings of the COP;
3. FURTHER RECALLING that it is clear that there are some overlaps and redundancies in the accumulated guidance, advice and policy of the Convention as adopted in Resolutions and Recommendations of the COP; and
4. AWARE that a priority task identified for the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in 2006-2008 in Resolution IX.2 is to “review the range of existing Ramsar guidance, with a view *inter alia* to: identifying gaps, repackaging older guidance into updated documents, and proposing retiring or withdrawing outdated documents”;

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5. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to undertake, with the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, a review of the decisions taken since the first Conference of the Parties with a view to identifying specific areas of conflicting advice or policy, redundancy, and differing interpretation or conflict, and that such a review should be completed within the coming triennium and the results presented to COP10 for decision;
6. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to develop appropriate Terms of Reference, advise whether a service provider will be required, and identify potential service provider(s) for consideration by Standing Committee at its 34th meeting, and INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to review and approve the Terms of Reference as deemed appropriate, approve any appropriate service provider(s), and agree a budget; and
7. AGREES that the review is to focus on the Resolutions and Recommendations of the COP and is not to include a review of the text of the Convention itself, and that such a review should, if practicable, be delivered in conjunction with the STRP’s proposed review of existing Ramsar guidance.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

*“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining
livelihoods”*

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.18

Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention

1. RECOGNIZING the comprehensive nature of the Convention's Communications, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) Programme established by Resolution VIII.31 for the period 2003-2008, but AWARE that financial restrictions have inhibited full implementation of the Programme;
2. ALSO AWARE of the CEPA resources available at national level from Contracting Parties and NGOs and the global interests of the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) in CEPA activities;
3. COMMENDING the excellent work already undertaken with very scarce resources by all actors in the Convention's CEPA activities; but
4. WISHING to have a more coordinated approach to the Convention's Programme;

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5. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee at its 34th meeting to establish an Oversight Panel to monitor and report on the implementation of the CEPA Programme established under Resolution VIII.31 and to examine and set priorities for communication, education and capacity building in collaboration with the Wetlands International CEPA Specialist Group and the Ramsar Advisory Board on Capacity Building;
6. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to prepare, for the 34th meeting of Standing Committee, a detailed proposal on the establishment and operations of such an Oversight Panel, using the attached Terms of Reference as general guidance in preparing such a proposal;
7. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to report to COP10 on the activities of the Panel and its value in advancing the Convention's CEPA Programme; and
8. REQUESTS the Secretary General to liaise with the Institut de l'énergie et de l'environnement de la Francophonie in Montreal in order to share all relevant information on the Ramsar Convention.

Annex

Terms of Reference for the CEPA Oversight Panel

Functions of the CEPA Oversight Panel (hereafter referred to as the Panel):

The main function of the Panel is to monitor and inform on CEPA issues within the Convention and the progress of implementation of the CEPA Programme as established by Resolution VIII.31 *The Convention's Programme on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) 2003-2008*, especially with reference to the CEPA activities of the Secretariat, and to advise the Standing Committee and the Secretariat on the CEPA work priorities at the national and international level, including the CEPA priorities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP). The Oversight Panel will also clarify the broad roles of the two government and non-governmental CEPA Focal Points nominated by each Party.

In examining and setting priorities, the Panel should take into account, in the first instance, the priorities set by Resolution VIII.31, the key CEPA issues identified by the STRP/Wetlands International CEPA Specialist Group, and those identified by the Specialist Group as key CEPA issues in the work of the STRP. The Standing Committee should include a CEPA specialist in the STRP to identify the areas where CEPA can contribute to the work of the STRP (see Resolution IX.11).

The Panel should also work with the Ramsar Advisory Board on Capacity Building to identify priorities in recognition of the gaps between capacity building opportunities and needs for the broad range of wetland professionals and stakeholders.

The Panel should report on these issues to each meeting of the Standing Committee. The two CEPA Focal Points on the Panel should ensure that they maintain links with their counterparts in other countries so that they are informed of these issues in the three official languages of the Convention through the Web and the CEPA elists.

The Panel will also have a key role in advising the Standing Committee on the form and function of the next CEPA Programme, for the period 2009–2014, to be proposed to COP10.

Composition of the CEPA Panel

The Panel should include the Chair of Standing Committee, or at his or her request the Vice Chair, and the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance.

The CEPA Programme suggests a diversity of actions requiring a range of expertise. Similarly, the Ramsar Strategic Plan identifies a range of work areas which require expertise across the full spectrum of CEPA work, including Communication, Education, Public Awareness, Participation, Training, and Marketing. This diversity of expertise should be reflected in the composition of the Panel.

The Panel's membership could thus include:

- i) The SC Chair (or Vice Chair);
- ii) Chair of the SC Subgroup on Finance;
- iii) Two national CEPA Focal Points;

- iv) Chair of the STRP/WI CEPA Specialist Group;
- v) Relevant experts in different aspects of CEPA not covered by the above, taking into consideration appropriate and balanced geographical representation;
- vi) Ramsar Secretariat (*ex officio*).

Recommendations for the appointment of relevant experts under point v) above will be made by the Secretariat in consultation with the CEPA Specialist Group.

The Secretariat, with the advice of the Chair of Standing Committee, will develop a procedure for the identification and appointment of the two national CEPA Focal Points under point iii) above.

All members should be appointed for the period of the triennium 2006-2008.

Modus operandi of the Panel

The Panel should regard the CEPA Specialist Group as a reference group for recommendations and products identified through the work of the STRP. The Panel should also play a liaison role with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to improve synergies across conventions, as called for in Resolutions VIII.5 and Resolution IX.5.

The Panel will operate as much as possible through electronic means (e-mail, teleconferences, etc.). If it is thought necessary, and if funding permits, the Panel may seek to meet during the triennium.

The CEPA Focal Point representatives should, as much as possible, and as necessary, consult with and seek input from all other government and NGO CEPA Focal Points in the Parties.

Due to financial limitations, the main working language of the Panel will be English, although regional centres as established under Resolution IX.7 will be involved in deliberations, and the results shall be translated into the official languages of the Convention and other languages and posted on the Ramsar Web site as well as the Ramsar CEPA electronic network.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.19

The importance of regional wetland symposia in effectively implementing the Ramsar Convention

1. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the need for the establishment of appropriate regional frameworks for fostering international cooperation amongst Contracting Parties and other organizations and stakeholders, in accordance with the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19);
2. RECOGNIZING the critical role of regional cooperation for promoting the aims and objectives of the Convention, as reiterated by the *Regional initiatives for the further implementation of the Convention* (Resolution VIII.30) and the establishment of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention (Resolution IX.7);
3. CONSIDERING that such regional cooperation can be achieved through closer partnership between and among governmental and non-governmental sectors and scientific, technical and policy-making sectors in different regions of the world;
4. RECOGNIZING that the participation of local communities and indigenous peoples is essential for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, as embodied in the *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands* (Resolution VII.8) and Resolution VIII.36;
5. ALSO RECOGNIZING that the Asian Wetland Symposia (AWS) held in 1992 (Japan), 2001 (Malaysia), and 2005 (India) and organized through the leadership of the Ramsar Centre Japan (RCJ), a non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Japan, have contributed substantively to enhancing effective regional cooperation and networking in Asia;
6. UNDERSTANDING that these Symposia provide a single platform for discussions among various sectors including, *inter alia*, national and local governments, NGOs, scientific experts, the private sector, and local and indigenous peoples engaged in wetland management, and that their recommendations embodied in the Recommendation of the Asian Wetland Symposium (1992), the Penang Statement (2001) and the Chilika Statement (2005) have been reported to Ramsar COP5, COP8 and COP9 respectively;
7. MINDFUL that the Asian Wetland Symposia, and a series of local workshops organized by the Ramsar Centre Japan, have been successful in the Asian region in promoting public awareness of the aims and objectives of the Ramsar Convention, and accession thereto;

have encouraged Contracting Parties to identify and designate Ramsar sites; and have promoted participation of local communities and indigenous peoples in the management of wetlands in the context of attaining sustainable development including economic growth and poverty reduction;

8. RECOGNIZING that Ramsar Regional Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties (COPs) focus increasingly on policy and administrative issues, so that the Asian Wetland Symposium series provides an increasingly valuable complementary forum for the discussion of scientific and technical issues and priorities for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Asia region;
9. ALSO RECOGNIZING that financial support for the Asian Wetland Symposium series has come from a wide variety of donors, including central and local governments, business entities, academic institutions, international organizations including UN bodies, and international NGOs, and that these contributions have been invaluable to securing the continuity of the Asian Wetland Symposia, as well as the series of local workshops, leading to the establishment of effective, diverse and vibrant networks on wetland conservation and wise use in the Asian region; and
10. NOTING that the fifth meeting of a biennial International Symposium on Wetlands was held in Zapata Swamp, Cuba, with the participation of scientists and wetland managers of different countries from the Americas region;

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11. ENCOURAGES all Contracting Parties and non-Contracting Parties in the Asia Region to give full recognition to the Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS) as an effective forum for information exchange and as a source of good practical advice for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Asia;
12. ENDORSES the continuation of the periodic Asian Wetland Symposia;
13. REQUESTS Contracting Parties, in cooperation with the Ramsar Secretariat and international NGOs, to facilitate the support to and participation in the Asian Wetland Symposia by a wide range of stakeholders, including but not limited to local governments, NGOs, the private sector, and local communities, noting that this will not have any financial implications for the Convention's core budget;
14. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat and the Standing Committee to encourage and develop linkages between Ramsar Regional Meetings, including subregional meetings, and such regional wetland fora, so as to ensure that the outcomes of the fora are made fully available to Contracting Parties and governments in support of their implementation of the Convention through exchange of experiences and innovative practices discussed at such fora; and
15. RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties, international NGOs, and other relevant scientific and technical organizations consider the usefulness of establishing similar periodic regional scientific and technical fora where they do not already exist, drawing on the experiences of the Asian Wetland Symposia, as a means of increasing scientific and

technical support for the implementation of the Convention including, *inter alia*, any regional initiatives established under the Convention.



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“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.20

Integrated, cross-biome planning and management of wetlands, especially in small island developing states

1. RECOGNIZING that wetlands occur within all biomes, take many forms, and are influenced by many-land based and other activities and therefore require integrated planning and management approaches to safeguard their many ecosystem benefits/services;
2. AWARE that the 7th and 8th meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention adopted guidelines on the integrated management of wetlands within river basin and coastal zone management frameworks, respectively;
3. NOTING that the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has developed thematic programmes of work relating to mountains, forests, inland waters, dry and sub-humid lands, agriculture lands and marine and coastal ecosystems, and is developing a programme of work for island biodiversity;
4. ALSO NOTING the ecosystem approach adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity and the associated guidance developed to assist Parties with its implementation in CBD decision VII/11 (including annexes);
5. RECALLING that Resolution VIII.42 drew attention to the need “to be mindful of the small size and limited human and financial resources available to Pacific island countries and territories, to seek ways of simplifying and harmonising the activities and requirements of the Ramsar Convention, and to continue actively to seek to harmonise the requirements of the Convention with all other environment-related international instruments”;
6. MINDFUL that for developing countries, and small island developing states in particular, resource constraints, financial, technical and human, continue to restrict the capacity to implement multilateral environment agreements; and
7. NOTING that WWF International has, through its Global Freshwater Programme, developed a prototype cross-biome programme of work that seeks to integrate the programmes of work of the CBD, and ACKNOWLEDGING the related work of UNEP’s ‘Hilltops to the Oceans’ (H2O) initiative and the Pacific-Asia Biodiversity Transect (PABITRA) initiative;

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8. WELCOMES the initiatives of WWF International, UNEP and PABITRA as potential tools to assist Parties in taking an holistic, cross-biome approach to wetland management that recognizes the importance of ecological and hydrological connectivity in managing river systems, freshwater ecosystems, and the coastal environments into which they flow, and as additional guidance within the framework of existing guidelines on these and related subjects developed by the Ramsar Convention;
9. INVITES WWF International to make this information, tools, and approaches available to Contracting Parties for their information, and ENCOURAGES the further application and development of the tools and approaches and, in particular, the further evaluation of their utility in assisting Parties to more effectively implement the provisions and guidance of the Ramsar Convention and CBD;
10. INSTRUCTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to consider the relevance and applicability of the tools and approaches within the context of its ongoing work and priorities, namely the following priority tasks in Resolution IX.2, Annex 1: task 5 - review of existing Ramsar guidance; task 81 – further development of river basin and coastal zone management approach(es); and task 112 - review of Ramsar site criteria and guidelines to reflect global wetland conservation and wise use priorities;
11. INVITES WWF International to prepare an information paper on the subject in question, in consultation with the Ramsar Secretariat and the CBD, taking into account relevant resolutions and decisions of the Ramsar Convention and CBD and existing guidance, and INVITES the Secretariat of the CBD, if appropriate, to submit the paper as an information document to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD as a contribution to the development of tools and practical approaches for the implementation of the CBD, in particular in relation to the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and the ecosystem approach, and as a contribution towards achieving even greater harmony and synergy between the two conventions;
12. REITERATES the need to support the efforts and capacity building requirements of Parties, and small island developing states in particular, with the implementation of integrated management approaches, and REQUESTS Parties, non-Parties, and multilateral donor organizations to give priority to training and capacity building in this field, also taking into account related efforts through other conventions and international arrangements; and
13. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to include within their integrated planning the development of site networks of protected areas, including Ramsar sites, to ensure that the ecosystem benefits/services delivered by the various biomes are recognized and incorporated into management regimes and land and water use activities, also taking into account, *inter alia*, the provisions of CBD decision VII/28 on protected areas and in particular Programme Element 1 of the annex to that decision which refers to direct actions for planning, selecting, establishing, strengthening, and managing protected area systems and sites.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.21

Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands

1. AWARE that wetlands and water resources in all parts of the world have been focal points for people and societies, providing vital services and being places where local communities and indigenous peoples have developed strong cultural connections and sustainable use practices;
2. ALSO AWARE that wetlands are especially important to local communities and indigenous peoples and that these groups must have a decisive voice in matters concerning their cultural heritage;
3. FURTHER AWARE that a great number of Ramsar wetlands hold significant cultural values linked to the ecological functioning of these wetlands.
4. RECALLING that the Ramsar Convention from its beginning has recognized the cultural values of wetlands in its Preamble, as well as recognizing that cultural actions may be determined by ecological processes and *vice versa*;
5. APPRECIATING that the wise use of wetlands, the foundation of the Ramsar Convention, requires taking seriously into account these cultural values as they may assist in strengthening or re-establishing the links between people and wetlands, and giving cultural values greater recognition within the Convention;
6. NOTING Resolution VIII.19 *Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites*, adopted by COP8, and the need for its implementation;
7. TAKING ALSO INTO ACCOUNT a) Resolution VII.8 *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands*, adopted by COP7, and b) paragraph 30 of Resolution VIII.10 on “additional criteria and guidelines for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites concerning socio-economic and cultural values and functions that are relevant to biological diversity ... which would be applied on each occasion in conjunction with one or more existing criteria for the identification and designation of Ramsar sites”;
8. AWARE of the work undertaken by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel during the 2003-2005 triennium concerning the inclusion of the cultural importance of wetlands in Ramsar site designation processes;

9. MINDFUL that the Ramsar Convention needs to work in cooperation with multilateral and regional agreements and other international bodies, within their respective mandates, addressing cultural heritage issues as they relate to wetlands, and NOTING the role of the World Heritage Convention in the protection of cultural heritage; and
10. NOTING the presentations and discussions during the COP9 Technical Session 2 on 'Culture and knowledge in wetland management';

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11. ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to identify and analyze further case studies of wetlands with significant cultural values and make them widely known, thus increasing the knowledge and understanding of the relationship between cultural processes and wetland conservation and wise use;
12. AGREES that in the application of the existing criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance, a wetland may also be considered of international importance when, in addition to relevant ecological values, it holds examples of significant cultural values, whether material or non-material, linked to its origin, conservation and/or ecological functioning;
13. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to incorporate cultural values in wetland policies and strategies, as well as in wetland management plans, and to communicate the results, thus contributing to the development of comprehensive and integrated approaches;
14. EMPHASIZES that measures taken with respect to this Resolution in accordance with the Ramsar Convention are consistent with Parties' rights and obligations under other international agreements;
15. IDENTIFIES the following cultural characteristics as relevant in the designation of Ramsar sites:
 - i) sites which provide a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland;
 - ii) sites which have exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland;
 - iii) sites where the ecological character of the wetland depends on the interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples;
 - iv) sites where relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland;
16. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to complete, through a broad participatory process, the work prescribed in paragraph 17 of Resolution VIII.19 concerning the guidance to be provided on cultural values;

17. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat to establish a multi-disciplinary working group on the cultural values of wetlands, with a balanced geographic representation, under the supervision of Standing Committee, with appropriate input from the STRP, to coordinate the activities described above; and
18. FURTHER REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat to analyse the activities carried out to incorporate cultural values in the work of the Convention during the triennium 2006-2008 and the experience gained, and to report to the Standing Committee and to the 10th Conference of the Parties (COP10).



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.22

Ramsar sites and systems of protected areas

1. MINDFUL of the Ramsar Convention's vision for the List of Wetland of International Importance, namely, “To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the ecological and hydrological functions they perform,” and the associated targets of reaching 250 million hectares and 2500 Ramsar sites by the end of 2010 (Operational Objective 10.1.1. of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008);
2. CONSCIOUS that globally there are now 1,524 Wetlands of International Importance found across 147 Parties with a total area of 129.2 million hectares, many of which have been declared as protected areas in accordance with national legislation;
3. ALSO AWARE that the IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas is reviewing the outputs of the Vth World Parks Congress and its Durban Accord, and will produce a synthesis information paper for distribution to all Parties by November 2006 on the key outputs of direct relevance to the identification, consultative processes leading to site designation, management planning and other issues relating to Ramsar sites;
4. NOTING the adoption by the 7th Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), held in Malaysia in February 2004, of the programme of work on protected areas (Decision VII.28), and in particular its request that the Executive Secretary “strengthen collaboration with other organizations, institutions and conventions with a view to supporting implementation of the activities contained in the programme of work, promoting synergies and avoiding unnecessary duplications, and to establish a liaison group of relevant organizations including the World Heritage Convention, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Man and Biosphere programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, relevant regional conventions and other organizations”;
5. ALSO NOTING the adoption by CBD's COP7 of a revised programme of work on inland waters (Decision VII/4) and its indication that in progressing toward comprehensive, adequate and representative systems of inland water protected areas, Parties should seek to harmonize their actions to operationalise CBD Annex 1 with the criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance, and FURTHER NOTING that they should, in line with Decision VII/4, annex, activity 1.2.6, “harmonize this work with the development of national networks of wetlands of international importance, which are comprehensive and coherent in line with the Ramsar strategic framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance and taking into

account ecological connectivity and the concept, where appropriate, of ecological networks, in line with the programme of work on protected areas (Decision VII/28)”;

6. ACKNOWLEDGING that the CBD’s revised programme of work on inland waters referred to above also invites collaboration between the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP and their CBD counterparts, the Executive Secretary and the SBSTTA, in furthering the elaboration of guidelines on existing Criteria for the designation of Wetlands of International Importance, the development of additional, possibly quantitative criteria, and the articulation of guidance on interpretation and geographical scale of application of the Ramsar Criteria nationally and regionally; and
7. CONCERNED that the revised programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity adopted by CBD’s COP7 fails to acknowledge the contribution being made to achieving the goals and objectives of this programme by the over 700 Wetlands of International Importance found in coastal, inshore and tidal systems, and how these sites offer important building blocks of protected area networks in these environments;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

8. AGREES to include as extra data fields in the approved Ramsar Information Sheet for the designation of Wetlands of International Importance from COP9 onwards the following:

Protected area categories, if any, for the site, as established by each Contracting Party, and/or IUCN categories (1994), if appropriate, and any other relevant designations;
9. REQUESTS all Contracting Parties, where appropriate, to include information for these new data fields when they next update their Ramsar Information Sheets for existing Ramsar sites;
10. CALLS UPON Parties to consider, wherever possible, developing processes which integrate efforts aimed at broader protected areas system development with Ramsar site network expansion, the nomination of World Heritage sites, and the identification of Biosphere Reserves;
11. REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to consider coordination of efforts in integrating Ramsar sites into other systems of protected areas;
12. INVITES those Contracting Parties which are also Contracting Parties to the CBD to review their national processes for implementation of CBD’s Jakarta Mandate programme of work on coastal and marine biodiversity to ensure that such reviews integrate fully the identification and designation of Ramsar sites; and
13. REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat to continue its strong partnership-building with the CBD, including participation, as appropriate, in the liaison group proposed through CBD Decision VII/28 establishing the programme of work on protected areas.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.23

Highly pathogenic avian influenza and its consequences for wetland and waterbird conservation and wise use

1. AWARE that since late 2003, outbreaks of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (subtype H5N1), which are historically unprecedented in their geographical scope and virulence, have had major impacts on rural livelihoods linked to the keeping of domesticated birds (mainly poultry) and on nature conservation values (including major mortality of waterbirds on at least three Ramsar sites), and CONSCIOUS of the increasing number of countries in which HPAI has recently been detected following its westward spread through Eurasia;
2. VERY CONSCIOUS of the global health, social and economic consequences of a human influenza pandemic if the current subtype of HPAI either genetically re-assorts or adaptively mutates into a form transmissible between humans;
3. NOTING in particular the difficulties that developing countries face in responding adequately to the current spread of HPAI, especially given the significance in many countries of both domesticated and wild birds as the basis of rural livelihoods;
4. MINDFUL, however, that all currently known cases of human infection with the current strain of HPAI have been through contact with, or by consumption of, infected poultry and none through contact with wild birds, and RECOGNIZING that public attitudes and support for wetland conservation, particularly Ramsar sites and other wetlands of importance for waterbirds, could be negatively affected by concerns as to the possible role of waterbirds in the spread of HPAI (subtype H5N1);
5. NOTING that HPAI is considered to have been spread between countries by a number of different vectors, including through the movement of poultry, other avian livestock and cage birds and associated activities to service the respective industries, and through both the legal and illegal trade in birds, and through migrating waterbirds, and AWARE that the relative significance of these different modes of spread have varied and that evidence of causal links in many cases is weak or lacking;
6. GREATLY WELCOMING the major involvement in this issue of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Health Organisation (WHO), and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), notably through the publication in May 2005 of a *Global Strategy for the Progressive Control of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza* and its implementation, *inter alia*, through regional programmes of *Emergency Assistance for Early Detection and Prevention of Avian Influenza*;

7. ALSO NOTING that although development of surveillance schemes and contingency planning will need to be determined nationally, there are significant benefits from international cooperation;
8. AWARE of the Convention's participation in various coordinating mechanisms, including *inter alia* the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza convened in late August 2005 by the Convention on Migratory Species, which comprises representatives and observers from nine international organisations, including four UN bodies, and ALSO NOTING Resolution 3.18 of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) on "Avian Influenza";
9. GREATLY CONCERNED, however, that in many countries there is a significant lack of information and, in some countries, public misunderstanding, on important issues related to the spread of HPAI, the risks it may pose, and how to anticipate and respond to outbreaks of HPAI;
10. RECOGNIZING the particular importance of extensive and long-term data sets and the networks of experts behind these data sets relating to bird movements and waterbird counts as an essential information resource that allows exploration of possible scenarios of the current HPAI spread, including identification of areas of higher relative risk along migratory flyways, and their role in helping to inform possible policy responses to outbreaks, but NOTING the need urgently to access and analyze such data, networks, and other information and to fill outstanding gaps in scientific understanding of these factors;
11. RECALLING ALSO that, although outbreaks of H5N1 in Hong Kong in 1997, in Japan in 2004, and of H7N7 in The Netherlands, Belgium and Germany in 2003 were all successfully stamped out using rigorous control and biosecurity measures, HPAI now appears to be endemic in some parts of Asia, highlighting the practical difficulties of control in countries with limited veterinary capacity;
12. RECOGNIZING national ongoing actions and plans for monitoring wetlands and waterbird populations for HPAI;
13. NOTING the need to strengthen research and monitoring related to waterbird migration and trade in waterbirds, as well as disease processes in wild bird populations, especially that research identified by the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza, and for rapid and continued sharing of information given the potential significance of this information in terms of bird conservation and population regulation, so as to enable or improve risk assessments and be better prepared to improve conservation of waterbirds and future management of avian disease outbreaks;
14. ALSO RECOGNIZING the potential risk of transmission of HPAI between wild waterbirds and captive birds and other animals at wetland centres and zoological gardens, being mindful both of animal welfare requirements and the important role such sites play in wetland communication, education and public awareness; and
15. AWARE of the decision of Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Waterbirds (Resolution 3.6) to request the support of the Ramsar Convention and others to establish a long-term funding regime in order to develop long-term monitoring of

waterbird populations *inter alia* via the International Waterbird Census and its derived outputs, and further to Ramsar Resolution VIII.38, as a means of informing a wide range of national and international conservation policies, including risk assessment for HPAI;

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16. CALLS for fully integrated approaches, at both national and international levels, to address HPAI by bringing ornithological, wildlife, and wetland management expertise together with those traditionally responsible for public health and zoonoses, including veterinary, agricultural, virological, epidemiological, and medical expertise;
17. SUPPORTS the conclusions of WHO, FAO and OIE that attempts to eliminate HPAI in wild bird populations through lethal responses such as culling are not feasible and may exacerbate the problem by causing further dispersion of infected birds;
18. EMPHASISES that destruction or substantive modification of wetland habitats with the objective of reducing contact between domesticated and wild birds does not amount to wise use as urged by Article 3.1 of the Convention, and also may exacerbate the problem by causing further dispersion of infected birds;
19. REQUESTS the continued participation in the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza by the Convention (through appropriate representatives of STRP and the Secretariat) and as resources and competencies permit, noting that this group communicates electronically;
20. UNDERLINES the importance of developing and implementing national contingency or action plans related to the potential risk of disease transmission, and the need for national preparedness to instances of detection of HPAI in birds, notably wetland-dependent species;
21. REQUESTS the Secretary General to explore possibilities for establishing partnerships so as to support the development of long-term funding for monitoring schemes that are relevant to the Convention's interests, and as soon as possible;
22. NOTES the essential need for adequate standards for farming and aquaculture, and the need to develop strategies that limit the risk of disease transmission between wild and domestic birds through enhanced biosecurity;
23. URGES the STRP, with the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza, to provide relevant input on practical measures to reduce the risk of disease transmission between wild, captive and domesticated birds, to those agencies developing contingency and wetland management plans related to HPAI; and
24. REQUESTS the Secretariat working with the STRP to assist, with relevant international agencies and the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza, in sharing information, including practical advice that will assist countries to respond to this serious and rapidly developing situation, and to report back on progress to the Standing Committee and to COP10.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.24

Improving management of the Ramsar Convention

1. RECALLING that the Contracting Parties have established decision-making mechanisms and procedures for guiding the operation of the Convention;
2. NOTING that the Standing Committee, the Subgroup on Finance, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and the Secretariat have well served the Convention in this regard;
3. RECOGNIZING the importance of the close working relationship and collaboration between the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat;
4. EMPHASIZING the need for the Secretariat to conduct its work in a manner that meets the needs of the Contracting Parties in the most transparent, professional and efficient manner possible, as well as for Contracting Parties to contribute to the implementation of the Convention in the most efficient and effective manner;
5. ALSO RECOGNIZING the ever-increasing complexity of the issues and activities undertaken by the Convention; and
6. AFFIRMING the desire of the Contracting Parties to continuously improve the functioning of the management structures of the Convention and their linkages with the Secretariat;

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[Note: In Resolution X.24 (2008), the Conference of the Contracting Parties instructed that the following paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 should be substituted for the original operative paragraphs of this Resolution. The original paragraphs are shown in a box below.]

7. ESTABLISHES a Management Working Group to examine and review the various management structures and systems in place within the Convention and to report back to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties with their recommendations on:
 - a) improving the existing terms of reference and/or operating procedures of the Standing Committee, the Subgroup on Finance, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Regional Meetings, and the Secretariat;

- b) establishing any new management structures the Working Group concludes may be needed; and
 - c) strengthening linkages between the Contracting Parties and the International Organization Partners;
8. DETERMINES that the Management Working Group comprises:
- a) the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee of the previous triennium;
 - b) the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee established for the forthcoming triennium;
 - c) the Chairs of the Subgroup on Finance of the previous and forthcoming Standing Committees;
 - d) the Chairs of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel in the previous and forthcoming triennia;
 - e) any other interested Contracting Parties, keeping in mind the desirability of equitable regional participation;
 - f) a representative of the International Organization Partners (IOPs);
 - g) the Secretary General *ex officio*; and
 - h) an appropriate expert on organizational review, as needed, to be determined by the Working Group, subject to there being no implications for the Convention's budget; and
9. INSTRUCTS the Management Working Group to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress made and to report its findings to each meeting of the COP.

The original operative paragraphs of Resolution IX.24 (2005)

7. ESTABLISHES an ad hoc Management Working Group to examine and review the various management structures and systems in place within the Convention and to report back to the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2008 with their recommendations on:
- a) improving the existing terms of reference and/or operating procedures of the Standing Committee, the Subgroup on Finance, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Regional Meetings, and the Secretariat;
 - b) establishing any new management structures the Working Group concludes may be needed; and
 - c) strengthening linkages between the Contracting Parties and the International Organization Partners;
8. DETERMINES that the Management Working Group comprises:
- a) the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee established at COP8;
 - b) the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee established at COP9;
 - c) the COP8 and COP9 Chairs of the Subgroup on Finance;
 - d) the COP8 and COP9 Chairs of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel;
 - e) any other interested Contracting Parties, keeping in mind the desirability of equitable regional participation, or International Organization Partners;

- f) the Secretary General *ex officio*; and
 - g) an appropriate expert on organizational review, to be determined by the Working Group, subject to there being no implications for the Convention's budget; and
9. INSTRUCTS the Working Group to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress made and to report its findings to COP10 in 2008.



9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

Resolution IX.25

Thanks to the host country

1. HAVING MET for the first time in Africa;
2. FULLY AWARE of the significant effort and funding required for the organization of a meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
3. NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the successful efforts made by the Ugandan authorities to make the COP as successful as possible, including their efforts to grant visas upon arrival to a large number of participants in order to facilitate their attendance;
4. APPRECIATIVE of the efforts made by the Ugandan authorities to organize an informal Ministerial Dialogue as a parallel event to COP9;
5. WELCOMING the detailed information provided by Uganda on its exemplary efforts to implement the Convention in the most effective manner, and
6. RECOGNIZING Uganda's well-known and established policy and practice in the area of wetland conservation and sustainable natural resources management, including its intention to designate a significant number of new Ramsar sites in the near future;

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7. CONGRATULATES Uganda for its pioneering efforts in wetland wise use and conservation and sustainable natural resources management;
8. DRAWS ATTENTION to the “Kampala Declaration” that emerged from the informal Ministerial Dialogue and which will be annexed to the Report of this meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
9. EXPRESSES its most sincere gratitude to the Government of Uganda, and in particular to the Ministry of Water, Lands and Environment, for the arrangements made to provide excellent facilities for the work of the COP;
10. FURTHER EXPRESSES its heartfelt thanks to the non-governmental organizations and the private sector of Uganda that have supported the organization of the meeting, to members of local staff who in various capacities contributed to the COP's success, and to the people of Uganda for the warm hospitality they have shown to all participants; and

11. ALSO EXPRESSES its appreciation to the other Contracting Parties, NGOs, and private sector companies from outside Uganda that provided assistance to the host country and to the Ramsar Secretariat for the organization of Ramsar COP9.