

## Summary of the Ramsar Strategic Plan Questionnaire

### Asia – Oceania Contracting Parties

#### 1. What are the main strengths of the current Strategic Plan 2009-2015?

- The main five Goals of Implementing the convention (wise use of wetlands, development of the Ramsar list, International cooperation, Implementation capacity, membership in the convention)
- Wise use of Wetlands.
- It seemed that the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 served like a framework or guideline of how to implement the convention.
- Promoting wise use and international cooperation.
- In all, the goals of the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 guide us to understand the concept and priority of the Convention at local and national level; focus on some environmental related key issues; promote the awareness of the importance of wetlands; review parties' duty on the maintenance of ecological character of Ramsar sites.
- Clear structure and clear logic behind preparing the strategic plan. The plan is translated into five languages. It includes SMART objectives key results.
  1. Consist of several priority strategies to achieve Ramsar's goals.
  2. Identification of strengths and weaknesses of both contracting parties and thematic issues.
  3. Integrated cross-sectoral approach to wetland conservation, including the promotion of private sector engagement.
  4. Close link / connectivity with CBD and Aichi target.
  5. Focus on local and national actions through international cooperation.
  6. Encourage participation of local indigenous and non-indigenous population and making use of traditional knowledge on management of wetlands.
  7. Wide ranging strategy with key result area.
- Consistent structure over time: The current Strategic Plan (2009-2015) follows a similar structure to that of previous Plans, i.e. Mission, Goals, Strategies and Key Result Areas. The ongoing use of this structure provides Contracting Parties with certainty to enable forward planning and consistency to enable ongoing monitoring of Parties' implementation of the Convention. The structure also provides clarity and focus on the content. Flexibility: The current Strategic Plan (2009-2015) identifies Key Result Areas to be progressed by various stakeholders, including those of particular relevance to Contracting Parties. However, it is acknowledged that Parties differ substantially in their capacity to implement the Ramsar Convention and each Party is expected to examine the Strategic Plan and determine its own response based on available resources. Simplicity: The current Strategic Plan (2009-2015) provides a shorter and more focused list of Key Result Areas compared to previous Strategic Plans. The current structure builds on and benefits from the lessons learnt from the development and implementation of earlier Strategic Plans.

## **2. What should be the structure of the next Strategic Plan?**

- Implementation of the convention based on: a) The main five Goals of the Implementing the convention. B) Key issues, key elements for the period. Convention Implementation achievements and progress during (2009 - 2014).
- a) Wise use of Wetlands. b) Policy, legislation and institution. c) Invasive alien species d) Wetland inventory and assessment. e) Integrate the wetlands in the national strategies.
- The structure used by the Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 has proved to be very effective and well known over the world. The next Ramsar Strategic Plan should have the same structure.
- A similar structure would be fine but linkage between Aichi targets and the strategic plan is important.
- The current Strategic Plan is the third one. Its structure and mission has been discussed and adopted by the COP. It is better to keep the primary structure while adjusting the mission for a different period.
- An assessment is required in advance to assess what was achieved in order to set the new strategic plan. Delivering the same structure of the strategic plan in different visual context might help in reaching decision makers and make it easier to understand.
- The structure should be similar to the previous strategic plan and serve as a continuing document from the previous SP. Such as how to answer the problem and issues faced in the previous SP. The current structure could be maintained, with additional information on the measurable indicators for each global strategy, which can then be translated into specific country's measurable indicators.
- Australia supports the next Strategic Plan following a structure similar to the current Strategic Plan (2009-2015), i.e. Mission, Goals, Strategies and Key Result Areas. Australia does not support the proposed move to a high-level strategy supported by an implementation strategy/action plan. Australia notes that action plans/work plans are currently developed by various bodies of the Convention including the Secretariat, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel.

## **3. What should be the scope and focus of the new Strategic Plan?**

- The most important things should be focused on:
  - 1. The challenges facing water resources.
  - 2. Climatic changes
  - 3. Awareness of the value of wetlands.
  - 4. Improve the livelihoods of the people of wetlands.
- To maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar sites through planning and management, concentrate and pay attention on the water resources.

- The scope should include our commitment to achieve the new Sustainable Development Goals, Biodiversity Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets and the Green Economy concept, Focus should be on saving and restoring wetlands for living in harmony with nature.
- Enhancing the quality of the designated Ramsar sites including the submission and revision of RISs and its maps.
- The new Strategic Plan should address the solution on how to enhance the image, visibility and recognition of the Convention on the regional and global scale. Secondly, it should focus on promoting the implementation of COP resolutions in an effective way at the national and international level. Last but not the least; the plan should formulate an assessment mechanism on the implementation effect of the Convention.
- Improving the visibility of the convention globally. Improving the implementation of the convention on the national level.
- The new Strategic Plan needs to be focused on the international cooperation and actions to overcome common problems experienced by most contracting Parties, such as climate change, poverty eradication and wise use of wetlands and how to deal with the private sector (mining sector, agricultural and palm oil plantation). The current scope and focus, among others, need to be maintained including:
  - Application of ecosystem-based approach of IWRM
  - Recognition of traditional knowledge on wetlands management
  - Poverty eradication strategies are integrated as part of the solution to anthropogenic problems
  - Provision of incentive measures for wise use of wetlands
  - Wetlands restoration or rehabilitation is introduced as a recommended mechanism to recover natural wetlands system
  - Integrated cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services in the decision-making process of wise use of wetlands
  - Strategies for raising public awareness and local community engagement
- The primary basis (Goals) of the Strategic Plan should draw on Parties' obligations under the Convention. This should be supported by strategies that address the various challenges to the 'conservation and wise use of wetlands', as in the current (2009-2015) Strategic Plan. A primary consideration of the Strategic Plan revision is identifying strategies that respond to the specific challenges or threats to Ramsar sites. There are a number of documents that address and provide input to this issue, including Document SC46-05 (Report of the Secretary General; paragraph 4-9) and Contracting Parties' National Reports to COP11. The State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to people (SoWWS) project being progressed by the STRP will also input into the next Strategic Plan. It may be appropriate for the next Strategic Plan to increase recognition of the importance of identifying ecosystem services associated with wetlands, as a mechanism for explicitly incorporating the benefits of wetlands in land-use planning decisions. However, care must be taken to limit the focus of strategies to wetlands rather than broadening it to water more generally. Australia supports the reference to the potential role that wetlands can play in the delivery of the

post-2015 sustainable development goals being included in the Strategic Plan, particularly given the contribution of many wetlands to community livelihoods.

#### **4. Opportunities for the preparation of the new Strategic Plan**

- It is very important for the new Strategic Plan to respond to the new global agenda like green economy, sustainable development goals, Biodiversity Strategic Plan and Climate Change Plan.
- The increase in the number of environmental problems in terms of climate change and water security is taking shape the awareness of the international community to the environmental degradation. It is a good opportunity for the Convention and the Secretariat to map out the future role and position at the regional and global levels.
- Identifying clear objectives in harmony with other related conventions such as: CBD, CMS, UNCCD etc.
- 1. Alignment of the new Strategic Plan with other major convention, such as UNFCCC; 2. Inclusion of Disaster Risk Reduction issues through closer communication with UNISDR. 3. Alignment of the New Strategic Plan with various national wetlands strategies and policies (for Indonesia, such as Indonesian Mid-term Development Program, Ministries strategic plan, National committee of wetlands.).

##### **4.1. To what extent should the new Strategic Plan be aligned with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets?**

- The effective support to the strategic plan for biodiversity continuously not for a certain period for the following axes: 1. Policy of water management with Legislation of laws concerning wetlands. 2. Allocation of water. 3. Monitoring inventory and evaluation.
- CBD and Ramsar joint work plan with CMS / AEWA/ working plan being implemented and participation continued in the CBD Biodiversity liaison Group and also to joint activities developed with the UN convention to combat Desertification , should be covered in the period of not more than 5 year .
- The new Strategic Plan should be aligned with all goals and almost all targets (except the ABS target) of the Biodiversity Strategic Plan.
- Although RAMSAR and the CBD achieve common goals, they have their respective priority and emphasis. The Strategic Plan of Ramsar should not be subjected to that of CBD but only to keep it consistent with each other.
- At COP11, Contracting Parties affirmed the relevance of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to all biodiversity-related conventions (Resolution XI.6). A stronger alignment with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity presents a valuable opportunity to enhance cooperation and coordination with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and potentially other biodiversity-related conventions. It could also result in the identification of further areas of synergy and options for harmonization of implementation amongst the biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Additionally, the alignment of goals and targets through strategic planning processes could help to streamline national reporting and reduce the reporting burden to conventions. One possible mechanism to enhance

the Ramsar Convention's support for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is referring to those Aichi targets that are relevant to Ramsar's strategic objectives. However, Australia does not support the Strategic Plan being limited to strategies for the delivery of Aichi targets.

**4.2. To what extent should the new Strategic Plan invite other sectors, and notably the water management sector, to better value, restore and maintain wetland ecosystems and their services?**

- Call other sectors (involved with water) taking their suggestions, opinions to support the strategic plan to achieve actual work on the ground and that does not mean not involve the other sectors, everyone is complementary to the process of the implementation the plan.
- Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the water management sector for wise use of wetlands; cooperate with other relative authorities to promote the wise use of wetlands.
- International partnership of the Convention is helpful for the global implementation but domestic involvement of all sectors concerned should also be addressed by the Plan.
- Ramsar should bear in mind its own key issues and priorities, partly involve other sectors.
- As per the comment above (Question 3), Australia supports the next Strategic Plan inviting other sectors, and notably the water management sector, to better value, restore and maintain wetland ecosystems and their services.

**5. What time period should the new Strategic Plan cover? Should the current approach of six years (two triennia) be continued for the period 2016-2021?**

- The new Strategic Plan can cover a period of six years (2016 - 2021).
- I think the time period should be between 4 to 5 years (2015 -2020).
- I agree that the period 2016-2021 should be appropriate.
- It is better to keep current approach of six years 2016-2021 in accordance with previous plans.
- Six years to be continued, this will give the opportunity for the contracting parties and Ramsar secretariat to review the outcomes of Aichi targets after 2020 and prepare the next strategic plan in light of these outcomes.
- It is recommended that the Strategic Plan cover the time period of 5 (five) years, as it will be in line with country's planning programme.
- The Ramsar Convention's role as lead implementation partner of CBD for wetlands and therefore the need for the Strategic Plan to support the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity should be a consideration in determining the time frame covered by the Strategic Plan. If logistically possible, synchronization of Ramsar and CBD strategic planning processes for the period post-2020 could justify an end date of 2020 to coincide with that of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. Alternatively, if synchronization is not possible, the life of the next Strategic Plan could be extended beyond 2020 to enable it to reflect the content/scope of the next Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

## **6. How should the new Strategic Plan be titled?**

- The new Strategic Plan can be titled as: Together for the Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016 – 2021).
- The Title of new plan should be cooperation with the water Management sector to recover the value of the Best ecosystem of wetlands.
- Sustain Wetlands for Sustainable Development Goals.
- "Ramsar Strategic Plan" or "Ramsar Strategic Plan on wetlands ecosystem".
- It could still be titled as The Ramsar Strategic Plan for 2016-2021, the same as previous plans.
- Global Wetlands Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021.
- The Ramsar Strategic Plan (5 YEARS) for Wise Use of Wetlands.
- Australia does not have a strong view on whether the plan should be entitled the Strategic Plan or follow the CBD Strategic Plan approach as the Strategic Plan for Wetlands.

## **7. Which situations should be avoided in the preparation of the new strategic plan?**

- Political issues, lack of cooperation between the members of the convention.
- Do not repeat of the Terms and objective of previous strategies.
- The new strategic plan should be concise and decisive but not too elaborate on details.
- Overlapping with the plans of other international frameworks if we cannot create the synergy effects.
- The plan should be avoided be pleasant to the eye but of no use.
- We have no particular situations to be avoided.
- 1. Lack of participation or input of contracting parties  
2. Minimum empirical as well as science-based information for defining of specific strategy  
3. Driven from private sector and major countries
- Lack of consultation: The Strategic Plan Working Group should engage with a range of Convention stakeholders to ensure they are provided with the opportunity to comment on the next Plan. This will encourage ownership of the Plan by all Convention stakeholders. It is particularly important that those stakeholders identified as being responsible for implementing particular Strategies and Key Result Areas are consulted. Strategic Plan not integrated in the work of the Convention: The Strategic Plan needs to be embedded within the work of the Convention and provide direction on specific priorities to be progressed during the period 2016-2021. The Strategic Plan should not be considered a standalone document.

## **8. How should the outcomes of the new Strategic Plan be measured and the impact of the Plan be evaluated?**

- 1. The inclusion of new Ramsar sites (Positive); 2. Remove threats from wetlands recorded in the Montreux Record (Positive) or increase the sites listed in the Montreux Record (Negative). 3. Join other countries to the Convention (Positive). 4. Update national reports for each state. 5. Progress on regional initiatives. (Positive).

- First evaluate the previous plan before starting the new plan, and also in the end any strategic plan must be evaluated by a team of parties and also given to the consultant to evaluate the plan.
- Indicators should be set up by the Plan to measure the achievements. Evaluation could be prepared by the regional/national report for half period and at the end of the Plan.
- Not just mention "all" but concrete numerical criteria would be needed for efficient evaluation.
- There should have an assessment mechanism to measure or evaluate the implementation of the new strategic Plan. It should be more powerful and fair methods rather than parties' national reports and Secretariat itself.
- Through the National Reports.
- The Ramsar Strategic Plan needs to be translated into specific country's Strategic Plan with measurable and reportable impact planning. The Ramsar Strategic Plan has to be measured based on the information derived from contracting Parties.
- Australia suggests that reporting on the impact of the Strategic Plan occur at two levels: (1) Contracting Parties and stakeholders, and (2) internationally. Monitoring of Strategic Plan implementation should not impose significant additional reporting burdens on Convention stakeholders, particularly Contracting Parties. Contracting Parties and stakeholders: Australia supports the continuation of the existing approach; preparation of National Reports by Contracting Parties ahead of meetings of the COP that set out their implementation of Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies. This approach provides Contracting Parties with an ongoing mechanism to monitor their implementation of the Convention. Such an approach could be extended to other Convention stakeholders such as International Organisation Partners. Internationally: Monitoring of the implementation of Strategic Plan Goals and Strategies could be complemented by international monitoring of trends in and threats to wetland health. This information would guide medium-term actions by Contracting Parties and would be an important input into future Strategic Plans. This proposal is consistent with the approach being taken with the development of the next Strategic Plan; the State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to people (SoWWS), currently being developed, is anticipated to provide information to underpin the identification of priorities.