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1. Background

Acronyms

AA	Administrative Authority
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness
DEQP	Department of Environmental Quality Promotion
DWR	Department of Water Resources
EAAFP	East Asia/Australasian Flyway Partnership
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IBRRI	Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative
IOP	International Organization Partner
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NWCD	Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division
NFP	National Focal Point
ONEP	Office of 001 Tc 0.0rPF ratege of (n)2y7(t)-3(Ag)2J -0.00 12.90(s)]T(o)(A)1(a)-3s

3. Presentation of the IBRI objectives and 2017 work plan

Mr Raphael Glemet, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands, IUCN Asia, then gave a presentation on the purpose and the objectives of the IBRRI, as proposed in the concept document that was submitted to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. The concept had been developed in collaboration with the five Ramsar National Focal Points and endorsed by the five countries (as evidenced by the letters of support from the five Administrative Authorities)

Mr Glemet explained that there are currently 15 existing Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRI), and that four new ones, including IBRRI, were approved by SC 52 in June 2016. He summarised the six key elements of a RRI:

1. Ramsar's 9 regional initiatives are platforms supporting cooperation and capacity building on wetland related issues in specific regions or sub-regions.
2. Groups of Contracting Parties in a region/sub-region, which may also share a common thematic goal, can apply for endorsement as "regional initiatives"
3. The Administrative Authorities (AA) responsible for implementing the Convention in their countries drive the development and activities of regional initiatives.
4. Initiatives give the Parties a platform for collaborating with technical experts and representatives of intergovernmental bodies, Ramsar International Organization Partners, NGOs, local communities and private companies.

Mr Glémetal also presented the proposed work plan for 2017 (Appendix 3).

Ms Nirawan Pipitsombat, former Ramsar National Focal Point for Thailand,

4. Ramsar Regional Initiative Operational Guidelines

representatives for the IBRRI steering committee. The steering committee representatives from all five countries should be at the same level.

Figure 2: Revised governance structure for IBRRI

IUCN offered to prepare first drafts of the IBRRI Statutes and the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee and share these with participants for their review.

Regarding the initial work plan, it is hoped that through other projects the activities of IBRRI can be expanded. The participants also suggested that national level workshops be organised in each country. In addition, a training needs assessment should be carried out. Some countries may require support for the organisation of World Wetlands Day. The documents to be translated should be discussed during the inception workshop. Some countries have already translated certain guidelines into national languages (such as the handbook on Wise Use of Wetlands and on Wetlands Inventory).

Wetlands in the Lower Mekong Region through a Ramsar Regional Initiative funded by the German

Appendix 1: Agenda

First Coordination Meeting of the
Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)
(9 December 2016, Hilton DoubleTree,
Soi 26 Sukhumvit, Bangkok, Thailand)

Agenda

08:00–08:30	Registration
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Appendix 2: Participants list

No	Name & Title	Organisation	Country	Contact email
1	Mr Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Director General	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ramsar Convention National Focal Point	Myanmar	kyawkyawlwin189@gmail.com
2	Ms Hsu Sandar Aung, Range Officer	Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Myanmar	hsusandaraung6988@gmail.com
3	Mr Khonesavan Louangraj	Director of Division, Lao Ramsar Convention Office, DEQPMoNRE	Lao PDR	k.louangraj@gmail.com
4	Mrs Keopaseuth Inthisone	Technical Officer, Lao Ramsar Convention Office, DEQPMoNRE	Lao PDR	keopaseuth.inthisone@gmail.com
5	Dr Srey Sunleang, Director	Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation, Ministry of Environment	Cambodia	kampongspeu@yahoo.com
6	Mr Sun Visal, Vice Chief of Office	Department of Freshwater Wetlands Conservation, Ministry of Environment	Cambodia	sunvisal@gmail.com
7	Mrs Tran Thi Kim Tinh, Deputy Head of Ecology Department	Biodiversity Conservation Agency (BCA), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE)	Viet Nam	kimtinhtkt@gmail.com
8	Mr Wanlop Preechamart, Environmental Management Officer	Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Thailand	wanloponep@gmail.com
9	Mr Tossapon Piantanakulchai	Office of the Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Thailand	parinya_lee@yahoo.com
10	Ms Nirawan Pipitsombat	Former Ramsar National Focal Point for Thailand	Thailand	nirawanfang@gmail.com

11	Dr Scott Perkin, Head Natural Resources Group	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	scott.perkin@iucn.org
12	Mr Raphael Glemet, Senior Programme Officer, Water and Wetlands	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	raphael.glemet@iucn.org
13	Ms Angela Joeh Cadena, Senior Programme Officer	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	angela.joehcadena@iucn.org
14	Ms Kulkanya Hiranyasthiti	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	kulkanya.hiranyasthiti@iucn.org
15	Ms Tanya Wattanakorn	IUCN Asia Regional Office	Thailand	tanya.wattanakorn@iucn.org

Appendix 3: Proposed Workplan for the Indo Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative for the year 2007

Objectives	Activities	Results/Outputs	Indicators
1. Create the governance mechanisms for IBRRI	1.1 Hold the first meeting of the Steering committee	Endorsement of IBRRI's status and ToRs	Approved ToRs and IBRRI's governance committees
	1.2 Organise an inception workshop	Preliminary workplan defined	Draft workplan approved by IBRRI members
2. Strengthen knowledge of key Ramsar tools and guidelines	2.1 Translate two key Ramsar documents into local languages and disseminate	Two key documents translated into the five local languages and disseminated online and through workshops	Number of downloads and number of copies distributed
	2.2 Organize two regional trainings	Two trainings held, involving at least 50 participants (25 participants per training). (Topics to be defined during the inception workshop, but may include: the development of management plans and/or wetlands policies; and/or the R METT)	Number of trainings held; number and profile of participants; evidence of improved understanding of management guidelines, policy frameworks and the R METT at local level as revealed by training assessments
3. Strengthen awareness of the Ramsar Convention in the IBRRI region	3.1 Provide support for World Wetland Day in the five IBRRI countries	Technical and small scale financial support provided to World Wetland Day events in the five countries	Number of technical missions undertaken and number of small grants provided in support of World Wetland Day activities
	3.2 Communication strategy for the IBRRI developed and implementation initiated	Media reports at national and regional levels mention the IBRRI; a specific webpage and a logo for the IBRRI are launched	Number of media reports published; IBRRI website and logo launched