**Draft Workplan of the Ramsar Convention Scientific and Technical review Panel (STRP) (2019-2021)**

**Development of this draft**

The STRP developed the present draft work plan for the 2019-2021 triennium at its 22nd meeting (18-22 March 2019) for consideration and approval by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting (24-28 June 2019).

The draft work plan was drafted pursuant to the process outlined in Resolution XII. 5: *New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention* (Annex 1, paragraphs 49-51), and taking into account the five Thematic Work Areas approved by Contracting Parties at COP13 in Resolution XIII.8: *Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021* (Annex 2).

In accordance with Resolution XII. 5, the draft work plan will be revised after a broad consultation process with Heads of Administrative Authorities, National Focal Points and STRP National Focal Points.

**Costs**

The indicative budget for the tasks generally assumes that the costs for layout, design, review, translation, and publication are: up to CHF 1,240 for a Factsheet, up to CHF 2,960 for a Policy Brief, up to CHF 6,400 for a Briefing Note and up to CHF 22,600 for a Ramsar Technical Report. Consultancy reports (up to 40 pages) have been estimated at up to CHF 30,600, drafting workshops at up to CHF 10,000 and web design at up to CHF 4,000[[1]](#footnote-1).

Note that the cost implications for engagement (as required) with international processes (such as other Conventions, IPBES and possibly work related to Sustainable Development Goals, are largely unknown at this stage as this will depend on the nature and type of input requested, for example whether travel costs will be required.

Given the extreme haste in which the draft work plan has had to be prepared, further work on costings is needed and this will be undertaken prior to Standing Committee 57.

**Priorities**

In developing this proposed work plan and consistent with Resolution XIII.8, the STRP attempted to apply a consistent and explicit approach to priority setting, for consideration of Standing Committee. High priority tasks were those that had several of the following characteristics, namely those which:

* closely align with the objectives of Ramsar’s Strategic Plan (2016-2024);
* align with priorities established by the COP;
* are of significant policy relevance to other international legislative or policy frameworks;
* have high potential for communication and outreach, especially to influential audiences;
* address pressing conservation needs; and/or
* involve novel activities not significantly overlapping with initiatives undertaken by others.

STRP then identified eight highest priority tasks from the initial list of high priority tasks, as indicated below.

**Advisory functions**

Note that in addition to the specific Thematic Work Areas and tasks outlined below, it is important to recall that, within the framework of Resolution XII.5, the STRP has a number of core *ad-hoc* advisory functions (set forth below). These support a number of other Convention processes and actors.

**Audiences**

The outputs proposed in this draft work plan are aimed at two target audiences, in line with Resolution XII. 5, Annex 1, paragraph 54, as follows:

* Policy-makers, including those from the environment and water sectors and other related sectors such as energy, health and sanitation, agriculture, infrastructure and
* Practitioners, in particular wetland managers and stakeholders, and also others from related fields, such as protected area managers and staff of wetland education centres.

For clarity purposes, for outputs seeking to target Ramsar Site managers, the target audience is specified as “Practitioners (Ramsar Site Managers)”. However, for outputs aimed at wetland managers in general, the target audience is specified as “Practitioners (wetland managers)”.

**Capacity development**

Resolution XIII.8 urged that scientific and technical capacity development should be undertaken “including *inter alia* through regional capacity-building workshops and other training opportunities, including in the margins of STRP meetings held in regions, to further enhance the effectiveness of the Convention… .”

The potential for such opportunities will be explored with the Secretariat as any agreed programme of work is developed, subject to resource availability.

**Abbreviations**

CEPA Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness

GPI Global Peatland Initiative

IMCG International Mires Conservation Group

MEA Multilateral Environmental Agreement

NFP National Focal Point

RAM Ramsar Advisory Mission

RAWES Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services

RCN Ramsar Culture Network

RSIS Ramsar Sites Information Service

RTR Ramsar Technical Report

SC Standing Commitee

SDG Sustainable Development Goal(s)

SP Strategic Plan

ToR Terms of Reference

TWA Thematic Work Area

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| **Ad-hoc advisory functions and collaboration with other International bodies and processes** | | | | | | | | |
| **Task** | **Res.** | **SP[[2]](#footnote-2) goal & target** | **Description and task leads** | **Priority** | **Process and outcomes** | **Output** | **Audience** | **Costs CHF** |
| **Ramsar Convention Processes** | | | | | | | | |
| Reporting to Standing Committee | [XIII.4](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii4-responsibilities-roles-and-composition-of-the-standing-committee-and), Annex 1, ¶¶, 13; 19 (h) | 4.14 | STRP Chair will participate at meetings of Standing Committee (SC) as an observer, and will present the work plan for approval, reporting on progress with its implementation, and providing guidance for its future development. | Core | Reporting and advice to the Standing Committee | STRP Chair’s report | Contracting Parties | Included in Chair’s travel budget |
| Responding to requests for advice or input from the Secretariat and Standing Committee | [XII.5](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xii5-new-framework-for-delivery-of-scientific-and-technical-advice-and-guidance), Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15;  [XIII.5](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii5-review-of-the-fourth-strategic-plan-of-the-ramsar-convention), ¶¶ 20, 26; | 4.14 | Requests may include, inter alia:   * advice on the Strategic Plan and CEPA matters; * input into the effectiveness review process, as required; * advice on the consolidation of past scientific and technical Resolutions; * revision of the Ramsar Handbooks; * simplifying and repackaging existing guidance on Ramsar Sites management for the production of a simplified manual; and/or * update Ramsar Sites Management Toolkit; * Provide scientific and technical guidance on ongoing global processes, including IPBES (see also below), CMS, CBD (see also below), UNCCD, IPCC, etc.). | Core | Responsive advise to Contracting Parties via Secretariat and Standing Committee | Advice | Contracting Parties and Secretariat | No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis (unless travel is involved) |
| Support to Secretariat and Standing Committee in relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | XII.3, ¶ 52; [XII.5](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xii5-new-framework-for-delivery-of-scientific-and-technical-advice-and-guidance), Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15 ;  XIII.7 | 3.11, 4.14, 4.18 | *Ad-hoc* review and advice to support reporting, development of guidance and toolkit (and capacity building) for national wetland inventories being developed by Secretariat. | Highest | Secretariat to provide the STRP with a summary of deliverables and work to be done and request STRP to review and provide advice | Written advice | Contracting Parties | Costs implication for STRP budget dependent on nature and scale of request especially if additional products prepared or travel required |
| Drafting or providing input on Draft Resolutions | [XII.5](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xii5-new-framework-for-delivery-of-scientific-and-technical-advice-and-guidance), Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2, 12 (iii) | 4.14 | The STRP may draft, at the request of the Standing Committee, a Draft Resolution or it may provide (on request) input to Draft Resolutions submitted to the COP by Contracting Parties. | Core | Responsive advise to Parties | Advice/ Draft Resolutions | Contracting Parties | No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis |
| Responding to national or regional relevant requests for advice from Contracting Parties | [XII.5](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xii5-new-framework-for-delivery-of-scientific-and-technical-advice-and-guidance), Annex 1, ¶¶ 2, 59 | 4.14 | The STRP may, as appropriate, provide advice to any Contracting Party requesting it. | Core | Responsive advise to Contracting Parties | Advice | Contracting Parties | No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis |
| Advising on Removals of Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record | [XII.5](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xii5-new-framework-for-delivery-of-scientific-and-technical-advice-and-guidance), Annex 1, ¶¶ 1- 2, 12 (v) ; [XIII.11](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii11-ramsar-advisory-missions), ¶¶19, 21;  , | 2.5, 2.7, 4.14 | STRP to advise, as requested by Parties on removals from the Montreux Record.  Work with the Secretariat in its efforts to advise Contracting Parties in their efforts to manage Sites on the Montreux Record and Sites for which reports on adverse change in ecological character have been received, engaging Regional Centres in such efforts as appropriate. | Core | Responsive advise to Contracting Parties | Advice | Contracting Parties and Secretariat | No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis |
| Advising on the planning of Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) | [XII.5](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xii5-new-framework-for-delivery-of-scientific-and-technical-advice-and-guidance), Annex 1, 12 , (v);  [XIII.11](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii11-ramsar-advisory-missions), ¶15, | 2.5, 2.7, 4.14 | The STRP may assist the Ramsar Secretariat with Ramsar Advisory Missions, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, including:   * advising the Secretariat in the preparation of RAMs operational guidance for adoption at SC57; and * on request advising on appropriate scientific and technical expertise to include in RAM teams. | Core | Responsive advise to Contracting Parties  Advice to Secretariat  Advice on draft RAMS operational guidance provided during STRP 22 | Draft for SC57 | Contracting Parties and Secretariat | No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis |
| Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee | XII.10, Annex, ¶ 16 (e) | 3.11, 4.14, | An STRP expert will serve in the Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee. | Core | Responsive advise to Contracting Parties | Advice |  | No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis |
| Providing advice on emerging issues | [XII.5](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xii5-new-framework-for-delivery-of-scientific-and-technical-advice-and-guidance), Annex 1, ¶¶2, 15 (ii), 38 | 4.14 | The STRP will keep under review emerging and strategic issues of relevance for the Convention which may require action or advice in the future and will advise the Standing Committee accordingly. | Core | Responsive advise to Contracting Parties | Advice | Contracting Parties and Secretariat | No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis |
| **Other international processes of relevance to the Convention and that contribute to implementation of the Convention’s Strategic Plan** | | | | | | | | |
| Engagement with IPBES | XII.3, ¶ 48; XII.5, Annex 1, ¶ 13 (ix), 51;  [XIII.8](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii8-future-implementation-of-scientific-and-technical-aspects-of-the), ¶ 13 | 4.14, 4.18 | Continue engaging in the work of IPBES through: participation of the STRP Chair in IPBES and MEP meetings, participation of STRP members and other Ramsar experts in global and regional assessments, review of requests to IPBES for thematic assessments, pursuant to Res. XIII.8. | Highest | As they arise (a Ramsar-sponsored assessment may be agreed) | Input as required | International community | No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis |
| Support to Secretariat and Standing Committee in relation to post-2020 Biodiversity Framework | [XII.5](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xii5-new-framework-for-delivery-of-scientific-and-technical-advice-and-guidance), Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15 ; XIII.7, ¶ 22 | 3.11, 4.14, 4.18 | Provide inputs, as appropriate and on request, to the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework | Highest | Responsive advise to Contracting Parties |  | Contracting Parties | No costs implications STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis |

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| Future updates of Global Wetland Outlook (GWO): State of the World’s Wetlands and their Services to people | |
| Working Group lead(s) and participants: | Lisa-Maria Rebelo (lead), David Stroud (co-lead), Hugh Robertson, Guangchun Lei, Reda Fishar, Robert Hendricks (STRP NFP Netherlands) |
| Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others] | To be confirmed |

**Note:** The scope and nature of future updates of the Global Wetland Outlook will be determined by SC57. Following that decision it will be possible to scope the required work and its cost (if any). The tasks listed here logically would contribute to the proposals made by STRP22 (see Annex 1) but if Standing Committee determines no GWO update should be prepared for COP 14, then they will be delivered as standalone tasks deriving from COP 13 requests.

| **Task** | **Res.** | **SP goal & target** | **Description** | **Priority** | **Process and outcomes** | **Output** | **Audience** | **Costs CHF** |
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| Global Wetland Outlook 2 | XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2 | Supports SP | Scope and nature of future GWO updates to be determined by SC57 | Highest | To be determined following SC57 decision on nature of publication | To be determined by SC57 | To be determined | To be determined |
| Summarizing the extent of new intertidal wetland Ramsar Site designations for succeeding COPs and include the information in future updates of the GWO | [XIII. 20](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii20-promoting-the-conservation-and-wise-use-of-intertidal-wetlands-and), ¶ 42 | 2.5, 2.6, 4.14 | Prepare a status report summarising the number and extent of inter-tidal Ramsar site designations, on a regional scale. | Medium | Extract and analyse data from the RSIS to assess the number and extent of designations annually since 1971. Potentially report findings in future updates of the GWO | **Paper** (Short status report); data available for GWO  **Timeline:** before end of 2019  **Uptake/Objective**  Provides direction to CPs on progress since Res. VI.21 | Contracting Parties | 6,400 |
| Integrate data on the global extent of blue carbon ecosystems, potentially through the GWO | [XIII. 14](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii14-promoting-conservation-restoration-and-sustainable-management-of-coastal), ¶¶ 11(c), 15 | 2.5, 2.6, 4.14 | Present best evidence of the extent of blue carbon ecosystems | Medium | See Thematic Work Area 5 for details | **Data** for the GWO  **Objective** is to inform international awareness about these ecosystems | Contracting Parties | See Thematic Work Area 5 for details |
| Global assessment of gaps in Ramsar site network | XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2 | 2.5, 2.6, 4.14 | Collate and analyse Comprehensiveness, Adequacy and Representativeness of the Ramsar site network and identify priority regions and wetland types for future designation. | Medium | Undertake analysis of RSIS data on representation of different wetland types in different bioregions within the Ramsar Sites network. Provide comments on improvements as well as areas of focus. Assess whether guidance on under-represented wetland types will need to be updated, based on findings. | **Paper** presenting a summary of analysis. Data may contribute to GWO (COP14).  **Objective** is to provide direction to Parties to review findings and potentially set targets for future designations | Contracting Parties (policy-makers) | 6,400 |

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| Thematic Work Area 1: Best practice methodologies / tools to identify and monitor Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, including surveying, mapping, inventorying, and global and regional analysis of the priorities for enhancing the Ramsar site network | |
| Working Group lead(s) and participants: | *Hugh Robertson (lead),* Laura Martinez, Reda Fishar, Sangdon Lee, Edson Junqueira, Siobhan Fenessy, Guangchun Lei, Lisa-Maria Rebelo, Andrei Sirin, Dulce Infante, Ritesh Kumar, Eduardo Mansur (FAO), Lammert Hilarides (GEO-Wetlands), Christian Perennou (TDV), Lisa Ingwall-King (UNEP-WCMC), James Robinson/Tomos Avent (WWT), Matthew Simpson (SWS),Priyani Amerasinghe (IWMI), Hans Joosten (GMC) Martina Eiseltova(STRP NFP Czec Republic), Obaid Al Shamsi (STRP NFP UAE), Janine van Vessem (STRP NFP Belgium), Rob Hendricks (STRP NFP Netherlands), Anne van Dam (IHE Delft Institute for water Education)and Max Finlayson (IHE Delft Institute for water Education) |
| Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others] | FAO, Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), GEO-Wetlands, Tour du Valat (TDV), UNEP-WCMC, Greifswald Mire Center (GMC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) |

| **Task** | **Res.** | **SP** | **Description** | **Priority** | **Process and outcomes** | **Output** | **Audience** | **Costs CHF** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1.1 Sharing information from the review and compilation of outputs from the Rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services (RAWES) approach | [XIII. 17](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii17-rapidly-assessing-wetland-ecosystem-services), ¶¶ 22, 23 | 3.11, 4.14 | Compile information on the application of the RAWES methodology in different Ramsar Regions as well as its application to Ramsar Reporting and Site management. If limited data (since RAWES only recently adopted), then as a minimum undertake an inventory/ compilation of groups applying RAWES | Lower | Compile inventory of wetland sites and Parties that have applied the RAWES approach and review its effectiveness to evaluate ecosystem services, including whether it addresses negative implications of promoting particular services. Review application in RIS updates and management planning. | Short status report.  **Timelines:** End 2019 to compile outputs; mid 2020 to prepare info paper.  **Uptake:** Enhanced through training and linking RAWES to National Report indicators | Contracting Parties (NFPs, STRP NFPs),  Practitioners (Ramsar Sites managers), IOPs | Translation (120 CHF per A4 page) |
| **1.2. Providing data on extent of intact, as well as damaged and destroyed wetlands from agricultural land conversion since 1970s, and compiling and reviewing of positive and negative impacts of agricultural practices on wetlands** | | | | | | | | |
| 1.2(a) Collate Sustainable agricultural practices case studies and compileand reviewing positive and negative impacts of agricultural practices on wetlands | [XIII.19](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii19-sustainable-agriculture-in-wetlands-corrected-on-15-february-2019-by), ¶¶ 28, 29 | 1.1,4.14, 4.18 | Review information on the positive and negative impacts of agricultural practices on or near wetlands, including their biodiversity and ecosystem services, in the context of climate change.  Potential scope also for synthesis of related key messages drawn from recent FAO assessment; IPBES Land Degredation Assessment; and TEEB and packaged for Ramsar audience.  Collaboration with IOPs and FAO will be crucial to increase sharing of findings | Highest | Compile case studies on sustainable agriculture practices in wetlands and evaluate them in relation to wise use and maintaining and enhancing the ecological character to wetlands, laising with IOPs, Parties and FAO.  Compile and review data in RSIS on Ramsar sites that have agricultural practices within them and summarise best-practice examples. Provide recommendations for promoting sustainable agricultural practices in and adjacent to wetlands. | **RTR** with key messages or derived outputs for policymakers. Policy Brief and infographic  **Timeline:** Initiate in 2019; Products delivered in early 2021  **Uptake/Objective**  Overall aim is to support CPs to develop sustainable agricultural practices and conserve wetlands | Practitioners (wetland managers);  Policy-makers (governments-agriculture sector especially) | 41,600 [22,600 RTR production & translation; 10,000 workshop; 9,000 consultancy, based on a rate of 700 for 14 days]  [if with Policy Brief add: 2,000 (layout), 960 translation)]  Seek FAO in-kind support |
| 1.2(b) Wetland loss from agricultural development | [XIII.19](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii19-sustainable-agriculture-in-wetlands-corrected-on-15-february-2019-by), ¶29 |  | Evaluate the extent of wetland loss (since 1970) due to conversion of land to agricultural development | Medium | Building on the GWO and data collated for SDG 6.6.1, undertake a literature review of existing assessments of wetland loss that have been attributed to agricultural development. Complete meta-analysis using that data | **RTR** with key messages or derived outputs for dissemination  **Timeline:** Initiate 2019, product delivered early 2021  **Uptake/Objective:** more detailed understanding on causes and consequences of wetland loss to agriculture | Policy-makers (governments-agriculture sector especially),  Practitioners (wetland managers) | 22,600 |
| **1.3. Prepare guidance on the identification of small wetlands, and their multiple values for biodiversity conservation, especially in the contexts of landscape management and climate change** | | | | | | | | |
| 1.3 (a) Summarize the importance of small wetlands | [XIII.21](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii21-conservation-and-management-of-small-wetlands), ¶ 23 | 2.5, 2.6, 4.14 | Summarise technical knowledge on the significance of small wetlands for biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services and threats tothem. | Medium | Develop definition of “small wetlands” building on Res. XIII.21. Summarise literature on their significance, including for livelihoods. Summarise threats to provide clear recommendations for their protection and wise use. | **Policy Brief** on the importance of small wetlands with infographic  **Timeline:** mid 2020  **Uptake/Objective**  Aim to ensure Parties and others understand the critical importance of small wetlands in planning and other processes | Policy makers (in environment and planning sectors especially) | 2,960 and cost for infographic |
| 1.3 (b) Guidance on inventories for small wetlands | [XIII.21](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii21-conservation-and-management-of-small-wetlands), ¶ 23 | 2.5, 2.6, 4.14 | Prepare guidance on best-practice approaches to the inventory of small wetlands | Lower | Review and supplement existing guidance for wetland inventory to describe best-practices approaches for small wetlands in different Ramsar regions. Link to SDG 6.6.1 guidance review produced by Secretariat | **Briefing Note** on guidancefor small wetlands inventory  **Timeline:** mid 2020  **Uptake/Objective:** provide practitioners with best practice guidance for small wetland inventory. | Practitioners (scientists, wetland managers) | 6,400 |
| 1.4 Complete Ramsar Technical Report and a toolkit on assessing multiple values of wetlands and applying them to integrated management | [XIII.8](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii8-future-implementation-of-scientific-and-technical-aspects-of-the) ¶ 14 | 3.11, 4.14 | RTR complements the Policy Brief on integrating multiple values of wetlands into decision-making. | Lower | Build on the Policy Brief and existing toolkit, integrating RAWES and other suite of tools (available within Ramsar and external).  Integrate relevant IPBES and Values outcomes | **RTR**  **Timeline**: Full draft available for review by STRP 23  **Uptake/Objective:** Aim to assist wetlands managers in assessing and integrating multiple values in site management and other wetland wise use responses | Practitioners (wetland managers) | 22,600 |
| 1.5. Complete [Ramsar Technical Report 10](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/rtr10_earth_observation_e.pdf): The use of Earth Observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring. | [XIII.8](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii8-future-implementation-of-scientific-and-technical-aspects-of-the), ¶ 14 | 4.14 | [Ramsar Technical Report 10](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/rtr10_earth_observation_e.pdf): The use of Earth Observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring. | Medium | Complete subject to final editoral checking and translation. | **RTR**  **Timeline:** post STRP22 | Practitioners (wetland managers, practitioners mapping), Contracting Parties | 22,600 |

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| Thematic Work Area 2: Best practices for developing and implementing tools for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, recognizing traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities | |
| Working Group lead(s) and participants: | *Lars Dinesen (lead)*, Dulce Infante, Georgina Castillo, Kassim Kulindwa, Andrei Sirin, David Stroud, Laura Martinez, Kassim Kulindwa, Ritesh Kumar,Tomos Avent/ James Robinson (WWT), Priyanie Amerasinghe (IWMI), Hans Joosten (GMC), Jack Rieley (IPS), Nick Davidson (SWS), Mathew Simpson (SWS), Tatiana Minayeva (WWF) [and others to be confirmed] |
| Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others] | Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), International Peat Society (IPS), Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC), International Water Mangament Institute (IWMI), Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) |

| **Task** | **Res.** | **SP** **goal & target** | **Description** | **Priority** | **Process and outcomes** | **Output** | **Audience** | **Costs CHF** |
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| 2.1. Complete draft RTR on *Peatland restoration and rewetting methodologies in northern bogs* | [XIII.13](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii13-restoration-of-degraded-peatlands-to-mitigate-and-adapt-to-climate-change), ¶25 | 2.5, 2.6, 3.12,4.14 | Finalize draft RTR, which currently focuses on acid bog restoration, considering a global compilation of experiences on peatland restoration and rewetting methods, which CPs will provide, and which can be adapted to local or national contexts. Will complement global guidelines on peatland restoration to be developed (below). | Medium | Draft well advance in last triennium but peer-review and publication needed | **RTR**  **Ramsar website** in an interactive format  **Uptake/Objective:** Technical guidance for wetland managers  **Timeline:** summer 2019 | Practitioners (wetland managers) | 22,600  [web design costs starting at 4,000] |
| 2.2. Elaborating on practical experiences of restoration methods for peatlands not covered by Ramsar guidance | [XIII.13](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii13-restoration-of-degraded-peatlands-to-mitigate-and-adapt-to-climate-change), ¶33 | 2.5, 2.6, 3.12,4.14 | Related to current SP, elaborate on practical experiences of restoration methods for peatland types not yet covered by Ramsar guidance. Provide rationale for choosing of restoration methods and an overview rationale for different restoration approaches depending on peatland type and setting. | Highest | Update existing IMCG manual on peatland restoration techniques. (ToR and list of content drafted);  High level Policy Brief on setting objectives in rewetting/ restoration projects;  Prepare contents for a Communication product – what is a peatland? | **Ramsar guidelines** on peatland restoration; web publication and interactive peatland web content.  **Policy Brief and video**  **Comms product** on what is a peatland?  **Timeline:** ToR developed by July  **Uptake/Objective:** A range of products as outlined | Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers)/ policymakers (high level) | Contract out the update: [30-40,000 CHF]  Website set up 15.000 CHF)  Video teaser 10.000 CHF: STRP to develop concept; professional design needed |
| 2.3. Assessing implementation status of Res. VIII.17: *Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands* | [XIII.13](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii13-restoration-of-degraded-peatlands-to-mitigate-and-adapt-to-climate-change), ¶34 | 4.14 | Assess progress since Res. VIII.17 by critical review including: any overlaps with Global Peatland Initiative; gaps ; relevance; and in relation to development MEA and other international processes.  Seek guidance on what Contracting Parties needs with respect to a strategic document on peatlands?  Consider development of national indicators related to peatland conservation and restoration | Medium | Draft ToR for review group (finished at STRP22), noting UNEA Resolution.  Hold a 1-2 day workshop in autumn 2019  Prepare a draft assessment of issues to be discussed at STRP23, including policy issues, in context of COP 14 preparations. | **Assessment report** drafted by STRP containing a spreadsheet with the assessment and updated issues and recommendations  **Timeline:** draft assessment for discussion at STRP23  **Uptake:** Liaison with GPI | Contracting Parties | 32, 600 (report 22,600 + workshop 10,000) |
| **2.4. Developing guidance for the cost-benefit analysis, a cost-effectiveness analysis and multiple-criteria analysis of peatland restoration projects, and templates to assist parties to report on peatland restoration** | | | | | | | | |
| 2.4.(a) Assess national experiences | [XIII.13](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii13-restoration-of-degraded-peatlands-to-mitigate-and-adapt-to-climate-change), ¶34 | 2.5, 3.12,4.14 | Assess any relevant national peatland restoration experiences. Request information on any approaches from Parties (cost-benefit depends on carbon market values and other assumptions). Assessments to include cost of inaction. | Lower | Call for case studies/ experiences by Parties, IOPs and others.  Consultant to prepatre draft review for consideration at STRP23. | **Policy Brief**  **Timeline:** ToR to be developed by summer 2019  **Uptake**: Summary review of experiences | Policymakers (in environment and climate sectors especially) | 5,000 consultancy |
| 2.4.(b) Developing templates for national reporting on peatland restoration | [XIII.13](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii13-restoration-of-degraded-peatlands-to-mitigate-and-adapt-to-climate-change), ¶34 | 2.5, 3.12, 4.14 | Assess existing reporting structures and templates for restoration of peatlands | Lower | Check with UNFCCC and other relevant conventions  Possibly request to Parties and IOPs for relevant templates | **Internal assessment report** with recommendations. Next step depends on the assessment results.  **Timeline:** As opportunities permit by 2020  **Uptake**: GPI is a key partner | Contracting Parties and Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers) as applicable | No cost implications for STRP budget: work undertaken on a voluntary basis |
| 2.5. ToR for the Ramsar Culture Network (RCN) | [XIII.15](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii15-cultural-values-and-practices-of-indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities), ¶18 | 3.10, 4.14 | With interested Contracting Parties develop Terms of Teference for the Ramsar Culture Network, to be considered at SC57 | Complete | Draft ToR developed at STRP22 and to be further circulated to Contracting Parties prior to SC57. | **Draft ToR** prepared  **Timelines**: post-STRP22 to get inputs before SC57. | Contracting Parties | No cost implications for STRP budget |
| 2.6. Reviewing and revising the Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands guidance | [XIII.15](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii15-cultural-values-and-practices-of-indigenous-peoples-and-local-communities), ¶19 | 3.10, 4.14 | Develop updated briefing note (working with RCN) reviewing the application and uptake of the guidance together with supplementary guidance as required.  The review and BN drafting would include a mechanism for incorporating indigenous communities inputs. | Medium | Note will provide examples and best practices for integrating cultural values in wetlands management policies, practices and governance. Drafting will be aligned with the task related to wetlands and gender (TWA 3). | **Briefing Note**  **Infographic** that illustrates cultural values and their importance for wetland wise use  **Timeline:** contents by July 2019; draft text by STRP 23; ready for external review by July 2020.  **Uptake:** IOP input will be crucial | Practitioners (wetland managers) | 6,400 and infographic costs |
| 2.7. Updated urban wetland guidance as required  health sector) | [XIII. 16](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii16-sustainable-urbanization-climate-change-and-wetlands), ¶18(a) | 1.1, 2.5, 4.14 | Review existing Briefing Note and assess whether update needed, considering:  - Challenges and risks – features common to urban wetlands  - Role of wetlands for climate change adaptation in urban environments  - New sources of existing information especially any case studies on economic valuation | Medium | Review existing Briefing Note on urban and peri-urban Ramsar Sites  Produce infographic on key messages accessible to target audiences.  Integrate into Ramsar online management toolkit information on urban/peri-urban wetland issues, capturing past WWD materials  Organised by potential users (regulators; architects; ecologists; | **Revised Briefing Note**  **Infographic**  **Integrate existing guidance** into Ramsar online management toolkit    **Timeline:**  Revised Briefing Note: end of 2019  Infographic: end 2019  Online toolkit integration: 2019 and ongoing.  **Uptake:** Raise visibility of existing Ramsar and external guidance on urban and peri-urban wetlands. | City regulators; investors and financial actors  Possibly general public | 2,960 (TBD depending on whether update to the Policy Brief is needed, there may be design and translation costs involved) |
| 2.8. Additional content for Ramsar wetland Sites management toolkit | [XIII.8](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii8-future-implementation-of-scientific-and-technical-aspects-of-the), ¶ 14 | 2.5, 4.14 | Input further content as opportunities allow | Lower | Existing urban and peri-urban guidance will be integrated within 2019 | **Updated webpage** | Practitioners (wetland managers); Contracting Parties | No costs implications for STRP budget |
| 2.9. Complete [Briefing Note 10](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/bn10_restoration_climate_change_e.pdf): Wetland Restoration  for Climate Change Resilience | [XIII.8](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii8-future-implementation-of-scientific-and-technical-aspects-of-the), ¶ 14 | 2.5, 3.12, 4.14 | Report needs a further round of edits by authors and layout/translation by Secretariat. | Lower |  | **Briefing Note**  **Infographic**  **Timeline**: summer 2019 | Practitioners (wetland managers) | 2,400 (translation), infographic costs |

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| Thematic Work Area 3: Methodologies for the economic and non-economic valuation of the values of the functions and services of wetlands, and improved methodologies and knowledge exchange on current and future drivers of wetland loss and degradation | |
| Working Group lead(s) and participants: | *Kassim (lead), Ritesh (co-lead),* David Stroud, Reda Fishar, Haribhadra Acharya, Priyanie Amerasinghe (IWMI), Tomos Avent/ James Robinson (WWT), Mathew simpson (SWS), Janine van Vessem (STRP NFP Belgium) [and others to be confirmed] |
| Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others] | Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), BirdLife |

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| **Task** | **Res.** | **SP** **goal & target** | **Description** | **Priority** | **Process and outcomes** | **Output** | **Audience** | **Costs CHF** |
| 3.1. Participate in the coastal forum | [XIII.20](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii20-promoting-the-conservation-and-wise-use-of-intertidal-wetlands-and), ¶ 37 |  | Consider actively participating in the Global Coastal Forum to promote the restoration of coastal wetlands and other relevant habitats | Lower | Engage when the Global Coastal Forum is created | **ToR** | Global Coastal Forum | No costs implications for STRP budget |
| 3.2. Develop guidance on the conservation, wise use and management of sustainable “working coastal habitats” in coordination with the scientific subsidiary bodies of other MEAs under the proposed coastal forum | [XIII.20](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii20-promoting-the-conservation-and-wise-use-of-intertidal-wetlands-and), ¶45 | 1.2, 2.5, 4.14, 4.18 | In preparation for Global Coastal Forum formation, develop TOR for possible work that might be undertaken on possible guidance related to the conservation, wise use and the management of sustainable “working coastal habitats” | Lower | Review Handbook 12 on Coastal management for relevant content.  Establish a subgroup to develop concept further and TOR for guidance.  **Timeline:** end 2020  **Uptake:** In consultation with other relevant actors | **ToR** to be developed | Global Coastal Forum | No costs implications for STRP budget |

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| Thematic Work Area 4: Promoting wetland conservation within sustainable development frameworks and other relevant development initiatives | |
| Working Group lead(s) and participants: | *Laura Martinez (lead)*, David Stroud, Rebecca Welling (IUCN) [and others to be confirmed] |
| Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others] | IUCN (Global Water Programme) |

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| **Task** | **Res.** | **SP** **goal & target** | **Description** | **Priority** | **Process and outcomes** | **Output** | **Audience** | **Costs CHF** |
| 4.1. Develop guidance on integrating gender issues in the implementation of the Convention | [XIII.18](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii18-gender-and-wetlands), ¶ | 4.14 | Carry out a global analysis (including a range of case studies) on the gender dimensions of wetland management and wise use.  Build on existing literature from a range of sources on wetland management, but also more broadly to include land and water resources management to inform the wetland community about women in wetland management and wise use. Will include information on: women’s participation in wetland management; impacts of wetland mismanagement on women; governance and women’s rights related to wetland wise use; women’s technical, socio-cultural and innovative knowledge about wetlands; the value of their leadership in wetland wise use and restoration activities; include examples (cases studies) of successful participation in wetland management and wise use | Highest | ToR developed at STRP22.  Engage a consultant to undertake the report.  Engage organizations with relevant expertise.  **Timeline**: consultancy to begin by end of summer 2019 (post SC57).  **Uptake**: to mainstream gender issues in wetland management and implementation of the Convention. | **Report** and derived **comms products** | Contracting Parties | 20,000 (report and consultancy) |

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| Thematic Work Area 5 : Climate change and wetlands: innovative methodologies for carbon accounting/assessments related to wetlands | |
| Working Group lead(s) and participants: | *Siobhan Fenessy (lead), Sangdon Lee (co-lead)*, Hugh Robertson, David Stroud, Edson Junqueira, Christian Perennou (TDV), Max Finlayson (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education) [and others to be confirmed] |
| Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others] | TDV, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education [and others to be confirmed] |

| **Task** | **Res.** | **SP target** | **Description** | **Priority** | **Process and outcomes** | **Output** | **Audience** | **Costs CHF** |
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| 5.1. Desktop study of coastal blue carbon ecosystems in Ramsar Sites (consistent with relevant IPCC guidelines) | [XIII.14](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii14-promoting-conservation-restoration-and-sustainable-management-of-coastal), ¶ 15(a) | 3.11, 4.14 | Undertake a desk review to give a high-level summary of the state of knowledge of blue carbon ecosystems in each Ramsar Region, the availability of data and information; and addressing issues highlighted in para 15(a) of Res. XIII.14.  Review will also consider and provide advice on how best to undertake tasks specified in para 15 (b), (c), and (d) of Res. XIII.14 in relation review findings, including development ToR for future such work to actually address those issues. | Highest | 5.1(a) Produce ToR for the desktop review by May 2019;  Engage consultant by Fall 2019;  Product delivered early 2021 at latest;  Work to actually complete the tasks in paras 15(b), (c) and (d) is technically demanding, and lower priority for the current triennium, but work to initiate 15 (b),(c), and (d) elements will be initiated early post-C0P 14 in light of current work. | **RTR** (early 2021 at latest )  **Infographic** concepts on Blue Carbon for development by Secretariat  **Uptake:** Work could inform future development of GWO | Policy-makers within Contracting Parties (especially those responsible for the coastal zone); Research community and IOPs | 31, 600 (RTR 22,600 and 9,000 consultancy). Infographic cost |
| 5.2 Develop methods to rapidly assess climate vulnerability of wetlands, particularly those important as habitats for marine turtles | [XIII. 24](https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii24-the-enhanced-conservation-of-coastal-marine-turtle-habitats-and-the), ¶ 23 |  | **(a) In relation to marine Turtles.** Significant work being undertaken by other MEAs and Parties. STRP to take supporting role developing understanding of extent of current work, particular promoting good case studies of wider utility.  **(b) In relation to wetland climate vulnerability.** Review existing guidance (RTR 5) and project by IKI and develop ToR for potential future work. | Lower | Potential collation of case-studies.  Development of ToR only in this triennium. | **Advice**  **ToR** for task | Contracting Parties; Practitioners (wetland managers) | No cost implications for STRP budget |

**Annex 1**

**STRP recommendations to the Standing Committee related to the possible future development of the Global Wetland Outlook**

**Summary of group discussions at STRP22 on the Global Wetland Outlook**

The STRP has been asked by the Standing Committee to reflect and provide advice on how to take the GWO forward. The STRP recommended approach for a Global Wetland Outlook, 2021, is presented below. This summarizes the output from a STRP discussion at the STRP22 meeting, in March 2019.

The panel recommends that the next edition of the GWO (GWO-2/GWO 2021) should focus on priority issues linked to the global policy agenda, or specific thematic areas. As much of the data used in the 2018 report are not updated on a regular basis, the GWO-1 (GWO 2018) could potentially be updated every 6-9 years, as sufficient data becomes available.

A proposal for the next production is provided below.

**Proposed objective**

Support implementation of the Convention by improving the global approach to wetland management through a focus on *solutions.* The solutions should be informed by understanding of state and drivers, and presented in the context of responses.

With the first version of the GWO (2018), the declining trend in both the extent and state of wetlands globally has been identified. The next version (anticipated in 2021) would recognise the problems identified in this first version, and would focus on solutions.

**Target audiences**

Target audiences would include:

* National level policy makers from multiple sectors (Ministries of Agriculture, Climate Change, Water, Tourism, among others—through their high-level civil servants);
* Stakeholders outside of government (e.g. basin level managers, sector managers);
* National wetland or Ramsar inter-sectorial Committees; National Focal Points; SDG/Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) Focal Points; and
* The general public through national level media, as well as youth, universities, influential politicians, private-sectors that influence wetland wise use and funding bodies.

**Key message: *Wetlands are the solution (for sustainable development)***

Six thematic areas are identified below, each with a number of sub-components (example sub-components shown below). We propose that they follow the format of:

* *Status and Trends;*
* *Drivers;*
* *Response*;

The response would be linked to global goals or targets (SDGs etc).

**Thematic focus areas**

***Overview: Status of wetlands***

Through a systematic assessment conducted by the STRP each Triennium, the GWO should provide a snapshot, assessing the extent and status of wetlands. Based on the National Reports and the three wetland categories included for the purpose of reporting for SDG 6.6.1, the analysis will be based on: i) inland, ii) coastal and marine and iii) man-made wetlands. Additionally, it will include an assessment of the:

* Ramsar Sites network;
* Increase in number of Contracting Parties; and
* Other indicators from national reports – e.g. as related to wise use.

*Response: SDG 6.6.1, Ramsar National Reports*

*Solutions: Future designations, under-represented types*

1. **Climate change and wetlands**

* Vulnerability of wetlands and Ramsar sites;
* Value of wetlands in climate change mitigation; and
* Role of wetlands in reducing climate change impacts.

*Response: Paris, SDG 13: Stop draining peatlands to control Climate Change*

*Solutions: Nationally Determined Contributions (as appropriate), re-wetting of peatlands, role in risk reduction*

1. **Biodiversity and wetlands**

* Status of wetland-dependent species, Red List data
* Restoration

*Response: CBD, SDG 14, 15, IPBES*

*Solutions: Wise-use*

1. **Livelihoods and wetlands**

* Use of wetlands to support livelihoods
* Wetlands and human health

*Response: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger; sustainable agriculture and aquaculture, sustainable coastal zone management etc); SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing)*

*Solutions: Sustainable production, agricultural practices*

1. **Water and wetlands**

* Use of wetlands to support livelihoods
* Wetlands and human health

*Response: SDG 6 (provide water to 10 billion people in 2050)*

*Solutions: sustainable use - maintaining water supply, quality*

1. **Sustainable cities**
   * Urban wetlands for resilient and sustainable cities
   * Upstream retention for safe cities

*Response: SDG 11: Creating sustainable cities*

*Solutions: green cities*

**The product**

Headline Statements for Policy-Makers (2-page overview of key messages in Thematic Report Cards)

1. Thematic Report Cards (4-5 pages)
2. Technical Notes for each Thematic Area:

* We need variant product (sector specific material)
* Products specifically tailored for the public to engage the media

1. Small briefing notes (2-3 pages with graphics) for each sector and webpage with downloadable data and links. Format of the Briefing note:
   * Status and extent;
   * Key sectoral drivers;
   * Solutions;
   * Case studies (examples);
   * Policy recommendations; and
   * Links to further information and tools.

*Comms Strategy*: Increase uptake through Smart Phone technology, Video (5G), people with global recognition to share messages, social media

***Alternative suggestions:***

1. **Restoration**

**Why?**

* It is a positive action: it answers the “What can we do ?” question, which proceeds from the usually gloomy picture of global and regional wetland assessments;
* Links with SDG Indicator 6.6.1 : restoration of wetlands increases wetland extent;
* The UN Decade for Ecosystem Restauration (2020-2030); and
* Obvious links with Climate change issues (Paris agreement) (i.e. Restoring wetlands as a nature-based solution for Climate Change adaptation/ mitigation).

**Objectives**

1. Policy-makers should understand that wetland restauration will be positive for the economy, unlike common beliefs on wetland protection/ restauration; and
2. Get them to undertake, promote or support wetland restauration projects.

**Type of Products**

1. A short summary (1 -2 pages ?) for decision-makers, on why wetland restoration matters;
2. A technical report;
3. A peer-reviewed publication, aiming at ensuring that STRP work is used by others MEAs (e.g. IPCC does not use/ cite any non-peer-reviewed reports). This will ensure synergies of Ramsar with other Conventions/ Frameworks.

**The limits we acknowledge**

In some countries wetland restoration is not the key issue, but preserving remaining ones is more critical, in order to avoid future restauration costs. So the issue may not be relevant to all Ramsar Contracting Parties.

1. **Waterbirds**

Since the first half of the Ramsar Convention’s lifetime the focus has been on wetlands, especially as waterbird habitat. It would be desirable to take the opportunity of the 50th Anniversary of the Convention for a review of the results of Ramsar in this dimension, worldwide possibly with case studies showing where wise use and waterbird conservation went side-by-side.

1. Web design costs clearly depend on the scope and complexity of the work. This is an average and indicative cost based on 5 days work at 700/day [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Strategic Plan (SP): <https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop12_res02_strategic_plan_e_0.pdf>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)