

Analysis of decisions from the 10th meeting of Contracting Parties (COP10) to the Ramsar Convention



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

New Zealand Government

Analysis of decisions from the 10th meeting of Contracting Parties (COP10) to the Ramsar Convention

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Foreword

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (known as the Ramsar Convention) aims to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands globally through local and national actions and international cooperation. A total of 159 countries are party to the Convention including New Zealand, which joined the Convention in 1976 and has subsequently designated six 'Ramsar sites'¹. Conference of Parties meetings occur every three years to consider, take decisions and provide guidance to States Parties and relevant organisations on wetland management.

The theme of the 10th meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP10) was 'Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People' to emphasise the important link between the condition of wetlands, and human health and well-being. COP10 acknowledged the increasing pressure on wetlands and water resources globally and the rapidly widening gap between water supply and demand. In order to respond to the diversity of issues and pressures influencing wetlands, the Ramsar Convention has evolved to take a broad, holistic approach to wetland and water resource management within the wider context of sustainable development.

Because responsibility for wetlands and water resources in New Zealand is shared amongst a number of central and local government agencies and stakeholders, the Convention has implications for a wide range of agencies and stakeholders. In order to identify the domestic implementation requirements arising from COP10, the Department of Conservation (DOC) has analysed the decisions, their relevance in the New Zealand context, their priority for implementation and how they may be achieved. Priority Implementation Actions are summarised in this report for the current triennium (2009-2012) and for the longer term.

Management of New Zealand's wetlands and freshwater environments has progressed in recent years due to the development of policy and technical products, increased community involvement, and a growing number of wetland restoration projects. Significant milestones include the development of a National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management; progress on National Environmental Standards for ecological flows and for the measurement of water take; work to identify important ecosystems of New Zealand (FENZ); new wetland management and restoration projects associated with the Arawai Kākāriki programme; and the successful National Wetlands Symposium.

To build on this progress, and implement the priority actions associated with the Ramsar Conventions, it will be important over the next few years to:

- Maintain the ecological character of New Zealand's six Ramsar sites.
- Develop a more systematic approach to the nomination and administration of Ramsar sites in New Zealand.
- Improve the quality of national monitoring and reporting.

¹ Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Wetland, Firth of Thames, Manawatu River Mouth and Estuary, Farewell Spit and Awarua Wetland.

- Refine administrative arrangements to implement the Convention in New Zealand.
- Improve the level of coordination amongst wetland managers, government agencies and stakeholders.
- Ensure that freshwater and wetland policies and processes adequately address pressures on wetlands and incorporate Ramsar guidance (as appropriate).
- Consider the role of wetlands in addressing climate change.

The Ramsar Convention offers a comprehensive and overarching framework for wetland management and protection nationally and internationally. This document is intended to assist agencies and stakeholders in their work, and facilitate access to the array of tools and guidance available through the Ramsar Convention.

Executive Summary

This report provides an overview and analysis of the decisions arising from the 10th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP10) to the Ramsar Convention. The main theme of COP10 was 'Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People' to emphasise the relationship between the condition of wetlands and human health and well-being, and highlight the pressure that wetlands are experiencing globally. As a result of COP10² Parties were called to act urgently to prevent wetland degradation and loss, wisely manage existing wetlands, and improve their water-use efficiency.

As the Administering Authority of the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand, DOC commissioned an analysis of the decisions taken at COP10 to identify domestic implementation requirements. The analysis considers the decisions taken, their relevance in the New Zealand context, their priority for implementation, and the appropriate mechanisms, agencies or organisations to undertake them. Different agencies have been identified because responsibility for wetlands and water resources in New Zealand is shared amongst a number of central and local government agencies and stakeholders. Additional work will be required to establish a coordinated work programme leading up to Ramsar COP11, based on capacity and available resourcing.

Through this assessment, a list of priority actions has been developed for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention during the current triennium (2009–2012) and for the longer term (Appendix 1). The identified actions have been presented within the context of the Strategic Plan for the Convention (2009–2015), which provides a framework of goals, strategies and key result areas, and incorporates priority recommendations for Contracting Parties. Thirty-eight high priority actions have been identified for implementation in New Zealand during the current triennium (by COP11) or as part of routine administration. These actions are broadly focused on the points below:

Improving the administration and effectiveness of the Convention through establishing workplans for the Convention's CEPA and STRP, and improving working arrangements for the Ramsar Secretariat and the Convention generally.

Related high priority actions include:

- Undertaking a review of the roles and responsibilities of officials appointed to Ramsar positions.
- Consideration of the establishment of a National Wetland Committee.
- NZ and Australia representing the Oceania region at working group meetings in Geneva to consider the future legal personality of the Convention.
- Establishing a scientific/technical forum for the discussion of issues and projects related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand and internationally.

² Through the Changwon Declaration.

Improving the quality of monitoring, reporting and management of Ramsar sites and wetlands in accordance with Ramsar guidance.

Related high priority actions include:

- Establishing a process and criteria to prioritise New Zealand wetland sites for restoration.
- Completing the Standard Operating Procedure for New Zealand's Ramsar site nominations.
- Undertaking a review of current Ramsar site monitoring systems to ensure that it is adequate to detect changes in ecological character.

Responding to the increasing amount of pressure on wetland ecosystems globally and the consequent effects of wetland degradation and loss on human health and well-being.

To this end, agencies will need to take Ramsar obligations into account during the development and implementation of national policies relating to wetlands and water management. Related high priority actions include:

- Consideration of the potential role of wetlands in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Ensuring that Ramsar obligations are taken into account during the implementation of national policies relating to water management (e.g. National Policy Statement on Freshwater).

Introduction

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (known as the Ramsar Convention) aims to achieve conservation and wise use of wetlands globally through local and national actions and international cooperation, within the wider context of sustainable development.

This report provides an overview and analysis of the decisions arising from the 10th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP10) to the Ramsar Convention, which was held in Changwon, South Korea from 28 October - 4 November 2008. Three staff (Nicola Scott, Richard Suggate and Hugh Robertson) from the Department of Conservation (DOC) attended the meeting as DOC is the Administering Authority for the Convention in New Zealand.

This is the first time that DOC has undertaken a systematic analysis of the decisions taken at a Ramsar Convention to identify domestic implementation requirements. The analysis considers the decisions taken, their relevance in the New Zealand context, their priority for implementation and the appropriate mechanisms, agencies or organisations to implement them. Because responsibility for the sustainable management and protection of wetlands in New Zealand is shared amongst a number of central and local government agencies and stakeholders, the process has consequences that extend beyond DOC. In many cases, DOC's primary role will be to distribute relevant decisions and information to other government agencies to inform their work programmes and processes. Work programmes will be developed for priority decisions that DOC has the lead responsibility for implementing, within available capacity and resourcing.

All COP10 resolutions have been analysed individually, although implementation actions have been summarised (Appendix 1) within the context of the Convention's Strategic Plan, which guides Contracting Parties on priority work areas within a consistent framework of goals, strategies and key result areas. The Strategic Plan was formally adopted at COP10 and incorporates many of the priority recommendations for Contracting Parties for the current triennium (2009-2012). It also provides the template for future national Ramsar reports, which are required every 3 years.

The resolutions fall broadly into three areas:

- Decisions taken in relation to a number of **administrative matters** that were aimed at improving the effectiveness of the Convention, including adoption of the Strategic Plan; establishing workplans for the Convention's CEPA and STRP; improving working arrangements for the Ramsar Secretariat; improving coordination between the Ramsar Convention and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); clarifying functions and requirements of the STRP and National Ramsar positions and roles; and establishing principles for working with the business sector. Contracting Parties were also strongly encouraged to review and improve the implementation of the Convention at the national level, which for New Zealand is partly achieved through the development of this report.

- Resolutions that related to the **monitoring and management** of Ramsar sites and wetlands in general. Contracting Parties were reminded of their obligations to monitor, report upon, and manage Ramsar sites in order to maintain their ecological character and there was a strong call for improved monitoring, reporting and management of wetlands. To this end, a number of technical documents were adopted at COP10 in relation to Ramsar data and information needs; Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA); framework for changes in ecological character; describing the ecological character of wetlands; wetlands and river basin management; and biogeographic regionalisation. Targets were also set for future Ramsar site nominations and/or extensions.
- Resolutions in response to the increasing amount of **pressure on wetland ecosystems** globally, and the consequent effects on human health and well-being. Resolutions were adopted in relation to a number of particular issues and threats of relevance to New Zealand, including waterbird conservation; managing pressures on wetlands (including from climate change, biofuel production, and extractive industries); and protecting and providing for the ecosystem services of peatlands. Through the Changwon Declaration, Parties called for urgent action to improve water-use efficiency; prevent wetland degradation and loss; restore degraded wetlands; and wisely manage existing wetlands.

Through this analysis a list of priority actions for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand was developed (Appendix 1). In total, there are 38 high priority actions that should be considered for implementation during the current triennium (before COP11).

This process has provided an opportunity to consider how and where decisions should be implemented and will inform the development of forthcoming national Ramsar reports for New Zealand. If successful, this process may be undertaken after future Ramsar COPs.

Analysis of COP10 Resolutions

RESOLUTION X.1 THE RAMSAR STRATEGIC PLAN (2009-2015)

Resolution X.1 contains the third strategic plan for the Convention, which provides guidance to Contracting Parties (CPs) about priority work areas during the term of the plan (2009–2015). It also provides guidance to the Standing Committee, the Ramsar Secretariat, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other partners and stakeholders.

The Strategic Plan is intended to assist in achieving:

- A common understanding of the Convention's purposes and principles.
- Improved implementation of COP resolutions for this period.
- Progress at all levels in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- International coordination to achieve the Convention's goals.
- A greater profile among other sectors and bodies of the Convention and its objectives.

The Strategic Plan also contributes to a range of other goals and targets that have been established under different international agreements.³ The introduction provides guidance about the implementation of the Convention at the national level. Some key points from these sections of the plan include:

- Recognition that '... each Party will wish to establish its own priorities within the Plan's agreed priorities, develop its own work plan for implementing them, and consider its own use of its resources. And when later reporting upon its successes and, perhaps, its shortcomings, each Party will wish to explain its results in implementing the Convention in terms of its own decisions and circumstances'. (Clause 9)
- Recognition of the important role that National Ramsar/Wetland Committees play in improving coordination amongst management agencies, raising the profile of the Convention and national commitments amongst decision makers, and for disseminating information.
- Identification of key issues that are driving wetland loss and deterioration including inadequate water availability, increasing demands for water abstraction (especially for agriculture), climate change, and a poor understanding of wetland values and services in decision making.

³ Including Millennium Development Goals; the programme of the 5th World Water Forum in Turkey 2009; achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity targets; achievement of the 2012 target for Marine Protected Areas; providing responses to the key issues of climate change; and implementation of decisions from the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD13) policies on water and sanitation.

- Identifying an urgent need for an ecosystem-based approach to policy and decision making at the national level that affects the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character and recognises the important role of wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.

The plan has been arranged hierarchically into 5 goals and 25 strategies, with key result areas identified within each strategy.

The following table summarises the key result areas that have been identified for implementation by each Contracting Party.

GOAL 1: WISE USE

To work towards achieving the wise use of all wetlands by ensuring that all Contracting Parties develop, adopt and use the necessary and appropriate instruments and measures, with the participation of the local indigenous and non-indigenous population and making use of traditional knowledge, while at the same time ensuring that conservation and wise use of wetlands contribute to poverty eradication, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as well as the prevention of disease and of natural disasters.

Delivers Articles 3.1, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

The wise use of all wetlands being achieved by all Parties, including more participative management of wetlands, and conservation decisions being made with an awareness of the importance of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands.

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)	IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND
<p>1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment</p> <p>1.1.i All Parties to have completed national wetland inventories in line with the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory and as far as possible to have disseminated comprehensive national wetland inventories, including information on wetland importance, potential Ramsar sites, wetlands for restoration, location of under-represented wetland types, and the ecosystem services provided by wetlands. (National: CPs)</p>	<p>1.1.i <i>Completion of DOC's FENZ and NHMS work on inland palustrine wetlands, rivers and lakes will assist in delivering on this commitment. Additional work is likely to be required to identify the current condition (through inventory and monitoring) and relative priority of New Zealand wetlands. In particular, FENZ products for estuarine wetlands are not available. Engagement with regional councils and other agencies is also important when establishing wetland inventories and prioritising wetlands for Ramsar nomination and restoration as they may hold relevant information. Furthermore, it is important that there is local buy-in to the priorities that are identified, as the involvement of other agencies (and the use of their tools e.g. RMA) will be important for the success of these projects.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>DOC to disseminate FENZ products.</i>• <i>DOC and MfE to develop guidelines for wetlands mapping and assessment. This is partly being progressed under the Arawai Kākāriki Programme.</i>• <i>DOC and MfE (with support from councils) to undertake inventory of estuarine wetlands.</i>
<p>1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions</p> <p>1.3.i National Wetland Policy or equivalent instruments fully in place alongside and integrated with other strategic and planning processes by all Parties, including poverty eradication strategies, water resources management and water efficiency plans, coastal and marine resource management plans, national forest programmes, national strategies for sustainable development, and national policies or measures on agriculture. (National: CPs)</p>	<p>1.3.i <i>DOC's National Wetland Policy is outdated and a review is recommended in light of current government initiatives (including The New Start for Freshwater, the NZ Biodiversity Strategy). The Ramsar guidance on National Wetland Policy preparation and implementation should be considered in any review of the National Wetland Policy. Some of the key Ramsar issues will also be covered by the national policies and standards that MfE are developing (including the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, National Environmental Standard for Measurement of Water Takes, National Environmental Standard on ecological flows and water levels).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>DOC/MfE to ensure that Ramsar obligations are considered as part of the implementation of any future National Policy Statement on Freshwater.</i>• <i>DOC/MfE to ensure that any review of the National Wetlands Policy, if undertaken, is informed by the guidance provided by the Ramsar Convention on National Wetlands Policies.</i>• <i>DOC/MfE to ensure the water regime requirements of wetland ecosystems are considered during the development of National Environmental Standards.</i>• <i>DOC/MfE to monitor the RMA review to ensure that Ramsar guidance is taken into account where relevant.</i>

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Goal 1: Wise use—continued

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)	IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND
1.3.ii Parties to have Strategic Environmental Assessment in place for policies, programmes and plans impacting on wetlands. (National: CPs)	<p>1.3.ii <i>This should be effectively dealt with by the RMA although it may be appropriate to review the new guidance on EIA and SEA. It may also be necessary to monitor proposed changes to the RMA in relation to freshwater and wetland management to ensure that SEA approaches are catered for.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC/MfE to monitor proposed changes to the RMA in relation to freshwater and wetland management to ensure that Ramsar SEA approaches are taken into account as part of this process.</i>
1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services	1.4 <i>Mostly covered by the implementation of existing legislation. Ecosystem services analyses (including valuations) may need further work and/or updating and could be progressed as multi-agency projects since the results will be of value to a number of agencies.</i>
1.4.i Development and implementation of wetland programmes and projects that contribute to poverty eradication objectives and food and water security plans at local and national levels. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to seek to ensure that national ecosystem valuation work being undertaken considers wetlands and the services they provide.</i>
1.4.ii An analysis of the ecosystem services and their values of wetlands (especially Ramsar sites) achieved for all Parties. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to undertake ecosystem services research through the Arawai Kākāriki Programme.</i>
1.4.iii The socio-economic and cultural heritage value of wetlands fully taken into account in wetland wise use and management. (National: CPs; subnational: wetland managers)	
1.5 Recognition of role of the Convention	
1.5.i Global environmental organisations and conventions aware of and applying the mechanisms developed by the Ramsar Convention for wetland ecosystem management, wise use, and conservation. (Global: Secretariat; National: CPs)	
1.6 Science-based management of wetlands	1.6 <i>DOC as lead agency does advocate for key research/knowledge gaps to be filled through:</i>
1.6.i High quality research completed, widely disseminated in appropriate formats and styles, and applied concerning areas of key importance for wetland sustainability, such as agriculture-wetland interactions, climate change, and valuation of ecosystem services. (Global: Secretariat; National: CPs, IOPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>FRST/government science funding processes</i> • <i>Internal science capability</i> • <i>Collaboration with other agencies</i> <p><i>The STRP Focal Point should be included in these science processes in order to identify and progress key Ramsar/wetland research requirements.</i></p>
1.6.ii All wetland management plans founded on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats. (Global: Secretariat; National: CPs, IOPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to continue to liaise with key science providers to ensure key knowledge gaps are considered when developing research projects.</i> • <i>DOC to seek to involve the Ramsar STRP Focal Point input in key science funding processes.</i> • <i>DOC to support research on wetland conservation and restoration under the Arawai Kākāriki Programme.</i>

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Goal 1: Wise use—continued

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)		IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND	
1.7	Integrated water resources management	<i>1.7</i>	<i>These key result areas are generally already taken into account by agencies developing and/or contributing to the development of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management, and the National Environmental Standard on ecological flows and water levels.</i>
1.7.i	All Parties to have made available the Ramsar guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision making on water resource management, as a contribution to achieving the WSSD target on water resources management and water efficiency plans. (National: CPs)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC/MfE to seek to ensure that Ramsar obligations are taken into account during the implementation of national policies relating to water management (e.g. National Policy Statement on Freshwater).
1.7.ii	All Parties, in their water governance and management, to be managing wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins. (National: CPs)		<i>Regional councils have developed a range of different approaches to water allocation, the management of water resources generally, and managing the effects of agriculture on wetlands.</i>
1.7.iii	National policies or guidelines enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change in progress or completed. (National: CPs)	<i>1.7.iii</i>	<i>Consideration of the role of wetlands in climate change mitigation and adaptation is recommended by relevant units of the Ministry for the Environment.</i>
1.7.v	Parties to have formulated plans to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems. (National: CPs)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MfE to consider the potential role of wetlands in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
1.8	Wetland restoration	<i>1.8.i</i>	<i>Priority wetland sites in New Zealand have been identified in a range of processes (regional plans, Conservation Management Strategies, Cromarty & Scott (1996)). New tools and mechanisms being developed by DOC (e.g. FENZ and NHMS) and the New Start for Freshwater Programme to support the assessment and identification of priority wetland sites for restoration on a national scale. DOC will be required to decide how to appropriately use these tools. The Arawai Kākāriki project is undertaking restoration at three national priority sites.</i>
1.8.i	All Parties to have identified priority sites for restoration; restoration projects underway or completed in at least half the Parties. (National: CPs)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC to establish a process and criteria for the prioritisation of wetlands sites for restoration.
1.8.ii	New case studies and methods added to Ramsar wetland restoration pages on the website. (Global: STRP; National: CPs)	<i>1.8.ii</i>	<i>New Zealand's STRP Focal Point should ensure that new methods and case studies are added as appropriate. (This may become particularly relevant as the Arawai Kākāriki projects progress).</i>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STRP to disseminate best practice case studies both within New Zealand and on the Ramsar website (especially for Arawai Kākāriki projects).
1.9	Invasive alien species	<i>1.9.i</i>	<i>Significant alien weed and pest species have been identified through the collaborative efforts of DOC, MAF and regional councils. It is important that these programmes continue to draw upon freshwater expertise to ensure that freshwater weeds and pests receive adequate attention.</i>
1.9.i	All Parties to have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological characters of wetlands, especially Ramsar sites. (National: CPs)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure ongoing engagement of DOC freshwater technical staff in the inventory of alien weed and pest species. • DOC and wetland managers to review the threat of invasive alien species at Ramsar sites and update RIS information.

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Goal 1: Wise use—continued

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)	IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND
1.9.ii Parties to have identified more comprehensively the problems posed by invasive species in wetland ecosystems within their territories. (National: CPs)	<p>1.9.ii <i>Additional research into the impacts of these species may be obtained by participating in national science funding processes (e.g. FRST), collaborating with other agencies, or through DOC commissioning its own research for key conservation pests.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC/CRI/universities to continue to seek new avenues/opportunities for wetland alien species research and research funding.</i>
1.9.iii National invasive species control and management policies or guidelines in place for wetlands. (National: CPs)	<p>1.9.iii <i>DOC's strategic weed management plan meets this obligation for weed control effectively. Adoption/implementation of the pest fish strategy (currently in draft) would go some way in addressing the impacts of invasive fish on wetland ecosystems. Terrestrial animal pest systems may also apply to wetland ecosystems, although appropriate techniques for mammalian predator monitoring and control in wetlands are currently being researched.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to continue to support research on the control of mammalian predators in wetlands.</i>
1.10 Private sector	<p>1.10 <i>There is an increasing amount of private sector involvement in wetland management in New Zealand (including the establishment of contestable funds for wetland projects established as mitigation packages under the RMA).</i></p>
1.10.i Significant progress in the private sector applying the concepts and approaches for conservation and wise use of wetlands contained in Ramsar guidance (Ramsar Handbooks 1 to 17, 3rd edition) and other relevant guidelines in their activities and investments affecting wetlands. (Global to subnational: private sector)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC through MfE, local government and NGOs to make private sector organisations and community groups involved in wetland management/conservation aware of the Ramsar handbooks and other relevant Ramsar guidance.</i>
1.10.ii Increased private sector engagement in the wise use of wetlands and in the management of Ramsar sites. (Subnational: private sector)	
1.10.iii Awareness-raising material made available to the public to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices. (National: private sector and CPs)	
1.11 Incentive measures	<p>1.11.i <i>An analysis of incentives affecting wetlands could be undertaken. This may help to inform the current development of the NPS for Freshwater Management.</i></p>
1.11.i Better design and implementation of incentive measures of relevance to wetlands taking place in all Parties, and better monitoring and assessment of both positive and perverse incentives affecting wetlands in place in all Parties. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC/MfE/MED to consider the implications of positive and negative incentive measures on wetlands as part of the current development of the NPS on Freshwater Management.</i>

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GOAL 2: WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands that are important for the conservation of global biological diversity, including waterbird flyways and fish populations and for sustaining human life, by ensuring that all Contracting Parties appropriately implement the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* and by appropriate management and wise use of those internationally important wetlands that are not yet formally designated as Ramsar sites but have been identified as qualifying through domestic application of the strategic framework or an equivalent process. Delivers Articles 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

Parties designating and managing Ramsar sites within their territories with a view to supporting an international network of Wetlands of International Importance, fully implementing their reporting commitments under Articles 3 and 8.2, and using the Montreux Record as part of the Convention's governance process, as appropriate.

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)		IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND	
2.1	Ramsar site designation		
2.1.i	All Parties to have prepared, using the strategic framework, a national plan and priorities for the designation and management of Ramsar sites, including where appropriate for shared wetlands in collaboration with neighbouring Parties. (National: CPs)	2.1.i	<p><i>A national plan and priorities for designation of future Ramsar sites could be prepared using the DOC's FENZ and NHMS tools to identify the relative priorities of sites that may be nominated. (N.B. The current institutional framework of responding to local applications has no priority and risks the nomination of sites of comparatively low significance).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>DOC to establish further criteria for prioritising Ramsar site nominations, including revision of the internal Standard Operating Procedure for Ramsar site nominations.</i>
2.1.ii	Completed, and as appropriate updated, Ramsar Information Sheets submitted for all Ramsar sites. (National: CPs)	2.1.ii	<p><i>The establishment of a process for the regular updating of RIS sheets for all Ramsar sites should be instituted. This would need to be underpinned by monitoring systems (particularly for the features of the wetlands that were recognised in the original designation). Note that Resolution 13 of COP10 notes that New Zealand needs to submit an updated RIS for at least one site.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Confirm the status of RIS sheets for NZ Ramsar sites.</i> <i>DOC to establish a process for the regular review of RIS sheets.</i>
2.1.iii	At least 2500 Ramsar sites designated worldwide, covering at least 250 million hectares. (National: CPs)		
2.1.iv	Contracting Parties to have considered designating Ramsar sites from among wetland types under-represented in the Ramsar List. (National: CPs)	2.1.iv	<p><i>Following on from the development of a national plan and priorities for designation (refer 2.1.i) it is recommended that DOC encourage Ramsar site nominations from sites that fulfil the national objectives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>DOC to encourage Ramsar site nominations from sites that fulfil the national objectives.</i>

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KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)	IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND
<p>2.3 Management planning: new Ramsar sites</p> <p>2.3.i Adequate management planning processes established and submitted with all or most new site designations or a commitment made to work towards that goal, taking into account the possible lack of financial and human resources to fulfil this objective, and recognising that the designation of a site can work as an incentive for the establishment of future management planning. (National: CPs; subnational: wetland managers)</p>	<p>2.3 <i>Resolution 13 erroneously notes that New Zealand has committed to designating or extending 12 new Ramsar sites. DOC needs to correct the Ramsar Secretariat records regarding sites identified for future nomination, as a prioritisation process has not yet been undertaken. It is proposed that a process to prioritise Ramsar site nominations be developed to ensure that those sites that achieve Ramsar status are of international importance (not just domestic importance) and, given the increased monitoring and management requirements, represent the sites that the Government considers to be a priority for Ramsar designation status.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to check the Ramsar Secretariat records regarding RIS sheets provided to date and the erroneous proposal to nominate a number of new sites.</i> • <i>DOC to review the draft SOP for assessing proposed Ramsar site nominations to take into account those likely to be submitted both before and after the establishment of a national prioritising system.</i>
<p>2.4 Ramsar site ecological character</p> <p>2.4.i Progress in developing effective management plans for all Ramsar sites within each party's territory. (National: CPs; subnational: wetland managers)</p> <p>2.4.ii Management objectives, as part of management planning, for ecological character maintenance established for all Ramsar sites. (Subnational: wetland managers)</p> <p>2.4.iii Zoning measures to be put in place for larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves, and other wetlands (Recommendation 5.3 and Resolution VIII.14) and strict protection measures to be enacted for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity. (Subnational: wetland managers)</p> <p>2.4.iv Cross-sectoral site management committees for Ramsar sites, involving relevant government agencies, citizens and local communities, and other stakeholders (including the business sector as appropriate) in place, including as a mechanism for dispute settlement. (Subnational: wetland managers)</p> <p>2.4.v Statements of ecological character finalised for all Ramsar sites and used as a basis for implementing Article 3.2 of the Convention. (Subnational: wetland managers)</p>	<p>2.4.i-ii <i>It would appear that most of the key result areas should be achievable within this timeframe, as five out of six NZ Ramsar sites already have some form of site-specific management planning. It would be ideal for management planning, monitoring and reporting to be undertaken in a consistent manner to achieve better coordination and consistency. DOC to confirm the adequacy of management plans for existing Ramsar sites and to ensure new nominations have adequate planning frameworks.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC (STRP Focal Point) to lead a review of current Ramsar site monitoring systems and their effectiveness in assessing changes in ecological character.</i> <p>2.4.iii <i>Controls over DOC-administered wetlands under the Conservation, Reserves and Wildlife Acts are generally adequate. For other wetlands, the protection of ecological character is devolved to local government under the RMA.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to provide relevant recommendations regarding planning around Ramsar sites to MfE and local authorities so that they are aware of Ramsar guidance in this regard.</i> <p>2.4.iv <i>Cross-sectoral site management committees have been established in three out of six of the NZ Ramsar sites and it is proposed that one will be formed for one other site shortly. Consultation programmes at the other two sites are considered to be adequate for the degree of public interest. It may be appropriate to standardise approaches to Ramsar site management by establishing national standards and systems.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to consider cross-sectoral site engagement as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site management and monitoring.</i> <p>2.4.v <i>These statements of ecological character should form a key component of management plans and ecological monitoring programmes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC (STRP Focal Point) to assess statements of ecological character that exist currently as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site monitoring and management.</i>

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Goal 2: Wetlands of International Importance—continued

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)	IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND
<p>2.5 Ramsar site management effectiveness</p> <p>2.5.i All Parties, using the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i>, to have reviewed all existing Ramsar sites and confirmed that all Ramsar sites fulfil the provisions of the strategic framework or to have identified those sites that do not do so for remedial actions. (National: CPs; subnational: wetland managers)</p>	<p>2.5.i <i>This review should be reasonably straight forward and could be undertaken by DOC, the National Wetland Committee (if established) or a single representative e.g. the STRP Focal Point. It seems unlikely that any of New Zealand’s wetlands would not fulfil these provisions.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to assess compliance/relevance of the Ramsar Strategic Plan guidance for Ramsar sites as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site monitoring and management.</i>
<p>2.6 Ramsar site status</p> <p>2.6.i All Parties with Ramsar sites whose ecological character has changed, is changing or is likely to change owing to human-induced actions, to have reported this to the Ramsar Secretariat, in line with the requirements of Article 3.2 of the Convention. (National: CPs)</p> <p>2.6.ii For all sites on the Montreux Record that have not been the subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM), intended to provide advice on the steps needed to remove those sites from the Record, Parties to request such a Mission. (National: CPs)</p> <p>2.6.iii Implementation of relevant STRP ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the Convention. (Global: STRP; National: CPs)</p>	<p>2.6 <i>In order to detect, report and respond to changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites, it is essential that robust monitoring programmes are instituted at all Ramsar sites (with consideration of the technical guidance developed by the STRP for core inventory and monitoring frameworks). DOC and Ramsar site managers can then use this information in National Ramsar reports and other site updates for the Ramsar Secretariat.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC (STRP Focal Point) to lead review of the adequacy of monitoring for Ramsar sites as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site monitoring and management.</i> • <i>Parties with sites on the Montreux Record to request a RAM to provide advice on the steps required to remove the site from the record (if they have not already done so).</i>
<p>2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands</p> <p>2.7.i Ramsar guidance on the maintenance of ecological character to be have been applied with a priority on internationally recognised important wetlands not yet designated as Ramsar sites. (National: CPs; subnational: wetland managers)</p>	<p>2.7.i <i>The New Start for Freshwater programme and related technical work and the DOC NHMS programme (including Arawai Kākāriki) will provide a national approach and guidance for maintaining the ecological character of wetlands, which will contribute to the implementation of Ramsar. Initial decisions expected 2010. It may be appropriate to promulgate the Ramsar guidance within DOC in relation to its management of wetlands that it administers and to provide it to other organisations to assist their management. The National Wetland Committee, if formed, could be a key mechanism for advising DOC and MfE on how the New Start for Freshwater programme and NHMS programme can contribute to the implementation of our Ramsar obligations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC/MfE to support the application of technical tools to identify freshwater ecosystems of national and international significance.</i> • <i>DOC/MfE to advocate for the implementation of Ramsar State Party obligations through the New Start for Freshwater programme.</i>

GOAL 3: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

To enhance the conservation and wise use of wetlands using effective international cooperation, through *inter alia* the active application of the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention. Delivers Article 5 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

Parties developing coherent national approaches to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in such a way as to benefit from developing effective partnerships with related conventions and international agencies and with other Parties to the Convention on Wetlands.

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)	IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND
<p>3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs</p> <p>3.1.i CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan and CMS/AEWA/Ramsar Joint Work Plan being implemented and participation continued in the CBD Biodiversity Liaison Group. (Global: Secretariat, STRP; national: CPs)</p> <p>3.1.iv Additional partnership approaches initiated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UNECE Water Convention, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNESCO, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Tourism Organization (WTO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the UN Forum on Forests with its Collaborative Partnerships on Forests, the European Community, ASEAN, APEC, BIMSTEC, SAARC, and other relevant United Nations agencies and regional bodies, as well as through UN Water. (Global: Secretariat, STRP; national/regional: CPs with IOPs support)</p> <p>3.1.v Harmonised information management and reporting systems available and widely used at national level with the appropriate MEAs. (Global: Secretariat; national: CPs)</p>	<p>3.1 <i>These key result areas are achievable as various DOC staff members hold multiple MEA Focal Point positions, and there are small networks within central government.</i></p>
<p>3.3 International assistance</p> <p>3.3.i Parties with bilateral donor agencies to have encouraged those agencies to give priority for funding for wetland conservation and wise use projects in relation to poverty eradication and other relevant international targets and priorities. (National: CPs)</p>	<p>3.3 <i>It is unlikely that this key result area will apply to New Zealand.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to pass Ramsar guidance to NZAID for their consideration as they set national allocation priorities for aid funding.</i>
<p>3.4 Sharing information and expertise</p> <p>3.4.i Less time required from Parties on managing information for national reports, but better quality and more timely reports produced. (Global: Secretariat; national: CPs)</p> <p>3.4.ii Increased flow of information made available by the Parties (e.g. Ramsar-related policies, Ramsar site management plans, Ramsar site monitoring, etc.) to the Secretariat for dissemination via the Ramsar website and other means. (National/regional: CPs with IOPs support)</p> <p>3.4.iii Relevant research findings that have been evaluated by the STRP are promoted and made widely available through Ramsar Technical Reports, Ramsar and IOP websites, and other means. (Global: Secretariat, STRP, IOPs; national: CPs)</p>	<p>3.4 <i>National systems are already in place for national reporting; communication with the Ramsar Secretariat (to ensure that information is supplied as necessary); and promulgation of STRP research findings and Ramsar technical guidance.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC Focal Points to seek opportunities to liaise, share information and expertise on Ramsar-related issues and project outcomes.</i>

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)	IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND
<p>3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species</p> <p>3.5.iii Regional site networks and initiatives in place for additional wetland-dependent migratory species, as exemplified <i>inter alia</i> by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and the Central Asian Flyway Initiative. (Global: STRP, Secretariat, other MEAs; national: CPs)</p> <p>COP10 Resolution X.22. Clause 21 urges Parties to identify and designate as Ramsar sites all internationally important wetlands for waterbirds on migratory flyways that meet the criteria in the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Resolution VII.11, as amended), in line with the long-term targets established for these criteria.</p>	<p>3.5 <i>DOC staff should continue to participate in Australian Wetland and Waterbird Taskforce meetings and support the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership to the extent that is appropriate. It may be appropriate to assess whether joining the partnership agreement is desirable.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• DOC to continue to acknowledge and support the East Asian-Australasian Flyway or any associated agreements (without necessarily being committed to membership).</i><i>• DOC to further assess the value, and cost of membership to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.</i><i>• DOC/NGOs to identify key migratory bird habitats associated with migratory flyways in New Zealand, and assess whether they meet the criteria for Wetlands of International Importance* and would benefit from Ramsar status or other forms of protection status. (N.B. Migratory bird habitats are not identified as an essential criterion in itself for Ramsar nomination.)</i>

* As per *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VII.11, as amended).

GOAL 4: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

To progress towards fulfilment of the Convention’s mission by ensuring that it has the required mechanisms, resources, and capacity to do so.

Delivers Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

Increasing success of the Convention in achieving the conservation and wise use of wetlands, as measured by agreed effectiveness indicators, and increased recognition of the Convention’s achievements by other sectors of governments and civil society.

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)		IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND
4.1	CEPA	4.1
4.1.i	All Parties to have established national (or subnational, catchment or local level, as appropriate) Ramsar CEPA action plans. (National: CPs)	<p><i>This requirement has largely been met in New Zealand by a variety of mechanisms. Most regional councils have active public engagement programmes acting as an interface between themselves and the public. National CEPA guidelines for sites have been prepared by DOC (2007) and are being implemented at the Arawai Kākāriki sites. Many other wetland sites under DOC management have active CEPA programmes that are reinforced annually through World Wetlands Day. There is a wetland education centre at the Miranda/Firth of Thames Ramsar site. The possible establishment of a National Wetlands/Ramsar Committee could provide a useful mechanism for improving coordination at a national level.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>DOC to consider the establishment of a National Wetlands Committee in the New Zealand context.</i>
4.1.ii	All Parties to have established at least one wetland education centre at a Ramsar site. (National: CPs)	
4.1.iii	All Parties to have established practices that ensure the participation in the development and implementation of wetland management plans of stakeholder groups with cultural or economic links to wetlands or those communities that depend on the wetlands for their livelihoods. (National: CPs)	
4.1.iv	At least half of the Parties to have assessed their national and local training needs with respect to the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (National: CPs)	
4.1.vi	Convention mechanisms for wetland management, wise use, and conservation applied by a wide range of stakeholders on global, regional, national, and subnational levels. (Global to subnational: all implementers)	
4.1.vii	The Convention’s products reached and adopted by a wide range of target groups, including such products as decision-making frameworks, networks, and technical documents. (Global: Secretariat; national/regional: CPs with support from IOPs)	
4.1.viii	A significant proportion of Parties to have assessed their capacity and training needs with respect to implementation of the policy, legislation, and institutional governance mechanisms noted in Strategy 1.3. (National: CPs)	
4.3	Convention bodies’ effectiveness	
4.3.1	All Contracting Parties to have designated CEPA and STRP National Focal Points (by COP11) and to have kept the Secretariat updated in a timely manner on any changes in Administrative Authority Focal Points and daily contacts. (National: CPs)	<p><i>Key personnel have been appointed to National Focal Point positions. In light of the new role descriptions that were adopted at COP10, DOC should review the roles and responsibilities of officials appointed to these positions (including reassessment of the time allocated to perform these functions). National Focal Points should be incorporated as ex-officio into a National Wetland Committee (if established).</i></p>

Goal 4: Institutional capacity and effectiveness—continued

KEY RESULT AREAS (BY 2015)	IMPLEMENTATION IN NEW ZEALAND
4.3.iii	The bodies of the Convention to have adequate funding and logistic support by using available resources wisely to deliver their <i>modus operandi</i> and work plans, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties. (Global: Secretariat and CPs)
4.4	Working with IOPs and others
4.4.iii	Efforts made by IOPs and others to help mobilise partnerships for high priority issues for the Convention. (Global: Secretariat, IOPs; national: IOPs, CPs)

GOAL 5: MEMBERSHIP

To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.

Delivers Articles 2.4 and 9 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

All countries eligible for accession to have joined the Ramsar Convention by 2015.

Implementation

The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 is comprehensive and specifies a number of recommended actions and/or key result areas. However, Contracting Parties are not bound to implement the plan in its entirety, so are able to prioritise their efforts into particular areas (at the expense of other key result areas). Whilst the actions are not compulsory, there is increasing guidance about the approaches and methods that Contracting Parties are encouraged to apply in their wise use of wetlands, and there is a clear (and increasing) expectation that Parties will report more comprehensively about their progress against the result areas. Establishment of a National Ramsar or Wetland Committee is strongly advocated in the introduction to the Strategic Plan (Point 14).

Most strategies and key result areas affecting New Zealand can be met within existing institutional frameworks and resourcing levels by 2015. Refer to Appendix 1 for a summary of recommended actions. However, the following key result areas may be difficult to achieve in their entirety by 2015:

- 1.1.i Completion and dissemination of national wetland inventories (for all wetland types) in line with the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (including information on wetland importance, potential Ramsar sites, wetlands for restoration, location of under-represented wetland types, and the ecosystem services provided by wetlands).*
- 1.3.i Finalisation of national wetland policies (or equivalent instruments) including integration with other strategic and planning processes.⁴*
- 1.9.i Compilation of national inventories of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological characters of wetlands, especially Ramsar sites.*
- 1.11.i Better design and implementation of incentive measures of relevance to wetlands taking place in all Parties, and better monitoring and assessment of both positive and perverse incentives affecting wetlands in all Parties.*
- 2.4.iii Strict protection and/or zoning measures to be put in place for Ramsar sites (as appropriate for their size and vulnerability).*
- 2.4.v Statements of ecological character (as per Ramsar guidelines) finalised for all Ramsar sites and used as a basis for implementing Article 3.2 of the Convention.*

⁴ Including poverty reduction strategies, water resources management and water efficiency plans, national forest programmes, and national strategies for sustainable development.

RESOLUTION FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY MATTERS

X.2

This resolution relates to the financial and administrative requirements of the Ramsar Convention. Through resolution X.2, COP10:

- Agreed to the Terms of Reference for the financial administration of the Ramsar Convention and decided to continue the Subgroup on Finance as established in resolution V1.7.
- Approved the budget for the 2009–2012 financial cycle.
- Agreed on the rate of increase in the Ramsar contribution budget for the 2009–2012 cycle.
- Agreed to the establishment of a new position within the Secretariat, but requested that it be reviewed at the next COP.
- Authorised the Standing Committee, on advice from the Subcommittee on Finance to change allocations between budget lines, during the inter-sessional period.
- Noted that contributions by Contracting Parties be assessed according to the UN scale for contributions.
- Urged Contracting Parties with contributions in arrears to pay them promptly (N.B. New Zealand's contributions to the Ramsar Convention are up-to-date).
- Noted that the African region has agreed to increase their contributions to the Convention by CHF 1000, but that this is to be considered a voluntary increase that is specifically earmarked for African Regional Initiatives.

The increased budget is effectively an increase of NZ\$2,044 to the New Zealand annual contribution.

Implementation

There are no direct impacts for New Zealand as a result of this resolution beyond the nominal increase of NZ\$2,044 to the New Zealand Government annual contribution.

- *DOC to notify The Treasury of the increase in annual contributions, so that the Crown Account can be adjusted accordingly.*

RESOLUTION X.3 THE CHANGWON DECLARATION ON HUMAN WELL-BEING AND WETLANDS

The Changwon Declaration has arisen from concerns⁵ about wetland loss and degradation globally and the reducing capacity of wetland ecosystems to provide for human health and well-being. The declaration identifies an **urgent need to improve water governance**, particularly if the 2010 biodiversity target and the 2015 Millennium Development Goals are to be achieved. Contracting Parties and other governments, including those beyond the Ramsar community, are called to halt or reverse the loss and degradation of wetlands.

The declaration calls for:

- Water to be used more efficiently.
- Wetland degradation and loss to be prevented.
- Degraded wetlands to be restored.
- Wetlands to be wisely managed and/or protected.

The Changwon Declaration was prepared collaboratively⁶ and complements the Strategic Plan (2009–2015). The Korean Government has undertaken to champion its dissemination and uptake, although other governments, international organisations, the private sector and civil society are identified as having significant roles to play, individually and collectively.

Through the resolution, COP10:

- Urges Contracting Parties and other governments to actively disseminate and promote the Changwon Declaration widely⁷ and to act in accordance with it, including:
 - » In the development of national policies and decision making.
 - » Through local, national and international opportunities and processes.⁸ (N.B. Opportunities will be advised by the Ramsar Secretariat.)
 - » In setting future work of STRP and CEPA Focal Points (including establishing priorities).
- Requests that specified Parties (including CEPA National Focal Points) report back to the Secretariat about the uptake of the declaration for COP11.

Implementation

- *DOC to disseminate the Changwon Declaration to other relevant agencies and organisations (e.g. MfE).*
- *DOC to plan for the CEPA National Focal Point to report back to the Ramsar Secretariat in preparation for COP11.*

⁵ As reported by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA).

⁶ By the STRP, IOPs, the Ramsar Secretariat and the Government of Korea.

⁷ Including all government sectors and agencies responsible for wetland activities, private sector, and civil society.

⁸ For example, *inter alia* the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, UN agencies, MEAs, and the World Water Forum).

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A TRANSITION COMMITTEE OF
X.4 THE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

This resolution:

- Reaffirms the establishment of a Management Working Group to assist with the relationships between the Standing Committee and the Secretariat.
- Establishes a Transition Committee to assist with the transition between outgoing, and newly appointed Standing Committees.

Implementation

As New Zealand is not currently a member of the Standing Committee, there are no domestic implementation considerations associated with the resolution.

RESOLUTION X.5 FACILITATING THE WORK OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION AND ITS SECRETARIAT

This resolution refers to work initiated under Resolution IX.10 regarding the future legal personality of the Ramsar Convention and obstacles to the current administrative relationship that the Ramsar Secretariat has with IUCN, as a host organisation.

The Ramsar Secretariat has advised that, in its view, its current status, or legal personality is impeding its ability to fulfil its functions as specified under the Convention, including by restricting its access to countries to visit wetland sites.

The Secretariat (Resolution XI.10) has embarked on a process to explore options for strengthening its legal status, specifically:

- i. The status quo, or an enhanced status quo, with IUCN and the Swiss Government.
- ii. Gaining formal international organisation status in Switzerland.
- iii. Becoming part of the UN system, operating under the framework of either UNEP or another UN body.

Resolution X.5 effectively seeks to continue this process by:

- Establishing a working group to consider options (i) and (iii) and the status of the Convention.
- Seeking support from IUCN, the Swiss Government and state parties to assist the Secretariat in overcoming some of the operational obstacles that it has identified, in the short-term.

Implementation

New Zealand and Australia were nominated as Oceania representatives on the proposed working group established to consider the future legal personality of the Convention.

- *MFAT Post in Geneva to represent New Zealand at working group meetings in collaboration with Australian colleagues.*
- *DOC/MFAT officials to consider the appropriate process to facilitate an informed position on this issue.*
- *DOC/MFAT officials to develop a position on this issue when adequate information on the costs and benefits of the options have been made available to the working group.*

RESOLUTION REGIONAL INITIATIVES 2009-2012 IN THE
X.6 FRAMEWORK OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

This resolution provides operational guidelines for regional initiatives established to support the implementation of the Convention. These guidelines replace previously agreed guidelines for regional initiatives adopted at COP8. In addition, the resolution:

- Agreed to earmark a global amount of financial support from the Convention's core budget to support regional initiatives during the 2009-2012 period.
- Authorised the Standing Committee to examine and approve new initiatives that meet the newly adopted operational guidelines (annexed to the resolution) and allocate earmarked funding from the core budget.
- Urged regions that receive Convention funding for Regional Initiatives to seek complementary sources of funding.
- Requested that the Standing Committee and the Secretariat regularly review the success of regional initiatives being funded from the Convention's core budget.

Implementation

New Zealand's main interest in this resolution relates to the Pacific Regional Initiative and its eligibility for funding. However, as one of only two developed countries in the Oceania region, it is expected that New Zealand will be approached regarding the possibility of providing complementary funding (to supplement funding received from the Convention) to support the Pacific Regional Initiative.

- *Give due consideration to any requests for complementary funding that might be sought to support the Pacific Regional Initiative.*

RESOLUTION X.7 OPTIMIZING THE RAMSAR SMALL GRANTS FUND DURING THE PERIOD 2009-2012

This resolution was the result of a request in resolution IX.13 for the Standing Committee to bring new proposals to COP10 for establishing a more vigorous mechanism to support the SGF, including the possible development of regional support funds. The resolution:

- Notes that the Small Grants Fund was only able to fund 17 of 94 proposals submitted by eligible Contracting Parties.
- Reiterates its conviction that the level of resources available to the SGF be increased to 1 million Swiss francs annually, and invited developed Contracting Parties to consider voluntary financial contributions to the fund.
- Notes the proposal by the Standing Committee to submit some of the unfunded proposals to alternate donors and grants for funding consideration.
- Urges continued development of the Ramsar Signature Initiatives as a mechanism for facilitating regional funding support available within other international funding mechanism such as the GEF.

Implementation

New Zealand is not eligible to apply to the Small Grants Fund. As a developed country, the Secretariat will seek from New Zealand voluntary funding support for the Small Grants Fund.

- *Give due consideration to any applications for funding support for the Small Grants Fund.*

RESOLUTION X.8 THE CONVENTION'S PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION AND AWARENESS (CEPA) 2009-2015

This resolution adopted the Convention's *Programme on Communication, Education, Participation, and Awareness (CEPA) 2009-2015*, which establishes goals, strategies, and key result areas for wetland activities. The programme was prepared to guide Contracting Parties, the Ramsar Secretariat, the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs), NGOs, and other stakeholders to support the implementation of the Convention at international, regional, national and local levels.

The main focus of the resolution is to encourage Contracting Parties to:

- Nominate CEPA Focal Points as a matter of priority (with membership on National Wetland Committees, where they exist).
- Analyse wetland CEPA needs and develop CEPA action plans (including regular review).
- Celebrate World Wetlands Day to promote wetland conservation and wise use.

In their wetland CEPA activities, Contracting Parties are strongly urged to ensure that wetland CEPA is integrated and mainstreamed within broader environment, biodiversity, wetland and water management, education, health, and poverty reduction policy instruments and programmes for maximum effectiveness.

Four supporting documents were appended to the decision to provide additional guidance to Parties on:

- CEPA terminology (Appendix 1).
- Roles and responsibilities of the CEPA National Focal Points (Appendix 2).
- Tracking implementation of the CEPA Programme (Appendix 3).
- Identifying target groups and stakeholders for Ramsar CEPA activities (Appendix 4).

Implementation

New Zealand has a Ramsar CEPA Focal Point and celebrates World Wetlands Day annually. In order to fully implement this resolution, it would be appropriate to review Wetland CEPA activities that are undertaken in New Zealand (in the context of the broader Ramsar CEPA programme 2009-2015) and determine what future priorities are. As an initial step, improved coordination of CEPA activities amongst wetland management agencies could be achieved by including the national CEPA Focal Point on any future National Wetlands Committee and establishing a clear CEPA workplan.

- *DOC to assess the current CEPA activities against the broader Ramsar CEPA programme 2009-2015.*
- *DOC to include the CEPA Focal Point on a National Wetlands Committee should one be established.*
- *Attendance of New Zealand representatives at a wetland conference in Australia in October 2009 to discuss CEPA action plans, share best practice and create regional programmes/networks.*

TABLE 1: GOALS, ACTIONS AND KEY RESULT AREAS FOR NEW ZEALAND PROGRAMME ON COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION, AND AWARENESS.

GOALS	ACTIONS/KEY RESULT AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR NEW ZEALAND
<p>1. CEPA is used effectively at all levels of the Convention to promote the value of wetlands.</p> <p><i>This goal relates to using CEPA to enhance awareness of wetland values, promotion of CEPA as a process, and integration of CEPA into policies and planning at a range of levels and scales (e.g. global/national to basin/site).</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using World Wetland Day celebrations to raise awareness of wetlands. • Using Ramsar sites as 'demonstration sites' that are accessible to the public.* • Using, reviewing and reporting on a wide range of CEPA approaches. • Integrating wetland CEPA into a wide range of policy and planning mechanisms that affect wetlands** (including agencies and stakeholders). • Obtaining synergies between wetland CEPA and those undertaken for other international conventions and programmes. • Ensuring CEPA is an integral part of local scale management.†
<p>2. Support and tools have been provided for the effective implementation of national and local wetland-related CEPA activities</p> <p><i>This goal is focused on establishing an enabling environment for the effective implementation of CEPA. This includes mechanisms such as frameworks and action plans, the establishment of CEPA focal points, including individuals, organizations and centres, and mechanisms such as networks for information exchange and access to resources, experts and training.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appointing government and NGO Focal Points for CEPA including National Wetland Committee membership (where they exist). • Establishing a National CEPA Task Force (including CEPA Focal Points, stakeholders and NGOs) if required.†† • Preparing CEPA action plans (at appropriate scales)‡ including provision to the Ramsar secretariat. • Regular review and refinement of CEPA action plans (where they exist) and reporting to the CEPA Oversight Panel. • Collaboration and information sharing amongst relevant government agencies. • Participation in Ramsar CEPA networks and contribution to Ramsar databases. • Establishment and support of wetland education centres.
<p>3. People are motivated and enabled to act for the wise use of wetlands.</p> <p><i>This goal is focused on using the CEPA framework and its tools and products to motivate and enable new actors to actively participate in the wise use of wetlands.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewing current national needs and capacities in the areas of wetland CEPA. • Identifying resources (including experts), information, and training opportunities to facilitate the sharing of expertise and knowledge at various scales (including local, national, regional and international). • Encouraging active participation of stakeholder groups.‡‡ • National recognition and support for active participation in wetland management. • Integration of local knowledge of wetlands (including info held by indigenous and local communities) into site management.

* Including access facilities and interpretation.

** Including biodiversity, forestry, agriculture, irrigation, power generation, mining, tourism and fisheries etc.

† For example, in management plans, and as a key part of participatory management with local communities.

†† Where no mechanism exists for this purpose currently.

‡ Drawing upon the Ramsar CEPA Toolkit.

‡‡ Particularly those with cultural or economic links.

RESOLUTION X.9 REFINEMENTS TO THE *MODUS OPERANDI* OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL (STRP)

This resolution amends the *modus operandi* for the Scientific Technical Review Panel (STRP), which was first adopted in 2005.⁹ The revised *modus operandi* sets out the way in which STRP will operate for the 2009–2012 period and beyond.¹⁰ It specifies:

- Key objectives of the STRP *modus operandi*.
- Establishment and responsibilities of the STRP Oversight Committee.
- Criteria and characteristics of candidate STRP members.
- Composition of the Panel.
- Procedure for identification and appointment of candidates.
- Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel.
- STRP observer organisations.
- Establishment and operation of working groups and task forces.
- Assurance of continuing national and regional applicability in the work of STRP.
- Continuity of Panel membership.

This resolution also signals that STRP is experiencing problems engaging with National Focal Points, and reinforces the need to engage with scientists and experts in each Contracting Party.

For the administration and operation of STRP in future, COP10:

- Adopts the revised *modus operandi* for STRP.
- Agrees to the appointment of thematic expert members to the STRP to lead implementation of priority work for the Panel (as defined in Resolution X.10).¹¹
- Agrees for the Panel to seek additional expertise as necessary.¹²
- Confirms that the Standing Committee will have overall responsibility for the STRP.
- Confirms that the Ramsar Secretariat will continue to provide support functions to STRP while recognising that this may require additional resourcing in future.
- Reviews the list of bodies and organisations that are invited to participate as observers in the meetings of STRP and/or establish close working cooperative arrangements with STRP on matters of common interest.

⁹ Resolution IX.11.

¹⁰ Unless amended by subsequent COP decisions.

¹¹ Including wetland inventory; assessment and indicators; Ramsar site designation; Wetland restoration and management; wetlands and climate change; wetlands and human health; wetlands and water resources; wetlands and agriculture; CEPA.

¹² Including via collaboration with scientific advisory bodies of other international conventions/agencies, and IOPs, STRP invited observers, and STRP invited experts.

Contracting Parties are urged to review the appointment of National STRP Focal Points to ensure that they:

- Are appropriately qualified for this role (as defined in the Terms of Reference appended to the resolution).
- Have contact with national experts relevant to the work areas of the Panel.
- Participate in Ramsar processes within the country (including participating in any National Ramsar or Wetland Committee).
- Have supplied their current records and contact information to the Secretariat.

If the current National STRP Focal Point does not have the appropriate skills or capacity, then Contracting Parties are urged to consider making an alternative appointment.

The resolution also seeks to strengthen the role and participation of National STRP Focal Points by requesting that:

- STRP (through National STRP Focal Points) assess mechanisms for identifying national expert contacts to participate on specific STRP tasks and/or review draft documents.
- STRP and Secretariat identify opportunities and mechanisms for holding inter-sessional regional or subregional meetings of STRP National Focal Points.

The Terms of Reference (TOR) set out the responsibilities of each Ramsar Administering Authority for STRP National Focal Point (NFP), which ensures that:

- i. The Party's STRP NFP is appointed.
- ii. The STRP NFP is appropriately qualified for this role (as per the TOR) and that the Secretariat and STRP are provided with information about this.
- iii. The STRP NFP has contact with national experts in work areas relevant to the Panel.
- iv. The STRP NFP is involved in relevant Ramsar processes within the Contracting Party (including participating in any National Ramsar or Wetland Committee).
- v. The Contact information for STRP NFP is notified to STRP through the Ramsar Secretariat, and that it is kept up-to-date and functional.

Implementation

To address concerns about the accessibility of STRP NFPs, it may be appropriate to assess the nature of the STRP NFP role and establish a clear programme of work (if this has not already been done).

- *DOC to assess the nature of STRP NFP role and establish a clear programme of work (if this has not already been done).*
- *DOC STRP Focal Point to establish linkages with scientific and technical experts and establish a forum for the discussion of issues and research projects related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand and internationally.*

RESOLUTION X.10 FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE CONVENTION

This resolution establishes the workplan for STRP for 2009–2012, which includes 30 high priority tasks within the following themes:

- Wetland inventory, assessment and indicators.
- Ramsar site designation.
- Wetland restoration and management.
- Wetlands and climate change.
- Wetlands and human health.
- Wetlands and water resources.
- Wetlands and agriculture.
- CEPA.

These items are detailed in the document appended to the resolution entitled *Future implementation of the scientific and technical aspects of the Convention*.

This resolution acknowledges:

- The work of STRP and reaffirms the value of its role.
- That progress of STRP is resource limited, and that some elements of STRP's original workplan for 2006–2008 were not achieved due to resource constraints.
- That full delivery of the Panel's programme relies in particular on voluntary contributions from Parties and others. Thanks are given to those Parties that have made these contributions during the last triennium.

Implementation

It is recommended that New Zealand's STRP Focal Point contributes to the STRP workplan where there is either national interest or particular expertise in New Zealand. It will be necessary to identify the priority Ramsar STRP workplan items into which the New Zealand wetland ecologists, including the STRP Focal Point are interested in providing input. The Ramsar STRP has already corresponded with New Zealand on particular issues (e.g. wetland loss, restoration) and it is recommended to maintain these links and, subsequently, support the scientific and technical aspects of the Ramsar Convention.

- *DOC STRP Focal Point to establish linkages with scientific and technical experts and establish a forum for the discussion of issues and research projects related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand and internationally.*
- *DOC STRP Focal Point to engage with the Ramsar STRP on particular topics of national interest.*

RESOLUTION X.11 PARTNERSHIPS AND SYNERGIES WITH MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

This resolution focuses on improving cooperation and collaboration between the Ramsar Convention and other MEAs and institutions on matters of mutual interest, whilst respecting the independent mandates of each convention or body. It also calls for collaboration between the Ramsar Secretariat and other conventions/institutions to be undertaken with a view to harmonising and streamlining Contracting Parties' obligations.

The resolution also informs Contracting Parties that the UN General Assembly has declared 2010 and 2011 to be the International Years for Biological Diversity and Forests, respectively, which have relevance to wetlands.

Through this resolution, COP10 establishes a detailed programme of work for the Secretariat including:

- Continuing to cooperate/collaborate with relevant Conventions¹³, the work of the Biodiversity Liaison Group¹⁴, and with the CBD Secretariat under the 4th Joint Work Plan.
- Reviewing and streamlining joint work programmes with CMS and AEWA; the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme and the World Heritage Centre.
- Exploring development of a joint programme with UNCCD.
- Continuing to develop cooperative relations with specified UN agencies¹⁵ and other relevant organisations¹⁶, seeking membership in the Collaborative Forests Partnership, and seeking to reduce duplicative activities.
- Reviewing memoranda of cooperation with other global and regional environment agreements and organisations (as resources permit).
- Developing closer working relations with:
 - » Intergovernmental regional groups.
 - » Financial institutions (e.g. GEF, regional development banks, and other environment funding organisations) to improve Contracting Parties' access.
- Continuing to collaborate with the five IOPs to the Convention and other NGOs as appropriate.
- Improving information flow and coordination between STRP and equivalent subsidiary bodies of other MEAs.
- Continuing involvement in the UNEP-WCMC project.
- Continuing to cooperate between the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP with the CBD Secretariat, UNEP, and UNEP-WCMC.
- Supporting the work of STRP on developing biological indicators.¹⁷

¹³ Including ongoing membership to the UNEP EMG, and its observer status for the UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD.

¹⁴ Established under the *aegis* of the CBD.

¹⁵ For example UNEP, UNESCO, UN FAO, UN-Water, the World Tourism Organization, and WHO.

¹⁶ For example GBIF, UNEP-WCMC, and CGIAR networks.

¹⁷ As per Resolution VIII.26.

Through this resolution, COP10 also calls upon Contracting Parties, and other governments and organisations as appropriate to:

- Contribute to the International Year of Biological Diversity (2010).
- Make use of the web-based UNEP-IUCN ‘TEMATEA’ resource www.temata.org when developing and implementing biodiversity convention-related activities.
- Improve collaboration between Ramsar Administrative Authorities and Focal Points for related conventions and agreements (e.g. inclusion in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee).

Implementation

- *DOC to consider the inclusion of material and/or programmes focusing on wetland biodiversity in the 2010 International Year for Biodiversity celebrations.*
- *DOC to assess the levels of collaboration between National Ramsar Focal Points and those of other MEAs, and identify methods for improvement.*
- *DOC to include the national Ramsar Focal Points in a National Wetland Committee (if established).*
- *DOC to publicise the UNEP-IUCN resource ‘TEMATEA’ amongst key contacts working on biodiversity convention-related activities.*

RESOLUTION X.12 PRINCIPLES FOR PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE RAMSAR CONVENTION AND THE BUSINESS SECTOR

This resolution adopts a set of principles to guide the Ramsar Secretariat in engaging with the business sector, in order to promote cooperation with a view to maintaining the ecological values of wetlands as assets for sustainable development.

The objectives are (taken from principles) to:

- Improve understanding of the socio-economic benefits and business opportunities provided by the ecosystem services of fully functioning wetland systems and support environmentally sustainable business practices.
- Build relationships with the business sector and expand the Convention's resource base.
- Promote the engagement of the business sector directly in the conservation/wise use of wetlands.
- Facilitate dialogue between business and key stakeholders¹⁸ of wetlands.
- Increase investment (at all scales) in promoting wetland conservation, wise use, restoration and rehabilitation.
- Improve understanding of the values of wetlands and the mission of the Convention.
- Strengthen links between the ecological requirements for sustainable development and the socio-economic benefits derived from sound wetland management.
- Develop cooperation¹⁹ between government and the private sector at national levels.
- Identify and apply innovative methodologies for compensation of wetland loss²⁰ in accordance with the Convention.

Specific criteria and guidance are also included to guide the interactions that are relevant and applicable at a range of scales (including national and regional levels).

COP10 welcomed the principles and instructed the Secretariat to give effect to them when exploring opportunities or initiatives with private or public companies. It also:

- Urged Contracting Parties to make use of the principles within existing national and regional initiatives and commitments.
- Encouraged Administrative Authorities to promulgate the principles with relevant stakeholders.²¹

¹⁸ Particularly governments and relevant communities.

¹⁹ Including development of appropriate sustainability measures.

²⁰ As far as possible in the same areas with the same ecological functions.

²¹ Including *inter alia* private companies, government ministries, departments and agencies, water and basin management authorities, non-governmental organizations, and civil society at large.

- Encouraged the business sector to improve their environmental performance, measure their environmental impact, and to ‘avoid, remedy or mitigate’ their adverse impacts.
- Encouraged all stakeholders to collaborate in the wise use of wetlands.
- Supported programmes of corporate environmental and social responsibility (including the Water Footprint Network).
- Requested that the Ramsar secretariat consult with Contracting Parties when developing projects or activities with the private sector in their territories, to obtain their agreement.

Implementation

In order to implement this resolution, DOC as the Administering Authority should note the principles and promulgate them, as appropriate, with other agencies (including the Ministry for Economic Development and the Ministry for the Environment).

- *DOC to circulate a copy of the principles for partnerships to relevant government agencies, local authorities, the DOC sponsorship team and other relevant organisations, groups and individuals for their information and appropriate action.*

RESOLUTION X.13 THE STATUS OF SITES IN THE RAMSAR LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

This resolution covers the Secretariat's duties to maintain the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar sites) and reminds Parties about their obligations to monitor and report on the condition of these sites. Contracting Parties are obliged to inform the Secretariat if there are any changes (or potential changes) in the ecological character of these sites, and to respond to any such changes.

The resolution is positive about the progress that has been achieved since COP9, but also acknowledges that Ramsar sites are experiencing increasing pressure and are likely to experience changes in ecological character (if they are not already).

The following concerns and issues are identified in relation to wetlands listed as Ramsar sites:

- The global network of Ramsar sites is not fully representative or comprehensive.
- The total number of sites is less than the target (of 2000) set in 1999.
- 123 countries (listed in the annex attached to the resolution) have not provided adequate Ramsar Information Sheets (RISs) or maps to the Secretariat for more than 6 years in relation to 1057 Ramsar sites (58% of all Ramsar sites). As a result, information on the current status of these sites is not available.
- Lack of progress in removing sites from the Montreux Record (that have or are experiencing changes).²²
- A need for STRP to review and streamline Montreux Record procedures.
- The reluctance of Contracting Parties to report on changes in ecological character to Ramsar sites. In particular:
 - » Contracting Parties using their national reports to report changes (instead of reporting pursuant to Article 3.2 of the Convention).
 - » Reports received by the Secretariat from third parties (cf. Administering Authorities) in relation to 70 sites in 20 countries.
- The inability of STRP to complete its report on the status and trends in the ecological character of Ramsar sites (arising from a lack of reporting by Contracting Parties).

As an outcome of the COP:

- Parties reaffirmed their commitment to reporting change and maintaining or restoring the ecological character of their Ramsar sites (Article 3.2).
- Contracting Parties were encouraged to adopt suitable monitoring regimes as part of management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands.²³

²² Ramsar sites were recorded on the Montreaux Record as at 4 November 2008. Three sites had been removed since COP9 with two more added in the intervening period.

²³ Such as that outlined in the annex to Resolution VI.1 (1996), and to incorporate within these monitoring regimes the Convention's Wetland Risk Assessment Framework (Resolution VII.10).

- Contracting Parties were encouraged to consider utilising the Montreux Record and Parties with sites on the Montreux Record were encouraged to report on progress to the Ramsar Secretariat.
- The Ramsar Secretariat was requested²⁴ to identify a desirable reporting frequency for Contracting Parties in relation to the Montreux Record, to provide for updates prior to each COP.
- Contracting Parties were requested to advise the Secretary General, at the earliest opportunity, of steps taken to address changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites reported to be experiencing changes in ecological character.
- Contracting Parties were requested to provide information promptly to the Ramsar Secretariat, upon request, concerning reports provided by third parties of change or likely change to the ecological character of Ramsar sites.
- Contracting Parties were requested to use the most up-to-date format of the RIS in their designations of new sites, extensions to existing sites, and updates on existing sites.
- Contracting Parties that need to supply updated RISs were identified and the Secretariat was instructed to contact them and request them to do so (including New Zealand).
- Statements made by 68 Contracting Parties in their National Reports to COP10 were applauded concerning planned extensions to existing Ramsar sites, and future designations of new or extended Ramsar sites (New Zealand is erroneously identified as having 12 sites that are planned for designation or extension). This needs to be rectified and the Ramsar Secretariat notified of the process proposed for establishing a list of national priority sites for Ramsar designation status.

Implementation

This resolution reminds Contracting Parties of their obligations to monitor the ecological character of Ramsar sites (and inform the Secretariat of any actual or potential changes) and respond to any such changes. The Secretariat is encouraging Parties to report any changes using Article 3.2, to reduce the indirect reporting that is occurring through third parties and/or National Reports.

New Zealand was specifically mentioned within the resolution for the following reasons:

- *At least one updated RIS for a New Zealand Ramsar site is overdue and will be requested by the Secretariat. Note that RISs for all NZ Ramsar sites were submitted to the Secretariat in 2005. They have not been recorded on the country website, nor does the Secretariat appear to have any record of receiving them. DOC will need to follow this up.*
- *There are 12 New Zealand sites identified for designation as Ramsar sites (or extension of existing sites). However, this was erroneously reported.*

²⁴ In conjunction with STRP's redesign of the Montreux Record questionnaire.

In order to implement this resolution:

- *DOC as the Administering Authority will engage the Secretariat regarding submitted RIS updates (2005) that have not been recorded on the Ramsar website, and establish a process for the regular provision of RISs for existing and future Ramsar sites.*
- *DOC to query with the Ramsar Secretariat why details for the Awarua Wetland (extension) site, approved in August 2006, has not been recorded on the Ramsar sites database.*
- *DOC as the Administering Authority will advise the Ramsar Secretariat that the 12 sites mentioned in the Ramsar Secretariat report have not been officially identified for Ramsar designation (or extension).*
- *DOC to advise the Ramsar Secretariat of the process proposed for establishing a list of national priority sites for Ramsar designation status.*
- *DOC as the Administering Authority in conjunction with other management agencies to assess the adequacy of monitoring being undertaken for Ramsar sites to ensure that it is adequate to detect changes in ecological character. This assessment should be led by the STRP Focal Point and also involve site managers and relevant technical experts.*
- *DOC to inform the Secretariat of changes in ecological character that are actually or potentially occurring at Ramsar sites (as an Article 3.2 report) and the management responses to them.*

RESOLUTION X.14 A FRAMEWORK FOR RAMSAR DATA AND INFORMATION NEEDS

This resolution outlines the framework for Ramsar data and information needs that was prepared and submitted by STRP (as instructed by COP9) with support from the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre.

As an outcome of COP10:

- Contracting Parties and other stakeholders were asked to use the framework and adapt it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances.
- STRP was instructed to include projects in its work plan for the 2009-2012 period in relation to the framework.
- The Ramsar Secretariat was instructed to disseminate this framework widely, especially through amending and updating the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks.

The framework is structured in line with the goals and strategies of the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and has been structured to meet information needs in eight broad categories: (1) baseline knowledge; (2) compliance and accountability; (3) performance against targets; (4) learning lessons; (5) identifying new and emerging issues; (6) promoting benefits, CEPA; (7) targeted problem solving; and (8) selecting sites for Ramsar site designation. See Table 1 National level data/information requirements in line with the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.

Implementation

The framework provides a good insight into the nature of information that Contracting Parties are being encouraged to collect in order to report on their progress against the Strategic Plan 2009-2015. It also helps to identify the key information requirements of the Secretariat.

- *DOC as the Administering Authority and STRP Focal Point should coordinate a process involving relevant individuals from appropriate agencies (including those holding Ramsar positions) to:*
 - » *Assess data requirements (as per the framework) and information sources.*
 - » *Identify and prioritise information needs.*
 - » *Identify opportunities to fill information gaps through existing initiatives undertaken by the full range of agencies (e.g. Arawai Kākāriki Programme).*
 - » *Identify where new initiatives are required to fill key information gaps.*

It may be appropriate to use this framework for Ramsar data and information needs to collate information on New Zealand's six Ramsar sites as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site monitoring and management.

TABLE 2: NATIONAL LEVEL DATA/INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS IN LINE WITH THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2009–2015.

STRATEGY	NATIONAL LEVEL DATA/ INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS
<p>1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of wetlands and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of the wise use principle. (CPs, advised by STRP and assisted by IOPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location, distribution of wetland types (national wetland inventory). • Ecological character description(s). • Ecological character status (could be a subset of the ecological character description). • Management objectives. • Change in ecological character time series (through monitoring and surveillance). • Wetland values (services). • Impacts, vulnerability and risk. • National status and trends. • Identification of data and information sent to the Secretariat.
<p>1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions Develop and implement policies, legislation and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied. (CPs, Secretariat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National wetland policies. • Policy linkages to other sectors (water, human health and physical planning). • Legal, institutional and governance frameworks. • Capacity needs. • Effectiveness indicators. • SEAs for policies affecting wetlands.
<p>1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, flood defence, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands. (CPs, Secretariat, STRP, IOPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value of ecosystem services. • Key players in other sectors. • Opportunities (information dissemination on the role of wetlands in the provision of ecosystem services). • Effectiveness indicators.
<p>1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management Ensure policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and marine zone planning, and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities. (CPs, STRP, IOPs)</p>	<p>Current water resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies and practices. • Current water allocations. • Effectiveness indicators. • Case studies/best practice. • Wetland—climate change adaptation and mitigation.
<p>1.8 Wetland restoration Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social, or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of sites suitable for wetland restoration/ rehabilitation (cf. inventory of wetlands/assessment/ monitoring). • Measures that have been taken. • Impacts of measures taken.

Continued on next page

Table 2—continued

STRATEGY	NATIONAL LEVEL DATA/ INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS
<p>1.9 Invasive alien species Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological characters of wetlands, especially Ramsar sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate invasive species in wetland systems. (CPS, STRP, other agencies, IOPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actual or potential invasive problems. • Measures that have been taken. • Impacts of measures taken.
<p>1.10 Private sector Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (CPS, Secretariat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholders and rights holders. • Case studies/best practice. • Incentives and their impacts/potential impacts.
<p>2.1 Ramsar site designation Apply the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Handbook 14). (CPS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National wetland inventory and/or ecological character description. • National datasets (to test against each criterion). • List of candidate sites derived from national wetland inventory/ecological character description and other national/international datasets to test against each criterion. <p>(N.B. Further STRP work in 2009–2011 will elaborate this listing by criterion)</p>
<p>2.2 Ramsar site information Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service, including the Ramsar Sites Database, are available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat. (CPS, STRP, Secretariat, IOPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data and information necessary for completion of the RIS as may be defined by COP and COP nominated processes. • Identification of data and information sent to the Secretariat. • For candidate sites—national lists as provided by CPS.
<p>2.3 Management planning—new Ramsar sites While recognizing that Ramsar site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management. (CPS, IOPs, Secretariat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candidate list for Ramsar sites. • Data and information for management plan development (including ecological character description).
<p>2.4 Ramsar site ecological character Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar sites, through planning and management. (CPS, Secretariat, IOPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecological character description(s). • Site management objectives, and limits of acceptable change. • Ecological character status. • Change in ecological character time series (through monitoring and surveillance).
<p>2.5 Ramsar site management effectiveness Review all existing Ramsar sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance. (CPS, STRP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness indicators. • Guidance on applying management effectiveness tools in national context. • Management objectives. • Monitoring results.

Continued on next page

Table 2—continued

STRATEGY	NATIONAL LEVEL DATA/ INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS
<p>2.6 Ramsar site status Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies on individual sites. • Results from monitoring against management objectives and RAM. • EIA for development proposals. • Identification of data, information and reports sent to the Secretariat.
<p>3.1 Synergies with MEAs and IGOs Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs). (CPs, Secretariat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared information on MEAs and IGOs Focal Points and institutional arrangements.
<p>3.2 Regional initiatives Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements. (CPs, Secretariat, IOPs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge network—list of organisations and their role. • Opportunities for resources and capacity.
<p>4.1 CEPA Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation, and awareness (CEPA). (CPs, Secretariat, training centres, IOPs, Advisory Board on Capacity Building)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural benefits and services. • Case studies. • Training needs identification. • Training courses and tools available.
<p>4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention. (CPs, Secretariat)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-to-date information of AA National Focal Points, and CEPA and STRP NFPs and their contact details.

RESOLUTION X.15 DESCRIBING THE ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF WETLANDS AND DATA NEEDS AND FORMATS FOR CORE INVENTORY: HARMONIZING SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

For COP10, STRP prepared guidance for ‘Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory’, to streamline information and data collection requirements, so that information can be used for multiple purposes. It provides a summary framework of data and information needs for core inventory, description of wetland ecological character, Ramsar site designation and Article 3.2 reporting.

The final resolution:

- Urges Contracting Parties to make good use of the guidance, and adapt it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances.²⁵
- Urges Contracting Parties to bring the guidance to the attention of relevant stakeholders, particularly those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands.
- Invites Contracting Parties to use the guidelines to prepare descriptions of ecological character for Ramsar sites as part of management planning processes, and to submit those to the Ramsar secretariat to supplement information in the RIS.
- Instructs STRP to develop further guidance on describing ecological character.
- Instructs the Ramsar Secretariat to disseminate the guidance widely.

N.B. The resolution applies primarily, but not exclusively, to Ramsar sites whereas the concept of wise use (and maintenance of ecological character) applies to **all** wetlands.

Implementation

This framework identifies and integrates the component data and information that Contracting Parties should collect for the purposes of core inventory, ecological character description, Ramsar site designation and Article 3.2 reporting. The framework has been developed to streamline the information that is collected and ensure that it meets multiple purposes.

- *DOC as the Administering Authority in conjunction with Ramsar site managers and the STRP Focal Point should:*
 - » *Review existing data and information for Ramsar sites.*
 - » *Assess whether the framework would be appropriately implemented within New Zealand (or identify modifications).*
 - » *Develop and implement systems/standards for data gathering at Ramsar sites in future (which could be promulgated nationally as best practice for all wetland monitoring and management through MfE).*

²⁵ Within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development.

RESOLUTION X.16 A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROCESS OF DETECTING, REPORTING, AND RESPONDING TO CHANGE IN WETLAND ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER

Article 3.2 of the Convention text states that:

Each Contracting Party shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay to the organization or government responsible for the continuing bureau duties [i.e., the Ramsar Secretariat] specified in Article 8.

To assist Contracting Parties to assess and report on changes in wetland ecological character STRP has prepared (as instructed by COP9) a 'Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character'. The framework contains a series of 4 flow charts that deal with the following systems/processes:

1. Detecting changes in ecological character of Ramsar sites.
2. Reporting and responding to negative human-induced changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites.
3. Reporting natural and positive changes (including no change) in the ecological character of Ramsar sites.
4. Reporting to (and consideration by) the Conference of Parties of changes in wetland ecological character.

The steps of each flowchart identify what actions should be undertaken, key decision points, and who should undertake these actions or decisions.

While the elements of the framework are specifically concerned with Ramsar sites, some aspects can be applied to any wetland in the context of wise use. COP10 adopted this framework, and:

- Urged Contracting Parties to make good use of it, as appropriate (including adaptation for national situations) within the context of existing regional initiatives/commitments and sustainable development.
- Urged Contracting Parties to draw this framework to the attention of relevant stakeholders with responsibilities for maintaining the ecological character of Ramsar sites and other wetlands.²⁶

²⁶ Wetland site managers, government ministries, departments and agencies, water and basin management agencies, non-governmental organisations, and civil society were specifically identified. In addition, Contracting Parties were further urged to encourage these stakeholders to take this framework into account, together with the Ramsar Toolkit of Wise Use Handbooks, in their decision making and activities.

Implementation

The framework reminds Parties of their obligations under Article 3.2 to monitor, report and respond to changes in the ecological character of Ramsar sites. It provides an overview of the Ramsar systems and processes associated with monitoring, reporting and responding to changes in condition of Ramsar wetland sites, including identification of available guidance. Roles and responsibilities of agencies and individuals (e.g. site manager, Administering Authority, Contracting Party, Secretariat) are also clearly identified.

To implement this resolution it would be appropriate for:

- DOC as the Administering Authority to review Ramsar processes (at a high level) within New Zealand (using the Framework as a guide) as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site monitoring and management, to establish whether they adequately meet the obligations of Article 3.2 of the Convention. This may include consultation with Australian Government representatives (e.g. WWTF Committee) who are considering similar issues.*
- DOC via the STRP Focal Point to provide guidance to Ramsar site managers on monitoring and reporting on changes in ecological character, including information needed to contribute to national Ramsar reports.*
- Ramsar site managers to review the guidance provided by DOC and provide operational advice on improving existing systems and processes to meet the monitoring and reporting requirements.*

RESOLUTION X.17 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT: UPDATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

This resolution invited Contracting Parties to draw to the attention of relevant stakeholders—such as government departments and agencies, water management authorities and non-governmental organisations—the guidelines produced by the Convention on Biological Diversity on the environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment. These guidelines were included in Annex 1 of the resolution with additional annotations prepared by the Ramsar STRP on specific aspects relating to wetlands and the Ramsar Convention.

Through this resolution:

- Contracting Parties were invited to make good use of guidelines as appropriate, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development.

Implementation

The primary framework for environmental impact assessment within New Zealand is the Resource Management Act 1991, which adequately covers the recommendations described in this resolution. However, the wetland-specific aspects may provide useful guidance for local planning processes.

- *DOC and MfE to review guidance and circulate to relevant stakeholders including local government and water management agencies, where appropriate.*

RESOLUTION X.18 THE APPLICATION OF RESPONSE OPTIONS FROM THE MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT (MA) WITHIN THE RAMSAR WISE USE TOOLKIT

This resolution noted the review by the Ramsar STRP of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) response options regarding *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Wetlands and Water*. The full report of the review is not currently available but will be published as a Ramsar technical report in the near future.

Some of the key findings of the STRP review:

- The MA outputs concerning responses contained little detail on the wise use of wetlands; and where wetland wise use was treated in the response options, they were largely focused on addressing direct drivers of change (e.g. water abstraction, unsustainable harvest, and resource consumption).
- The MA outputs concerning responses contained few relevant options that address indirect drivers of change (e.g. economic and socio-political drivers) and a limited number that deal with trade-offs in decision making relating to wetland wise use.
- The majority of the response options that address direct drivers of change in wetlands are already articulated within Ramsar's Wise Use Handbooks or can readily be added to future revisions of this toolkit.
- Exceptions to that are response options that are contained within the underlying MA chapters that deal with ecosystem services (e.g. nutrient cycling, food, human health, and climate change and air quality) and some MA chapters that deal with natural and human-made systems (e.g. urban systems, cultivated systems and dryland systems).
- Some of the MA's response options additional to those already covered by Ramsar's Wise Use Handbooks have already been included in STRP products being considered at COP10 and/or published as Ramsar technical reports, such as that in *Wetlands and human health and well-being* (Resolution X.23).

Through this resolution:

- Contracting Parties were encouraged to utilise, as appropriate, the MA response options relevant to their implementation of the Ramsar Convention at the national level, as provided in the forthcoming Ramsar technical report.

Implementation

- *STRP Focal Point to review Ramsar technical report on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment response options, once completed, and determine the relevance of the recommendations to New Zealand.*

RESOLUTION X.19 WETLANDS AND RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT:
CONSOLIDATED SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
GUIDANCE

This resolution seeks to make Contracting Parties aware of the scientific and technical guidance relating to river basin management. Annex 1 of the resolution provides the *Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management*. This text of the Annex provides a range of recommendations on integrated catchment management, such as the sections on:

- Integrating wetlands into river basin management: scientific and technical guidance at a national level.
- Integrating wetlands into river basin management: scientific and technical guidance at river basin level.
- Integrating wetlands into river basin management: international cooperation and partnerships.

In part, this resolution seeks to guide management decision making for those hydrological systems that cross national and jurisdictional boundaries, and to foster integrated river and wetland management by multiple agencies.

Through this resolution:

- Contracting Parties were invited to make good use of the guidelines (as appropriate, adapting them as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances) within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments, in the context of sustainable development and in accordance with national institutions and legal frameworks.
- Contracting Parties were invited to draw this guidance to the attention of all relevant stakeholders.

Implementation

- *STRP Focal Point to make stakeholders aware of the range of Ramsar technical reports and other guidance, including this guidance on river basin management.*

RESOLUTION X.20 BIOGEOGRAPHIC REGIONALIZATION IN THE APPLICATION OF THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE LIST OF WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE: SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE

This resolution reaffirms the need for better assessment of the representativeness of wetland types within the Ramsar List at an international and national level. The Annex of this Resolution provides guidance on the application of biogeographic regionalisation schemes. In particular it noted:

- The major assessment of Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) (Spalding et al. 2007²⁷) has developed a new global system of biogeographic regionalisation for coastal and shelf areas. It presents a nested system of 12 realms, 62 provinces, and 232 ecoregions.
- The existence of several global biogeographic regionalisation schemes in the terrestrial environment, which were developed for different purposes, such that the relevance for application of any one of them will depend on the precise analytical questions being considered.

Through this resolution:

- It was recognised that a relevant biogeographic regionalisation scheme is a key basis for interpreting and assessing under-representation in the Ramsar List under Criteria 1 and 3 for Ramsar site identification and designation and noted that some Parties have existing national or regional biogeographic frameworks that they can or may utilise for this purpose.
- Contracting Parties are encouraged to use the guidance on biogeographic regionalisation schemes in their application of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance*, as they consider appropriate.
- The Ramsar STRP was requested, in collaboration with appropriate scientific institutes and conservation organisations such as IUCN, IWMI, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and WWF, to investigate further the usefulness of existing terrestrial and inland biogeographical regionalisation schemes for supporting the application of the framework.
- The Ramsar STRP was requested to develop methods for assessing the representativeness of wetlands in the Ramsar List in relation to the application of other criteria for Ramsar site designation, their targets, and the guidelines for their application, as currently provided in the framework.

²⁷ Spalding, M.D.; Fox, H.E.; Allen, G.R.; Davidson, N.; Ferdaña, Z.A.; Finlayson, M.; Halpern, B.S.; Jorge, M.A.; Lombana, A.; Lourie, S.A.; Martin, K.D.; McManus, E.; Molnar, J.; Recchia, C.A.; Robertson, J. 2007: Marine ecoregions of the world: a bioregionalization of coastal and shelf areas. *BioScience* 57(7): 573-583.

Implementation

Within New Zealand there already exist biogeographic regionalisation schemes that have been applied in marine, freshwater and terrestrial conservation planning. These frameworks are currently considered adequate for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, including application of a systematic process for developing the Ramsar List at a national level.

- *STRP Focal Point to keep up-to-date with the technical guidance provided by the Ramsar STRP on assessing the representativeness of wetlands in the Ramsar list and on progress with the development of international biogeographic regionalisation schemes, and to implement at a national level, where appropriate.*

RESOLUTION X.21 GUIDANCE ON RESPONDING TO THE CONTINUED SPREAD OF HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA H5N1

The continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza HPAI subtype H5N1 around the world has resulted in concerns about:

- Direct impacts of HPAI H5N1 on waterbirds.
- Possible effects of HPAI H5N1 on public attitudes and support for waterbirds and their wetland habitats (including Ramsar sites).
- The public's poor understanding of issues related to the spread of HPAI (including how to plan and respond to outbreaks).

At COP9 (Resolution IX.23²⁸), STRP was asked to develop practical advice to assist countries responding to HPAI H5N1. As a result, STRP prepared *Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza* for consideration at COP10. This includes:

- Guidance on preparing for and responding to outbreaks of HPAI, especially at wetland sites (Section 1).
- Guidelines for reducing avian influenza risks at Ramsar sites and other wetlands (Section 2).
- Recommended ornithological information to be collected during surveillance programmes or field assessment (Section 3).
- Guidelines for Ornithological Expert Panels (Section 4).

The guidance also has three appendices that include a scientific summary (Appendix 1), Scientific Task Force on avian influenza (AI) in Wild Birds (Appendix 2) and a review of terminology (Appendix 3).

This guidance was adopted at COP10, and Contracting Parties were urged to implement it and further disseminate it to other Parties.

Also as part of this resolution, COP10:

- Reaffirms that attempts to eliminate HPAI by culling wild birds are not feasible and that destruction/modification of wetland habitats and waterbird nest sites does not amount to wise use (as per Article 3.1).
- Stresses that surveillance should be undertaken within the constraints of normal wildlife laws with minimal impacts on waterbird populations.
- Encourages all stakeholders to plan and test response strategies at various spatial scales (including monitoring and review of responses) prior to disease outbreak situations.
- Encourages Contracting Parties to establish emergency response measures²⁹ to ensure that the best available information is used to inform responses.
- Stresses the need for surveillance programmes for poultry and wild birds to follow international scientific guidance.³⁰

²⁸ On HPAI and its consequences for wetland and waterbird conservation and wise use.

²⁹ Involving relevant scientific expertise and appropriate data gathering systems.

³⁰ As described in the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code, and as described by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) using initiatives such as the Global Avian Influenza Network for Wild Bird Surveillance (GAINS).

- Urges Contracting Parties to cooperate and participate internationally in research programmes, surveillance, risk assessments, training, sharing of relevant data and information, and surveillance sampling, especially at times of heightened risk.
- Emphasises the need for improving capacity for surveillance and response strategies where such capacity is not adequate.
- Advocates the development of integrated communication programmes to raise awareness of actual risks and appropriate responses in a range of stakeholder groups.

Implementation

New Zealand has comprehensive response plans and policies for highly pathogenic avian influenza (and other avian influenza viruses of concern) in place, with complementary surveillance programmes. The plans and policies were developed by MAF with input from Technical and Stakeholder Advisory Groups (TAG and SAG), which included members with a range of scientific, ornithological and veterinary skills (in the TAG) and policy, human health, conservation and environmental, and cultural expertise (in the SAG). As a result, it would appear that this resolution does not have any immediate implications for New Zealand.

- *DOC as the Administering Authority should seek to ensure that the guidance is provided to MAF/Biosecurity New Zealand and the relevant Technical and Stakeholder Advisory Groups to assess whether any aspects of it should be incorporated into their response plans and policies (including surveillance).*
- *DOC should also work with MAF and the Ministry of Health (MOH) so that in preparing publicity material relating to avian influenza viruses, consideration is given to including messages sympathetic to waterfowl conservation and the wise use of wetlands generally.*

RESOLUTION X.22 PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF WATERBIRD FLYWAYS

This resolution has arisen from concerns about the continuing decline in abundance of many waterbirds³¹ throughout the world. International cooperative efforts are increasing to conserve flyways of migratory waterbirds such as CMS (Convention on Migratory Species), AEWPA (Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds) and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.

This resolution highlights:

- Priorities for waterbird conservation identified at the Waterbirds around the World international conference (2004)—Edinburgh Declaration (annexed to the resolution).
- The target set in 2002 by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) for a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010.³² The WSSD Type II Flyway Partnership in the East Asian–Australasian Flyway is a Ramsar regional initiative. Flyway Parties are congratulated for their cooperative efforts and Australia, China and the Republic of Korea are identified in particular for recently signing joint migratory bird agreements.

The East Asian-Australasian Flyway

There is relatively little information on migratory waterbirds using the East Asian-Australasian Flyway. They are also under extreme pressure as the flyway extends across the most densely populated part of the world and there is extreme pressure on all wetlands (irrespective of protection status). Inter-tidal wetlands in the flyway are under particular threat as they provide critical waterbird habitats, and perform multiple ecosystem services (e.g. fisheries) for large populations and communities.

As a result of COP10, Contracting Parties are:

- Strongly encouraged to support and participate in relevant international plans and programmes for the conservation of shared migratory waterbirds and their habitats.
- Encouraged to join the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, AEWPA, WHSRN and WCASN agreements or initiatives (if their territory is included and they have not done so already).
- Urged to identify and designate as Ramsar sites all internationally important wetlands for waterbirds on migratory flyways that meet the criteria for Wetlands of International Importance.³³
- Urged to enhance their individual and collective efforts to address the causes of the continuing decline in waterbird status, especially in light of implications for the achievement of WSSD's 2010 target on wetland biodiversity.

³¹ Arising in particular from the loss and degradation of wetland habitats (including intertidal wetlands) and also from unsustainable exploitation.

³² The resolution identifies in particular that waterbird status can provide a wider indicator of the status of wetland biodiversity.

³³ As per *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VII.11, as amended).

Implementation

In order to fully implement this resolution, New Zealand (DOC/MFAT) should:

- Continue to acknowledge and support the East Asian-Australasian Flyway or any associated agreements (without necessarily being committed to membership).*
- Re-assess the value and cost of membership to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership.*
- Identify key migratory bird habitats associated with migratory flyways in New Zealand, and assess whether they meet the criteria for Wetlands of International Importance³⁴ and whether they would benefit from Ramsar and other forms of protection status (N.B. a migratory bird habitat is not identified as an essential criterion in itself for Ramsar nomination).*

³⁴ As per *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VII.11, as amended).

RESOLUTION X.23 WETLANDS AND HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

This resolution emphasises the link between sustainable wetland management and human health and well-being, which was the major theme of COP10. It references a number of reports and outputs that link wetlands and sustainable resource management to human health.

The resolution responds to concerns about:

- The effects of disrupting wetland ecosystems and reduced ecosystem services.³⁵
- The exacerbating effects of climate change on wetlands, which will increase human health risks in future.³⁶
- Potential conflicts arising from the wise use of wetlands and disease/human health risk management.

Through this resolution, COP10 calls upon Contracting Parties and those responsible for wetland management to:

- Improve human health and well-being whilst achieving wetland conservation objectives.
- Address the causes of declining human health linked with wetlands using methods that are sympathetic to wetlands and their ecosystem services.
- Strengthen collaboration amongst agencies concerned with wetland conservation, water, health, food security and poverty reduction within and between governments, NGOs, and the private sector.
- Work with development sectors³⁷ to ensure that their activities do not directly or indirectly affect wetlands.
- Recognise the link between wetland ecosystems and human health in national and international policies, plans and strategies.³⁸
- Encourage research in to the relationship between wetlands and human health.
- Collaborate in assessing the consequences of wetland management measures linked with human health, and the consequences of current practices and developments focused on human health.
- Ensure that decision making takes climate change into account and aims to maintain the capacity of wetlands to adapt to climate change and provide ongoing ecosystem services.
- Be vigilant regarding the emergence or re-emergence of wetland-linked diseases, to act preventively and proactively, and to develop scientifically-based responses to disease emergence where necessary.

³⁵ Particularly in relation to water availability and quality, food production, infectious disease emergence, disease epidemics, and the spread of water-related diseases.

³⁶ By modifying the distributions of vectors and pathogens, altering water availability, and increasing the variability and severity of weather events.

³⁷ Including mining, other extractive industries, infrastructure development, water and sanitation, energy, agriculture, transport and others.

³⁸ Including links to WSSD targets and international development goals in the UN Millennium Declaration.

STRP was instructed by COP10 to further investigate the links between wetlands and human health, including:

- Developing new products for the human health sector.
- Further assessing the interactions between wetland ecosystems and human health and well-being.³⁹
- Developing interpretations of and conceptual thinking around the applicability or otherwise of 'health' to wetland ecosystems, the relationship of wetland ecosystem health to the concepts of ecological character and ecosystem services, and the implications for implementing and monitoring wise use and ecological character objectives under the Convention, taking into account both socioeconomic and ecological considerations.
- Reviewing available knowledge and information on wetlands and human health for different regions, and working to fill key gaps.
- Promoting the importance of Ramsar sites that are significant for human health.
- Preparing guidance for wetland managers and the human health sector on processes for identifying appropriate responses to manage wetlands and human health issues (including trade-offs).

WHO (World Health Organisation), the COHAB initiative (Co-Operation on Health and Biodiversity) and other relevant bodies were invited to contribute to this work, whilst governments, NGOs, research institutions and others were invited to provide case study projects to STRP and/or the Secretariat that demonstrate good practice in integrated approaches to wetland ecosystem conservation and wise use and human health.

Implementation

- *DOC to work with MfE and MOH to predict how climate change is likely to affect wetlands and associated human health issues and where appropriate to formulate national policies and response plans.*
- *MfE to take into account wetland-human health relationships in the development of National Environmental Standards.*

³⁹ Including the impacts of pollution, degradation, and loss of wetlands on ecosystem services, and the role of wetlands in relation to waterborne diseases and disease vectors.

RESOLUTION CLIMATE CHANGE AND WETLANDS X.24

This resolution recognises the important role that wetlands play in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation,⁴⁰ and identifies (as per the IPCC conclusion) that particular wetland types⁴¹ are especially vulnerable to climate change because of their limited adaptive capacity. For COP10, STRP prepared the information paper, *Additional information on climate change and wetlands issues* (COP10 DOC. 25⁴²) to support this resolution, which summarises recent information.

The resolution has arisen from concerns that ecosystem services provided by wetlands in relation to climate change are not yet fully recognised by international and national climate change strategies and mechanisms. As a result of the lack of recognition, there is potential for wetland ecosystems to be further compromised by responses⁴³ promoted by some existing policies and strategies.

The resolution also seeks to link the importance of wetlands as carbon stores, through the efforts of Contracting Countries meeting their obligations under the UNFCCC. It seeks to achieve greater collaboration between the Ramsar Convention and other UN conventions by improving coordination between the Secretariats and their advisory bodies.

Specifically, this resolution:

- Updates previous resolutions on climate change and wetlands.
- Urges Contracting Parties to manage wetlands to increase their resilience to climate change and to reduce the impacts of climate change.
- Urges Contracting Parties to maintain the ecological character of wetlands, particularly in relation to water allocations for wetlands.⁴⁴
- Encourages Contracting Parties to promote the restoration of river, lake and aquifer basins and their wetlands as an important aspect of climate change policy.
- Urges Contracting Parties and other governments to include the protection of mountain wetlands,⁴⁵ and the restoration and management of degraded lowland and coastal wetlands,⁴⁶ in national climate change strategies.

⁴⁰ In carbon storage and cycling, and in the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions.

⁴¹ Including reefs, atolls, mangroves, and those in prairies, tropical and boreal forests, and arctic (including permafrost) and alpine ecosystems.

⁴² See www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop10-10th-meeting-of-the-19307/main/ramsar/1-31-58-127%5E19307_4000_0__

⁴³ Including measures such as increasing energy supplies from hydropower and bio fuel production and greater use of water storage and inter-basin water transfers, and the potential impacts of other climate change mitigation/adaptation activities on wetlands.

⁴⁴ Particularly in the face of climate-driven changes and predicted changes in water distribution and availability due to the direct impacts of, and societal responses to, climate change.

⁴⁵ To reduce the impacts of extremes in precipitation, attenuate the impacts of melting and disappearing glaciers and the reduction of water storage in mountain areas.

- Urges relevant Contracting Parties to act urgently, as far as possible, to improve management practices⁴⁷ of peatlands and other wetland types that are significant GHG sinks, and to encourage expansion of demonstration sites (for peatland restoration and wise use management) in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation activities.
- Calls upon Ramsar Administrative Authorities to work with their respective UNFCCC Focal Point on joint policies and measures that are aimed to reduce anthropogenic GHG emissions from wetlands such as peatlands, where practical and appropriate.
- Encourages Contracting Parties to take an integrated approach to addressing climate change in the development and implementation of national policies related to water management; agriculture; energy production; poverty reduction; and human health, to ensure that such objectives are consistent with the need to protect the ecological character of wetlands and maintain wetland services.⁴⁸
- Reaffirms the need for Contracting Parties to consider the wise use of wetlands in national climate change mitigation and adaptation policies, when implementing the UNFCCC (including the Kyoto Protocol as appropriate).
- Encourages Contracting Parties to utilise peatlands to showcase Ramsar CEPA activities in the context of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate/adapt to climate change.
- Encourages Contracting Parties, the private sector and other stakeholders as appropriate, to consider the potential of incentive measures and funding mechanisms under climate change adaptation and mitigation activities to support the wise use of wetlands. This includes exploring the concept of payments for ecosystem services (PES) as appropriate.
- Urges Contracting Parties to develop and implement policies that promote opportunities to take advantage of the regulatory services already provided by wetlands to the global climate system.
- Encourages Contracting Parties and other organisations to study the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration in adaptation to climate change (including for flood mitigation and water supply, and in mitigating the impacts of sea level rise), and to make their findings available to the Convention, the UNFCCC and other relevant processes.
- Urges Contracting Parties and others to apply the existing Ramsar guidance on the wise use of wetlands⁴⁹ to the threats and impacts on wetlands arising from climate change, in developing their climate change policy and management responses.
- Urges STRP National Focal Points to engage in and contribute to STRP's continued work on climate change (as described in the resolution).⁵⁰

⁴⁶ Resulting in the attenuation of large storms and sea-level rise.

⁴⁷ Including reducing degradation and promoting restoration.

⁴⁸ As is described in the reports of the IPCC and the MA.

⁴⁹ The Wise Use Handbooks.

⁵⁰ In order to bring in national and regional issues and expertise from their in-country networks of wetland scientists and other experts.

- Invites Ramsar Administrative Authorities to bring this resolution to the attention of National Focal Points of other multilateral environment agreements (MEAs).
- Encourages Contracting Parties to promote collaborative work between the National Focal Points of MEAs in support of its implementation.

Implementation

- *DOC as the Administering Authority should provide relevant Ramsar STRP material on the importance of wetlands as carbon stores and the risk that climate change poses to wetlands to relevant agencies, so that they can be taken into account in future policy development.*
- *DOC as the Administering Authority should assess the best mechanisms for interaction/cooperation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders.*
- *DOC and MfE should promote and where appropriate provide research results on the role of wetlands in climate change adaptation and mitigation to support policy and decision making (including through inter-agency and national science funding processes).*
- *The STRP National Focal Point should support research and technical work on the role of peatland conservation (including restoration) in climate change mitigation and make these resources available (as appropriate).*
- *DOC as the Administering Authority should promulgate the resolution and supporting information to relevant agencies—including MfE to advocate for the protection of wetlands and seek to recognise their potential role in climate change mitigation and adaptation in National Policy Statements for Freshwater, and Climate Change policies.*
- *DOC (in conjunction with MfE, local government agencies, and any future National Wetlands Committee) should take into account the Ramsar guidance on peatland management in the New Zealand context.*

RESOLUTION WETLANDS AND BIOFUELS

X.25

This resolution recognises that biofuel production may have negative consequences for wetlands through conversion and/or adverse effects on water quality, although this will depend upon a number of factors including the feedstocks used, the mode and place of production, the agricultural practices involved, and the relevant policies in place.

Concern is expressed that with global demand for food and fuel production projected to increase substantially, potential competing demands on agricultural land for food and biofuel production may lead to pressure for the conversion of wetlands. This conversion could in turn release high levels of greenhouse gases from the carbon they store.

As a result, this resolution emphasises the need for biofuel production and use to be sustainable in respect of wetlands. COP10:

- Calls upon Contracting Parties to assess the potential impacts, benefits and risks (including drainage) of proposed biofuel crop production schemes affecting Ramsar sites and other wetlands—consistent with any applicable national legislation.⁵¹
- Urges Contracting Parties to consider formulating appropriate land use policies for the sustainable production of biofuels (including accelerated implementation of wetland policies).
- Encourages Contracting Parties to consider cultivating biomass on rewetted peatlands (paludiculture) and promoting sustainable forest and agricultural practices to mitigate any adverse impacts of biofuel production.
- Urges Contracting Parties to promote sustainable production and use of biofuels through strengthened development cooperation, the transfer of technologies, and information exchange.
- Strongly urges Contracting Parties to ensure that any policies for biofuel crop production should consider the full range and value of ecosystem services and livelihoods provided by wetlands and the biodiversity they support, and to undertake cost-benefit analysis and make use of the precautionary approach, as appropriate.
- Encourages Contracting Parties to assess the potential impacts, benefits and risks of proposed biofuel crop production schemes affecting Ramsar sites and other wetlands.

⁵¹ Particularly the implications for surface and groundwater resources: to apply environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA), as appropriate and in line with Resolution VII.16 and Resolution X.17; and to seek to avoid negative impacts, and where such avoidance is not feasible, to apply as far as possible appropriate mitigation and/or compensation/offset actions, for example through wetland restoration.

Implementation

The Sustainable Biofuel Bill (a Members Bill) has recently been introduced to re-instate a legal framework for biofuels coming into New Zealand. At the time that this report was being prepared, the Bill was before the Select Committee. The final form of the Bill will therefore be dependent upon public input and the parliamentary process as the second and third stages of the Bill are considered by Parliament.

Any proposal to produce biofuels in New Zealand will be subject to the provisions of the Resource Management Act and any other relevant legislation.

RESOLUTION X.26 WETLANDS AND EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES

This Resolution has arisen from renewed recognition of the need for policies for the wise use of wetlands in a time of increasing global demand for minerals. The resolution repeats earlier calls for greater use of tools such as EIAs to ensure the wise use of wetlands generally.

Through resolution 26, Contracting Parties are encouraged/urged to:

- Apply the guidance *Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance* adopted in COP10 Resolution X.17 to:
 - » Address the impacts of extractive industries on wetlands.
 - » Address impacts of all phases of extractive industrial activities on wetlands.
 - » Address the impacts of the full spectrum of extractive industrial activities.
- Consider valuation at an early stage in EIAs⁵² to ensure that the full range of ecosystem services is considered in cost-benefit analyses related to all relevant phases of extractive industrial activities (particularly post-closure phases).
- Ensure that the potential upstream and downstream impacts in river basins are considered in SEA and EIA through ecosystem approaches.⁵³
- Undertake appropriate CEPA activities with regard to all relevant public and private sector bodies associated with extractive industries to raise awareness of Ramsar Convention obligations.⁵⁴
- Review and revise regulatory and permitting procedures related to extractive industrial activities, to ensure that impacts on wetland ecosystems (and their services) are avoided, remedied or mitigated as far as possible, and that any unavoidable impacts are sufficiently compensated for.⁵⁵
- Apply, as appropriate, the guidance adopted through Resolution X.16 and included in COP10 DOC. 27 when extractive industrial activities may directly or indirectly impact Ramsar sites.
- Direct extractive activities to already drained peatlands to protect pristine peatlands, in recognition of the role of peatland conservation in reducing GHG emissions and maintaining ecosystem services, including water provision.

⁵² In a manner consistent with the Convention, internationally-agreed development goals, and other relevant international obligations.

⁵³ Including *inter alia* that of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in doing so to apply the guidance on River Basin Management as adopted in Resolution X.19 on Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance.

⁵⁴ Regarding the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character.

⁵⁵ These procedures should allow sufficient time for collection of baseline information to support effective EIA, permitting and oversight, especially with respect to enforcement of compliance with the conditions of authorisations and licences, and ensuring that local and indigenous communities have appropriate opportunities to participate in decision making. Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands (1999).

- Ensure that extractive industrial projects address the need to avoid, remedy or mitigate their impacts, and to compensate, as appropriate, for losses in wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Complete national wetland inventories and collect baseline information to support SEA and EIA processes, especially for new extractive industrial projects and/or those affecting Ramsar sites.
- Delineate and map the boundaries of all designated Ramsar sites accurately, and make them accessible to all relevant regulatory agencies and stakeholders (including the Ramsar Secretariat and the Ramsar Sites Information Service).
- Engage with relevant private sector interests at all levels to build corporate social responsibility programmes related to extractive industries.
- Consider the creation of new wetlands or the improvement of existing wetlands in post-closure phases of extractive industrial activities.
- Build capacity and expertise needed to address the specific issues and potential impacts of extractive industries on wetlands and contribute to Ramsar's international cooperation.

The six Ramsar sites in New Zealand are bordered or covered by a number of coal, mineral and petroleum permits and fields, which are governed by the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Section 61(1A) of this Act effectively closes off Crown land areas (designated before commencement of the Act) to mining-related activities unless they have minimum impacts. However, section 57 provides for land to be accessed without an access arrangement in order to prospect, explore or mine for minerals or petroleum where the activities take place below the surface of any land and will not damage the surface of the land, or prejudice its use and enjoyment.

A review is currently being undertaken to assess potential mineral wealth in areas that fall under Section 61(1A). An assessment of conservation values will be made, which will consider whether any Crown land areas should lose the protection presently offered by 61(1A). Note that currently section 61(1A) provides protection for wetland sites with Ramsar designation status. Any changes to current protection status proposed as part of this review will be subject to public consultation.

Any high value conservation land gazetted after 1991 can be considered for approval of access under section 61(2) of the Act, which includes a consideration of the objectives of the Act under which the land is administered and the purpose for which the land is held. Such a consideration would necessitate the consideration of the area's Ramsar site status.

Mineral development on private land in New Zealand by the extractive industry must follow any relevant environmental measures. The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is New Zealand's key piece of environmental legislation, which aims to ensure wise management of New Zealand's natural and physical resources. The RMA is effected through regional and district environmental planning documents. In New Zealand, Assessments of Environmental Effects (AEE) are regularly required for any activity requiring a resource consent, and there is an obligation for any environmental effects of a proposed activity to be avoided, remedied or mitigated. AEEs are similar in effect to EIA and SEAs.

Implementation

New Zealand has a comprehensive framework of legislation, policy and public consultation to protect Ramsar sites and wetlands from the effects of extractive industry activities. As a result, it should not be necessary to establish further controls.

- *DOC to advise MED and MfE of the resolution contents and suggest they are considered as part of the review of the RMA and the development of the National Policy Statement on Freshwater.*

However, this resolution (and others elsewhere) reinforces the need to:

- *Map Ramsar site boundaries accurately.*
- *Complete national wetland inventories to establish baseline information.*
- *Ensure that minimum standards are established to protect wetlands from the impacts of extractive industrial activities.*
- *Thoroughly assess the environmental effects of activities on wetlands, their biodiversity and ecosystem services (using standardised methodology).*
- *Avoid, remedy or mitigate the impacts of extractive industry activities on wetlands, and their biodiversity and ecosystem services (including compensation where appropriate).*
- *Identify and capitalise on opportunities to restore wetland habitats after industry closure at a site.*

RESOLUTION WETLANDS AND URBANIZATION

X.27

This resolution has arisen from concerns about the impacts of urbanisation on wetlands (including Ramsar sites)⁵⁶ that affect the ecosystem services that wetlands can provide, and reduce their perceived value and importance to decision makers and urban communities. Contracting Parties are reminded of their obligations under the Convention for the wise use of **all** wetlands in their territory, and to maintain the ecological character of designated Ramsar sites.

The resolution emphasises:

- The important contribution that urban and peri-urban wetlands (particularly Ramsar sites) can make for human health and well-being⁵⁷, and in providing CEPA opportunities.
- The functional importance of wetlands in community environments (including buffering riverine and coastal processes, and reducing the impacts of climate variability).
- The particular pressures of urbanisation on downstream and coastal parts of river catchments.

Through this resolution, Contracting Parties are urged to:

- Conserve and protect urban and peri-urban wetlands.
- Initiate appropriate projects to reinstate the capacity of urban and peri-urban wetlands to deliver ecosystem services.
- Formulate and implement land-use planning and management to:
 - » Minimise further impacts on urban wetlands and those vulnerable to urban encroachment in future.
 - » Conserve valuable urban or peri-urban wetlands whilst allowing sustainable levels of public access.
- Reaffirm the role of CEPA in achieving sustainable management and conservation of urban and peri-urban wetlands.

Contracting Parties were also:

- Encouraged to establish wetland education and visitor facilities on urban and peri-urban wetlands (and report their experiences to the Secretariat).
- Encouraged to involve municipalities in wise use planning processes and operational wetland conservation activities.
- Encouraged to reward and recognise local governments' efforts that demonstrate exemplary management interventions (and to document best practices for dissemination).
- Invited to encourage public-private collaboration for advancing sustainable management of urban wetlands.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Through encroachment of surrounding populations, pollution, poorly managed waste and infilling or other developments.

⁵⁷ Whilst acknowledging the disease risk that wetlands may represent (e.g. malaria).

⁵⁸ As per the principles set out in Resolution X.12.

- Requested to advise STRP (via their STRP National Focal Point) on issues concerning urban and peri-urban wetlands that would benefit from additional scientific and technical guidance.

COP10 also invited:

- IOPs to assist and support (through funding and technical support) local authorities to manage urban wetlands more sustainably, and improve collaboration between local authorities of different countries.⁵⁹
- The Ramsar Secretariat to explore options for establishing collaborative links with the UN-HABITAT programme.⁶⁰

STRP was requested to prepare guidelines for managing urban and peri-urban wetlands.⁶¹

Implementation

This resolution is mostly catered for by Resource Management Act processes and the management activities of local government.

The following actions should be considered to improve the management of urban and peri-urban wetlands:

- *DOC to participate in national networks of wetland managers to promulgate best practice in the management of urban and peri-urban wetlands.*
- *DOC to support and/or create opportunities to provide public access to urban and peri-urban wetlands.*
- *DOC to advocate through RMA processes for the protection and appropriate management of urban and peri-urban wetlands with high natural values.*
- *DOC to consider/review the use of Wetland Awards to raise the profile exemplary wetland management.*

⁵⁹ Through urban wetland conservation partnership programmes.

⁶⁰ Concerning the promotion of social and environmental sustainability of towns and cities in relation to wetlands and water.

⁶¹ Following an ecosystem approach whilst taking into account issues such as climate change, ecosystem services, food production, human health and livelihoods.

RESOLUTION X.28 WETLANDS AND POVERTY ERADICATION

This resolution reinforces the valuable role that wetlands and their ecosystem services play in supporting human health and well-being and the impacts of their continued loss and degradation.⁶⁸ The wise use provisions of the Ramsar Convention are linked with poverty eradication and climate change mitigation, and with the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (particularly MD1 and MD7).

Through this resolution, Contracting Parties are reminded of Resolution IX.14 (2005) on *Wetlands and poverty reduction*, which provided an overarching framework for Parties to address issues of poverty eradication in relation to wetland conservation and wise use. However, Resolution IX.14 did not identify all of the relevant priority issues and responses in relation to wetlands, and did not provide guidance on implementation methods, or the appropriate spatial scale(s) for implementation of different actions for poverty eradication. This resolution attempts to address these gaps and focuses upon those actions that Contracting Parties can take to reduce poverty of communities living in and around Ramsar sites. It also encourages the integration of wetland restoration into Poverty Reduction Strategies, Climate Change Strategies (e.g. National Adaptation Programs of Action), health policies, and other opportunities.

Through this resolution, COP10:

- Encourages Contracting Parties to further implement Resolution IX.14 (framework for action on wetlands and poverty reduction), particularly in relation to communities living in and around Ramsar sites. Specific guidance is provided in the resolution to assist Contracting Parties and includes:
 - » Integrating wetland wise use and management (including wetland restoration) into relevant national and regional policies⁶⁹ whilst recognising and providing for traditional knowledge and practices and local perspectives in wetland management initiatives.
 - » Recognising the role (and values) of wetland management and restoration in protecting against natural disasters, the impacts of climate change, sea level rise, and saline intrusion.
 - » Developing suitable ecotourism activities in wetlands (especially Ramsar sites) to provide opportunities to reduce poverty.
 - » Promulgating best practices for the wise use, extraction, processing and marketing of wetland products to reduce pressures on natural wetland resources and enhance poverty eradication.
 - » Establishing and using financial incentives, investments, or mechanisms so that wetland ecosystem services contribute to poverty eradication programmes and investment in sustainable wetland management.
 - » Protecting peoples' livelihoods from the impacts of extractive wetland industries.

⁶² As reported by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and other reports.

⁶³ Including Poverty Reduction Strategies, National Climate Change Strategies (NAPAs), grant transferral programmes, and water and sanitation plans and strategies.

- Encourages Contracting Parties and others to provide examples / case studies to the Secretariat and/or STRP of situations where the wise use of wetland resources by local communities can contribute significantly to poverty eradication.
- Requests STRP works with others (including IOPs) to develop guidance for Contracting Parties to support the implementation of Resolution IX.14 and the additional actions identified in this resolution.
- Calls upon development banks and other donors to support capacity-building for governments, establishing cross-sectoral approaches to addressing poverty eradication in wetlands, and encouraging climate-related investment programmes.

Implementation

- *DOC to refer the final resolution to NZAID.*

RESOLUTION X.29 CLARIFYING THE FUNCTIONS OF AGENCIES AND RELATED BODIES IMPLEMENTING THE CONVENTION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

This resolution seeks to clarify the roles of the various national Ramsar positions, including the Administering Authority (AA), the national Focal Point (NFP) and the Focal Points for CEPA (CEPA NFP) and STRP (STRP NFP).

The resolution summarises the general functions of the Ramsar roles within national implementing agencies and related bodies and establishes minimum standards. These standards specify that each Contracting Party must appoint an Administering Authority, a National Focal Point, and National Focal Points for STRP and for CEPA. It is recommended that each Party should also consider the establishment of a National Ramsar/Wetland Committee.

Through the resolution, COP10:

- Reaffirms the principal role of the AA to represent the Contracting Party and implement the Convention at the national level.
- Modifies the wording 'daily contact' to 'National Focal Point' within the AA.
- Invites Contracting Parties to consider and implement the roles outlined in the annex to the resolution.
- Urges Contracting Parties to establish or strengthen mechanisms for involving subnational agencies in the implementation of the Convention. One suggested mechanism is through identification of focal points in such agencies and inclusion of such focal points on National Ramsar Committees and equivalent bodies (if established).
- Recommends that CEPA and STRP Focal Points be fully included in National Ramsar or Wetland Committees.

Implementation

To fully implement this resolution it would be appropriate for DOC to ensure that relevant positions have been allocated and that staff in those roles have the necessary time allocated to complete the relevant tasks and that the scope and nature of their roles are clear.

- *DOC to assess the nature of the STRP Focal Point role and establish a clear programme of work.*
- *DOC to assess the current CEPA activities against the broader Ramsar programme 2009-15.*
- *DOC to consider the establishment of a National Wetland Committee.*

RESOLUTION X.30 SMALL ISLAND STATES AND THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

Funding support from the Ramsar Convention was previously based on the Parties' economic status by reference to the OECD Development Assistance Committee list.

Among the expected impacts of climate change are sea level rise, disruption of the global hydrological cycle, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, and increased vulnerability of coastal areas to flooding, erosion, loss of mangroves and other wetlands, and seawater incursion into freshwater areas. The negative impact of these phenomena on the economic status of many small islands is already being felt.

The final resolution proposes that eligibility and funding allocation of the Small Grants Fund for Small Island Developing States (SIDs) should be based upon their vulnerability to climate change, as is the case with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Contracting Parties are also encouraged to have particular regard to the special environmental vulnerability of wetlands in SIDs when considering the allocation of aid funding allocation for infrastructure or other development assistance.

Implementation

- *DOC to refer a copy of the recommendation to NZAID.*

RESOLUTION X.31 ENHANCING BIODIVERSITY IN RICE PADDIES AS WETLAND SYSTEMS

This resolution seeks to promote rice paddies as man-made wetland systems that support various wetlands biodiversity. The final resolution is carefully worded to ensure that such recognition of rice paddies does not result in the inappropriate conversion of natural wetlands systems to rice paddies, nor to support inappropriate land conversion to wetland systems.

Implementation

New Zealand has no wetlands of this type and none of its migratory birds use rice paddies in other countries, so there are currently no biodiversity implications for New Zealand wetlands or species.

RESOLUTION X.32 THANKS TO THE HOST COUNTRY, THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

This resolution formally thanks the Republic of Korea for hosting the 10th Conference of the Parties meeting of the Ramsar Convention.

This resolution does not have any domestic implementation implications for New Zealand.

Appendix 1

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

GOAL 1. WISE USE

To work towards achieving the wise use of all wetlands by ensuring that all Contracting Parties develop, adopt and use the necessary and appropriate instruments and measures, with the participation of the local indigenous and non-indigenous population and making use of traditional knowledge, while at the same time ensuring that conservation and wise use of wetlands contribute to poverty eradication, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as well as the prevention of disease and of natural disasters.

Delivers Articles 3.1, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

The wise use of all wetlands being achieved by all Parties, including more participative management of wetlands, and conservation decisions being made with an awareness of the importance of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands.

KEY RESULT AREAS	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to disseminate FENZ products. (SP Res1) 	High	DOC R&D	Action by COP11
1.1.i All Parties to have completed national wetland inventories in line with the Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory and as far as possible to have disseminated comprehensive national wetland inventories, including information on wetland importance, potential Ramsar sites, wetlands for restoration, location of under-represented wetland types, and the ecosystem services provided by wetlands. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC and MfE to develop guidelines for wetlands mapping and assessment. (This is partly being progressed under the Arawai Kākāriki Programme.) (SP Res1) DOC and MfE (with support from councils) to undertake inventory of estuarine wetlands. (SP Res1) STRP Focal Point to keep up-to-date with the STRP technical guidance on (i) assessing the representativeness of wetlands in the Ramsar list; and (ii) the development of international bioregionalisation, and to implement these at a national level, where appropriate. (Res 20) 	High Medium Medium	DOC R&D (incl. STRP FP) DOC R&D (incl. STRP FP) STRP FP	Action by COP11 Longer term Ongoing Convention admin
1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC/MfE to ensure that Ramsar obligations are considered as part of the implementation of any future National Policy Statement on Freshwater. (SP Res 1) DOC/MfE to ensure that any review of the National Wetlands Policy, if undertaken, is informed by the guidance provided by the Ramsar Convention on National Wetlands Policies. (SP Res 1) 	High Medium	DOC Policy (to refer to MfE) DOC Policy	Action by COP11 Ongoing Convention admin
1.3.i National Wetland Policy or equivalent instruments fully in place alongside and integrated with other strategic and planning processes by all Parties, including poverty eradication strategies, water resources management and water efficiency plans, coastal and marine resource management plans, national forest programmes, national strategies for sustainable development, and national policies or measures on agriculture. (National: CPs)				

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KEY RESULT AREAS		IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
1.3.ii	Parties to have Strategic Environmental Assessment in place for policies, programmes and plans which impact on wetlands. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC/MfE to ensure the water regime requirements of wetland ecosystems are considered during the development of National Environmental Standards. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC Policy (to refer to MfE)	Action by COP11
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC/MfE to monitor RMA reviews to ensure that Ramsar guidance is taken into account where relevant. (SP Res 1) 	Medium	DOC/MfE	Ongoing Convention admin
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MfE to take into account wetland-human health relationships in the development of National Environmental Standards. (Res 23) 	High	DOC Policy (to refer to MfE)	Ongoing Convention admin
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC and MfE to review guidelines produced by the CBD on 'environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment' and circulate to relevant stakeholders including local government and water management agencies, where appropriate. (Res 17) 	Medium-low	DOC Policy (with MfE)	Action by COP11
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC (as Administering Authority) should provide relevant Ramsar material on the importance of wetlands as carbon stores and the risk climate change poses to wetlands, to relevant agencies, so that they can be taken into account in future policy development. (Res 24) 	Medium	DOC External Relations & DOC Policy (to refer to MfE)	Action by COP11
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC (as AA) to bring Res 25 to the attention of MFAT and the Ministry of Economic Development in relation to policy development for biofuel production and purchase. (Res 25) 	Medium	DOC External Relations (to refer to MFAT & MED)	Action by COP11
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to advise MED and MfE of Res 26 regarding extractive industries and suggest they are considered as part of the review of the RMA and the development of the National Policy Statement on Freshwater. (Res 26) 	Medium	DOC External Relations (to refer to MfE & MED)	Action by COP11
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC (in conjunction with MfE, local government agencies, and any future National Wetlands Committee) should take into account the Ramsar guidance on peatland management in the New Zealand context. (Res 24) 	Medium	DOC to promulgate Ramsar Guidance	Action by COP11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC (as AA), to provide Ramsar 'Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza' to MAF/Biosecurity New Zealand and the relevant Technical and Stakeholder Advisory Groups to assess whether any aspects of it should be incorporated into their response plans and policies (including surveillance). (Res 23) 	Medium	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11		

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Goal 1: Wise use—continued

KEY RESULT AREAS		IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
1.4	Cross-sectoral recognition				
1.4.i	Development and implementation of wetland programmes and projects that contribute to poverty eradication objectives and food and water security plans at local and national levels. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC to attempt to ensure that national ecosystem valuation work being undertaken takes into account wetlands and the services they provide. (SP Res 1) • DOC to undertake ecosystem services research through the Arawai Kākāriki Programme. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC & MfE	Ongoing Convention admin
1.4.ii	An analysis of the ecosystem services and their values of wetlands (especially Ramsar sites) achieved for all Parties. (National: CPs)		High	DOC R&D (Incl. STRP FP)	Ongoing Convention admin
1.4.iii	The socio-economic and cultural heritage value of wetlands fully taken into account in wetland wise use and management. (National: CPs; Subnational: wetland managers)				
1.5	Recognition of the Convention's role				
1.5.i	Global environmental organisations and conventions aware of and applying the mechanisms developed by the Ramsar Convention for wetland ecosystem management, wise use, and conservation. (Global: Secretariat; National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NZ MFAT Post in Geneva to represent Oceania (with Australian representative) at Working Group meetings to consider the future legal personality of the Convention. (Res 5) 	High	DOC External Relations (to arrange)	Action by COP11
1.6	Science-based wetland management				
1.6.i	High quality research completed, widely disseminated in appropriate formats and styles and applied concerning areas of key importance for wetland sustainability, such as agriculture-wetland interactions, climate change, and valuation of ecosystem services. (Global: Secretariat; National: CPs, IOPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC to continue to liaise with key science providers to ensure key knowledge gaps are considered when developing research projects. (SP Res 1) • DOC to involve the Ramsar STRP Focal Point input in key science funding processes. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC R&D (incl. STRP FP)	Ongoing Convention admin
1.6.ii	All wetland management plans founded on sound scientific research, including research on potential threats. (Global: Secretariat; National: CPs, IOPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC to support research on wetland conservation and restoration under the Arawai Kākāriki Programme. (SP Res 1) • DOC STRP Focal Point to establish links with scientific and technical experts and establish a forum for the discussion of issues and research projects related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand and internationally. (Res 9) • DOC STRP Focal Point to establish links with scientific and technical experts and establish a forum for the discussion of issues and research projects related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand and internationally. (Res 10) 	High	DOC R&D	Ongoing Convention Admin
			High	STRP FP	Action by COP11
			High	STRP FP	Action by COP11

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KEY RESULT AREAS		IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
1.6	Science-based wetland management (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC and MfE to promote and, where appropriate, provide research results on the role of wetlands in climate change adaptation and mitigation to support policy and decision making (including through inter-agency and national science funding processes). (Res 24) • The STRP National Focal Point to support research and technical work on the role of peatland conservation (including restoration) in climate change mitigation and make these resources available (as appropriate) (Res 24). 	Medium-high	DOC Policy & International Relations Unit (with MfE)	Ongoing Convention admin
			Medium	STRP FP	Ongoing-longer term
1.7	Integrated water resources management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC/MfE to ensure that Ramsar obligations are taken into account during the implementation of national policies relating to water management (e.g. National Policy Statement on Freshwater). (SP Res 1) • MfE to consider the potential role of wetlands in climate change adaptation and mitigation. (SP Res1) 	High	DOC Policy (with MfE)	Action by COP11
1.7.i	All Parties to have made available the Ramsar guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision making on water resource management, as a contribution to achieving the WSSD target on water resources management and water efficiency plans. (National: CPs)		Medium-high	MfE	Ongoing-longer term
1.7.ii	All Parties, in their water governance and management, to be managing wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC to work with MfE and MOH to predict how climate change is likely to affect wetlands and the associated human health issues. Where appropriate, formulate national policies and response plans. (Res 23) 	Medium	DOC Policy (with MfE and MOH)	Ongoing-longer term
1.7.iii	National policies or guidelines enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change in progress or completed. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC to make stakeholders and other agencies aware of the range of Ramsar Technical Reports and other guidance, including the Consolidated Guidance on river basin management. (Res 19) 	Medium	DOC (External Relations & STRP FP)	Ongoing Convention admin
1.7.v	Parties to have formulated plans to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC (as the AA) should promulgate resolution 24 (and supporting information) to relevant agencies—including MfE to advocate for the protection of wetlands and seek to recognise their potential role in climate change mitigation and adaptation in National Policy Statements for Freshwater, and climate change policies. (Res 24) • DOC (as the AA) to assess the best mechanisms for interaction/cooperation with other relevant agencies and stakeholders in respect of climate change and wetlands. (Res 24) • DOC to participate in national networks of wetland managers to promulgate best practice in the management of urban and peri-urban wetlands. (Res 27) • DOC to advocate through RMA processes for the protection and appropriate management of urban and peri-urban wetlands with high natural values. (Res 27) 	Medium	DOC/MfE	Action by COP11
			Medium	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
			Medium-low	DOC conservancy staff	Action by COP11
			Medium-low	DOC conservancy staff and STRP	Ongoing Convention admin

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KEY RESULT AREAS	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
1.7 Integrated water resources management (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to disseminate the Changwon Declaration to other relevant agencies and organisations (e.g. MfE). (Res 3) 	Medium	DOC External Relations	Ongoing Convention admin
1.8 Wetland restoration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to establish a process and criteria for the prioritisation of wetlands sites for restoration. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC (incl. STRP FP)	Action by COP11
1.8.i All Parties to have identified priority sites for restoration; restoration projects underway or completed in at least half the Parties. (National: CPs)				
1.8.ii New case studies and methods added to Ramsar wetland restoration pages on the website. (Global: STRP; National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> STRP to disseminate best practice case studies both within New Zealand and on the Ramsar website (especially for Arawai Kākāriki projects). (SP Res 1) 	Medium	DOC (incl. STRP FP)	Action by COP11
1.9 Invasive alien species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure ongoing engagement of DOC freshwater technical staff in the inventory of alien weed and pest species. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC	Ongoing Convention admin
1.9.i All Parties to have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological characters of wetlands, especially Ramsar sites. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to review the threat of invasive alien species at Ramsar sites and update RIS information. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC	Action by COP11
1.9.ii Parties to have identified more comprehensively the problems posed by invasive species in wetland ecosystems within their territories. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC/CRI/universities to continue to seek new avenues/opportunities for wetland alien species research and research funding. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC R&D	Ongoing Convention admin
1.9.iii National invasive species control and management policies or guidelines in place for wetlands. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to continue to support research on mammalian predators in wetlands. (SP Res 1) 	Medium-high	DOC R&D	Ongoing Convention admin
1.10 Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC, through MfE, local government and NGOs, to make private sector organisations and community groups involved in wetland management/conservation aware of the Ramsar handbooks and other relevant Ramsar guidance. (SP Res 1) 	Medium-high	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
1.10.i Significant progress in the private sector applying the concepts and approaches for conservation and wise use of wetlands contained in Ramsar guidance (Ramsar Handbooks 1 to 17, 3rd edition) and other relevant guidelines in their activities and investments affecting wetlands. (Global to Subnational: private sector)				
1.10.ii Increased private sector engagement in the wise use of wetlands and in the management of Ramsar sites. (Subnational: private sector)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to circulate a copy of the principles for partnerships with the business sector to relevant government agencies, local authorities, the DOC sponsorship team and other relevant organisations, groups and individuals for their information and appropriate action. (Res 12) 	Medium	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
1.10.iii Awareness-raising material made available to the public to enable wetland-friendly consumer choices. (National: private sector & CPs)				
1.11 Incentive measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC/MfE/MED to consider the implications of positive and negative incentive measures on wetlands in the development of the NPS on freshwater. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC External Relations	Ongoing Convention Admin
1.11.i Better design and implementation of incentive measures of relevance to wetlands taking place in all Parties, and better monitoring and assessment of both positive and perverse incentives affecting wetlands in all Parties. (National: CPs)				

GOAL 2. WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands that are important for the conservation of global biological diversity, including waterbird flyways and fish populations and for sustaining human life, by ensuring that all Contracting Parties appropriately implement the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance and by appropriate management and wise use of those internationally important wetlands that are not yet formally designated as Ramsar sites but have been identified as qualifying through domestic application of the strategic framework or an equivalent process.

Delivers Articles 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

Parties designating and managing Ramsar sites within their territories with a view to supporting an international network of Wetlands of International Importance, fully implementing their reporting commitments under Articles 3 and 8.2, and using the Montreux Record as part of the Convention’s governance process, as appropriate.

KEY RESULT AREA	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
2.1 Ramsar site designation				
2.1.i All Parties to have prepared, using the strategic framework, a national plan and priorities for the designation and management of Ramsar sites, including where appropriate for shared wetlands in collaboration with neighbouring Parties. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to establish criteria for prioritising Ramsar site nominations. (SP Res 1) DOC to confirm the status of RIS sheets for NZ Ramsar sites, incl. those not updated on the Ramsar sites database. (SP Res 1) DOC to query why details for the Awarua Wetland (extension) site, approved in August 2006, have not been recorded in the Ramsar sites database. (Res 13) 	High	DOC R&D	Action by COP11
2.1.ii Completed, and as appropriate, updated Ramsar Information Sheets submitted for all Ramsar sites. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to clarify with Ramsar Secretariat that the 12 sites mentioned in the Ramsar report have not been officially identified for Ramsar designation (or extension). (Res 13) 	High	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
2.1.iii At least 2,500 Ramsar sites designated worldwide, covering at least 250 million hectares. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to establish a process for the regular review of RIS sheets. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
2.1.iv Contracting Parties to have considered designating Ramsar sites from among wetland types under-represented in the Ramsar List. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to encourage Ramsar site nominations from sites that fulfil the national objectives. (SP Res 1) 	Medium	DOC IRU (with input from STRP FP) DOC Conservancies	Action by COP11 Ongoing Convention admin
2.3 Management planning—new Ramsar sites				
2.3.i Adequate management planning processes established and submitted with all or most new site designations or a commitment made to work towards that goal, taking into account the possible lack of financial and human resources to fulfil this objective, and recognising that the designation of a site can work as an incentive for the establishment of future management planning. (National: CPs; Subnational: wetland managers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to develop a process for assessing Ramsar site nominations currently being developed that will be submitted to the administering authority prior to the establishment of a national prioritising system. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11

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Goal 2: Wetlands of International Importance—continued

KEY RESULT AREAS	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
2.4 Ramsar site ecological character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC (STRP Focal Point) to lead a review of current Ramsar site monitoring systems and their effectiveness in assessing changes in ecological character. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC STRP FP	Action by COP11
2.4.i Progress made on developing effective management plans for all Ramsar sites within each Party's territory. (National: CPs; Subnational: wetland managers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to provide relevant recommendations regarding planning around Ramsar sites to MfE and local authorities so that they are aware of Ramsar guidance in this regard. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC External Relations & Conservancies	Action by COP11
2.4.ii Management objectives, as part of management planning, for ecological character maintenance established for all Ramsar sites. (Subnational: wetland managers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to consider cross-sectoral site engagement as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site management and monitoring. (SP Res 1) 	Medium-high	DOC STRP FP	Action by COP11
2.4.iii Zoning measures to be put in place for larger Ramsar sites, wetland reserves, and other wetlands (Recommendation 5.3 and Resolution VIII.14) and strict protection measures to be enacted for certain Ramsar sites and other wetlands of small size and/or particular sensitivity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC (STRP Focal Point) to assess current statements of ecological character for Ramsar sites as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site monitoring and management. (SP Res 1) 	Medium-high	DOC STRP FP	Action by COP11
2.4.iv Cross-sectoral site management committees in place for Ramsar sites, involving relevant government agencies, citizens and local communities, and other stakeholders (including the business sector as appropriate) in place, including as a mechanism for dispute settlement. (Subnational: wetland managers)				
2.4.v Statements of ecological character finalised for all Ramsar sites and used as a basis for implementing Article 3.2 of the Convention. (Subnational: wetland managers)				
2.5 Ramsar site management effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to assess compliance/relevance of the Ramsar Strategic Plan guidance for Ramsar sites as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site monitoring and management. (SP Res 1) 	Medium-high	DOC STRP FP	Action by COP11
2.5.i All Parties, using the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> , to have reviewed all existing Ramsar sites and confirmed that all Ramsar sites fulfil the provisions of the strategic framework or to have identified those sites that do not for remedial actions. (National: CPs; Subnational: wetland managers)				

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KEY RESULT AREAS		IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
2.6	Ramsar site status				
2.6.i	All Parties with Ramsar sites whose ecological character has changed, is changing or is likely to change owing to human-induced actions, to have reported this to the Ramsar Secretariat, in line with the requirements of Article 3.2 of the Convention. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC (STRP Focal Point) to lead review of the adequacy of monitoring for Ramsar sites as part of the proposed review of Ramsar site monitoring and management. (SP Res 1)</i> 	<i>Medium-high</i>	<i>DOC STRP FP</i>	<i>Action by COP11</i>
2.6.ii	For all sites on the Montreux Record that have not been the subject of a Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM), intended to provide advice on the steps needed to remove those sites from the Record, Parties to request such a Mission. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC to consider establishing a process for the regular provision of RIS sheets for existing and future Ramsar sites. (Res 13)</i> • <i>DOC to advise the Ramsar Secretariat of the process proposed for identifying future candidate sites for Ramsar designation. (Res 13)</i> 	<i>High</i>	<i>DOC External Relations</i>	<i>Action by COP11</i>
2.6.iii	Implementation of relevant STRP ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the Convention. (Global: STRP; National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC in conjunction with Ramsar site managers and the STRP Focal Point to review existing data and information for Ramsar sites in conjunction with the guidance Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory. (Res 15)</i> • <i>DOC to develop and implement systems/standards for data gathering at Ramsar sites in future (which could be promulgated nationally as best practice for all wetland monitoring and management through MfE). (Res 15)</i> • <i>DOC (as AA) and STRP Focal Point should coordinate a process involving relevant individuals from appropriate agencies (including those holding Ramsar positions) to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » <i>Assess data requirements (as per the framework of Ramsar Data and Information Needs) and information sources.</i> » <i>Identify and prioritise information needs.</i> » <i>Identify opportunities to fill information gaps through existing initiatives undertaken by the full range of agencies (e.g. Arawai Kākāriki Programme).</i> » <i>Identify where new initiatives are required to fill key information gaps.</i> 	<i>High</i>	<i>STRP FP to lead (involving site managers)</i>	<i>Action by COP11</i>
2.7	Management of other internationally important wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC/MfE to support the application of technical tools to identify freshwater ecosystems of national and international significance.</i> 	<i>Medium-high</i>	<i>STRP FP to lead (involving site managers)</i>	<i>Action by COP11</i>
2.7.i	Ramsar guidance on the maintenance of ecological character to have been applied with a priority upon wetlands recognised as internationally important not yet designated as Ramsar sites. (National: CPs; Subnational: wetland managers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DOC/MfE to advocate for the implementation of Ramsar State Party obligations through the New Start for Freshwater programme. (SP Res 1)</i> 		<i>STRP FP</i>	<i>Action by COP11</i>

GOAL 3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

To enhance the conservation and wise use of wetlands using effective international cooperation, through *inter alia* the active application of the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention.

Delivers Article 5 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

Parties developing their coherent national approaches to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in such a way as to benefit from developing effective partnerships with related conventions and international agencies and with other Parties to the Convention on Wetlands.

KEY RESULT AREAS	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs				
3.1.i CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan and Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) / Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) / Ramsar Joint Work Plan being implemented and participation continued in the CBD Biodiversity Liaison Group. (Global: Secretariat, STRP; National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the inclusion of material and/or programmes focussing on wetland biodiversity in the 2010 International Year for Biodiversity celebrations. (Res 11) 	Medium-high	CEPA FP	Action by COP11
3.1.iv Additional partnership approaches initiated with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the UNECE Water Convention; the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); UNESCO; the World Health Organization (WHO); the World Tourism Organization (WTO); the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); the UN Forum on Forests with its Collaborative Partnerships on Forests; the European Community; Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC); Bengal Initiative for MultiSectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC); South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); and other relevant United Nations agencies and regional bodies, as well as through UN Water. (Global: Secretariat, STRP and National Regional: CPs with International Organisation Partners (IOPs) support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the levels of collaboration between National Ramsar Focal Points and those of other MEAs, and identify methods for improvement (Res 11) Publicise the UNEP-IUCN resource 'Tematea' amongst key contacts working on biodiversity convention related activities. (Res 11) 	Medium	DOC External Relations	Ongoing Convention admin
3.1.v Harmonised information management and reporting systems available and widely used at national level with the appropriate Multi Lateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). (Global: Secretariat; National: CPs)		Low	DOC External Relations	Ongoing Convention admin

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Goal 3: International Cooperation—continued

KEY RESULT AREAS	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
3.3 International assistance				
3.3.i Parties with bilateral donor agencies to have encouraged those agencies to give priority for funding for wetland conservation and wise use projects in relation to poverty eradication and other relevant international targets and priorities. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC to pass Ramsar guidance to NZAID for their consideration as they set national allocation priorities for aid funding. (SP Res 1) • DOC to refer copies of Resolutions 28 (Poverty Eradication) and 30 (Small Island States and the Ramsar Convention) to NZAID. 	Medium	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
3.4 Sharing information and expertise				
3.4.i Less time required from Parties on managing information for national reports, but better quality and more timely reports produced. (Global: Secretariat; National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC to continue existing programmes for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » National Reporting. » Communication with the Ramsar Secretariat (to ensure that information is supplied as necessary). » Promulgation of STRP research findings and Ramsar technical guidance. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
3.4.ii Increased flow of information made available by the Parties (e.g. Ramsar-related policies, Ramsar site management plans, Ramsar site monitoring, etc.) to the Secretariat for dissemination via the Ramsar website and other means. (National/Regional: CPs with IOPs support)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC Focal Points to seek opportunities to liaise, share information and expertise on Ramsar-related issues and project outcomes. (SP Res 1) 	High	Ramsar STRP & CEPA FP	Ongoing Convention admin
3.4.iii Relevant research findings that have been evaluated by the STRP promoted and made widely available through Ramsar Technical Reports, Ramsar and IOP websites, and other means. (Global: Secretariat, STRP, IOPs; National: CPs)				
3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species				
3.5.iii Regional site networks and initiatives in place for additional wetland-dependent migratory species, as exemplified <i>inter alia</i> by the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, and the Central Asian Flyway Initiative. (Global: STRP, Secretariat, other MEAs; National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC to continue to acknowledge and support the East Asian-Australasian Flyway or any associated agreements. (SP Res 1; Res 22) • DOC to further assess the value and cost of membership to the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership. (SP Res 1; Res 22) • DOC/NGOs to identify key migratory bird habitats associated with migratory flyways in New Zealand, and assess whether they meet the Criteria for Wetlands of International Importance* and would benefit from Ramsar status or other forms of protection status.** (SP Res 1; Res 22) 	High	DOC External Relations	Ongoing Convention admin
		Low-medium	DOC External Relations	Ongoing Convention admin
		Medium	DOC STRP FP	Action by COP11

* As per Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Resolution VII.11, as amended).

** N.B. Migratory bird habitats are not identified as an essential criteria in itself for Ramsar nomination.

GOAL 4: INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

To progress towards fulfilment of the Convention's mission by ensuring that it has the required mechanisms, resources, and capacity to do so.

Delivers Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

Increasing success of the Convention in achieving the conservation and wise use of wetlands, as measured by agreed effectiveness indicators, and increased recognition of the Convention's achievements by other sectors of governments and civil society.

KEY RESULT AREAS	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
4.1 CEPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the establishment of a National Wetlands Committee in the New Zealand context. (SP Res 1) 	High	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
4.1.i All Parties to have established national (or subnational, catchment or local level, as appropriate) Ramsar CEPA action plans. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the current CEPA activities against the broader Ramsar CEPA programme 2009-2015. (Res 8) 	High	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
4.1.ii All Parties to have established at least one wetland education centre at a Ramsar site. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to consider/review the use of Wetland Awards to raise the profile exemplary wetland management. (Res 27) 	Low-medium	DOC External Relations	Ongoing Convention admin
4.1.iii All Parties to have established practices that ensure the development and implementation of wetland management plans includes the participation of stakeholder groups with cultural or economic links to wetlands or those communities that depend on the wetlands for their livelihoods. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to support and/or create opportunities to provide public access to urban and peri-urban wetlands. (Res 27) 	Medium	DOC Conservancies	Ongoing Convention admin
4.1.iv At least half of the Parties to have assessed their national and local training needs with respect to the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (National: CPs)				
4.1.vi Convention mechanisms for wetland management, wise use, and conservation applied by a wide range of stakeholders, on global, regional, national, and subnational levels. (Global to Subnational: all implementers)				
4.1.vii The Convention's products are reached and adopted by a wide range of target groups, including such products as decision-making frameworks, networks, and technical documents. (Global: Secretariat; National/Regional: CPs with support from IOPs)				
4.1.viii A significant proportion of Parties to have assessed their capacity and training needs with respect to implementation of the policy, legislation, and institutional governance mechanisms noted in Strategy 1.3. (National: CPs)				

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KEY RESULT AREAS	IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS	PRIORITY	GROUP/UNIT RESPONSIBLE	TIMING
4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness				
4.3.i All Contracting Parties to have designated CEPA and STRP National Focal Points (by COP11), and to have kept the Secretariat updated in a timely manner on any changes in Administrative Authority focal points and daily contacts. (National: CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the roles and responsibilities of officials that have been appointed to Ramsar positions—in light of new role descriptions adopted at COP10 and that adequate time has been allocated to perform these functions. (SP Res 1) DOC to assess the current CEPA activities against the broader Ramsar programme 2009-15. (Res 29) 	High	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
4.3.iii The bodies of the Convention to have adequate funding and logistic support by utilising available resources wisely to deliver their <i>modus operandi</i> and work plans, as adopted by the Conference of the Parties. (Global: Secretariat, CPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate individuals holding Ramsar Positions into a National Wetland Committee (if established). (SP Res 1, Res 8, Res 11) 	Medium	DOC External Relations (with CEPA & STRP FPs)	Action by COP11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC to assess the nature of the STRP NFP role and establish a clear programme of work (if this has not already been done). (Res 9; Res 29) DOC STRP Focal Point to engage with the Ramsar STRP on particular topics of national interest. (Res 10) Attendance of New Zealand representatives at wetland conference in Australia October 2009 to discuss CEPA Action Plans, share best practice and create regional programmes/networks. (Res 8) DOC to consider the establishment of a National Wetland Committee (Res 29) DOC STRP Focal Point to review Ramsar Technical Report on MA response options, once completed, and determine the relevance of the recommendations to New Zealand. (Res 18) DOC to plan for the CEPA National Focal Point to report back (on the Changwon Declaration) as requested for COP11. (Res 3) 	Medium	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
		Medium-high	STRP FP	Action by COP11
		High	CEPA FP	By 30/9/10 (due to Conference dates)
		High	DOC External Relations	Action by COP11
		Medium	DOC STRP FP	Action by COP11
		Medium	DOC CEPA FP	Action by COP11
4.4 Working with IOPs and others				
4.4.iii Efforts made by IOPs and others to help mobilise partnerships for high priority issues for the Convention. (Global: Secretariat, IOPs; National: IOPs, CPs)				

GOAL 5: MEMBERSHIP

To progress towards universal membership of the Convention. Delivers Articles 2.4 and 9 of the Convention.

Outcome sought

All countries eligible for accession to have joined the Ramsar Convention by 2015.