

*Annex***THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) AND THE RAMSAR
CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (RAMSAR)*****Joint Work Programme (JWP)*****2007-2010**Endorsed by decision SC/35-30 of the 35th meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee, February
2007**Context**

The global environment is rapidly changing and this impacts on the capacity of ecosystems to deliver the services needed to sustain and improve human well-being. Policy development, planning and management based upon the Ecosystem Approach is essential to promote the continued delivery of ecosystem services. Among these services, water is the most valuable and the wise management of biodiversity and wetlands is thus critical in this context. Furthermore, while climate change is increasingly on the public and political agenda, the importance of the biodiversity of wetlands in moderating global change and its impacts remain under recognized.

Goal

The goal of this Joint Work Plan is the conservation and sustainable and wise use of biodiversity especially in wetlands, helping to assure the full achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target.

Rationale

The convention secretariats recognize that:

- (i) The ongoing collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is setting a good example in building synergies between conventions to deliver effectively the objectives of both conventions (CBD decision VIII/20; Ramsar resolution IX.5) and that we must build upon this success;
- (ii) The Ramsar Convention acts as the lead partner for wetlands in implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- (iii) The two conventions do not have the same composition of Parties but that the objectives and principles of the Convention on Biological Diversity are embodied in the Ramsar Convention, and *vice versa*, in a mutually supportive way;
- (iv) Article 1.1 of the Ramsar Convention states that “for the purpose of this Convention wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres”;
- (v) Wetlands therefore occur in all biomes and are potentially influenced by all sector activities, and that appropriate management of land and water, using the ecosystem approach under the Convention on Biological Diversity, is required to achieve the goal – consequently, the JWP will work through all relevant thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues of the Convention on Biological Diversity and cover all relevant resolutions made under the Ramsar Convention;
- (vi) The biological diversity of wetlands is under the most severe threat and that threats are rapidly escalating – particularly through competing human demands for water;
- (vii) Continued biodiversity loss from wetlands will seriously undermine the delivery of important services provided by these ecosystems and will be a significant constraint to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and biodiversity target;

- (viii) Considerable technical knowledge has already been developed by the CBD, Ramsar, and many partners to manage land and water better in order to sustain their benefits for people; and
- (ix) Whilst the further development of technical tools is required in some areas, the key requirements for the achievement of the objectives of this JWP centre on public and political awareness, institutional weaknesses and capacity related issues.

Specific activities

The primary responsibility for implementation of this JWP rests with Parties and the Convention Bodies. The Secretariats play a supporting and facilitating role.

The following is an indicative list of activities. The flexible and innovative nature of this JWP is designed to lead to other key targeted actions aimed to maximize its contribution to the achievement of the goal of the JWP.

Parties may identify specific national actions, depending on the circumstances of each country. The national focal points of the two conventions should cooperate in a proactive and flexible way to implement this work programme.

In order to ensure the wise use of wetlands as well as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all ecosystems, and promote the contribution of biodiversity and wetlands to human well-being, key activities include:

- (i) Making use of the ecosystem approach in planning processes at national, regional and local levels by taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands and other ecosystems;
- (ii) Developing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national wetland policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way;
- (iii) Identifying and implementing joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, including poverty reduction strategies; and
- (iv) Promoting the synergistic implementation of both conventions – including the CBD programme of work on protected areas and the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

Convention bodies. For the scientific bodies of the conventions, with the possible assistance of liaison groups, expert groups, specialist organizations or individual experts, key actions to support this JWP include, *inter alia*:

- (i) Prioritizing key activities to implement both conventions in a mutually supportive manner;
- (ii) Further harmonizing the ecosystem approach and Ramsar “wise use of wetlands”;
- (iii) Developing tools to measure the achievement of the 2010 target by elaborating and using wetlands and water-related indicators;
- (iv) Improving representativeness of wetland protected areas, including using Ramsar sites as catalysts for networks of protected areas between countries to conserve wetlands;
- (v) Promoting sustainable use of wetland biodiversity in the framework of wise use;
- (vi) Ensuring harmonized national reporting, including the role of national reports in measuring the implementation of this JWP;
- (vii) Collaborating to meet the goals of both conventions’ strategic plans, to best monitor and assess the respective achievements in the context of biodiversity and wetlands;

- (viii) Integrating wetland and water considerations into environmental impact assessments and procedures;
- (ix) Facilitating data accessibility and interoperability among the Ramsar databases and the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its national nodes;
- (x) Identifying strategic opportunities, and formulating plans, for coordinated action within the Global Initiative on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA); and
- (xi) Further identifying and promoting the importance of cultural diversity in understanding and managing biodiversity and wetlands.

The secretariats will promote or assist implementation of the joint work programme through, inter alia:

- (i) Any activities requested by their governing bodies relevant to the goals and objectives of this JWP, recognizing the differing resources available to, and the comparative advantage of, each secretariat; and
- (ii) Innovative approaches, within available resources, to implement this JWP, focusing in particular on:
 - (a) Engaging with major groups and partners in the full implementation of the provisions of both conventions as related to priority issues for the conservation, wise use and international cooperation around wetlands;
 - (b) Awareness-raising through strengthened and more effective CEPA activities which target major stakeholders that influence policy and management outcomes for biodiversity, wetlands and water; and
 - (c) Promoting, where necessary, capacity of Parties – including through enhanced South-South cooperation.

Reporting

This JWP shall be used as the basis of reporting to their respective bodies on activities and progress by each secretariat at the end of each calendar year.
