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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Seventh meeting

Kuala Lumpur, 9-20 and 27 February 2004

Item 21 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Progress report on the implementation of the third joint work plan (2002-2006) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a report on the progress on implementation of the third joint work plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The report supplements the information contained in the note by the Executive Secretary on cooperation with other international conventions and organizations (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/19).
2. This progress report has been prepared in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
3. Section I gives the background to the joint work plan. Section II details of the mechanisms for implementation. Section III reviews the time frame for implementation and reporting and section IV provides a detailed summary of the progress for each separate activity in the joint work plan.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/7/1 and Corr.1.

I. BACKGROUND

4. The first two joint work plans of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) covered the two two-year periods 1998-1999 and 2000-2001. At its fifth meeting, in May 2000, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in its decision V/21, commended the 2000-2001 joint work plan as a useful example of future cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other conventions. A progress report on the implementation of that work plan was presented to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting as an information document (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/12).

5. At its sixth meeting in March 2001 the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a draft third joint work plan for consideration by the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. At its twenty-sixth meeting in December 2001, Ramsar's Standing Committee ^{1/} noted the report on the second joint work plan and the elements of work proposed for the third joint work plan and agreed that both would be circulated to members of the Standing Committee for approval in early 2002, prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Secretariat and the Ramsar Convention Bureau prepared the third joint work programme (2002-2006) (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/14).

6. In its decision VI/20, adopted in April 2002, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity welcomed and endorsed the third joint work plan. This decision noted with pleasure by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands, in paragraph 5 of its resolution VIII.5, adopted at its eighth meeting, in November 2002.

7. The joint work plan commits the Executive Secretary to submit an interim report on its implementation to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, including an ongoing review of the third joint work plan taking into account new elements arising from the work of the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention and also the eighth and ninth meetings of SBSTTA.

8. The joint work plan does not add new or additional elements to the work programme for either Convention. Rather it identifies those issues and areas of activity where common interests apply, and develops collaborative approaches designed to lead to more effective and consistent implementation.

9. The Secretariat as well as the SBSTTA Bureau participated in the eleventh meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention, which was held from 8 to 11 April 2003 in Gland, Switzerland. Subsequently, relevant Secretariat staff members have been assigned to serve on a number of STRP Working Groups that have been convened in the inter-sessional period to the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

10. The Ramsar Secretariat ^{2/} and representatives of STRP participated in the eighth and ninth meetings of SBSTTA, and in a number of expert processes of the Convention, including ad hoc technical expert groups, liaison groups and expert working groups.

11. A significant area of collaborative work between the Secretariats during this reporting period has been in the review and elaboration of the programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on inland water biological diversity. The Ramsar Secretariat, with the support of Wetlands International facilitated this work, with funding from the Government of the Netherlands, including through a liaison group meeting in 2002.

^{1/} The Standing Committee is the Ramsar Convention's inter-sessional governing body.

^{2/} The Bureau of the Ramsar Convention has recently been re-named a Secretariat.

II. MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

12. The joint work plan is implemented mainly through institutional links between the two conventions, developed under the 1996 memorandum of cooperation between the two Secretariats.

13. The two secretariats, in their role of coordinating implementation of the joint work plan, have used the following ways and means to carry out the proposed actions in the third joint work plan:

(a) Ensuring consultation and exchange of information by Chairs of the subsidiary bodies of the two Conventions in planning their programmes of work, and the participation of Chairs in the subsidiary bodies of the other Convention;

(b) Establishing regular consultation and cooperation between the two Secretariats and their joint development of initiatives and projects;

(c) Ensuring participation of representatives of Secretariats and subsidiary bodies in expert meetings and working groups;

(d) Accessing each Convention's roster of experts, and the expert networks of Ramsar's international organization partners (BirdLife International, World Conservation Union (IUCN), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Wetlands International) and other scientific and technical organizations with which the Conventions cooperate for sourcing expertise to contribute to the implementation of the joint work plan;

(e) Ensuring that reports and other materials prepared by subsidiary bodies are made available to their meetings and to the work of expert liaison and working groups;

(f) Promoting dissemination of information and case-studies to Contracting Parties and others through the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar's Website; and

(g) Encouraging communication and collaboration at the national level between the national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar administrative authorities and, where appropriate, with counterparts for other multilateral environmental agreements.

14. As part of the enhanced cooperation under this joint work plan the two secretariats have jointly undertaken a number of major activities as listed in section IV.

15. Responsibility for implementing most actions of the third joint work plan lies with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, the Convention's scientific and technical subsidiary bodies and Parties to the Conventions. In addition, other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and international organizations, such as Wetlands International, IUCN-The World Conservation Union and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations have been invited to contribute to the implementation of the joint work plan.

III. TIMEFRAMES, REVIEW AND REPORTING

16. The provisional schedule of meetings of the Conference of Parties and subsidiary bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Ramsar Convention during the period of this third joint work plan is as follows:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
CBD	COP6 (April) SBSTTA 8	SBSTTA9	COP7	SBSTTA10 SBSTTA11	COP8
Ramsar	COP8 (Nov)	STRP11 (May)	STRP working groups	STRP12 COP9	STRP13

17. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention undertake an annual review of the joint work plan and introduce amendments, as necessary, so as to fully address joint activity arising from the decisions of the sixth and seventh meetings of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the eighth and ninth meetings of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, as well as relevant recommendations of their respective scientific bodies.

18. The first review was made in December 2002 and took into account the changes to the *modus operandi* of the Ramsar STRP which were approved at the eighth meeting of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention. The review also addressed issues arising from the decisions on International Environmental Governance and other matters of direct interest to the Conventions by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in August/September 2002. The second review took place subsequent to the ninth SBSTTA (17 November, 2003) and included consideration of the proposed revised programme of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (SBSTTA recommendation VIII/2).

19. The joint work plan will be reviewed subsequent to the seventh meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at which the revised programme of work for the Convention on Biological Diversity on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems will be considered together with outcome-oriented targets for the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.4).

20. A final report on the third joint work plan and a draft fourth joint work plan will be submitted to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Standing Committee in 2006.

IV. PROGRESS REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT WORK PLAN DURING THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD AS PER THE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
A. JOINT INITIATIVES	
Activity 1 – The Ramsar/CBD River Basin Initiative (RBI)	<p>A detailed report on the RBI, which aims to enhance and support the linkages between wetlands, biodiversity and river basin and water resource management, was contained in information document UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/13.</p> <p>The Executive Secretary in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Bureau organized a side event on the River Basin Initiative (RBI) during CBD COP-6. The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention and a representative of the CBD Secretariat launched the RBI portal on integrating biological diversity, wetlands and river basin management.</p> <p>The RBI entered its initial operational phase (2001-2003) in September 2001 with the establishment of the internet portal. The RBI operated an on-line workshop as a contribution to the preparation of the Third World Water Forum (Japan 2003). The RBI was planned to be fully operational from mid-2002 subject to funding. Full funding for phase two of the RBI has been delayed and a UNDP-GEF medium-sized project proposal is presently being revised and updated to more fully reflect the needs of Parties in the light of WSSD and COP decisions and priorities, and is scheduled for submission in early 2004.</p> <p>Both Secretariats will continue to oversee and direct the development and implementation of the RBI through the Management Group, with input from collaborating partner organizations, as appropriate.</p> <p>A meeting to discuss progress and operation of the RBI was held by the Management Group in the margins of SBSTTA9. Currently, the Secretariats are trying to revitalize funding support.</p> <p>A side-event on the RBI at CBD COP7 has been arranged jointly by the two Secretariats</p>
B. THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK	
Activity 2 - Inland water ecosystems	
2.1. The two Secretariats and STRP and SBSTTA will continue their collaboration in implementing action 1.3 of the second joint work plan (CBD decision IV/4, annex I,	A summary of this activity was prepared jointly by the Secretariats and presented to SBSTTA8 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.4). Full details of the

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
<p>paragraph 12) concerning ensuring convergence between the criteria and classification of inland water ecosystems between the two Conventions, taking into account the paper prepared for CBD SBSTTA8 on this matter and the outcomes of the Ramsar COP8 on this issue.</p> <p>2.2 The Ramsar Bureau will make available to CBD Parties and SBSTTA the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory, which includes guidance on wetland classifications and their application, as adopted by COP8.</p>	<p>review were provided to SBSTTA8 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/4. SBSTTA8 subsequently recommended that Parties adopt the Ramsar classification of wetlands as an interim classification system and use it as a framework for the initial inventorying of inland water ecosystems for the purpose of preparing indicative lists of inland water ecosystems important in the framework of the Convention. This recommendation has been made to COP7 of the CBD (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/3 Paragraph 7a).</p>
<p>2.3. The Ramsar Bureau will make available to CBD Parties and SBSTTA the Ramsar principles and guidelines for wetland restoration, which includes guidance on identifying wetlands appropriate for restoration, as adopted by Ramsar COP8.</p>	<p>The principles and guidelines adopted by Ramsar COP8 have been made available via the Ramsar website at http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm. Their approach was incorporated, as appropriate, in the proposed revised programme of work being considered by CBD COP7.</p> <p>All Ramsar COP8 guidelines and other relevant materials are being incorporated into the 2nd edition of the Ramsar toolkit of Wise Use Handbooks, which will be made available to all Parties in 2004.</p>
<p>2.4. The CBD Secretariat and Ramsar Bureau, working with their partner organizations, will continue collaboration in development of regional guidelines for rapid assessment of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (giving special attention to small island States) (CBD decision IV/4, annex I, paragraphs 6, 7, and 8 (b)).</p>	<p>To facilitate the development of the guidelines the Executive Secretary commissioned Conservation International to compile information on methods for the rapid assessment of inland water biological diversity and guidelines for their application. He then subsequently convened, in collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat, an expert meeting to further develop these guidelines. The meeting was attended by government-nominated experts from 13 Parties and a representative of the Ramsar Convention Bureau, the Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IUCN – (The World Conservation Union), Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy and the University of Quebec at Montreal (UQAM). The conclusions of the meeting were relayed to SBSTTA 8 in a note from the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.5). Further elaboration of the guidelines to address ecosystem scale assessments and assessments of socio-economic and cultural components of biological diversity was recommended. The detailed report of the expert meeting was presented to SBSTTA 8 as an information document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/5).</p>
<p>2.5. CBD Secretariat will work with the Ramsar Bureau and Wetlands International in 2002 in organizing a Liaison Group to meet to refine and elaborate the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (paragraphs 23 and 24 of document UNEP/CBD/COP/6/11), and the preparation of background papers including a summary review of the status and trends of inland waters biological diversity, which will also be made available to CBD and Ramsar Parties.</p>	<p>Progress on the development of the proposed revised programme of work has been reported separately to the seventh Conference of the Parties in document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/12 and UNEP/CBD/COP/7/12 Add.1.</p> <p>The summary review of the status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems was reported to SBSTTA8 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.1).</p>

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
	The full review is currently in press as a joint publication of the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands in the CBD Technical Series.
2.6. SBSTTA 8 may wish to review the utility of Ramsar's guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions (and the background technical paper on this topic), to be considered for approval by Ramsar COP8, in relation to the allocation and reservation of water for ecosystem maintenance (CBD decision IV/4, paragraph 9 (m) (v)), and make appropriate recommendations to CBD COP7	<p>The current Ramsar guidelines adopted by Ramsar COP8 have been made available through the Ramsar website at location: http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm</p> <p>All Ramsar COP8 guidelines and other relevant materials are being incorporated into the 2nd edition of the Ramsar toolkit of Wise Use Handbooks, which will be made available to all Parties in 2004.</p> <p>The Ramsar STRP Working Group 3, with input from the CBD Secretariat, is currently developing further reviews and guidance concerning water and wetlands, in relation to environmental flows, groundwater issues, and basin-scale management experience. Progress and relevance to the CBD programme of work will be reported to SBSTTA10.</p>
2.7. SBSTTA 8 may wish to review the utility of Ramsar's new guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands, to be considered for approval by Ramsar COP8, in relation to the sustainable use of inland waters to maintain biological diversity (CBD decision IV/4, paragraph 9 (f) (ii)), and make appropriate recommendations to CBD COP7.	<p>The current Ramsar guidelines adopted by Ramsar COP8 have been made available through the Ramsar website at: http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm</p> <p>All Ramsar COP8 guidelines and other relevant materials are being incorporated into the 2nd edition of the Ramsar toolkit of Wise Use Handbooks, which will be made available to all Parties in 2004.</p>
2.8. SBSTTA 8 may wish to use Ramsar's publication on <i>Economic Valuation of Wetlands: a Guide for Policy Makers and Planners</i> for developing techniques for the valuation of goods and services of inland water ecosystems (CBD decision IV/4, paragraph 8 (d) and paragraph 9 (f) (i)).	The Ramsar publication has been made available through the Ramsar website at : http://www.ramsar.org/values_intro_e.htm
2.9. STRP may wish to consider incorporating in its future programme of work development of techniques for valuation of goods and services of inland water ecosystems.	<p>Progress on the further development of methods for valuing goods and services of inland water ecosystems were reported to SBSTTA8 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.3).</p> <p>The Ramsar STRP Working Group 1 is currently preparing further guidance on methodologies for valuation of wetland goods and services, drawing on the relevant work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) for consideration by Ramsar COP9.</p>
2.10. The Ramsar Bureau will make available to CBD Parties and SBSTTA the Ramsar Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands, as adopted by COP8.	<p>The current Ramsar guidelines have been made available through the Ramsar website at: http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm</p> <p>To implement these guidelines, the Ramsar Secretariat has established a Co-</p>

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
	ordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands, with the CBD Secretariat a member. The Co-ordinating Committee will meet next in mid-2004 in Finland.
2.11. The two Secretariats will consider the role of the Global Peatland Initiative being developed by Wetlands International and other partners, which is designed to assist Parties in implementing the Ramsar Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands, in implementation of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and forests. ^{3/} The Secretariats will raise awareness of Initiative and the opportunities it offers for Parties in developing projects for the conservation and wise use of peatlands, including their potential role in carbon sequestration and mitigation of climate change.	<p>The Secretariat of the CBD is a member of the steering committee for the Global Peatland Initiative (GPI). Further development of GPI input to support for Parties will be co-ordinated through the peatland Co-ordinating Committee (see 2.10 above). The Ramsar STRP has requested the Co-ordinating Committee to lead on providing relevant input to CBD's programme of work on forests.</p> <p>The Secretariat of the CBD, in conjunction with the Bureau of the Ramsar Convention, hosted a side-event on peatlands and biodiversity, including climate change, at SBSTTA9. A side event on Wetlands, Biodiversity and Climate Change (which will focus on peatlands) is arranged for COP7.</p>
2.12. In any review of the future Operational Guidelines for the Ramsar Small Grants Fund, consideration will be given to affording a priority to projects that contribute to the implementation of the programmes of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems particularly in relation to the actions of this joint work plan.	Cooperation between the two Secretariats regarding the Ramsar Small Grants Fund continues.
2.13. The two Secretariats will seek opportunities for joint activities relating to the 2003 International Year of Freshwater, in association with UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme and the Man and the Biosphere Programme.	The two Secretariats jointly hosted a side event at SBSTTA9 on the theme of 2003 as International Year of Freshwater.
Activity 3 - Marine and coastal ecosystems	
3.1. CBD will invite a representatives of Ramsar's STRP and Bureau to contribute to the further work of the Ad Hoc Expert Group on marine and coastal protected areas (see report of UNEP/CBD/COP/11, paragraphs 43 to 48), and participate in its second meeting (New Zealand, 2002).	The Ramsar Secretariat participated in meetings of the Ad Hoc Expert Group and contributed substantively to its preparation of materials.
3.2. The CBD Secretariat will consider the principles and guidelines on ICZM prepared by the STRP for consideration by Ramsar COP8 in future deliberations for development of guidelines for integrated marine and coastal area management in CBD (CBD decision IV/5, programme element 1).	The Ramsar principles and guidelines, adopted by Ramsar COP8 are available at: http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm , and have been used by the CBD Secretariat as a basis for considering their elaboration as CBD guidance.
3.3. The CBD Secretariat will invite the Ramsar Bureau and STRP to collaborate in the development of rapid assessment methods for marine and coastal biological diversity. (SBSTTA recommendation VI/5)	The Ramsar Secretariat contributed to the drafting of rapid assessment methods for marine and coastal biological diversity.
3.4. Both Secretariats will evaluate how the Ramsar guidelines for designation of mangroves and coral reefs as Wetlands of International Importance, and any further such	The Ramsar guidelines were adopted by Ramsar COP8 and are available at: http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm

^{3/} The Global Peatlands Initiative will be relevant also to the implementation of actions related to forested peatlands that would be included in the new programme of work on forests to be considered by the CBD COP6 (see Action 4.1)

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
guidance prepared by the STRP on marine and coastal wetland types, can contribute to implementation of CBD programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity, in support of programme element 2 on marine and coastal living resources and specifically the work programme on coral reefs (CBD decision IV/5).	
3.5. The Ramsar Bureau will continue to promote the development and implementation of integrated marine and coastal areas management at local, national and regional level, including the application of its guidelines once adopted by Ramsar COP8, including through the Ramsar Convention's Outreach Programme and website, in support of operational objective 1.2 of the CBD Jakarta Mandate programme of work.	Ramsar guidelines on wetlands and ICZM were adopted by Ramsar COP8 and are available at: http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm , and have been evaluated for their application to the sustainable use of biological diversity in the coastal zone.
Activity 4 - Forest ecosystems	
4.1. The CBD Secretariat will invite the Ramsar Bureau to explore ways and means on how the Ramsar STRP can contribute to the implementation of the new programme of work on forest biological diversity proposed to CBD COP6, particularly on issues related to peatlands and wooded wetlands (Annex to SBSTTA recommendation VII/6) (see actions 2.10 and 2.11).	<p>Ramsar STRP has determined that its contribution, especially in relation to peatlands, will be made through the implementation plan under development by the Co-ordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands (see Action 2.10).</p> <p>The Ramsar Bureau was invited to the international workshop on protected forest areas (Montreal, 6-8 November 2003).</p> <p>Wooded wetlands and mangroves are examples of rare and unique types of forest that deserve more protection. For mangroves the CPF partners ITTO and FAO are also active in mapping and protection. Preventing drainage of peatlands fits comfortably under the POW on forests and also contributes to the goals of the UNFCCC. Therefore, linkages and collaboration between the CBD programme of work on forests and relevant Ramsar activities will continue to be enhanced.</p>
Activity 5 - Agricultural lands	
5.1. The Ramsar Bureau (with the support of Wetlands International and IUCN) will identify those Ramsar sites where agricultural practices are being undertaken either within, or in close association with, the sites, and provide this information to the CBD Secretariat. Management guidelines developed for these agricultural ecosystems will also be sought by the Ramsar Bureau, and provided to CBD and CCD (Activity 3.2.1 of the 2000-2001 joint work plan).	Ramsar STRP, in association with Wetlands International, IUCN and others, are establishing ways and means of compiling information on agricultural management on Ramsar sites, including through a current project led by the Ramsar MedWet Initiative, as the basis for the subsequent development by STRP of guidance on this matter.
5.2. The two Secretariats will review the decisions of Ramsar COP8 concerning agricultural lands and wetlands, and incorporate joint actions, as appropriate, in the review of this joint work plan.	Actions called for by the Ramsar COP8 Resolution on agriculture, water and wetlands, available at: http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm , will be delivered under Action 5.1 above.

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
Activity 6 - Dry, Mediterranean, arid and semi-arid, grasslands and savannahs	
<p>6.1. The CBD Secretariat will invite the Ramsar Bureau to collaborate in implementation of activity 2 of the CBD programme of work on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, related to identification of specific areas within dry and sub-humid lands of particular value for biological diversity and/or under particular threat, such as, <i>inter alia</i>, endemic species and low lying wetlands with reference to the criteria in Annex I to CBD. The CBD Secretariat will also invite the Ramsar Bureau to participate in the AHTEG established by CBD COP5.</p>	<p>The Ramsar Bureau was invited to a number of meetings organized by the Secretariat of the CBD, including the expert meeting on the ecosystem approach.</p> <p>UNEP-WCMC is currently preparing a proposal for addressing activity 2 of the programme of work and the Ramsar Bureau will be invited to comment on a draft and to contribute to subsequent work.</p> <p>Ramsar COP8 adopted decisions on drought and other natural disasters, and on identifying, sustainably managing, and designating temporary pools as Ramsar sites (available at: http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm), which will contribute to delivery of this action.</p>
<p>6.2. In support of Action 6.1 above, it is planned that as an element of the implementation of the River Basin Initiative (see Activity 1. Above) analyses will be undertaken of wetlands and biodiversity in relation to river basins and drylands. These products will be made available also to CBD.</p>	<p>Such an analysis is planned and would greatly contribute to the review of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands, scheduled to take place at COP 8. Activity 7 (e) of the programme of work on dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity is on water resources. The development of guidelines on management and sustainable use of water resources is a priority and case studies on best practices are being compiled. The work on the ecosystem approach included some case studies on integrated catchment/basin management from Southern Africa, which are relevant (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/INF/4).</p> <p>This will be delivered as an element of the phase 2 implementation of the RBI, and the work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment will also contribute to these analyses.</p>
<p>6.3. The Ramsar Bureau and its MedWet Coordination Unit will review MedWet activities to establish ways and means of relevant activities contributing to the CBD programme of work on biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands, and incorporate these in the review and amendment of this joint work plan.</p>	<p>The Ramsar MedWet Coordination Unit is presently compiling a review of project activities implemented through the MedWet Initiative, including on dry and sub-humid lands, and is establishing a North African Wetlands Network, which will contribute on these matters.</p>
Activity 7 - Mountain ecosystems	
<p>7.1. CBD will invite the Ramsar Bureau to participate in the Liaison Group meeting on biological diversity of mountain ecosystems and to contribute to its work.</p>	<p>The Ramsar Secretariat contributed to the development of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity, to be considered by CBD COP7.</p> <p>The LG meeting has not been held. However, the Ramsar Secretariat was invited to the LG meeting for the three Rio Conventions.</p>

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
7.2. The Ramsar Bureau will make available to the Liaison Group and CBD Parties the guidance on mountain wetland identification and designation, once adopted by COP8, and incorporate into subsequent review of this JWP and relevant joint actions requested by Parties for implementation in the period 2003-2006.	<p>Information is now becoming available through the Ramsar website.</p> <p>The subject of mountains and wetlands is also the theme of the 2004 World Wetlands Day (2 February) – “From the Mountains to the Sea – Wetlands at Work for us”.</p> <p>Ramsar COP8 adopted a Resolution on mountain wetlands (available at: http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm), but did not consider identification and designation guidance. Implementation of this and the CBD programme of work into this JWP will be considered after CBD COP7.</p>
7.3. Ramsar Bureau will encourage CBD focal points contribution to the World Congress on Paramos (May 2002) in relation to strengthening collaborative work on the conservation of the biological diversity of montane peatland systems.	Discussion at the World Congress led to the development and adoption by Ramsar COP8 of Resolution VIII.39 on high Andean wetlands as strategic ecosystems, and further work will be included in the implementation plan for Global Action on Peatlands (see Action 2.10).
C. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES	
Activity 8 - Invasive alien species	
8.1. The Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat will draw to the attention of their Parties that, once adopted by CBD COP6 and Ramsar COP8, common guidance is available for addressing invasive alien species issues, and urge their respective focal points to collaborate closely in developing and implementing national actions on the issue.	<p>Ramsar COP8 adopted Resolution VIII.18 on invasive species and wetlands, which draws attention to available principles, guidelines and other common tools, and urges collaboration between respective focal points.</p> <p>Attention to this matter has been promoted through the Ramsar website and specifically at the ninth meeting of SBSTTA in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/15.</p>
8.2. The Ramsar Bureau will make available to CBD Parties the Ramsar “Guide to wetland invasive species guidance”, prepared as a background paper for Ramsar COP8, so as to assist in the Conventions’ joint efforts to address invasive species issues.	A draft ‘Guide for wetland managers on invasive species’ was prepared by STRP, but was not taken forwards for COP8 consideration owing to the issues concerning the adoption of the CBD COP6 decision on the matter. Further development and provision of this Guide will be made subsequent to CBD COP7 consideration of this matter.
8.3. Information products and other materials prepared by the Ramsar/IUCN communications and awareness-raising project on African wetland invasive alien species will be made available to the CBD Secretariat and publicized through the Ramsar website for use by CBD Parties.	The Ramsar/IUCN booklet for wetland managers on aquatic invasives is available from IUCN in English and French, and has been publicized through the Ramsar website.
8.4 The Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat, working with the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), IUCN and UNEP-WCMC will seek jointly to develop a programme of work focusing on aquatic invasive species.	The Ramsar and CBD Secretariats are in discussion with the recently established GISP Secretariat concerning the further development of such a programme of work.

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
<p>8.5. The CBD Secretariat and Ramsar Bureau will ensure that GISP work on developing assessment of inland waters invasive alien species is taken into account in the review of the CBD programme of work on inland waters biodiversity, and ensure that this work is made available, as appropriate, to Ramsar Contracting Parties.</p>	<p>The Ramsar Secretariat has contributed to the GISP's preparation of assessment of the impacts of invasive species on inland waters. Both Secretariats also participated in a meeting on the impacts of alien invasive species on inland water ecosystems held at the Smithsonian Institution (13-15 July, 2003). A review of the impacts of invasive alien species in inland waters is currently being undertaken through the GISP. Once available will be taken into account on review of this JWP after CBD COP7.</p>
Activity 9 - Monitoring and indicators	
<p>9.1 The CBD Secretariat will invite the Ramsar Bureau and STRP and UNESCO's Man and Biosphere Programme to collaborate in implementation of proposed SBSTTA recommendation VII/11, and in particular to review the set of principles for designing national-level monitoring programmes and indicators, a key set of standard questions, and a list of available and potential indicators for inland water and marine and coastal ecosystems contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/12.</p>	<p>The Ramsar Bureau has participated in a number of monitoring and indicator meetings organized by the Secretariat of the CBD, including the 2010 biodiversity targets meeting (London), and the expert group on national-level indicators.</p> <p>The two Secretariats have collaborated on the development of targets for the programme of work of the CBD as reported to the seventh Conference of the Parties of the CBD (ref. documents UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.3; UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.4 and UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.5). The Ramsar Convention is yet to develop outcome-oriented targets for its work programme. However, Working Group 6 of the Ramsar STRP is currently reviewing mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention and is recommending a small suite of ecologically-based outcome-oriented indicators to the thirtieth meeting of the Standing Committee in January 2004.</p> <p>Indicators for the CBD targets will be developed subsequent to COP7 – and for wetlands in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention. Collaboration on the streamlining of monitoring and reporting between the two Conventions continues. Reporting will be reviewed subsequent to CBD COP7 after indicators are elaborated. A proposal for streamlining reporting for the two Conventions is scheduled to be prepared prior to CBD COP8.</p>
<p>9.2 The Ramsar Bureau will make available to CBD Parties and to SBSTTA information concerning its further work on indicators and monitoring and the new guidelines for the management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands, which includes guidance on monitoring and the use of indicators.</p>	<p>Comments as per 9.1 apply.</p> <p>The current information has been made available through the Ramsar website. STRP forum Working Group 6 is also elaborating this subject further.</p>
<p>9.2. Ramsar COP8 may wish to consider requesting the STRP to collaborate with SBSTTA in the development of guidelines for designing national-level monitoring and assessment programmes for biological diversity of wetlands (CBD decision IV/4 annex I, paragraph 8(e)), so as to ensure harmonized guidance is available to Parties to both</p>	<p>Comments as per 9.1 apply. Ramsar's New guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands were adopted by Ramsar COP8 and are available on http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm. Ramsar STRP is currently preparing a range of further guidance concerning monitoring and</p>

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
Conventions.	indicators, for consideration by Ramsar COP8 in 2005.
9.3. Once such guidance is available, the two Secretariats will encourage their respective national focal points to collaborate in the development of national monitoring programmes and indicators for the biological diversity of inland and coastal and marine wetlands.	Comments as per 9.1 apply.
9.4. The CBD Secretariat will make available to the Ramsar Bureau the drafts of the World Water Development Report and background documents for review and comments on issues related to wetlands.	<p>The report was provided to the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on November 2003 as a hard copy. The electronic version will be forwarded as soon as it is received from UNESCO.</p> <p>The World Water Development Report is entering its second phase (the “living document”) staff of the Secretariat of the CBD are liaising regarding this development and will continue to co-ordinate with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention regarding this matter.</p>
Activity 10 - Environmental Impact Assessment	
10.1. The CBD Secretariat will invite the Ramsar STRP to contribute to implementation of SBSTTA recommendation VII/10 1(e) on further development and refinement of the guidelines, particularly to incorporate all stages of the environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment processes taking into account the ecosystem approach.	<p>Ramsar’s STRP, in association with the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) is further developing aspects of impact assessment guidance, including through the current IAIA project on incorporating biodiversity considerations into impact assessment. Further collaboration between IAIA and the convention Secretariats will be developed subsequent to CBD COP7.</p> <p>Current information resources on this subject have been made available through the Ramsar website: http://www.ramsar.org/wurc_library.htm</p>
10.2. The CBD Secretariat will invite the Ramsar Bureau to contribute to the implementation of SBSTTA recommendation VII/10, paragraph 1(c) on development of a programme of work on environmental impact assessment.	<p>Collaboration with Ramsar continues.</p> <p>Discussions were held between the CBD Secretariat and the Ramsar Secretariat on the further development of Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment procedures (see also under Decision VI/7 A on Identification, Monitoring, Indicators and Assessment) and the development of biodiversity indicators.</p>
10.3. The two Secretariats will draw to the attention of their respective Parties the harmonized guidance on impact assessment, once adopted by CBD COP6 and Ramsar COP8, so as to encourage collaborative national implementation of impact assessment procedures concerning wetlands and biodiversity.	<p>Ramsar COP8 adopted the CBD COP6 guidelines, with annotations for the Ramsar context as Resolution VIII.9 (available at http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm). The Executive Secretary convened, together with the Ramsar Bureau, a workshop session on “Implementing Multi-lateral Environmental Agreements: the role of the biodiversity and ecology impact assessment community” during the Annual Conference of the International Association of Impact Assessment (17 to 20 June 2003, Marrakech, Morocco).</p>

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
10.4. The STRP will invite the participation of CBD Secretariat and SBSTTA in any further work it is requested to undertake concerning environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment	CBD Secretariat staff continue to be involved with relevant STRP activities and in ongoing work of the STRP and its Working Groups. SBSTTA is involved through the joint development, with Ramsar, of EIA and SEA approaches in relevant areas.
Activity 11 – Inventory and Assessment	
11.1. The Ramsar Bureau will make available to CBD Parties and SBSTTA the “Framework for Wetland Inventory” and “Wetland Ecosystem Assessment Framework”, so as to assist in the further development and application of inventory and assessment.	The ‘Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory’ is available as Resolution VIII.6 at http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm . The STRP Working Group 1, with input from CBD Secretariat, is developing an integrated framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring, drawing on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment’s conceptual framework, for Ramsar COP9 consideration. See also comments under joint activities 2.1 and 2.2.
11.2. The Ramsar Bureau will be invited to take part in implementation of the pilot project on interlinkages between climate change and biodiversity and other pilot assessments.	The Ramsar Secretariat was invited to the AHTEG on biodiversity and Climate Change.
Activity 12 - Global Taxonomy Initiative	
12.1. Ramsar COP8 may wish to consider requesting the STRP to develop a priority list for taxonomic work required to support inventory, assessment and monitoring in different wetland types, including regional guides to groups of particular importance, and request that this is transmitted to CBD Secretariat, such that the priorities so identified may be considered through the work of the GTI.	The request was made and the Ramsar STRP have assisted the identification of priority groups for the work programme of the Global Taxonomy Initiative.
12.2 CBD Secretariat will invite the Ramsar STRP to participate in the GTI Coordination Mechanism.	Collaboration on this subject has been less than ideal. With the appointment of new staff at SCBD – this will be rectified and future collaboration enhanced.
Activity 13 - Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	
13.1. CBD will invite Ramsar STRP, working with IUCN, to explore ways and means for contributing to implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and to incorporate elements which contribute to halt the loss of plant biodiversity in its future work as an approach to the conservation and sustainable use of wetland biodiversity.	<p>The Ramsar STRP is involved with developing ways of implementing the GSPC for wetland plants. This includes consideration of the GSPC under the STRP forum and in several relevant Working Groups notably in relation to the development of outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention.</p> <p>In addition, targets for the GSPC are being used as the basis for the elaboration of targets for the programmes of work of CBD (ref. UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.3, 4, and 5) and will enhance harmony between GSPC, CBD and Ramsar Convention regarding the development of indicators and reporting arrangements.</p>

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
Activity 14 - Ecosystem approach	
14.1. Ramsar STRP may wish to contribute to the work of SBSTTA on incorporation of the ecosystem approach in CBD programmes of work, in particular on inland water ecosystems and marine and coastal biological diversity.	The Ramsar Bureau was invited to a number of meetings organized by the Secretariat of CBD, including the expert meeting on the ecosystem approach.
Activity 15- Protected areas	
15.1. The Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat will jointly promote the application of the <i>Strategic Framework for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> , recognizing that in so doing they are working to serve the common interest of identifying areas of global importance for biodiversity conservation found in all of the thematic areas for which programmes of work have been, or are planned to be approved, under CBD.	The CBD and Ramsar Convention collaborated on the provision of scientific advice to assist with the national elaboration of Annex 1 of the Convention in documents UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.4 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/4.
15.2. The Ramsar Bureau will provide to SBSTTA and all CBD Focal Points the additional detailed guidance for identifying and designating peatland, wet grassland, mangrove and coral reef Ramsar sites to be considered by Ramsar COP8, and will advise SBSTTA and CBD Secretariat of any further work on protected areas issues called for by Parties at CBD COP8.	The guidance was adopted by Ramsar COP8 as Resolution VIII.11. Similar guidance for temporary pools was adopted by Resolution VIII.33 (available on http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm).
15.3. The CBD Secretariat will invite the contribution of the Ramsar Bureau and STRP in its intersessional work, including any liaison or working groups as appropriate, on protected areas in preparation for consideration of the theme at CBD COP7. (Refer also Action 2.1 concerning convergence of CBD and Ramsar criteria for the biological diversity of inland waters, and Action 3.1 concerning marine and coastal protected areas.)	The Ramsar Secretariat was invited to a number of meetings organized by the Secretariat of the CBD, including the AHTEG on protected areas and the liaison group meeting on the outcome of the World Parks Congress, and has contributed to the development of the programme of work on protected areas to be considered by CBD COP7, through participation at these meetings and SBSTTA 9.
15.4. The Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat will review opportunities for collaborative work with CMS and its agreements on protected area networks for migratory birds and marine turtles, through their respective joint work plans. (Refer also to Action 21.2).	The review will be completed subsequent to CBD COP7 (after consideration of the revised programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and the subsequent review of the CBD-Ramsar JWP), and the finalization of the Ramsar/CMS/AEWA Joint Work Plan..
15.5. The Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat will review opportunities for collaboration with the Man and the Biosphere Programme concerning management of protected areas in the context of implementation of the Ramsar-MAB programme of joint work and of the current cooperation between UNESCO and the CBD Secretariat.	Collaboration continues where opportunities arise. This has included the development of targets under the Millennium Development Goals (see UNEP/CBD/COP/7/20/Add.1). Collaboration with UNESCO has included for the World Water Development Report and its subsequent development.
Activity 16 - Sustainable use of biological diversity	
16.1. The CBD Secretariat will invite the Ramsar Bureau and the Fisheries Department of FAO to the meeting in Ecuador on marine and freshwater capture fisheries and to the synthesis meeting on sustainable use and biological diversity.	Representatives of the Ramsar Secretariat attended the meeting at the invitation of the SCBD.
16.2. CBD Secretariat, Ramsar Bureau, and Fisheries Department of FAO will explore their common areas of interests for implementation of the recommendations of the CBD	The Ramsar Secretariat participated in a number of meetings organized by the Secretariat of the CBD, including the fourth workshop on sustainable use. The

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
synthesis meeting on sustainable use particularly on marine and freshwater capture fisheries.	STRP's Working Group 2, with input from the CBD Secretariat, is currently reviewing and updating the Ramsar Wise Use Guidance, to take into account the CBD's guidance on the ecosystem approach and sustainable use.
16.3. The Ramsar Bureau will continue to assist the CBD Secretariat in the identification of good practice case studies demonstrating wetland sustainable use, and to make these available to Parties.	Examples of good practice case studies have been made available through the Ramsar website particularly at: http://www.ramsar.org/wurc_library.htm These examples have also been used in the development and implementation of the relevant work programmes of the CBD.
16.4 The Ramsar Bureau will continue to distribute to CBD Focal Points and CBD collaborators at country level its toolkit of Wise Use Handbooks.	A second edition of the 'toolkit', incorporating all materials adopted by Ramsar COP8 is in preparation, and will be distributed to all focal points and collaborators in 2004.
Activity 17 - Sustainable use and tourism	
17.1. Ramsar COP8 may wish to consider the proposed International Guidelines for Activities related to Sustainable Tourism Development in Vulnerable Terrestrial, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats of Major Importance for Biological Diversity and Protected Areas, including Fragile Riparian and Mountain Ecosystems, contained in document UNEP/CBD/WS-Tourism/4 and request its interpretation in the Ramsar context for application by Ramsar Parties.	The proposed guidelines were not considered by Ramsar COP8, but will be assessed by the STRP in relation to its work on updating the Ramsar Wise Use guidance.
17.2 The Ramsar Bureau will put at the disposal of CBD Parties the Ramsar "Guiding principles on the cultural aspects of wetlands", once adopted by Ramsar COP8.	The guidelines have been made available through the Ramsar website: http://www.ramsar.org/wurc_library.htm
Activity 18- Incentive measures	
18.1. The CBD Secretariat and the Ramsar Bureau will continue to co-operate to further improve the linkages between CBD and the Internet-Based Resource Kit on economic incentives, which is developed and maintained by IUCN (SBSTTA recommendation VII/9).	Ongoing. Further development of the IUCN Resource Kit is anticipated in 2004.
18.2. STRP may wish to consider the SBSTTA proposals for the design and implementation of incentive measures (recommendation VII/9, Annex I) as a basis for its future work on identifying wetland-related elements of existing guidelines on incentive measures, recognizing important gaps and investigating possible ways of filling such gaps (Ramsar COP8 Draft Resolution 23). STRP may also wish to invite input from CBD/SBSTTA and the CBD Secretariat, as appropriate	The STRP will consider these inputs from the CBD for possible consideration by Ramsar COP9. The Secretariats continue to collaborate on the development and implementation of the programme of work on incentive measures, and Ramsar incentives materials are being incorporated in a CD-ROM being prepared for CBD COP7.
18.3. Ramsar Bureau will participate in the coordination effort on future work on incentive measures, as envisaged by SBSTTA recommendation VII/9. This may especially concern future work by STRP on the linkages between incentives and related topics, including financial mechanisms, trade, impact assessment and valuation, as envisaged in Ramsar COP8 Draft Resolution 23.	The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and the Secretariat of the CBD continue to collaborate on the development and implementation of the programme of work on incentive measures.

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
Activity 19 - Traditional knowledge	
19.1. The Ramsar Bureau will continue to assist the CBD Secretariat in the development of a multi-convention approach to coordinate and facilitate collaboration with regard to the maintenance and application of traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and involvement of indigenous and local communities as cross-cutting issues (Action 7.1 from the JWP2000-2001)	Collaboration continues in relation to traditional knowledge and wetlands, including consideration of elaborating the Ramsar COP7 guidance on this topic as the basis of a multi-convention approach. The subject of cultural aspects of wetlands was also discussed at Ramsar COP8 (Ramsar COP8 DOC. 15), and progressed through Resolution VIII.19 available at http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm
19.2. The Ramsar Bureau will seek to identify Ramsar sites where indigenous and local community traditional management practices and methods are being used, and how successful they are, and provide this information to the CBD Secretariat.	Identification and assessment continues. Information to be made available by CBD COP8.
19.3. The Ramsar Bureau will provide information to the CBD Secretariat on measures taken to enhance the participation of indigenous and local communities, particularly women, in the implementation of Ramsar work programme	The information has been made available through the Ramsar website and through related initiatives, including the IUCN/Ramsar Participatory Management Clearinghouse currently being redeveloped, and http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/KYW/Brochures/BuildingLocal.html
19.4. The Ramsar Bureau, with the assistance of Wetlands International, will seek information, and provide this to the CBD Secretariat, on capacity building measures being undertaken to facilitate the involvement of indigenous and local communities and the application of the knowledge they hold, with their prior informed consent, in the management of conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in wetlands at national, subnational and local levels (CBD decision V/2, paragraph 8, and decision V/16, annex, Element 1, Task1)	The information has been made available through the Ramsar website and through related initiatives including: http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/KYW/Brochures/BuildingLocal.html
19.5. The Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat will promote access and use of the Participatory Management Clearinghouse to their Parties in support of implementation of Article 8(j).	Use continues to be promoted through the Participatory Management Clearinghouse, whose website is currently being substantively enhanced.
19.6. The Ramsar Bureau will encourage CBD focal points to participate actively in Ibero-American meeting on participatory management of wetlands, to be held in Guatemala in 2002, and to contribute to the implementation of its recommendations, and other relevant meetings.	Done.
Activity 20 - Communication, Education and Public Awareness	
20.1. The Ramsar Bureau and the CDB Secretariat will exchange information about the implementation of the respective work plans in the areas of education, communication and public awareness in order to avoid duplication of efforts and so as to reinforce the work of both Conventions and national, regional and international levels.	Information exchange undertaken and ongoing.
20.2 The Ramsar Bureau, Wetlands International and the CBD Secretariat will maximize the use of the Ramsar Outreach Programme mini-website and Wetlands International's	Discussion is underway to enhance the linkages between the Ramsar Website and the CHM, particularly in relation to the Ramsar CEPA-mini-website.

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
website to enable all relevant information to be made available to CBD CHM, and will explore additional ways and means to make the information accessible to CBD Parties.	
20.3 The Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat will encourage contact between their respective national focal points with responsibility for communication, education and public awareness to encourage national collaboration concerning wetlands and biodiversity, including any review of national education and public awareness needs.	Done and ongoing.
20.4 CBD Secretariat will raise awareness with CBD national focal points of the theme and activities of Ramsar's World Wetlands Day, the theme of which will link in 2003 to the International Year of Freshwater.	<p>Achieved for 2003. Activities are underway for World Wetlands Day 2004 – the theme for which will be “From Mountains to the Sea – Wetlands at Work for Us”.</p> <p>A side event was also organized at SBSTTA9 by the two Secretariats on the theme of 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater.</p>
20.5. Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat will ensure Ramsar Parties are fully aware of, and can access information and tools from, national CBD clearing house mechanisms through CBD focal points, so as to encourage national collaboration on joint implementation of the conventions.	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Current efforts to better link the CHM to programme areas and cross-cutting issues of the Convention will pay particular attention to this issue.</p>
20.6. CBD Secretariat and Ramsar Bureau will review opportunities for using the CHM to profile and increase access to information available through each Convention on priority areas of activity under this JWP.	The CBD website and related links through the CHM will be reviewed subsequent to CBD COP7.
Activity 21 - Small Island Developing States (SIDS)	
21.1. CBD Secretariat, Ramsar Bureau, UNESCO (SIDS programme), and Conservation International will contribute to implementation of activity 2.4 of this joint work plan on development of guidelines for rapid assessment of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (giving special attention to small island states).	Completed. See comments for activity 2.4.
21.2 The Ramsar Bureau will make available to CBD its work plans and agreements on priorities for work with SIDS under the Barbados Programme of Action and with SPREP.	Plans and agreements have been made available.
D. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS	
Activity 22. UNFCCC, UNCCD and CMS	
22.1. Efforts will continue, in consultation with an interested national Government, to prepare for consideration by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) of a project proposal for a pilot demonstration site, possibly in Africa, at which the common interest of CBD, Ramsar, UNCCD and UNFCCC can be considered and integrated into an on-ground management model. (Activity 1.8 of the second JWP 2002-2003)	Efforts continue to develop a proposal.
22.2 CBD Secretariat and the Ramsar Bureau will review their respective programmes of joint work and collaboration with other MEAs so as to fully identify where areas of common interest and activity exist so as to ensure appropriate contributions to	The JWP will be reviewed subsequent to CBD COP7 including scheduling activities for the reporting of progress, and development of the fourth JWP, prior to CBD COP8. The participation of the Ramsar Secretariat in the CBD,

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
implementation, and incorporate these into the review of this JWP.	UNCCD, UNFCCC Joint Liaison Group is facilitating this work.
22.3 The CBD Secretariat and the Ramsar Bureau will continue to seek to ensure that guidance prepared for each convention on impacts, adaptation to and mitigation of climate change on wetlands and biodiversity is harmonized through the work of STRP and SBSTTA in this area.	Collaboration continues. Harmonization is reflected through appropriate references to the consideration of matters of mutual interest and the involvement of both Conventions, and their scientific bodies, where necessary and relevant.
Activity 23 - UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)	
23.1 Ramsar Bureau and MAB Secretariat will make available to CBD Secretariat their programme of joint work, as the basis for review of ways and means of it contributing to the actions under this JWP.	The programme of joint work has been made available.
Activity 24 - Ramsar's International Organization Partners	
24.1 Wetlands International will work closely with the Ramsar Bureau and the CBD Secretariat to support implementation as appropriate of the actions of this JWP, and will provide technical information under its core work priorities to support the implementation of both Conventions.	Collaboration continues including, where necessary and appropriate, active participation in activities under the JWP as noted elsewhere.
24.2 Information on the Ramsar Wetlands Training Service, once launched, will be made available to CBD Parties through the conventions' Websites.	The Training Service has yet to be fully developed and implemented.
24.3. BirdLife International will continue to work closely with the Ramsar Bureau and CBD Secretariat to support implementation as appropriate of the actions of this JWP, and will provide technical information and input to policy development activities in support of the implementation of both Conventions.	Collaboration continues including, where necessary and appropriate, active participation in activities under the JWP as noted elsewhere.
24.4. The scope for establishing links between BirdLife International's website and Convention sites, including the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism, will be explored.	The CBD website and related links through the CHM will be reviewed subsequent to CBD COP7.
24.5. As a contribution to CBD's work on protected areas, WWF's assessments of the status of Ramsar sites will be made available to SBSTTA	WWF's assessment was presented to Ramsar COP8 and has been made available through the Ramsar Website.
24.6. The CBD Secretariat and Ramsar Bureau will review with IUCN its areas of support for the implementation of this JWP, and seek to ensure that its work on freshwater biodiversity assessment is made fully available to joint Convention actions and the preparation of guidance.	IUCN signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on technical support issues with the Ramsar Secretariat in September 2003. The JWP will be reviewed in the light of this memorandum subsequent to CBD COP7 including scheduling activities for the reporting of progress, and development of the fourth JWP, prior to CBD COP8.

ACTIVITY AS PER THE THIRD JOINT WORK PLAN	PROGRESS IN THE INTER-SESSIONAL PERIOD
E. National Reporting	
Activity 25. Harmonizing national reporting	
<p>25.1. During 2002, the Ramsar Bureau will contribute to the CBD work and liaison group on national reporting and report formats so as to identify appropriate themes and topics for collaborative reporting, and may wish to conduct further review in the light of the outcomes of the UNEP harmonized reporting pilot projects.</p>	<p>See comments on targets and indicators under activity 9.1.</p> <p>Working Group 6 of the Ramsar STRP is currently reviewing mechanisms for evaluating the effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention and will report to the 30th meeting of the Standing Committee in January 2004. Indicators for the CBD targets will be developed subsequent to COP7 – and for wetlands in collaboration with the Ramsar convention. Collaboration on the streamlining of monitoring and reporting between the two Conventions continues. Reporting will be reviewed subsequent to COP7 of the CBD after indicators are elaborated. A proposal for streamlining reporting for the two Conventions is scheduled to be prepared prior to CBD COP8.</p>
<p>25.2. The Ramsar Bureau will continue to contribute to the finalization of the CBD Strategic Plan and CBD Secretariat to the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008, including ensuring the elements of this Joint Work Plan are fully covered in their objectives and implementation plans.</p>	<p>Collaboration continues. The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008, adopted by Ramsar COP8 Resolution VIII.25 (available at http://www.ramsar.org/key_res_viii_index_e.htm), includes specific actions concerning this JWP.</p>
<p>25.3. The CBD Secretariat and Ramsar Bureau will seek ways of sharing experience and approaches to the handling and analysis of National Reports, and make available analyses, as appropriate, to support the work of the Convention's and their subsidiary bodies.</p>	<p>See comments under activities 9.1 and 25.1. Analyses of Ramsar COP8 National Reports on various topics of this JWP have been made available to support elaboration of the CBD programme of work on inland waters and other issues.</p>
