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BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF INLAND WATER ECOSYSTEMS

Technical requirements under the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and the ongoing and planned activities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention

Note by the Executive Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Conference of the Parties has requested the Executive Secretary to review the technical requirements under the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and compare them with the ongoing and planned activities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention in order to identify inconsistencies and propose ways and means to address them to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). This note has reviewed more comprehensively the current status of relevant requests and invitations under the programme of work not only for the STRP but also for the two secretariats and SBSTTA. All activities with specified time-lines have been undertaken on schedule and mechanisms are in place to address those with time-lines beyond the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA. A number of activities are “ongoing” but these largely reflect the fact that the work of the STRP on such matters is, and should be, continuing. The technical collaboration between the two conventions is already functioning very well. Clearer expression of the respective roles of the two conventions, secretariats and scientific bodies are needed. This should make more explicit the lead role the Ramsar Convention plays in relation to wetlands and help clarify the respective roles of the secretariats and scientific bodies. The main opportunity to do this is during the forthcoming in-depth review. Recent recommendations and decisions of SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties have already moved in this direction. Invitations from the Convention on Biological Diversity for Ramsar to undertake additional work are rarely accompanied by additional resources to do it. Funding sources should take into consideration the co-benefits of investing in outputs relevant to both conventions. The dissemination of information by and between the two conventions can be significantly improved. The importance of this warrants that the necessary resources be devoted to a detailed review and enhancement of the current system, including related CEPA activities. This should be accompanied by much clearer and more easily accessible descriptions, for example on both websites, of how the two conventions and their technical work are related.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/1.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 5 (a) of decision VIII/20, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to review the technical requirements under the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and compare them with the ongoing and planned activities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention in order to identify inconsistencies and propose ways and means to address them to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). In response to this request, the Executive Secretary has prepared this note. Section II provides a summary of the findings, including areas where the joint work between the two conventions can be improved. This is based upon a detailed review of the status of requests or invitations of the Conference of the Parties (in decision VII/4) to the Executive Secretary, SBSTTA and the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and Secretariat contained in the annex to this note.

II. PROGRESS IN, AND STREAMLINING OF, THE TECHNICAL WORK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

2. In paragraph 5 (a) of decision VIII/20, the Conference of the Parties referred specifically to the relationship between the requirements for work in its decision VII/4 and that of the Ramsar STRP. In practice, working relationships between the two conventions are more intricate. For example, much of the work requested to be undertaken by the Executive Secretary, as appropriate, is normally undertaken in collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat, and this normally might involve the STRP either formally or informally. Therefore, the Executive Secretary has undertaken a more comprehensive review of progress in relation to decision VII/4 and listed this in relation to relevant activities to be undertaken by the Executive Secretary, SBSTTA, the Ramsar Secretariat and the STRP. The results are presented in the annex to this note which reports the status of activities to date, ongoing and proposed activities of the STRP, and identifies where improvements in working relations between the two secretariats and scientific bodies can be made.

3. All activities with specified time-lines have been undertaken on schedule and mechanisms are already in place to address those with time-lines beyond the thirteenth meeting of SBSTTA. A number of activities are “ongoing” but these largely reflect the fact that the work of the STRP on such matters is, and should be, continuing. Quantifying this progress is difficult, since the activities vary significantly in terms of complexity and effort required. For current purposes, it is clear that the technical collaboration between the two conventions is already functioning very well (as noted by the Conference of the Parties in the preamble to its decision VIII/20). Areas where collaboration can be improved even further are indicated in the following sections.

A. *Clearer expression of the respective roles of the two conventions, secretariats and scientific bodies*

4. In its decision III/21, the Conference of the Parties recognized the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands as the lead implementing partner on wetlands for the Convention on Biological Diversity. There is a common understanding of this at the level of the conferences of the parties, the secretariats and the scientific bodies. But the clarity of this decision is not always reflected in practice. For example, many activities in decision VII/4 are requested to be undertaken “jointly” by the two secretariats (whether in conjunction with the STRP or not). In practice, the Ramsar Secretariat and/or STRP are generally far better resourced than the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity regarding the required scientific work and, in reality in most technical areas, undertake most of the work for “joint” activities. There could be greater recognition of this arrangement, where appropriate, in order to both

acknowledge the Ramsar Convention's role and clarify the role of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and SBSTTA.

5. Recently there has been a clear move in this direction by SBSTTA. For example, SBSTTA recommendation XI/9, paragraphs 5 and 6, requests the Executive Secretary to invite the Ramsar Convention "to take *the lead*....." (in various matters). Further moves in this direction, where appropriate, would help the practical implementation of the intention of decision III/21, thereby promoting a relationship based upon a clearer statement of respective roles and competencies and, importantly, enable the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to prioritize activities better. In appropriate and relevant areas, it is also logical that the Ramsar Convention (or STRP) invite the Convention on Biological Diversity (or SBSTTA) to do the same. Naturally, such invitations should be based upon dialogue between the two conventions, their scientific bodies or secretariats, as appropriate.

6. The significant opportunity in this regard is to make a clearer indication of the respective roles of the two conventions in the in-depth review of the programme of work, and its potential revision, scheduled to take place at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in line with annex II of decision VII/10.

B. Funding aspects of invitations from the Convention on Biological Diversity for Ramsar to undertake work

7. Whereas the Conference of the Parties (e.g., decision VII/4 itself) and/or SBSTTA have often invited the Ramsar Convention to undertake significant work on their behalf, there has rarely been the allocation of resources for the Ramsar Convention to do so. Discretionary or voluntary funding to achieve implementation of joint activities has been made available, on an *ad-hoc* basis, and such is popular with some Parties or donors. However, the reality is that the extent to which Ramsar can respond to its role in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity depends upon the availability of its own independent resources. Therefore, the priority areas of work for Ramsar have tended, naturally, to take precedence.

8. More attention could be given in future deliberations to enhancing the ability of the Ramsar Convention to support the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity as and where appropriate. While it is clearly inappropriate to consider that core funding approved for the Convention on Biological Diversity be allocated to the Ramsar Convention, there is an opportunity to further increase awareness amongst potential funding sources that investments in appropriate and relevant activities by the Ramsar Convention offer significant co-benefits through improved implementation of the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

C. Dissemination of information by and between the two conventions

9. A significant number of activities in the programme of work rely upon a supply of relevant information from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity or the Ramsar Convention, either between the secretariats, the scientific bodies or amongst Parties. Likewise, the Ramsar Convention needs to be informed about activities and outputs of the Convention on Biological Diversity. No in-depth analysis of the effectiveness of this information flow has been undertaken. Nevertheless, there are identifiable weaknesses in the current system. Where requested, or where relevant information is exchanged (in either direction) between the conferences of the parties or scientific bodies, the information flow can be monitored. However, information flow in other contexts can be less transparent. For example, decision VII/4 and the revised programme of work on inland water biodiversity annexed thereto contain numerous invitations for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity or Ramsar Convention to make information "available to [CBD] Parties" (e.g., activities 1.4.7, 2.1.5, 2.4.7, 2.4.8, 3.2.10, 3.2.11, see annex), but the mechanisms for doing so are limited, and their effectiveness

questionable. “Making available” is relatively easily achieved, but awareness among relevant stakeholders of its availability and relevance quite a different matter.

10. The Ramsar Convention possesses a great deal of information and guidance relevant to implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (and *vice versa*), including in areas beyond the programme of work on inland water biodiversity. The value of this information warrants measures to maximize its impact on key stakeholders. A related opportunity is to improve how the two conventions collaborate in terms of communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) activities. Good opportunities have been seized by both secretariats, but on a rather ad hoc basis.

11. Much of the information flow can, and does, occur through the respective websites. However, neither provides particularly easily accessible information on the respective roles the two conventions play, how Ramsar information is relevant to the Convention on Biological Diversity (and *vice versa*), how it is generated and can be used, and how it relates to the decisions or resolutions of either side. The problem is compounded by the two conventions using different terminology in many areas. The website of the Convention on Biological Diversity requires considerable improvement in these respects, but this could be most effective if undertaken in conjunction with a review of information dissemination, harmonization of websites and a joint communication, education and public awareness strategy for both conventions with respect to their joint interests. In view of the value of the information held, the investment in its generation, and the importance of its utilization for effective implementation, additional resources for undertaking such an activity would be well justified. It would also be extremely relevant as a test-case for improving information flow, and awareness of linkages, between the Convention on Biological Diversity and other multilateral environmental agreements.

Annex

THE STATUS OF WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN UNDER THE PROGRAMME OF WORK (DECISION VII/4) BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, SBSTTA AND RAMSAR STRP AND SECRETARIAT

Decision text	Status	Notes
REQUESTS TO THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:		
<p>2. <i>Recognizes</i> that a major shortcoming in the current review has been the limited availability of recent information on each of the activities of the programme of work and the lack of financial resources to generate it, and further recognizing the usefulness of the national reports submitted to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) for a global status of the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and, accordingly, <i>requests</i> the Executive Secretary to submit, for consideration at its eighth meeting, a proposal on ways and means for making the review more comprehensive;</p>	Completed	<p>COP decision VIII/20:</p> <p>Paragraph 5 (b) requests the Executive Secretary to invite the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a draft national reporting framework on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems;</p> <p>Paragraph 5 (e) requests the Executive Secretary to also invite the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to explore, jointly and avoiding duplication of effort, through appropriate means and subject to available resources: (i) further ways and means to improve mechanisms for assessing the extent, distribution and characteristics of inland water ecosystems, considering the guidelines for review of the programmes of work of the Convention (decision VIII/15, annex III) in particular paying attention to ecosystem considerations and the assessment and monitoring of drivers of change, noting the long-term need for such assessments at the national, regional and global level, including for wetlands not designated as Ramsar Sites; and (ii) the capacity needs at national level in relation to such assessments.</p> <p>Also COP decision VIII/15, para. 25, invites the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, for areas within its mandate and in line with the role of the Ramsar Convention established, by decision III/21, as the lead implementation partner on wetlands for the Convention on Biological Diversity, to contribute to the implementation of the targets, to monitoring progress towards them and to developing the targets further for specific application to wetlands.</p> <p>Progress reported to SBSTTA at its thirteenth meeting in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5.</p> <p>STRP continues to work on related subjects. Working group 1 on Ramsar Site information needs, data management and official reporting; indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention; process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character; and additional indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention.</p>

Decision text	Status	Notes
<p>3. <i>Also requests</i> the Executive Secretary to develop with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention a proposal, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, on streamlining and improving the effectiveness of national reporting on inland water ecosystems, taking into account the work of the Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting established in the framework of United Nations Forum on Forests and other initiatives for harmonizing biodiversity-related national reports;</p>	completed	<p>COP decision VIII/20:</p> <p>Paragraph 5 (b) requests the Executive Secretary to invite the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a draft national reporting framework on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems;</p> <p>Paragraph 5 (e) requests the Executive Secretary to also invite the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to explore, jointly and avoiding duplication of effort, through appropriate means and subject to available resources: (i) further ways and means to improve mechanisms for assessing the extent, distribution and characteristics of inland water ecosystems, considering the guidelines for review of the programmes of work of the Convention (decision VIII/15, annex III) in particular paying attention to ecosystem considerations and the assessment and monitoring of drivers of change, noting the long-term need for such assessments at the national, regional and global level, including for wetlands not designated as Ramsar Sites; and (ii) the capacity needs at national level in relation to such assessments;</p> <p>Also COP decision VIII/15, para. 25, <i>Invites</i> the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, for areas within its mandate and in line with the role of the Ramsar Convention established, by decision III/21, as the lead implementation partner on wetlands for the Convention on Biological Diversity, to contribute to the implementation of the targets, to monitoring progress towards them and to developing the targets further for specific application to wetlands.</p> <p>Progress reported to SBSTTA 13 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5.</p>
<p>14 (a) Compile, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting, information on mountain ecosystems and their role as water suppliers and examples of transferable technologies relevant to the implementation of the revised programme of work on inland water biodiversity also relevant to mountain ecosystems, and ensure that this information is considered in the implementation of the programme of work on mountain biological diversity (decision VII/27), and taking into account, <i>inter alia</i>, the work of the Committee on Forestry of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;</p>	completed	UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/19
<p>14 (c) In collaboration with relevant organizations and conventions, develop cost-effective</p>	completed	UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/11/12/Add.1

Decision text	Status	Notes
<p>means to report on implementation of the programme of work as measured against the global targets defined in the Strategic Plan, in the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, and in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, essentially using indicators and assessments at the global level by international organizations, or existing data, and propose these to the Subsidiary Body prior to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p>		
<p>16. <i>Recognizes</i> the need for reliable baseline data and subsequent regular national assessments of the status and trends of, and threats to, inland water biodiversity as a basis for decision-making on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity of inland water ecosystems and, accordingly, <i>requests</i> the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with Parties and relevant organizations, in particular the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) among others, and making use of all available information, to prepare, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting:</p> <p>(a) A work plan with defined timeframe, ways, means, and capacity needs for assessing the extent, distribution and characteristics of inland water ecosystems, including, <i>inter alia</i>, biological characteristics and those chemical and physical characteristics relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including necessary requirements for ecosystem based approaches, where possible using and not duplicating the efforts of other initiatives;</p> <p>(b) A report on information, and sources of information, on the trends of inland water biodiversity, definition of agreed baselines, relevant indicators and frequency of the assessments; and</p> <p>(c) A work plan with ways and means for assessing</p>	<p>completed</p>	<p>COP decision VII/I20:</p> <p>Para. 5 (b) requests the Executive Secretary to invite the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a draft national reporting framework on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems;</p> <p>Para. 5 (e) requests the Executive Secretary to also invite the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to explore, jointly and avoiding duplication of effort, through appropriate means and subject to available resources: (i) further ways and means to improve mechanisms for assessing the extent, distribution and characteristics of inland water ecosystems, considering the guidelines for review of the programmes of work of the Convention (decision VIII/15, annex III) in particular paying attention to ecosystem considerations and the assessment and monitoring of drivers of change, noting the long-term need for such assessments at the national, regional and global level, including for wetlands not designated as Ramsar Sites; and (ii) the capacity needs at national level in relation to such assessments;</p> <p>Also COP decision VIII/15, para. 25, <i>Invites</i> the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, for areas within its mandate and in line with the role of the Ramsar Convention established, by decision III/21, as the lead implementation partner on wetlands for the Convention on Biological Diversity, to contribute to the implementation of the targets, to monitoring progress towards them and to developing the targets further for specific application to wetlands.</p> <p>Ramsar Resolution IX.1 Annex D “Ecological “outcome-oriented“ indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention” also makes significant progress towards the development of indicators.</p> <p>STRP continues to work on related subjects. Working Group 1 on Ramsar Site information needs, data management and official reporting; indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention; process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character; additional indicators of effectiveness of</p>

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processes and categories of activities which have or are likely to have significant adverse impacts on the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity;		implementation of the Convention; wetland classification; and inventory metadatabase; and Working Group 4 – wetlands and water quality.
21. <i>Recognizes</i> that the guidelines are focused on biological factors and, more specifically, on species-level assessments, and that they only touch on ecosystem-level and socio-economic and cultural aspects relating to the conservation and use of biological diversity, and <i>requests</i> the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and other relevant organizations, to develop a complementary set of tools to assess the function and health of inland water ecosystems and the socio-economic and cultural values of biological diversity of inland waters to be presented as information paper to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting;	completed	UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/13 Also CBD Technical Series 27 (Ramsar Technical Report 3) Valuing wetlands - Guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetland ecosystem services. Published jointly by CBD/Ramsar
22. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with relevant organizations, to strengthen capacities, including through practical training, for the application and, as needed, adaptation to local conditions of the guidelines especially in developing countries, particularly in small island developing States and in the territories of certain States in which inland water ecosystems suffer from ecological disaster;	ongoing	Funding constraints limit implementation
23. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to develop a monitoring and reporting system to assess the experiences gathered with respect to the usefulness and applicability of the guidelines, including through the national reports under the Convention on Biological Diversity;	completed	Third national report addresses usefulness and applicability of guidelines.
25. <i>Emphasizes</i> the critical role of inland water biodiversity for sustainable livelihoods and, accordingly,	completed	UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/15

Decision text	Status	Notes
<p><i>requests</i> the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, to prepare a study on the linkages between conservation and sustainable use of inland water biodiversity and poverty alleviation/sustainable livelihoods, including human health considerations, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting. The study should contain proposals on ways and means to ensure that implementation of the programme of work contributes appropriately to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods;</p>		<p>Ramsar Resolution IX.14 “Wetlands and poverty reduction” also addresses related issues.</p> <p>STRP Working group 2 is also undertaking further work on wetlands, Ramsar Sites and sustainable fisheries and wetlands and poverty reduction. Working group 6 on wetlands and human health.</p>
<p>26. <i>Requests</i> the Executive Secretary to compile, in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts, existing information and disseminate it in a format that is useful to policy makers, recognizing that comprehensive information about the function of inland water ecosystems is invaluable to land and resource managers for planning, evaluating and executing plans and programmes. Emphasis should be put on assessment of, and research on, factors that affect ecosystem functions, the valuation of ecosystem functions, and remedial actions to restore ecosystem functions;</p>	<p>ongoing with significant progress</p>	<p>For valuation: UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/13; also CBD Technical Series 27 (Ramsar Technical Report 3) <i>Valuing wetlands - Guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetland ecosystem services</i>. Published jointly by CBD/Ramsar</p> <p>UNEP/CBD/COP/8/INF/15 covers functions of inland water ecosystems in relation to poverty alleviation and sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>Ramsar STRP has provided substantial advice to Ramsar COP on this and related issues. resolution IX.1, annex A (A Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character) promotes the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment as a means of addressing the issue of the functions of inland water ecosystems.</p> <p>For water management issues (factors that affect ecosystem functions, and remedial actions to restore ecosystem functions) Ramsar Resolution IX.1 Annex C “An Integrated Framework for the Ramsar Convention’s water-related guidance” provides related guidance.</p> <p>STRP Working Group 4 is undertaking much related work on environmental flows and water resources management; and Working Group 5 on wetlands and agriculture.</p>
<p>Goal 1.1. To integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all relevant sectors of water-resource and river-basin management, taking into account the ecosystem approach</p>	<p>completed</p>	<p>An invitation was sent to all national focal points of the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar Convention, international agencies and NGOs to submit the various case-studies and information requested (covering all subjects listed) on 12 September 2005 with a deadline for submission of 30 November 2005 (re. notification 2005-099).</p>
<p>1.1.13. The Executive Secretary, in</p>		

Decision text	Status	Notes
<p>collaboration with relevant partners as appropriate, should compile and disseminate, including through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity:</p> <p>(a) Case-studies, lessons learned and best-practice guidance on ways and means to address all forms of water pollution at both the local and catchment scales;</p>		<p>Case-studies received have been entered into the clearing-house mechanism case-study database. However, the responses received were limited.</p> <p>STRP Working Group 2 is also compiling case-studies on wise use.</p>
<p>(b) Examples of water resource development projects (water supply and sanitation, irrigation, hydropower, flood control, navigation, groundwater extraction) that incorporate biological diversity considerations, and which aim for sustainable use and maintenance of ecological processes; and</p>		
<p>(c) The information provided by Parties in response to activity 1.1.7 above.</p>		
<p>1.1.14. Also in collaboration with appropriate partners, the Executive Secretary should develop practical management guidance and associated instruments on sustainable use of inland water biodiversity, with special attention for sustainable tourism developments, sustainable use of freshwater fish stocks, and sustainable agricultural practices in association with inland water ecosystems, taking into account the ongoing work in response to the implementation of decisions V/24 and VI/13 of the Conference of the Parties, on sustainable use.</p>		<p>Regarding fisheries, Ramsar Resolution resolution IX.4 (The Ramsar Convention and conservation, production and sustainable use of fisheries resources) refers to this subject. The Ramsar Secretariat is also currently preparing a report in their Technical Series on Ramsar Sites and fisheries management.</p> <p>STRP Working Group 2 is working on wetlands, Ramsar Sites and sustainable fisheries; Working Group 4 on water resources management; and Working Group 5 on wetlands and agriculture.</p>
<p>1.2.8. In collaboration with the secretariats of the Convention on Migratory Species and the Ramsar Convention identify opportunities for collaborative work on protected area networks for migratory species dependent on inland water ecosystems, through the respective bilateral joint work plans.</p>	ongoing	<p>There is considerable collaborative work between the Ramsar Secretariat and the CMS – due largely to the high proportion of migratory species (water birds mainly) that are wetland dependent.</p> <p>SCBD inputs need to be developed in this area including in relation to the programme of work on protected areas (e.g., ecological networks) and the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>STRP Working group 3 is working on the Ramsar site-selection criteria and interpretation of the term “under-represented” which will take into account the concept of ecological networks and ecoregions.</p>

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<p>Goal 1.4. To prevent the introduction of invasive alien species including exotic stocks that potentially threaten the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and to control and, where possible, eradicate established invasive species in these ecosystems</p> <p>1.4.6. In collaboration with GISP, the Executive Secretary should implement the project on assessment of impacts of invasive alien species in inland waters ^{1/} and make proposals on future assessments for consideration by SBSTTA.</p> <p>1.4.7. The Ramsar Secretariat should be requested to make available to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity the results of the consideration of the issue of invasive alien species in wetlands at the eighth meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>1.4.8. The Executive Secretary should compile information provided by Parties pursuant to activity 1.4.2 above and other suitable information products including the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and that prepared by the Ramsar Secretariat, Commonwealth Secretariat, and IUCN for the communications and awareness-raising project on African wetland invasive alien species.</p>	ongoing	<p>Considerations of invasive alien species issues relating to inland waters are incorporated into relevant considerations under the PoW in invasive alien species.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.18 of the Ramsar Convention refers to Invasive species and wetlands. Paragraph 5 notes that guidance adopted by this meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including <i>New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> (resolution VIII.14) and the resolution on the guidelines adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment and their relevance to Ramsar (resolution VIII.9), is relevant to the recognition, prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species. Paragraph 6 recalls that, in resolution VII.14, the Parties also directed the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to prepare wetland-specific guidelines for identifying, establishing priorities for action, and managing alien species which potentially pose a threat to wetlands and wetland species, in cooperation with the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of CBD, the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), and other programmes established under international conventions.</p>
<p>Goal 2.1: To promote the integration of conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, policies and legislation</p>		
<p>2.1.5. Identify and make available to Parties, guidance, case-studies and lessons learned, including those relating to the practical application of strategic environmental assessment, to assist in reviewing and fine-tuning institutional frameworks (plans, programmes,</p>	completed	<p>An invitation was sent to all national focal points of the CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar Convention, International Agencies and NGOs to submit the various case-studies and information requested (covering all subjects listed) on 12 September 2005 with a deadline for submission of 30 November 2005 (re. notification 2005-099).</p>

^{1/} The project brief was distributed at the seventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/3).

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policies and legislations) for the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of inland waters.		<p>No case-studies were submitted.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands, third edition, Handbook 13 deals with guidance on impact assessment: “<i>Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment</i>”.</p>
<p>2.1.6. Continue to support and participate in the WCMC-led project on harmonizing information management between the five biodiversity-related Conventions (CBD, Ramsar, CITES, CMS and the World Heritage Convention).</p>	ongoing	<p>Decision VIII/20, para. 5 (b) requests the Executive Secretary to invite the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a draft national reporting framework on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.</p> <p>Ramsar Resolution IX.5 refers to “Synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements”</p> <p>Progress on this requested is reported in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5.</p>
<p>2.1.7. Together with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and interested Parties, seek the resources to establish working models (demonstration sites) show-casing the collaborative implementation of activities to achieve the complementary objectives of several multilateral environmental agreements.</p>	good progress	<p>Ramsar Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands, third edition, handbook 17 refers to international cooperation: “<i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</i>”</p> <p>Ramsar Resolution IX.5 refers to synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements.</p> <p>Ramsar resolution IX.3 refers to “Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water”.</p> <p>Good progress has been achieved at the international/Convention level but the establishment of demonstration sites in practice by the MEAs is beyond their normal mandate (except for Ramsar protected wetland sites). However, field projects (sites) have been developed along these lines and clearly show-cased the ability to achieve complimentary objectives of various MEAs. In particular, good progress has been made at the international level in consolidating approaches to water, wetlands, biodiversity and climate change. An expert meeting was co-convened by the SCBD and Ramsar Secretariat, 23-24 March 2007, Gland Switzerland, on this subject (the draft report is available at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/case-studies/wtr/cs-wtr-ramsar-en.pdf). The outcomes include a detailed analysis of how the multi-lateral environment agreements can work better together; including in particular the CBD, UNFCCC and Ramsar Convention. The background information considered includes</p>

Decision text	Status	Notes
		examples of site-based activities which achieve the objectives of these conventions collectively. SBSTTA recommendation XII/5, para. 2 (b) (ii), requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environment agreements and other relevant partners, to review opportunities for further action to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands as well as other wetlands, and to report on progress to the ninth meeting of Conference of the Parties. This activity will include consideration of the achievement of complimentary objectives of several MEAs including case-studies.
Goal 2.2: To encourage the development, application and transfer of low-cost appropriate technology, non-structural and innovative approaches to water resource management and the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, taking into account any decision taken by the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting on technology transfer and cooperation.		
2.2.5. Through the clearing-house mechanism, make available to Parties information on appropriate technologies and approaches to water resource management and the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.	good progress	<p>Several existing Ramsar Handbooks for the Wise Use of Wetlands, third edition, provide guidance on this subject: Handbook 6 - <i>Water-related guidance, An Integrated Framework for the Convention's water-related guidance</i>; Handbook 7 - <i>River basin management, Integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</i>; Handbook 8 - <i>Water allocation and management, Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</i>; and Handbook 9 - <i>Managing groundwater: Guidelines for the management of groundwater to maintain wetland ecological character</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar resolution IX.1, annex C, refers to guidance on “An Integrated Framework for the Ramsar Convention's water-related guidance”; resolution IX.1 Annex Cii to “Guidelines for the management of groundwater to maintain wetland ecological character”.</p> <p>A relevant report is also being prepared for the Ramsar Technical Series: Reviews of environmental flow methodologies: (i) rivers; (ii) estuaries and near-shore environments; (iii) non-riverine inland wetlands.</p>
2.2.6. Through partnerships with relevant organizations seek to provide Parties with access to the latest technologies and innovative management approaches relating to programme elements 1 and 3 developed by the private sector, catchment-management bodies and others	good progress	<p>Integrated Water Resources Management is included, <i>inter alia</i>, in the above handbooks and considered under relevant Ramsar Resolutions and further guidance provided therein.</p> <p>Relevant organizations involved in this process have included Ramsar’s international organization partners which include, <i>inter alia</i>, BirdLife International, IUCN-The</p>

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actively engaged in integrated water resource management.		<p>World Conservation Union, Wetlands International, the World Wide Fund for Nature the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).</p> <p>The SCBD has also contributed to this process by its participation in the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).</p> <p>The processes involved in providing existing guidance have included best practice developed by the private sector and catchment management bodies.</p>
<p>Goal 2.3: To provide the appropriate incentives and valuation measures to support the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity, and to remove, or reform appropriately, any perverse incentives opposing such conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, as it relates to biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>2.3.6. In collaboration with key partners such as OECD, IAIA, IUCN, WWF, the Ramsar STRP and Bureau and relevant stakeholders, the Executive Secretary should compile information on relevant guidance, resource kits and other information on incentive measures, including that relating to the development of incentives options through water rights, markets, pricing policies and land use and tenure. More specifically, he may wish to:</p> <p>(a) Compile and disseminate case-studies and best practices on the use of incentive measures for the management of inland water ecosystem goods and services;</p> <p>(b) Further explore the advantages and disadvantages of wetland mitigation banking, including the identification of institutional requirements, possible shortcomings and limitations;</p> <p>(c) Further explore the respective advantages and disadvantages of tax/charge approaches as well as their interaction, including the identification of institutional requirements, possible shortcomings and limitations;</p> <p>(d) Identify ways and means to further integrate the use of incentive measures into inland water-related plans, programmes and policies, including opportunities for the removal or mitigation of perverse incentives;</p>	good progress	<p>Various Ramsar Handbooks, 3rd edition, refer generally to the subject of incentives and taxation. These include: Handbook 2</p> <p>National Wetland Policies - Developing and implementing National Wetland Policies; Handbook 3 Laws and institutions - Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands; Handbook 5</p> <p>Participatory skills - Establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands; Handbook 13 <i>Impact assessment - Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment</i>; and Handbook 16 <i>Managing wetlands - Frameworks for managing Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i>.</p> <p>Ramsar Technical Report No. 3 covers the subject of valuing wetlands and guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetlands ecosystem services (published jointly as CBD Technical Series No. 27).</p> <p>Regarding attention to the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands, Ramsar STRP has undertaken an in-depth review of the subject. Ramsar Resolution IX.1, Annex A, refers to a conceptual framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character. This adopts the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Definitions of the key Ramsar Convention concepts of "wise use" and "ecological character" of wetlands were adopted by COP-3 (1987) and COP-7 (1999) respectively. Action 3.1.1 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 requested the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to "review the wise use concept, its applicability, and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development". In addition, COP-8 Resolution VIII.7 requested the STRP to further review and, as appropriate, develop guidance and report to COP-9 concerning identified gaps and disharmonies in defining and reporting the ecological character of wetlands, including, <i>inter alia</i>, harmonization of definitions and terms in the guidance on inventory, assessment, monitoring and management of the ecological character of wetlands. The work of the STRP has been greatly assisted by the concurrent work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment</p>

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<p>(e) Further monitor recent discussions on incentive measures with a view to identifying other measures of specific use for the sustainable management of inland water ecosystems.</p>		<p>(MA), in particular the MA's Conceptual Framework for Ecosystems and Human Well-being (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2003. <i>Ecosystems and Human Well-being: A Framework for Assessment</i>. Island Press, Washington, D.C.), and its definition and description of the characteristics of ecosystems and ecosystem services. The STRP determined that it is appropriate to update and harmonize the Convention's "wise use" and "ecological character" definitions to take into account other now more-widely used terms and definitions relating to ecosystems and sustainable development, and that a conceptual framework for the delivery of "wise use" would be of assistance to Contracting Parties and others in determining when and where to make policy and management interventions to support this delivery. This guidance covers harmonizing wetland ecosystem terminologies and provides both a conceptual framework for wetland wise use and updated and harmonized definitions of "ecological character", "change in ecological character", and the "wise use" of wetlands.</p> <p>Ramsar resolution IX.2 (Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention), section II(b), calls for the continued review of existing or evolving policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands, identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use, and investigate linkages between incentives and related topics including financial mechanisms, trade, impact assessment, and valuation. (further to, and c.f., the Ramsar Strategic Plan action 8.1.1 & resolutions VIII.23, VIII.34 and VIII.40).</p>
<p>Goal 2.4: To implement the programme of work for the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in its decision VI/19), giving particular attention to matters relating to the conservation and sustainable use of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems</p> <p>2.4.7. In collaboration with key partners and collaborators, review the global initiative on communication, education and public awareness and develop and make available guidance for Parties on how best to promote its application for supporting this programme of work.</p> <p>2.4.8. Pursuant to activity 2.4.2, make</p>	<p>ongoing/ incomplete</p>	<p>Some CEPA activities relating to the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems have been undertaken jointly by the SCBD and Ramsar Convention, in particular recently in relation to water, wetlands, biodiversity and climate change. Naturally, CEPA activities of the Ramsar Secretariat on inland and coastal wetlands are all relevant.</p> <p>STRP Working Group 8 is working on CEPA aspects of technical guidance/products prepared by STRP and preparation of relevant CEPA outreach materials.</p> <p>CEPA is an area where the two secretariats need to have an improved strategy in order to raise awareness of common issues and to disseminate the considerable amount of information already generated, and being generated, by the two secretariats.</p>

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available to Parties case-studies, advice on best practice approaches, plus other sources of information and expertise in the field of communication, education and public awareness.		
<p>Goal 2.5: Promote the effective participation of indigenous and local communities and relevant stakeholders in the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of inland water ecosystems in accordance with national laws and applicable international obligations</p> <p>2.5.5. Promote the implementation of the programme of work and decisions of the Conference of the Parties on Article 8(j) and related provisions.</p>	ongoing	Relevant considerations under Article 8(j) have been made as the need arises.
Goal 3.1: To develop an improved understanding of the biodiversity found in inland water ecosystems, how these systems function, their ecosystem goods and services and the values they can provide	good progress ongoing	
3.1.6. Strengthen working partnerships with appropriate organizations and institutions which undertake, or can assist in mobilizing, research efforts leading to an improved understanding of the biodiversity and functioning of inland water ecosystems, and the practical application of the ecosystem approach.		<p>The Secretariat contributed to both the CBD synthesis (Biodiversity) and Ramsar synthesis (Wetlands and Water) of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.</p> <p>Regarding attention to the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands, Ramsar STRP has undertaken an in-depth review of the subject. Ramsar Resolution IX.1 Annex A, refers to a conceptual framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character. This adopts the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Definitions of the key Ramsar Convention concepts of "wise use" and "ecological character" of wetlands were adopted by COP-3 (1987) and COP-7 (1999) respectively. Action 3.1.1 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 requested the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to "review the wise use concept, its applicability, and its consistency with the objectives of sustainable development". In addition, Ramsar COP-8 Resolution VIII.7 requested the STRP to further review and, as appropriate, develop guidance and report to COP-9 concerning identified gaps and disharmonies in defining and reporting the ecological character of wetlands, including, <i>inter alia</i>, harmonization of definitions and terms in the guidance on inventory, assessment, monitoring and management of the ecological character of wetlands. The work of the STRP has been greatly assisted by the concurrent work of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment</p>

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		<p>(MA), in particular the MA's Conceptual Framework for Ecosystems and Human Well-being (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2003. <i>Ecosystems and Human Well-being: A Framework for Assessment</i>. Island Press, Washington, D.C.), and its definition and description of the characteristics of ecosystems and ecosystem services. The STRP determined that it is appropriate to update and harmonize the Convention's "wise use" and "ecological character" definitions to take into account other now more-widely used terms and definitions relating to ecosystems and sustainable development, and that a conceptual framework for the delivery of "wise use" would be of assistance to Contracting Parties and others in determining when and where to make policy and management interventions to support this delivery. This guidance covers harmonizing wetland ecosystem terminologies and provides both a conceptual framework for wetland wise use and updated and harmonized definitions of "ecological character", "change in ecological character", and the "wise use" of wetlands.</p> <p>The concept of ecosystem services has also been incorporated into Ramsar guidance for the criteria for designation of Ramsar Sites (as elaborated further in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/15 - see below, decision VII/4 paras. 29 and 30 – invitations to the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP).</p> <p>STRP Working group 2 is working further on the MA conceptual framework, wise use responses, and Ramsar guidance.</p>
<p>3.1.7. As part of the agreed programme of work for the GTI, support and assist, in collaboration with suitable partners, the development of the series of regional guides to the taxonomy of freshwater fish and invertebrates (including adult terrestrial forms where appropriate) as an input to ecosystem monitoring for river and lake health (as specified by decision VI/8 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity).</p>	<p>limited progress</p>	<p>The ability of the Secretariat to promote this activity continues to be limited by resource availability</p>
<p>3.1.8. Further develop methods and techniques for the valuation of goods and services of inland water ecosystems, incentives and policy reform, and the understanding of ecosystem function.</p>	<p>completed</p>	<p>Ramsar Technical Report No. 3 covers the subject of valuing wetlands and guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetlands ecosystem services (published jointly as CBD Technical Series No. 27).</p> <p>Work undertaken and ongoing on incentives and the understanding of ecosystem function is covered elsewhere under related topics.</p>

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<p>Goal 3.2: To develop, based on inventories, rapid and other assessments applied at the regional, national and local levels, an improved understanding of threats to inland water ecosystems and responses of different types of inland water ecosystems to these threats</p>		
<p>3.2.10. Make available to Parties guidelines for rapid, simple, inexpensive, and easy-to-use assessments of inland water biological diversity, taking into account the different types of such ecosystems and regional considerations, and giving special consideration to the priority needs of small island developing States, and States in which inland water ecosystems are suffering from ecological disasters.</p>	completed	CBD Technical Series 22 (published jointly as Ramsar Technical Report No. 1)
<p>3.2.11. In collaboration with the Ramsar Convention and other partners, make available to Parties guidance for:</p>		
<p>(a) Undertaking national inventories and assessments of inland water biological diversity;</p>	good progress ongoing	<p>See above.</p> <p>Ramsar Wise Use Handbook, 3rd edition, Handbook 11</p> <p>Inventory, assessment, and monitoring- An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment, and monitoring; Handbook 12</p> <p>Wetland inventory-A Ramsar Framework for wetland inventory; also refer.</p> <p>Ramsar STRP, in its 2006-2008 work plan, is undertaking further work on this subject under activities 52 (Ramsar Site information needs – high priority) and 50 (inventory metadatabase – lower priority) and 51 (review of wetland inventory – lower priority) of Working Group 1.</p>
<p>(b) The identification of stressed inland water ecosystems;</p>	good progress ongoing	<p>Ramsar Wise Use Handbook, 3rd edition, Handbook 15</p> <p>Addressing change in ecological character Ramsar STRP, in its 2006-2008 work plan, is undertaking further work on this subject under activities 54 and 56 (process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character; redesign of the</p>

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		Montreux record questionnaire – high priority).
(c) The national elaboration of Annex I of the Convention on Biological Diversity in relation to biological diversity of inland waters;	completed	See under decision VII/4, paras. 29 and 30, invitation to the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP – as below
(d) A list of indicators grouped as driver, state, impact, and response to pressures on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (taking into account the implementation of decision VI/7 B of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, on monitoring and indicators).	ongoing	<p>The Secretariat is undertaking a review of this subject in response to CBD COP decision VIII/20 para. 5 (e) [requests the Executive Secretary] to also invite the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to explore, jointly and avoiding duplication of effort, through appropriate means and subject to available resources: (i) Further ways and means to improve mechanisms for assessing the extent, distribution and characteristics of inland water ecosystems, considering the guidelines for review of the programmes of work of the Convention (decision VIII/15, annex III) in particular paying attention to ecosystem considerations and the assessment and monitoring of drivers of change, noting the long-term need for such assessments at the national, regional and global level, including for wetlands not designated as Ramsar Sites; and (ii) The capacity needs at national level in relation to such assessments;</p> <p>(f) Develop proposals for further ways and means for: (i) A strategic approach to identify key stakeholders and promote, where appropriate, their full involvement in reducing drivers of negative change and increasing drivers of positive change; and (ii) Involving stakeholders in monitoring and reporting on the drivers of change, status and trends of biological diversity and implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and to present the proposals to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;</p> <p>Decision VIII/15, para. 25, invites the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, for areas within its mandate and in line with the role of the Ramsar Convention established, by decision III/21, as the lead implementation partner on wetlands for the Convention on Biological Diversity, to contribute to the implementation of the targets, to monitoring progress towards them and to developing the targets further for specific application to wetlands.</p> <p>In response to decision VIII/15, para. 25, Ramsar STRP, in its 2006-2008 work plan, is undertaking further work on this subject under activities task 59 of working group 1 (indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention – immediate priority).</p>
3.2.12. Through continued collaboration with global and regional assessments including, but not restricted to, the Global International Waters Assessment	ongoing	The generation of this information relates to the subject of monitoring and indicators as elaborated further, <i>inter alia</i> , under activity 3.2.11 (d) and elsewhere. In addition, this subject is relevant to the process of harmonized national reporting etc. as

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<p>(GIWA), the World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the FAO Fisheries Assessment, the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO), the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), the report on State of the World's Plant and Animal Resources and the IUCN Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment and Red List of Threatened Species, seek to advance the generation of information on status and trends, which can assist and support global, transboundary and national priority setting processes for the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biodiversity.</p>		<p>elaborated above under decision VII/4, paras. 2 and 16, and activities 2.1.6 and 2.1.7.</p>
<p>3.2.13. Make available to Parties information on the various global and regional assessments referred to in activity 3.2.10, and how these may offer information to support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in relation to inland waters.</p>	ongoing	<p>Relevant information has been incorporated by the Secretariat into the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (Both the CBD and Ramsar Syntheses), Global Biodiversity Outlook 2 (and in preparation for GBO3).</p> <p>In addition, the Secretariat has been a partner in the CGIAR Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture – which is now published and being disseminated.</p>
<p>Goal 3.3. To ensure projects and actions with the potential to impact negatively on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems are subjected, in accordance with national legislation and where appropriate, to suitably rigorous impact assessments, including consideration of their potential impact on sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities</p>		
<p>3.3.4. Collaborate with the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and other relevant organizations to contribute to the implementation of decision VI/7 A on further development and refinement of the guidelines, particularly to incorporate all stages of the environmental impact assessment processes taking into account the ecosystem approach.</p>	good progress ongoing	<p>Ramsar Wise Use Handbook, 3rd edition, Handbook 13 Impact assessment – Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment refers to this subject.</p> <p>Ramsar resolution VIII/9, adopts the guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment' adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (adopted in CBD decision VIII/28).</p>

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<p>3.3.5. Compile:</p> <p>(a) Information on impact assessment and other methodologies that address inland water biological diversity issues in an adaptive management framework; and</p>		<p>See activity 3.3.4 above.</p>
<p>(b) Examples of the impacts of invasive alien species and of programmes used to control their introduction and mitigate negative consequences on inland water ecosystems especially at the watershed, catchment and river-basin level.</p>		<p>Considerations of invasive alien species issues relating to inland waters are incorporated into relevant considerations under the PoW in invasive alien species.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.18 of the Ramsar Convention refers to Invasive species and wetlands. Para. 5 notes that guidance adopted by this meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including <i>New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> (Resolution VIII.14) and the Resolution on the guidelines adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment and their relevance to Ramsar (Resolution VIII.9), is relevant to the recognition, prevention, eradication and control of invasive alien species. Para 6 recalls that in Resolution VII.14 the Parties also directed the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to prepare wetland-specific guidelines for identifying, establishing priorities for action, and managing alien species which potentially pose a threat to wetlands and wetland species, in cooperation with the Subsidiary Body for Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of CBD, the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), and other programmes established under international conventions.</p>
<p>Goal 3.4. To introduce and maintain appropriate monitoring arrangements to detect changes in the status and trends of inland water biodiversity</p> <p>3.4.2. Develop a proposal on the establishment of monitoring programmes for inland water ecosystems taking into account existing guidance, including the Ramsar Convention guidance, relating to the establishment of monitoring programmes for wetland sites</p>	<p>good progress</p>	<p>Paragraph 5 (b) of decision VIII/20 requests the Executive Secretary to invite the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a draft national reporting framework on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems [this includes consideration of existing monitoring programmes]; Progress reported to SBSTTA 13 in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5.</p> <p>Para. 5 (e) of decision VIII/20 requests the Executive Secretary to also invite the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention to explore, jointly and avoiding duplication of effort, through appropriate means and subject to available resources: (i) Further ways and means to improve mechanisms for assessing the extent, distribution and characteristics of inland water ecosystems, considering the guidelines for review of the programmes of work of the Convention (decision VIII/15, annex III) in particular</p>

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		<p>paying attention to ecosystem considerations and the assessment and monitoring of drivers of change, noting the long-term need for such assessments at the national, regional and global level, including for wetlands not designated as Ramsar Sites; and (ii) The capacity needs at national level in relation to such assessments;</p> <p>Also COP decision VIII/15, para. 25, <i>Invites</i> the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, for areas within its mandate and in line with the role of the Ramsar Convention established, by decision III/21, as the lead implementation partner on wetlands for the Convention on Biological Diversity, to contribute to the implementation of the targets, to monitoring progress towards them and to developing the targets further for specific application to wetlands.</p> <p>Ramsar Resolution IX.1 Annex D “Ecological “outcome-oriented“ indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention” also makes significant progress towards the development of indicators.</p> <p>Monitoring of Ramsar Sites continues to be a cornerstone of Ramsar Site management guidance.</p> <p>Decision VIII/15, para. 25, invites the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, for areas within its mandate and in line with the role of the Ramsar Convention established, by decision III/21, as the lead implementation partner on wetlands for the Convention on Biological Diversity, to contribute to the implementation of the targets, to monitoring progress towards them and to developing the targets further for specific application to wetlands.</p> <p>In response to decision VIII/15, para. 25, Ramsar STRP, in its 2006-2008 work plan, is undertaking further work on this subject under activities task 59 of working group 1 (indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention – immediate priority).</p> <p>The current guidance and that being developed is yet to be packaged in a form of a proposal so that CBD Parties (not Parties to Ramsar) may implement it, nor is it in a form which is easily understood and applicable to wetlands that are not Ramsar Sites. Considerable information is however available upon which to base such proposals. Strategies to achieve this will become clearer once the process of developing harmonised reporting between the two conventions has been completed.</p> <p>STRP continues to work on related subjects. Working group 1 on Ramsar Site information needs, data management and official reporting; indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention; process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character; additional indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention; wetland classification; and inventory</p>

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		metadatabase; and Working group 4 – wetlands and water quality.
REQUESTS FOR SBSTTA:		
<p>28. <i>Requests</i> the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in close collaboration with the Ramsar Convention to review the interim classification system with the view to developing a definitive classification system as a matter of urgency prior to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account the multi-year programme of work (decision VII/31), on the basis of experiences accumulated by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, as appropriate to their national circumstances, taking into account the options described in the note by the Executive Secretary prepared for the eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/8/Add.4);</p>	<p>good progress – further work ongoing</p>	<p>Considerable work was done on the wetlands classification system by the previous triennium of the Ramsar STRP. Current guidance on the classification system is contained, <i>inter alia</i>, in the Ramsar Information Sheet (used to identify and describe potential Ramsar Sites). The current Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) 2006-2008 version provides guidance on categories approved by Recommendation 4.7 (1990), as amended by Resolution VIII.13 of the 8th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2002) and Resolutions IX.1 Annex B, IX.6, IX.21 and IX. 22 of the 9th Conference of the Contracting Parties (2005).</p> <p>Further work on the wetland classification is ongoing by the STRP (2006-2008) under activity 49 of working group 1 (lower priority task). This, subject to resources, will develop, test and publish a hydro-geomorphologically based system of classification of wetland type. including an evaluation of how this might relate to other possible systems and to the current Ramsar classification system, having regard <i>inter alia</i> to groundwater issues and to relevant outputs of the European Space Agency GlobWetland remote-sensing project, and prepare a report with advice to Parties at Ramsar COP-10.</p> <p>A Ramsar Technical Report is currently being prepared on a review of wetland classification systems.</p> <p>The schedule of these activities and outputs is appropriate for reporting to CBD COP-10 in a timely fashion</p>
<p>Goal 1.1. To integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all relevant sectors of water-resource and river-basin management, taking into account the ecosystem approach:</p>		
<p>1.1.10. SBSTTA should</p> <p>(a) Review existing information on the allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions, including the relevant guidelines and technical papers on this topic, and prepare advice for the Conference of the Parties;</p>	<p>currently under way for SBSTTA 13</p>	<p>See document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5</p>

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<p>(b) Develop specific expert guidance on the management of the negative impacts of climate change, El Niño, unsustainable land-use practices and desertification on inland water biodiversity and appropriate adaptive management and mitigation responses, in collaboration with relevant partners;</p>	<p>good progress</p>	<p>In relation to climate change, good progress has been made at the international level in consolidating approaches to water, wetlands, biodiversity and climate change. An expert meeting was co-convened by the SCBD and Ramsar Secretariat, 23-24 March 2007, Gland Switzerland, on this subject (the draft report is available at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/case-studies/wtr/cs-wtr-ramsar-en.pdf). The outcomes include a detailed analysis of how the multi-lateral environment agreements can work better together; including in particular the CBD, UNFCCC and Ramsar Convention. The background information considered includes examples of site-based activities which achieve the objectives of these conventions collectively. SBSTTA recommendation XII/5, para. 2 (b) (ii), requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environment agreements and other relevant partners, to review opportunities for further action to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands as well as other wetlands, and to report on progress to the ninth meeting of Conference of the Parties. This activity will include consideration of the achievement of complimentary objectives of several MEAs including case studies. Explicit management guidance for climate change has not been developed (except for peatlands) but would be included under general management guidance for wetlands (most of the Ramsar Wise-Use Handbooks refer directly or indirectly to this subject).</p> <p>Work specifically on the El Niño phenomenon has yet to be undertaken. However, general management guidance for wetlands (e.g., the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks) include incorporating inter-annual variations in climate (particularly rainfall) into adaptive management approaches for the long-term sustainability of wetlands.</p> <p>Likewise “unsustainable” land use practices are addressed under existing wetlands management guidance in that it is well recognised that unsustainable land use is the major threat to many wetlands and its management needs to be incorporated into plans.</p> <p>There is limited specific guidance on the management of the negative impacts of desertification on wetlands – excepting much work pointing to the increased value of wetlands in areas subject to desertification. This topic is also covered under existing Ramsar guidance on managing and addressing unsustainable land use. The Ramsar STRP (2006-2008) working group 4 (task 86) is undertaking more work on this subject – water resources management in dry and sub-humid lands (lower priority task).</p> <p>Regarding unsustainable land use in an agricultural context, Ramsar STRP (2006- /... 2008) working group 5 (task 150) is undertaking as an immediate priority the development of guidance on agriculture and wetlands.</p>

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<p>(c) Compile available information from Parties and other organizations for the CHM on the impacts of climate change on wetlands, and the roles that wetlands can play in mitigating the effects of climate change, notably the role of peatlands in carbon sequestration.</p>		<p>In relation to climate change good progress has been made at the international level in consolidating approaches to water, wetlands, biodiversity and climate change. An expert meeting was co-convened by the SCBD and Ramsar Secretariat, 23-24 March 2007, Gland Switzerland, on this subject (the draft report is available at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/case-studies/wtr/cs-wtr-ramsar-en.pdf). The outcomes include a detailed analysis of how the multi-lateral environment agreements can work better together; including in particular the CBD, UNFCCC and Ramsar Convention. The background information considered includes examples of site-based activities which achieve the objectives of these conventions collectively. This information was partly considered by SBSTTA 12. SBSTTA recommendation XII/5, para. 2 (b) (ii), requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environment agreements and other relevant partners, to review opportunities for further action to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands as well as other wetlands, and to report on progress to the ninth meeting of Conference of the Parties. This activity will include consideration of the achievement of complimentary objectives of several MEAs including case studies.</p> <p>Peatlands feature prominently in these outputs and ongoing work. The results of the Global Assessment of Peatlands were presented to SBSTTA 12 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/7).</p>

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<p>Goal 1.3: To enhance the conservation status of inland water biological diversity through rehabilitation and restoration of degraded ecosystems and the recovery of threatened species</p> <p>1.3.4. SBSTTA to prepare guidelines on promoting rehabilitation and restoration of inland water ecosystems, on the basis of the Ramsar principles and guidelines on wetlands restoration, the findings of the IUCN Species Survival Commission regarding the conservation status of threatened species reliant on inland water ecosystems, and other information provided by Parties (see activity 1.3.1).</p>	<p>good progress – but yet to be considered by SBSTTA</p>	<p>Ramsar resolution VIII/16 provides principles and guidelines for wetland restoration. This includes principles and guidelines, a glossary, approaches, bibliography, policy incentives, links to restoration project web-sites, sources of training, links to tools, and guidance for restoration in the context of national planning.</p> <p>Ramsar have a mini-web site devoted to the subject of wetland restoration (http://www.ramsar.org/strp/strp_rest_index.htm).</p> <p>Ramsar STRP (2006-2008) working group 3 is undertaking further work on this subject (task 126, development of post-disaster wetlands restoration guidelines; task 127 – dissemination of information on new research and methods for wetlands restoration; both lower priority tasks).</p>
<p>Goal 2.3: To provide the appropriate incentives and valuation measures to support the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity, and to remove, or reform appropriately, any perverse incentives opposing such conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, as it relates to biodiversity conservation. ^{2/}</p> <p>2.3.5. SBSTTA should compile and disseminate studies on valuation of inland water ecosystem goods and services; and identify ways and means to further integrate the use of economic valuation into national inland water-related plans, programmes and policies (e.g., within integrated water management approaches) as a core component of policy reform.</p>	<p>good progress</p>	<p>Various Ramsar Handbooks, 3rd edition, refer generally to the subject of incentives. These include: Handbook 2</p> <p>National Wetland Policies - Developing and implementing National Wetland Policies; Handbook 3 Laws and institutions - Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands; Handbook 5</p> <p>Participatory skills - Establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands; Handbook 13</p> <p>Impact assessment - Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment; and Handbook 16 Managing wetlands - Frameworks for managing Ramsar sites and other wetlands.</p> <p>Ramsar Technical Report No. 3 covers the subject of valuing wetlands and guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetlands ecosystem services (published jointly as CBD Technical Series No. 27).</p> <p>Ramsar Resolution IX.2 (Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention), section II(b), calls for the continued review of existing or evolving policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands, identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use, and investigate linkages between incentives and related topics including financial mechanisms, trade, impact</p>

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		<p>assessment, and valuation. (further to, and c.f., the Ramsar Strategic Plan action 8.1.1 & Resolutions VIII.23, VIII.34 and VIII.40).</p> <p>Ramsar STRP (2006-2008) working group 3 task 128 is to provide further guidance on compensation for wetland losses (lower priority area).</p>
INVITATIONS TO STRP AND/OR THE RAMSAR SECRETARIAT:		
<p>29. <i>Invites</i> the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, respectively, and in line with paragraph 30 of resolution VIII.10 of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention, and with a view to achieving a more comprehensive coverage of components of biological diversity through the designation of Ramsar sites:</p> <p>(a) To further elaborate the guidelines on existing criteria for the following features:</p> <p>(i) Wetlands supporting wild relatives of domesticated or cultivated species;</p> <p>(ii) Wetlands that support species or communities and genomes or genes of economic, social, scientific or cultural importance;</p> <p>(iii) Wetlands supporting species or communities that are important for research into the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity including indicators of ecosystem health and integrity; and</p> <p>(iv) Wetlands that support important populations of taxonomic groups with wetland-dependent species, including, <i>inter alia</i>, amphibians;</p> <p>(b) To consider the development of additional criteria, including, as appropriate, quantitative criteria;</p> <p>(c) To develop guidelines on the geographical scale</p>	completed	See UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/15

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at which criteria should be applied;		
30. <i>Further invites</i> the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to provide guidance, based on experiences, for the interpretation and application of the Ramsar criteria at the national and regional levels.	completed	See UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5 and UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/INF/15
<p>Goal 1.1. To integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all relevant sectors of water-resource and river-basin management, taking into account the ecosystem approach</p> <p>1.1.10. The Convention Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention should finalize the development and move into full implementation of the River Basin Initiative, with input from collaborating partner organizations, as appropriate.</p>	completed	River Basin Initiative operational since 2005
Goal 1.1: To integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all relevant sectors of water-resource and river-basin management, taking into account the ecosystem approach		
<p>1.1.12. The Ramsar Secretariat should be invited to bring to the attention of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity relevant guidance or approaches adopted by the Ramsar Convention for the wise use of wetlands, such as:</p> <p>(a) The Ramsar Convention guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management; and</p>	ongoing	<p>The Ramsar guidelines are continually updated. Therefore this activity will be ongoing. Various relevant guidelines are already published through, <i>inter alia</i>, the Ramsar Wise-Use Handbooks, 3rd edition. Some technical areas have been expanded and updated in various relevant Ramsar COP-9 resolutions, pending the future updating of the handbooks.</p> <p>This information is freely and readily available through the Ramsar web-site. The mechanism for bringing this information to the “attention of the Parties to the CBD” is unclear. Currently this is on a rather ad-hoc basis. To do this for each and every package of information generated would be cumbersome. An improved strategy for information flow between the two conventions is required, as discussed further in the</p>

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		<p>text.</p> <p>STRP Working Group 2 is compiling further wise-use case-studies.</p>
<p>(b) Model approaches to transboundary watershed or river basin management that can demonstrate effective mechanisms for cooperative management.</p>	completed	<p>See above.</p> <p>Transboundary watershed or river basin management approaches are elaborated further in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5</p>
<p>Goal 1.1. To integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into all relevant sectors of water-resource and river-basin management, taking into account the ecosystem approach</p> <p>1.1.15. The Ramsar Secretariat should be invited to make available to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention guidelines for global action on peatlands, adopted at the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.</p>		<p>See above.</p> <p>An expert meeting was co-convened by the SCBD and Ramsar Secretariat, 23-24 March 2007, Gland Switzerland, on this subject (the draft report is available at: http://www.cbd.int/doc/case-studies/wtr/cs-wtr-ramsar-en.pdf). Peatlands are the major wetland type relevant to this topic and the guidelines for global action on peatlands incorporated into the considerations. The results of the Global Assessment of Peatlands were presented to SBSTTA 12 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/7).</p> <p>This information was partly considered by SBSTTA 12. SBSTTA recommendation XII/5, para. 2 (b) (ii), requests the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the secretariats of relevant multilateral environment agreements and other relevant partners, to review opportunities for further action to support the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity of tropical forested peatlands as well as other wetlands, and to report on progress to the ninth meeting of Conference of the Parties.</p>

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<p>Goal 2.3: To provide the appropriate incentives and valuation measures to support the conservation and sustainable use of inland water biological diversity, and to remove, or reform appropriately, any perverse incentives opposing such conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems, as it relates to biodiversity conservation. ^{3/}</p> <p>2.3.4. The Ramsar STRP should be invited to consider the proposals of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the design and implementation of incentive measures (as endorsed through decision VI/15) and identify ways and means to see this guidance developed further, specifically for inland water ecosystems.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The proposals made in Decision VI/15 of the CBD have been considered in the ongoing work of the Ramsar STRP on related issues.</p> <p>Various Ramsar Handbooks, 3rd edition, refer generally to the subject of incentives. These include: Handbook 2</p> <p>National Wetland Policies - Developing and implementing National Wetland Policies; Handbook 3 Laws and institutions - Reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands; Handbook 5 Participatory skills - Establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands; Handbook 13 Impact assessment - Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment; and Handbook 16 Managing wetlands - Frameworks for managing Ramsar sites and other wetlands.</p> <p>Ramsar Technical Report No. 3 covers the subject of valuing wetlands and guidance for valuing the benefits derived from wetlands ecosystem services (published jointly as CBD Technical Series No. 27).</p> <p>Ramsar Resolution IX.2 (Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention), section II(b), calls for the continued review of existing or evolving policy, legal and institutional frameworks to identify and promote those measures which encourage conservation and wise use of wetlands, identify and remove measures which discourage conservation and wise use, and investigate linkages between incentives and related topics including financial mechanisms, trade, impact assessment, and valuation. (further to, and cf., the Ramsar Strategic Plan, action 8.1.1 and resolutions VIII.23, VIII.34 and VIII.40).</p> <p>Ramsar STRP (2006-2008) Working Group 3, task 128 is to provide further guidance on compensation for wetland losses (lower priority area).</p>

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