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CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE  
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Tenth meeting

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Item 4.9 of the provisional agenda\*

**THE JOINT WORK PROGRAMME (JWP) BETWEEN THE CBD AND THE RAMSAR  
CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (RAMSAR, IRAN, 1971): PROGRESS WITH  
IMPLEMENTAION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIFTH JOINT WORK PROGRAMME  
(2011 ONWARDS)**

1. The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, this report as submitted by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, prepared in collaboration with the Executive Secretary. The report is circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/10/1.

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## INTRODUCTION

1. The current, fourth, joint work plan (JWP) between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) (the Ramsar Convention) expires at the end of 2010. The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention in collaboration with the Executive Secretary, hereby presents this brief note which provides an overview of the evolution on the JWP, a summary of reporting against its implementation and concludes with the proposed strategy for its revision for the period beyond 2010.

### DEVELOPMENT OF THE JWP AND PREVIOUS REPORTS ON PROGRESS

2. The first two joint work plans between the CBD and the Ramsar Convention covered the two-year periods 1998-1999 and 2000-2001. The CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2000-2001 was commended by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (Decision VI/21) in May 2000 as a useful example of future cooperation between CBD and other conventions.

3. At its sixth meeting (March 2001) the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), of the CBD, requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the second joint work plan, including a draft third joint work plan covering suggestions for future joint activities, for consideration by the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD. At its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting (December 2001) Ramsar's Standing Committee noted the preparation of 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 CBD.

4. 3. The two convention Secretariats recognised that the two calendar year periods of the first and second Joint Work Plans created obstacles to the full and effective implementation of collaborative work. This arises because the schedules of work of the convention's meetings of the Conference of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies, SBSTTA and Ramsar's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), differ, notably with CBD operating on a two-year cycle and Ramsar on a three-year cycle, and also that these schedules of work are not delivered on a calendar year basis. To address this issue, the third CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan therefore covered a four-year period from 2002 to 2006 (decision VI/2).

5. The draft third JWP (2002-2006), contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/14, was endorsed at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (decision VI/20, para. 15) and by the Conference of the Parties of the Ramsar Convention at its eighth meeting in Valencia (resolution VIII/5).

6. A brief report on progress in implementation of the third JWP was presented for consideration by the seventh meeting the Conference of the Parties (document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/19), in particular regarding incorporation of elements of the JWP into the refined programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. A more detailed report on implementation of the third JWP was presented to the same meeting in document UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/27.

7. The refined programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems was also adopted at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, in decision VII/4. This was a major milestone in the development of collaborative efforts between the two conventions by adding improved structure to relevant considerations under the CBD. This thematic area laid the basis for even stronger coherence between the two conventions, facilitated in a significant fashion by the prominent contribution of the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP to the development of this programme of work. The programme of work itself recognises these synergies in its preamble (decision VII/4, para. 4): "Welcomes and encourages, in particular, the synergy being developed between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention in implementing the programme of work, notes the progress made

in the implementation of the joint work plans between the two conventions (UNEP/CBD/COP/7/INF/27) *and encourages* further activities aiming at avoiding overlaps in the work of both conventions".

8. The eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in decision VII/20, recognised that the close cooperation between the two conventions sets a good example in building synergies between conventions to effectively deliver the objectives of both conventions.

9. The current, fourth, JWP (2007 – 2010), developed by the two Secretariats towards the end of 2006, was considered by the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA, is available as the annex to document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5) and was subsequently endorsed at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (decision IX/20, para. 4).

10. The fourth JWP recognised that there was limited utility in repeating the various requests (etc.) for joint work made by the scientific bodies or COPs of either convention since these requests would be implemented (as feasible) in any case, and reported on in relation to those specific requests. The fourth JWP therefore, whilst recognising the requirement for this ongoing work as mandated, represents a shift towards more flexibility and in particular fosters a partnership better able to capitalise on emerging opportunities, consistent with the goal of the JWP<sup>1</sup>, without continual updating of the JWP. The result was a simpler JWP, particularly by comparison to the third JWP.

#### **PROGRESS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOURTH JWP**

11. The experience of the Secretariats, and Ramsar STRP, has been that the more simplified fourth JWP has led to even better implementation and innovation at their levels.

12. Following the aforementioned rationale for the fourth JWP, this note will not report in detail on progress with implementation of specific requests by either of the COPs or SBSTTA. Progress on these many requests is reported under relevant activities, primarily in documents submitted to SBSTTA or COP, in most cases in relation to programmes of work, in particular on inland waters. Additional information on general progress and activities, not reported in these, is contained in the various reports to the CBD on thematic programmes of work and cross-cutting issues and on cooperation with other conventions: for CBD COP-8 (UNEP/CBD/COP/8/25, 26 and 27); for COP-9 (UNEP/CBD/COP/9/19, 20 and 21 rev 1); and for COP-10 (UNEP/CBD/COP/10/17, 20 and 21).

#### ***Additional progress***

13. During the reporting period particular note is made of the major contribution of the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP to the in-depth review of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland waters, as recognised in recommendation XIV/2 para. 3 of the fourteenth meeting of SBSTTA. In doing so, this review drew in particular on a) implementation progress reported by governments in their National Reports to Ramsar COP10 (2008), and b) the work of the STRP in assessing "indicators of the effectiveness of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, which in turn is linked with and has drawn upon the work reporting on CBD 2010 biodiversity indicators by the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.

14. A supporting information note to the in-depth review was prepared by the Ramsar Secretariat on inland waters, wetlands and water and the Strategic Plan of the CBD Post 2010, including outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/1). Both the in-depth review and this information note have stressed the need for CBD to consider the issues of water and water management at the core of its business of being able to deliver the ecosystem approach to biodiversity

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<sup>1</sup> "the conservation and sustainable and wise use of biodiversity, especially in wetlands, helping to assure the full achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target"

conservation, not only in terms of water for ecosystems but also importantly the key role that healthy ecosystems play as ‘natural infrastructure’ in driving and maintaining the global water cycle and the delivery of water security (i.e. the sustainable access to adequate quantities of water, of acceptable quality, to ensure human and ecosystem health). In relation to these findings, the need for the inclusion in the new CBD Strategic Plan of a water-related target was recognised in SBSTTA14 recommendations on inland waters (Recommendation XIV/2, preamble paragraph 2).

15. Over the past 15 years, Ramsar’s STRP has developed, and Contracting Parties have adopted, a comprehensive suite of implementation guidance for the wise (sustainable) use of inland and coastal wetlands, providing tools for harmonised national implementation of CBD and Ramsar on these matters. In 2006 the Ramsar Secretariat published the 3rd edition of 17 “Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands”, incorporating new guidance adopted by Ramsar COP-9 (2005), and these are made available to Ramsar and CBD Parties through the Ramsar web site ([http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-handbooks-ramsar-toolkit-21323/main/ramsar/1-30-33%5E21323\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-pubs-handbooks-ramsar-toolkit-21323/main/ramsar/1-30-33%5E21323_4000_0__)) in English, French and Spanish, with some now also becoming available in Arabic and Russian. Importantly, so as to support streamlined and consistent implementation, this includes the CBD “guidelines for incorporating biodiversity related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment”, adopted by CBD COP-6 and then, with interpretation for the Ramsar context by Ramsar COP-9 (2002). A 4th edition of the Handbooks, incorporating all guidance adopted by Ramsar COP-10 (2008), is in preparation and will be made available to all CBD Parties.

16. Both the CBD and Ramsar Secretariat publish technical reports, those in the Ramsar Technical Report series containing the more detailed reviews and methodological guidance prepared by the STRP. Since 2006, two such reports on common issues have been published jointly as a Ramsar Technical Report and in the CBD Technical Series so as to make them available consistently to both CBD and Ramsar focal points and others. These cover: Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity (CBD Technical Series No. 22/ Ramsar Technical Report No. 1) and Valuing wetlands: Guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetlands ecosystem services (Ramsar Technical Report No. 3/CBD Technical Series No. 27), and are both available in English, French and Spanish. In addition, the Ramsar Secretariat contributed to the CBD Technical Series No. 47 "Water, Wetlands and Forests: A Review of Ecological, Economic and Policy Linkages". Further joint technical reports are in preparation.

17. Ramsar and CBD staff have collaborated on a range of Communications, Education, Participation & Awareness (CEPA) activities during the period of the JWP, including inter alia Ramsar Secretariat participation in the CBD CEPA IAC group; contributing to the development of the CBD CEPA toolkit, and making this available in Ramsar CEPA national focal point workshops; and the development of Ramsar’s CEPA planning tool so as to be complementary to the CBD CEPA toolkit.

18. Ramsar’s annual World Wetlands Day (2 February) provides the occasion for all involved in wetland conservation and wise use to raise awareness and promote these issues. The 2010 World Wetland Day theme, and information materials, was on “wetlands, biodiversity and climate change” as a direct Ramsar contribution to the International Year of Biodiversity.

19. Ramsar Secretariat senior staff continue to contribute fully to substantive issues in meetings of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) as and when these are arranged; and the Chair of the STRP plays a leading role in the Chairs of Subsidiary Advisory Bodies (CSAB), including through initiating comparative reviews of bodies’ work plans, and in developing CSAB options and approaches for improving collaboration and synergy on issues of common interest, with the currently being developed proactive collaboration on a specific project/task/issue with the joint development of guidance on ecosystem restoration as possible pilot activity.

*Progress by the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention*

20. The Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention held only one meeting during the fourth JWP period: Ramsar COP-10 (Changwon, Korea, 2008).

21. Decision IX/16, section D para. 3, of the CBD welcomed the initiative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention to consider wetlands and climate change as an important emerging issue, invited the Secretariat and the STRP, subject to available resources, to further assess the contribution of biodiversity to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in peatlands and other wetlands and further invited the Secretariat and the STRP to make the reports on these assessments available, for example through its website. Para. 6 of the same section of this decision invited the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, at its tenth meeting, to consider appropriate action in relation to wetlands, water, biodiversity and climate change in view of the importance of this subject for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and human welfare.

21. Climate change was considered in detail at the tenth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention. Ramsar COP Resolution X.24 (full text available on: [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolutions-of-10th/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E21247\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolutions-of-10th/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E21247_4000_0__)) deals specifically with climate change and the entire resolution is relevant to the fourth JWP across most of the CBD's programme areas. Some key points include, *inter alia*:

- i. that almost all of the world's consumption of freshwater is drawn either directly or indirectly from wetlands and wetland ecosystems are important in protecting freshwater supplies (para. 3);
- ii. Parties need to manage their wetlands in such a way as to increase their resilience to climate change and extreme climatic events and to ensure that in their climate change responses (such as re-vegetation, forest management, afforestation and reforestation) such implementation does not lead to serious damage to the ecological character of wetlands (para. 4); and
- iii. the increasing evidence that some types of wetlands play important roles as carbon stores, and there is concern that this is not yet fully recognized by international and national climate change response strategies, processes, and mechanisms (para. 8).

22. In relation to scientific, technical and technological matters, Resolution X.24: noted the Scientific and Technical Review Panel's renewed attention to wetlands and climate change issues during the 2006-2008 triennium, including *inter alia*, on developing simple methods for assessing the vulnerability of different wetland types to climate-driven changes in water regimes, on the role of and opportunities for wetland restoration as a tool for climate responses, on the role and importance of different wetland types in the global carbon cycle, on assessing vulnerability of wetlands to hydro-ecological impacts, wetland restoration and climate change, and on recent key messages and recommendations concerning wetlands, water and climate change from relevant intergovernmental and international processes and initiatives; instructed the STRP, in its more comprehensive examination of climate change and wetland issues, to review emerging information on the ways in which, *inter alia*, changes in wetland thermal and chemical regimes, hydro-patterns, and increases in water storage and conveyance infrastructure, including impoundments, potentially alter the pathways by which non-native species invade wetlands, and influence their spread, persistence and ecological impacts on native species, and to liaise with the Arctic Council on an assessment of the vulnerability of Arctic wetlands to climate change and the development of guidelines for wise use while taking account of the ongoing Arctic Biodiversity Assessment.

23. Resolution X.24 also requested the Ramsar Secretariat, the STRP, and CCGAP to work together with relevant international conventions and agencies, including the CBD, UNCCD, UNEP, UNDP, FAO and the World Bank, and especially UNFCCC and IPCC, to investigate the potential contribution of wetland

ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular for reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to climate change; requested the Ramsar Secretariat and the STRP to use appropriate mechanisms to work with the UNFCCC and other relevant bodies to develop guidance for the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes that recognize the critical role of wetlands in relation to water and food security as well as human health; and instructed the STRP to continue its work on climate change as a high priority and, in conjunction with the Ramsar Secretariat, to collaborate with relevant international conventions and agencies, including UNFCCC, CBD, UNCCD, IPCC, UNEP, UNDP, FAO and World Bank, in the development of a multi-institutional coordinated programme of work to investigate the potential contribution of wetland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation, in particular for reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to climate change, and in addition to:

i. establish ways and means of collaborating with the UNFCCC and other relevant bodies to develop guidance for the development of mutually supportive adaptation and mitigation programmes that recognize the critical role of wetlands in relation to water and food security as well as human health;

ii. bring scientific issues and information on wetlands and climate change to the attention of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) at the next available opportunity, and use this forum to encourage enhanced scientific collaboration on issues related to wetlands and climate change; and

iii. establish ways of collaborating with the IPCC on scientific issues specifically related to wetlands and climate change, and contribute to its future work in order to raise the awareness of the climate change community of the importance of wetlands, including through the preparation and publication of relevant scientific reports on wetlands and climate change.

24. Ramsar COP-10 also adopted a suite of other Resolutions of direct relevance to joint implementation in relation to a range of CBD programmes of work. These included *inter alia*, Resolution X.1 (The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015), Resolution X.3 (The Changwon Declaration on Wetlands and Human Well-being”, which provides key messages to decision-makers in other environmental sectors), Resolution X.11 (Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions), Resolution X.17 (Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance, which adopted with Ramsar annotations the guidance adopted by CBD COP8 Decision VIII/28), Resolution X.23 (Wetlands and human health and well-being), Resolution X.25 (Wetlands and “biofuels”0, Resolution X.26 (Wetlands and extractive industries), Resolution X.27 (Wetlands and urbanisation) and Resolution x.28 (Wetlands and poverty reduction).

### ***Harmonized reporting***

25. Concerning harmonised reporting processes between CBD and Ramsar, CBD decision VIII/20 invited the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a framework for harmonised reporting on inland waters. In relation to this, the in-depth review of inland waters recognised the value of Ramsar national reports and this is recognised in SBSTTA recommendation XIV/2 para 3 which " Notes with appreciation the continuing value of national reports of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in providing key information on the status and trends of inland water biodiversity and drivers of change...". UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/3 para 240 noted that "CBD national reports continue to provide more limited information by which to assess implementation of the programme of work – certainly by comparison with other sources of information, many of which include detailed assessments of many relevant activities at a national level. Regarding MEA national reports, and as recognised in CBD decision VII/4, paragraph 2, Ramsar National reports remain a much more substantial information source. This difference might be expected (the Ramsar Convention is more focussed on specific inland water/wetland related issues). But CBD national reports provide limited reciprocal information on relevant subjects in other programme areas, or information which is difficult to interpret or quantify. It is

activities in these other programme areas that chiefly influence outcomes for inland waters. In particular, there is a conspicuous absence of systematic and organised reporting on water use and influences on the hydrological cycle (as relating to biodiversity considerations) through other programmes of work".

26. Furthermore, assessment by the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP of current CBD and Ramsar national reporting (CBD 4th national reports and Ramsar COP-10 national reports) has recognised that currently the two report formats have resulted in what is effectively complementary and non-overlapping reporting by governments. This is because whilst the near-universal Ramsar reporting addresses progress in implementation processes, that of the CBD 4th national reports cover largely ecological outcomes of implementation. Likewise, the Ramsar COP-11 national report format will be closely similar to that for Ramsar COP-10. Thus, if future CBD national reports continue similarly to the 4th national report format, a framework for joint complementary reporting will be sustained.

27. The in-depth review of inland waters noted, however, that whilst Ramsar National Report information from Parties is being used extensively to report to CBD, there is currently no reciprocal reporting from CBD to Ramsar on relevant information in CBD national reports. SBSTTA recommendation XIV/2 seeks to address this through requesting the CBD Executive Secretary to prepare reporting on CBD national report contents, so as to assist the Ramsar STRP in its work on developing state of the world's wetlands reporting on status and trends in wetland biodiversity.

#### ***Implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> JWP across the programmes of work and issues of the CBD***

28. Progress with implementation of the fourth JWP remains most conspicuous with regards to the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems. But the relevance of wetlands and water to the CBD, and *vice-versa*, extends well beyond what this more narrow sphere of interest implies. There are two core needs:

(i) for better recognition of the broader contribution of wetlands in supporting biodiversity and underpinning ecosystem services, including with regards to terrestrial and marine and coastal ecosystems, and hence the important role of the Ramsar Convention, and the work of its STRP and relevant policies and guidance developed, across most if not all areas of interest and activity of the CBD; and

(ii) better recognition of the relevance of policies, management and activities beyond wetlands, which are often more directly addressed under considerations of the CBD, to sustaining the health of wetlands and their contribution to sustainable development.

29. Both need more attention in the context of, *inter alia*, the achievement of the Strategic Plan of the CBD. These linkages have been recognised in various decisions of both conventions. For example, the CBD programme of work on inland waters biodiversity, in decision VII/4, para. 11, recognises the presence of inland water ecosystems in agricultural lands, forests, dry and sub-humid lands, and mountains, and the ecological connectedness between inland waters, estuaries and inshore coastal areas and, accordingly, encourages Parties, other Governments and organizations to ensure cross-referencing to, and coherence with, the other thematic programmes of work while implementing this programme of work. However, and as is the case with the aforementioned, such recognition remains largely contained within CBD programme areas and there is limited evidence of uptake of this decision in other CBD work programmes where reference to wetlands and water often remains conspicuous by its absence. One prominent example is the very limited recognition of the relevance of the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance (and the 40 years experience in its development and implementation) to the programme of work on protected areas of the CBD. The CBD programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, for example, makes no reference to wetlands or the Ramsar Convention despite the fact that land and water use by agriculture is the primary driver of wetland loss and degradation.

30. The fourteenth meeting of SBSTTA recognised one, albeit a relatively minor, aspect of such needs with regards to the programmes of work on inland waters and marine and coastal biodiversity by recommending that CBD COP-10 notes that there is a need to clarify the scope of, and inter-linkages between, the programmes of work on inland water biodiversity and marine and coastal biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity in coastal areas, including with regard to coverage of coastal wetlands under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and requests the Executive Secretary and invites the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to include under the Joint Work Plan between the two conventions an assessment of ways and means to address relevant inland water biodiversity needs in coastal areas and to report on this matter to the next meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (recommendation XIV/2 para. 16). Whilst this important activity is long-overdue, it nevertheless reflects how continuing "programme of work based dialogue" constrains better and more effective, ecosystem-based, collaboration and implementation (e.g., by referring only to these two programmes of work and their "scope", implying an interest in identifying boundaries and overlap, largely a definition issue, as opposed to focus on where the synergies are).

31. A more effective strategy for harmonised approaches might arise from comparing not biomes, sectors or ecosystem types, but through more holistic areas of interest. In this regard, the better recognition of water as a key issue for the CBD in all aspects of its implementation, and the proper reflection of this in the revised Strategic Plan (as already recognised in SBSTTA recommendation XIV/2) would be a major – if not essential - stimulus to advance coherence between the two conventions. Other examples would be action regarding climate change mitigation (carbon storage) and adaptation, urban areas (cities), poverty reduction, protected areas, human health and well-being and partnerships – noting that attention to such "cross-biome/sector" subjects is evolving in both the Ramsar Convention and the CBD but these are still largely disconnected between them and miss considerable opportunities for further synergy.

#### *National level implementation of the fourth JWP*

34. The fourth JWP recognises that the primary responsibility for its implementation rests with Parties and the Convention Bodies. The degree of implementation of the JWP at national level (and below) remains difficult to assess. The in-depth review of the programme of work on inland waters analysed responses to questions on this subject in the third national reports to the CBD. Of the 148 reports (available at that time) only nine Parties reported they had taken comprehensive measures for joint implementation between the Ramsar Convention and the CBD (further information is available in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/INF/3).

35. Coordination between Ramsar and the CBD, through their respective focal points at national level, including in the context of the JWP, remains an area requiring further attention by most Parties.

36. From information available through National Reports there needs, in particular, to be closer linkages and synergy established between NBSAPs and National Wetland Policies (or their equivalent), and between these and other relevant sector policies affecting biological diversity.

#### **THE JWP POST 2010 (FIFTH JWP)**

37. The JWP needs adjusting for the period 2011 onwards. In view of the timing of CBD COP-10, and in particular its consideration of the revised Strategic Plan for the post-2010 period, the two Secretariats conclude that it would be premature to develop the fifth JWP for the consideration of CBD COP-10.

38. The proposed strategy, therefore, is for the Secretariats to have in place, at least between them, a draft fifth JWP by 01 January 2011 which:

(a) Has the achievements of the CBD Strategic Plan (post-2010) and Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 at its core;

(b) Builds upon experience with implementing previous JWPs and in particular the value of simplicity and flexibility and the need to avoid duplication of reporting on progress;

(c) Recognizes that the key objective of the JWP should be to support enhanced implementation (not withstanding continuing to build on the long history of successful mutual collaboration on scientific and technical topics between the two conventions); and

(d) If feasible, has a duration that matches the Strategic Plan (i.e., to 2020) but maintaining flexibility to incorporate relevant activities and opportunities as they arise during that period.

39. The fifth joint work plan will be presented for consideration by subsequent meeting(s) of the relevant bodies of the two conventions: in the case of the CBD, WGRI-4 and/or COP-11 (as appropriate); and for the Ramsar Convention, the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee and/or COP-11 (as appropriate).

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