

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”

Geneva, Switzerland, and Wuhan, China 5-13 November 2022

Compilation of COP14 Resolutions

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COP14  **2022**

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Resolution XIV.1

Financial and budgetary matters

1. RECALLING the budgetary provisions established by paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 6 of the Convention;
2. RECALLING Resolution XII.7 on *Resource mobilization and partnership framework of the Ramsar Convention* and the related provisions of Resolution XIII.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters* and Resolution ExCOP3.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters: 2022 core budget of the Convention on Wetlands*;
3. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the prompt payment by the majority of Contracting Parties of their contributions to the core budget of the Convention; but NOTING WITH CONCERN that a number of Parties have significant outstanding contributions (see document COP14 Doc.15, *Financial report for 2019-2022 by the Chair of the Standing Committee Subgroup on Finance and proposed budget for the 2023-2025 triennium*);
4. NOTING WITH GRATITUDE the additional voluntary financial contributions made by many Contracting Parties, including those from Contracting Parties of Africa specifically earmarked for African Regional Initiatives (in accordance with paragraph 23 of Resolution X.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*), and also the contributions made by non-governmental organizations and private companies for activities undertaken by the Secretariat;
5. RECALLING the *Delegation of Authority to the Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands* signed by the Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Chairman of the Convention’s Standing Committee on 29 January 1993, and the *Supplementary Note to Delegation of Authority* signed on the same date;
6. ACKNOWLEDGING WITH APPRECIATION the financial and administrative services provided to the Convention Secretariat by IUCN, underpinned by the Services Agreement between the Convention and IUCN revised in 2009;
7. NOTING that Contracting Parties have been kept informed of the financial situation of the Secretariat through the audited annual financial statements for the years from 2018 to 2021 and the reports submitted to the Standing Committee meetings from 2019 to 2022; and

8. RECOGNIZING the need to continue to strengthen financial partnerships with relevant international organizations and other entities, and to explore additional funding opportunities through their existing financial mechanisms;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

9. APPRECIATES that, since the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13) in 2018, the Secretariat has continued to substantially improve its management of the Convention's funds, prudently, efficiently and openly;
10. EXPRESSES ITS GRATITUDE to the Contracting Parties that have served in the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee during the 2019-2021 triennium and 2022, and in particular to Mexico, which has acted as Chair of the Subgroup;
11. DECIDES that the *Terms of Reference for the Financial Administration of the Convention* contained in Annex 3 to Resolution 5.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters* are to be applied *in toto* to the 2023-2025 triennium;
12. FURTHER DECIDES that the Subgroup on Finance will be continued and operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in Resolution VI.17 on *Financial and budgetary matters*, will include one Standing Committee representative from each Ramsar region plus the immediately prior Chair of the Subgroup on Finance, as well as any other interested Contracting Parties, bearing in mind the desirability of equitable regional participation and the need to keep the group to a manageable size, and will designate one of its members as its Chair; and NOTES that travel support for eligible Contracting Parties to attend Subgroup meetings will be limited to the regional representatives of the Standing Committee;
13. NOTES that the 2023-2025 budget includes a core element funded by contributions from Contracting Parties, and that the Secretariat will seek additional non-core resources in line with the priorities identified by the Conference of the Parties, which are listed in Annex 4 of the present Resolution; and REQUESTS that the Secretariat continue to develop new approaches and tools to secure voluntary financial support;
14. APPROVES the core budget for the 2023-2025 triennium as presented in Annex 1 of the present Resolution, to enable the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024;
15. APPROVES the use of surplus from the core budget for the 2019-2021 triennium of CHF 228,000 to supplement the approved 2023-2025 triennium budget in the following areas: CHF 120,000 for communications, translation, publications and reporting implementation; CHF 60,000 for staff travel (CHF 15,000 for travel of Secretariat senior management, CHF 15,000 for travel of resource mobilization and outreach and CHF 30,000 for travel of regional advice and support); CHF 15,000 for STRP implementation; and CHF 33,000 for planning and capacity building; and REQUESTS the Secretariat to achieve a balanced budget by the end of the 2023-2025 triennium;
16. APPROVES the use of up to CHF 360,000 from surplus from the 2019-2021 triennium to increase the provision on outstanding contributions for the 2023-2025 triennium;
17. URGES Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible to enhance the financial sustainability of the Convention through contributions by all Contracting Parties;

18. REQUESTS that the Secretariat contact Contracting Parties that have outstanding contributions in excess of three years and assist them to identify appropriate options to rectify the situation and to request a plan for making payment of contributions, and report back at each meeting of the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Contracting Parties on activities taken in this regard and results achieved; and AGREES that the Standing Committee should continue to consider appropriate action concerning Parties that have neither paid their outstanding contributions nor submitted a payment plan for this purpose;
19. REQUESTS regional representatives in the Standing Committee to engage Parties from their respective regions with outstanding contributions to encourage them to identify appropriate options to rectify the situation;
20. NOTES WITH CONCERN the situation with non-core contributions from Contracting Parties; and ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and others to increase such contributions;
21. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and INVITES other governments, financial institutions, International Organization Partners and other implementing partners to support the implementation of the Convention;
22. NOTES the resource mobilization work plan for the Convention approved by the Standing Committee and REQUESTS the Secretariat to update it to reflect the priorities identified by the Contracting Parties at COP14 and make it available to the Standing Committee at its 62nd meeting, for its consideration;
23. NOTES WITH APPRECIATION the alignment of the Secretariat with International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) policies and procedures for managing non-core funding;
24. REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide to the Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) in Africa, on an annual basis, the available balance of the African voluntary contribution fund; and INVITES those RRIs to submit requests to the Secretariat as part of their reports to access available funds in accordance with the provisions of Resolution XIV.7 Part A on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives*;
25. INVITES the African regional representatives in the Standing Committee to decide on the use of those funds referenced in paragraph 24 of the present Resolution, based on the requests submitted by the RRIs, and inform the Secretariat accordingly;
26. REAFFIRMS the decision taken at COP13 that requests the Secretariat within its existing legal framework and mandate to assist, as appropriate, Contracting Parties in the administration of non-core funded projects, including but not limited to successful fundraising for RRIs; and that further instructs Secretariat staff identified in Annex 3, supported with core funds, not to be involved in the day-to-day administration of non-core funded projects as this role would be the responsibility of any Secretariat staff supported with non-core funds for that specific purpose;
27. AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, with the advice of its Subgroup on Finance, to transfer core budget allocations between budget lines as may be required in the light of significant positive or negative changes during the triennium to costs, rates of inflation, interest and tax income projected in the budget, without increasing the assessed contributions of Parties or increasing the charges paid to IUCN above a maximum of 13% of the budget;

28. RECOGNIZES the benefits of flexibility in travel budget lines to deliver on the Secretariat Work Plan for the triennium; and REAFFIRMS the decision taken at COP13 that authorizes the Secretary General to transfer resources between travel budget lines, ensuring that the Subgroup on Finance is informed and that such transfers are reported to the Standing Committee at its next meeting;
29. DECIDES that the contribution of each Contracting Party to the core budget should be in accordance with the most recent scale of assessments for the contribution of Member States to the United Nations budget as approved by the UN General Assembly, except in the case of Contracting Parties which, in applying the UN scale of assessments, would make annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention core budget of less than CHF 1,000, in which case the annual contribution is to be that amount. Estimated core budget contributions for the 2023-2025 triennium are presented in Annex 2 of the present Resolution;
30. URGES all Contracting Parties to pay their contributions promptly by 1 January of each year, or as soon thereafter as that country's budget cycle will permit;
31. EXPRESSES GRATITUDE to the governments of Finland, Germany, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America and to Danone and the Nagao Natural Environment Foundation for their voluntary contributions to non-core activities;
32. REAFFIRMS the decision taken at COP11 (in Resolution XI.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*) that the Reserve Fund:
 - a. provides for unforeseen and unavoidable expenditures;
 - b. receives realized triennial core budget surpluses (or deficits);
 - c. should not be lower than 6% of the annual core budget of the Convention and not greater than 15%; and
 - d. should be administered by the Secretary General with the approval of the Subgroup on Finance established by the Standing Committee;
33. REQUESTS the Secretariat to endeavour to maintain the Reserve Fund over the 2023-2025 triennium and to report annually to the Standing Committee on its status and to seek the concurrence of the Subgroup on Finance prior to any use of the Fund;
34. REAFFIRMS the decision taken at COP13 (in Resolution XIII.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*) that authorizes the Secretary General, within the rules of IUCN, to adjust the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat presented in Annex 3 of the present Resolution, provided that the adjustments are within the costs indicated and made in accordance with the 1993 *Delegation of Authority to the Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands* and its *Supplementary Note*;
35. NOTES with appreciation the transparency and accountability regarding Secretariat operations that the Secretary General has fostered during the past triennium; NOTES that, as a means to further enhance these efforts, the Secretariat has established a section of the Convention website to publish information to ensure transparency and accountability, including *inter alia*: completed and accepted audit reports; financial rules and regulations; annual reports of the Secretary General to the Standing Committee; procedures for engagement with the private sector; materials related to staff codes of conduct and professional ethics; the 1993 delegation of authority and its supplementary note; anti-fraud policies; anti-harassment policies; whistleblower rules and protections; policies on conflict of interest; policies on gender equity and

equality; and any other relevant information; and REQUESTS that the Secretariat pursue these efforts in 2023-2025;

36. REQUESTS the Secretariat to consider Contracting Parties that are on the UN Conference on Trade and Development's List of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as eligible for sponsorship for delegate travel, whether or not they are formally classified as such on economic grounds in the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list; and
37. CONFIRMS that the present Resolution and its annexes supersede Resolution XIII.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*, Resolution ExCOP3.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters: 2022 core budget of the Convention on Wetlands* and paragraph 11.a of Resolution VI.17 on *Financial and budgetary matters*.

Annex 1
Core budget 2023-2025

| Ramsar Core Budget 2023-2025 CHF 000'S | Budget 2023 | Budget 2024 | Budget 2025 | Total Budget 2023-2025 |
|---|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| Parties' Contributions | 3,778 | 3,778 | 3,778 | 11,334 |
| Voluntary Contributions | 1,066 | 1,066 | 1,066 | 3,198 |
| Income Tax | 225 | 225 | 225 | 675 |
| Income Interest | 12 | 12 | 12 | 36 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 5,081 | 5,081 | 5,081 | 15,243 |
| EXPENDITURES | | | | |
| A. Secretariat Senior Management and Governance | 1,050 | 1,062 | 1,057 | 3,169 |
| B. Resource Mobilization and Outreach | 508 | 508 | 508 | 1,524 |
| C. Regional Advice and Support | 1,309 | 1,316 | 1,318 | 3,943 |
| D. Support to Regional Initiatives | 100 | 100 | 100 | 300 |
| E. Science and Policy | 840 | 817 | 820 | 2,477 |
| F. Administration | 474 | 478 | 478 | 1,430 |
| G. Standing Committee Services | 150 | 150 | 150 | 450 |
| H. IUCN Administrative Service Charges (maximum) | 541 | 541 | 541 | 1,623 |
| I. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund | 109 | 109 | 109 | 327 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURES | 5,081 | 5,081 | 5,081 | 15,243 |

Annex 2

Estimated core budget contributions by Contracting Parties for 2023-2025

| Contracting Party (Membership as at 1 January 2022) | 2022-2024 UN Scale* | % Ramsar total | Annual contribution 2019-2021 | Estimated annual contribution 2023-2025 | Estimated change in annual contribution compared to previous triennium |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Albania | 0.008 | 0.008% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Algeria | 0.109 | 0.112% | 6,755 | 5,337 | (1,418) |
| Andorra | 0.005 | 0.005% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Angola | 0.010 | 0.010% | 0 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 0.002 | 0.002% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Argentina | 0.719 | 0.738% | 44,786 | 35,204 | (9,582) |
| Armenia | 0.007 | 0.007% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Australia | 2.111 | 2.167% | 108,171 | 103,361 | (4,810) |
| Austria | 0.679 | 0.697% | 33,136 | 33,246 | 110 |
| Azerbaijan | 0.030 | 0.031% | 2,398 | 1,469 | (929) |
| Bahamas | 0.019 | 0.020% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Bahrain | 0.054 | 0.055% | 2,447 | 2,644 | 197 |
| Bangladesh | 0.010 | 0.010% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Barbados | 0.008 | 0.008% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Belarus | 0.041 | 0.042% | 2,398 | 2,007 | (391) |
| Belgium | 0.828 | 0.850% | 40,185 | 40,541 | 356 |
| Belize | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Benin | 0.005 | 0.005% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Bhutan | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Bolivia (Plurinational State of) | 0.019 | 0.020% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 0.012 | 0.012% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Botswana | 0.015 | 0.015% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Brazil | 2.013 | 2.067% | 144,293 | 98,562 | (45,731) |
| Bulgaria | 0.056 | 0.057% | 2,252 | 2,742 | 490 |
| Burkina Faso | 0.004 | 0.004% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Burundi | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Cabo Verde | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Cambodia | 0.007 | 0.007% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Cameroon | 0.013 | 0.013% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Canada | 2.628 | 2.698% | 133,818 | 128,674 | (5,144) |
| Central African Republic | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Chad | 0.003 | 0.003% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Chile | 0.420 | 0.431% | 19,921 | 20,564 | 643 |
| China | 15.254 | 15.660% | 587,595 | 746,880 | 159,285 |
| Colombia | 0.246 | 0.253% | 14,096 | 12,045 | (2,051) |
| Comoros | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Congo | 0.005 | 0.005% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |

* As per UN resolution A/RES/76/238; a revised UN Scale will be applied when released.

| Contracting Party (Membership as at 1 January 2022) | 2022-2024 UN Scale* | % Ramsar total | Annual contribution 2019-2021 | Estimated annual contribution 2023-2025 | Estimated change in annual contribution compared to previous triennium |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Costa Rica | 0.069 | 0.071% | 3,035 | 3,378 | 343 |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 0.022 | 0.023% | 1,000 | 1,077 | 77 |
| Croatia | 0.091 | 0.093% | 3,769 | 4,456 | 687 |
| Cuba | 0.095 | 0.098% | 3,916 | 4,651 | 735 |
| Cyprus | 0.036 | 0.037% | 1,762 | 1,763 | 1 |
| Czechia | 0.340 | 0.349% | 15,222 | 16,647 | 1,425 |
| Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 0.005 | 0.005% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 0.010 | 0.010% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Denmark | 0.553 | 0.568% | 27,116 | 27,076 | (40) |
| Djibouti | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Dominican Republic | 0.067 | 0.069% | 2,594 | 3,281 | 687 |
| Ecuador | 0.077 | 0.079% | 3,916 | 3,770 | (146) |
| Egypt | 0.139 | 0.143% | 9,104 | 6,806 | (2,298) |
| El Salvador | 0.013 | 0.013% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 0.012 | 0.012% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Estonia | 0.044 | 0.045% | 1,909 | 2,154 | 245 |
| Eswatini | 0.002 | 0.002% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Fiji | 0.004 | 0.004% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Finland | 0.417 | 0.428% | 20,606 | 20,417 | (189) |
| France | 4.318 | 4.433% | 216,684 | 211,421 | (5,263) |
| Gabon | 0.013 | 0.013% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Gambia | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Georgia | 0.008 | 0.008% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Germany | 6.111 | 6.274% | 298,081 | 299,212 | 1,131 |
| Ghana | 0.024 | 0.025% | 1,000 | 1,175 | 175 |
| Greece | 0.325 | 0.334% | 17,914 | 15,913 | (2,001) |
| Grenada | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Guatemala | 0.041 | 0.042% | 1,762 | 2,007 | 245 |
| Guinea | 0.003 | 0.003% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Guinea-Bissau | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Honduras | 0.009 | 0.009% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Hungary | 0.228 | 0.234% | 10,083 | 11,164 | 1,081 |
| Iceland | 0.036 | 0.037% | 1,370 | 1,763 | 393 |
| India | 1.044 | 1.072% | 40,821 | 51,117 | 10,296 |
| Indonesia | 0.549 | 0.564% | 26,578 | 26,881 | 303 |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of) | 0.371 | 0.381% | 19,480 | 18,165 | (1,315) |
| Iraq | 0.128 | 0.131% | 6,314 | 6,267 | (47) |
| Ireland | 0.439 | 0.451% | 18,159 | 21,495 | 3,336 |
| Israel | 0.561 | 0.576% | 23,984 | 27,468 | 3,484 |
| Italy | 3.189 | 3.274% | 161,864 | 156,142 | (5,722) |
| Jamaica | 0.008 | 0.008% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |

* As per UN resolution A/RES/76/238; a revised UN Scale will be applied when released.

| Contracting Party (Membership as at 1 January 2022) | 2022-2024 UN Scale* | % Ramsar total | Annual contribution 2019-2021 | Estimated annual contribution 2023-2025 | Estimated change in annual contribution compared to previous triennium |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Japan | 8.033 | 8.247% | 419,173 | 393,318 | (25,855) |
| Jordan | 0.022 | 0.023% | 1,028 | 1,077 | 49 |
| Kazakhstan | 0.133 | 0.137% | 8,712 | 6,512 | (2,200) |
| Kenya | 0.030 | 0.031% | 1,175 | 1,469 | 294 |
| Kiribati | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Kuwait | 0.234 | 0.240% | 12,334 | 11,457 | (877) |
| Kyrgyzstan | 0.002 | 0.002% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic | 0.007 | 0.007% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Latvia | 0.050 | 0.051% | 2,300 | 2,448 | 148 |
| Lebanon | 0.036 | 0.037% | 2,300 | 1,763 | (537) |
| Lesotho | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Liberia | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Libya | 0.018 | 0.018% | 1,468 | 1,000 | (468) |
| Liechtenstein | 0.010 | 0.010% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Lithuania | 0.077 | 0.079% | 3,475 | 3,770 | 295 |
| Luxembourg | 0.068 | 0.070% | 3,279 | 3,329 | 50 |
| Madagascar | 0.004 | 0.004% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Malawi | 0.002 | 0.002% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Malaysia | 0.348 | 0.357% | 16,691 | 17,039 | 348 |
| Mali | 0.005 | 0.005% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Malta | 0.019 | 0.020% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Marshall Islands | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Mauritania | 0.002 | 0.002% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Mauritius | 0.019 | 0.020% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Mexico | 1.221 | 1.253% | 63,238 | 59,784 | (3,454) |
| Monaco | 0.011 | 0.011% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Mongolia | 0.004 | 0.004% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Montenegro | 0.004 | 0.004% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Morocco | 0.055 | 0.056% | 2,692 | 2,693 | 1 |
| Mozambique | 0.004 | 0.004% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Myanmar | 0.010 | 0.010% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Namibia | 0.009 | 0.009% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Nepal | 0.010 | 0.010% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Netherlands | 1.377 | 1.414% | 66,371 | 67,422 | 1,051 |
| New Zealand | 0.309 | 0.317% | 14,243 | 15,130 | 887 |
| Nicaragua | 0.005 | 0.005% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Niger | 0.003 | 0.003% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Nigeria | 0.182 | 0.187% | 12,236 | 8,911 | (3,325) |
| Norway | 0.679 | 0.697% | 36,905 | 33,246 | (3,659) |
| Oman | 0.111 | 0.114% | 5,629 | 5,435 | (194) |
| Pakistan | 0.114 | 0.117% | 5,629 | 5,582 | (47) |

* As per UN resolution A/RES/76/238; a revised UN Scale will be applied when released.

| Contracting Party (Membership as at 1 January 2022) | 2022-2024 UN Scale* | % Ramsar total | Annual contribution 2019-2021 | Estimated annual contribution 2023-2025 | Estimated change in annual contribution compared to previous triennium |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Palau | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Panama | 0.090 | 0.092% | 2,203 | 4,407 | 2,204 |
| Papua New Guinea | 0.010 | 0.010% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Paraguay | 0.026 | 0.027% | 1,000 | 1,273 | 273 |
| Peru | 0.163 | 0.167% | 7,440 | 7,981 | 541 |
| Philippines | 0.212 | 0.218% | 10,034 | 10,380 | 346 |
| Poland | 0.837 | 0.859% | 39,255 | 40,982 | 1,727 |
| Portugal | 0.353 | 0.362% | 17,131 | 17,284 | 153 |
| Republic of Korea | 2.574 | 2.643% | 110,960 | 126,030 | 15,070 |
| Republic of Moldova | 0.005 | 0.005% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Romania | 0.312 | 0.320% | 9,691 | 15,276 | 5,585 |
| Russian Federation | 1.866 | 1.916% | 117,715 | 91,365 | (26,350) |
| Rwanda | 0.003 | 0.003% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Saint Lucia | 0.002 | 0.002% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Samoa | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Sao Tome and Principe | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Senegal | 0.007 | 0.007% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Serbia | 0.032 | 0.033% | 1,370 | 1,567 | 197 |
| Seychelles | 0.002 | 0.002% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Sierra Leone | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Slovakia | 0.155 | 0.159% | 7,489 | 7,589 | 100 |
| Slovenia | 0.079 | 0.081% | 3,720 | 3,868 | 148 |
| South Africa | 0.244 | 0.250% | 13,313 | 11,947 | (1,366) |
| South Sudan | 0.002 | 0.002% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Spain | 2.134 | 2.191% | 105,038 | 104,487 | (551) |
| Sri Lanka | 0.045 | 0.046% | 2,154 | 2,203 | 49 |
| Sudan | 0.010 | 0.010% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Suriname | 0.003 | 0.003% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Sweden | 0.871 | 0.894% | 44,345 | 42,647 | (1,698) |
| Switzerland | 1.134 | 1.164% | 56,337 | 55,524 | (813) |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 0.009 | 0.009% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Tajikistan | 0.003 | 0.003% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Thailand | 0.368 | 0.378% | 15,026 | 18,018 | 2,992 |
| Republic of North Macedonia | 0.007 | 0.007% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Togo | 0.002 | 0.002% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 0.037 | 0.038% | 1,958 | 1,812 | (146) |
| Tunisia | 0.019 | 0.020% | 1,224 | 1,000 | (224) |
| Türkiye | 0.845 | 0.867% | 67,105 | 41,374 | (25,731) |
| Turkmenistan | 0.034 | 0.035% | 1,615 | 1,665 | 50 |
| Uganda | 0.010 | 0.010% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 0.056 | 0.057% | 2,790 | 2,742 | (48) |
| United Arab Emirates | 0.635 | 0.652% | 30,151 | 31,091 | 940 |

* As per UN resolution A/RES/76/238; a revised UN Scale will be applied when released.

| Contracting Party (Membership as at 1 January 2022) | 2022-2024 UN Scale* | % Ramsar total | Annual contribution 2019-2021 | Estimated annual contribution 2023-2025 | Estimated change in annual contribution compared to previous triennium |
|---|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| United Kingdom | 4.375 | 4.491% | 223,536 | 214,212 | (9,324) |
| United Republic of Tanzania | 0.010 | 0.010% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Uruguay | 0.092 | 0.094% | 4,258 | 4,505 | 247 |
| Uzbekistan | 0.027 | 0.028% | 1,566 | 1,322 | (244) |
| Vanuatu | 0.001 | 0.001% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) | 0.175 | 0.180% | 35,633 | 8,568 | (27,065) |
| Viet Nam | 0.093 | 0.095% | 3,769 | 4,554 | 785 |
| Yemen | 0.008 | 0.008% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Zambia | 0.008 | 0.008% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Zimbabwe | 0.007 | 0.007% | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 |
| Total | 75.978 | 78.0000% | 3,778,998 | 3,779,000 | 2 |
| Other contributions** | | | | | |
| United States of America | | 22% | 1,065,799 | 1,065,799 | 0 |
| | | | | | |
| Grand Total | | | 4,844,797 | 4,844,799 | 2 |

* As per UN resolution A/RES/76/238; a revised UN Scale will be applied when released.

** As previously, voluntary contribution of 22% of total contributions from Contracting Parties.

Annex 3

Secretariat staff (core) for 2023-2025 as per budget in Annex 1

| Team | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Secretariat Senior Management | 1 S, 1 D, 1 P2, 2 A3 | 1 S, 1 D, 1 P2, 2 A3 | 1 S, 1 D, 1 P2, 2 A3 | 1 S, 1 D, 1 P2, 2 A3 |
| Resource Mobilization and Outreach | 2 P2, 1 A3 |
| Regional Advice and Support | 4 M1, 4 junior professionals |
| Science and Policy | 1 M1, 2 P2, 1 P1 | 1 M1, 2 P2, 1 P1 | 1 M1, 2 P2, P1 | 1 M1, 2 P2, 1 P1 |
| Administration | 1 P2, 1 P1 (50%), 1 A3 | 1 P2, 1 P1 (50%), 1 A3 | 1 P2, 1 P1 (50%), 1 A3 | 1 P2, 1 P1 (50%), 1 A3 |
| Total | 22.5 staff | 22.5 staff | 22.5 staff | 22.5 staff |
| Total costs (in '000 CHF) | 3,586 | 3,586 | 3,603 | 3,603 |

Note:

2022 staff numbers and positions shown for reference. Costs budgeted and allocated to budget lines on the basis of current core-funded positions. Team refers to the categorization of expenditures as listed in Annex 1.

Levels as per IUCN HR policy and guidelines on position classification.

S = Secretary General; D and M1-M2 = management positions; P1-P2 = professional positions; A1-A3 = support positions.

Annex 4
2023-2025 non-core fundraising priorities

| Non-core funds 2023-2025 | 3-year funding requirement(CHF) |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Ramsar Advisory Missions | 225,000 |
| Youth and wetlands | 280,000 |
| Regional Initiatives networks and centres support | 150,000 |
| World Wetlands Day | 250,000 |
| Complete wetland inventories to report on indicator 6.6.1 including digital mapping and online reporting | 165,000 |
| COP15 sponsorship for eligible delegates | 600,000 |
| Pre-COP15 sponsorship for eligible delegates | 650,000 |
| CEPA Programme | 200,000 |
| Supporting STRP work | 300,000 |
| Total | 2,820,000 |



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.2

Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention on Wetlands

1. RECOGNIZING the value of keeping under periodic review the responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee so as to ensure that the work of the Standing Committee continues to be delivered in as effective and cost-efficient a manner as possible;
2. RECALLING that in Resolution IX.24 (2005), on *Improving management of the Ramsar Convention*, the Conference of the Contracting Parties established a Management Working Group reporting to the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Parties;
3. AWARE that the Standing Committee’s oversight of the Secretariat is conducted on its behalf between meetings of the Standing Committee by its Executive Team (Chair, Vice-Chair and Chair of the Subgroup on Finance) with the Secretary General;
4. RECOGNIZING the role of the Standing Committee in recommending draft resolutions to be discussed by the Conference of the Parties; and
5. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION to the members of the Executive Team and the Management Working Group for their work; and
6. NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the steady improvement in performance, management and optimization of resources by the Secretariat team over the past triennium;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. EXPRESSES its gratitude to the outgoing Chair and members of the Standing Committee for their support and willingness to provide additional oversight over the activities and the implementation of the Convention during the 2018-2021 triennium;
8. EXPRESSES its gratitude to the Contracting Parties that will serve as the Chair and members of the Standing Committee following the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14), for their willingness to take on the responsibility to govern the activities and the implementation of the Convention for the coming triennium;

9. ALSO EXPRESSES its satisfaction with improvements made by the Secretariat in performance, management and optimization of resources, and its full support for the efforts of the Secretary General in this regard;
10. ADOPTS the text in Annexes 1-4, based upon amendments that update Resolution XIII.4 on *The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Ramsar Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention*; and
11. CONFIRMS that the present Resolution and its annexes supersede those adopted as Resolution XIII.4, which is replaced by the present Resolution.

Annex 1

The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention

1. Considering that it is useful for the effective functioning of the Convention on Wetlands that Contracting Parties should have a clear process for the operation of its Standing Committee, in Resolution VII.1 (1999) the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) adopted guidelines on the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the Standing Committee and the regional categorization of countries under the Convention. In Resolution XIII.4 (2018), the Parties amended that text and the list of countries and Contracting Parties assigned to each of the six Ramsar regions in order to bring them up to date.
2. The Convention on Wetlands will have the following regional groups:
 - Africa;
 - Asia;
 - Europe;
 - Latin America and the Caribbean;
 - North America; and
 - Oceania.
3. Contracting Parties and States that are eligible to accede to the Convention are assigned to the above regional groups, but Contracting Parties that are geographically near to the boundaries of the allocated region, as given in Annex 2, may, at their own request, participate in the activities of a neighbouring alternative regional group, while remaining a member of their allocated geographical regional group, upon formal notification of this intent to the COP.¹
4. The composition of the Standing Committee will be determined by means of a proportional system, by which each regional group listed in paragraph 2 above will be represented by voting members in the Standing Committee according to the following criteria:
 - a. one representative for regional groups with one to 12 Contracting Parties;
 - b. two representatives for regional groups with 13 to 24 Contracting Parties;
 - c. three representatives for regional groups with 25 to 36 Contracting Parties;
 - d. four representatives for regional groups with 37 to 48 Contracting Parties; and
 - e. five representatives for regional groups with 49 to 60 Contracting Parties.
5. Each region may appoint an alternate member for each appointed member with full power to represent the region, if the representative member is unable to participate in a meeting of the Standing Committee.
6. The host countries of the previous and next meetings of the COP are also voting members of the Standing Committee.
7. The regional representatives and their alternate Party representatives will be elected by the COP on the basis of nominations received from the regional groups established in paragraph 2

¹ See resolution X1.19. "Participate" is defined in this context as different from membership within the alternative region. Participation confers to the state the right to be present in meetings, to speak, to exchange information, to submit reports, to cooperate on a scientific and practical level, and to contribute to joint projects. It does not include the right to be a representative of this alternative region nor to participate in the nomination of its representative(s). It does not confer the right to vote within the alternative region.

above. Initial consideration of nominations by regional groups will be undertaken at any intersessional regional COP preparatory meetings that take place, and nominations will be finalized by regional groups in their regional meetings at the COP venue, preferably early during the COP, so that appointments of the new members of the Standing Committee can be made as early as possible in the COP proceedings, thus permitting the new members of the Committee to participate as observers in Conference Bureau meetings during the COP.

8. The terms of office of the regional representatives will commence at the close of the meeting of the COP at which they have been elected and will expire at the close of the next ordinary meeting of the COP, and each Contracting Party may serve on the Standing Committee for a maximum of two consecutive terms.
9. Contracting Parties that are voting members of the Standing Committee will convey to the Secretariat, through their diplomatic channels, the name(s) of the officer(s) in the designated national Ramsar Administrative Authority who act as their delegates on the Standing Committee, as well as the names of their substitutes, should they be needed.
10. The Contracting Party acting as host country of the institutional host of the Secretariat will continue to have the status of permanent observer in the Standing Committee. If the host country of the institutional host of the Secretariat stands for, and is elected as, a member of the Standing Committee representing its regional group, it will have voting status for that triennium in lieu of its permanent observer status.
11. The Secretariat will, according to what is stipulated in the Rules of Procedure, continue to notify all Contracting Parties of the date and agenda of meetings of the Standing Committee, so that they may, as appropriate, make arrangements to be represented at the meeting as observers.
12. Countries that are not Contracting Parties but that have expressed an interest in acceding to the Convention may also be admitted as observers at meetings of the Standing Committee.
13. The Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) will be invited as an observer to Standing Committee meetings, as well as other experts and/or institutions that the Standing Committee may deem appropriate for assisting in its consideration of particular agenda items.
14. The United Nations and its specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as any State not a Contracting Party to the Convention, and the international organizations that are official International Organization Partners in the work of the Convention, will be invited to participate as observers in meetings of the Standing Committee.
15. If an extraordinary meeting of the COP is held between two ordinary meetings, the host country may participate as an observer in the work of the Committee on matters related to the organization of the meeting, provided that the country in question is not already present in the Committee as a member or permanent observer.
16. The Contracting Parties in regional groups with one representative in the Standing Committee will use a rotation system for the nomination of their regional representative. In regional groups with two or more representatives the selection will be made in such a manner as to achieve a balance in relation to biogeographical, geopolitical, and cultural considerations.

17. At its first meeting immediately after the close of a COP, the Standing Committee will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair, as well as the members and Chair of the Subgroup on Finance established by Resolution VI.17 (1996).
18. The Standing Committee will normally meet once each year, normally at the seat of the Convention Secretariat, according to the indicative schedule provided as Annex 4 to this Resolution. The Standing Committee will meet immediately after the close of each regular meeting of the COP.
19. Meetings of the Subgroup on COP and the Subgroup on Finance may be envisaged during the year before COP, if required and if sufficient funds are available, in order to ensure the timely and efficient preparation of the COP. The costs of participation of Committee members eligible for sponsorship will be borne by the Convention.
20. Within the policies agreed by the Conference of the Parties, the functions of the Standing Committee will be to:
 - a. carry out, between one ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the next, such interim activity on behalf of the Conference as may be necessary, giving priority to matters on which the Conference has previously recorded its approval and noting that the Standing Committee is not mandated either to take decisions that would normally be taken by the Conference of the Contracting Parties or to amend any decision taken by the Conference of the Parties;
 - b. make preparations on issues, including *inter alia* draft resolutions and recommendations, for consideration at the next COP;
 - c. supervise, as a representative of the Conference of the Parties, the implementation of activities by the Secretariat, the execution of the Secretariat's budget, and conduct of the Secretariat's programmes;
 - d. provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the implementation of the Convention, on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters relating to the exercise of its functions brought to it by the Secretariat;
 - e. act as Conference Bureau at COPs in accordance with the Rules of Procedure;
 - f. establish subgroups and working groups as necessary to facilitate the carrying out of the Convention's work;
 - g. promote regional and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
 - h. approve the work plan of the STRP on the basis of the decisions of the COP, receive the reports of the STRP on the progress made with its implementation, and provide guidance for its future development;
 - i. review each triennium the criteria for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards established by Resolution VI.18 and select the laureates; and

- j. report to the COP on the activities it has carried out between ordinary meetings of the Conference.
21. The tasks of the regional representatives elected to serve in the Standing Committee are contained in Annex 3 of this document.
 22. The Standing Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, will take into consideration, within available resources, the need for interpretation at its subgroup meetings when it is requested by its members.
 23. The Contracting Parties and the Secretariat will endeavour to secure additional voluntary funding to enable simultaneous interpretation at meetings of the Subgroup on Finance and the Subgroup on COP.
 24. The Standing Committee, as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, will be governed, *mutatis mutandis*, by the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Conference.

Annex 2

Allocation of Contracting Parties and non-party States to the six regional groups

NOTE: Names of countries in capital and bold letters denote Contracting Parties to the Convention at the time of approval of this Resolution.

AFRICA:

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ALGERIA | LIBERIA |
| ANGOLA | LIBYA |
| BENIN | MADAGASCAR |
| BOTSWANA | MALAWI |
| BURKINA FASO | MALI |
| BURUNDI | MAURITANIA |
| CABO VERDE | MAURITIUS |
| CAMEROON | MOROCCO |
| CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC | MOZAMBIQUE |
| CHAD | NAMIBIA |
| COMOROS | NIGER |
| CONGO | NIGERIA |
| CÔTE D'IVOIRE | RWANDA |
| DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO | SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE |
| DJIBOUTI | SENEGAL |
| EGYPT | SEYCHELLES |
| EQUATORIAL GUINEA | SIERRA LEONE |
| Eritrea | Somalia |
| ESWATINI | SOUTH AFRICA |
| Ethiopia | SOUTH SUDAN |
| GABON | SUDAN |
| GAMBIA | TOGO |
| GHANA | TUNISIA |
| GUINEA | UGANDA |
| GUINEA-BISSAU | UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA |
| KENYA | ZAMBIA |
| LESOTHO | ZIMBABWE |

ASIA:

Afghanistan

BAHRAIN

BANGLADESH

BHUTAN

Brunei Darussalam

CAMBODIA

CHINA

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

INDIA

INDONESIA

IRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF

IRAQ

JAPAN

JORDAN

KAZAKHSTAN

KUWAIT

KYRGYZSTAN

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

LEBANON

MALAYSIA

Maldives

MONGOLIA

MYANMAR

NEPAL

OMAN

PAKISTAN

PHILIPPINES

Qatar

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Saudi Arabia

Singapore

SRI LANKA

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

TAJIKISTAN

THAILAND

TURKMENISTAN

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

UZBEKISTAN

VIET NAM

YEMEN

EUROPE:

**ALBANIA
ANDORRA
ARMENIA
AUSTRIA
AZERBAIJAN
BELARUS
BELGIUM
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
BULGARIA
CROATIA
CYPRUS
CZECHIA
DENMARK
ESTONIA
FINLAND
FRANCE
GEORGIA
GERMANY
GREECE
Holy See
HUNGARY
ICELAND
IRELAND
ISRAEL
ITALY
LATVIA**

**LIECHTENSTEIN
LITHUANIA
LUXEMBOURG
MALTA
MONACO
MONTENEGRO
NETHERLANDS
NORTH MACEDONIA
NORWAY
POLAND
PORTUGAL
REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
ROMANIA
RUSSIAN FEDERATION
San Marino
SERBIA
SLOVAKIA
SLOVENIA
SPAIN
SWEDEN
SWITZERLAND
TÜRKIYE
UKRAINE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND
NORTHERN IRELAND**

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

ARGENTINA

BAHAMAS

BARBADOS

BELIZE

BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF)

BRAZIL

CHILE

COLOMBIA

COSTA RICA

CUBA

Dominica

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

ECUADOR

EL SALVADOR

GRENADA

GUATEMALA

Guyana

Haiti

HONDURAS

JAMAICA

NICARAGUA

PANAMA

PARAGUAY

PERU

Saint Kitts and Nevis

SAINT LUCIA

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SURINAME

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

URUGUAY

VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)

NORTH AMERICA:

CANADA

MEXICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

OCEANIA:

AUSTRALIA

Cook Islands

FIJI

KIRIBATI

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Micronesia (Federated States of)

Nauru

NEW ZEALAND

Niue

PALAU

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

SAMOA

Solomon Islands

Timor-Leste

Tonga

Tuvalu

VANUATU

Annex 3

Tasks of Contracting Parties elected as regional representatives in the Standing Committee

The Contracting Parties that are elected as regional representatives on the Standing Committee will have the following tasks:

1. To designate their delegates to the Standing Committee taking into account their significant responsibilities as regional representatives, and to make every effort to ensure that their delegates or their substitutes attend all meetings of the Committee.
2. When there is more than one regional representative in a regional group, to maintain regular contacts and consultations with the other regional representative(s).
3. To maintain regular contacts and consultations with the Contracting Parties in their regional group, and to use the opportunities of travel within their regions, and of attending regional or international meetings, to consult about issues related to the Convention and to promote its objectives. To this effect, when there is more than one regional representative, they will agree among themselves which Contracting Parties will be the responsibility of each regional representative or whether any of them are to have the main responsibility for certain issues for the whole region.
4. To solicit the opinions of the Contracting Parties in their regional group before meetings of the Standing Committee.
5. To advise the Secretariat in setting the agenda of regional meetings.
6. To assume additional responsibilities by serving as members of the subgroups established by the Standing Committee.
7. To provide advice as requested by the Chair of the Standing Committee, the chairs of subgroups, or the Secretariat of the Convention.
8. In the regions concerned, to make efforts to encourage other countries to accede to the Convention.
9. If members of the Subgroup on Finance, to encourage Parties in the region which they represent to pay on time their annual contributions to the Convention.

Tasks and responsibilities of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee:

10. The Chair and Vice-Chair provide guidance to the Secretariat with regard to preparations for, and conduct of, meetings of the Standing Committee.
11. The Chair will declare the opening and closing of meetings of the Committee, preside at the sessions of the meeting, ensure the observance of the Rules of Procedure, rule on points of order, accord the right to speak, put questions to the vote, and announce decisions.
12. The Chair may propose to the Standing Committee the closure of the list of speakers, limitations on the time to be allowed to speakers, and on the number of times each Standing

Committee member or observer may speak on a question, the adjournment or the closure of the debate, and the suspension or the adjournment of a session.

13. The Chair may declare a session of the meeting open and permit the debate to proceed if at least one-third of the Contracting Party members of the Standing Committee are present, and may have decisions taken when representatives of at least two-thirds of the Contracting Party members are present and voting.
14. During the course of a debate, the Chair may announce the list of speakers, and with the consent of the meeting, declare the list closed. The Chair may, however, accord the right of reply to any representative if a speech delivered after the list has been closed makes this desirable.
15. The Chair, in the exercise of the functions of that office, remains under the authority of the Standing Committee.
16. The Chair and the Vice-Chair will participate in meetings in that capacity and will not at the same time exercise the rights of a representative of a Contracting Party. The Party concerned will designate another representative who will be entitled to represent the Party in the meeting and to exercise the right to vote.
17. If the Chair is absent from a session or any part thereof, the Vice-Chair will replace the Chair.

Annex 4

Indicative schedule for Standing Committee intersessional meetings post-2022, and for the 2023-2025 triennium

NOTE: This schedule is predicated on future cycles being three calendar years, with the meetings of the Conference of the Parties in October/November of the final year of each cycle, based on COP14 taking place in November 2022.

| | General timelines, post-2022 | 2023-2025-triennium |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Work straight after the COP | 2023 | 2023 |
| First full meeting | 7-9 months after COP14 or earlier if practical | SC62 – June 2023, or earlier if practical |
| Second full meeting | 21 months after COP14 | SC63 – June 2024 |
| Subgroup on COP (if required) | 1 year before COP15 | Subgroup on COP15 (if required) – July/August 2024 |
| Third full meeting | 6 months before COP15 | SC64 – May 2025 |
| Pre-COP meeting | Immediately prior to COP15, at COP venue | SC65 – October/November 2025 |



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.3

The effectiveness and efficiency of the Convention on Wetlands

1. ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of providing effective institutional arrangements for the Convention of Wetlands, a global convention with 172 Parties;
2. RECALLING the Convention’s mission of conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world;
3. FURTHER RECALLING Contracting Parties’ commitment to work towards achievement of the Convention’s mission, both within their own territories and through cooperation globally and with other Contracting Parties;
4. ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution XIII.3 on *Governance of the Convention* the Conference of the Contracting Parties established the Effectiveness Working Group to review the governance structure of the Convention and report its final recommendations, including a draft resolution;
5. EXPRESSING ITS GRATITUDE to all bodies and working groups of the Convention for the accomplishments and benefits to the Convention realized as a result of their work;
6. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the reports and commissioned review on the governance of the Convention pursuant to Resolution XIII.3²;
7. ALSO RECALLING Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*, and subsequent Standing Committee Decisions pertaining to the review of all previous Resolutions and decisions³;

² (1) Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: Review of Governance Structures and Procedures – Findings: The Findings Report; (2) Ramsar Convention on Wetlands: Review of Governance Structures and Procedures – A Comparison Report; (3) Final Report – Positive Indications and Measures – Ramsar Convention Governance Review.

³ Standing Committee Decisions SC58-19, SC58-20 and SC58-21.

8. ACKNOWLEDGING the unique circumstances and challenges that have arisen from the global pandemic, which have highlighted the importance of effective governance under any circumstances; and
9. HIGHLIGHTING the importance of fully transparent and inclusive modalities of work under the Convention;

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10. APPRECIATES the work that has already been accomplished in the implementation of Resolution XIII.4 to retire outdated Resolutions and Decisions, and to establish a practice for the Convention to retire outdated Resolutions and Decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones, and ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to provide administrative support to Contracting Parties, at their request, in preparing draft resolutions so as to provide transparent and timely advice regarding the cost of implementing proposed draft resolutions, and improve cross-references, avoid duplication and support consolidation of draft resolutions in future;
11. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to improve its communications approach towards Contracting Parties, including making recommendations and any cost assessments to that end, to continue strengthening capacity-building tools such as virtual workshops and training materials, in order to enhance support to Contracting Parties; and to submit an updated strategy for communications with Parties for consideration at the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC63);
12. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to propose approaches, including possible online systems, and in particular a closed members' portal, continuously updated member address lists, and further improved access to online documents that would enhance collaboration between Contracting Parties intersessionally, including, but not limited to, in working groups, and in the preparation of draft resolutions by allowing Parties to submit and provide comments on draft resolutions. The Secretariat is instructed to report its proposals about such technologies, including the costs and benefits of such systems and how the proposal manages any risk of creating a participation gap between Parties with different levels of internet access, to SC62, so that Parties can assess whether there is interest in investing Convention resources in implementing such technologies as a means to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the Convention, and if so, recommend this matter is given priority in the deliberations of the Subgroup on Finance;
13. DECIDES that the guidelines outlined in Annex 1 of the present Resolution will be applied to all future non-permanent subgroups and working groups, ensuring that:
 - a. all new non-permanent subgroups and working groups are required to have an agreed timeline;
 - b. all groups established by the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), unless otherwise agreed by Parties or set out in the mandate for the group when it is established, are automatically retired by the next meeting of the COP; and,
 - c. clear terms of reference must be established by any new group that is stood up;
14. CALLS UPON the Contracting Parties to consider efficiencies within subsidiary bodies of the Convention related to deciding programmes of work, establishing timelines, and appointments of members of subsidiary bodies (including the Scientific and Technical Review Panel), and ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to propose solutions to allow for the efficient commencement of work immediately after each meeting of the COP;

15. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Contracting Parties including as appropriate Contracting Parties of the Management Working Group, to assess the challenges affecting the practices of the Convention during the global pandemic period and propose any ways to enhance decision-making procedures and to maintain the full and effective participation of all Contracting Parties to enable the effective operation of the Convention during exceptional circumstances, including by identifying any possible amendments to the Rules of Procedure and taking into account best practices of other international bodies as appropriate; and REQUESTS the Secretariat to present the review and proposals for consideration by Parties at COP15, if not before; and
16. DECIDES to allocate CHF 10,000 of the unspent funds for the work of the Effectiveness Working Group allocated for the 2019-2021 triennium through Resolution XIII.2, paragraph 16 approved in Standing Committee Decision SC57-36, to fulfil the mandate of the present Resolution.

Annex 1

Guidelines for non-permanent subgroups and working groups⁴

Establishment

As per Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure, in addition to the Standing Committee of the Convention, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the Conference Bureau, the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) may establish other committees and working groups if it deems it necessary for the implementation of the Convention.

When working groups are established at a meeting of the COP through a resolution, clear direction must be given to the working group through that resolution on the following matters:

- **Composition and regional representation:**
That the working group consists of interested Standing Committee representatives and other Contracting Parties, keeping in mind the desirability of equitable regional participation, and aiming to have at least one regional representative from each region and striving to be open ended. Where appropriate, Contracting Parties may invite or accept relevant observers or International Organization Partners to participate in working groups.
- **Structure:**
That the working group must designate two of its members as Chair and Co-Chair/Vice-Chair, the latter acting as Rapporteur.
- **Mandate:**
The resolution which establishes the working group must provide a clear mandate for the group, including outcomes that should be achieved and outputs that the group should produce, including any reports, guidelines or the suggestion of any draft resolutions to the Standing Committee.
- **Terms of Reference:**
That the working group must define its terms of reference for presentation to an upcoming Standing Committee.
- **Timeline:**
The resolution must set an agreed timeline⁵ for the working group, including:
 - A timeline to update an appropriate body of the Convention on its work;
 - An agreed timeline for the working group to complete its mandate, report its outcomes and produce any outputs as required; and
 - That the group will automatically be retired by the next COP, unless otherwise agreed by Parties or set out in the mandate for the group when it is established.
- **Funding:**
Clarity on any funding allocated to facilitate the working group to accomplish its mandate.

⁴ Guidelines may also apply *inter alia* to *ad hoc* groups established by the Standing Committee.

⁵ Other than in exceptional circumstances.

Terms of reference

Any working group which is established requires terms of reference (ToRs) which have been agreed by the group and presented to the Standing Committee. When drafting these ToRs some points should be considered, as follows:

- Reiterate the mandate and scope of the group as agreed at the meeting of the COP to provide a common and agreed understanding within the group.
- The group will take decisions by consensus.
- The anticipated roles of the Chair and Vice-Chair. These may include:
 - how they will be appointed (e.g., by group consensus following member nominations);
 - their role and the roles of the wider groups in the coordination and delivery of tasks and meetings as well as reporting the work of the group; and
 - how the Chair/Vice-Chair may facilitate decision making within the group.
- How the group will operate in order to deliver the work effectively, for example through meetings, written electronic exchange etc.
- How the group can operate in order to facilitate the full and active participation of all members and regions represented in the group.
- How to ensure the group always has a clear contact point for members of the group including if these contact points change over time.
- How the group will keep a record of its work and/or meetings.
- How working groups will report to a body of the Convention.
- If and how the group should work with any other bodies of the Convention including the Secretariat and other relevant working groups or external parties.
- Set an agreed working schedule for the working group to meet the timelines set by the COP.

Retirement

All working groups established by a COP must automatically be retired by the next meeting of the COP, unless otherwise agreed by Parties or set out in the mandate for the group when it is established.



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.4

Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, additions for the period COP14-COP15 and framework for the fifth Strategic Plan

1. RECALLING the adoption of *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024* by Resolution XII.2 “as the basis for the implementation of the Convention during this period”; and the decision by Contracting Parties “to undertake a review of the fourth Strategic Plan at COP14”;
2. ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution XII.2 on *The Ramsar Strategic Plan*, Resolution XIII.5 on *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention*, and Resolution XIII.7 on *Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*, Contracting Parties recognized that implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan makes an important contribution towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. FURTHER RECALLING that, through Resolution XIII.5, Contracting Parties approved the scope and modalities for the review of the fourth Strategic Plan, requested the Standing Committee to establish a Strategic Plan Working Group to conduct the review, and FURTHER INSTRUCTED the communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel to coordinate its efforts on a new approach for supporting CEPA implementation with the Strategic Plan Working Group;
4. NOTING that the Strategic Plan Working Group’s review of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan was informed by a survey of, and consultation with, Contracting Parties and International Organization Partners and other stakeholders, and an analysis of National Reports to the 13th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP13);
5. FURTHER NOTING that the global changes resulting from the pandemic and greater knowledge about the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change since COP13 reinforces the urgency to arrest the loss of wetlands;
6. RECOGNIZING the findings of the Special Edition 2021 of the *Global Wetland Outlook*, on the importance of well-managed wetlands in maintaining human health and livelihoods and addressing biodiversity loss and climate change; and

7. FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the implementation of the Convention is critical for accelerating wetland conservation and restoration actions to deliver on global agreements, commitments and targets relating to biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation and sustainable development in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, while noting the distinct mandates and independent legal status of multilateral environmental agreements;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Review of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan

8. CONFIRMS that implementation of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 by Contracting Parties and International Organization Partners is central to achieving the mission of the Convention, as well as contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Biodiversity Framework targets and climate change mitigation and adaptation pathways for wetlands under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its financial mechanism, and URGES Contracting Parties to continuously monitor progress in implementing the Plan;
9. NOTES that the review of the fourth Strategic Plan has identified a number of targets and indicators against which some Parties are experiencing challenges with implementation, and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to publicize any existing Ramsar guidance and target this outreach to those Parties experiencing difficulties;
10. FURTHER NOTES the Global Implementation Report to the 14th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP14) that highlights the areas of progress and challenges with implementation of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024;
11. DECIDES to adjust the fourth Strategic Plan to add three thematic Annexes, 3-5, to assist Parties in addressing emerging issues over the final triennium of the Plan, including:
 - Annex 3: Key actions to support practical implementation of the SDGs;
 - Annex 4: New approach to communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA); and
 - Annex 5: Gender considerations and the Convention on Wetlands.
12. FURTHER DECIDES to update existing Annex 2 of the fourth Strategic Plan to map the new Global Biodiversity Framework targets to align with the Ramsar Strategic Plan goals and targets;
13. ENCOURAGES Parties to consider these Annexes in their implementation of the fourth Strategic Plan, to allocate financial resources as appropriate and according to their national circumstances and priorities for this purpose, and to report on that implementation in their national reporting to COP15;
14. DECIDES that the term of the fourth Strategic Plan be extended from 2024 until the occurrence of COP15 to ensure continuity between successive Strategic Plans;
15. EMPHASIZES the importance of enhanced international cooperation to the implementation of the fourth Strategic Plan in its final triennium and of the fifth Strategic Plan, including by strengthening capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation and exchange, and mobilizing additional financial resources from all sources – international, national and private sector, in particular for developing country Parties;

Framework for preparation of the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan

16. REAFFIRMS the Decisions of the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC59-20, SC59-32) to establish a new Strategic Plan Working Group, and approve a budget to prepare the fifth Strategic Plan and NOTES that the new Working Group has commenced preparatory work to ensure a draft Plan is ready for adoption at COP15;
17. FURTHER REAFFIRMS that the Convention's wise use principle considers the needs and aspirations of current and future generations;
18. ENCOURAGES the new Working Group to keep the Goals of the fourth Strategic Plan in the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan to maintain consistency and continuity in reporting, and to take into account the role of wetland conservation and restoration in promoting sustainable development and addressing global environmental challenges;
19. DECIDES that the fifth Strategic Plan will be informed by, *inter alia*, the Special Edition 2021 of the *Global Wetland Outlook*, the Convention Secretariat's analysis of the national reports, as well as key agreed elements external to the Convention including: the SDGs, the Global Biodiversity Framework, wetland contributions to the UNFCCC, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and any relevant work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other global programmes relating to wetlands;
20. RECOGNIZES the important role that all partners and stakeholders – individuals, societies and organizations – can play, and the need to enable the contributions in particular of Indigenous Peoples, youth, all women and girls, local communities and the business sector to conserving, restoring and wisely using wetlands and to providing solutions to global environmental, social and economic challenges;
21. DECIDES that the process to develop the fifth Strategic Plan be inclusive, transparent and accessible to enable the full and effective participation of all interested Contracting Parties, partners and stakeholders;
22. ENCOURAGES the new Working Group to use the thematic Annexes to the fourth Strategic Plan in the framing and development of the draft fifth Strategic Plan; and
23. INSTRUCTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to prioritize its participation in the development of the fifth Strategic Plan as part of its Workplan for 2022-2024.

Annex 1

Adjustments to Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024

Add the following Annexes to the current Strategic Plan, to be numbered consecutively after the current Annex 1.

Annex 2

This Annex will be updated using a similar format to map the new Global Biodiversity Framework targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to the Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and targets.

The Global Biodiversity Framework is expected to be adopted during the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, in December 2022.

<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022>

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Annex 3 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Context

The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs provide a roadmap for national and international action from governments, civil society, private sector and other actors to achieve sustainable development for current and future generations. Wetlands provide a range of values and services such as clean water, food, biodiversity and infrastructure that sustain livelihoods and local to national economies. Investing in wetlands will result in many co-benefits to nature and society.

The commitment of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands to designate Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) and to conserve and use wisely all their wetlands is critical in achieving the SDGs. The Convention thus provides a ready platform to implement the SDGs.

The fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024) identifies four overarching goals and 19 specific targets that directly support achievement of both the SDGs and the Aichi Targets set up by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The integrated nature of the SDGs, Aichi Targets and the Ramsar Strategic Plan call for increased integration and synergies across existing multilateral agendas.

[Resolution XIII.7](#) (paragraphs 14-19 and 39-44) captures the breadth of SDG and Ramsar engagement, with the Secretariat further instructed as co-custodian of Goal 6 Indicator 6.6.1 to continue working with Contracting Parties on the completion of national wetland inventories and wetland extent to report on SDG Indicator 6.6.1.

The Secretariat is also instructed to participate as appropriate in relevant international efforts to address the 2030 Goals and specifically Goals [14](#) and [15](#)⁶ and Targets [14.2](#) and [15.1](#). The same Resolution underlined the relevance of SDGs 1, 2, 5, 11 and 13 to the Convention.⁷

Drawing on the Secretariat's "Wetlands and the SDGs – scaling up wetland conservation, wise use and restoration to achieve the SDGs" report, the following table maps where Contracting Parties can further integrate SDGs as part of their practical implementation of the Strategic Plan.

⁶ **Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development; **Goal 15:** Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

⁷ FURTHER NOTING that other SDGs that are relevant to the Convention are: SDG 1, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"; SDG 2, "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"; SDG 5, "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"; SDG 11, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"; and SDG 13, "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" [Paragraph 17].

Key Actions to support practical implementation of the SDGs

| SP Goals and Targets | Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG planning processes | Related SDG targets |
|--|---|--|
| Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation | | |
| 1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level. | <p>Adopt policies and practices for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in order to reverse current and future wetland loss and degradation.</p> <p>Integrate wetlands conservation, wise use and restoration into diverse sectoral policies, such as agriculture, forestry or urban planning amongst others, to promote their role in meeting multiple objectives.</p> | 1.b; 2.4; 6.1; 6.2; 6.5; 8.3; 8.9; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.9 |
| 2. Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone. | Scale up wetland interventions. A landscape or watershed approach that considers a larger area can help to consider both the wider ecological processes of wetlands and the human impacts of their loss, and conversely, of their restoration. | 6.4; 6.5; 6.6 |
| 3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. | | 2.3; 2.5; 3.9; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 6.a; 6.b; 8.4; 9.1; 9.5; 11.4; 11.5; 11.6; 11.7; 12.2; 12.6; 14.1; 14.2; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 14.7; 14.b; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.6; 15.7 |
| 4. Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment. | | 15.8 |
| Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network | | |
| 5. The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management. | Develop multi-stakeholder partnerships as a critical means of implementation for wetland conservation, wise use, and restoration. As such, efforts are necessary to promote these partnerships between different sectors of society in Ramsar Sites. | 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4 |
| 6. There is a significant increase in area, numbers, and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and Transboundary Sites. | | 6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4 |
| 7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed. | | 6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 12.4; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4 |

| SP Goals and Targets | Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG planning processes | Related SDG targets |
|--|---|---|
| Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands | | |
| 8. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed, or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands. | Utilize Ramsar national reports and accompanying reporting mechanisms to provide information for inventories and monitoring related to SDGs 6.6.1 and 15.1. | 6.6; 11.4; 14.5; 15.1 |
| 9. The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i> , within a river basin or along a coastal zone. | | 1.4; 5.a; 6.5; 8.4; 11.b; 14.7; 14.c |
| 10. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels. | Engage stakeholders at all levels to facilitate integration of wetland conservation, wise use, and restoration into livelihood strategies, thereby ensuring the sustainability of such efforts. In particular, the role and knowledge of local and Indigenous communities is increasingly being valued as fundamental to the long-term sustainability of interventions. | 2.3; 2.5; 5.5; 5.a; 6.b; 12.8; 15.c |
| 11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. | Identify clearly the services that wetlands including Ramsar Sites provide for people and the environment when they are being designated to help improve understanding of a Site's values and subsequent proposed actions related to conserving, using and restoring it. Ramsar Sites can be managed as pilot sites for promoting sustainable development. | 1.5; 14.7; 15.9 |
| 12. Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. | Integrate wetland services in nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. | 6.6; 14.2; 14.4; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3 |
| 13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. | | 1.b; 2.4; 6.5; 8.3; 8.9; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 12.b; 13.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.9 |

| SP Goals and Targets | Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG planning processes | Related SDG targets |
|---|---|---|
| Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation | | |
| 14. Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language. | | 9.5; 9.a; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 17.6 |
| 15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. | | 1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 9.1; 11.a; 14.2; 15.1; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9 |
| 16. Wetland conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation, and awareness. | Ensure that wetland conservation, wise use and restoration are integrated into SDG planning and implementation. | 2.4; 4.7; 4.a; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.7; 17.9 |
| 17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the four Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. | Increase funding for comprehensive actions in wetlands including Ramsar Sites to reflect the importance of these sites, not only from a biodiversity point of view, but also from a sustainable development perspective. | 9.a; 10.6; 15.a; 15.b; 17.3 |
| 18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels (<i>locally, nationally, sub-regionally (for example RRI), regionally and globally</i>). | <p>Seize opportunities and synergies with other sectors, conventions and priorities. An important action is the need to foster collaboration between national focal points for different conventions and focal points for SDG planning and implementation and in particular statistical offices to advance broader landscape approaches to conservation and sustainable development related to Ramsar Sites, but also other protected areas such as World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.</p> <p>Contracting Parties should ensure that their efforts to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan are integrated into their national SDG plans and implementation.</p> <p>Contracting Parties should ensure that reports on progress on the SDGs reflect the contributions of wetlands so that their conservation, wise use and restoration link to the sustainable development agenda.</p> | 1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 6.a; 10.6; 12.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.1; 15.6; 16.8; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9 |
| 19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced. | | 2.4; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.c; 17.9 |

Sources and Available Resources

How Wetlands Achieve select SDGs: [Scaling up wetland conservation, wise use and restoration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Annex 4

New approach to communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)

Context

In general, communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) activities and elements should be integrated in planning and activities of the Convention (locally, nationally, internationally) where appropriate, with effort focused on a smaller number of high priority activities.

The guidance below provides a pathway for Contracting Parties to work towards building this new approach to CEPA into their implementation of the Convention over the next triennium.

General Considerations to support implementation of SP4

Support focal points, and build more networks and partnerships

National Focal Points and CEPA National Focal Points are important to ensure a coordinated and strategic national approach to Ramsar implementation. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the key implementers of CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities as appropriate.

Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The Secretariat can provide advice and information to Contracting Parties, for example, introduction materials about Ramsar CEPA work for new CEPA National Focal Points and CEPA NGO Focal Points and sharing good examples from other countries.

Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs are encouraged to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communications materials and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved. Contracting Parties should also be encouraged to coordinate with their focal points for other multilateral environmental agreements which are conducting similar work.

Contracting Parties should increase engagement with other sectors, consistent with priorities identified in the Strategic Plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience.

Specific considerations to assist Contracting Parties apply the new CEPA approach to support implementation of the Strategic Plan

| Goals and relevant Targets | Implementing the new CEPA Approach |
|--|---|
| Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation | |
| 1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contracting Parties to continue to contribute wetland input to the debate on global policy issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and efforts to decarbonize under the Paris Accord (including through blue carbon ecosystems).• Contracting Parties to identify mechanisms for greater sectoral input to Ramsar and CEPA planning, including recognizing the value, experience, and resources of International Organization |

| Goals and relevant Targets | Implementing the new CEPA Approach |
|--|---|
| | <p>Partners, NGOs, Contracting Parties and business partners in planning, resourcing, developing, and implementing Ramsar CEPA messages and products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties should increase engagement with sectors that have an impact on wetlands, consistent with priorities identified in the Strategic Plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience. |
| <p>2. Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale <i>inter alia</i> at the basin level or along a coastal zone.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to promote case studies of sustainable urban wetland management, including examples from Wetland City Accreditation, and undertake CEPA activities that engage stakeholders and promote wise use and management of their wetlands and their surroundings in a way that both water quality and water quantity are well considered. |
| <p>3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to promote existing Convention guidance and share between Parties practical local guidance, best practices and case studies which may be more broadly relevant. |
| <p>4. Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to raise awareness of invasive alien species in wetland ecosystems through the development and dissemination of training and communication materials among the public and private sectors. |
| <p>Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network</p> | |
| <p>5. The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to integrate CEPA activities in all Ramsar Site management plans and/or activity plans. |
| <p>7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to identify current and emerging threats, including the umbrella threat of climate change, and develop, and share between Parties, practical CEPA tools and guidance for managing Ramsar Sites and other wetlands in the long term. |
| <p>Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands</p> | |
| <p>8. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed, or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties communicate the results of national wetland inventories for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands. |
| <p>9. The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Target 1 and Target 13. |
| <p>10. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to better engage Indigenous Peoples in wetland research, planning, management, restoration and CEPA activities (including case studies) as well as promoting the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands at national and local levels. |

| Goals and relevant Targets | Implementing the new CEPA Approach |
|--|---|
| national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels. | |
| 11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented, and disseminated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to support Ramsar Site managers to develop signage to communicate site values. |
| 13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to give priority to engaging sectoral decision-makers in integrating wetland values in their planning and decision-making. |
| Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation | |
| 16. Wetland conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation, and awareness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to build on the effective CEPA activity and engagement achieved through for example World Wetlands Day, Ramsar Regional Initiatives and Wetland Education Centres. Contracting Parties to use networks and structures (Wetland Link International network, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, Wetland Education Centres, Youth Engaged in Wetlands) to improve support of implementing the Convention, such as raising awareness, engagement in activities, and capacity-building. Contracting Parties to use various media channels which are appropriate for the purpose, such as social media, to raise public awareness (and potentially lead to public concern and pressure on decision makers) along with other approaches to engage sectoral decision makers. Contracting Parties to identify new communication avenues and opportunities to promote Ramsar goals. |
| 18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels (<i>locally, nationally, sub-regionally (for example RRIIs), regionally and globally</i>). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communications materials and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved. Contracting Parties should encourage their Ramsar National Focal Points to facilitate CEPA activities with their focal points for other MEAs. Contracting Parties to ensure that CEPA aspects are considered when planning and developing all Resolutions, guidance materials, Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) products and other outcomes from the Ramsar Convention. Contracting Parties to investigate opportunities to improve wetland conservation by applying techniques drawn from behavioural economics and psychology and undertaking joint projects with behavioural insights teams or "nudge" units. |
| 19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to build an emphasis on capacity building, to support people with a range of roles in wetland conservation and wise use. This would involve using the expertise of the STRP, |

| Goals and relevant Targets | Implementing the new CEPA Approach |
|----------------------------|--|
| | <p>communications and networking by the Secretariat, and sharing of experiences between Contracting Parties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracting Parties to evaluate the reach and effectiveness of activities including CEPA, so that effective approaches are identified, shared, and implemented • Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the key implementers of CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities when necessary. |

Available Resources

Resolution XIV.8 on *the new CEPA approach*

Annex 5

Gender considerations and the Convention on Wetlands

Context:

Women and men have different levels of access to and control over wetland resources, knowledge and information about their conservation and wise use. This affects how wetlands are managed, as well as rights and customary uses of wetland products and services.

Women's roles and knowledge in wetlands management continue to be overlooked and under-acknowledged, with social and cultural norms often reinforcing their unequal participation in decision making. Water collection disproportionately falls on women and girls. Lack of onsite water can increase the vulnerability to violence experienced by women and girls as travel to water sources exposes them to harassment and sexual abuse. On the other hand, increased access to water can increase school attendance and income generation, reducing gender inequalities and poverty.

Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and wetlands*, approved at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13) in 2018, encourages Parties to mainstream a gender perspective in their implementation of the Convention, and requested the production of guidance on the integration of gender issues in the implementation of the Convention. National Reports to COP14 also included, for the first time, information from Contracting Parties on gender balance in wetland-related activities.

Ramsar Guidance on mainstreaming gender has now been published to provide a series of key operational and practical entry points to enhance the mainstreaming of gender equality under the Convention. The guidance below provides a pathway for Contracting Parties seeking to meaningfully integrate gender considerations into implementation of the Convention.

General considerations to support implementation of SP4:

Contracting Parties are encouraged to implement the Strategic Plan at national and regional levels by developing national wetlands policies, strategies, action plans, projects, and programmes.

These instruments should intrinsically consider gender-responsive, human rights-based, and intersectional approaches to promote conservation and wise use of wetlands to:

- ensure people-centred governance that respects women and those living in margins of development through full access and control of valuable assets, including land ownership, rights, and economic autonomy;
- secure equal access to and control of natural resources for women and young women to manage and protect their livelihoods; and
- recognize women and young women as decision makers and leaders, participating in decision-making processes at all levels in the wise use and conservation of wetlands.

Building gender considerations into the Strategic Plan

| Goals | Gender considerations | Key Targets |
|--|--|--|
| Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation | <i>Parties recognize that the drivers of wetland degradation intersect with and impact gender and other social dimensions.</i> | |
| Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network | <i>Parties commit themselves to protect and effectively manage existing Ramsar Sites and enable full and effective participation of stakeholders, including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.</i> | Target 5.7: How many Ramsar Sites have cross-sectoral management committee that enables participatory and inclusive decision making with women, youth and Indigenous Peoples represented. |
| Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands | <i>Parties address wetlands beyond those currently included in the Ramsar Site network. Mainstreaming gender specifications in a wide range of sectors and with a broad array of actors will help to ensure the success of this effort.</i> | Target 10: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, especially those of women, relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities at all relevant levels. |
| Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation Paragraph 11 of Resolution XIII.18 encourages "...to consider how different genders are reflected in wetland communication material in order to promote equal representation and fairness". | <i>Parties ensure that communication strategies and materials should reflect women's perceptions, needs, and perspectives. Particular attention should be placed on the selection of communication channels that are most appropriate for women.</i> <i>Parties themselves, and in partnership with other Parties and other entities, should take a gender-equality-responsive approach with regard to scientific and technical advice and guidance, resource mobilization, public awareness, visibility and capacity building.</i> <i>All major environmental finance mechanisms now have gender policies, action plans and gender mandates that must be complied with to secure funding.</i> | Target 16: Mainstream wetland conservation and wise use with a gender-responsive approach through capacity development, education, participation, and awareness. <i>Note: The new CEPA approach includes mainstreaming gender equality as an activity.</i> |

Available Resources:

The guidance provides Contracting Parties to the Convention with a series of key operational and practical entry points to enhance the mainstreaming of gender equality under the Convention and presents several case studies on the value of taking a gender-sensitive approach to the wise use and management of wetlands. The document is available for download:

<https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-mainstreaming-gender-under-the-ramsar-convention-on-wetlands-0>.



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.5

Review of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

1. RECALLING Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*, and in particular the requirement, expressed in paragraph 24 of that Resolution, for:
a process for: retiring outdated resolutions and decisions; establishing a practice of retiring outdated or contradictory Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones; and preparing a consolidated list of resolutions and decisions, to be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and on an as-needed basis following meetings of the Standing Committee;
2. NOTING that the reference to “Resolutions” in Resolution XIII.4 encompasses also “Recommendations” of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and that the term “decisions” refers to the numbered decisions of the Standing Committee; and
3. CONVINCED of the need to ensure that the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, as the “soft law” of the Convention, expressing the policy, rules and guidance of the Parties, should be clear, concise and readily accessible;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Regarding lists of current Resolutions, Resolutions that have been repealed or replaced and other decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

4. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to maintain, on the website of the Convention:
 - a list of all current Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), and
 - a separate list of Resolutions that are no longer in effect, including previous versions of Resolutions that have been revised;with both lists providing links to the texts of the Resolutions concerned to ensure that all Resolutions that have been adopted by the COP are readily accessible;
5. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to maintain, on the website of the Convention, a list of all other “Decisions of the Conference of the Parties”, that are designed to have a short-term effect. These will be numbered and will include only: instructions or requests to committees, panels, working group, other Convention bodies or the Secretariat, unless they are part of a long-term

procedure; and recommendations or other forms of decision that are time-bound or expected to be implemented soon after their adoption and will then be obsolete. This list will be updated by the Secretariat after each meeting of the COP;

Regarding the retirement of Resolutions and parts of Resolutions that are out of date

6. ADOPTS the list of Resolutions and Recommendations in Annex 1, indicating their status in terms of whether they remain wholly or partly in effect;
7. AGREES that the Resolutions and Recommendations listed in Annex 1 as already repealed (status category "R") will be excluded from the list of current Resolutions maintained by the Secretariat;
8. REPEALS the other Resolutions and Recommendations, and parts thereof, considered to be defunct and proposed to be repealed as listed in Annex 1 (status categories "P" and "A");
9. AGREES that:
 - a) the Resolutions and Recommendations that are defunct will be removed from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations. They will remain "on the record", and accessible on the Convention website, as having previously been adopted by the COP; and
 - b) in any case where any part of a Resolution or Recommendation is agreed to be defunct, the Secretariat will publish a revised version of that Resolution or Recommendation without the parts that are defunct, and edited only to ensure that the sense is retained, and with no other amendment to the substance. In each such case, the revised version of the Resolution or Recommendation will be renumbered with the addition of "Rev. COPXX", where "XX" represents the number of the meeting at which the amendment of the text was agreed; and
 - c) in cases where any Resolution is amended and renumbered as indicated in paragraph b) above, or is repealed and replaced, the Secretariat will correct the references to the amended or repealed Resolutions, in any Resolutions that remain in effect at that time. If the repealed Resolution is referred to in another Resolution, the Secretariat should annotate the reference with a footnote to indicate that the Resolution (or paragraph) being referred to was repealed.

Regarding the review and consolidation of current Resolutions

10. DECIDES to establish, subject to available resources, an iterative process for the consolidation of Resolutions of the COP, as follows:
 - a) the general objective of the consolidation is to facilitate the understanding and implementation of Resolutions by combining into a single Resolution the texts from existing Resolutions that deal with the same subject, or sub-subject, using the words from the existing Resolutions as far as possible, while eliminating discrepancies and inconsistencies, clarifying the meaning, standardizing the terms used, correcting grammatical errors, updating parts that are out of date and eliminating parts that are defunct;

- b) after each meeting of the COP, the Standing Committee will select a small number of subject categories (generally two to four) from the list of categories of Resolutions in Annex 2 of the present Resolution, for which the Secretariat (or its consultant) will prepare draft consolidated resolutions for consideration at the following COP;
- c) the document presenting each draft consolidated resolution will indicate the origins of the texts presented and explain any differences from the existing Resolutions;
- d) draft consolidated resolutions will not include any new concepts, policies, rules or guidance that have not previously been agreed by the COP;
- e) the text of each draft consolidated resolution will indicate that it repeals the Resolutions that are being consolidated and that it is designed to replace;
- f) each draft consolidated resolution prepared by the Secretariat will be presented to the Standing Committee, which will guide the Secretariat and approve the draft to be submitted for adoption by the Conference of the Parties when it is satisfied that the draft has been correctly prepared;
- g) as the process of consolidation of Resolutions is not intended to revise the substance of decisions previously made by the Conference of the Parties, the Rules of Procedure for considering and adopting draft consolidated resolutions will be different from those for consideration of other draft resolutions in the sense that, as a general rule, the substance should not be presented for discussion as it has in principle already been agreed by the Parties. The primary decision to be made by the Conference is whether the consolidation has been correctly done; and
- h) the process of consolidation of Resolutions will continue until the Contracting Parties are satisfied with the consolidation work done and can be continued when the Parties have identified a need for more consolidation work;

Regarding the preparation and adoption of draft resolutions and draft decisions

- 11. RECOMMENDS to Parties that, when drafting a resolution that is intended to treat a subject comprehensively, or to make significant changes in the way in which a subject is dealt with, the draft be prepared so that, if adopted, it will replace and repeal all existing Resolutions (or, as appropriate, the relevant paragraphs) on the same subject;
- 12. REQUESTS Parties, chairs of committees, panels and other Convention bodies and the Secretariat, to follow the guidance in Annex 3;

Regarding Decisions of the Standing Committee:

- 13. DECIDES that the procedure for recording and maintaining the Decisions of the Standing Committee will be decided by the Standing Committee itself, provided that all current and previous Decisions are easily accessible through the website of the Convention;

Regarding older decisions:

14. REPEALS paragraphs 10, 11, 24 and 25 of Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*.

Annex 1

List of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties and their status

Key

A = Revision is required. Specific paragraphs are to be repealed from the operative part.

(This may also require consequential editorial corrections and deletions of corresponding preambular text.)

C = Remains current

R = Already repealed or superseded and therefore to be excluded from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations to be implemented.

P = Proposed for deletion from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations to be implemented.

NB: Parties may also wish to consult the advice on the “retiral” of Resolutions and Recommendation in Standing Committee document SC35-12 on *COP9 Outputs requiring review by SC35: Review of COP Decisions (Resolution IX.17)* (SC35, 2007).

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| COP13 (Dubai, 2018) | | | |
| Resolution XIII.1 | World Wetlands Day | C | |
| Resolution XIII.2 | Financial and budgetary matters | C | Recommendation: - that at COP14, the Resolution on financial and budgetary matters repeal and replace all previous Resolutions on this subject, which however remain on the record as an indication of the budgets and contributions agreed for previous financial periods; and - that the Resolution on this subject adopted at subsequent meetings of the Conference of the Parties then repeal the Resolution adopted at the previous meeting, which however remains on the record. |
| Resolution XIII.3 | Governance of the Convention | C | NB: Resolution XIII.3, para. 17, indicates expiry of this Resolution after SC59, unless COP14 decides to retain the Effectiveness Working Group. NB: Resolution XIII.3, Annex 1, indicates that the Resource Mobilization Working Group is 'retired' and refers to Resolution XII.7. But Resolution XII.7 does not refer to any such working group. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Resolution XIII.4 | Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention | C | |
| Resolution XIII.5 | Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention | C | |
| Resolution XIII.6 | Language strategy for the Convention | C | |
| Resolution XIII.7 | Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions | C | NB: In para. 32, the reference to "Resolution XII.3" should be corrected to "Resolution XII.3 (Rev. COP13)". Recommendation: The Secretariat should be mandated to make such corrections after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, as necessary. (For an example of a mandate, see CITES Resolution 4.6 (Rev. COP18), paragraph 4.a, at https://cites.org/sites/default/files/document/E-Res-04-06-R18.pdf). |
| Resolution XIII.8 | Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021 | C | |
| Resolution XIII.9 | Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021 | C | |
| Resolution XIII.10 | Status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance | C | Recommendation: Resolution XIII.10 remains valid but should be consolidated with other Resolutions on the same subject, potentially including Resolutions VII.11, VIII.8, IX.15, X.13 and XI.4. |
| Resolution XIII.11 | Ramsar Advisory Missions | C | |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Resolution XIII.12 | Guidance on identifying peatlands as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteria | P | As the main purpose of Resolution XIII.12 is to update the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) – 2012 revision</i> , attached to Resolution XI.8, Annex 2, it is proposed that the relevant part of the more recent Resolution be used to revise the earlier Resolution, as indicated below regarding Resolution XI.8. |
| Resolution XIII.13 | Restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity and disaster risk reduction | C | |
| Resolution XIII.14 | Promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue-carbon ecosystems | C | |
| Resolution XIII.15 | Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands | C | |
| Resolution XIII.16 | Sustainable urbanization, climate change and wetlands | C | |
| Resolution XIII.17 | Rapidly assessing wetland ecosystem services | C | |
| Resolution XIII.18 | Gender and wetlands | C | |
| Resolution XIII.19 | Sustainable agriculture in wetlands (Corrected on 15 February 2019 by addition of footnote) | C | |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution XIII.20 | Promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats | C | |
| Resolution XIII.21 | Conservation and management of small wetlands | C | |
| Resolution XIII.22 | Wetlands in West Asia | C | |
| Resolution XIII.23 | Wetlands in the Arctic and sub-Arctic | C | |
| Resolution XIII.24 | The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites | C | |
| Resolution XIII.25 | Thanks to the Host Country, the United Arab Emirates | P | <p>It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity.</p> <p>Recommendation: - Exclude Resolution XIII.25 from the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations after COP14.</p> |
| COP12 (Punta del Este, 2015) | | | |
| Resolution XII.1 | Financial and budgetary matters | R | Resolution XIII.2, in para. 38, states that it supersedes Resolution XII.1. |
| Resolution XII.2 | The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 | A | <p>Resolution XII.2 remains valid.</p> <p>However paras 26-28 provide steps for a review of the Strategic Plan. These have all been implemented and Resolution XIII.5 provides the modalities for the review. These three paragraphs can therefore be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution XII.3 (Rev. COP13) | Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions | C | NB. Resolution XII.3, was already revised by Resolution XIII.6. The current version is Resolution XII.3 (Rev. COP13). NB: Resolution XIII.7, para. 32, reaffirms the invitation to Parties that are considering hosting a COP, in Resolution XII.3 (Rev. COP13), to also consider including a high-level segment. |
| Resolution XII.4 | The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention | R | Resolution XIII.4, para. 31, states that it supersedes Resolution XII.4. |
| Resolution XII.5 | New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention | A | Resolution XII.5, para. 15, states that it supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP. Therefore this Resolution remains valid. However, the following paragraphs are time-bound and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 18, agreeing priority work areas for 2016-2018 (in Annex 3); - para. 20, instructing STRP to establish a work plan for 2016-2018; - para. 21, instructing the Standing Committee to approve the STRP work plan for 2016-2018; - paras. 25 & 26, requesting finalization of the report <i>The State of the World's Wetlands and Their Services to People</i>, which was published; and - Annex 3, indicating the priority work areas for 2016-2018. In addition, para. 28 should be amended to remove reference to Annex 3. |
| Resolution XII.6 | The status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance | R | Resolution XIII.10, in para. 24, repeals and replaces Resolution XII.6. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution XII.7 | Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention | A | <p>Resolution XII.7 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are time-bound and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 13, specifying tasks for SC50 and SC51; - para. 14 & 15, regarding SC advice to respond to a CBD invitation; an equivalent text is found in Resolution XIII.7, para. 46. |
| Resolution XII.8 | Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention | C | <p>Several parts of Resolution XII.8 are time-bound, relating to guidelines for regional initiatives for the period 2016-2018 or to tasks to be completed by deadlines that have already passed.</p> <p>However, Resolution XIII.9, para. 30, requires the preparation of a draft consolidated resolution on RRI, including Resolutions VIII.30, IX.7, X.6, XI.5 and XII.8.</p> <p>Consequently, as this Resolution is to be consolidated with others, no change is proposed here.</p> |
| Resolution XII.9 | The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024 | A | <p>Resolution XII.9 remains in effect.</p> <p>However, paragraph 9 is time-bound, calling for actions at SC51 and COP13 and can be repealed.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Revise Resolution XII.9 at COP14 to incorporate all COP recommendations regarding CEPA implementation. <p>NB:</p> <p>In Resolution XIII.3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the combination of para. 10 and Annex 1 indicate that the CEPA Working Group is 'retired', and refers to Resolution XII.9. But Resolution XII.9 does not refer to any such working group. - paras. 23-29 contain various recommendations and instructions regarding CEPA, to supplement Resolution XII.9. <p>Resolution XIII.5 invites Parties to continue to implement the CEPA programme, referring to Resolution XII.9.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Resolution XII.10 | Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention | A | Resolution XII.10 establishes the Wetland City Accreditation system and remains valid. However, paragraphs 11 is time-bound, calling for action at COP13, and can therefore be repealed. |
| Resolution XII.11 | Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention | C | Resolution XII.11 remains valid. NB: Resolution XIII.13, para. 22, urges Parties to report in their national reports on implementation of Resolution XII.11. Recommendation: If Resolution XII.11 is retained, any call for reporting on implementation should be in this Resolution. |
| Resolution XII.12 | Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future | C | Resolution XII.12 remains valid. |
| Resolution XII.13 | Wetlands and disaster risk reduction | A | Resolution XII.13 remains valid. However, the following paragraphs are time-bound and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - paras. 25, 27 to 30, calling on the STRP to consider several issues in the development of its work plan. The STRP work plan for 2016-2018 was approved at SC52, and the plan for 2019-2021 at SC57. Both took into account Resolution XII.5. |
| Resolution XII.14 | Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands | C | Resolution XII.14 remains valid. |
| Resolution XII.15 | Evaluation of the management and conservation effectiveness of Ramsar Sites | L | Resolution XII.15 remains valid |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution XII.16 | Thanks to the Host Country, Uruguay, and the “Declaration of Punta del Este” | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |
| COP11 (Bucharest, 2012) | | | |
| Resolution XI.1 | Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat | A | Resolution XI.1 remains valid. However, the following paragraphs are time-bound and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - para. 15, which calls for actions at SC46 and SC47; - paras. 17 and 18 which call for actions by the Standing Committee and a final report at COP12. This was implemented by the Standing Committee. |
| Resolution XI.2 | Financial and budgetary matters | P | Resolution XIII.2 contains all key elements from Resolution XI.2, applying them to the new triennium (2019 – 2021). Resolution XI.2 may therefore be repealed, noting however that it remains on the record as an indication of the contributions due for the period 2013-2015. |
| Resolution XI.3 | Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 triennium | P | As suggested by the title, the provisions of Resolution XI.3 are time-bound and relate only to the Strategic Plan up to 2015. Resolution XI.3 is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |
| Resolution XI.4 | The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance | A | Resolution XI.4 remains valid. However, it should be consolidated with other Resolutions on the same subject, potentially including Resolutions VII.11, VIII.8, IX.15, X.13 and XIII.10. Paras. 22 and 28 contain requests to the Secretariat and the STRP that are out of date and can be repealed. |
| Resolution XI.5 | Regional initiatives 2013-2015 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention | C | Resolution XIII.9, para. 30, requires the preparation of a draft consolidated resolution on RRI, including Resolutions VIII.30, IX.7, X.6, XI.5 and XII.8. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Resolution XI.6 | Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions | C | <p>There is considerable overlap between Resolutions VII.4, VIII.5, X.11 and XI.6 and they should be consolidated, to place all recommendations on this subject into a single text.</p> <p>Resolution XIII.7, para. 31, requires the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on implementation of Resolution XI.6. Resolution XI.6 therefore remains valid.</p> |
| Resolution XI.7 | Tourism, recreation and wetlands | A | <p>Resolution XI.7 remains valid.</p> <p>Para. 28 is in two parts: - the part under “Encourages” calls on Parties to use the Framework annexed to Resolution XI.9. But as Resolution XI.9 already calls on Parties to use that Framework, the further encouragement in Resolution XI.7 is redundant. This part can be repealed; - the second part is a request to the Secretariat, which appears to remain valid.</p> |
| Resolution XI.8 | Streamlining procedures for describing Ramsar Sites at the time of designation and subsequent updates | A | <p>Resolution XI.8 remains valid.</p> <p>However the following paragraphs are out of date or redundant and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - para. 18, which instructs the Secretariat to implement Resolution VIII.13, para. 11, re. the Ramsar Information Sheet database RSDB to ensure it captures all data provided by Parties, which was done; - paras. 20, 21 and 22 contain instructions to the STRP and the Secretariat. These were implemented before the launch of the online RSIS.</p> <p>Paras. 15 and 16 are out of date and it is suggested that they be repealed and replaced by paras. 14, 15 and 16 of Resolution XIII.12, and that Annex 2 of that Resolution also be appended. Resolution XIII.12 can then be repealed in its entirety. (see above regarding Resolution XIII.12.)</p> |
| Resolution XI.8, annex 1 | Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RIS) - 2012 revision | C | (Resolution XI.8 states, in para. 14, that this Information Sheet replaces previous guidance, which would include the guidance in Resolutions 5.3, VI.1 Annex, VI.13, VIII.13, and VIII.21) |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Resolution XI.8, annex 2 | Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) - 2012 revision | A | <p>Appendix E2 of Resolution XI.8, Annex 2, is superseded by Annex 1 of Resolution XIII.12 (see Resolution XIII.12, para. 13).</p> <p>Therefore a revised version of Resolution XI.8 must be published, in which Annex 2, section E2, is replaced by Annex 1 of Resolution XIII.12, as already decided by the Conference of the Parties.</p> |
| Resolution XI.9 | An Integrated Framework for avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for wetland losses | A | <p>Resolution XIII.20, para. 48, encourages Parties to follow the framework and guidelines in Resolution XI.9.</p> <p>Resolution XIII.23, para. 25, encourages Parties to take into account the framework and guidelines in Resolution XI.9.</p> <p>Resolution XI.11 states that urban development should be planned with reference to Resolution XI.9.</p> <p>Resolution XI.9 remains valid.</p> <p>However, paragraph 19 is time-bound and has expired. It can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution XI.10 | Wetlands and energy issues | A | <p>Resolution XI.10 remains valid.</p> <p>However paras. 19 and 21, contain instructions to the STRP, with deadlines now expired. They may therefore be repealed.</p> <p>Para. 20 also contains instructions to the STRP, presumably still valid. It would be preferable in future to have all instructions to the STRP in one place.</p> |
| Resolution XI.11 | Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands | A | <p>Resolution XI.11 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 29 contains a request to the STRP (with a related request to Parties) regarding its workplan for 2013-2015. This is out of date and may be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution XI.12 | Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach | C | <p>Resolution XI.13 urges Parties to use the advice in Resolution XI.12, Annex 1.</p> <p>Resolution XI.12 remains valid.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Resolution XI.13 | An Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication | A | Resolution XI.13 remains valid. However, para. 16 contains a request to the Secretariat, with a final report to be provided at COP12. This is out of date and may be repealed. NB: Paras. 18 and 19 contain instructions to the STRP that could be interpreted as remaining in effect. |
| Resolution XI.14 | Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands | A | Resolution XI.14 remains valid. However, para. 37 contains requests for actions that were implemented. This paragraph is therefore out of date and may be repealed. |
| Resolution XI.15 | Agriculture-wetland interactions: rice paddy and pest control | C | Resolution XI.15 remains valid. NB: para. 24 contains a request to the STRP to review information about impact of agriculture on rice paddies as wetlands. Although agriculture is mentioned among the targets in the current STRP work plan, it is not clear that this issue will be addressed. |
| Resolution XI.16 | Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention | P | Resolution XI.16 is entirely about a review of scientific and technical advice and guidance, to be considered at COP12. It is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |
| Resolution XI.17 | Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2013-2015 | P | Resolution XI.17 relates entirely to the scientific and technical work of the Convention for the period 2013-2015 and related matters. It is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |
| Resolution XI.18 | Adjustments to the modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for the 2013-2015 triennium | R | Resolution XII.5, para. 15, states that it supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP, which includes Resolution XI.18, listed in paragraph 2 of Resolution XII.5. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution XI.19 | Adjustments to the terms of Resolution VII.1 on the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention | R | Resolution XII.4 states, in para. 12, that it supersedes Resolution XI.19. |
| Resolution XI.20 | Promoting sustainable investment by the public and private sectors to ensure the maintenance of the benefits people and nature gain from wetlands | A | Resolution XI.20 remains valid. However, there are some paragraphs that could be considered as defunct or redundant, and which might therefore be repealed, as follows: - Para. 10 calls on Parties to develop public-private partnership to invest in wetland conservation “in line with Resolution X.12, paragraph 18”. If that latter Resolution is sufficient, para. 10 may be considered redundant; - Para. 11 “Recalls” and repeats Resolution X.26, para. 18. However, that Resolution remains in effect, so that para. 11 is redundant (or should be in the preamble); and - Para. 15 relates specifically to national reports for COP12 and is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |
| Resolution XI.21 | Wetlands and sustainable development | C | Resolution XI.21 conveys a copy of the Tehran Declaration on Wetlands and Sustainable Development, adopted at the Global Forum on Wetland for the Future in 2011, some of which is time-bound. However, the Resolution invites Parties to act upon the points in the declaration to promote actions over the following 40 years. For this reason, it is considered as still in effect. |
| Resolution XI.22 | Thanks to the host country, Romania | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |
| COP10 (Changwon, 2008) | | | |
| Resolution X.1 | The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 | P | Through Resolution X.1, the Conference of the Parties adopted the Strategic Plan for 2009-2015, and related requests. This is now defunct and can be repealed. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Resolution X.2 | Financial and budgetary matters | P | Resolution X.2 presents the core budget for the period 2008-2012 and related decisions. It is therefore proposed that this Resolution be considered as outdated and that it be repealed. However it remains on the record as an indication of the contributions due for the period covered. |
| Resolution X.3 | The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands | P | Through Resolution X.3, the Conference of the Parties welcomes the Changwon Declaration on Human Well-being and Wetlands, adopted at COP10 in 2008, noting that it is designed to complement the Strategic Plan 2009-2015. Paragraphs 17 and 18 call for reports to COP11 on the experiences in implementing actions arising from the Declaration. For these reasons, the Resolution may be considered as outdated, and excluded from the list of Resolutions in effect. |
| Resolution X.4 | Establishing a Transition Committee of the Management Working Group | P | Resolution X.4 does two things: - establishes the Transition Committee of the Management Working Group (MWG); and - revises the mandate of the MWG by amending Resolution IX.24. The Transition Committee of the MWG was retired by Resolution XIII.3; and Resolution IX.24 has been amended. Consequently Resolution X.4 can now be retired from the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution X.5 | Facilitating the work of the Ramsar Convention and its Secretariat | A | <p>Resolution X.5 remains partly valid.</p> <p>It makes several recommendations regarding the administration of the Secretariat, and facilitation of its work. It establishes an Ad Hoc Working Group under the Standing Committee. The subject was discussed at SC41 (2010), SC42 & SC43 (2011) and COP11 (2012); and culminated in the adoption of Resolution XI.1 on 'Institutional hosting of the Secretariat', including creation of a new working group. Consequently, most of the provisions of the Resolution are outdated.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs remain valid and could be consolidated with others on the administration and functioning of the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 9, which asks the Executive Director of UNEP to facilitate the participation of Ramsar Convention representatives in relevant meetings of UNEP and UNEP-administered agreements; and - para. 10, which requests the Secretariat to seek assistance of Parties to take action in intergovernmental processes to secure participation of Ramsar Secretariat staff, and others with official functions, as representatives of an international treaty. |
| Resolution X.6 | Regional initiatives 2009-2012 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention | C | Resolution XIII.9, para. 30, requires the preparation of a draft consolidated resolution on RRI, including Resolutions VIII.30, IX.7, X.6, XI.5 and XII.8. |
| Resolution X.7 | Optimizing the Ramsar Small Grants Fund during the period 2009-2012 | P | <p>In Resolution XIII.2, para. 31, the Conference of the Parties agreed to phase out the Small Grants Fund programme upon exhaustion of its current resources.</p> <p>At its 57th meeting (Gland, 2019), in Decision SC57-51, the Standing Committee noted the steps taken to phase out the programme.</p> <p>Consequently, Resolution X.7, is now outdated and can be removed from the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations.</p> |
| Resolution X.8 | The Convention's Programme on communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2009-2015 | P | <p>Resolution XII.9, in para. 8, confirms that it incorporates the key recommendations from Resolution X.8.</p> <p>Consequently Resolution X.8 has been superseded and may be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Resolution X.9 | Refinements to the modus operandi of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) | R | Resolution XII.5, para. 15, states that it supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP, which includes Resolution X.9, listed in paragraph 2 of Resolution XII.5. |
| Resolution X.10 | Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention | R | Resolution X.10 lays out the work of the STRP for the period 2009-2012. Resolution XII.5, para. 15, states that it supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP. Therefore, Resolution X.10 is already defunct. |
| Resolution X.11 | Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions | A | <p>There is considerable overlap between Resolutions VII.4, VIII.5, X.11 and XI.6 and they should be consolidated, to place all recommendations on this subject into a single text.</p> <p>Resolution X.11 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 15, which requires the Secretariat to review its memoranda of cooperation; - para. 23, which calls on various bodies to contribute to the International Year of Biodiversity, 2010; - para. 24, which refers Parties to a website that is now no longer for the purpose indicated; and - para. 26, which calls for support to the work of the STRP indicated in Resolution VIII.26, which relates to the Strategic Plan for 2003-2008. <p>In addition, in para. 13, the words “presently under the 4th Joint Work Plan between the two conventions” is out of date and can be deleted.</p> |
| Resolution X.12 | Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector | C | <p>Resolution X.27, para. 24, calls for application of the principles in Resolution X.12.</p> <p>Resolution X.12 remains valid.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Resolution X.13 | The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance | A | <p>Resolution X.13 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 27, which contains 14 recommendations to specific countries, and one general. It is not clear whether they have all been implemented. However, as these recommendations were made in 2008, if any have not been implemented, they could be considered as having having lost their currency; - para. 31, second part, which instructs the Secretariat to contact the Parties listed in Annex 1. This was done; and - Annex 1, referred to in para. 31 and para. 5 (which should be corrected). <p>Annex 2 should then be renumbered as Annex 1 and references to Annex 2 amended accordingly.</p> <p>Recommendation It is recommended that Resolution X.13 be consolidated with other Resolutions on the same subject, potentially including Resolutions VII.11, VIII.8, IX.15, XI.14 and XIII.10.</p> |
| Resolution X.14 | A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs | A | <p>Resolution X.14 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 6 is contains an instruction to the STRP regarding its work plan for the period 2009-2012. This is out of date and can be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution X.15 | Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance | A | <p>Resolution X.15 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 8, which contains instructions to the STRP regarding its work plan for the period 2009-2012; and - para. 9, which instructs the Secretariat regarding dissemination of the contents of the Resolution and updating the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution X.16 | A Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character | A | <p>Resolution X.26, para. 20, urges Parties “to apply, as appropriate, the guidance adopted through Resolution X.16 and included in COP10 DOC. 27”.</p> <p>Resolution X.16 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 7, which contains instructions to the STRP regarding its work plan for the period 2009-2012; and - para. 8, which instructs the Secretariat regarding dissemination of the contents of the Resolution and updating the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks. |
| Resolution X.17 | Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance | C | <p>Resolution XI.10 encourages Parties to enhance the application of the guidance contained in Resolution X.17.</p> <p>Resolution X.25, para. 15, calls for certain actions “in line with ... Resolution X.17”.</p> <p>Resolution X.26, paras. 14 and 15, urges Parties to apply the guidance in Resolution X.17.</p> <p>Resolution X.17 remains valid.</p> |
| Resolution X.18 | The application of response options from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) within the Ramsar Wise Use Toolkit | A | <p>Resolution X.18 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 14, second part, with a request to the Secretariat that was implemented; and - para. 15, containing a request to the Secretariat, which was implemented in that it took account of all responses in revising the Wise Use Handbooks. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Resolution X.19 | Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance | A | <p>Resolution XI.15 refers to Resolution X.19 as containing the Convention's guidance on wetlands and river basin management.</p> <p>Resolution X.26, para. 17, encourages Parties to apply the guidance in Resolution X.19.</p> <p>Resolution X.19 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 8, which contains instructions to the STRP regarding work to be completed before COP12; and - paras. 9 and 10, which contain a request and an instruction to the Secretariat. |
| Resolution X.20 | Biogeographic regionalization in the application of the Strategic Framework for the List of Wetlands of International Importance: scientific and technical guidance | A | <p>Resolution X.16 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 10, which contains a request to the STRP and the Secretariat; - paras. 11 and 12, which contain requests to the STRP; and - para. 13, which instructs the Secretariat regarding dissemination of the contents of the Resolution and updating the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks. |
| Resolution X.21 | Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza | A | <p>Resolution X.21 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 20, which refers to the continuing work of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds; it is not clear whether the Task Force still exists but in any case the STRP and Ramsar Secretariat are not involved; - para. 21, which requests the STRP to take certain actions for consideration at COP11; and - para. 22, third part, which requests the Secretariat undertake work to be reported at COP11. |
| Resolution X.22 | Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways | C | Resolution X.22 remains valid. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution X.23 | Wetlands and human health and well-being | A | <p>Resolution X.23 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 30, which requests the Secretariat to cooperate with WHO in various ways; - para. 31, which contains instructions for work to STRP; and - para. 32, which invites various bodies to contribute to the work of STRP. |
| Resolution X.24 | Climate change and wetlands | A | <p>Resolution X.24 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 40, which calls for certain activities to be included in the Joint Work Plan of the CBD and the Ramsar Convention for 2002-2010; - paras. 43, 47, 48 and 49 which directs certain work to the STRP; and - paras. 45 and 46, which direct activities to the STRP, the Secretariat and others. Having been adopted in 2008, these have probably lost their currency. |
| Resolution X.25 | Wetlands and “biofuels” | A | <p>Resolution X.25 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 20, which contains instructions for work to STRP; and - para. 23, which calls for certain activities to be included in the Joint Work Plan of the CBD and the Ramsar Convention (for 2002-2010). |
| Resolution X.26 | Wetlands and extractive industries | A | <p>Resolution X.23 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 29 contains instructions for work to the STRP. This instruction is out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Resolution X.27 | Wetlands and urbanization | A | <p>Resolution X.27 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 18, regarding the role of CEPA, as this has been effectively superseded by Resolution XII.9; - para. 19, which calls for action under the CEPA programme for 2009-2015; and - paras. 26 & 27, which relate to work to be done by the STRP. |
| Resolution X.28 | Wetlands and poverty eradication | A | <p>Resolution X.28 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 11 contains instructions for work to be conducted by the STRP. These instructions are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments.</p> |
| Resolution X.29 | Clarifying the functions of agencies and related bodies implementing the Convention at the national level | C | Resolution X.29 remains valid. |
| Resolution X.30 | Small Island States and the Ramsar Convention | A | <p>Resolution X.30 remains valid.</p> <p>However paragraph 6 makes a request to the Secretariat regarding the management of the Small Grants Fund. This out of date as the Conference of the Parties has agreed in Resolution XIII.2, para. 31, to phase out the Small Grants Fund. Paragraph 6 can therefore be repealed, together with any corresponding preambular paragraphs.</p> |
| Resolution X.31 | Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems | A | <p>Resolution X.31 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 18 contains a request to the STRP. This part is out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments.</p> |
| Resolution X.32 | Thanks to the host country, the Republic of Korea | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations, following the COP after the one at which they were adopted. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| COP9 (Kampala, 2005) | | | |
| Resolution IX.1 | Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept | A | Resolution IX.1 remains valid. However: - para. 9 contains an instruction to the Secretariat, which is outdated and can be repealed; - para. 6 no longer applies because it approves the adoption of the Strategic Framework in Annex B, which has already been superseded (see below); so that para. 6 can be repealed; - list of Annexes, includes Annex B, which has been superseded; the reference to Annex B should therefore be deleted. These changes may require consequential amendments. NB: para. 5 of this Resolution: CONFIRMS that its definitions of 'wise use' and 'ecological character' supersede all previous definitions of these terms. |
| Resolution IX.1, Annex A | A Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character | C | Resolution IX.1, Annex A remains valid. |
| Resolution IX.1, Annex B | Revised Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance | R | Resolution XI.8, para. 14, confirm that the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands – 2012 revision</i> , annexed to that Resolution supersedes the Strategic Framework adopted previously. Consequently Resolution IX.1, Annex B, is no longer in effect. |
| Resolution IX.1, Annex C | An Integrated Framework for the Ramsar Convention's water-related guidance | C | Resolution IX.1, Annex C, remains valid. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution IX.1, Annex Ci | River basin management: additional guidance and a framework for the analysis of case studies | A | Resolution X.19, para. 6: <i>CONFIRMS</i> that the “Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management” in the annex to this Resolution updates and wholly supersedes the earlier guidance on this matter adopted as the annex to Resolution VII.18 and as Annex Ci to Resolution IX.1 Recommendation: Until the consolidation is done, probably the best option is to: annotate the title of Annex Ci, to indicate that it has been superseded by the Annex to Resolution X.19; and delete the text of Annex Ci entirely. |
| Resolution IX.1, Annex Cii | Guidelines for the management of groundwater to maintain wetland ecological character | C | Resolution IX.1, Annex Cii, remains valid. |
| Resolution IX.1, Annex D | Ecological “outcome-oriented” indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention | C | Resolution IX.1, Annex D, remains valid. |
| Resolution IX.1, Annex E | An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring (IF-WIAM) | C | Resolution IX.1, Annex E, remains valid. |
| Resolution IX.1, Annex Ei | Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity | C | Resolution IX.1, Annex Ei, remains valid. |
| Resolution IX.2 | Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention | P | Resolution IX.2 has only the purpose of approving actions for the STRP for the periods 2006-2011. It is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |
| Resolution IX.3 | Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water | A | Resolution IX.3 remains valid. However, paras. 19, 20 and 21 are all time-bound, and relate to actions to be taken in relation to events that are now passed. They are therefore defunct and can be repealed. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Resolution IX.4 | The Ramsar Convention and conservation, production and sustainable use of fisheries resources | C | Resolution IX.4 remains valid. |
| Resolution IX.5 | Synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements | P | Resolution IX.5 makes requests to the Secretary General and to Parties regarding cooperation with IGOs and convention Secretariats and regarding streamlining of reporting. Having been adopted in 2005, this may now be considered to have lost its currency and may be repealed. |
| Resolution IX.6 | Guidance for addressing Ramsar sites or parts of sites which no longer meet the Criteria for designation | A | Resolution IX.6 remains valid. However, the first part of para. 14, under “ALSO INSTRUCTS” is time-bound and out of date, and can be repealed. The second part of para. 14 remains valid. |
| Resolution IX.7 | Regional initiatives in the framework of the Ramsar Convention | C | Resolution XIII.9, para. 30, requires the preparation of a draft consolidated resolution on RRI, including Resolutions VIII.30, IX.7, X.6, XI.5 and XII.8. |
| Resolution IX.8 | Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2003-2008 | P | Resolution IX.8 all relates to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for 2003-2008. It is defunct and can be repealed. |
| Resolution IX.9 | The role of the Ramsar Convention in the prevention and mitigation of impacts associated with natural phenomena, including those induced or exacerbated by human activities | A | Resolution IX.9 remains valid. However, the following paragraphs may be considered out of date and suitable for repeal: - paras. 15, 19, 21 and 22, which gives instructions to the Secretariat that may have lost their currency; - para. 18, which relates to support for countries affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004; and - para. 20, which gives instructions to the STRP. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution IX.10 | Use of the term and status of the "Ramsar Secretariat" | P | <p>Resolution IX.10 does two things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - determines that the 'Bureau' referred to in the Convention may be called 'the Ramsar Secretariat'; and - instructs the Secretary General to consult about the legal status of the Secretariat and to report through the Standing Committee at COP10. <p>Regarding the first point, the Ramsar Secretariat is now so called as a standard practice. To enable this to continue, the Resolution does not need to remain in the list of Resolutions to be implemented, but remains on the record.</p> <p>Regarding the second point, this was implemented, leading to the adoption of Resolution X.5 and, later, XI.1.</p> <p>Consequently, Resolution IX.10 is now outdated and can be removed from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations.</p> |
| Resolution IX.11 | Revised modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) | R | Resolution XII.5, para. 15, states that it supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP, which includes Resolution IX.11, listed in paragraph 2 of Resolution XII.5. |
| Resolution IX.12 | Financial and budgetary matters | P | Resolution IX.12 presents the core budget for the period 2008-2012 and related decisions. It is therefore proposed that this Resolution be considered as outdated and that it be repealed. However it remains on the record as an indication of the contributions due for the period covered. |
| Resolution IX.13 | Evaluation of the Ramsar Endowment Fund as a mechanism to resource the Small Grants Fund | P | <p>In Resolution XIII.2, para. 31, the Conference of the Parties agreed to phase out the Small Grants Fund programme upon exhaustion of its current resources.</p> <p>At its 57th meeting (Gland, 2019), in Decision SC57-51, the Standing Committee noted the steps taken to phase out the programme.</p> <p>Consequently, Resolution IX.13, is now outdated and can be removed from the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution IX.14 | Wetlands and poverty reduction | A | <p>Resolution X.28, paras. 8, 10 & 11, call for activities in the context of Resolution IX.14.</p> <p>Resolution IX.14 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 11 contains instructions to the STRP, which are out of date and can be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution IX.15 | The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance | A | <p>Resolution IX.15 remains valid.</p> <p>However, it should be consolidated with other Resolutions on the same subject, potentially including Resolutions VII.11, VIII.8, X.13, XI.4 and XIII.10.</p> <p>Moreover, the following paragraphs may be considered out of date, so that they can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 27 makes recommendations for action to 11 countries, and one recommendation to a group of countries. It is not clear whether these recommendations have been implemented but, as they were adopted in 2005, they may be considered to have lost their currency; - para. 28, requests Parties to use the Ramsar Information Sheet existing at that time, but that was replaced by the version in Resolution XI.8 Annex 1; it also refers to Resolution IX.1, Annex B, which has been superseded; - para. 30 contains an instruction to the Secretariat, which is out of date, and specifies use of Resolution IX.1, Annex B, which has been superseded; this links to a list of countries in the Annex, which can also be repealed. |
| Resolution IX.16 | The Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) | C | Resolution IX.16 remains valid. |
| Resolution IX.17 | Review of the decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties | P | <p>This Resolution initiated a review of the Resolutions and Recommendations of the COP. A thorough document reviewing each Resolution and Recommendation was presented at SC35, with further discussions at SC36 and SC37. At the latter meeting, in Decision SC37-18, the Standing Committee noted “the STRP's planned work in taking this project forward”. However, it appears that no further action was taken to implement Resolution IX.17.</p> <p>A new process was started with the adoption of Resolution XIII.4, which calls on the Secretariat to review all Resolutions and decisions and to report to the Standing Committee.</p> <p>Resolution IX.17 is therefore outdated and has been superseded, and can be excluded from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Resolution IX.18 | Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention | P | Resolution IX.18 instructs the Standing Committee, at SC34, to establish the CEPA Oversight Panel, with related decisions, and the draft Terms of Reference for the Panel. At SC34, in Decision SC34-12, the Standing Committee “approved the establishment of a CEPA Oversight Panel in accordance with the Terms of Reference, membership, and modus operandi outlined in DOC. SC34-11”. Consequently, Resolution IX.18 is defunct and can be repealed. |
| Resolution IX.19 | The importance of regional wetland symposia in effectively implementing the Ramsar Convention | C | Resolution IX.19 is focused on Asian Wetland Symposia, promoting them and using them as a model for other regions. It appears to be still valid. |
| Resolution IX.20 | Integrated, cross-biome planning and management of wetlands, especially in small island developing states | A | Resolution IX.20 remains valid. However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - para. 10, which provides instructions to the STRP in the context of its ongoing work at that time; and - para. 11, which calls for an information paper to CBD COP8 (March, 2006). |
| Resolution IX.21 | Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands | A | Resolution IX.21 remains valid. However, paragraphs 16, 17 and 18, which give instructions to the Secretariat, to culminate in a report for COP10, are out of date and can be repealed. |
| Resolution IX.22 | Ramsar sites and systems of protected areas | A | Resolution IX.22 remains valid in part. However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - paras. 8 and 9, which relate to a new data field to be included in the Ramsar Information Sheet. This is out of date because a new RIS was provided in Resolution XI.8, Annex 1; and - para. 11, which makes a request to the STRP; and - para. 13, which makes a request to the Secretariat related to CBD Decision VII/28. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Resolution IX.23 | Highly pathogenic avian influenza and its consequences for wetland and waterbird conservation and wise use | A | <p>Resolution X.21, para. 12 STRONGLY REAFFIRMS the conclusion of Resolution IX.23</p> <p>Resolution IX.23 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 21, requesting the Secretary General to seek partnerships for funding as soon as possible; - para. 23, requesting input from the STRP; and - para. 24, requesting activities by the Secretariat and the STRP, with a final report at COP10. |
| Resolution IX.24 | Improving management of the Ramsar Convention | A | <p>Resolution IX.24 establishes the Management Working Group and its mandate.</p> <p>Paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 were replaced through the publication of new text in Resolution X.4.</p> <p>The revised version was published with the same number, with the deleted text in appended, but should be renumbered as Resolution IX.24 (Rev. COP10), without the text that was removed by the COP.</p> |
| Resolution IX.25 | Thanks to the host country | P | <p>It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| COP8 (Valencia, 2002) | | | |
| Resolution VIII.1 | Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands | A | <p>Resolutions VIII.2, VIII.14, IX.4, IX.9 and XI.10 all encourage Parties to take into account or apply the guidelines in Resolution VIII.1.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.1 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 19, with an instruction to the STRP, to report at COP9; - para. 20 and 22, with instructions to the Secretariat; it is not sure that these were implemented but as the instruction was adopted 18 years ago, this may be considered to have lost its currency; - para. 21, which is time-bound; and - the final part of para. 24, requiring a report at COP9. |
| Resolution VIII.2 | The Report of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) and its relevance to the Ramsar Convention | A | <p>Resolution VIII.2 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 15 calls on Parties to participate in the UNEP Dams and Development Project, which no longer exists; - para. 16 requests IUCN and others to undertake certain actions and report at COP9; - para. 17 allocates actions to the STRP, to be reported at COP9; - para. 18 allocates a task to STRP, which is no longer on its work plan; - in para. 19, the second part requires information to be provided in the national reports to COP9. |
| Resolution VIII.3 | Climate change and wetlands: impacts, adaptation, and mitigation | R | Resolution X.24, para. 27, states that it “wholly updates and supersedes Resolution VIII.3. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Resolution VIII.4 | Principles and guidelines for incorporating wetland issues into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) | A | <p>Resolution VIII.14, para. 17, urges Parties to implement Resolution VIII.4.</p> <p>Resolution IX.4, para. 30 urges Parties to take “into account the guidance adopted in Resolutions VIII.1 on water allocation, VIII.4 on Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and VIII.32 on mangrove ecosystems”.</p> <p>Resolution XIII.14, para. 12.a, encourages Parties to apply approaches consistent with the principles and guidelines annexed to Resolution VIII.4.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.4 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 15, second part, calls on the STRP to review case studies on integration of wetlands into ICZM; it is not clear whether this was done but it may now be considered out of date or the task should be included in the STRP work plan; - para. 17 calls on Parties to take action and report in their National Reports to COP9; - para. 19 makes a request to the STRP for consideration at COP9; - para. 20 makes a request to the STRP and the Secretariat, and the result was reported at COP9 (resulting in Resolution IX.1, Annex E); and - para. 21 requests the Secretariat to take action and report at COP9. |
| Resolution VIII.5 | Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions | A | <p>There is considerable overlap between Resolutions VII.4, VIII.5, X.11 and XI.6, and they should be consolidated, to place all recommendations on this subject into a single text.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.5 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 15, which calls for actions to implement actions in the Strategic Plan 2003-2008; - para. 23, which directs the STRP to take actions to be reported at COP9; and - para. 24, which directs the Secretariat to take actions, to be reported at COP9. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Resolution VIII.6 | A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory | A | <p>There is a lack of clarity regarding the relationship between the Framework in Resolution VIII.6 and the 'Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring' in Resolution IX.1, Annex E.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.6 remains valid.</p> <p>However, Resolution X.15, para. 5, “CONFIRMS that the summary description and structure of core data fields for wetland inventory included in the annex to this Resolution update and wholly supersede the earlier guidance on this matter adopted as Table 2 in the annex to Resolution VIII.6”.</p> <p>Probably the best solution is to replace Table 2 in Resolution VIII.6 directly with Table 2 under para. 35 of the Annex to Resolution X.15, and to insert a footnote attached to the title, to say “This revised table replaces the original, as stated in Resolution X.15” (or words to that effect).</p> <p>Para. 16 refers to the “priority in the next triennium” and should therefore be updated or repealed.</p> <p>Moreover, paragraphs 21 and 22 call for actions to be undertaken and reported at COP9. These are out of date and can be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VIII.7 | Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring | P | <p>In Resolution VIII.7, most of the operative part is out of date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. requests action by the STRP, culminating in a report at COP9; - paras. 16 to 18 request action by the STRP that is no longer in its work plan; - para. 19 to 21 request action by the Secretariat but, being from 2002, have lost their currency; and - para. 22, urging Parties to make available information on the status of ecological character of wetlands, may also be considered to have lost its currency. <p>Consequently, it is suggested that Resolution VIII.7 may be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution VIII.8 | Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention | A | <p>Resolution VIII.8 remains valid.</p> <p>However, it should be consolidated with other Resolutions on the same subject, potentially including Resolutions VII.11, IX.15, X.13, XI.4 and XIII.10.</p> <p>However, two paragraphs may be out of date and so repealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 16 requests an analysis by STRP for every COP; this is not in the current STRP work plan but if this task is expected to continue, it should presumably be included in the STRP work plan; and - para. 17 requests guidance from the STRP regarding detecting and responding to changes in ecological character; this has presumably been superseded by Resolutions X.15 and X.16. |
| Resolution VIII.9 | 'Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment' adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and their relevance to the Ramsar Convention | A | <p>Resolution VIII.9 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 10 urges Parties to make use of the guidelines in the Annex; however Resolution X.17, para. 9, confirms that the guidelines in the Annex to that document supersede the guidelines adopted as the annex to Resolution VIII.9. - para. 14 requests the STRP and the Secretariat to prepare a report for COP9; - paras. 15, 16 and 18 request actions by the STRP relating to impact assessment; there was apparently no report to COP9; however this was perhaps overtaken by the CBD guidance on "Biodiversity-inclusive Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Impact Assessment" that were welcomed in Resolution X.17; the issue is not in the current STRP work plan; and - the Annex is defunct and has been superseded by the Annex to Resolution X.17, as stated in para. 9 of the latter Resolution. <p>Unfortunately, this means that the title of the Resolution no longer reflects the content.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.10 | Improving implementation of the Strategic Framework and Vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance | A | <p>Resolution VIII.10 remains valid.</p> <p>However, in view of potential duplications and incongruities, this Resolution should be consolidated with others on the same subject, including Resolution VII.11 and Resolution XI.8.</p> <p>The following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed – or amended as appropriate – which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 27 calls on Parties to apply the Strategic Framework annexed to Resolution VII.11; but that has been superseded by Resolution XI.8 Annex 2, so the paragraph should be corrected; - para. 30 is time-bound and has expired; - para. 31 requests Parties to use the RIS in Resolution VIII.13, but this has been superseded by the RIS in Resolution XI.8 Annex 1; - para. 34 requests the Secretariat to contact the Parties listed in the Annex; - para. 35 urges Parties to apply the guidance in Resolution VIII.14, and is therefore duplicative; - para. 41 allocates action to the Standing Committee regarding the Small Grants Fund, which is being terminated; - the Annex lists Parties to be contacted by the Secretariat in accordance with para. 34. |
| Resolution VIII.11 | Additional guidance for identifying and designating under-represented wetland types as Wetlands of International Importance | P | <p>Resolution VIII.11 appears to be no longer valid.</p> <p>There are five operative paragraphs, which all appear to be out of date as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 5 adopts the guidance contained in the Annex, which appears to have been superseded by Resolution XI.8 Annex 2; - para. 6 calls upon Parties to take into account the Framework in Resolution VII.11; but this has been superseded by Resolution XI.8 Annex 2; therefore this paragraph may be repealed; - para. 7 is time-bound and has expired; - para. 8 instructs the Secretariat to incorporate the Annex into the Framework annexed to Resolution VII.11, which has meanwhile been superseded by Resolution XI.8 Annex 2; - para. 9 gives a time-bound instruction to the STRP and has expired. <p>Consequently it appears that Resolution VIII.11 is defunct.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.12 | Enhancing the wise use and conservation of mountain wetlands | A | <p>Resolution VIII.12 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 15, second part, under “Requests”, which calls on the Secretariat to report progress at COP9; NB: if this implies that the first part is only to be implemented under COP9, then that may also be repealed; and - para. 19 is also time-limited, relating to actions before COP9 and as a follow-up to COP8. |
| Resolution VIII.13 | Enhancing the information on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) | P | <p>Resolution VIII.10, para. 31, requests Parties to use the RIS in Resolution VIII.13.</p> <p>All of the instructions in Resolution VIII.13 have been implemented, and all of the recommendations and guidance have been superseded by Resolution XI.8. The Ramsar Information Sheet in the Annex has been superseded by the sheet in the Annex to Resolution XI.8.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.13 is therefore defunct and can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.14 | New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands | A | <p>Resolution VIII.10, para. 32, urges Parties to implement the guidelines in Resolution VIII.14. Resolution IX.4, para. 28, “REQUESTS those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites to incorporate into their management planning processes, in line with Resolution VIII.14 on management planning, measures to maintain the ecological benefits/services of wetlands including sustainable fisheries”.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.14 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - paras. 12 and 15 allocate tasks to the Secretariat, which were implemented; - para. 16 allocates a task to the STRP, which is now out of date and not the STRP work plan (Secretariat to confirm). <p>In addition, para. 14 refers to several Resolutions. Following the present exercise, the Secretariat should confirm that the listed Resolutions remain in effect.</p> |
| Resolution VIII.15 | The 'San José Record' for the promotion of wetland management | A | <p>Resolution VIII.15 remains in effect.</p> <p>However, para. 13, calling for a report to COP9, is defunct and can be repealed.</p> <p>Para. 11, calling on the Secretariat to establish procedures for the establishment and maintenance of the San José Record was not implemented but may also be repealed if it is considered to be out of date.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.16 | Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration | A | <p>Resolution VIII.16 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 22 specifies tasks for the STRP, with a final report to COP9. If further work is to be done, it would be best to include this in the work plan of STRP. This paragraph can then be repealed.</p> <p>Recommendation Consideration should be given to consolidating this with other relevant decisions of the COP, including Recommendations 4.1 and 6.15 and Resolution VII.17, if they remain in effect. At the same time, some parts can updated or eliminated as necessary, such as the instruction to the Secretariat in the second part of para. 21.</p> |
| Resolution VIII.17 | Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands | A | <p>Resolution XIII.13, para. 22, urges Parties to report in their national reports on implementation of Resolution VIII.17.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.17 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 20 regarding funding for that plan; and - para. 21 which calls for a progress report to COP9. <p>Regarding para. 18, which calls on the Secretariat to establish a Coordinating Committee for Global Action on Peatlands, in order to prepare an implementation plan, the Committee met but the plan was not finalised, owing to a lack of support. As there have been a number of subsequent Resolutions relating to peatlands, it might be considered this request is no longer current and can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.18 | Invasive species and wetlands | A | <p>Resolution IX.4, para. 34, urges Parties to take actions “in line with Resolution VIII.18”.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.18 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 17, which relates to the CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2002-2006; - para. 22, calling on the Secretariat to contribute to the CBD assessment of the impact of invasive species on inland waters, which is time-expired; - para. 23 calling on the Secretariat to conduct awareness raising on African invasive species, which may be considered as time-expired; and - para. 24 calling on GISP, IUCN and others to make available web-based information, which may also be considered to have lost its currency. |
| Resolution VIII.19 | Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites | A | <p>Resolution VIII.19 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 17 is out of date, as it calls for action with a report to COP9. It can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VIII.20 | General guidance for interpreting “urgent national interests” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and considering compensation under Article 4.2 | C | <p>Resolution X.26, para. 20, urges Parties “where appropriate, to consider compensation in accordance with ... Resolution VIII.20”.</p> <p>Resolution VIII.20 remains valid.</p> |
| Resolution VIII.21 | Defining Ramsar site boundaries more accurately in Ramsar Information Sheets | R | <p>Resolution VIII.21 contains a number of recommendations and instructions focused on the use of the Ramsar Information Sheet.</p> <p>Resolution XI.8 states, in para. 14, that the attached Information Sheet replaces previous guidance.</p> <p>It therefore appears that Resolution VIII.21 is no longer valid.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.22 | Issues concerning Ramsar sites that cease to fulfil or never fulfilled the Criteria for designation as Wetlands of International Importance | P | Resolution VIII.22 is time-bound. It provides instructions to the Standing Committee to report at COP9. It can therefore be repealed. |
| Resolution VIII.23 | Incentive measures as tools for achieving the wise use of wetlands | A | Resolution VIII.23 remains valid. However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - paras. 11 and 12, which are time-bound instructions to the STRP, calling for a report at COP9; and - para. 13, which calls for funding to support the work of the STRP. |
| Resolution VIII.24 | UNEP's Guidelines for enhancing compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, and Guidelines for national enforcement, and international cooperation in combating violations, of laws implementing multilateral environmental agreements | P | Resolution VIII.24 invites Parties to use the UNEP guidelines specified in the title, adopted by the Governing Council in 2001. A UNEP manual on the subject was published in 2006. The Resolution also calls on the Secretariat to work with the Executive Director of UNEP to include Ramsar Administrative Authorities of developing countries in activities to build capacity in implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. Being adopted in 2002, this Resolution may be considered to have lost its currency. |
| Resolution VIII.25 | The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008 | P | Resolution VIII.25 is entirely time-bound, being about the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008. It is therefore defunct. |
| Resolution VIII.26 | The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 during the triennium 2003-2005 and National Reports for Ramsar COP9 | P | As the title suggests, Resolution VIII.26 contains a series of recommendations and instructions that are time-limited and that have all expired. Paras. 18 and 21 are not specifically time-bound but as they are part of a Resolution focused on activities before COP9, they may be considered to be no longer current. In this case, Resolution VIII.26 may be repealed in its entirety. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.27 | Financial and budgetary matters | P | Resolution VIII.27 presents the core budget for the period 2003-2005 and related decisions. It is therefore proposed that this Resolution be considered as outdated and that it be repealed. However it remains on the record as an indication of the contributions due for the period covered. |
| Resolution VIII.28 | Modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) | R | Resolution XII.5, para. 15, states that it supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP, which includes Resolution VIII.28, listed in paragraph 2 of Resolution XII.5. |
| Resolution VIII.29 | Evaluation of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) and establishment of a Ramsar Endowment Fund | P | <p>Resolution VIII.29 provides further guidance regarding the operation of the Small Grants Fund (SGF) and indicates an agreement to establish “a Ramsar Endowment Fund to resource the SGF”.</p> <p>In Resolution IX.13, para. 8, the Conference of the Parties rescinds its decision to establish a Ramsar Endowment Fund.</p> <p>In Resolution XIII.2, para. 31, the Conference of the Parties agreed to phase out the Small Grants Fund programme upon exhaustion of its current resources.</p> <p>Consequently, Resolution VIII.29 is defunct and can be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VIII.30 | Regional initiatives for the further implementation of the Convention | A | <p>Resolution XIII.9, para. 30, requires the preparation of a draft consolidated resolution on RRI, including Resolutions VIII.30, IX.7, X.6, XI.5 and XII.8.</p> <p>In the meantime, Resolution VIII.30 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - paras. 11, 13 and 14 are time-bound and have expired; - para. 12 is partly time-bound but, in any case, relates to the period 2001-2005, so may be considered as no longer current; - Annex II (referred to in para. 11) is time-bound and has expired. |
| Resolution VIII.31 | The Convention's Programme on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) 2003-2008 | P | <p>Resolution XII.9, in para. 8, confirms that it incorporates the key recommendations from Resolution VIII.31.</p> <p>Consequently Resolution VIII.31 has been superseded and may be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.32 | Conservation, integrated management, and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems and their resources | C | Resolution IX.4, paras. 30 and 33 urge Parties to take into account the guidance in Resolutions VIII.32. Resolution VIII.32 remains valid. |
| Resolution VIII.33 | Guidance for identifying, sustainably managing, and designating temporary pools as Wetlands of International Importance | A | Resolution VIII.33 remains valid. However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - para. 10, which calls for Parties to take action and report at COP9; and - para. 11, with an instruction to the Secretariat, which was implemented. |
| Resolution VIII.34 | Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management | A | Resolution VIII.34 remains valid. However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - para. 25, which allocates work to the STRP, noting that subpara. b) required a report at COP9; - para. 26, which calls for actions to support the work under para. 25; - para. 28, which requests further work of the STRP; if any additional work is required, it would be appropriate to include it in the STRP work plan for the next period; - para. 29, which allocates work to the Secretariat to update the Wise Use Handbooks and to cooperate with the CBD Secretariat; - para. 30, which calls for participation in the “Dialogue on Water, Food and the Environment”, which apparently no longer exists; and - para. 31, which invites Parties and others to contribute information to the “Wise Use Resource Centre maintained by the Ramsar Bureau, to the activities of the River Basin Initiative and to the Dialogue on Water, Food and Environment and future meetings of the World Water Forum”; however, only the last-named still exists and the others should therefore be deleted. |
| Resolution VIII.35 | The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems | A | Resolution VIII.35 remains valid. However, para. 15 calls on Parties to submit information to be considered at COP9. It is therefore out of date and can be repealed. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.36 | Participatory Environmental Management (PEM) as a tool for management and wise use of wetlands | A | Resolution IX.4, para. 37 urges Parties to take into account the provisions of Resolution VII.36, which does not exist. It apparently means Resolution VIII.36. Resolution VIII.36 remains valid. However, paras. 16 and 17 call on the STRP and Parties, respectively, to provide information at COP9. They are thus out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments. |
| Resolution VIII.37 | International cooperation on conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the Asia-Pacific region | P | Resolution VIII.37 contains five operative paragraphs, all related to the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy 2001-2005. It is therefore out of date and can be repealed. |
| Resolution VIII.38 | Waterbird population estimates and the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance | A | Resolution VIII.38 remains valid, although it should be consolidated with other Resolutions on overlapping subjects. However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - para. 13 calls for actions related to the designation of Ramsar sites in triennium 2003-2005; it refers to the 1% threshold but this is now captured in the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> in Resolution XI.8 Annex 2; - paras. 14 and 15 call for actions in relation to implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008; and - para. 16 calls for the Waterbird Population Estimates Third Edition to be made widely available; this was done and further editions have been published. |
| Resolution VIII.39 | High Andean wetlands as strategic ecosystems | A | Resolution VIII.39 remains valid. However, paras. 15 and 16, call on the Secretariat to implement specific actions; this was done and these paragraphs can be repealed. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.40 | Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands | A | <p>Resolution VIII.40 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 15, third part, under 'PROPOSES', which calls for action by the STRP for consideration at COP9; and - para. 19, which relates to action in line with the Strategic Plan 2003-2008. |
| Resolution VIII.41 | Establishment of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia | C | Resolution VIII.41 remains valid. |
| Resolution VIII.42 | Small Island Developing States in the Oceania Region | A | <p>Resolution VIII.42 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 15 calls on the Secretariat to work with SPREP to implement their Joint Work Plan; it appears that this does not exist; - para. 16, which calls for action by the Secretariat by COP9; - para. 17, which calls on the Secretariat to provide the accession kit to countries in Oceania; and - para. 19, which refers to a regionally-based Ramsar Coordinator in Oceania, a position that does not currently exist. |
| Resolution VIII.43 | A subregional strategy of the Ramsar Convention for South America | C | Resolution VIII.43 remains valid. |
| Resolution VIII.44 | New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Africa | C | Resolution VIII.44 appears to remain valid. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VIII.45 | Operation of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and the effectiveness of Ramsar Convention Resolutions and Recommendations | P | Resolution VIII.45 contains recommendations and instructions dealing with the effectiveness of the Convention, the review of Resolutions and Recommendations, the Rules of Procedure of the COP, the drafting of Resolutions and the role of the Standing Committee, and related issues. These recommendations are now out of date as there have been significant developments in all areas in the 18 years since the Resolution was adopted and it can no longer be considered as current. It is therefore recommended that Resolution VIII.45 be repealed. |
| Resolution VIII.46 | Thanks to the people and governments of Spain | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |
| COP7 (San José, 1999) | | | |
| Resolution VII.1 | Regional categorization of countries under the Convention, and composition, roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee, including tasks of Standing Committee members | R | Resolution XI.19, in para. 8, confirms that it supersedes Resolution VII.1, “which is retired”. |
| Resolution VII.2 | Composition and modus operandi of the Convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) | R | Resolution XII.5, in para. 15, states that it supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP, which includes Resolution VII.2, listed in paragraph 2 of Resolution XII.5. |
| Resolution VII.3 | Partnerships with international organizations | C | Resolution IX.16, in para. 5, “REAFFIRMS the rules established in the Annex to Resolution VII.3 for conferring the status of International Organization Partner... “ Resolution VII.3 remains valid. |

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| Resolution VII.4 | Partnerships and cooperation with other Conventions, including harmonized information management infrastructures | A | <p>There is considerable overlap between Resolutions VII.4, VIII.5, X.11 and XI.6 and it would be appropriate to consolidate them, to place all recommendations on this subject into a single text.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Resolution VII.4 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 10, which endorses the Joint Work Plan with CBD for 1998-1999; - para. 11, which is an extension of para. 10; - para. 15 is time-bound, calling for a report at COP8, and has expired; and - paras. 16 & 17 allocate tasks to the Secretariat on implementation of recommendations from WCMC on harmonizing information management, and is now out of date. <p>Annex I, is time-bound and has expired, and should also be repealed.</p> <p>Para. 12 remains valid but now appears out of place with the disappearance of the paras. relating to CBD.</p> <p>Para. 13 has expired because it specifies the priority for the Secretariat “for the next triennium”, i.e. 1999-2002. However, this is the only paragraph that mentions Annex II, the 'Memorandum of Cooperation with the Convention to Combat Desertification', and Annex III, the Memorandum of Understanding between UNESCO, as represented by the World Heritage Centre, and the Bureau (Secretariat) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. These two memoranda remain in effect. Moreover: this paragraph calls on the Secretariat to develop a Memorandum of Cooperation with the UNFCCC, which has not been done; and the paragraph refers to cooperation with the Convention on Migratory Species, and a Memorandum of Cooperation with that Convention was signed in 2002. It is therefore proposed that para. 13 be amended as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Marked-up version (additions underlined, deletions crossed-out)</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i><u>ENDORSES REQUESTS</u> the Ramsar Bureau to give priority in its programme of work for the next triennium, as resources allow, to the development of joint actions with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the implementation of the Memoranda of Cooperation signed with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the World Heritage Centre (WHC), as appended in Annexes I and II and III respectively, and REQUESTS the Secretariat to develop the development</i></p> |
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| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| | | | <p><i>of a Memorandum of Cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</i></p> <p>Clean version <i>ENDORSES the Memoranda of Cooperation signed with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the World Heritage Centre (WHC), as appended in Annexes I and II respectively, and REQUESTS the Secretariat to develop a Memorandum of Cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).</i> Annexes II and III would then be renumbered as I and II respectively.</p> |
| Resolution VII.5 | Critical evaluation of the Convention's Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) and its future operations | P | This Resolution relates to the evaluation and operation of the Small Grants Fund. In Resolution XIII.2, para. 31, the Conference of the Parties agreed to phase out the Small Grants Fund programme upon exhaustion of its current resources. Consequently, Resolution VII.5 is now defunct and can be repealed. |
| Resolution VII.6 | Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies | C | <p>Resolution IX.4, para. 24, urges Parties to review their policy frameworks and institutional arrangements, in line with Resolutions VII.6.</p> <p>Resolution VII.6 remains valid.</p> <p>Recommendation However, para. 12 refers to several Resolutions and needs to be updated to take into account any repeals following the present exercise.</p> |
| Resolution VII.7 | Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands | C | <p>Resolution VII.6, para. 10, Resolution VII.17, para. 13, Resolution IX.4, para. 24, and Resolution X.26, para. 19, call on Parties to apply or take into account the guidance adopted in Resolution VII.7.</p> <p>Resolution VII.7 remains valid.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Resolution VII.8 | Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands | A | <p>Resolution VII.16, para. 12, Resolution VIII.2 and Resolution X.26, para. 19, call on Parties to use or take into account the guidelines in Resolution VII.8.</p> <p>Resolution XII.9, para. 10, states that it incorporates advice on participation provided in Resolutions VII.8. It is not clear whether this is intended to mean that Resolution XII.9 replaces Resolution VII.8. However, Resolution XII.9 certainly does not provide all of the advice contained in Resolution VII.8.</p> <p>It appears that Resolution VII.8 remains valid.</p> <p>However, paras. 24 and 25 are time-bound, requiring actions for COP8 and COP9 and should therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VII.9 | The Convention's Outreach Programme, 1999-2002 | P | <p>Resolution VII.6 encourages Parties to take account of the Convention's Outreach Programme in Resolution VII.9.</p> <p>Resolution XII.9, in para. 8, confirms that it incorporates the key recommendations from Resolution VII.9.</p> <p>Consequently Resolution VII.9 has been superseded and may be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VII.10 | Wetland Risk Assessment Framework | A | <p>Resolution VII.16, para. 13, Resolution VIII.3, para. 17, Resolution VIII.10, para. 39, Resolution VIII.18, para. 15, Resolution X.13, para. 19, and Resolution XIII.10, para. 17, all in different ways call on Parties to take account of the Framework in Resolution VII.10.</p> <p>Resolution VII.10 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 11, which provides definitions of 'ecological character' and 'change in ecological character', which have been superseded by definitions in Resolution IX.1 Annex A; - para. 14, which 'encourages' the STRP to provide a report; Standing Committee document DOC. SC35-12 states that although the STRP did not provide a report, it completed the task in other ways. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution VII.11 | Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance | R | <p>Resolutions VIII.4, para. 18 and VIII.10, para. 27 call on Parties to apply the framework in Resolution VII.11. Resolution X.22, para. 21, refers to Resolution VII.11 “as amended”.</p> <p>Resolution XI.8, para. 14, states that the <i>Ramsar Site Information Sheet (RIS) – 2012 revision</i> and the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands - 2012 revision</i> annexed to that Resolution “supersede and replace the previously adopted <i>Strategic Framework</i>, RIS and other associated guidance for completing the RIS”.</p> <p>Resolution VII.11 is therefore no longer in effect.</p> |
| Resolution VII.12 | Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance: official descriptions, conservation status, and management plans, including the situation of particular sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties | P | <p>Resolution VII.12 was adopted in 1999, and is about the status of Ramsar sites and of information submitted at that time. It may be considered to have lost its currency in its entirety and could be repealed, in particular as there is generally an updated Resolution on this subject at each COP. In consequence they should be time-bound and the previous Resolution/s on this subject may be repealed at each COP.</p> <p>The decision to rename the “Management Guidance Procedure” as “Ramsar Advisory Mission” nonetheless remains on the record to explain the use of this term.</p> |
| Resolution VII.12.1 | Greek Ramsar Sites | P | <p>Resolution VII.12.1 records appreciation of efforts by Greece and provides further encouragement.</p> <p>It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing appreciation. Resolution VII.12.1 could therefore be repealed but remains on the record in perpetuity.</p> |
| Resolution VII.13 | Guidelines for identifying and designating karst and other subterranean hydrological systems as Wetlands of International Importance | R | <p>Resolution VII.13 is defunct. It has been superseded by Resolution XI.8, and the Guidelines in Resolution VII.13 have been superseded by Appendix E of Resolution XI.8 Annex 2 (Rev.COP13).</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Resolution VII.14 | Invasive species and wetlands | A | <p>Resolution VII.14 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs were implemented, are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 16 directs activities to the STRP, no longer part of its work programme; - para. 17, calls for funding for work by the STRP and the Secretariat. |
| Resolution VII.15 | Incentive measures to encourage the application of the wise use principle | A | <p>Resolution VII.6 and Resolution VII. 17, para. 13, call on Parties to take account of Resolution VII.15.</p> <p>Resolution VII.15 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 15 allocating a task to the STRP and the Secretariat, is outdated; Standing Committee document Doc. SC35-12 notes that the conclusions were presented at COP8; and - para. 16 is time-bound, requiring a report at COP8. |
| Resolution VII.16 | The Ramsar Convention and impact assessment: strategic, environmental and social | A | <p>Resolution VII.6, Resolution VII.17, para. 13, Resolution VIII.3 and Resolution X.25, para. 15, all call on Parties to take account of Resolution VII.16 in various ways.</p> <p>Resolution VII.16 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 16, which allocates a task to the STRP is outdated and could be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VII.17 | Restoration as an element of national planning for wetland conservation and wise use | A | <p>Resolution VII.17 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 15, which is time-bound, calling for reports to COP8; and - para. 16, which calls on the Secretariat to develop guidelines, which were provided in Resolution VIII.16. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Resolution VII.18 | Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management | R | <p>Resolution VII.16, para. 14, Resolution VIII.2, para. 11, and Resolution VIII.14, para. 17, call on Parties to take account of Resolution VII.18 in different ways.</p> <p>Resolution X.19, para. 6, confirms that the “Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management” in its annex wholly supersedes the earlier guidance adopted as the annex to Resolution VII.18 and as Annex Ci to Resolution IX.1</p> <p>Resolution XII.12, para. 12, refers to Resolution VII.18, and has a footnote stating “Replaced by Resolution X.19 as the guidance in the annex wholly supersedes VII.18”. This indicates that Resolution VII.18 is defunct and should be excluded from the list of Resolutions and Recommendations in effect.</p> |
| Resolution VII.19 | Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention | A | <p>Resolution VII.6, paras. 12 and 13, Resolution VII.7, para. 9, Resolution VII.16, para. 14, Resolution VII.20, para. 14, Resolution VIII.10, para. 29, and Resolution XIII.7, para. 30, call on Parties to take account of, or implement, the Guidelines in Resolution VII.19.</p> <p>Resolution VII.19 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 13, calls for contributions to the Small Grants Fund, which is being phased out. This paragraph should therefore be repealed.</p> <p>In addition, para. 14, calls for the Secretariat to disseminate model codes of conduct for 'the business sector'. This might be considered out of date following the adoption of the <i>Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector</i>, in Resolution X.12. In this case, para. 14 can be repealed.</p> <p>The repeal of these two paragraphs may require consequential amendments.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Resolution VII.20 | Priorities for wetland inventory | A | <p>Resolution VII.17, para. 11, and Resolution VII.22, para. 7, call on Parties to take into account Resolution VII.20.</p> <p>Resolution VII.20 remains valid in part.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 11 specifies 'the highest priority in the next triennium', and is more-or-less repeated in Resolution VIII.6. para. 16; - para. 13 has in effect been superseded by the Annex to Resolution VIII.6; - para. 14 encourages Parties to take into account Resolution VII.19 and is therefore redundant; - para. 15 is time bound, calling for a report to COP8; - para. 17 calls for funding for Wetlands International to develop protocols for handling wetland inventory information, and to update the information, and is out of date; - para. 18 is repeated in Resolution VIII.6, para. 24; - para. 19 relates to projects submitted to the Small Grants Fund, which is being phased out. |
| Resolution VII.21 | Enhancing the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands | A | <p>Resolution IX.4, para 32, urges Parties to take certain actions "in line with Resolution VII.21"</p> <p>Resolution VII.21 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 13 calls on Parties to take certain actions and report the results at COP8; and - para. 14 urges Parties to take actions "as encouraged by Resolution VII.11", which is no longer in effect. |
| Resolution VII.22 | Collaborative structure for Mediterranean wetlands | A | <p>Resolution VII.22 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 8, regarding a MedWet Team established by the Secretary General is out of date and can be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VII.23 | Issues concerning the boundary definitions of Ramsar sites and compensation of wetland habitats | A | <p>All of the recommendations or operative parts of Resolution VII.23 are time-bound, relating to considerations at COP8 or to Standing Committee considerations before 30 September 1999. Resolution VII.23 is therefore defunct and can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution VII.24 | Compensation for lost wetland habitats and other functions | A | Resolution X.26, para. 20, urges Parties “where appropriate, to consider compensation in accordance with ... Resolution VII.24”. Resolution VII.24 remains valid. However, para. 13 is time-bound, specifying work to be submitted for approval at COP8. It is therefore outdated and can be repealed. |
| Resolution VII.25 | Measuring environmental quality in wetlands | A | Resolution VII.25 remains valid. However, para. 7 specifies a task for the STRP and is outdated as it is no longer in the STRP programme of work. It can therefore be repealed. |
| Resolution VII.26 | Creation of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere | P | Resolution VII.26 remains valid However, the following paragraphs are time-bound and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments: - paragraph 3 ALSO RECOGNIZING that research, training and the creation of mechanisms for cooperation and coordination are a priority in the Western Hemisphere in order to fulfil the objectives of the Strategic Plan in force. - paragraph 8 EXPRESSES ITS APPROVAL of the initiative of the Government of Panama offering to establish a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere within the activities at the site of Republic of Panama. - paragraph 9 ENCOURAGES the Government of Panama to continue the process of planning for and operation the Centre, with the participation of the Ramsar Contracting Parties in the Western Hemisphere and interested organizations through permanent mechanisms of consultation; |
| Resolution VII.27 | The Convention Work Plan 2000-2002 | P | The operative part of Resolution VII.27 is focused on approving and implementing the Convention Work Plan 2000-2002, and tasks to be completed by COP8. Paragraphs 15, 17, 19 and 20 are not obviously time-bound but are outdated and in some cases echo other decisions of the COP. It is therefore recommended that Resolution VII.27 be repealed in its entirety. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution VII.28 | Financial and budgetary matters | P | Resolution VII.28 presents the core budget for the period 2000-2002 and related decisions. It is therefore proposed that this Resolution be considered as outdated and that it be repealed. However it remains on the record as an indication of the contributions due for the period covered. |
| Resolution VII.29 | Thanks to the host country | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations to be implemented. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |
| Resolution VII.30 | Status of Yugoslavia in the Ramsar Convention | P | This Resolution calls on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to submit instruments of succession to the Convention, following the dissolution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in 1992. Bosnia and Herzegovina became a Party in 1992. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia dissolved with the creation of Serbia and Montenegro as a single State. Serbia and Montenegro became independent States in 2006. Serbia became a Party to the Convention in 1992, and Montenegro in 2006. Resolution VII.30 is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |
| Recommendation 7.1 | A global action plan for the wise use and management of peatlands | P | Resolution VIII.17 and its annexed <i>Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands</i> supersede Recommendation 7.1 and its annexed <i>Draft Global Action Plan for the Wise Use and Management of Peatlands</i> . Recommendation 7.1 is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |
| Recommendation 7.2 | Small Island Developing States, island wetland ecosystems, and the Ramsar Convention | A | Recommendation 7.1 remains valid. However, para. 14, lists 26 countries that are encouraged to accede, 13 of which have done so. This paragraph therefore needs to be updated. Also, para. 16 requests action by the Standing Committee, which was implemented at SC24 and SC25. The paragraph is therefore out of date and can be repealed. As a consequence, para. 17 would need to be amended; for example the words "FURTHER REQUESTS, in response to the above review of the Barbados Programme of Action by the Standing Committee" could be replaced by the word "REQUESTS". |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Recommendation 7.3 | Multilateral cooperation on the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Asia-Pacific region | A | <p>Recommendation 7.3 appears to remain partly valid.</p> <p>Para. 14 first part is outdated in calling for support of the <i>Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy 1996-2000</i>, and may be repealed. The second part remains valid.</p> <p>Para. 15 and 16 are imprecise but appear to promote the Strategy '1996-2000', in which case they are outdated and may be repealed.</p> <p>The remaining text could be consolidated with Recommendation 6.4 and Resolution VIII.37.</p> |
| Recommendation 7.4 | The Wetlands for the Future Initiative | P | <p>While acknowledging the existence of the Wetlands for the Future Initiative, the operative part of Recommendation 7.4, merely urges Parties and organizations to initiate and support similar programmes in other parts of the world. As this was adopted in 1999, it may have lost its currency and is proposed to be removed from the list of Resolutions and Recommendations to be implemented.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| COP6 (Brisbane, 1996) | | | |
| Resolution VI.1 | Working definitions of ecological character, guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed sites, and guidelines for operation of the Montreux Record | A | <p>Resolution VIII.10, para. 39, Resolution X.13, para. 19, and Resolution XIII.10, para. 17, refer to Resolution VI.1 for an example of an assessment & monitoring regime. Resolution VII.10, para. 11, refers to the definitions in Resolution VI.1, and provides definitions of 'ecological character' and 'change in ecological character'.</p> <p>Resolution VI.1 remains valid in part.</p> <p>It has four operational paragraphs and an Annex.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 9, and section 1 of the Annex (in definitions) establish the definitions of 'ecological character' and 'change in ecological character'. These have been superseded, most recently by Resolution IX.1 Annex A, and should be repealed. - para. 9, also accepts the annexed 'guidelines for describing and maintaining ecological character' (section 2.1 – 2.8 of the Annex). It appears that these have been superseded by Resolution X.16 Annex and should be repealed. - para. 10 calls on Parties to implement the annexed procedure for the operation of the Montreux Record (section 3 of the Annex). This is still in effect except for the Montreux Record Questionnaire, which has apparently been superseded by the Questionnaire in Annex 1 to Resolution XIII.10. The latter does not specify this but, as the most recent decision on this subject, it is presumed to be the decision in effect. - para. 11 (on early warning systems) has been effectively superseded by Resolution VII.10 (para. 13 & Annex) and could be repealed. - para. 12 is time-bound and has expired, and should be repealed. <p>Regarding the Annex:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - re sections 1 and 2.1-2.8: see above re para. 9 - these can be repealed; - section 2.9 (on the RIS) has been superseded by Resolution XI.8 Annex 1, and can be repealed; - re section 2.10: Standing Committee document Doc. SC35-12 makes the point that this text is reproduced almost in its entirety in Resolution IX.1 Annex E. "There are one or two sentences of the VI.1 Annex (in paras 2.10.2-3) that may not appear elsewhere (on monitoring not needing to be sophisticated), but which would be an insignificant loss if this were retired". |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution VI.2 | Adoption of specific criteria based on fish for identifying Wetlands of International Importance | P | Resolution VI.2 has been superseded by Resolution XI.8 Annex 2, and can therefore be repealed. |
| Resolution VI.3 | Review of the Ramsar Criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance and the accompanying guidelines | P | Resolution VI.3 is a time-bound mandate for STRP to revise the criteria and guidelines for identifying wetlands of international importance. This was done and the Resolution can be repealed. |
| Resolution VI.4 | Adoption of population estimates for operation of the specific criteria based on waterfowl | A | <p>Resolution VI.4 remains valid in part.</p> <p>Paragraph 8 is time-bound, requiring a report to be presented at COP7. This can be repealed. However, this requires a consequential amendment to para. 9, to explain 1% thresholds, as referred to in para. 8.</p> <p>Para. 10 has effectively been superseded by Resolution XI.8 Annex 2, which specifies the criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance.</p> <p>It would be appropriate to consolidate the remaining text with Resolution XI.8 Annex 2 during the consolidation process.</p> |
| Resolution VI.5 | Inclusion of subterranean karst wetlands as a wetland type under the Ramsar Classification System | A | <p>Resolution VI.5 decides on the inclusion of karts and cave hydrological systems in the Ramsar wetland classification system, and urges Parties to consider their designation,</p> <p>This is effectively superseded by the criteria and guidelines in Resolution XI.8 Annex 2, <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) – 2012 revision</i>, which incorporates consideration of karst and other subterranean hydrological systems. Resolution VI.5 can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VI.6 | The Wetland Conservation Fund | P | <p>In Resolution VI.6, the Conference of the Parties decides to rename the 'Wetland Conservation Fund' as the 'Small Grants Fund', and provides recommendations for its operation.</p> <p>In Resolution XIII.2, para. 31, the Conference of the Parties agreed to phase out the Small Grants Fund programme upon exhaustion of its current resources.</p> <p>Consequently, Resolution VI.6 is now defunct and can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Resolution VI.7 | The Scientific and Technical Review Panel | R | Resolution VII.2, para. 7, states that it repeals Resolution VI.7. |
| Resolution VI.8 | Secretary General matters | P | Resolution VI.8 expresses appreciation to all concerned in relation to the change of Secretary General in 1995. This is now outdated and can be excluded from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations to be implemented. |
| Resolution VI.9 | Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity | A | Resolution VI.9 has effectively been superseded or updated by subsequent decisions of the COP, including Resolutions VII.4, VIII.5, IX.5, X.11 and XI.6 and it would be appropriate to consolidate it with those Resolutions. In the meantime, it remains valid. However, paras. 11, 12 and 14 are outdated and could be repealed. |
| Resolution VI.10 | Cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies: the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP | A | It would be appropriate to consolidate Resolution VI.10 with others that touch the same subject, notably Resolutions VII.4, VIII.5 and X.11. In the meantime it remains valid. However, para. 11 calls for implementation of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002, so should be updated or repealed. |
| Resolution VI.11 | Consolidation of Recommendations and Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties | P | Resolution VI.11 records the 1996 decision of the COP to conduct a consolidation of Resolutions and Recommendations, and provides the mandate. The result was reported at COP7. Moreover it has been superseded by similar decisions for review and consolidation of Resolutions and Recommendations in Resolutions IX.17 and XIII.4. Resolution VI.11 is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |
| Resolution VI.12 | National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing | C | Resolution VI.2 has only two short operative paragraphs. Their substance overlaps with the substance of subsequent decisions (including Resolutions VII.20, para. 11, VIII.6, para. 16 and potentially XI.8). It seems appropriate to consolidate the text with the later Resolutions. In the meantime, Resolution VI.12 remains valid. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Resolution VI.13 | Submission of information on sites designated for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance | A | <p>Resolution VIII.8, para. 15, recognizes that “reporting under Article 3.2 of the Convention does not substitute for the requirement as adopted by Resolution VI.13 for Contracting Parties to provide a fully updated Ramsar Information Sheet for each of their designated Ramsar sites at intervals of not more than six years”.</p> <p>Resolution VI.13 appears to be valid in part.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 7: first part calls for submission of maps and RISs by 31 December 1997 and is defunct; second part calls for updated information every six years, which is repeated in Resolution XI.8 Annex 2, section 8, so is redundant; and - para. 8 calls on Parties: to “fulfil Article 3.2”, which is already an obligation; and “to fulfil ... Resolution 5.3” which is thus a repetition, and may thus be considered redundant. <p>These two paragraphs could therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VI.14 | The Ramsar 25th Anniversary Statement, the Strategic Plan 1997-2002, and the Bureau Work Programme 1997-1999 | P | <p>Resolution has four brief operative paragraphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 12 adopts the “Ramsar 25th Anniversary Statement”, which is not annexed to the Resolution; it may be considered to have lost its currency, in which case it can be repealed; - para. 13 approves the Strategic plan 1997-2002 and is therefore defunct; - para. 14 records the decision to rename the Ramsar “Monitoring Procedure” as the “Ramsar Management Guidance Procedure”; this has been superseded by Resolution VII.12, para 39, (which changed the name again) and is therefore defunct. <p>It is therefore proposed that Resolution VI.4 be repealed in its entirety.</p> |
| Resolution VI.15 | Amendment of the Rules of Procedure as of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties | P | <p>Resolution VI.15 contains various amendments to the Rules of Procedure. It is not clear why these were contained in a Resolution.</p> <p>The text of the Convention, in Article 6, para. 4, states that “The Conference of the Contracting Parties shall adopt rules of procedure for each of its meetings.” This is therefore an obligation. Rules must be adopted at each meeting of the COP and no Resolution is needed for this purpose.</p> <p>Resolution VI.15 is defunct and can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|---|
| Resolution VI.16 | Accession procedures | P | <p>In para. 5 of Resolution VI.16, the Conference of the Parties 'decides' that, notwithstanding Resolution 4.5, the boundaries of each listed wetland, together with a map, shall be provided at the time of a State adhering to the Convention. However, this requirement is not contained in the text of the Convention.</p> <p>The ratification and accession protocol is set out in Article 9.3 and the requirement re designation is set out in Article 2.4. Contracting Parties CPs are bound by the text of the Convention, which is a source of international law and which states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in Article 2.4, that: "Each Contracting Party shall designate at least one wetland to be included in the List when signing this Convention or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession, as provided in Article 9"; and - in Article 9.3, that: "Ratification or accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of ratification or accession with" the Depository. <p>The competences of the Conference of the Parties are listed in Article 6, and do not include a power to add requirements for signature, ratification or accession. It therefore appears that the decision in para. 5 of Resolution VI.16 may have been beyond the competence of the Conference of the Parties.</p> <p>Moreover, as already said in document Doc. SC35-12, it appears that the decision in para. 5 of Resolution VI.16 is inconsistent with Resolution 4.5, which 'recommends' that a State be considered as having met the requirements to be considered a Party if it designates a wetland for the List of Wetlands at the time of adhesion.</p> <p>Further regarding the operative part of Resolution VI.16:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - in para. 6, the Conference decides that, for subsequently designated wetlands, a description of boundaries and a map are also required; and para. 7 invites Parties to provide an information sheet for each designated wetland. These paragraphs are effectively superseded by Resolution XI.8, and the Information Sheet in its Annex 1; - para. 8 invites Parties and non-party States to consult informally with the Secretariat in case of need. This is now standard practice. <p>It appears that Resolution VI.16 is defunct and can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution VI.17 | Financial and budgetary matters | A | <p>In Resolution XIII.2, para. 12, the COP “<i>DECIDES that the Subgroup on Finance will be continued and operate under the aegis of the Standing Committee and with the roles and responsibilities specified in Resolution VI.17 on Financial and budgetary matters</i>” thus requiring this Resolution to remain valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - paras. 6, 7, 8 and 9, together with Annexes I and II, are time-bound and have expired; - para. 10 has in effect been superseded by subsequent decisions on financial and budgetary matters, most recently Resolution XIII.2, paras. 33 & 34; and - para. 11.a, has been superseded by Resolution XIII.2, as stated in para. 38 of the latter. <p>Recommendation It is recommended that, in future, the roles and responsibilities for the Subgroup on Finance be annexed to the latest Resolution on financial and budgetary matters, in order to avoid having multiple current Resolutions on the same subject.</p> |
| Resolution VI.18 | Establishment of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award | A | <p>Resolution VI.18 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 5 is time-bound and has expired. It can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VI.19 | Education and public awareness | P | <p>Resolution VI.19 affirms that a programme on education and public awareness should be organized, foresees a role for Wetlands International and other “networks operated by the partners” and urges support for the initiative.</p> <p>In the meantime, the CEPA programme was created and elaborated, most recently in Resolution XII.9. Decisions on further support and development are provided in Resolution XIII.5.</p> <p>As a result, Resolution VI.19 is out of date and can be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VI.20 | Thanks to the people and governments of Australia | P | <p>It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution VI.21 | Assessment and reporting on the status of wetlands | P | <p>Resolution VI.21 has two operative paragraphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 2 is time-bound, requesting action in the following triennium (1997-2002). It has expired and may therefore be repealed; and - para. 3 seeks to develop ways for community groups and local NGOs can assist in achieving the mission of the Convention. It is effectively superseded by the <i>Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous peoples' participation in the management of wetlands</i> in Resolution VII.8. <p>Consequently Resolution VI.21 may be considered as defunct.</p> |
| Resolution VI.22 | Consideration of overall cost reduction and in particular of possible relocation of the Ramsar Bureau and its operations | P | <p>Resolution VI.22 directed the Standing Committee to conduct various tasks related to analysis of costs and the location of the Secretariat.</p> <p>This was done and the Resolution is now defunct and can be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution VI.23 | Ramsar and water | A | <p>Resolution VII.18, para. 12, calls on Parties to implement Resolution VI.23.</p> <p>Resolution VI.23 remains valid in part.</p> <p>However, para. 6, regarding the membership and activities of the STRP has been superseded by subsequent decisions, most recently Resolution XII.5, which sets out the new <i>modus operandi</i> and responsibilities of the STRP; that paragraph may therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.1 | Conservation of peatlands | A | <p>Recommendation 6.1 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 9 has been repealed by para. 8 of Recommendation 7.1 and could be repealed.</p> <p>Moreover there are now several Resolutions and Recommendations relating to conservation and wise use of peatlands, which would benefit from being consolidated.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.2 | Environmental Impact Assessment | P | <p>Recommendation 6.2 appears to have lost its currency, and has been mostly superseded in its effect by subsequent Resolutions on this subject, notably Resolutions VII.16, VIII.9 and X.17.</p> <p>However, if it is considered that some parts remain valid, paragraph 7 can nonetheless be repealed as it is time-bound and has expired.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 6.3 | Involving local and indigenous people in the management of Ramsar wetlands | A | <p>An analysis will probably show that Recommendation 6.3 is outdated and has been overtaken by more recent Resolutions on this subject, notably Resolutions VII.8 and XIII.15.</p> <p>While it remains valid, - para. 13 is time-bound, calling for a report at COP7, and can be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.4 | The “Brisbane Initiative” on the establishment of a network of listed sites along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway | C | <p>Recommendation 6.4 appears to remain valid. It could be consolidated with Recommendation 7.3 and Resolution VIII.37.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.5 | Establishment of further wetland manager training programmes | P | <p>Recommendation 6.5 contains several provisions to promote training of wetland managers, and one provision regarding use of the Small Grants Fund.</p> <p>Regarding training, the Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness, in Resolution XII.9, provides more recent and comprehensive guidance from the Conference of the Parties and may be considered as superseding Recommendation 6.5 (and other earlier decisions).</p> <p>Regarding the Small Grants Fund, this is being phased out, as decided in Resolution XIII.2.</p> <p>Consequently, Recommendation 6.5 may be considered as defunct.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.6 | Appointment of regionally-based Ramsar liaison officers | P | <p>Recommendation 6.6 provides direction for Parties, the Standing Committee and the Secretariat regarding establishment and maintenance of regionally-based Ramsar Liaison Officers. In the 24 years since this was adopted, much has changed; there are currently no such officers and the Management Working Group has responsibility to advise the COP on the operation of the Secretariat.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.6 may be considered outdated and removed from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations to be implemented.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Recommendation 6.7 | Conservation and wise use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems | P | <p>Recommendation 6.7 appears to have lost its currency:</p> <p>The first operative paragraph urges Parties to designate suitable coral reefs as Ramsar sites. Meanwhile, through Resolution XI.8 Annex 2, coral reefs are now integrated into the <i>Strategic Framework and Guidelines for the Future Development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance ... 2012 revision</i>.</p> <p>The remaining four paragraphs are all requests to the Secretariat, or the Secretariat and the STRP. One (para. 12) is time-bound, relating to implementation of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002. And all touch on issues for which there are more recent decisions of the COP (fostering wise use, encouraging accession, cooperation with UNEP).</p> <p>It is therefore proposed that Recommendation 6.7 be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.8 | Strategic planning in coastal zones | P | <p>Recommendation 6.8 has been effectively superseded by Resolution VIII.4 in which the COP urges Parties to implement the <i>Principles and guidelines for incorporating wetland issues into Integrated Coastal Zone Management</i>, annexed to that Resolution.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.8 can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.9 | Framework for National Wetland Policy development and implementation | P | <p>As stated in Standing Committee document DOC. SC35-12, Recommendation 6.9 “entirely concerns the brief for work which was subsequently delivered as Res VII.6 and its Annex, so the Recommendation can therefore be retired.”</p> <p>Recommendation 6.9 can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.10 | Promotion of cooperation on the economic valuation of wetlands | C | Recommendation 6.10 remains valid. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 6.11 | Continuing collaboration for Mediterranean wetlands | A | <p>Recommendation 6.11 is mostly outdated.</p> <p>Paragraph 12 is time bound, requiring a report at COP7, and is therefore defunct.</p> <p>Standing Committee document DOC. SC35-12, "The remaining operative paras, with one exception, have been superseded either by events or mainly by Res VII.22 and could also be retired."</p> <p>The paragraph that remains valid is para. 13, which calls on Parties in the Mediterranean to designate Ramsar sites that meet the criteria, although this might be considered to have lost its currency.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.12 | Conservation and wise use in private and public funded activities | C | Recommendation 6.12 remains valid. |
| Recommendation 6.13 | Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands | P | <p>As stated in Standing Committee document DOC. SC35-12,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 9 is time-bound, requiring a report at COP7 and can be repealed; - "the other operative parts of the Recommendation, namely the two lines of paras 7-8 which encourage management planning, could be regarded as taken over and further developed by Resolutions VII.12 (especially para 19) and VIII.14, and hence the whole Recommendation could be retired." <p>Recommendation 6.13 may therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.14 | Toxic chemicals | A | <p>Recommendation 6.14 remains valid.</p> <p>However, para. 8, requesting the STRP to report at COP7, has expired and can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Recommendation 6.15 | Restoration of wetlands | A | <p>Aspects of Recommendation 6.15 are subsumed in Resolutions VII.17 and VIII.16. Therefore a consolidation would be appropriate.</p> <p>Meanwhile, Recommendation 6.15 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 9, which allocates a task to the STRP, with a report to the Standing Committee, so that this is no longer current; and - para. 11, which is time-bound, with a report at COP7, and has expired. |
| Recommendation 6.16 | Conservation and wise use of wetlands in bilateral and multilateral development cooperation programmes | P | <p>Recommendation 6.16 establishes a process for Parties to comment to the Standing Committee, which was instructed to report at COP7.</p> <p>Recommendation 6.16 is therefore defunct and can be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.17 | Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties | P | <p>Recommendation 6.17 contains 23 provisions in the operative part, many of which are welcoming, appreciating or noting actions taken and can be considered as no longer required. The others are calling on specific Parties to consider or undertake specific actions relating to specific wetland sites. Some of these are known to have been implemented. If there are others that were not, it might be considered that, after nearly a quarter of a century, this Recommendation has lost its currency and that it is not useful to include it in the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.17.1 | Greek Ramsar sites | P | <p>These five Recommendations (or sub-Recommendations) all contain requests – usually addressed to the country concerned – for specific actions in relation to all sites in a country or to specific sites.</p> <p>It is not clear whether all of the requested actions were undertaken. However, after nearly a quarter of a century, it may be considered that these Recommendations have lost their currency and that it is not useful to include them in the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations.</p> |
| Recommendation 6.17.2 | National Reserve of Paracas and the national strategy for the conservation of wetlands in Peru | P | |
| Recommendation 6.17.3 | Azraq Oasis, Jordan | P | |
| Recommendation 6.17.4 | Australian Ramsar sites | P | |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 6.17.5 | The Lower Danube Basin | P | |
| Recommendation 6.18 | Conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Pacific Islands region | A | <p>Recommendation 6.18 has some overlap with Recommendation 7.2 and Resolution VIII.42 (which refer to Recommendation 6.18 in their preambles). It would therefore be appropriate to consider their consolidation.</p> <p>In the meantime, Recommendation 6.18 remains valid.</p> <p>However, paras. 12, 13 and 15 all allocate tasks to the Secretariat related to providing support in various ways to Pacific Island countries. As these tasks were identified 24 years ago, it might be considered that they have lost their currency and can be repealed.</p> |
| COP5 (Kushiro, 1993) | | | |
| Resolution 5.1 | The Kushiro Statement and the framework for the implementation of the Convention | P | <p>Resolution 5.1 records the adoption of the priorities for 1994-1996 (Annex 1) and a programme overview for the Secretariat for 1994-1996 (Annex 3), which are obviously defunct and can be repealed.</p> <p>The Resolution also notes an attached <i>Framework for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention</i> (Annex 2). That document is also out of date in many important respects and can not therefore be considered a guiding document for the Parties in its current form.</p> <p>Finally it instructs the Secretariat to instruct annual work plans for 1994-1996. Consequently the whole Resolution is out of date and can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Resolution 5.2 | Financial and budgetary matters | A | <p>Like previous Resolutions on financial and budgetary matters, in Resolution XIII.2, para. 11, the COP “<i>DECIDES that the Terms of Reference for the Financial Administration of the Convention contained in Annex 3 to Resolution 5.2 on Financial and budgetary matters (1993), shall be applied in toto to the 2019-2021 triennium</i>”.</p> <p>Consequently, for the time being, Resolution 5.2 remains valid.</p> <p>However, the following paragraphs are out of date and can be repealed, which may require consequential amendments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - paras. 1, 2 and 3, as well as Annexes 1 and 2, are time bound and have expired; - para. 5 is superseded by Resolution XIII.2, para. 30, for the current triennium; - para. 6 reminds Parties of three previous Recommendations and may be considered redundant; - para. 8 urges Parties to accept the amendment to the Convention of 28 May 1987, which is now in effect; - para. 9 is superseded by Resolution XIII.2, para. 21; and - para. 11 is time-bound and has expired. <p>Regarding para. 7, this remains valid in principle. If it is retained, it needs to be updated as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the reference to 'the Monitoring Procedure' should be amended to 'Ramsar Advisory Missions'; and - the reference to 'the Wetland Conservation Fund' should be deleted. The name of this fund was later changed to the Small Grants Fund, and the COP has decided that it will be phased out. <p>It is suggested that, in future, the Terms of Reference for the financial administration of the Convention be included in the latest Resolution on financial and budgetary matters, in order to avoid having multiple current Resolutions on the same subject.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Resolution 5.3 | Procedure for initial designation of sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance | P | <p>All parts of Resolution 5.3 appear to have been superseded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - first operative para., under 'URGES': superseded by the criteria in Resolution XI.8 Annex 2; - second operative para., under 'FURTHER REQUESTS': superseded by the guidelines on submission of RIS in Resolution XI.8 Annex 1; - third operative para., under 'URGES': effectively superseded by Resolution XI.8 Annex 2, para. 44; - fourth operative para., under 'COMMENDS': effectively superseded by Resolutions VIII.6 and IX.1 (esp. Annex E); - fifth operative para., under 'INSTRUCTS': superseded by Resolution IX.6. <p>Resolution 5.3 is therefore defunct and can be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution 5.4 | The record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur (“Montreux Record”) | P | <p>Resolution 5.4 is entirely focused on the procedure for the operation of the Montreux Record. However, it is superseded by Resolution VI.1 Annex on <i>Working definitions, guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed sites, and Guidelines for operation of the Montreux Record</i>.</p> <p>Resolution 5.4 can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution 5.5 | Establishment of a Scientific and Technical Review Panel | P | <p>Resolution XII.5, para. 15, states that it supersedes all previous Resolutions on matters of the STRP.</p> <p>Resolution 5.5 is therefore defunct and can be repealed.</p> |
| Resolution 5.6 | The wise use of wetlands | P | <p>Resolution 5.6 has four operative paragraphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - first operative para: calls on Parties to implement the wise use guidelines from COP4, but this may be considered to have been superseded by the latest decision of the COP on this subject, in the <i>Conceptual framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character</i>, which is Annex A to Resolution IX.1; - second operative para: notes the annexed <i>Additional guidance for the implementation of the wise use concept</i>, which may be considered to have been superseded for the same reason; - third operative para: invites Parties to strengthen cooperation between developed and developing countries in the context of wise use. With this focus, it may be considered to have been overtaken by several Resolutions, perhaps especially the Annex to Resolution XI.13 on <i>An integrated framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication</i>; and - fourth operative para: allocates to STRP the guidance on wise use, which was done. <p>Resolution 5.6 may therefore be considered as outdated or redundant and be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Resolution 5.7 | Management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands | P | Resolution 5.7 is focused on promoting the development of management plans for Ramsar sites, with appropriate legal and administrative structures and funding. It calls on Parties to use the annexed <i>Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar and other wetland sites</i> . The most recent decision of the COP on this subject, is contained in the more comprehensive Resolution VIII.14, with an Annex containing the <i>New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> , which may be considered to have superseded Resolution 5.7. For this reason, Resolution 5.7 may be repealed. |
| Resolution 5.8 | Future funding and operation of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Fund | P | As stated in Standing Committee document DOC. SC35-12, "It would seem that all elements of this Resolution have been either superseded or carried forward by subsequent decisions (including by preambular citing of some of the specific elements), and that this Resolution can thus be entirely retired." |
| Resolution 5.9 | Application of the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance | P | All parts of Resolution 5.9 are either out of date or have been superseded by subsequent Resolutions in particular regarding criteria for designating Ramsar sites. Resolution 5.9 can therefore be repealed. |
| Recommendation 5.1 | Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties | P | Recommendation 5.1 contains multiple requests or expressions of appreciation or concern, regarding Ramsar sites in range of countries. It is not clear whether all of the requested actions were undertaken. However, after nearly a quarter of a century, it may be considered that this Recommendation has lost its currency and that it is not useful to include it in the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations. |
| Recommendation 5.1.1 | Greek Ramsar sites | P | These three Recommendations contain requests addressed to a range of countries, seeking specific actions in relation to Ramsar sites. It is not clear whether all of the requested actions were undertaken. However, after nearly a quarter of a century, it may be considered that these Recommendations have lost their currency and that it is not useful to include them in the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations. |
| Recommendation 5.1.2 | Cuare, Venezuela | P | |
| Recommendation 5.1.3 | Lower Danube Basin | P | |
| Recommendation 5.2 | Guidelines for interpretation of Article 3 ("ecological character" and "change in ecological character") | P | Recommendation 5.2 'emphasizes the need for studies on 'ecological character' and 'change in ecological character and instructs the Secretariat to report at COP6. Meanwhile COP6 passed and guidance has been adopted, most recently in Resolutions X.15 and X.16. Recommendation 5.2 is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 5.3 | The essential character of wetlands and the need for zonation related to wetland reserves | C | Recommendation 5.3 seeks recognition of the “essential character of wetlands”, and seeks zoning and protection measures. There are overlaps with other Resolutions but, without conducting a thorough analysis, it appears that the specific substance of Recommendation 5.3 remains valid. |
| Recommendation 5.4 | The relationship between the Ramsar Convention, the Global Environment Facility and the Convention on Biological Diversity | P | Recommendation 5.4 is now outdated and has been overtaken by decisions in a number of subsequent Resolutions, including elements of Resolutions VI.9, VI.10, VII.4, VIII.5, IX.5, X.11, XIII.7, etc. Recommendation 5.4 may therefore be repealed. |
| Recommendation 5.5 | Inclusion of conservation and wise use of wetlands in multilateral and bilateral development cooperation programmes | C | The subject matter of Recommendation 5.5 overlaps with that of a number of other Resolutions and it would be beneficial to consolidate them. Meanwhile, however, Recommendation 5.5 remains valid. |
| Recommendation 5.6 | The role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Ramsar Convention | C | The substance of Recommendation 5.6 overlaps with that of some other decisions with which it could possibly be consolidated, notably Resolution VII.8. Meanwhile, however, Recommendation 5.6 remains valid. |
| Recommendation 5.7 | National Committees | C | Elements of Recommendation 5.7 are found in Resolution X.29, which states that it is in addition to Recommendation. However, it would be appropriate to consolidate these two texts. Meanwhile, Recommendation 5.7 remains valid. |
| Recommendation 5.8 | Measures to promote public awareness of wetland values in wetland reserves | P | Recommendation 5.8 makes three calls for action to improve public awareness. The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness, in Resolution XII.9, can be considered as superseding Recommendation 5.8 in this connection. Consequently, this Recommendation can be considered as defunct. |
| Recommendation 5.9 | Establishment of Ramsar guidelines on Wetlands of International Importance as fish habitat | P | Recommendation 5.9 calls for the development of criteria and guidelines on the importance of wetlands for fish and a presentation of results at COP6. This work was completed and Recommendation 5.9 can be repealed. |
| Recommendation 5.10 | The 25th anniversary wetland campaign for 1996 | P | Recommendation 5.10 calls for actions to implement a public awareness campaign in 1996. Consequently, it has expired and can be repealed. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Recommendation 5.11 | The new Bureau headquarters in Switzerland | P | This Recommendation only expresses thanks and satisfaction. It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations that only express thanks in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations, following the COP after the one at which they were adopted. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |
| Recommendation 5.12 | Thanks to the Japanese hosts | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |
| Recommendation 5.13 | Promotion and strengthening of the Ramsar Neotropical Region | C | Recommendation 5.13 has probably lost its currency in the intervening 27 years but, as there are elements that remain valid, no action is proposed at this stage. |
| Recommendation 5.14 | Collaboration for Mediterranean Wetlands | L | Recommendation 5.14 welcomes the creation of MedWet, encourages participation and requests a progress report at COP6. It has been overtaken by subsequent decisions such as Resolution VII.22 and XII.14. It is therefore now outdated but remains on the record as an indication of support. |
| Recommendation 5.15 | Working languages of the Conference of the Contracting Parties | P | Recommendation 5.15 makes calls for several actions regarding working languages at meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The current decisions of the Conference of the Parties regarding languages are reflected in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties, and in the most recent Resolution on this subject, Resolution XIII.6. These texts supersede Recommendation 5.15, which can be considered as defunct. |
| COP4 (Montreux, 1990) | | | |
| Resolution 4.1 | Interpretation of Article 10 bis Paragraph 6 of the Convention | A | Resolution 4.1 remains valid. However, the third operative paragraph, with a task allocated to the Standing Committee from 1990, appears no longer current and is proposed to be repealed. |
| Resolution 4.2 | Working languages of the Conference of the Contracting Parties | P | Resolution 4.2 states only that Spanish is a working language of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. This decision is now reflected in the Rules of Procedure of the Conference of the Parties and the Resolution is defunct. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Resolution 4.3 | A Wetland Conservation Fund | P | <p>In Resolution 4.3, the Conference of the Parties decides to establish the Wetland Conservation Fund.</p> <p>In Resolution VI.6, that fund was renamed as the 'Small Grants Fund'.</p> <p>In Resolution XIII.2, para. 31, the Conference of the Parties agreed to phase out the Small Grants Fund programme upon exhaustion of its current resources.</p> <p>Consequently, Resolution 4.3 is now defunct.</p> |
| Resolution 4.4 | Implementation of Article 5 of the Convention | P | <p>Resolution 4.4 allocates tasks to the Secretariat regarding wetlands and water systems shared between two Parties, the results to be reported at COP5. Consequently Resolution 4.4 is defunct.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Resolution 4.5 | Accession requirements | C | <p>Resolution 4.5 recommends that, when a State takes the necessary steps to adhere to the Convention, it be considered as having fulfilled the conditions for accession if it has designated at least one site for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance. It implies that the acceding State is not considered a Party if it has not designated a wetland for inclusion in the List but this implication would be inconsistent with the text of the Convention.</p> <p>The protocols regarding ratification and accession are set out in Article 9.3 of the Convention, which states simply that: <i>“Ratification or accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of ratification or accession with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (hereinafter referred to as “the Depositary”).”</i></p> <p>It is therefore clear that, notwithstanding the non-binding recommendation of Resolution 4.5, the designation of a site for inclusion in the List of Wetlands is not a prerequisite for a State to become a Contracting Party.</p> <p>Article 2.4 of the Convention states that: <i>“Each Contracting Party shall designate at least one wetland to be included in the List when signing this Convention or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession, as provided in Article 9.”</i></p> <p>Designation of a wetland at the time of signing or adhering to the Convention is therefore an obligation and failure to designate a wetland in accordance with Article 2.4 would be in breach of the Convention, but this is a separate issue from the requirement for adherence to the Convention.</p> <p>Resolution 4.5 also recommends that, if a description of the boundaries, and a map, are not provided to the Depositary at the time of accession, they should be provided to the Secretariat as soon as possible afterwards. It appears to be inconsistent with Resolution VI.16, which it is suggested may be defunct (see above).</p> <p>However Resolution 4.5 remains valid.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Annex to DOC.C.4.12 | Resolution on the Framework for the implementation of the Convention and priorities for attention 1991-1993 | P | <p>The unnumbered Resolution annexed to document DOC.C.4.12 has four operative paragraphs.</p> <p>The first takes note of an attached <i>Framework for Implementation of the Convention</i>, which has been overtaken by subsequent frameworks adopted in Resolutions.</p> <p>The other three are all time bound and have expired.</p> <p>The Resolution in the Annex to document DOC.C.4.12 can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Annex to DOC.C.4.13 | Resolution on financial and budgetary matters | P | <p>The unnumbered Resolution annexed to document DOC.C.4.13 presents the core budget for the period 1991-1993 and other recommendations related to financing, as well as an urging to Parties to accept the amendment of 28 May 1987.</p> <p>As the Resolution is clearly outdated, it is proposed to be repealed.</p> |
| Annex to DOC.C.4.14 | Resolution on the Standing Committee | P | <p>The unnumbered Resolution annexed to document DOC.C.4.14 records the decision of the Conference of the Parties to establish a Standing Committee, specifying its functions and the principles for its composition and procedures to be followed.</p> <p>It has been superseded by subsequent Resolutions updating the decision of the COP on the Standing Committee, most recently Resolution XIII.4 on <i>Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</i>.</p> <p>Consequently the Resolution in the Annex to document DOC.C.4.14 can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
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| Annex to DOC.C.4.15 | Secretariat matters | A | <p>The unnumbered Resolution in the Annex to document DOC. C.4.15 contains the decision of the Conference of the Parties regarding the location and administration of the Secretariat.</p> <p>Parts of it are out of date, and can be repealed, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - para. 1.b), requesting IUCN to enter a cooperative agreement with the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB), for the provision of scientific and technical and scientific services for the Secretariat (referred to as the Bureau); - para. 2, which approves a memorandum of agreement between IUCN and IWRB, on the provision of secretariat services (referred to as Bureau services). <p>Correspondingly, the 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th and 7th paragraphs of the preamble can be repealed.</p> <p>If these corrections are agreed, the term 'Bureau' can also be updated in the text to 'Secretariat' and the grammatically incorrect use of 'comprised' can be corrected to 'composed' in para. 1.d) (affects the English version only).</p> |
| Recommendation 4.1 | Wetland restoration | A | <p>Recommendation 4.1 appears to remain valid.</p> <p>However, the third operative paragraph, with a task allocated to the Standing Committee is presumably no longer current and may be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 4.2 | Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance | P | <p>Recommendation 4.2 contains the recommendation of the Conference of the Parties to use the <i>Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance</i>, in Annex I, as the basis for identifying wetlands to be designated as Ramsar sites.</p> <p>It draws attention to but does not adopt nor recommend the document in Annex II, <i>Designation of wetlands for the list and subsequent action</i>.</p> <p>These Annexes have been superseded by subsequent Resolutions, in particular Resolution XI.8 Annex 2 on <i>Strategic framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) - 2012 revision</i>, which, being the most recent decision of the Conference of the Parties on this subject, may be understood as replacing previous guidance.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.2 may therefore be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Recommendation 4.3 | National reports | P | <p>Recommendation 4.3 only urges Parties to submit their National Reports at least six months before each COP. This is only a repetition of what is recommended in Recommendation 2.1, which has an additional recommendation.</p> <p>It is therefore unnecessary to retain Recommendation 4.3 in the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations and it can be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 4.4 | Establishment of wetland reserves | A | <p>Recommendation 4.4 appears to remain valid in part.</p> <p>The third operative paragraph urges Parties to compile national wetland inventories. This is repeated in subsequent Resolutions, although generally specifying a specific triennium. However, it is suggested that this be considered to have been superseded by the combination of Resolution VII.20 <i>Priorities for wetland inventory</i>, Resolution VIII.6 <i>A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory</i> and Resolution X.15 <i>Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory ...</i>, as well as Resolution XII.2 <i>The 4th Strategic Plan 2012-2024</i>, which deals with inventorying among the priorities.</p> <p>The fifth operative paragraph relates to participation in the IVth World Congress on National Parks and Protected Areas, and is defunct.</p> <p>The rest appears to remain valid.</p> |
| Recommendation 4.5 | Education and training | P | <p>Recommendation 4.5 contains seven operative paragraphs recommending actions related to formal and informal education and training (although it does not specify the subject), and associated activities (cultural, social & economic circumstances, budgets, etc.).</p> <p>However, the <i>Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024</i>, in Resolution XII.9, provides more recent and comprehensive guidance from the Conference of the Parties and may be considered as superseding Recommendation 4.5 (and related decisions).</p> <p>Consequently, Recommendation 4.5 may be considered as defunct.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 4.6 | Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites | A | <p>Recommendation 4.6 recommends that Parties national scientific inventories of wetlands and that the Secretariat support them.</p> <p>The call to establish inventories is repeated in several subsequent Resolutions and Recommendations (see comment regarding Recommendation 4.5 above), which also call for additional actions.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.6 could therefore be considered to have been effectively superseded, especially by Resolutions VIII.6 and may be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 4.7 | Mechanisms for improved application of the Ramsar Convention | P | <p>Recommendation 4.7 contains five operative paragraphs and two annexes.</p> <p>It appears that they are all defunct for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - first operative para. (under 'ENDORSES'): confirms the establishment of the 'Ramsar Monitoring Procedure', described in Annex 1, which was later renamed the 'Ramsar Management Guidance Procedure' (Resolution VI.14), and then the 'Ramsar Advisory Missions' (Resolution VII.12). This scheme continues under a new mandate in Resolution XIII.11 on <i>Ramsar Advisory Missions</i>; - second operative para. (under 'DETERMINES'): confirms that the final reports from the 'Monitoring Procedure' are public documents, which is repeated in Resolution XIII.12, para. 14; - third operative para. (under 'RECOMMENDS'): recommends the use of the data sheet attached in Annex 2.A to describe Ramsar sites, but this has been superseded by the Information Sheet adopted as Annex 1 to Resolution XI.8; - fourth operative para. (under 'FURTHER RECOMMENDS'): recommends the classification of 'wetland type' in Annex 2.B, but this has been superseded by the classifications in Annex 2 of Resolution XI.8, on <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands - 2012 revision</i>; and - fifth operative para. (under 'REQUESTS'): requests the Standing Committee to oversee the application of the 'Monitoring Procedure', which is overtaken by Resolution XIII.12; and requests the Standing Committee to investigate the need for a scientific committee, which has been overtaken by the establishment of the STRP. <p>Regarding Annex 1, and its description of the Monitoring Procedure, this is superseded by the Operational Guidance for Ramsar Advisory Missions produced by the Secretariat as instructed in Resolution XIII.12 and published on the Ramsar website.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.7 may therefore be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 4.8 | Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites [and establishment of the Montreux Record] | P | <p>Recommendation 4.8 requests Parties to take action in relation to Ramsar sites whose ecological character is threatened. It also gives related instructions regarding the role of the Secretariat. Subsequent Resolutions on the same subject do not use exactly the same words but may be understood to have superseded Recommendation 4.8, in particular Resolution IX.1 Annex A, <i>Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character</i>, Resolution X.15, <i>Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory</i> and Resolution X.16, <i>Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character</i>.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.8 may therefore be considered as defunct.</p> |
| Recommendation 4.9 | Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties | P | <p>These six Recommendations all contain requests for action, or express appreciation or express concerns regarding specific specific sites.</p> |
| Recommendation 4.9.1 | Doñana National Park, Spain | P | <p>It is not clear whether all of the requested actions were undertaken. However, as they were adopted some 30 years ago, it may be considered that these Recommendations have lost their currency and that it is not useful to include them in the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations.</p> |
| Recommendation 4.9.2 | Everglades National Park, USA | P | |
| Recommendation 4.9.3 | Azraq Oasis, Jordan | P | |
| Recommendation 4.9.4 | Conservation of the Leybucht, Federal Republic of Germany | P | |
| Recommendation 4.9.5 | Greek Ramsar sites | P | |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Recommendation 4.10 | Guidelines for the implementation of the wise use concept | P | <p>Resolution VII.6, para. 12, and Resolution VII.7, para. 9, call on Parties to take into account the guidelines in Recommendation 4.10.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.10 has three operative paragraphs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The first recommends and adopts the use of the annexed <i>Guidelines for implementation of the wise use concept of the Convention</i>. However these have been superseded by subsequent guidelines, as stated in Resolution IX.1 Annex A, para. 14. - The second and third respectively recommend the setting up of the Working Group on Wise Use and that it report at COP5. This was done and its work was completed and transferred to the STRP. <p>Recommendation 4.10 can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 4.11 | Cooperation with international organizations | P | <p>Recommendation 4.11 seeks closer cooperation with the OECD, the “Commission of the European Communities” (now called the “European Commission”) and with other international organizations.</p> <p>This seems to have been overtaken by Resolution X.11 on <i>Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</i>, which refers to the European Commission. It does not mention OECD specifically but invites the Secretariat to develop cooperation with a range of specified institutions “as well as with other relevant intergovernmental organizations”.</p> <p>The combination of this with other Resolutions referring to such cooperation, including Resolutions VII.4, VIII.5 and IX.5 effectively supersede Recommendation 4.11, which can be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 4.12 | Cooperation between Contracting Parties for the management of migratory species | P | <p>As was already indicated in Standing Committee document DOC. SC35-12, in 2007, all elements of Recommendation 4.12 “ are either now redundant or have been superseded by Res 5.9, Res VII.11 and Res VIII.38 in particular”.</p> <p>Recommendation 4.12 can is therefore defunct and can be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 4.13 | Responsibility of multilateral development banks (MDBs) towards wetlands | P | Recommendation 4.13 has three operative paragraphs: - The first only calls on Parties to implement Recommendation 3.4; and might therefore be considered redundant; - The second and third deal with support of wetland conservation from multilateral development banks and agencies. The relationship with these has been dealt with in subsequent Resolutions, including VI.10, VII.19 and X.11, which might therefore be seen as superseding Recommendation 4.13. If so, Recommendation 4.13 may be considered to have been superseded and therefore be repealed. |
| Recommendation 4.14 | Thanks to the host [Switzerland] | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations, following the COP after the one at which they were adopted. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |
| COP3 (Regina, 1987) | | | |
| Resolution 3.1 | Secretariat Matters | P | As stated in document Doc. SC35-12, Resolution 3.1 and its Annex were superseded by the un-numbered Resolution adopted at COP4 as an Annex to document DOC C.4.15. The text of the latter decision covers the same elements but with some minor technical amendments. Resolution 3.1 can therefore be repealed. |
| Resolution 3.1, Annex | Memo of Agreement between IUCN and IWRB | P | |
| Resolution 3.2 | Financial and Budgetary Matters | P | Resolution 3.2 presents the core budget for the period 1988-1990 and related decisions, and a few outdated recommendations (such as a call to accept the amendment of 28 May 1987). The attachments are also time limited, and have expired. It is therefore proposed that this Resolution be considered as outdated and that it be repealed. However it remains on the record as an indication of the scale of contributions for the period covered. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Resolution 3.3 | Establishment of a Standing Committee | P | <p>Resolution 3.3 records the decision to establish a Standing Committee, specifying its functions and the principles for its composition and procedures to be followed.</p> <p>It has been superseded by subsequent Resolutions updating the decision of the COP on the Standing Committee, most recently Resolution XIII.4 on <i>Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</i>.</p> <p>Resolution 3.3 can therefore be repealed, but it remains accessible as a record of the establishment of the Standing Committee at COP3.</p> |
| Resolution 3.4 | Provisional Implementation of the Amendments to the Convention | P | Resolution 3.4 urges Parties to implement on a provisional basis the measures that were foreseen in the Regina amendment to the Convention. The amendment came into force on 1 May 1994 and the Resolution is therefore defunct and can be repealed. |
| Recommendation 3.1 | Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance and guidelines on their use | P | <p>Recommendation 3.1 recommends the use of the criteria for the designation of Ramsar sites and then creation of working group to see how they might be elaborated. This has been superseded by subsequent actions and Resolutions, most recently Resolution XI.8 Annex 2 (Rev. COP13).</p> <p>Recommendation 3.1 can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 3.2 | Need for further studies of flyways | P | Recommendation 3.2 contains four recommendations for research on waterfowl, some of it indicated as 'urgent'. It is not clear whether all of the recommended research was done. However, as 33 years have passed since its adoption, Parties might consider that it no longer reflects the current situation and can be removed from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations to be implemented. |
| Recommendation 3.3 | Wise use of wetlands | P | <p>Recommendation 3.3 contains a definition of 'wise use' and calls on Parties to stimulate wise use and take account of wise use in their wetland policies.</p> <p>This Recommendation has been entirely superseded in subsequent Resolutions, most recently Resolution IX.1 Annex A (which contains a new definition of 'wise use'), and Resolution XI.8 Annex 2 (Rev. COP13).</p> |
| Recommendation 3.4 | Responsibility of development agencies toward wetlands | C | Although there are more recent Resolutions with COP recommendations regarding development banks and agencies, it appears that they have not superseded the decisions in Recommendation 3.4. Consequently, it appears to remain in effect. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 3.5 | Tasks of the Bureau in respect to development agencies | P | <p>This Recommendation calls on the Secretariat to implement several activities relating to obtaining support from development agencies for implementation of projects to support wise use and conservation of wetlands. In the meantime, the Conference of the Parties has adopted other recommendations that might be considered to supersede Recommendation 3.5, in particular Resolutions VI.10 and X.11.</p> <p>In this case, Recommendation 3.5 can be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 3.6 | Further Contracting Parties in Africa | P | <p>Recommendation 3.6 encourages African States to consider becoming Parties, including eight specifically named. Since it was adopted, 44 African States have adhered to the Convention, including the eight named States.</p> <p>Recommendation 3.6 can therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 3.7 | Further Contracting Parties in Central America, the Caribbean and South America | P | <p>Recommendation 3.7 requests the Secretariat to encourage States in the western hemisphere to consider becoming Parties, naming four that had already done so. There are now 27 Parties to the Convention in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>Recommendation 3.7 might therefore be considered as no longer current and may be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 3.8 | Conservation of Azraq Ramsar site | P | <p>Recommendation 3.8, calling for action to be taken in relation to a designated wetland in Jordan, was superseded by Recommendations 4.9.3 and 6.17.2, on the same subject.</p> <p>Recommendation 3.8 is therefore defunct and may be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 3.9 | Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites | P | <p>Recommendation 3.9 has only two very short operative paragraphs, urging Parties to take swift action to prevent degradation of sites and to inform the Secretariat.</p> <p>It has been effectively superseded by several subsequent Resolutions, which reflect further consideration by the COP, including Resolutions VIII.8, X.13 and XI.14.</p> <p>Recommendation 3.9 may therefore be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 3.10 | Further Contracting Parties in Asia and the Pacific | P | <p>Recommendation 3.10 requests the Secretariat to encourage States in Asia and the Pacific Region to consider becoming Parties. At that time (June 1987) there was a total of 7 Parties to the Convention in those regions. There are now 34 Parties in Asia and 8 in Oceania.</p> <p>Recommendation 3.10 might therefore be considered as having served its purpose and may be repealed.</p> |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 3.11 | Recommendation of Thanks [to the Canadians] | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |
| COP2 (Groningen, 1984) | | | |
| Recommendation 2.1 | Submission of National Reports | A | <p>Recommendation 2.1 has two operative paragraphs.</p> <p>The first operative paragraph calls on Parties to submit national reports six months before each COP. (This was repeated in Recommendation 4.3, which is proposed to be repealed.) This remains valid.</p> <p>The second operative paragraph, calling on the Secretariat to prepare a “simplified version of the questionnaire upon which national reports are based” was implemented and is no longer current as the Secretariat regularly provides a template for the submission of national reports. This paragraph can be repealed.</p> |
| Recommendation 2.2 | Amendment of the Convention | P | Recommendation 2.2 calls on Parties to adopt amendments to the Convention by consensus. There have been no proposed amendments to the Convention since 1987. Consequently, Recommendation 2.2 may be considered as outdated and can be repealed. |
| Recommendation 2.3 | Action points for priority attention | P | <p>Recommendation 2.3 specifies seven “Action Points that should receive priority attention”. As the actions specified were the priorities for the Convention in 1984, and most if not all were implemented, Recommendation 2.3 is no longer current, and it is suggested that it be repealed.</p> <p>NB: Recommendation 2.3 has an annexed <i>Framework for implementing the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance</i>, but it is merely 'taken note of' in the preamble of the Recommendation.</p> |
| Recommendation 2.4 | Possibilities of financial or other support for the Interim Secretariat | P | Recommendation 2.4 calls on Parties and organizations to find funds to support the Secretariat. As it is now funded through the budget agreed by the COP, Recommendation 2.4 can be repealed. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 2.5 | Designation of the Wadden Sea for the List of Wetlands of International Importance | P | This recommendation calls on Denmark and Germany to designate the parts of the Wadden Sea under their jurisdiction as Ramsar sites. As both countries have listed Wadden Sea sites, and this recommendation was adopted 36 years ago, it might be considered outdated and excluded from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations. |
| Recommendation 2.6 | Conservation and management of Sahel Wetlands | P | On the basis of a drought in the Sahel, referred to in the preamble, this Recommendation calls for a plan to conserve and manage sahelian wetlands. This might now be considered as out of date and excluded from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations. |
| Recommendation 2.7 | Conservation of Djoudj National Bird Park, Senegal | P | On the basis of a drought in the Sahel, referred to in the preamble, this Recommendation calls for special measures to safeguard the Djoudj National Bird Park in Senegal. Circumstances have changed significantly in the intervening 36 years and this Recommendation may be considered as outdated, and excluded from the list of current Resolutions and Recommendations. |
| Recommendation 2.8 | Establishment of a protected area in the River Senegal basin in Mauritania | P | This Recommendation calls on Mauritania to protect an area to complement the Djoudj Park in Senegal. Mauritania has designated the Parc National du Diawling in 1994. Recommendation 2.8 can be considered as out of date. |
| Recommendation 2.9 | Conservation action and protection of wetlands not designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance | P | Recommendation recommends “appropriate conservation action” by Parties regarding unlisted sites specified in a document at COP2; and “suggests that effective protection is ensured of wetlands of international importance mentioned by observers ...” In the absence of what resulting action has been taken by Parties, the Recommendation may be technically still valid. However, it might be considered that, in the intervening 36 years, Recommendation 2.9 has lost its currency, in which case it may be repealed. |
| Recommendation 2.10 | Thanks to the government of the Netherlands and appreciation of wetland conservation measures taken in the Netherlands | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |
| COP1 (Cagliari, 1980) | | | |
| Recommendation 1.1 | Expanding the Convention's membership | P | Recommendation 1.1 was adopted in 1980 to encourage accession by non-Parties. Now that the Convention has 171 Parties, this appears outdated. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|--------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 1.2 | Developing countries in the Convention | P | Recommendation 1.2 calls on Parties and organizations to support developing countries to contribute to Convention activities; and calls on developing countries to contribute to pay more attention to conservation measures in requests for assistance. Several subsequent Recommendations and Resolutions have overlapping recommendations, perhaps especially Recommendation 5.5 on <i>The inclusion of conservation and wise use of wetlands in multilateral and bilateral development cooperation programmes</i> . Consequently, Recommendation 1.2 might now be considered as outdated, if not actually superseded. |
| Recommendation 1.3 | Designating more wetlands for the Ramsar List | P | Recommendation 1.3 is a simple call to increase the number of designated Ramsar sites. It may now be considered as outdated and could be repealed. |
| Recommendation 1.4 | Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance | P | Recommendation 1.4 recommends: the use of criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance; the need for a 'shadow list' of wetlands; and development of guidelines for selecting sites; and that unspecified appropriate organizations keep the criteria under review. In the subsequent 40 years, the COP has adopted several Resolutions relating to the criteria and site selection, most recently Resolution XI.8 Annex 2. Consequently, Recommendation 1.4 is outdated and may be repealed. |
| Recommendation 1.5 | National Wetland Inventories | P | Recommendation 1.5 calls on Parties that might be interested to prepare inventories of wetlands. This call is repeated, a little more strongly, in subsequent decisions, including Recommendation 4.6, and Resolutions 5.3, VII.20 and VIII.6. Consequently Recommendation 1.5 has been superseded and can be repealed. |
| Recommendation 1.6 | Assessment of wetland values | V | Recommendation 1.6 recommends that decisions on large-scale transformation of wetlands require a prior assessment of values and that funding agencies finance such assessments. The COP has subsequently adopted several Resolutions on the need for environmental impact assessments, which may be considered as updating the COP's decision on this subject, including Resolutions VII.16, VIII.9 and X.17. For this reason it appears that Recommendation 1.6 has been superseded and may be repealed. |

| Number | Title | Proposed status | Comments |
|---------------------|---|-----------------|--|
| Recommendation 1.7 | Proposed protocol on amendment procedures | P | Recommendation 1.7 calls for the elaboration of a protocol with three elements. Two of them (an amendment procedure and the procedure for entry into force of the protocol) were embodied in the Ramsar Convention Paris Protocol of 1982 (see https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/paris_protocol_e_0.pdf). The third element " <i>The addition of authentic or official language versions of the Convention based upon the United Nations practice</i> " is not referred to in the Paris Protocol but is presumably considered to be covered by the provisions on amendment of the Convention. Consequently, Recommendation 1.7 is now defunct. |
| Recommendation 1.8 | Proposed amendments to the Convention | P | Recommendation 1.8 recommends the "consideration of the adoption of a further protocol to amend the Convention" after the protocol referred to in Recommendation 1.7. It specified a number of points that were "highly desirable to achieve". In accordance with Recommendation 1.8 Parties did consider the adoption of a further protocol, and it was adopted in 1987 as the Regina Protocol (see https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/regina_amendments_e.pdf). Consequently Recommendation 1.8 is defunct and may be repealed. |
| Recommendation 1.9 | Meetings of the Conference of the Parties | P | Recommendation 1.9 merely recommends that the COP should meet as soon as possible after the entry into force of the protocol referred to in Recommendation 1.7. Recommendation 1.9 is therefore defunct. |
| Recommendation 1.10 | A permanent secretariat | P | All aspects of Recommendation 1.10 are time-bound and have expired. Recommendation 1.10 can therefore be repealed. |
| Recommendation 1.11 | Thanks to the Italian hosts | P | It seems unnecessary to maintain Resolutions and Recommendations expressing thanks to host countries in the list of current Resolutions & Recommendations. However, the expression of appreciation remains on the record in perpetuity. |

Annex 2

Categories of Resolutions of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands

KEY

Resolutions are indicated by a simple number either in Arabic numerals (e.g. '4.5'), or in Roman numerals (e.g. 'VI.16').

Recommendations are indicated with the text 'Recom' followed by the number.

There are some cases where the Secretariat apparently did not allocate a number to a Resolution at the time of the adoption. These are indicated by the number of the document that contained the adopted text (e.g. 'Annex to DOC.C.4.14').

* indicates a text in more than one group

At the time of consolidation of the Resolutions in each group, the Resolutions in the group will be checked for text relating to the subject of that group. If, for example, a Resolution appears in the 'Governance' group and in the 'Languages' group, the text on governance will move to a consolidated resolution on governance, and the text on language will move to a consolidated resolution on language.

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
|--|--|
| STRATEGIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS | |
| Convention text and amendments | <p>Recom 1.7 Proposed protocol on amendment procedures</p> <p>Recom 1.8 Proposed amendments to the Convention</p> <p>Recom 2.2 Amendment of the Convention</p> <p>3.4 Provisional Implementation of the Amendments to the Convention</p> <p>4.1 Interpretation of Article 10 bis Paragraph 6 of the Convention</p> |
| Accession, political status | <p>Recom 1.1 Expanding the Convention's membership</p> <p>Recom 1.2 Developing countries in the Convention</p> <p>Recom 3.6 Further Contracting Parties in Africa</p> <p>Recom 3.7 Further Contracting Parties in Central America, the Caribbean and South America</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
|---|---|
| | <p>Recom 3.10 Further Contracting Parties in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>4.5 Accession requirements</p> <p>VI.16 Accession procedures</p> <p>VII.30 Status of Yugoslavia in the Ramsar Convention</p> |
| <p>Meetings of the Conference of the Parties</p> | <p>Recom 1.9 Meetings of the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>VI.15 Amendment of the Rules of Procedure as of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p> |
| <p>Finance, Budget & Resource Mobilization</p> | <p>Recom 2.4 Possibilities of financial or other support for the Interim Secretariat</p> <p>3.2 Financial and Budgetary Matters</p> <p>Annex to DOC.C.4.13 [<i>Resolution without a number</i>] Resolution on financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>5.2 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>VI.17 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>VII.28 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>VIII.27 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>IX.12 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>X.2 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>XI.2 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>XII.1 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>XII.7 Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| | <p>XIII.2 Financial and budgetary matters</p> |
| Strategic Plan | <p>VI.14 The Ramsar 25th Anniversary Statement, the Strategic Plan 1997-2002, and the Bureau Work Programme 1997-1999</p> <p>VIII.25 The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008</p> <p>VIII.26* The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 during the triennium 2003-2005 and National Reports for Ramsar COP9</p> <p>IX.8 Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2003-2008</p> <p>X.1 The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015</p> <p>XI.3 Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 triennium</p> <p>XII.2 The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024</p> <p>XIII.5 Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention</p> |
| Governance & Effectiveness | <p>Recom 2.3 Action points for priority attention</p> <p>Recom 2.3 Annex Framework for implementing the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>Annex to DOC.C.4.12 [<i>Resolution without a number</i>] Resolution on the Framework for the implementation of the Convention and priorities for attention 1991-1993</p> <p>Recom 4.7 Mechanisms for improved application of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>5.1 The Kushiro Statement and the framework for the implementation of the Convention</p> <p>VI.11 Consolidation of Recommendations and Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p> <p>VII.27 The Convention Work Plan 2000-2002</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
|----------------------|--|
| | <p>VIII.45 Operation of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and the effectiveness of Ramsar Convention Resolutions and Recommendations</p> <p>IX.17 Review of the decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p> <p>IX.24 Improving management of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>X.4 Establishing a Transition Committee of the Management Working Group</p> <p>XII.3* Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</p> <p>XIII.3 Governance of the Convention</p> |
| Secretariat | <p>Recom 1.10 A permanent secretariat</p> <p>3.1 Secretariat Matters</p> <p>3.1, Annex Memo of Agreement between IUCN and IWRB</p> <p>Recom 3.5 Tasks of the Bureau in respect to development agencies</p> <p>Annex to DOC.C.4.15 [<i>Resolution without a number</i>] Secretariat matters</p> <p>Recom 5.11 The new Bureau headquarters in Switzerland</p> <p>Recom 6.6 Appointment of regionally-based Ramsar liaison officers</p> <p>VI.8 Secretary General matters</p> <p>VI.22 Consideration of overall cost reduction and in particular of possible relocation of the Ramsar Bureau and its operations</p> <p>IX.10 Use of the term and status of the “Ramsar Secretariat”</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
|---|--|
| | <p>X.5 Facilitating the work of the Ramsar Convention and its Secretariat</p> <p>XI.1 Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat</p> |
| Standing Committee | <p>3.3 Establishment of a Standing Committee</p> <p>Annex to DOC.C.4.14 [<i>Resolution without a number</i>] Resolution on the Standing Committee</p> <p>VII.1 Regional categorization of countries under the Convention, and composition, roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee, including tasks of Standing Committee members</p> <p>XI.19 Adjustments to the terms of Resolution VII.1 on the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</p> <p>XII.4 The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XIII.4 Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</p> |
| Scientific and Technical Review Panel; Scientific Advice & Support | <p>5.5 Establishment of a Scientific and Technical Review Panel</p> <p>VI.7 The Scientific and Technical Review Panel</p> <p>VII.2 Composition and modus operandi of the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)</p> <p>VIII.28 Modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)</p> <p>IX.2 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention</p> <p>IX.11 Revised modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)</p> <p>X.9 Refinements to the modus operandi of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP)</p> <p>X.10 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| | <p>XI.16 Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention</p> <p>XI.17 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2013-2015</p> <p>XI.18 Adjustments to the modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for the 2013-2015 triennium</p> <p>XII.5 New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention</p> <p>XIII.8 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021</p> |
| Languages | <p>4.2 Working languages of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p> <p>Recom 5.15 Working languages of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p> <p>XII.3* Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</p> <p>XIII.6 Language strategy for the Convention</p> |
| Partnerships and synergies | <p>Recom 4.11 Cooperation with international organizations</p> <p>Recom 5.4 The relationship between the Ramsar Convention, the Global Environment Facility and the Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p>VI.9* Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p>VI.10 Cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies: the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP</p> <p>VII.4 Partnerships and cooperation with other Conventions, including harmonized information management infrastructures</p> <p>VII.19 Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>VIII.5 Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</p> <p>VIII.9* 'Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment' adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and their relevance to the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>VIII.24 UNEP's Guidelines for enhancing compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, and Guidelines for national enforcement, and international cooperation in combating violations, of laws implementing multilateral environmental agreements</p> <p>IX.3* Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water</p> <p>IX.5* Synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements</p> <p>X.11 Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</p> <p>X.12 Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector</p> <p>X.22* Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways</p> <p>XI.6 Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</p> <p>XII.3* Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</p> <p>XIII.7 Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| CEPA, etc. | <p>Recom 4.5 Education and training</p> <p>Recom 5.8 Measures to promote public awareness of wetland values in wetland reserves</p> <p>VI.19 Education and public awareness</p> <p>VII.9 The Convention's Outreach Programme, 1999-2002</p> <p>VIII.31 The Convention's Programme on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) 2003-2008</p> <p>IX.18 Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention</p> <p>X.8 The Convention's Programme on communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2009-2015</p> <p>XII.9 The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024</p> |
| Declaration of Days, Awards & accreditations | <p>Recom 5.10 The 25th anniversary wetland campaign for 1996</p> <p>VI.18 Establishment of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award</p> <p>XII.10 Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XIII.1 World Wetlands Day</p> |
| Development agencies and banks | <p>Recom 3.4 Responsibility of development agencies toward wetlands</p> <p>Recom 4.13 Responsibility of multilateral development banks (MDBs) towards wetlands</p> |
| Funds for wetlands | <p>4.3 A Wetland Conservation Fund</p> <p>5.8 Future funding and operation of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Fund</p> <p>VI.6 The Wetland Conservation Fund</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>Recom 7.4 The Wetlands for the Future Initiative</p> <p>VII.5 Critical evaluation of the Convention's Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) and its future operations</p> <p>VIII.29 Evaluation of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) and establishment of a Ramsar Endowment Fund</p> <p>IX.13 Evaluation of the Ramsar Endowment Fund as a mechanism to resource the Small Grants Fund</p> <p>X.7 Optimizing the Ramsar Small Grants Fund during the period 2009-2012</p> |
| National authorities | <p>X.29 Clarifying the functions of agencies and related bodies implementing the Convention at the national level</p> |
| National laws and policies | <p>Recom 6.9 Framework for National Wetland Policy development and implementation</p> <p>VII.6 Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies</p> <p>VII.7* Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands</p> |
| NGOs and International Organization Partners | <p>Recom 5.6 The role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>Recom 5.7 National Committees</p> <p>VII.3 Partnerships with international organizations</p> <p>IX.16 The Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs)</p> |
| Regional focus | <p>Recom 5.13 Promotion and strengthening of the Ramsar Neotropical Region</p> <p>Recom 5.14 Collaboration for Mediterranean Wetlands</p> <p>Recom 6.4* The "Brisbane Initiative" on the establishment of a network of listed sites along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway</p> <p>Recom 6.11 Continuing collaboration for Mediterranean wetlands</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>VII.22 Collaborative structure for Mediterranean wetlands</p> <p>VII.26 Creation of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere</p> <p>VIII.39 High Andean wetlands as strategic ecosystems</p> <p>VIII.41 Establishment of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia</p> <p>VIII.42 Small Island Developing States in the Oceania Region</p> <p>VIII.43 A subregional strategy of the Ramsar Convention for South America</p> <p>VIII.44 New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Africa</p> <p>IX.19 The importance of regional wetland symposia in effectively implementing the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XII.14 Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands</p> <p>XIII.22 Wetlands in West Asia</p> <p>XIII.23 Wetlands in the Arctic and sub-Arctic</p> |
| Regional Initiatives | <p>VIII.30 Regional initiatives for the further implementation of the Convention</p> <p>IX.7 Regional initiatives in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>X.6 Regional initiatives 2009-2012 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XI.5 Regional initiatives 2013-2015 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XII.8 Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XIII.9 Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| Reporting, National reports | <p>Recom 2.1 Submission of National Reports</p> <p>Recom 4.3 National reports</p> <p>VIII.26* The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 during the triennium 2003-2005 and National Reports for Ramsar COP9</p> <p>IX.5* Synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements</p> |
| Small Island States | <p>Recom 7.2 Small Island Developing States, island wetland ecosystems, and the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>IX.20 Integrated, cross-biome planning and management of wetlands, especially in small island developing states</p> <p>X.30 Small Island States and the Ramsar Convention</p> |
| Thanks to the Host Country | <p>Recom 1.11 Thanks to the Italian hosts</p> <p>Recom 2.10 Thanks to the government of the Netherlands and appreciation of wetland conservation measures taken in the Netherlands</p> <p>Recom 3.11 Recommendation of Thanks [to the Canadians]</p> <p>Recom 4.14 Thanks to the host [Switzerland]</p> <p>Recom 5.12 Thanks to the Japanese hosts</p> <p>VI.20 Thanks to the people and governments of Australia</p> <p>VII.29 Thanks to the host country</p> <p>VIII.46 Thanks to the people and governments of Spain</p> <p>IX.25 Thanks to the host country</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>X.32 Thanks to the host country, the Republic of Korea</p> <p>XI.22 Thanks to the host country, Romania</p> <p>XII.16 Thanks to the Host Country, Uruguay, and the “Declaration of Punta del Este”</p> <p>XIII.25 Thanks to the Host Country, the United Arab Emirates</p> |
| RAMSAR SITES AND OTHER PROTECTED AREAS | |
| Ramsar List of wetlands, Designation of Ramsar Sites | <p>Recom 1.3 Designating more wetlands for the Ramsar List</p> <p>Recom 1.4 Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance</p> <p>Recom 2.5* Designation of the Wadden Sea for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>Recom 3.1 Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance and guidelines on their use</p> <p>Recom 4.2 Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance</p> <p>4.4 Implementation of Article 5 of the Convention</p> <p>Recom 4.6* Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites</p> <p>5.3 Procedure for initial designation of sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>5.7 Management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</p> <p>5.9 Application of the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>Recom 5.9 Establishment of Ramsar guidelines on Wetlands of International Importance as fish habitat</p> |

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| | <p>VI.1* Working definitions of ecological character, guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed sites, and guidelines for operation of the Montreux Record</p> <p>VI.2 Adoption of specific criteria based on fish for identifying Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VI.3 Review of the Ramsar Criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance and the accompanying guidelines</p> <p>VI.4 Adoption of population estimates for operation of the specific criteria based on waterfowl</p> <p>VI.5 Inclusion of subterranean karst wetlands as a wetland type under the Ramsar Classification System</p> <p>VI.12* National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing</p> <p>VI.13 Submission of information on sites designated for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VII.11 Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VII.12 Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance: official descriptions, conservation status, and management plans, including the situation of particular sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties</p> <p>VII.13 Guidelines for identifying and designating karst and other subterranean hydrological systems as Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VII.23 Issues concerning the boundary definitions of Ramsar sites and compensation of wetland habitats</p> <p>VIII.8* Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention</p> <p>VIII.10 Improving implementation of the Strategic Framework and Vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VIII.11 Additional guidance for identifying and designating under-represented wetland types as Wetlands of International Importance</p> |
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| | <p>VIII.13 Enhancing the information on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)</p> <p>VIII.20 General guidance for interpreting “urgent national interests” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and considering compensation under Article 4.2</p> <p>VIII.21 Defining Ramsar site boundaries more accurately in Ramsar Information Sheets</p> <p>VIII.22 Issues concerning Ramsar sites that cease to fulfil or never fulfilled the Criteria for designation as Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VIII.33* Guidance for identifying, sustainably managing, and designating temporary pools as Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VIII.38 Waterbird population estimates and the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>IX.6 Guidance for addressing Ramsar sites or parts of sites which no longer meet the Criteria for designation</p> <p>IX.15 The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>IX.22 Ramsar sites and systems of protected areas</p> <p>X.13 The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>X.15* Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance</p> <p>X.20 Biogeographic regionalization in the application of the Strategic Framework for the List of Wetlands of International Importance: scientific and technical guidance</p> <p>XI.4 The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>XI.8 Streamlining procedures for describing Ramsar Sites at the time of designation and subsequent updates</p> <p>XII.6</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>The status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>XIII.10 Status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>XIII.12 Guidance on identifying peatlands as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteria</p> <p>XIII.24* The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites</p> |
| <p>Montreux record & Ecological character of Ramsar sites</p> | <p>Recom 3.9 Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites</p> <p>Recom 4.8 Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites [and establishment of the Montreux Record]</p> <p>Recom 5.2 Guidelines for interpretation of Article 3 (“ecological character” and “change in ecological character”)</p> <p>5.4 The record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur (“Montreux Record”)</p> <p>VI.1* Working definitions of ecological character, guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed sites, and guidelines for operation of the Montreux Record)</p> <p>VIII.7* Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring</p> <p>VIII.8* Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention</p> <p>X.15* Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance</p> <p>X.16 A Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character</p> |
| <p>Ramsare sites, Specific countries or sites</p> | <p>Recom 2.5* Designation of the Wadden Sea for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>Recom 2.6</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>Conservation and management of Sahel Wetlands</p> <p>Recom 2.7 Conservation of Djoudj National Bird Park, Senegal</p> <p>Recom 2.8 Establishment of a protected area in the River Senegal basin in Mauritania</p> <p>Recom 3.8 Conservation of Azraq Ramsar site</p> <p>Recom 4.9 Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties</p> <p>Recom 4.9.1 Doñana National Park, Spain</p> <p>Recom 4.9.2 Everglades National Park, USA</p> <p>Recom 4.9.3 Azraq Oasis, Jordan</p> <p>Recom 4.9.4 Conservation of the Leybucht, Federal Republic of Germany</p> <p>Recom 4.9.5 Greek Ramsar sites</p> <p>Recom 5.1 Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties</p> <p>Recom 5.1.1 Greek Ramsar sites</p> <p>Recom 5.1.2 Cuare, Venezuela</p> <p>Recom 5.1.3 Lower Danube Basin</p> <p>Recom 6.17 Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties</p> <p>Recom 6.17.1 Greek Ramsar sites</p> <p>Recom 6.17.2 National Reserve of Paracas and the national strategy for the conservation of wetlands in Peru</p> <p>Recom 6.17.3 Azraq Oasis, Jordan</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>Recom 6.17.4 Australian Ramsar sites</p> <p>Recom 6.17.5 The Lower Danube Basin</p> |
| WISE USE OF WETLANDS | |
| Assessment of wetland values and services | <p>Recom 1.6 Assessment of wetland values</p> <p>Recom 6.10 Promotion of cooperation on the economic valuation of wetlands</p> <p>VI.21 Assessment and reporting on the status of wetlands</p> <p>VIII.8* Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention</p> <p>XIII.17 Rapidly assessing wetland ecosystem services</p> |
| Climate change | <p>VIII.3 Climate change and wetlands: impacts, adaptation, and mitigation</p> <p>X.24 Climate change and wetlands</p> <p>XI.14 Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</p> <p>XII.11* Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XIII.13* Restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity and disaster risk reduction</p> <p>XIII.15* Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands</p> <p>XIII.16* Sustainable urbanization, climate change and wetlands</p> |
| Coastal zones | <p>Recom 6.8 Strategic planning in coastal zones</p> <p>VIII.4 Principles and guidelines for incorporating wetland issues into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| Energy & Biofuels | <p>X.25 Wetlands and “biofuels”</p> <p>XI.10 Wetlands and energy issues</p> |
| Health & well-being | <p>X.3 The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands</p> <p>X.23 Wetlands and human health and well-being</p> <p>XI.12 Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach</p> |
| Impact assessment | <p>Recom 6.2 Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>VII.16 The Ramsar Convention and impact assessment: strategic, environmental and social</p> <p>VIII.35* The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems</p> <p>X.17 Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance</p> |
| Invasive species | <p>VIII.18 Invasive species and wetlands</p> <p>VII.14 Invasive species and wetlands</p> |
| Inventories of wetlands | <p>Recom 1.5 National Wetland Inventories</p> <p>Recom 4.6* Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites</p> <p>VI.12* National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing</p> <p>VIII.6 A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory</p> <p>VIII.7* Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring</p> <p>VII.20 Priorities for wetland inventory</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>X.15* Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance</p> |
| Management of wetlands | <p>Recom 6.5 Establishment of further wetland manager training programmes</p> <p>Recom 6.13 Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</p> <p>Recom 7.1* A global action plan for the wise use and management of peatlands</p> <p>VIII.14 New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</p> <p>VIII.15 The 'San José Record' for the promotion of wetland management</p> <p>VIII.32* Conservation, integrated management, and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems and their resources</p> <p>VIII.33* Guidance for identifying, sustainably managing, and designating temporary pools as Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VIII.36 Participatory Environmental Management (PEM) as a tool for management and wise use of wetlands</p> <p>XI.11 Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands</p> <p>XII.15 Evaluation of the management and conservation effectiveness of Ramsar Sites</p> |
| Migratory species | <p>Recom 3.2 Need for further studies of flyways</p> <p>Recom 4.12 Cooperation between Contracting Parties for the management of migratory species</p> <p>Recom 6.4* The "Brisbane Initiative" on the establishment of a network of listed sites along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway</p> <p>Recom 7.3 Multilateral cooperation on the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Asia-Pacific region</p> <p>VIII.37 International cooperation on conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the Asia-Pacific region</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>X.22* Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways</p> |
| <p>Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs)</p> | <p>XIII.11 Ramsar Advisory Missions</p> |
| <p>Sustainable development, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Gender & Livelihoods</p> <p><i>Note: When this group is examined for consolidation, it might be possible to separate the livelihoods and poverty eradication aspects from the cultural values aspects.</i></p> | <p>Recom 6.3 Involving local and indigenous people in the management of Ramsar wetlands</p> <p>VII.8 Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands</p> <p>VIII.19 Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites</p> <p>IX.14 Wetlands and poverty reduction</p> <p>IX.21 Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands</p> <p>X.28 Wetlands and poverty eradication</p> <p>XI.20 Promoting sustainable investment by the public and private sectors to ensure the maintenance of the benefits people and nature gain from wetlands</p> <p>XI.21 Wetlands and sustainable development</p> <p>XIII.15* Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands</p> <p>XIII.18 Gender and wetlands</p> |
| <p>Water, water-related, and water management related</p> | <p>VI.23 Ramsar and water</p> <p>VII.18 Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</p> <p>VIII.1 Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</p> <p>VIII.34* Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>VIII.40* Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands</p> <p>IX.3* Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water</p> <p>X.19 Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance</p> <p>XII.12* Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future</p> |
| <p>Wise use, Conservation, Ecology, Restoration, etc.</p> | <p>Recom 2.9 Conservation action and protection of wetlands not designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>Recom 3.3 Wise use of wetlands</p> <p>Recom 4.1 Wetland restoration</p> <p>Recom 4.4 Establishment of wetland reserves</p> <p>Recom 4.10 Guidelines for the implementation of the wise use concept</p> <p>Recom 5.3 The essential character of wetlands and the need for zonation related to wetland reserves</p> <p>Recom 5.5 Inclusion of conservation and wise use of wetlands in multilateral and bilateral development cooperation programmes</p> <p>5.6 The wise use of wetlands</p> <p>Recom 6.1 Conservation of peatlands</p> <p>Recom 6.7 Conservation and wise use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems</p> <p>Recom 6.12 Conservation and wise use in private and public funded activities</p> <p>Recom 6.14 Toxic chemicals</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>Recom 6.15 Restoration of wetlands</p> <p>Recom 6.16 Conservation and wise use of wetlands in bilateral and multilateral development cooperation programmes</p> <p>Recom 6.18 Conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Pacific Islands region</p> <p>Recom 7.1* A global action plan for the wise use and management of peatlands</p> <p>VII.7* Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands</p> <p>VII.10 Wetland Risk Assessment Framework</p> <p>VII.15 Incentive measures to encourage the application of the wise use principle</p> <p>VII.17 Restoration as an element of national planning for wetland conservation and wise use</p> <p>VII.21 Enhancing the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands</p> <p>VII.24 Compensation for lost wetland habitats and other functions</p> <p>VII.25 Measuring environmental quality in wetlands</p> <p>VIII.2 The Report of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) and its relevance to the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>VIII.7* Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring</p> <p>VIII.12 Enhancing the wise use and conservation of mountain wetlands</p> <p>VIII.16 Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</p> <p>VIII.17 Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>VIII.23 Incentive measures as tools for achieving the wise use of wetlands</p> <p>VIII.32* Conservation, integrated management, and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems and their resources</p> <p>VIII.34* Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management</p> <p>VIII.35* The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems</p> <p>VIII.40* Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands</p> <p>IX.1 Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept</p> <p>IX.4 The Ramsar Convention and conservation, production and sustainable use of fisheries resources</p> <p>IX.9 The role of the Ramsar Convention in the prevention and mitigation of impacts associated with natural phenomena, including those induced or exacerbated by human activities</p> <p>IX.23 Highly pathogenic avian influenza and its consequences for wetland and waterbird conservation and wise use</p> <p>X.14 A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs</p> <p>X.18 The application of response options from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) within the Ramsar Wise Use Toolkit</p> <p>X.21 Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza</p> <p>X.26 Wetlands and extractive industries</p> <p>X.27 Wetlands and urbanization</p> <p>X.31 Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems</p> |

| Preliminary Grouping | Resolutions |
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| | <p>XI.7 Tourism, recreation and wetlands</p> <p>XI.9 An Integrated Framework for avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for wetland losses</p> <p>XI.13 An Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication</p> <p>XI.15 Agriculture-wetland interactions: rice paddy and pest control</p> <p>XII.12* Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future</p> <p>XII.13 Wetlands and disaster risk reduction</p> <p>XIII.14 Promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue-carbon ecosystems</p> <p>XIII.19 Sustainable agriculture in wetlands</p> <p>XIII.20 Promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats</p> <p>XIII.21 Conservation and management of small wetlands</p> <p>XIII.24* The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites</p> |

Annex 3

Guidelines on the Preparation and recording of future Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

Guidance to Administrative Authorities and chairs of Convention bodies

Parties are urged to adhere to the following guidance when preparing draft resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

1. As far as possible, future draft resolutions should be prepared so that, if adopted, they will replace and repeal all existing Resolutions (or, as appropriate, the relevant paragraphs) on the same subject.
2. Where the intention is to amend the approach, instructions or policy contained in an existing Resolution, a proposal to amend that Resolution may be submitted to the Conference of the Parties instead of a new draft resolution.
3. If a draft resolution deals with a subject for which a consolidated Resolution has already been adopted, the draft should be presented in a way that revises or replaces the consolidated Resolution.
4. If a draft resolution deals with a subject that is already covered by one or more existing Resolutions that have not been consolidated:
 - the preamble should recall all existing Resolutions on the same subject;
 - the recommendations in the draft should not duplicate any existing recommendation; and
 - if the recommendations in the draft conflict with any existing recommendation, the draft should indicate that the existing contradictory advice is repealed.
5. Unless practical considerations dictate otherwise, draft resolutions should not include:
 - a) instructions or requests to the Standing Committee, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, or other subsidiary bodies or the Secretariat, unless they are part of a long-term procedure; or
 - b) recommendations (or other forms of decision) that will be implemented soon after their adoption and that will then be obsolete.

These types of decisions, if adopted, will be included in the “Decisions of the Conference of the Parties”. There may be some exceptions, such as the resolutions on financial and budgetary matters, which should continue to be adopted and published as resolutions.

Instructions to the Secretariat

6. When the Conference of the Contracting Parties adopts amendments to existing Resolutions, a revised version will be published with the agreed changes, and will replace the existing Resolution. As a general rule, the revised version will retain the same number, with the addition of the suffix “(Rev.COPX)”, where “X” represents the number of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the changes were adopted.
7. After the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat will publish a document containing all the Decisions that have been made by the Conference of the Parties during the meeting that are short term in effect and are therefore not included in the Resolutions. As far as

possible, the list of other Decisions should be sorted according to the body to which they are directed. Where this is not possible, they should be sorted by subject, using the subjects of the Resolutions for guidance.

8. The list of Decisions of the Conference of the Parties should be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to contain all the recommendations (or other forms of decision) that are not recorded in Resolutions and that are still valid. The Secretariat should publish the updated document within one month after each meeting of the Conference.



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”

Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022

Resolution XIV.6

Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

1. NOTING that Resolutions XIII.7 on *Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other institutions*, XII.7 on *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention*, and XII.3 on *Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* request and instruct the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with United Nations agencies, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and other regional economic commissions of the UN, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the other biodiversity-related Conventions, in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation, respecting the mandate of each Convention, and to report progress to the Standing Committee on a regular basis;
2. RECALLING that the Secretariat is also requested by Resolution XII.3 to continue its work with the Biodiversity Liaison Group to enhance coherence and cooperation and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related Conventions;
3. NOTING the ongoing discussion on the draft Decision on *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives*, which is expected to be adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the CBD at its 15th meeting;
4. EMPHASIZING the importance of cooperation among all relevant Conventions, organizations and initiatives to contribute to the objectives of the CBD and its post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework once it is adopted, and the UNCCD and its Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, UNFCCC and the Nationally Determined Contributions of the Paris Agreement;
5. NOTING that Resolution XI.1 on *Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat* instructs the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties to increase the Convention’s visibility and stature,

including *inter alia* through enhancing high-level political engagement in its work at national, regional, and global levels, the enhancement of synergies with MEAs and other international entities including through regional initiatives, and the increased involvement in the initiatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

6. RECOGNIZING the previous work carried out by the Working Group on the Observer Status of the Secretariat as established by Decision SC57-14 of the Standing Committee;
7. CONVINCED of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related Conventions to enhance regional and coherent national-level implementation of each of the Conventions as well as to advance mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors;
8. RECOGNIZING, in the context of the ongoing work on synergies, the importance of the linkages between the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands and the CBD and its forthcoming post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework once adopted, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, UNCCD and its Land Degradation Neutrality targets, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement as well as its Nationally Determined Contributions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and related reporting and indicators;
9. WELCOMING the memorandum of understanding and the sixth joint work plan between the Convention on Wetlands and the CBD to enhance the conservation and sustainable and wise use of biodiversity, especially in wetlands, helping to ensure the full achievement of the forthcoming Vision, Mission, and Goals of the CBD's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework when adopted, and the Mission and Targets of the Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan 2016-2024, to be signed at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD;
10. NOTING the strategic guidance prepared for the eighth replenishment of the GEF by the governing bodies of the Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITGPRFA) for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD at its 15th Meeting;
11. FURTHER NOTING the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (2022-2026);
12. RECALLING the UN General Assembly document *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which stresses the importance of enhancing programmatic synergies among the Rio Conventions and recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs made by the MEAs including the Convention on Wetlands;
13. NOTING the relevance to the Convention of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 6, "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all", and its Target 6.6, "By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes"; SDG 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", and its Target 14.2, "By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans"; and SDG 15, "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification,

and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, and its Target 15.1, “By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements” as well as its Target 15.3 “By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”;

14. RECALLING Resolution XIII.7, which notes the decision of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) at its 7th meeting to approve two reporting lines for SDG Indicator 6.6.1, “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time” to the global SDG database hosted by the UN Statistics Division, such that UNEP will be responsible for the internationally comparable methodology with national data, regional and global aggregations and the Convention on Wetlands will contribute data from the National Reports based on Ramsar definitions and requirements; and FURTHER RECALLING that the Convention and UNEP, as co-custodians for SDG Indicator 6.6.1, will be responsible for their respective reporting lines and will jointly contribute to the SDG target 6.6 storyline;
15. NOTING the progress of the Contracting Parties on the preparation on national wetlands inventories and reporting data on Indicator 6.6.1 in their National Reports to the 14th Conference of the Contracting Parties;
16. RECALLING Resolution XIII.7 that INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working actively with the IAEG-SDGs, as well as with other relevant UN agencies, on water-related indicators, and in particular SDG Indicator 6.6.1 on extent of water related ecosystems;
17. NOTING that the Conference of the Contracting Parties thorough Recommendation 4.1 and Resolutions VII.17, VIII.16 and XII.11 has recognized the importance and benefits of wetland restoration;
18. FURTHER NOTING that Contracting Parties to the Convention have prioritized restoration of degraded wetlands in Target 12 of the Convention’s Strategic Plan, with priority given to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
19. RECALLING UN General Assembly Resolution 73/284, which proclaims 2021-2030 to be the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the primary aim being to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, and the UNCCD and its Land Degradation Neutrality targets to achieve a Land Degradation Neutral World by the year 2030; and
20. NOTING the UN Environment Assembly Resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res.10 that requests the Executive Director of UNEP to continue to collaborate with UN agencies and MEAs such as the Convention on Wetlands to foster innovative ways to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and the degradation of soil, land and ecosystems in an integrated manner;

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Visibility and stature, and increasing synergies

21. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on progress in implementing this Resolution and Resolutions XIII.7 and XI.6 on *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*;
22. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Contracting Parties, to prepare an institutional strengthening report with recommendations reflecting the needs of the Secretariat to achieve organizational robustness to support the implementation of the Convention, including but not limited to those related to administrative arrangements, governance, leadership, human resources independency, high-level political engagement, and the Convention's visibility objectives, and REQUESTS the Secretariat to present the report with recommendations to the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62) for discussion and a subsequent draft resolution to SC63 for its consideration;
23. REAFFIRMS the importance of enhancing cooperation and synergies in the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, the Rio Conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), at the global, regional and national levels in a manner fully consistent with their mandates and priorities;
24. REQUESTS the Secretariat in collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to report at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) on the opportunities for the Convention to further strengthen its contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as they relate to wetlands;
25. INVITES the Secretariat, Contracting Parties, United Nations agencies, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other stakeholders to work to raise the visibility of the Convention at the national, subnational, regional and international levels as appropriate;
26. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to continue to establish or strengthen, at the national level, mechanisms to enhance effective coordination between relevant national and subnational authorities, and to support the mainstreaming of wetland ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature in national development plans, other sectors' strategies, plans and regulations, in national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) between addressing biodiversity loss, mitigation and adaptation to climate change and other environmental, social economic challenges through wetland restoration, conservation, sustainable management and wise use;
27. ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to the Convention to continue to increase their efforts to coordinate with the Rio Conventions and other MEAs as well as with institutions and agencies working to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs;
28. FURTHER ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to continue strengthening coordination with all wetland practitioners including managers of Wetlands of International Importance, to inform them of Ramsar activities and be informed by them about processes and issues of common interest;

29. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to continue to develop and activate cooperation and networking mechanisms, including national wetlands committees or similar bodies, to ensure collaboration with national ministries, departments and agencies;
30. INVITES Contracting Parties to enhance synergies and cooperation at the local and regional levels, including with respect to Wetland City Accreditation and sites with multiple international designations (such as Wetlands of International Importance that are also Biosphere Reserves or World Heritage sites);
31. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to continue working with global and regional bodies and initiatives, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Regional Commissions, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to enhance the wise and sustainable use of wetlands;
32. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to continue to implement the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19), including by establishing cooperative mechanisms for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins to enhance transboundary cooperation, and establishment of transboundary Ramsar Sites;
33. WELCOMES the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the status of the Convention on Wetlands as a Global Partner and REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue working with FAO, UNEP and the biodiversity-related Conventions in its implementation;
34. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to apply the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* contained in Resolution VIII.16 in their national wetland policies and plans and in undertaking national wetland inventories applying the Convention toolkit for wetland inventory to identify, in accordance with national circumstances and national priorities, priority sites for restoration relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to report their progress on these matters in their triennial National Reports to the COP as a contribution to the Convention Strategic Plan and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
35. REQUESTS the Secretariat to assess the progress on wetland restoration and report to COP15 and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to strengthen capacities of Contracting Parties in wetland restoration through training opportunities and other means;
36. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue the collaboration with the secretariats of other biodiversity-related Conventions through the Biodiversity Liaison Group and through the implementation of joint work plans and activities of common interest and further REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide inputs to the synergy process as appropriate and in particular on matters that are relevant to the Convention on Wetlands, and to report to the Standing Committee on the results, on the results of existing cooperation with other Conventions, international organizations and partnerships, and on the exploration of new activities with possible partners;
37. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with the World Bank and UN agencies, in particular UNEP, UNDP, FAO, WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and

Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the UN Economic Commission for Europe's Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, the GEF, MEAs such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and others, and to report progress to the Standing Committee on a regular basis;

38. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat, in consultation with the STRP, to engage with UNESCO, the CMS family, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and relevant IOPs to contribute to ongoing efforts to improve ecological connectivity of the world's flyways for migratory birds and potentially of other taxa;
39. ENCOURAGES Parties to the Convention that are also Parties to other MEAs such as the CBD, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, or the UNCCD, to consider, as appropriate, the relevance of their actions to implement the Convention on Wetlands taking into account the importance of conserving, restoring, sustainably managing and using wetlands, the implementation in relevant national policies, and to also consider in alignment with Resolution XIV.17, where appropriate, deploying wetland focused nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change, while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits;
40. WELCOMES the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding with UNEP to enhance collaboration on areas of common interest; and REQUESTS that the Secretariat report to the Standing Committee on the progress of the activities concerned;
41. RECALLS Resolution XIII.20 on *Promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats*, as well as CMS Resolution 12.25 on *Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and Other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species* and CBD Decision 14/30 on *Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives*, which call for increased focus on coastal ecosystems, and NOTES ongoing work to establish a World Coastal Forum;

The Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

42. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat and Contracting Parties that are also Parties to the CBD to enable the adequate recognition of wetlands in the goals, targets and indicators of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
43. RECOGNIZES the importance of Ramsar Sites for implementation of the CBD and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
44. REQUESTS the STRP to engage with the CBD for the development of an appropriate reflection of wetlands within the indicators and monitoring framework of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
45. REAFFIRMS that the STRP is tasked to assess the financial cost of wetland loss and degradation, and the investment required to maintain and restore wetlands;

46. INVITES UNEP to build on the Bern Process and continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related Conventions contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted, by facilitating the process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related Conventions;
47. REQUESTS the Secretary General, ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and INVITES other Governments to actively engage in the Bern Process among Parties to the various biodiversity-related Conventions facilitated by UNEP contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted;

The Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals - indicator for wetland extent

48. INSTRUCES the Secretariat to continue working actively with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as well as with other relevant UN agencies, on water-related indicators, and in particular SDG Indicator 6.6.1 on extent of water related ecosystems and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to collaborate with UNEP as co-custodian of Indicator 6.6.1 in line with Resolution XIII.7;
49. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen their efforts to complete their national wetland inventories and to report on wetland extent to report on SDG indicator 6.6.1; and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue working with Contracting Parties to actively support these efforts;
50. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen their mechanisms to enhance effective coordination among national and subnational statistical authorities responsible for reporting on the SDGs and in particular those related to wetlands and extent of water-related ecosystems (Indicator 6.6.1);
51. INSTRUCES the Secretariat to participate as appropriate in relevant international efforts to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs, including the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the discussion in international relevant and related events of SDG 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” and SDG 15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, and Targets 14.2 “By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts” and 15.1 “By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements”;
52. FURTHER INSTRUCES the Secretariat to support Contracting Parties as appropriate in mainstreaming and raising the relevance of wetlands and the Convention to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and to the work of MEAs and other international instruments, including *inter alia* through collaboration with UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, IOPs and other partners in the public and private sectors for the development of guidance and tools, capacity building and identification of opportunities to access resources;
53. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to elevate the visibility of wetlands, as well as raising awareness about conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands and the Convention

to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs and to strengthen mainstreaming efforts at national and subnational levels;

54. INVITES the Contracting Parties that are also Parties to other MEAs to consider further measures to promote national level synergies, taking into account national circumstances and priorities, so as to foster policy coherence, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance cooperation, coordination and synergies among MEAs and other partners as a means to enhance coherent national implementation of the Convention to support achievement of wetland-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda;
55. URGES Contracting Parties to establish national collaboration mechanisms between MEA focal points to promote synergies and effectiveness of national efforts, for example, through national biodiversity working groups, relevant measures in NBSAPs, harmonized knowledge management and national reporting, including by making use of the Data Reporting tool (DaRT) developed by the United Nations Environment Programme;

The Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

56. INVITES the Global Environmental Facility Trust Fund to continue to support projects in the Biodiversity Focal Area that mainstream wetlands and its biodiversity across sectors, landscapes – including inland waters – and seascapes; to address direct drivers to protect wetland habitats and species, including through protected area systems such as the Wetlands of International Importance designated by Contracting Parties under the Convention on Wetlands; and to promote the social, economic and environmental benefits of wetlands, supporting sustainable livelihoods and innovative sustainable value chains from wetlands; and to further develop biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks, including policy making and review, monitoring, spatial planning, incentives, and strategic establishment of protected areas, and protected areas management and restoration;
57. FURTHER INVITES the GEF Trust Fund, under the International Waters Focal Area, to continue the support to projects and activities to sustain healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, catalyze sustainable fisheries management and to enhance regional and national cooperation on shared freshwater surface and groundwater basins and to continue to undertake further projects on Multifocal Area Programmes on wetlands, which address the critical importance of wetlands for the multiple benefits these ecosystems deliver to nature and people, and cost effectiveness of investments that achieve biodiversity, water, climate and livelihoods objectives, while addressing systematic inclusion of gender equality, which Parties to the Convention are mainstreaming in accordance with Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and wetlands*;
58. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties in the projects submitted to the GEF to enhance support towards the integration of wetlands in the revision or updating of NBSAPs, and other national development plans, national budgets and priorities;

The relationship with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the work of the Secretariat

59. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue the cooperation efforts with IUCN through the IUCN/Ramsar Liaison Group to support the operations of the Secretariat under the Service Agreement between the Convention on Wetlands and IUCN;

60. CONFIRMS that the present Resolution supersedes Resolution XIII.7, which is replaced by the present Resolution.



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.7 Part A

Ramsar Regional Initiatives

1. RECALLING that Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) under the Ramsar Convention, which include regional centres for training and capacity building and regional networks to facilitate cooperation, are intended as an operational means to provide effective support for improved implementation of the Convention and its strategic plan in specific geographic regions, through voluntary international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern;
2. RECALLING that the Conference of the Contracting Parties has recognized the importance of RRIs in promoting the objectives of the Convention;
3. ALSO RECALLING that at its 13th meeting (COP13), the Conference of the Contracting Parties instructed the Secretariat’s Legal Advisor to conduct a review of relevant Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions, identifying those that were inconsistent with Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021* and relevant Decisions, and propose which should be repealed; and
4. FURTHER RECALLING that at COP13, the Conference of the Parties through Resolution XIII.9 re-established the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group and instructed it to draft new operational guidelines for RRIs, as well as a draft resolution on RRIs which *inter alia* incorporated the aforementioned list of Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions to be repealed, and that both were endorsed by the Standing Committee at its 59th meeting (SC59);

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5. EXPRESSES its gratitude to the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group for its work on drafting new operational guidelines for RRIs;
6. ADOPTS the *Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives* contained in Annex 1 of this Resolution to support the implementation of the Convention, which will serve as a reference to assess the operation of Regional Initiatives and their success, and which supersede the operational guidelines adopted in 2016 through Decision SC52-16 and contained in document SC52-22;

7. REAFFIRMS the effectiveness of regional cooperation through networks and centres, grouped under the term RRIs, in supporting improved implementation of the Convention on Wetlands and its Strategic Plan and Resolutions;
8. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, working with partner organizations, to establish RRIs in parts of the world where no such Initiatives exist yet and they would present opportunities to increase implementation of the Convention;
9. REQUESTS the Secretariat, working with the International Organization Partners (IOPs), to identify opportunities for promoting the establishment of RRIs in parts of the world where there are currently no RRIs and where there is currently limited wetland management capacity, and to provide a report to each COP;
10. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to invite, for example, regional intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations, organizations of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, and transboundary river and groundwater basin organizations, to participate in or collaborate with RRIs;
11. RECOGNIZES the potential cooperation within the framework of RRIs in wetlands ecosystems or watersheds shared by Contracting Parties that allows a comprehensive vision of the territory, favouring dialogue, coordination and cooperation between the parties involved;
12. DECIDES that all RRIs will comply with the following criteria based on Resolution XIII.9 to be formally recognized as an RRI under the Convention:
 - a. Develop written terms of reference which are consistent with relevant Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) and Decisions of the Standing Committee. These terms of reference cover their own rules of procedure, structure, governance and membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation in an advisory role in the RRI;
 - b. The governance and financial structures and activities of RRIs are transparent, accountable, compliant with relevant laws and consistent with relevant Resolutions of the COP and Decisions of the Standing Committee;
 - c. Undertake tasks related to the implementation of the Convention and its strategic plan in their region and can speak in their own name only, using their own logo, to avoid any confusion between RRIs, Ramsar Administrative Authorities at the national level and the Secretariat at the international level;
 - d. New RRIs submit to the Standing Committee through the Secretariat, in accordance with the format in Annex 2 of this Resolution, the *Template for proposed new Regional Initiatives*, to be endorsed either by the Standing Committee, or the COP; and
 - e. RRIs submit a brief annual report to the Standing Committee through the Secretariat on their progress and operations, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the *Operational Guidelines*, according to the format in Annex 3 of this Resolution approved by the Standing Committee.
13. DECIDES that RRIs that satisfy the *Operational Guidelines* are endorsed by the COP or the Standing Committee as operating within the framework of the Convention for the period

between two meetings of the COP, and receive the status of a Ramsar Regional Initiative or, if already recognized, will have their status confirmed.

14. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to provide the COP and Standing Committee a summary of the information obtained from the annual reports to assist these bodies in their reviews of RRIs and decisions regarding funding;
15. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to remind RRIs that do not submit their annual report to do so;
16. FURTHER REQUESTS the Standing Committee to consider withdrawing its endorsement of RRIs that do not fulfill the criteria in paragraph 12 of the present Resolution;
17. NOTES that RRIs that have been endorsed as operating within the framework of the Convention are eligible for start-up financial support from the core budget of the Convention and RECOMMENDS that the start-up financial support is to be provided for up to six years, according to decisions on budgetary matters;
18. DECIDES that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to eligible RRIs will be determined annually by the Standing Committee, based on the information submitted by RRIs to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 15 (e) of this Resolution, and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance to the Standing Committee;
19. DECIDES that a newly established RRI requesting core funds should include a rationale about how the RRI supports Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and its Resolutions and guidance, according to the format in Annex 2 of this Resolution;
20. URGES RRIs that receive financial support from the core budget to consider using part of this support to achieve financial sustainability funding through financial support from other sources, including donors that are willing to support RRIs through specific projects and cooperation programmes, particularly during the last years in which the RRIs qualify for such support;
21. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and potential donors to consider giving financial support to RRIs or their specific activities;
22. INVITES the Convention's IOPs and other stakeholders to partner with and support RRIs in their undertakings, including in particular through capacity-building and fundraising efforts;
23. REAFFIRMS the decision taken by the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties through Resolution XIII.9 that *"requests the Secretariat, within its existing legal framework and mandate, to assist Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in the administration of non-core funded projects, including, but not limited to, successful fundraising for RRIs; and further instructs Secretariat staff in positions identified in Annex 4 as supported with core funds not to be involved in the day-to-day administration of non-core funded projects, these being the responsibility of any Secretariat staff in positions supported with non-core funds for that specific purpose"*;
24. REQUESTS the Secretariat to focus its advice to RRIs on how to reinforce their capacity and effectiveness, including in relation to the alignment of RRIs with the Convention's Strategic Plan and communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) Programme;

25. ENCOURAGES RRIs to develop proposals for strengthening their capacities, in particular in cooperation with other RRIs on specific geographical and thematic issues, and INVITES RRIs to maintain active and regular contact with the Secretariat;
26. FURTHER REQUESTS that the Secretariat continue to publish on the Convention's website information provided by the RRIs, including information on ongoing projects and reports on their successes and workplans, and other relevant information on RRIs as appropriate;
27. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to open calls for proposals for new RRIs, to be endorsed by the COP or intersessionally by the Standing Committee, which follow the template in Annex 2 of the present Resolution; and
28. ENCOURAGES the Standing Committee to consider recommending significant amendments to the COP based on the report by the Secretariat.

Annex 1

Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention

1. Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) under the Convention on Wetlands are intended as operational means to provide effective support for an improved implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan.
2. The Operational Guidelines are an effort to ensure that the RRIs are actively supporting Contracting Parties with a common interest in a particular area, region or ecosystem, to protect wetlands in the Convention on Wetlands framework.
3. The RRIs have various types of governance and coordination approaches, as well as operational and financial management practices. RRIs can be regional centres or networks, or a mixture of both, can be cooperation networks without a legal status or established organizations with their own legal status, and can have different kinds of governance and coordination approaches.
4. The Operational Guidelines aim to ensure that the Contracting Parties at meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) provide greater recognition and a stronger formal endorsement to well-performing RRIs. This type of recognition will facilitate the efforts of RRIs to mobilize resources and obtain more support from third parties, including donors willing to fund regional projects for improved implementation of the Convention in the various regions. Additionally, it is as important that the COP is made aware of challenges faced by some RRIs.
5. The Operational Guidelines should be considered as a guide for the sustainability of RRIs, allowing them to ensure their long-term effectiveness.
6. Those proposing new regional initiatives must apply to the Standing Committee or the COP through the Secretariat to become an RRI. The application will follow the template in Annex 2 of this Resolution.
7. RRIs complying with all requirements should receive a certificate for the endorsed period by the COP or the Standing Committee.

Chapter 1: The aim and scope of RRIs

8. RRIs should support the operational implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in the geographical area they are covering. RRIs improve implementation of the Convention through international cooperation within the region on wetland-related issues of common concern, involving relevant stakeholders.
9. RRIs could either be physically established centres that have a regional training or capacity building programme, regional cooperation networks with no physical centre, or a combination of both.
10. Geographical regions to be covered by RRIs are defined according to the wetland-related needs of the relevant actors in their region. RRIs are intended to provide lasting structural and operational support to facilitate and improve the implementation of the Convention in the region concerned.

Chapter 2: Governance and operation of the RRI

11. Contracting Parties have the main responsibility to create, manage, develop, supervise and coordinate the operation of an RRI and establish its coordinating body. This responsibility may be delegated through any appropriate arrangement.
12. All Contracting Parties that are members of a given RRI are encouraged to participate in the activities carried out during the year, according to the established workplan. When this is not the case, the coordination body of the RRI will lead a process to promote the active participation of the Contracting Parties.
13. RRI establish their own governance and advisory mechanisms in order to provide leadership, coordination, guidance and accountability in a transparent and equitable manner. This requires the establishment of a governing body made up of the participating Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders, and a coordination body. The institutional arrangements of each RRI are defined in its operative rules and should encourage the active participation of all Contracting Party members of the Initiative.
14. The governing body meets regularly, guides the RRI, defines its mandates, rules and principles of procedure, decides on how different work tasks for the activities of the RRI are to be distributed, monitors its activities, work programme and its resources, and provides all its members with relevant information. The operational procedures are made available to the public, for example at the individual RRI website or the RRI's webpage on the Convention website.
15. All Contracting Parties which are members of an RRI are encouraged to contribute to the RRI, by financial and/or in-kind resources for each triennium as appropriate.
16. RRI may request advice from the Secretariat in order to strengthen their capacity and effectiveness, including for the mobilization of additional resources. The Secretariat will inform the COP of the support activities provided during the triennium.
17. RRI are encouraged to use the best tools such as the existing Convention documents, in particular the technical annexes of the Resolutions, manuals, guidelines, methods, etc. They are encouraged to cooperate with National Focal Points for the Convention, including communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) and Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) Focal Points.
18. The Secretariat and the STRP may be invited to assist in the review of training modules developed by RRI to ensure quality and that contents are aligned with approved global tools and are well adapted to regional contexts. The RRI can also seek assistance from wetland experts, as well as wetland practitioners, for the review of training modules and related publications. On other capacity-building activities, details about the number of individuals or organizations that have benefitted from the undertaken activities, and results of any evaluations undertaken, will be included in the annual reports, to enable assessment of their impact.
19. RRI are encouraged to work in synergy with other initiatives, including programmes of other international agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory

Species of Wild Animals, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Chapter 3: Status of the RRI

20. Ongoing RRI are endorsed by the COP.
21. New RRI are endorsed at the COP or intersessionally by the Standing Committee, provided that their establishment is justified as a response to the needs of the region concerned and that they comply with existing Resolutions and Decisions on RRI in accordance with the format of Annex 2.
22. RRI are a part of the implementation mechanism of the Convention. They are not to be considered as regional offices of the Convention or as spokespersons or representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention.
23. The RRI are encouraged to establish their own identity, which specifies their independence, their status and role. They apply relevant provisions of national legislation and, if needed, seek to obtain a formal recognition in their host country.
24. RRI can only act by mandate of their constituents. They do not form part of any national or local authority or organization that may provide them with support or hosting arrangements.
25. RRI are requested to adopt their own logo and are encouraged to have a website. RRI can use the Convention logo in combination with their own logo. They have to apply Convention rules on the convention logo.

Chapter 4: Participation in RRI

26. RRI are encouraged to establish a coordination body to organize periodic meetings, ensuring timely planning and full involvement of Contracting Party members.
27. The coordination body is encouraged to organize meetings for the purpose of exchanging experiences, which involve relevant stakeholders, such as Ministries, governmental organizations, International Organization Partners (IOPs) to the Convention, other non-governmental organizations and civil society, universities, local communities and the private sector, as well as CEPA and STRP National Focal Points of the Convention.
28. Effective partnerships with IOPs and other relevant regional or global organizations should be promoted. The coordination body should develop an annual workplan and its strategic plan in consultation with relevant partners.

Chapter 5: Relation between the Secretariat of the Convention and the RRI

29. Effective and frequent communication between the RRI and the Secretariat is important.

Chapter 6: The role of the RRI in implementing the Strategic Plan of the Convention

30. The workplan of each RRI is aligned with the approved Strategic Plan of the Convention.

31. RRIs that implement their workplan ineffectively in a given triennium might not be endorsed as RRIs in the succeeding triennium by the COP.
32. RRIs are encouraged to include specific activities related to CEPA in the annual work programme and/or projects. RRIs are invited to engage CEPA experts for advice and make use of existing material from other RRIs.

Chapter 7: Financing of the RRIs

33. RRIs have their own systems for accounting and presenting reports, overseen by their governing bodies, unless they are part of one or several of the Contracting Parties' accounting and reporting systems.
34. All participating Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide assistance to RRIs, and donors are encouraged to provide funds for their activities, for example through financing provided for specific projects or programmes.
35. The financial section of the annual report includes information on: the number of Contracting Parties contributing in-kind or financial resources to the implementation of the Initiative; the number of other partners contributing to the Initiative; expenditures against individual activities and results; as well as the amounts of the financial contributions.
36. RRIs take the necessary measures to establish financial sustainability with resources allowing for the development of their activities over the long term.
37. If they lack reliable resources, RRIs are encouraged to prepare a resource mobilization strategy to facilitate the implementation of their annual workplans. RRIs can request the support of the Convention Secretariat to help their effort to find external financial resources.
38. The RRIs which receive core budget funds from the Convention are requested to submit a financial report to the Standing Committee as part of the annual report.
39. Each COP establishes a core budget line to support new RRIs over the coming triennium. The Standing Committee allocates these funds annually, in response to specific requests, to new RRIs that fulfil the Operational Guidelines.
40. RRIs are expected to be financially self-sufficient after receiving financial assistance provided from the core budget of the Convention. RRIs may support the Contracting Parties in the development of project proposals in line with their respective workplan and the Strategic Plan of the Convention.

Chapter 8: Reporting and evaluation of the RRIs

41. RRIs are requested to submit to the Standing Committee through the Secretariat annual financial and progress reports regarding the implementation of their workplan, following the format in Annex 3.
42. RRIs will submit their annual report in accordance with the deadline that the Secretariat has provided.

43. The annual report and workplan will be approved by the governing body of the RRI, prior to submission to the Secretariat.

Annex 2

Template for proposed new Ramsar Regional Initiatives

1. Name of the proposed Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI).
2. Contracting Parties which are members of the proposed initiative will provide letters of commitment from Contracting Party members, indicating their financial contribution to the proposed initiative, as well as designating the official in the Government that will be the focal point for it during the following triennium.
3. Description of the expected coordination body and potential host.
4. Type of RRI: regional centre or regional network, or a combination thereof, with a brief description.
5. Objectives of the RRI and rationale about how the RRI supports Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and its Resolutions and guidance.
6. Describe the main objective to be reached with this RRI, indicating the geographical area, region and/or ecosystems to be covered.
7. Please clearly identify the Goals and Targets of the Convention's Strategic Plan that will be supported through the RRI.
8. Please include names of relevant International Organization Partners and other NGOs that would like to participate in the initiative.
9. Please name other potentially relevant partners and describe how they have participated in the preparation of the workplan and what role you expect them to assume if the RRI is endorsed.
10. Potential sources of funding for the RRI.
11. A workplan and budget for the following three years (Swiss francs (CHF) / year) – in accordance with Annex 3.
12. Confirm whether you plan to open an independent bank account for the initiative.

Annex 3
Reporting format for Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Template, Annual report and workplan

(Please do not change the format)

Annual report for year XXXX and workplan for year XXXX
(6 pages maximum)
Submission deadline: XX XXXX

NOTE – to complete this template, please refer to the explanatory notes below

1. General information

- a. Name of Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI):
- b. Have the terms of reference (TORs) or equivalent documents been updated? Yes / No
(If yes, please provide the web link to the PDF version for the updated document(s).)

NOTE: Following [Resolution XIII.9 paragraph 8](#), TORs or equivalent documents must be developed, which contain rules of procedure, structure, governance and membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation in the RRI, and which should be consistent with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties.

- c. Is the RRI eligible for core funding from the Convention?
Yes / No

2. Work and activities undertaken during year XXXX

Provide a summary of the work undertaken by listing in the table below the Initiative’s activities, the results achieved, verifiable indicators, sources of information to verify achievements, and relevant Goals in the Ramsar Strategic Plan to analyse tasks in relation to the implementation of the Convention ([Resolution XIII.9, Paragraphs 8, e](#)).

| Objectives | Activities | Results/ outcomes | Verifiable indicators | Means of verification / source of information | Relevant Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals |
|------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Objective one | 1.1 Activity undertaken | Completed / Not completed Outcomes: | | | |
| | 1.2 Activity undertaken | Completed / Not completed Outcomes: | | | |
| 2. Objective two | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

3. Key achievements / results during year XXXX

- a. Please describe briefly the two or three main achievements / results during year XXXX (max. 200 words).

- b. For those RRI receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, if there were changes to the workplan for year XXXX, including postponement or delay, please indicate the reasons (max. 200 words).

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

- c. Please describe briefly the two or three main challenges, and lessons learned and planned measures to overcome the challenges / apply the lessons (max. 200 words).

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

4. Financial report for year XXXX

Provide financial information on income and expenditure. If a currency other than Swiss francs (CHF) is used, please write each income or expenditure in the currency used and use the current exchange rate to convert the total sum to CHF.

For those RRI receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget for year XXXX: _____ (CHF) (as submitted in last year's plan)

Details of sources of income and amounts:

| Sources of income | Income received |
|--|--|
| Convention core budget | amount |
| Other sources (please be specific, such as donor's name, project name) | Amount |
| | |
| Total (CHF) | (Total amount should be in CHF) |

Detailed expenditure:

| Budget Items | Planned expenditure | Actual expenditure | Sources of income |
|--------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| 1.1 activity | | | |
| 1.2 activity | | | |
| Administration | | | |
| | | | |
| Total (CHF) | (Total amount should be in CHF) | (Total amount should be in CHF) | |

Certified by (person in charge of financial management) on (date)

Financial balance at 31 December XXXX:

Total amount of unspent and/or uncommitted balance to be carried over to YYYY (the coming year), or deficit: _____ (CHF)

(Please remove either unspent and/or uncommitted balance or deficit as applicable)

- a. If there is an unspent and/or uncommitted balance, please explain how it will be used for the coming year.
- b. Please explain how the funding has been spent or committed, and compare this to the plan on which the funding request was based. Explain any significant changes in scope or timetable.

For those RRIs not receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget for year XXXX: _____ (CHF) (as submitted in last year’s plan)

Details of sources of income and amounts:

| Sources of income * | Income received |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name of income sources | amount |
| | |
| | |
| Total (CHF) | Total amount should be in CHF |

Detailed expenditure:

| Budget Items | Planned expenditure | Actual expenditure (CHF) |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1.1 activity | | |
| 1.2 activity | | |
| | | |
| Total (CHF) | Total amount should be in CHF | Total amount should be in CHF |

Certified by (person in charge of financial management) on (date)

Total amount of unspent and/or uncommitted balance to be carried over to YYYY (the coming year), or deficit: _____ (CHF)

(Please remove either unspent and/or uncommitted balance or deficit as applicable)

**If the RRI cannot disclose financial details, please share with the Secretariat the audit reports or financial reports which were submitted to the governance bodies. Please note that the Secretariat needs to provide such information to the Standing Committee and the Conference of Contracting Parties to ensure the recognized RRI’s financial accountability, in accordance with [Resolution XIII.9 paragraph 8.d.](#)*

5. Work and activities planned for (coming year YYYY)

Provide a summary of the work planned by listing the Initiative's activities, the results expected, verifiable indicators, sources of information to verify the achievement, and relevant strategic goals according to the format below:

| Objectives | Activities | Expected results/ outcomes | Verifiable indicators | Means of verification / source of information | Relevant Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals (link) |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| 1. Objective one | 1.1 Activity planned | | | | |
| | 1.2 Activity planned | | | | |
| 2. Objective two | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

6. Financial plan for coming year YYYY

Provide financial information on forecasted/budgeted expenditure and income. If a currency other than Swiss francs (CHF) is used, please write each income or expenditure in the currency used and use the current exchange rate to convert the total sum to CHF.

For those RRIs receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the tables below.

Total planned budget: _____ (CHF)

Details of planned income sources and amount:

| Sources of income | Forecast / budgeted income |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Ramsar core budget | amount (currency) |
| Other sources (please be specific if possible, such as donor's name, project name) | amount (currency) |
| | |
| | |
| Total (CHF) | Total amount should be in CHF |

Details of planned expenditure:

| Activities | Planned expenditure | Sources of Income |
|--------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1.1 activity | amount (currency) | |

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1.2 activity | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total (CHF) | Total amount should be in CHF | |

This report is certified by (responsible person for your RRI) on (date)

For those RRIs not receiving funding from the Convention in YYYY, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget: _____ (CHF)

Details of planned income sources and amount:

| Sources of income | Forecast / budgeted income |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Name of income sources | amount (currency) |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Total | Total amount should be in CHF |

Details of planned expenditure:

| Activities | Planned expenditure | Sources of income * |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1.1 activity | amount (currency) | Name of sources |
| 1.2 activity | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Total (CHF) | Total amount should be in CHF | |

This report is certified by (responsible person for your RRI) on (date)

Explanatory notes

1. Terms of reference of RRIs

Following [Resolution XIII.9](#) paragraph 8, RRIs must develop terms of reference, which cover their own rules of procedure, structure, governance, membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation in the RRI, and which should be consistent with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of Parties (Resolution XIII.9). Equivalent documents must cover the same items.

2. Eligible for core funding from the Secretariat

Following the Operational Guidelines, financial assistance to an RRI from the core budget is provided for a limited period of time, in principle only for a period corresponding to Resolution XIII. 9 paragraph 8.g).

3. Items in activity tables

To fill out the table for undertaken activities and planned activities, please make sure that "Objectives", "Activities", "Results/outcomes", "Verifiable indicators" and "Means of verification / source of information" are consistent with the submitted plan for the year.

- Objectives: Please indicate a specific statement narrating a desired accomplishment or outcome (e.g. to improve capacity of the RRI members in the management of wetlands).
- Results/outcomes: Please indicate whether planned activities are completed or not. If you organized a workshop/seminar/training course, please specify the number of attendees including gender information (e.g. XX trainings were organized, XX people attended (XX women, XX men)). This information will enable assessment of achievements and results.
- Verifiable indicators: Indicators are to measure progress and achievement. Please include indicators to verify to what extent progress is being made towards results/outcomes and how those results/outcomes are achieved (e.g. the number of training courses, the number of publications).
- Means of verification / source of information: Please add means of verification, which show how the information about the indicator can be obtained (e.g. training reports, modules).
- Relevance to the Strategic Plan: Please indicate which of the goals of the Convention's Strategic Plan each of the objectives most contributes to.

Resolution XIV.7 Part B

Ramsar Regional Initiatives – List of the RRI endorsed as operating in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands for the intersessional period of COP14-COP15

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. DECIDES the endorsement of this list; and
2. DECIDES that this list is to be valid until replaced by a new one for the COP15-COP16 period at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15).

RRIs endorsed for the intersessional period of COP14-COP15 are:

Four regional Ramsar centres for training and capacity building:

- Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA)
- Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO)
- Ramsar Regional Center in Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA)
- Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA); and

Sixteen Ramsar networks for regional cooperation:

- Ramsar Regional Initiative for West African Coastal Zone Wetlands (WaCoWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Niger River Basin (NigerWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin
- Caribbean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (CariWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin
- East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia
- Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative
- Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet)
- Carpathian Wetland Ramsar Regional Initiative (CWI)
- Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (NorBalWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet)
- The Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative

3. RECOGNIZES that the Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet) is financially independent of the Convention and has its own provisional budget for the next triennium, which is annexed to the present Resolution for information purposes in response to a request by MedWet without establishing a precedent for RRI;

Annex 1

MedWet budget for the 2023-2025 triennium

Table 1. Budget for the operations of the MedWet Initiative for 2023-2025
(MedWet/COM15, 6 November 2022)

| Budget line | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| EXPENDITURE | | | |
| MANAGEMENT | | | |
| Coordinator | 57.600,00 | 57.600,00 | 57.600,00 |
| STAFF COSTS | | | |
| Administrative & financial officer | 52.500,00 | 53.300,00 | 54.100,00 |
| EXPERTS & CONSULTANTS | | | |
| Communication team | 30.000,00 | 30.000,00 | 30.000,00 |
| Policy & Advocacy expert | 30.000,00 | 30.000,00 | 30.000,00 |
| STN Coordinator | 25.000,00 | 25.000,00 | 25.000,00 |
| Ramsar Site Managers Network Facilitator | 15.000,00 | 15.000,00 | 15.000,00 |
| Restoration expert | 15.000,00 | 15.000,00 | 15.000,00 |
| Others | 30.000,00 | 25.000,00 | 45.000,00 |
| OFFICIAL TRAVEL | | | |
| MedWet Secretariat | 6.000,00 | 8.000,00 | 6.000,00 |
| MedWet/Com and MedWet/SG | 5.000,00 | 10.000,00 | 5.000,00 |
| COMMUNICATION SERVICES | | | |
| Web sites and dissemination | 6.400,00 | 6.400,00 | 9.500,00 |
| Communication tools | 2.000,00 | 4.000,00 | 5.777,00 |
| OFB grants | 9.500,00 | 9.500,00 | 9.500,00 |
| OFFICE COST | | | |
| Office management | 14.000,00 | 14.000,00 | 14.000,00 |
| VARIOUS | | | |
| Miscellaneous expenses | 8.677,00 | 9.077,00 | 6.000,00 |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | 306.677,00 | 311.877,00 | 327.477,00 |
| INCOME | | | |
| Medwet country contributions | 110.000,00 | 110.000,00 | 110.000,00 |
| OFB | 50.000,00 | 40.000,00 | 40.000,00 |
| UE REST-COAST | 31.677,00 | 38.877,00 | 42.477,00 |
| UE RESTORE4C | 90.000,00 | 90.000,00 | 90.000,00 |
| RESCOM | 25.000,00 | 25.000,00 | 25.000,00 |
| Fondation Prince Albert / TDV | | 8.000,00 | 20.000,00 |
| Funding from other donors | | | |
| TOTAL INCOME | 306.677,00 | 311.877,00 | 327.477,00 |

Table 2. MedWet members' contributions

| Member | UN 2022 All Countries | UN 2022 Med Countries | Euro | Percentage |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|------------|
| Albania | 0,01 | 0,06 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Algeria | 0,11 | 0,87 | 1.283,62 | 0,80% |
| Andorra | 0,01 | 0,04 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Bosnia & Herzegovina | 0,01 | 0,10 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Bulgaria | 0,06 | 0,45 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Croatia | 0,09 | 0,73 | 1.071,65 | 0,67% |
| Cyprus | 0,04 | 0,29 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Egypt | 0,14 | 1,11 | 1.636,91 | 1,02% |
| France | 4,32 | 34,57 | 51.500,00 | 32,06% |
| North Macedonia | 0,01 | 0,06 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Greece | 0,33 | 2,60 | 3.827,31 | 2,38% |
| Israel | 0,56 | 4,49 | 6.606,52 | 4,11% |
| Italy | 3,19 | 25,53 | 37.554,72 | 23,38% |
| Jordan | 0,02 | 0,18 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Lebanon | 0,04 | 0,29 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Libya | 0,02 | 0,14 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Malta | 0,02 | 0,15 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Monaco | 0,01 | 0,09 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Montenegro | 0,00 | 0,03 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Morocco | 0,06 | 0,44 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Portugal | 0,35 | 2,83 | 4.157,05 | 2,59% |
| Serbia | 0,03 | 0,26 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Slovenia | 0,08 | 0,63 | 930,33 | 0,58% |
| Spain | 2,13 | 17,08 | 25.130,69 | 15,64% |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 0,01 | 0,07 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Tunisia | 0,02 | 0,15 | 1.000,00 | 0,62% |
| Turkey | 0,85 | 6,76 | 9.951,00 | 6,19% |
| Tour du Valat | | | 500,00 | 0,31% |
| WWF | | | 500,00 | 0,31% |

Note: Annual contributions from the countries participating in the MedWet Initiative are calculated using the UN Scale of Assessment 2022. When the UN Scale of Assessment will be updated through adoption by the UN General Assembly, the countries' contributions will be modified accordingly. France confirmed its current contribution of 51,500 instead of 50,850 Euro.



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.8

The new CEPA approach⁸

1. RECALLING Resolution IX.18 on *Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention*; Resolution VIII.31 on *The Convention’s Programme on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) for 2003-2008*; and Resolution XII.9 which includes the communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) programme for 2016-24;
2. RECALLING Resolution XIII.5 *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention* that instructed the CEPA Oversight Panel to develop a new approach for advising on and supporting CEPA in the Convention;
3. RECOGNIZING that, while there is an active programme of CEPA work underway, there are limitations and lost opportunities associated with a separate CEPA programme and that the closer alignment of CEPA activities with the core work of the Convention will better deliver on its goals and mission;
4. NOTING that the new CEPA approach has been developed so that it may be integrated into the current fourth strategic plan of the Convention for 2016-2024 (SP4) using a thematic annex (see Annex 2) and the new strategic plan (SP5) as appropriate;
5. RECOGNIZING that Contracting Parties, International Organization Partners and other partners will have different capacities and priorities, and that the new CEPA approach provides flexibility in implementation; and
6. COMMENDING the excellent work already undertaken with very scarce resources by all actors in the Convention’s CEPA activities;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. AGREES TO the new communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) approach as described in Annex 1 of the present Resolution, and encourages its

⁸ Corrected on 3 February 2023 in accordance with paragraphs 417 and 418 of the COP14 report; see <https://www.ramsar.org/document/cop14-conference-report>.

implementation by Parties, International Organization Partners and other partners, noting that it is designed to recognize and be complementary to existing CEPA activities;

8. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to cooperate, using their CEPA National Focal Points to increase the impact of each of their CEPA activities;
9. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to make efforts to integrate as appropriate the implementation of the Strategic Plan with the new CEPA approach described in the Annexes to the present Resolution;
10. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to initiate the nomination process for the CEPA Oversight Panel following the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) to enable the Standing Committee to take an intersessional decision on the composition of the Oversight Panel for the following triennium;
11. INSTRUCTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to develop a work plan for the next triennium to be presented to the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62) for its information;
12. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, in collaboration with the CEPA Oversight Panel, and in consultation with Parties, to prepare for SC63 a proposal on the future operations of the Oversight Panel to support the new approach, including the nomination procedure, using the terms of reference contained in Annex 3 as general guidance;
13. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to assign an additional Communications Officer to underpin implementation of the new approach, within existing resources;
14. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to include in its work programme provisions detailing how it will support the Contracting Parties in the implementation of the new CEPA approach; and
15. Encourages the CEPA Oversight Panel, in cooperation with the Strategic Plan Working Group, to integrate into the fifth Strategic Plan, as appropriate, the CEPA new approach drawing on Annex 2 of the present Resolution, for consideration at COP15.

Annex 1

The new approach to CEPA has the following characteristics

- 1. A reduced set of activities clearly linked to the Strategic Plan**
 - The effort should be focused on a smaller number of high-priority activities.
 - Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) activities should be incorporated into the Strategic Plan, but with a separate CEPA document providing supporting guidance, as needed.

- 2. Make CEPA more strategic, integrated and effective**
 - The CEPA Programme would better support and strengthen the Strategic Plan if integrated into it. The next Strategic Plan should include both standalone CEPA activities and CEPA elements.
 - In general, CEPA activities should be integrated in planning and activities of the Convention (locally, nationally, internationally) where appropriate.

- 3. Work to support focal points, and build more networks and partnerships**
 - National Focal Points and CEPA National Focal Points are considered important to ensure a coordinated and strategic national approach to Ramsar implementation. Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the key implementers of CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities when necessary.
 - Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs are encouraged to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communication material and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved. Contracting Parties should also be encouraged to coordinate with their focal points for other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), where appropriate.
 - The Secretariat should seek opportunities to build networks and partnerships at the international level, including with other MEAs, in order to identify opportunities for common or complementary CEPA activities and to bring relevant tools, resources, and practices to Contracting Parties.
 - The Contracting Parties, where appropriate, should increase engagement with other sectors, consistent with priorities identified in the Strategic Plan at the national level. Messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience.

- 4. Strategic support by the Secretariat**
 - The Secretariat to provide advice and information to Contracting Parties, for example introduction materials about Ramsar CEPA work for new CEPA NFPs and CEPA NGO FPs and sharing good examples from other countries.
 - The Secretariat to revise the handbook on Wetland CEPA from 2010. The revised version probably needs to reflect the new CEPA approach, include other changes in the Convention since 2010, and include new content on social media, how to enhance networking etc.
 - The Secretariat to provide opportunities for the CEPA NFPs to learn more about CEPA tools. This can take place in conjunction with other relevant meeting, such as COPs or regional meetings as appropriate, or via online resources.

- 5. More efficient governance of global CEPA work**
 - Better described work task (separating what may be mandatory and what may be voluntary) for the Ramsar CEPA working group/-s

- Better way of composing and establishing the Ramsar CEPA working group/-s
- *Modus operandi* for Ramsar CEPA working group/-s
- Better sharing of workload, also engaging more Contracting Parties

Annex 2

The new CEPA approach and integration into the Strategic Plan

1. Table A below contains the goals and targets of the existing (fourth) Strategic Plan and how communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) activities based upon the new approach can be integrated into implementation of the Plan. The activities in the table can also be used to inform, as appropriate, the preparation of the fifth Strategic Plan by the Strategic Plan Working Group.
2. Unless otherwise indicated “partners” below refers to Contracting Parties, International Organization Partners (IOPs), different kinds of regional co-operation, and the Secretariat. IOPs are welcome to join in any of the activities which are suitable for their scope.

Table A. Indicative CEPA activities for consideration in the Strategic Plan

Legend: Text in *italic* in the parts of the new approach are those activities that Contracting Parties can start to implement before the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15). Those activities are also included in the annex to the DR on the review of the Strategic Plan. Targets 20-22, both in parentheses and in *italic* are examples to show potential targets that might be supported by the new approach.

| Targets | CEPA activities |
|---|---|
| Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation | |
| 1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.1 Secretariat to prioritize global CEPA activities that promote the Convention and its objectives, including wide promotion of COPs and their outcomes, as well as to continue to contribute wetland input to the debate on global policy issues, and work for a greater sectoral input to wetlands and CEPA planning. • 1.2 <i>Encourages Contracting Parties to continue to contribute wetland input to the debate on global policy issues.</i> • 1.3 <i>Encourages Contracting Parties to identify mechanisms for greater sectoral input to wetlands and CEPA planning, including recognizing the value, experience and resources of International Organization Partners, NGOs, Contracting Parties, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, business partners, academia, the education sector and youth organisations with interest in wetlands in planning, resourcing, developing and implementing wetland CEPA messages and products.</i> |

| Targets | CEPA activities |
|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.4 Encourages Contracting Parties, in communication activities and materials, to specifically highlight the role of wetlands as part of nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, and green infrastructure to address multiple social, environmental and economic challenges, and the values of wetlands for water supply, water quality, transport, food production and livelihoods, flood regulation, coastal protection, climate mitigation and adaptation, addressing biodiversity loss, pollution control, fishing and hunting, recreation and tourism. • 1.5 The Secretariat to support with information materials including pictures in formats that are easily transformed for national and sub-national use. • 1.6 The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to continue to develop targeted products (Policy Briefs, Fact Sheets, the Global Wetland Outlook etc.) for sectors. • 1.7 Encourages Contracting Parties to increase engagement with sectors that have an impact on wetlands, consistent with priorities identified in the strategic plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience. |
| <p>2. Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1 Secretariat to support Contracting Parties with CEPA materials, including case studies and good examples from the Wetland City Accreditation, that can be used when addressing stakeholders. • 2.2 Encourages Contracting Parties to promote case studies of sustainable wetland management, including examples from Wetland City Accreditation, and CEPA activities that engage stakeholders and promote wise use and management of their wetlands and their surroundings in a way that considers both water quality and water quantity. |
| <p>3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3.1 Encourages Contracting Parties to promote existing Convention guidance and share between Parties practical local guidance, best practices and case studies which may be relevant more broadly. |
| <p>4. Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4.1 Encourages Contracting Parties to raise awareness of invasive alien species in wetland ecosystems through the development and dissemination of training and communication materials among the public and private sectors. |

| Targets | CEPA activities |
|--|---|
| Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network | |
| 5. The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>5.1 Encourages Contracting Parties to integrate CEPA activities in all Ramsar Site management plans and/or activity plans, to the extent possible.</i> |
| 6. There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and Transboundary Sites. | |
| 7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>7.1 Encourages Contracting Parties to identify current and emerging threats, including the umbrella threat of climate change and biodiversity loss, and develop, and share between Parties, practical CEPA tools and guidance for addressing such threats at Ramsar Sites and other wetlands in the long term.</i> |
| Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands | |
| 8. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>8.1 Encourages Contracting Parties to communicate the results of national wetland inventories for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</i> |
| 9. The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>9.1. Encourages Contracting Parties to integrate CEPA activities in the management plans and/or activity plans of all wetlands other than Ramsar Sites. See Target 1 and Target 13.</i> |
| 10. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>10.1 Encourages Contracting Parties to better engage Indigenous Peoples and local communities in wetland research, planning, management, restoration and CEPA activities (including case studies) as well as promoting the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands at national and local levels.</i> • <i>10.2 The Secretariat to promote the exchange of lessons learned from the activities mentioned above.</i> |

| Targets | CEPA activities |
|--|---|
| effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities at all relevant levels | |
| 11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.1 The Secretariat to support Contracting Parties to develop stories about the values of wetlands and how to manage them to optimize their benefits (to be customized with local facts/figures). • 11.2 Encourages Contracting Parties to support Ramsar Site managers to develop signage and other CEPA activities to communicate Site values, including ecosystem services. • 11.3 The STRP to update information on the valuation of wetland ecosystem services for use in decision-making and engagement with key stakeholders. |
| 12. Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation | |
| 13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13.1 Encourages Contracting Parties to give priority to engaging sectoral decision makers in integrating wetland values in their planning and decision making. • 13.2 The Secretariat to focus on messages and tools that support the concept of wise use, to assist decision making to involve communities and negotiate trade-offs between wetland users. |
| Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation | |
| 14. Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14.1 The STRP to better align outputs to support CEPA activities for different stakeholders, to enable outcomes of the STRP's work to be effectively communicated with Contracting Parties, other wetland stakeholders and the broader community. |
| 15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15.1 Use regional cooperations to build CEPA capacity at the national level to enable more effective planning and implementation by Contracting Parties. |

| Targets | CEPA activities |
|---|--|
| tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention | |
| 16. Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>16.1 Encourages Contracting Parties to build on the effective CEPA activity and engagement achieved through for example World Wetlands Day, Ramsar Regional Initiatives and Wetland Education Centres.</i> • 16.2 The Secretariat to continue communication with and support for Contracting Parties' National Focal Points and CEPA NFPs (both government and NGO) in promoting conservation of Ramsar Sites and wise use of wetlands. • 16.3 The Secretariat to use the results of the CEPA Oversight Panel survey of NFPs and ongoing consultation with NFPs to identify useful tools and approaches to support them in pragmatic ways to implement outcomes for the Convention through better engagement of people. • 16.4 All partners to use networks and structures (Wetland Link International network, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, Wetland Education Centres, Youth Engaged in Wetlands) to improve support in implementing the Convention, such as raising awareness, engagement in activities, and capacity building. • 16.5 All partners to use various media channels which are appropriate for the purpose, such as social media, to raise public awareness (and potentially lead to public concern and pressure on decision makers) along with other approaches to engage sectoral decision makers. • 16.6 All partners to identify new communication avenues and opportunities to promote the Convention's goals. • 16.7 All partners are encouraged to adjust communication and capacity-building efforts, when appropriate, to meet the needs of targeted audiences, recognizing local or regional cultural, socio-economic or ethnic differences. |
| 17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. | |
| 18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels, (locally, nationally, sub-regionally (for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>18.1 Encourages Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs to cooperate on CEPA activities. Such cooperation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well</i> |

| Targets | CEPA activities |
|---|---|
| <p>example RRI and river basin Commissions), regionally and globally).</p> | <p><i>as working cooperatively to produce communications materials and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18.2 Encourages Contracting Parties to encourage their Ramsar NFPs to facilitate CEPA activities with their focal points for other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). • 18.3 The Secretariat should seek opportunities to build networks and partnerships at the international level, including with other MEAs, in order to identify opportunities for common or complementary CEPA activities and to bring relevant tools, resources, and practices to Contracting Parties. • 18.4 All partners to ensure that CEPA aspects are considered when planning and developing all Resolutions, guidance materials, STRP products and other outcomes from the Convention. • 18.5 All partners to investigate opportunities to improve wetland conservation by applying techniques drawn from behavioural economics and psychology and undertaking joint projects with behavioural insights teams or “nudge” units. |
| <p>19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19.1 All partners to build an emphasis on capacity building, to support people with a range of roles in wetland conservation and wise use. This would involve using the expertise of the STRP, communications and networking by the Secretariat, and sharing of experiences between Contracting Parties. • 19.2 The Secretariat and Contracting Parties to refine understanding of gaps in implementation, and the priority needs of Contracting Parties for practical engagement, communications and training/capacity building, in order to target activities that can be done by the Secretariat and different regional co-operations. • 19.3 Secretariat to provide effective web-based access to their materials, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - searchable access to portals with information on wetland issues, and research and management techniques (both Secretariat and Contracting Party materials). - access to a user-friendly Ramsar Sites Information Service to enable Ramsar Site managers to update, upload or download Site information and use it for management. |
| <p><i>(20. Improve the Ramsar National Reports in a way that they become more useful for identifying gaps and measures needed.)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20.1 All partners to improve the usefulness of National Reports from Contracting Parties as a tool for the Convention to obtain feedback on the effectiveness of implementation, to identify gaps in implementation, support needed and emerging issues. It is important that |

| Targets | CEPA activities |
|--|---|
| | <p>the National Report format is not so extensive that it is a burden to Contracting Parties, but that it can focus on gathering the key information needed to assist the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to identify priorities for future activities including CEPA.</p> |
| <p><i>(21. Improve evaluations and assessments of work done by the Convention.)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21.1 All partners to evaluate the reach and effectiveness of activities including CEPA, so that effective approaches are identified, shared and implemented. |
| <p><i>(22. Make sure that focal points get the support they need to do good work.)</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>22.1 Encourages Contracting Parties to ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the main facilitators of implementing CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities when necessary.</i> • 22.2 The Secretariat to provide advice and information to Contracting Parties, for example introduction materials about the Convention’s CEPA work for new CEPA NFPs and CEPA NGO FPs, and good examples from other countries. • 22.3 The Secretariat and CEPA Oversight Panel to revise the 2010 handbook on Wetland CEPA. The revised version needs to reflect the new CEPA approach, include other changes in the Convention since 2010, and include new content on social media, how to enhance networking etc., with a more practical implementation approach for CEPA activities instead of one with more focus on Convention Resolutions. • 22.4 The Secretariat to provide opportunities for the CEPA NFPs to learn more about CEPA tools. This can take place in conjunction with other relevant meeting, such as COPs or regional meetings as appropriate, or via online resources. |

Annex 3

Terms of reference of the CEPA Oversight Panel as part of the new CEPA approach

Functions of the CEPA Oversight Panel (hereafter referred to as the Panel):

- i. Deliver results originating from specific communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) requests included in Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) and the Strategic Plan.
- ii. Examine CEPA needs and gaps in implementation in order to identify CEPA activities to be integrated in the Strategic Plan.
- iii. Monitor and report on current CEPA issues within the Convention and the progress of implementation of current CEPA Priorities, especially with reference to the CEPA activities included in the Strategic Plan as well as COP Resolutions.
- iv. Advise the Standing Committee and the Secretariat on CEPA work priorities at the national and international levels, including the CEPA priorities of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).
- v. Liaise with other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to improve CEPA synergies among Conventions.

Composition of the CEPA Oversight Panel

The CEPA Oversight Panel for each triennium should be comprised of between 10 and 15 people guided by the criteria below. All members should be nominated in advance of each meeting of the COP. It is the task of the Secretariat to ensure the timely distribution of the requests for nominations as well as the compilation of nominations for approval at each meeting of the COP. Should a need for further expertise arise during the triennium that cannot be met by the selected composition of the Panel, it is recommended that the Panel invite additional CEPA experts as required.

Selection criteria

- i. CEPA activities are diverse and thus require a range of expertise. This diversity of expertise should be reflected in the composition of the Panel.
- ii. The Panel should have balanced representation from all regions of the Convention.
- iii. The Panel should ideally be comprised of at least one CEPA NGO Focal Point and one CEPA Government Focal Point.
- iv. International Organization Partners should select one representative that will act as the liaison between the Panel and the six IOPs.
- v. The Panel should include a youth representative.
- vi. The Panel should include an Indigenous member as feasible.

- vii. The Panel should be supported by two Secretariat staff members with responsibility to work on CEPA implementation.
- viii. To ensure institutional memory, it is recommended that at least one of the Panel's members has served as Panel member during the previous triennium.
- ix. In order to ensure collaboration and information exchange between the CEPA Oversight Panel and other Convention bodies, specifically the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, a representative from each body should be nominated to serve on the CEPA Oversight Panel.

Modus operandi

- i. Members should be appointed for the period of each triennium between meetings of the COP with the option to extend their appointment.
- ii. The Panel for each triennium will convene for the first time at the meeting of the COP at which it was established. At this occasion it will select its Chair and Vice-Chair for the triennium.
- iii. The CEPA National Focal Point representatives should, as much as possible and as necessary, consult with and seek input from all other government and NGO CEPA Focal Points.
- iv. The Panel will operate as much as possible through electronic means (e-mail, video conferences, etc.). If it is thought necessary, and if funding permits, the Panel may seek to meet during the triennium.
- v. The Panel should report on its progress to each meeting of the Standing Committee.
- vi. Due to financial limitations, the main working language of the Panel will be English and the results will be translated into the official languages of the Convention and other languages and posted on the Convention website as well as the Ramsar CEPA electronic network.



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.9

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards

1. NOTING the achievements of the Convention in promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and the many individuals, organizations and governments which have contributed significantly to this achievement;
2. RECALLING Resolution VI.18 on *Establishment of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards*;
3. RECONFIRMING the need for Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards to recognize and honour such contributions as a means of motivating greater and continued support for the Convention’s cause in the future; and
4. ACKNOWLEDGING the importance of the financial support from donors that make the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards more attractive by enabling prize funds;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

5. DECIDES that the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards should be presented on the occasion of each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
6. DECIDES that individuals and groups, of all nations, are invited to submit nominations;
7. DECIDES that any individuals or organizations (including government institutions, sub-national authorities, non-governmental organizations, private companies and community groups), as well as permanent or temporary co-operations between individuals and/or organizations of any nation or region, can be nominated, as long as the nominee fulfils the eligibility criteria and performs well under the Award criteria, as described in Annex 1.
8. DECIDES that the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award categories, further described in Annex 1, will be:
 - i. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Wise Use Award;
 - ii. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Innovation;
 - iii. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Young Wetland Champions;
 - iv. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Science;
 - v. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for CEPA; and
 - vi. The Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award.

9. DECIDES that the Standing Committee may decide upon Ramsar Wetland Merit Awards for nominees for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards that do not receive another Award. This may be done if a nominee stands out because of a long-term contribution or commitment to the conservation and wise use of wetlands, characterized by excellence or notable achievements;
10. DECIDES that the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) at each of its ordinary meetings will decide upon the budget and the number of Awards and in what categories Awards are to be selected for the coming Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award cycle;
11. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to do the following for each Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award cycle:
 - i. consider if the latest decision of the COP on Award categories and budget are still suitable when it is time to call for nominations, and if not adjust the decision in an appropriate way;
 - ii. decide on the deadline for the nominations and any other actions in order to establish an appropriate timetable for this process;
 - iii. decide the Award recipients in a closed session;
 - iv. ensure that the draft resolution on the coming budget includes information about funds that can be allocated for the Awards, and what categories are to be chosen for the coming Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award cycle; and
 - v. ensure that the Subgroup on COP selects and recommends Award recipients, or replace it with a subset of the Standing Committee if asked to do so by the Subgroup on COP;
12. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to do the following for each Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award cycle:
 - i. support the nomination process described in Annex 1, so that the Standing Committee can take a decision on the Awards (for example, seeking sponsors if needed, announcing the call for nominations, compiling data about the nominations, evaluating them and preparing shortlists of possible candidates). If needed, advice can be given by members of appropriate Convention bodies;
 - ii. ensure that information on the nominations and the decision on the Award recipients is not made public prematurely;
 - iii. arrange everything for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards ceremony; and
 - iv. help to raise the profile of the Award recipients in different kinds of media;
13. DECIDES that the Standing Committee's decisions on the Awards are final and cannot be appealed against;
14. DECIDES that the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award recipients will receive a trophy and a certificate and a cash award subject to available funding; ALSO DECIDES that Ramsar Wetland Merit Awards recipients will receive a trophy and a certificate subject to available funding;
15. RECOMMENDS in line with Annex 1 that the Awards ceremony be held physically at the meeting of the COP, followed by a reception to favour exchanges between recipients and all delegates according to the allocated budget and, optionally, that national ceremonies be held in the recipients' countries after the ceremony at the COP;
16. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to promote the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards, both when the call for nominations of potential candidates opens, and when announcing Award recipients; and

17. DECIDES to retire the Resolution and Standing Committee decisions listed for retirement in Annex 2. There are no Recommendations including Ramsar Wetland Awards that need to be retired.

Annex 1

Categories, eligibility criteria, Award criteria and procedures

Description of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award categories:

1. The Conference of the Contracting Parties and in some cases the Standing Committee can decide upon which of the categories below are to be used in the coming Award cycle.
 - i. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Wise Use Award*, rewarding a person, project, programme or policy that has made a significant documented contribution to the long-term sustainable use of wetlands, either at specific wetland sites (including Wetlands of International Importance) or on a broader scale, and that can be replicated elsewhere. The concept of the wise use of wetlands, defined as “the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development” is at the heart of the Ramsar philosophy.
 - ii. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Innovation*, rewarding a person, project, programme or policy that has contributed to the conservation and wise use of wetlands through an innovative technique or approach.
 - iii. *The Ramsar Conservation Award for Young Wetland Champions*, rewarding a young person or a group of young people that has contributed to the wise use of wetlands, through activities including, but not limited to, awareness raising, campaigning, restoration and other conservation efforts. For the purpose of this Award, people between 18 and 30 years old or groups with members and leader between 18 and 30 years old at the time of the nomination will be considered.
 - iv. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Science*, rewarding a scientist or a group of scientists that contributes to the advancement of sciences in any of their branches important for wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services.
 - v. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for CEPA*, rewarding the best initiative for communication, capacity building, education, participation, and awareness for wetlands, as well for as the results of the activities.
 - vi. *The Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award*, aiming to promote outstanding projects led by or involving Indigenous Peoples, to specifically acknowledge outstanding leadership and transformative projects either led by or involving Indigenous Peoples.

Eligibility criteria

2. Nominees must be alive at the time of nomination. Awards will not be given posthumously.
3. Self-nominations and requests for study grants will not be accepted.
4. Nominations of current members or invited experts of subsidiary bodies of the Convention such as the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, or of Secretariat staff members, will not be accepted.

5. Nominations that do not meet the deadline will not be accepted.
6. Direct approaches regarding the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards from the nominator, the nominee or the Contracting Party in which the nominee is active to members of the Standing Committee (acting as the selection committee) or attempts to influence their decision on Awards recipients will disqualify any nominee from further consideration.
7. Individuals, groups and organizations that have been convicted of, or are under investigation for, a criminal offence connected to the wetland project or career or deed that they have been nominated for will not be eligible. Examples of such offences are having illegal work conditions, committing money laundering or accounting violations, performing projects without necessary permits or having violated conditions in such permits.

Award criteria

8. *Independent of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award category*, the selection of Award recipients will be based on the satisfaction of several of the following criteria:
 - i. A proven and documented record of achievement and success in the relevant category;
 - ii. A direct link between activities and the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands through the wise use of wetlands including the network of Wetlands of International Importance, whether locally, sub-nationally, nationally, regionally or globally;
 - iii. The approaches, outcomes or capacity to be replicated of activities, to inspire others or to serve as practical examples for others;
 - iv. The significance of achievements, regardless of the geographic scale of their impact;
 - v. The demonstrable impact of activities on awareness of wetlands and their values and the services they provide; and
 - vi. The clarity with which the nomination is presented, and the activities and achievements described.
9. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Wise Use Award category* will favour nominees which demonstrate outstanding achievement in meeting one or several of the following criteria:
 - i. Demonstrable positive outcomes of sustainable wetland practices;
 - ii. Demonstrable overall benefits in the area where activities are being implemented;
 - iii. Demonstrated use of the ecosystem approach within a sustainable development context;
 - iv. A mission and purpose that relates directly to the conservation of wetlands; and
 - v. Reconciliation of sustainable resource-use practices with long-term wetland conservation objectives.
10. *The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Wise Use Award for Innovation category* will favour nominees which demonstrate innovative actions supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands, whether through new techniques or new approaches, which meet one or several of the following criteria:
 - i. An innovation which is truly a new concept rather than a variation of an existing one;
 - ii. The demonstrable usefulness and impact of the innovation;
 - iii. Its demonstrable applicability, practicality, and replicability; and
 - iv. Wide recognition of the innovation.
11. *The Ramsar Conservation Award for Young Wetland Champions category* will favour nominees which demonstrate innovative actions supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands, whether through new techniques or new approaches, and which meet the first criterion and one or several of the other following criteria:

- i. Individuals nominated should be between 18 and 30 years old at the time of nomination. The members and leader(s) of nominated groups should be within the same age range. Dates of birth will be requested;
 - ii. A proven and documented record of achievement in activities or projects on the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These may involve community work, research, awareness raising, restoration work, or any other activity undertaken to benefit wetlands;
 - iii. The activity or project should clearly refer to the mission of the Convention on Wetlands; and
 - iv. Projects or activities should either have been finalized during the last three years before the nomination or be in an advanced implementation stage to be considered.
12. *The Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award category* will favour nominees (which may be groups or individuals) that demonstrate outstanding leadership in wetland projects either led by, or involving, Indigenous Peoples and meet at least one of the following criteria:
- i. Achieved positive outcomes for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, particularly for key ecosystems or places of importance to Indigenous Peoples;
 - ii. Enhanced sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing of Indigenous Peoples through the wise use of wetlands;
 - iii. Promoted the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples, and/or supported the connection of Indigenous Peoples to lands, seas and territories;
 - iv. Implemented transformative projects that halt or reverse wetland loss and degradation, while integrating the values, world views and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples;
 - v. Demonstrated an enhanced role or recognition of Indigenous Peoples in the governance, management or protection of wetlands, including at Wetlands of International Importance.

Nomination conditions for all nominees and complementary conditions for the award recipients

- 13. Nominations should be submitted to the Convention Secretariat in English, French or Spanish, using the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award form available from the Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland, and on the Convention website (<https://www.ramsar.org/activity/the-ramsar-awards>).
- 14. The nomination will include a summary of up to 250 words describing the achievements of the nominee and the reasons for the nomination.
- 15. The form should be accompanied by a document of up to 2,500 words, providing the necessary background, explaining how the nomination corresponds to the objectives and criteria of the Award, and providing an assessment of the results achieved.
- 16. Nominations should be accompanied by letters of recommendation from two independent individuals (not including the nominator) who are not related to the nominee, and do not work in the same organization, who can assess the nominee's contributions and can be contacted by the evaluation panel.
- 17. Nominations for the Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award, if not submitted by an organization representing the Indigenous Peoples leading or involved in the project, must be accompanied by a letter of support from the Indigenous Peoples and/or their representative organization.

18. The nomination will be assessed on the basis of the nomination form, the additional information provided and the letters of reference.
19. Nominations should be accompanied by at least one high-resolution photograph of the nominee (person or team) in electronic form (minimum size of 1920 x 1080 pixels) with photo credits and permission for use by the Convention Secretariat at its discretion, including when announcing the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award recipients.
20. Limited additional information such as images, short videos or links to web resources may also be provided, preferably in electronic form, to illustrate the nomination.
21. All Award recipients will be requested to provide at least 20 high-resolution images illustrating their activities and achievements, with captions, photo credits and permission for use by the Secretariat at its discretion and by organizations or individuals that have donated prize funds for Award publicity material in different media.

Selection procedure

22. The Convention Secretariat will evaluate the nominations received and submit a shortlist with recommendations to the Standing Committee for its consideration. In undertaking this evaluation, the Secretariat may seek the advice of members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, the Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation, and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel or others, as appropriate.
23. If the numbers of nominations are low and/or the contributions are weak, the Secretariat may suggest adding to the shortlist older nominations of strong character that were not awarded earlier.
24. The Subgroup on COP working group will select and recommend the Award recipients from the shortlists and the Standing Committee will decide the Award recipients.

Announcement and presentation of Awards

25. The Secretariat will be in contact with the Award recipients, letting them know what sponsors have donated prize funds, and ask if they accept the Award and if so to which persons information on the Award ceremony is to be sent.
26. The Award recipients will be presented during the Conference of the Contracting Parties and Award recipients will participate physically at COP depending on the allocated budget during the Awards ceremony.
27. The Secretariat will put together a film containing sequences of the Awards ceremony as well as films and pictures from the nominations and publish it on the Convention website and in suitable social media.

Annex 2

Compilation of Resolutions and Standing Committee decisions to be retired

1. The table below shows the existing Resolutions including information on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards. There is a description on what parts are concerned and what is suggested to happen to them. The Resolutions have been found by searching for “awards” in the subset of Resolutions among the documents on the Convention website.

| Resolutions | Paragraphs/parts concerned | Suggested for retirement by this Resolution or not |
|--|--|--|
| Resolution VI.18 <i>Establishment of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards</i> | All | Outdated and to be retired by this Resolution. |
| Resolution VII.1 <i>Regional Categorization of countries under the Convention, and composition, roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee, including tasks of Standing Committee members</i> | Paragraph 20 k) | Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated. |
| Resolution X.12 <i>Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector</i> | Paragraph 9 first part (about the appreciation to the Danone Group and the Evian Special Prize). | Needs to be addressed during the compilation work on existing Resolutions. |
| Resolution XI.19 <i>Adjustments to the terms of Resolution VII.1 on the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</i> | Annex 1 Paragraph 19 j) | Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated. |
| Resolution XI.2 <i>Financial and budgetary matters</i> | Annex 1, half of one of the budget lines | Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated. |
| Resolution XII.4 <i>The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention</i> | Annex 1 Para 19 j | Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated. |
| Resolution XIII.4 <i>Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</i> | Annex 1 Para 19 j | Will probably be retired by a resolution retiring all Resolutions that are obviously outdated. |

2. The table below shows the existing Standing Committee decisions including information on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards. There are also some “decisions” made by the Standing Committee that have not been recorded as decisions but are referred to in the report of the meetings. In the table those are either recognized as lacking a decision number or that there is no formal decision made. There is a description on what parts are concerned and what is suggested to happen to them. The Standing Committee decisions have been found by searching

for “awards” in the subset of Standing Committee decisions and reports among the documents in the Convention website.

| Standing Committee decisions about Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards content (generalized and shortened) | Standing Committee decision number (and paragraphs in the Standing Committee meeting report) | Retirement by this Resolution |
|---|---|---|
| Decision on having a draft resolution for Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards and parts of its content. | SC17.10 (90-92) | Outdated and to be retired. |
| Decisions on establishing, asking for reviews, and updating; Terms of Reference for the Award, responsible jury/selection committee, categories, criteria, timelines, and prize sizes including thanks to the donor the Danone Group. | SC19.25 (182, 183) SC20.9 (103-106) SC20.10 (103-106) SC25-16 (135-138) SC30-8 (92) SC35-3 <i>first part</i> (63) SC36 no formal decision (16) SC41-9 (76) SC47-03 f (Item 6 about COP12) SC53-13 (82-85) <i>Doc 13</i> SC58-22 (21, 24-32) Intersessional decision, January-February 2021 | Outdated and to be retired. For SC47-03, only part f) is to be retired by this Resolution. For SC35-3, the whole Decision can be deleted as the last part is mentioned below. |
| Decisions on trying by different means to get more nominees. | SC26-no ID (288) SC42-11 (74, 76-77, 84) | Outdated and to be retired. |
| Decision that previous Award recipients should be invited to nominate candidates or to form an alumni club and that their success should be published. | SC35-3 <i>last part</i> (63) | Outdated and to be retired (that includes both the first and last part, see above). |
| Decisions announcing the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award recipients. | SC21.3 (88-90) SC31-14 (131) SC37-no ID SC43-2 (32-33) SC48-no ID (19-20, 28-29 ,134) SC54-13 (191, 205-208) SC57-16 (Item 21.1 Bis) | Outdated and to be retired. |
| Decisions about how to address the Ramsar Wetland Innovation Award in 2018. | SC55-15 (51) SC57-16 (Item 21.1 Bis) | Outdated and to be retired. |



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14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.10

Updating the Wetland City Accreditation of the Convention

1. RECALLING the commitments made by Contracting Parties under Resolution X.27 on *Wetlands and urbanization* to pay due attention to the importance of their wetlands in urban and peri-urban environments and to take appropriate measures to conserve and protect these wetlands;
2. ALSO RECALLING Resolution XI.11 on *Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands* and the commitment made by Contracting Parties to continue to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands in urban and peri-urban environments;
3. FURTHER RECALLING Resolution XIII.16 on *Sustainable urbanization, climate change and wetlands* and the desire to prevent activities that may have an adverse impact on urban and peri-urban wetlands;
4. AWARE that the Contracting Parties have approved a voluntary Wetland City Accreditation system under Resolution XII.10 on *Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention*, which recognizes cities which have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands;
5. ACKNOWLEDGING that the Contracting Parties at the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties recognized 18 cities (six in China, four in France, one in Hungary, four in the Republic of Korea, one in Madagascar, one in Sri Lanka and one in Tunisia) through the voluntary Wetland City Accreditation system;
6. NOTING that Contracting Parties through the Wetland City Accreditation system have continued to improve their national standards and protocols for conservation and management of wetlands in cities;
7. ACKNOWLEDGING the Wetland City Network established through a consensus during the Inaugural Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors held on 23-25 October 2019 in Suncheon City, Republic of Korea;
8. NOTING the Report and Decisions of the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee with respect to the Wetland City Accreditation and particularly the success of the venture as a flagship for the Convention on Wetlands and the need to improve operational guidance and procedural matters; and

9. RECOGNIZING the need to review implementation progress and financing of the voluntary Wetland City Accreditation system and to enhance the accreditation process;

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10. ENCOURAGES the ongoing accreditation of cities through the voluntary Wetland City Accreditation system in order to provide positive branding opportunities and mobilize support for cities that demonstrate strong positive relationships with wetlands;
11. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and INVITES other governments, financial institutions, International Organization Partners (IOPs), Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) and other implementing partners to support the implementation of the voluntary Wetland City Accreditation system;
12. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to undertake processes to identify, empower and encourage cities to work towards their voluntary accreditation and to support accredited cities to maintain their accreditation;
13. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and INVITES other governments, financial institutions, IOPs, RRIs and other implementing partners to support the cooperation of the Wetland City Accreditation system with other relevant city networks and initiatives;
14. WELCOMES the willingness of the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) to support the Independent Advisory Committee by hosting, administrating and financing regular meetings;
15. ALSO WELCOMES the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea and the RRC-EA to host, organize and administer the Inaugural Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors as a centre of the Wetland City Network; and ENCOURAGES voluntary collaboration among the members of this network to further deliver on the wise use of wetlands;
16. TAKES NOTE of the proposal by the Independent Advisory Committee outlined in Annex 1 of the present Resolution to prepare an operational guidance, incorporating the updated information in Annex 2 to this Resolution, and to present it to the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee for consideration and endorsement;
17. TAKES NOTE of the updated elements of the Wetland City Accreditation in Annex 2, which added new and updated elements such as the criteria for accreditation, overview of the Wetland City Accreditation process, updated procedure, award process, renewal process and administration for the Wetland City Accreditation system;
18. REQUESTS the allocation of ten days per annum of administrative assistant time needed during the triennium to provide administrative services for the Wetland City Accreditation scheme, as outlined in paragraph 22 of Annex 2, subject to the availability of resources in compliance with Resolution XII.10 and the approval of the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee⁹;
19. FURTHER REQUESTS a review of the implementation progress and financing of the voluntary Wetland City Accreditation system to be reported to each meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), as initially requested under paragraph 11 of Resolution XII.10, before any further requests for Secretariat resources are made;

⁹ As per Standing Committee Decision SC58-24.

20. CONFIRMS that this updated text and its annexes build on the framework adopted in Resolution XII.10;
21. ALSO REQUESTS that the Standing Committee nominate members of the Independent Advisory Committee for future COP cycles at its first meeting following the COP in accordance with the terms of reference in the Annex 2 to this Resolution;
22. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support the Wetland City Accreditation process and to continue publishing information regarding the Wetland City Accreditation on the Convention's website; and
23. INVITES the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the CEPA (communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness) Oversight Panel to establish permanent cooperation with the Wetland City Network and use their potential to disseminate the philosophy of the Convention on Wetlands to the people living in these cities.

Annex 1

Proposal for operational guidance for Wetland City Accreditation

Background

Since the adoption of Resolution XII.10 on *Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention*, a range of mechanisms and guidance has been developed to support implementation and to provide a formal procedure for city accreditation. Building on the information described in the Annex to Resolution XII.10, materials have been developed *inter alia* for the nomination of candidate cities, evaluation of accreditation submissions, guidance for cities and Administrative Authorities of the Convention, and terms of reference for the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Wetland City Accreditation. The material developed has facilitated the successful accreditation of 18 cities.

The Standing Committee has considered the progress on the Wetland City Accreditation scheme (presented in document SC57 Doc.26) and several operational challenges have been highlighted. Informed by input from the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the IAC and the Secretariat, the Standing Committee has expressed concerns regarding *inter alia* a lack of clarity and efficiency in the process, technical challenges within the nomination and evaluation process, the absence of a renewal process beyond 2024 and financial and resourcing implications.

In order to address these concerns, the proposals in this Annex set out the suggested contents of operational guidance for Wetland City Accreditation and provide *de novo* text to be included in the guidance to be developed by the IAC.

Proposed contents of operational guidance

The operational guidance for Wetland City Accreditation will provide easily accessible, comprehensive and succinct information for undertaking all stages of the accreditation process. The structure described in the table below summarizes the information required in the guidance.

| Section | Title | Description of content |
|---------|--|--|
| 1 | Background to Wetland City Accreditation | Explanation of background of and benefits of the Wetland City Accreditation. |
| 2 | Overview of the Wetland City Accreditation: criteria and process | Explanation of the criteria for accreditation and overall process from opening calls for application, nomination, evaluation, notification, award and renewal. |
| 3 | Procedure | Description of the procedure based on the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) cycle. |
| 4 | Guidance notes for Administrative Authorities (AAs) | Guidance for AAs to understand and facilitate the overall accreditation process and in checking completed nomination forms. |
| 5 | Guidance notes for cities | Guidance for cities, their authorized representatives and officials to understand eligibility and facilitate the overall accreditation process and completing the nomination form. |

| Section | Title | Description of content |
|----------------|---|--|
| 6 | Evaluation process | Explanation of the evaluation process. |
| 7 | Award process | Explanation of what happens when a city is formally accredited, including <i>inter alia</i> notification, attendance at COP, award ceremony, awareness raising and publicity. |
| 8 | Renewal process | How cities can apply to renew their accreditation (as accreditation is limited to two triennia) and a description of the process – including the evidence required for renewal. |
| 9 | Administration for the Wetland City Accreditation | Description of the composition and the terms of reference of the IAC and responsibilities of the Secretariat. |
| 10 | Monitoring and evaluation process | Description of a monitoring and evaluation process to be undertaken by the IAC to assess impacts and outcomes of accreditation (including reports from cities, applications to renew accreditation, possible short video reports by mayors and single-page case studies), with a report to the Standing Committee and COP. To be used for improvement and promotion of the initiative. |
| 11 | Wetland City Network | Terms of reference of the Wetland City Network. |
| Appendix 1 | Wetland City Accreditation forms | Standardized call for applications, nomination form, evaluation form, renewal form and renewal evaluation form. |
| Appendix 2 | Background information | Information referenced in current guidance notes. |

Annex 2

Updated elements of the Wetland City Accreditation

1. The following updated information supersedes corresponding outdated information in the Annex to Resolution XII.10 and forms part of operational guidance for the Wetland City Accreditation process.

Overview of the Wetland City Accreditation criteria and process (proposed Section 2 of the operational guidance)

Criteria

2. An eligible city for the Wetland City Accreditation may be a city or any other type of human settlement, according to the definitions given by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), with its own governance system.
3. To be formally accredited, a candidate for the Wetland City Accreditation should satisfy the standards used to implement each of the following international criteria:
 - a. It has one or more Wetlands of International Importance, or other wetland conservation sites, fully or partly situated within its jurisdiction, which provide(s) a range of ecosystem services to the city;
 - b. It has adopted measures for conservation of wetlands and their ecosystem services;
 - c. It has implemented wetland restoration and/or management measures;
 - d. It considers the challenges and opportunities of integrated spatial/land-use planning for wetlands under its jurisdiction;
 - e. It has raised public awareness about the values of wetlands by delivering locally adapted information, and enabled participation of local stakeholders in decision-making processes; and
 - f. It has established a local committee with appropriate knowledge and experience on wetlands and representation of and engagement with stakeholders to support the preparation work to apply for the Wetland City Accreditation and the implementation of proper measures to maintain the city's qualifications for the Accreditation.

Overview of the Wetland City Accreditation process

4. The City Accreditation process is divided into the following three distinct but interconnected stages:
 - Stage 1 - The nomination and accreditation process: This process commences after the Secretariat has launched the call for applications as per the work plan set by the IAC in the beginning of each new term.
 - Stage 2 - The award process: This process commences once the Standing Committee has made recommendations on which cities are to receive accreditation.

- Stage 3 - The renewal process: This process commences when a city wishes to renew its accreditation after two COP cycles.

Procedure (proposed Section 3 of the operational guidance)

5. The schedule is based on Year 0 being the year of a meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), with Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 being the subsequent years. It is assumed that two COP cycles would normally span a period of six years but modification to the schedule may be required if unforeseen events or unexpected changes in the Convention calendar alter this timeframe.

Table: Schedule for administration processes

| Year | Actions |
|--------|---|
| Year 0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - During the Standing Committee meeting that immediately follows a COP, the Committee nominates a representative from each region for the IAC - The new term of the Independent Advisory Committee (IAC) commences with a work plan for the next triennium and election of its Chair and Co-Chair |
| Year 1 | - Within six months after the previous COP, the Secretariat launches the call for applications for new and renewed accreditation |
| | - Interested cities prepare and send applications to the Head of the Administrative Authority (AA) |
| Year 2 | - Heads of AA submit applications to the Secretariat through the online submission |
| | - The Secretariat forwards applications to the IAC for review |
| Year 3 | - By three months before the annual Standing Committee meeting, the IAC reviews applications and determines which cities to accredit or renew their accreditation |
| | - At the annual Standing Committee meeting, IAC reports its decision to the Committee |
| | - The Standing Committee takes note of the IAC report and instructs the Secretariat to take the following actions after the meeting: - The Secretariat a) announces the list of newly accredited and renewed wetland cities, b) invites the newly accredited cities through their respective National Focal Points (NFPs) to the certificate awarding ceremony at the upcoming COP and c) prepares the ceremony with support from the IAC and the host country |
| | - The COP recognizes accredited cities at the award ceremony |

The award process (proposed Section 7 of the operational guidance)

6. The award process should involve the following steps:
 - The Secretariat invites representatives of the newly accredited cities through their respective NFPs to attend an award ceremony at the COP, noting that the cost associated with their attendance to the ceremony is to be covered by the representatives of the accredited cities.
 - The Secretariat prepares Wetland City Accreditation certificates for accredited cities.
 - An authorized representative of the accredited city notifies the Secretariat through their respective NFP or the Head of their AA of whether they will be attending the award ceremony.

- The Standing Committee's Subgroup on COP schedules an award ceremony during the COP.
 - The Secretary General delivers certificates to a representative of each newly accredited city at the award ceremony.
7. The IAC recognizes the role of the host Contracting Party in determining the exact nature of the presentation ceremony but provides the following guidance:
- The Subgroup on COP should suggest a suitable time for the award ceremony during the COP for the public recognition of the accreditation at the COP.
 - The ceremony should restrict itself to the awarding of the certificates to the newly accredited cities.
 - Films and promotional material about cities should not be part of the ceremony, except for pictures of each city for background, but may form part of a separate session, such as a side event or a separate forum, or exhibition stands.
 - Only one representative from each city should receive the certificate at the award ceremony.
 - Wetland City Accreditation certificates should be framed and at least A3 in size.

The renewal process (proposed Section 8 of the operational guidance)

8. Cities are encouraged to renew their accreditation. The renewal process should involve the following steps:
- A call for Wetland City Accreditation renewal is announced by the Secretariat.
 - An authorized representative of the accredited city completes the renewal form and sends it to the designated NFP in the AA for verification.
 - The NFP checks the renewal form. If it is complete and satisfactory, the NFP submits the renewal form to the Secretariat.
 - The Secretariat forwards renewal forms to the Chair of the IAC.
 - The IAC reviews the renewal forms received from each city.
 - If clarification is required, the IAC may return the renewal form to the NFP requesting appropriate action.
 - The IAC reports a list of those cities that meet the required standard for renewal to the SC.
 - The Standing Committee takes note of the report of the IAC and instructs the Secretariat to inform the applicant cities of the result of the renewal process.
 - The Secretariat updates the dedicated webpage of the Wetland City Accreditation with cities' renewal status.

Administration for Wetland City Accreditation (proposed Section 9 of the operational guidance)

Terms of reference of the Independent Advisory Committee

Responsibilities of the Independent Advisory Committee

9. The IAC develops its own intersessional work plan for completing accreditation decisions and using the criteria and procedure outlined within this Annex and the terms of the proposed operational guidance for Wetland City Accreditation.

10. The IAC reviews the applications for new accreditation and decides whether to accredit proposed cities. Each application is reviewed by a minimum of two members of the IAC and not assigned to members of the same nationality as the applicant cities.
11. The IAC reviews the applications for renewed accreditation and decides whether to renew the accreditation of proposed cities. Each application is reviewed by a minimum of two members of IAC and not assigned to members of the same nationality as applicant cities.
12. The IAC reports its decision on new and renewed accreditation to the final full meeting of the Standing Committee prior to the next meeting of the COP.
13. The IAC issues guidance on how cities and other human settlements should compile the nomination and renewal forms, especially regarding the level of detail required and the types of supporting evidence required, through operational guidance for Wetland City Accreditation.
14. The IAC issues guidance, as required, for NFPs on how they could undertake a national review to determine which cities to propose to the IAC, and evaluates the compiled accreditation forms to ensure that they abide by the criteria.
15. The IAC issues guidance on how it will transparently and objectively review applications and decide whether criteria have been satisfied and a city can be accredited through the operational guidance for Wetland City Accreditation.

Membership of the Independent Advisory Committee

16. The composition of the Independent Advisory Committee shall be chosen by the Standing Committee from the following:
 - a. A Standing Committee member representative from each of the regions of the Convention;
 - b. A representative of the Convention's International Organization Partners;
 - c. A representative of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);
 - d. A representative from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI);
 - e. A representative of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Convention;
 - f. A representative of the Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel of the Convention;
 - g. Representatives of any concerned Ramsar Regional Initiatives; and
 - h. The Secretary General of the Convention or his/her designated representative (observer).
17. Technical advisors may be co-opted to the IAC as required but would be subject to approval by the Standing Committee.
18. All regional contracting party representative members of the IAC are agreed at the Standing Committee meeting following each COP.
19. All members of the IAC will serve for one full COP cycle, with future renewal possible.
20. The Chair and Co-Chair will be elected by IAC members within two months of determination of the full IAC membership.

21. The IAC may invite consultants and observers to attend meetings as required.

Responsibilities of the Secretariat

22. The Secretariat provides the following functions subject to available resources and as appropriate:
- Drafting and publishing the call for application for new and renewed accreditation;
 - Receiving applications and forwarding them to the IAC;
 - Forwarding queries specifically related to the review process to the IAC;
 - Announcing the result of the review process at the end of the annual Standing Committee meeting preceding a COP meeting, via official notification and on the Convention website;
 - Inviting newly accredited cities through respective NFPs to a certificate awarding ceremony at the COP meeting, ensuring that the invitation allows for sufficient time for accredited cities to register as observers at COP, and working with the COP host to prepare the ceremony;
 - Preparing accreditation certificates and presenting them to the newly accredited cities at the COP ceremony; and
 - Updating the dedicated web page in the Convention website.
23. The role of the Secretariat as a member of the IAC is to provide updates in administrative processes and legal advice, as necessary and as appropriate, in accordance with its mandate provided by the COP. The Secretariat may attend IAC meetings as an observer and is not obliged to review applications.



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Resolution XIV.11

Wetland education in the formal education sector

1. ACKNOWLEDGING that the Convention on Wetlands has long recognized and promoted a role for education in its work; and ACKNOWLEDGING also the role of the communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel in supporting the planning, implementation and review of CEPA-related work, including formal education, as part of the Convention’s ongoing work;
2. RECALLING that the role of education and communication to increase public awareness was featured at the 3rd meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP3) in Regina, Canada; with progressive steps taken at COP4 (Montreux, Switzerland), COP5 (Kushiro, Japan), and COP6 (Brisbane, Australia) to more formally recognize the role of education and to work towards a dedicated Ramsar education programme;
3. ACKNOWLEDGING that the first COP-approved CEPA resolution was Resolution VII.9, *The Outreach Programme*, in 1999, which identified the general public, schools, indigenous communities and the private sector as different groups with different communication needs;
4. CONCERNED that specific guidance regarding the formal education sector in successive CEPA Programmes has been minimal and that, while schools and formal education are clearly featured in Resolution VII.9 with related recommendations, subsequent CEPA Programmes (approved through Resolutions VIII.31 and X.8) only mention the “The Education Sector” as a stakeholder; ALSO NOTING that in the current CEPA Programme (approved through Resolution XII.9), Goal 8 encourages the development and distribution of wetland education materials “for use in the formal education sector”, but no additional guidance on suggested approaches is provided;
5. NOTING that environmental education has been evolving as an interdisciplinary field with focus on environmental literacy as well as an understanding of the relationship people have with their environment, and that it has also expanded to recognize various types of knowledge (e.g. Indigenous, local, scientific, etc.), to consider diversity, equity, and inclusion in conversations about environmental sustainability, and to include specific focus areas such as education for sustainable development (ESD) and biodiversity education;
6. ACKNOWLEDGING that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) published “Education for Sustainable Development Goals” in 2017 to support the

implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and that the United Nations General Assembly endorsed Resolution A/C.2/74/L48 on *Education for sustainable development in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*;

7. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that UNESCO is currently inviting inputs from its Member States and stakeholders towards the new ESD for 2030 roadmap, which aims to provide guidance for Member States and other stakeholders for the implementation of the new global framework “Education for Sustainable Development: Towards achieving the SDGs”;
8. EXPRESSING GRATITUDE to Contracting Parties and Wetland Link International for supporting the global expansion of wetland centres and wetland parks, which act as hubs for wetland education and contribute valuable services to the formal education sector, both at wetland sites and in the school setting;
9. RECOGNIZING that while many Contracting Parties have CEPA action plans and programmes that include wetland education, further consideration can be made on how to effectively promote wetlands in formal education;
10. RECOGNIZING that responsibility for formal education is not always uniform across national jurisdictions, and that there can be differences in how school education is delivered or how curricula are introduced or mandated in Contracting Parties;
11. ALSO RECOGNIZING that formal wetland education can complement and, in turn, be complemented by non-formal and informal wetland education, further enhancing public awareness;
12. ACKNOWLEDGING that environment-focused education in the formal school setting provides students with a foundation of environmental and conservation awareness, appreciation, literacy, skills, motivations, and responsibility, and provides a means to influence the mindset of students, youth, and educators towards the better understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of ecosystems in general;
13. FURTHER RECOGNIZING the vital importance of wetland education focused on ecosystem services in facilitating the understanding of the importance of wetlands, including but not limited to reducing disaster risk; and as such, in promoting their protection;
14. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that learning about the environment both in the school setting and in nature can support life-long learning including vocational education, particularly through experiencing wetlands;
15. AWARE that further guidance on supporting wetland education in the formal education sector may redirect attention to this important component of the CEPA Programme in recognition of the opportunity to reach the younger generation in the formative years; and
16. AFFIRMING that education is equally as important as other components of the CEPA Programme and that synergy among components can facilitate a more effective implementation of the Convention;

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17. URGES Contracting Parties to recognize the benefits of promoting wetland education topics in formal education and other sectors in order to encourage a greater understanding of wetlands and their values;
18. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to explore and support strategies to further integrate wetland education in formal education settings and to increase wetland education opportunities in their schools and learning institutions, such as:
 - i. identifying their institutions responsible for formal education and, if appropriate, coordinating actions in accordance with communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) national action plans or with other national planning tools;
 - ii. inviting government authorities responsible for education to join the National Ramsar Committee, National Wetland Committee or other similar mechanisms as a member to explore opportunities to introduce wetland topics and programmes into existing curricula;
 - iii. adopting a national or sub-national level approach to introducing wetland education topics in school curricula for schooling that are widely available and accessible for schools and teachers;
 - iv. establishing partnerships with wetland centres and wetland parks to enhance the development and implementation of school-based learning;
 - v. adopting demonstration-school models, and school-to-school and network-of-schools models;
 - vi. partnering where appropriate with the private sector to support dedicated grant schemes and various practical activities;
 - vii. identifying partnerships from existing programmes and initiatives such as the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention and mobilizing resources through such partnerships;
 - viii. enhancing communication among the stakeholders on wetland education through CEPA National Focal Points; and
 - ix. encouraging participation of schools in the celebration of World Wetlands Day;
19. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to recognize the critical role of teachers in improving the effective inclusion of wetlands in school curricula and to support capacity building of educators in wetland science, including school teachers, instructors and eco-interpreters in wetland centres;
20. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to take into account other partners and sectors in education, such as curriculum development authorities, universities and in-service trainers, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, museums, community centres, and national and international teachers' associations where appropriate, that may assist in the introduction of wetland topics in formal curricula, as well as in non-formal and informal education;

21. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to seek opportunities to support citizen science initiatives including traditional knowledge that are focused on wetlands and delivered by wetland-focused organizations and Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
22. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to utilize existing online education platforms offered by international and regional organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme's "Learning for Nature" and the UN Environment Programme's "Earth School" and models of existing educational programmes with quality educational materials repackaged for schools and online access;
23. INVITES the International Organization Partners of the Convention to review their programmes and identify aspects that can be repackaged and used in school and other education;
24. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to share examples of good wetland education materials, programmes or curricula for the school education sector through the Convention website or through other media in cooperation with the Ramsar Regional Initiatives, especially the Ramsar Regional Centres, and with other relevant programmes and networks such as Wetland Link International, the global network of wetland centres;
25. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to utilize Ramsar National Reports to report on progress regarding wetland education in schools and learning institutions, as appropriate;
26. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to analyse the progress of development and implementation of wetland education programmes based on National Reports in cooperation with a small working group consisting of CEPA experts especially created for this purpose, and report the progress to the Contracting Parties through the COPs, towards the goal of mainstreaming wetland education in formal education; and
27. REQUESTS the Secretariat to coordinate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and work to synergize the Convention on Wetlands' goal of integrating wetland education in formal education with UNESCO's ESD for 2030 roadmap.



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14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.12

Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth

1. ACKNOWLEDGING that continued wetland loss requires inclusive and participatory approaches and diverse voices to raise awareness and strengthen the implementation of the Convention;
2. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the current generation of youth and future generations will continue to bear the costs of the continued global loss of wetlands, their ecosystem services and benefits and the risks from a changing climate on nature, human health, and wellbeing;
3. RECALLING the principle of intergenerational equity that underpins the conservation and wise use of wetlands, that contributes towards achieving sustainable development for the wellbeing of current and future generations;
4. NOTING that intergenerational responsibility is a central principle guiding Stockholm+50, commemorating the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment, which positions youth as key actors to drive action to respond to the global crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution;
5. FURTHER NOTING the virtual “One Nature One Future” Global Youth Summit in the lead up and as part of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress in 2021;
6. ACKNOWLEDGING that United Nations General Assembly Resolutions 72/146 and 74/121 call for member States to include young people and youth organizations in relevant decision-making processes, to include youth delegates in their delegations, and acknowledge the role of youth as agents of change;
7. FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING Decision XI/8 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), encouraging Parties to include youth fully in relevant processes, Decision 13.9 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) promoting the integration of youth groups in Convention processes, and Resolution Conf. 17.5 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which encourages Parties to explore opportunities to engage youth with the Convention and include youth delegates on official delegations;

8. COMMENDING initiatives to date to engage youth through the Ramsar Culture Network, World Wetlands Day and youth-focused events, and the Ramsar Convention Awards for Young Wetland Champions, that encourage the involvement of young people in wetland conservation;
9. REAFFIRMING the importance of mainstreaming the participation of under-represented groups in the implementation of the Convention, through: Resolution XIII.15 on *Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities*; Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and wetlands*; and Resolution VII.8 on *Guidelines on establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands*;
10. CONCERNED that young people are not recognized as critical and valuable stakeholders and partners under the Convention on Wetlands and in its Strategic Plan 2016-2024; and
11. APPLAUDING the ambition of Youth Engaged in Wetlands, established at COP13, which is connecting young people around the world, and provides a platform and network to enable and empower youth to conserve wetlands and support the mission of the Convention;

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12. URGES Contracting Parties to recognize the importance of engaging young people in the implementation of the Convention to build awareness, intergenerational capacity and partnerships for the conservation, restoration, wise and sustainable use and management of all wetlands;
13. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to explore and support strategies to engage, collaborate with and involve youth in the implementation of the Convention, such as:
 - i. appointing national NGO or government Youth Focal Points to the Convention, as outlined in Annex 1, to strengthen the voice and representation of young people;
 - ii. inviting youth participation on the National Ramsar Committees, and in country delegations to COP;
 - iii. building relationships with youth-led and/or youth- inclusive NGOs, associations, and networks as well as educational institutions, in order to foster increased cooperation with these institutions;
 - iv. identifying professional development opportunities and employment pathways through the conservation, restoration, sustainable management and use of wetlands to support wetland-dependent youth communities and address their social and economic vulnerability;
 - v. targeted wetlands communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) programmes and outreach for children and young people in all their diversity, including participation in the celebration of World Wetlands Day; and
 - vi. seeking, welcoming, and reflecting diverse youth voices and perspectives in wetland-related priorities, policies, decision-making, and programmes;
14. FURTHER ENCOURAGES the host country of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to include youth events in the programme of the Conference to mainstream youth participation at the Conference;
15. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to explore hybrid models such as virtual forums, and engagement approaches that are relevant and meaningful to youth, that allow young people to meet ahead of, and take part in, meetings of the Conference of the

Contracting Parties, for the purpose of expanding youth participation and regional outreach of the Conference and also of sharing successful cases of youth engagement;

16. REQUESTS the Standing Committee, in the period between its 61st and 62nd meetings, to establish a Ramsar Youth Working Group (described in Annex 2) to mainstream youth engagement in the Convention; the Working Group will include a youth representative from each region and present agreed terms of reference to the Standing Committee, with the priority task for the next triennium to enable youth participation in the development of the new Strategic Plan (SP5);
17. FURTHER REQUESTS that, subject to available resources, the Secretariat employ the capacity of its junior professional programme to assist with coordination of the Ramsar Youth Working Group and the joint work plan; and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to call for voluntary contributions including professional secondments to support the employment of a youth advisor to facilitate youth engagement and projects and to help coordinate this programme of work;
18. INVITES the International Organization Partners of the Convention to strengthen youth involvement in their programmes and outreach;
19. ENCOURAGES the business and financial sectors, non-government community organizations and higher education and research institutions to collaborate with Parties, including financial cooperation and career development support, to implement this Resolution;
20. ENCOURAGES the private sector and organized civil society to collaborate and support the Contracting Parties for the implementation of this Resolution, with a view to the involvement of young people to value the ecosystem services provided by wetlands;
21. URGES Contracting Parties to use their National Reports to provide information on strategies being used to support youth participation in the implementation of the Strategic Plan;
22. DIRECTS the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to compile information on the progress of youth participation based on the National Reports and report the result to the Contracting Parties; and
23. REQUESTS the Secretariat to coordinate with the secretariats of other international environmental conventions on allied work to strengthen youth participation, to assist in implementing this Resolution.

Annex 1

Ramsar Youth Focal Points

Background

There is growing recognition of the need to strengthen the voice and representation of young people in the Convention's work to ensure the conservation, restoration and wise and sustainable use and management of wetlands.

By creating an official national role, the Ramsar Youth Focal Point (YFP), Contracting Parties have a focus for increasing youth participation and representation in wetland governance. By harnessing the skills and energy of young people and their networks, the YFP can bring fresh perspectives and facilitate intergenerational dialogue, complementing the roles and experience of other national Focal Points.

Young people are highly creative, digitally aware, capable of responding intuitively to the fast-paced change and flow of information, as well as engaged with cultural conversations intimately, and in a way that can help accelerate cross-sectoral actions needed to mainstream wetland conservation, restoration and wise and sustainable use and management.

It is ultimately for each Contracting Party to define the roles for the national YFP in collaboration with their nominated FP, to best reflect their interests and capacity to operate across different levels and sectors, and available institutional support including mentoring, as appropriate.

YFPs may be in government, non-government or research organizations and involved in research, policy, restoration, community building and other engagement initiatives.

Roles for Ramsar national Youth Focal Points

Roles for national YFPs could include to:

- provide leadership for the inclusion of youth perspectives in the implementation of the Convention, nationally, and across the Ramsar region with other YFPs;
- be the main point of contact on youth inclusion in Ramsar programmes, between the Secretariat and the Contracting Party, other YFPs and the global Youth Engaged in Wetlands network;
- be a key member of the National Ramsar/Wetland Committees or similar national structures;
- assist in the practical development and implementation of Ramsar policies and programmes at all levels of government and in national reporting to the meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
- increase the public profile for the Convention and its conservation, restoration and wise and sustainable use and management goals;
- promote development of projects focused on the conservation of wetlands with the active participation of youth;
- be active spokespeople for young people on wetland conservation; and on professional development opportunities and employment pathways for the conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetlands; and
- establish and maintain youth contacts and networks for the communication of information between young people at all levels and across wetland sectors.

Annex 2

Ramsar Youth Working Group: Operation and mandate

Composition and regional representation:

- The Working Group is to be composed of members between the ages of 18 and 35, with at least one member to be nominated by each Ramsar region;
 - Each Ramsar regional group will provide one regional representative, and Contracting Parties may nominate additional representatives;
- The Working Group will strive for inclusion and diversity in its membership by giving priority to minorities and Indigenous Peoples and ensuring gender parity, and adhere to these principles via its organizational structure and mandate;
- National Youth Focal Points and a youth representative of the International Organization Partners will have observer status on the Working Group, unless otherwise nominated as the member for a Ramsar region;
- Youth observers may nominate themselves, and the working group will approve their admission unless one third of members vote against this.

Structure and secretariat support:

- The Working Group will appoint among itself a Chair, and a Vice-Chair and any other roles that it deems necessary, with the Vice-Chair acting as Rapporteur;
- The Working Group will nominate one or more of its members, based on their skills and interests, to be observer/s on the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and the communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel; and to observe on any other Working Group established by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, as Working Group capacity allows;
- The Secretariat will provide secretariat services for the Working Group.

Mandate:

The purpose of the Working Group is to advise on mainstreaming youth engagement in the governance, programmes of work and other activities of the Convention.

The priority tasks of the Working Group in the next triennium (to COP15) are to:

- I. advise and participate, where appropriate, in the Working Group to develop the new Strategic Plan (SP5);
- II. identify capacity-building activities to assist Contracting Parties to implement strategies to engage youth (see paragraph 13 of the present Resolution);
- III. report to the Standing Committee, including making any recommendations about capacity building and policy guidance for Contracting Parties; and
- IV. develop a joint work plan with the Secretariat, to:
 - communicate with and support Ramsar national Youth Focal Points;
 - align the youth activities of the Convention on Wetlands with the youth networks, programmes and consultative bodies under other United Nations environmental bodies and multilateral agreements, including youth-focused events at international meetings;
 - coordinate a youth-focused side event and enable youth participation at meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, in cooperation with the host country of the COP; and
 - develop youth-focused messaging and programme materials for World Wetlands Day and other international days relevant to the Convention.



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Resolution XIV.13

The status of Sites in the List of Wetlands of International Importance

1. RECALLING Article 8.2 of the Convention, on the duties of the Secretariat concerning reporting on the status of Wetlands of International Importance (“Ramsar Sites”) for the consideration and recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on these matters, and Article 6.2.d), concerning the competence of the Conference to make general or specific recommendations to the Contracting Parties regarding the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands;
2. APPRECIATING the designation of 125 new Ramsar Sites by Contracting Parties between 21 June 2018 and 30 June 2022;
3. ALSO APPRECIATING the work done by 42 Contracting Parties that updated the Ramsar Information Sheets (RISs) for 221 Ramsar Sites within their territories during this period, and by 68 Parties that provided updated information on an additional 601 Sites;
4. NOTING that, for 1,826 Ramsar Sites, representing 75% of the 2,439 Sites that had been designated by 30 June 2022, either RISs or adequate maps had not been submitted, or relevant RISs or maps had not been updated for over six years, so that recent information on the status of these Sites was not available;
5. NOTING that changes to Ramsar Site boundaries and areas reported in updated RISs “...should only occur where the change is so minor that it does not substantially affect the fundamental objectives for which the site was listed, and:
 - a) the site boundary has been drawn incorrectly and there has been a genuine error; and/or
 - b) the site boundary does not accurately match the description of the boundary as defined in the RIS; and/or
 - c) technology allows for a higher resolution and more accurate definition of the site boundary than was available at the time of Listing” (Resolution VIII.21 on *Defining Ramsar site boundaries more accurately in Ramsar Information Sheets*) and/or
 - d) where it is possible, to increase relevant “intertidal Ramsar Site boundaries [to] include the entire ecosystem of importance to migratory waterbirds and other dependent species, including inland roost and feeding sites” (Resolution XIII.20 on *Promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats*, paragraph 44);

6. NOTING that substantive changes to Ramsar Site boundaries, arising from extensions or restrictions of the area of a Site, should also be reported in updated RISs;
7. CONSIDERING the need for Contracting Parties, as a matter of high priority, to put in place mechanisms “... *to be informed at the earliest possible time, including through reports by national authorities and local and indigenous communities and NGOs, if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory included in the Ramsar List has changed, is changing or is likely to change, and to report any such change without delay to the Ramsar Bureau [Secretariat] so as to implement fully Article 3.2 of the Convention*” (Resolution VIII.8 on *Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention*);
8. EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION to those Contracting Parties that have provided “Article 3.2 reports” to the Secretariat about Ramsar Sites where human-induced changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or may occur, as listed in Annex 4a of the *Report of the Secretariat pursuant to Article 8.2 on the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (document COP14 Doc.10 Rev.1);
9. NOTING that 84% of the Contracting Parties reported in their National Reports to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14) that they had arrangements in place to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites in their territories; but AWARE that fewer than 42% of Parties have submitted reports of all instances of such changes or likely changes;
10. CONCERNED that, as of 30 June 2022, only three of the Ramsar Sites included in the Montreux Record had been removed from the Record since COP13;
11. ALSO CONCERNED about the length of time that it has taken to address changes to the ecological character of Ramsar Sites (Article 3.2), the continuing lack of information on the status of many open Article 3.2 files, and the lack of response by some Contracting Parties to address concerns raised by third parties about potential changes to Sites; and
12. NOTING the importance of Ramsar Advisory Missions as a monitoring procedure, underlined by Contracting Parties through Resolution XIII.11 on *Ramsar Advisory Missions*, to provide technical assistance for addressing problems and threats to Ramsar Sites that could lead to a change in ecological character; and
13. RECALLING Article 2.1 of the Convention, which states that: “*Each Contracting Party shall designate suitable wetlands within its territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance*” and that “*The boundaries of each wetland shall be precisely described and also delimited on a map*”;

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14. URGES the Contracting Parties that have not submitted a Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) or a map for all Wetlands of International Importance (“Ramsar Sites”) that they have designated (listed at Annex 3a of the *Report of the Secretariat pursuant to Article 8.2 on the List of Wetlands of International Importance*, document COP14 Doc.10 Rev.1), to provide such information in advance of the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62); and INSTRUCTS the Convention Secretariat to contact the relevant Contracting Parties to offer any necessary technical support;

15. REQUESTS the Contracting Parties listed in Annex 3b of the *Report of the Secretariat pursuant to Article 8.2 on the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (document COP14 Doc.10 Rev.1), to update, as a matter of urgency, the RISs for their Ramsar Sites at least once every six years (as urged in Resolution VI.13 on *Submission of information on sites designated for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*);
16. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to adopt and apply as appropriate, as part of their management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, a suitable assessment and monitoring regime, such as that outlined in the Annex to Resolution VI.1 on *Working definitions of ecological character, guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed sites, and guidelines for operation of the Montreux Record*, as well as the Convention's *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* (Resolution VII.10), in order to be able to report change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites in accordance with Article 3.2;
17. REQUESTS Contracting Parties with Ramsar Sites for which the Secretariat has received reports of change or likely change in their ecological character (listed in Annexes 4a and 4b of the *Report of the Secretariat pursuant to Article 8.2 on the List of Wetlands of International Importance*, in document COP14 Doc.10 Rev.1) to submit information to the Secretariat in response to such reports, including, as appropriate, information on steps taken or to be taken to address these changes or likely changes in ecological character, in advance of SC62 and each subsequent Standing Committee meeting until the issue is resolved; and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide technical support to these Parties to address the threats to their Sites, with priority being given to the most threatened Sites, and to report back at SC62;
18. ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to continue to use the Montreux Record questionnaire at Annex 1 of the present Resolution to determine the inclusion or removal of a listed Site in the Montreux Record;
19. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, when submitting a report in fulfilment of Article 3.2, to consider whether the Site concerned would benefit from listing on the Montreux Record;
20. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to assist Contracting Parties in their actions in response to change or likely change in the ecological character of a Ramsar Site or Sites, for example by providing advice, when requested, on the application of the wise-use principles, or, when relevant, proposing to Parties to add the Site or Sites to the Montreux Record or to invite a Ramsar Advisory Mission;
21. REQUESTS the Secretariat to prepare a technical report on the procedure undertaken by the Secretariat to include a site on the List of Wetlands of International Importance, that covers all the steps of this process, for consideration at SC62;
22. DECIDES to defer consideration of the *amended draft resolution on the Ramsar List* (document COP14 Doc.18.16 Rev.1) to COP15, to be informed by the results of the technical report and relevant discussions at the upcoming Standing Committee meetings; and
23. REPEALS Resolution XIII.10 on *The status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, which is replaced by the present Resolution.

Annex 1

Montreux Record – Questionnaire content

Section 1: Information for assessing possible inclusion of a listed Ramsar Site in the Montreux Record

Nature of the change

1. Name of Site.
2. Ramsar Criteria for listing the Site as internationally important.
3. Summary statement of ecological character description.
4. Ecological components, processes, functions and services of the ecosystems affected by adverse human-induced change / likely change (list relevant code numbers from the ecological character description).
5. Nature and extent of the change / likely change to ecological character (use the threat categories in Appendix F of Resolution XI.8 Annex 2 *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands*).
6. Reason(s) for the change / likely change described above.

Management measures in place

1. Date when the latest Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) was submitted.
2. Management strategies and administrative mechanisms in place, if any (of governments at all relevant levels, this may include national government, indigenous government where they exist, subnational government, decentralized government, community-level, or others).
3. Site management plan or other planning, monitoring or assessment programmes in place at the Site, if any (description of technique(s), objectives, and nature of data and information gathered) – refer to RIS section 5.2.7 (Resolution XI.8 on *Streamlining procedures for describing Ramsar Sites at the time of designation and subsequent updates*, Annex 1, RIS field 34).
4. Assessment procedures in place, if any. (How is the information obtained from the monitoring programme used?)
5. Protection, amelioration and/or restoration measures in place so far or planned, if any.
6. Any other analogous or linked Site intervention processes activated or planned, e.g. under other multilateral environmental agreements.
7. List of attachments provided by the Contracting Party (if applicable).
8. List of attachments provided by the Secretariat (if applicable).

Section 2: Information for assessing possible removal of a listed Site from the Montreux Record

Management measures in place

1. Date when the latest RIS was submitted.
2. Site management plan or other planning, monitoring or assessment programmes in place at the Site, if any (description of technique(s), objectives and nature of data and information gathered (refer to RIS section 5.2.7, Resolution XI.8, Annex 1, RIS field 34).
3. Assessment procedures in place, if any (how is the information obtained from the monitoring programme used).
4. Protection, amelioration and/or restoration measures so far in place or planned, if any.

Assessment for removal of the Ramsar Site from the Montreux Record

1. Success of protection, amelioration and/or maintenance measures (if different from those covered in Section 1 of this questionnaire).
2. Proposed management, monitoring and assessment or other procedures (if different from those in Section 1 of this questionnaire).
3. Extent to which the ecological components, processes, functions and services of the Site's ecosystems have been restored or maintained (provide details).
4. Rationale for removing the Site from the Montreux Record. (Refer to *Guidelines for Operation of the Montreux Record*, the specific issues identified in Section 1 of this questionnaire, and any advice given by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel or arising from a Ramsar Advisory Mission, where applicable.)
5. Status of any other analogous or linked Site intervention processes, e.g. under other multilateral environmental agreements, and details of how Montreux Record removal will be harmonized with these.
6. Measures that the Contracting Party will implement to maintain the ecological character of the Site with clear indicators for follow up.
7. List of further attachments (if applicable).



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Resolution XIV.14

Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2023-2025

1. RECALLING Resolution XII.5 on *New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*, which modified the *modus operandi* and responsibilities for the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP);
2. FURTHER RECALLING paragraph 16 of Resolution XII.5, on the requirement for changes to the organization and the processes of the STRP to be amended by decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties as a result of a future review, and paragraph 23 of Resolution XII.5, on the continuing need to ensure that the Panel has the resources to undertake its work effectively;
3. FURTHER RECALLING paragraph 44 of Annex 1 of Resolution XII.5, which requests that the STRP identify, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Standing Committee, “scientific and technical priorities for the coming triennium, and funding needs, and indicate potentially relevant partner organizations, for the consideration of the Conference of Parties”;
4. ALSO RECALLING paragraph 45 of Annex 1 of the same Resolution, which requires that the list of scientific and technical priorities “reflect the content of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for the coming triennium, resolutions of the last COP, and other priority issues which have been identified by regional or global wetland networks”;
5. RECALLING Resolution XII.9 on *The Ramsar Convention’s Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024*;
6. NOTING WITH APPRECIATION and expressing gratitude to:
 - STRP members, International Organization Partner observers, observers from other organizations and STRP National Focal Points for their valuable contributions to the work of the STRP during the triennium;
 - The Secretariat for its support;
 - The Government of Norway for its generous financial contribution to support the delivery of the Panel’s work on tropical peatland restoration and rewetting (Task 2.2 of the STRP work plan for the 2019-2021 triennium) and blue carbon and wetlands (Task 5.1);

- The Governments of Norway and Finland for their generous financial contribution to support the delivery of the STRP's work on gender mainstreaming¹⁰ (Task 4.1); and
 - The Government of Australia for its generous in-kind contribution in the form of technical support to the ad-hoc advisory task on Criterion 6;
7. RECALLING Decision SC57-30 of the Standing Committee, which approved the work plan of the STRP for the 2019-2021 triennium; and
 8. ALSO RECALLING Decision SC57-25 of the Standing Committee, which agreed on the participation of one or more STRP members in discussions during Standing Committee meetings addressing important emerging issues or those for which significant new information had become available;

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9. WELCOMES the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) products delivered during the 2019-2021 triennium, listed in Annex 1 of the present Resolution;
10. URGES Contracting Parties, the Convention on Wetlands community and others to use them as appropriate;
11. INVITES the Convention's International Organization Partners and other members of the Convention on Wetlands community to promote and disseminate STRP products widely, including the *Global Wetland Outlook: Special Edition 2021*;
12. APPROVES the priority thematic work areas and the high priority tasks for the STRP for the 2023-2025 triennium listed in Annex 2 of the present Resolution;
13. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to consider the high priority tasks in Annex 2 in their nomination of appropriate STRP representatives within 30 days of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, in order to respond to the Secretariat's call for nominations for the STRP, including the Chair and Vice-Chair, which will be issued immediately after COP14, and ensuring the Management Working Group of the Standing Committee confirms the nominations as soon as possible thereafter;
14. APPROVES the revised list of bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP for the 2023-2025 triennium, included in Annex 3 of the present Resolution, and ENCOURAGES their active participation, applying a range of expertise, in the work of the STRP, alongside the STRP Panel Members and STRP National Focal Points;
15. INSTRUCTS the STRP to develop its work plan for 2023-2025 and submit it to the Secretariat as soon as possible for approval of the Standing Committee, either intersessionally in advance of, or at its 62nd meeting; ENCOURAGES it in so doing to give due consideration to the inclusion of unfinished high, medium and lower-priority tasks from the 2019-2021 work plan, as well as to the inclusion of elements of the Strategic Plan which the Secretariat reported that Parties are struggling to implement¹¹; and ALSO INSTRUCTS it to ensure that the plan developed is

¹⁰ The Management Working Group instructed the Panel to focus on its highest priority tasks, and asked the Secretariat to move the task forward.

¹¹ See document COP13 Doc.11.1 *Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention: Global implementation*, <https://ramsar.org/document/cop13-doc111-report-of-the-secretary-general-on-the-implementation-of-the-convention-global>.

streamlined and achievable within a single triennium, taking into account the traditional and local knowledge and potential contribution of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, where appropriate, and that all outputs of the STRP are designed, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to be user-friendly from the outset and for immediate use by Contracting Parties or other users;

16. REQUESTS the STRP, following an initial face-to-face meeting at the start of the triennium, to explore with the Secretariat the value of virtual meetings and other online tools to support the ongoing work of the STRP, as appropriate, taking into account the need for equitable and broadly inclusive participation, environmental and financial impacts; and
17. URGES Contracting Parties and others to assist in funding the work of the STRP.

Annex 1

List of Scientific and Technical Review Panel outputs produced during 2019-2022

Note: Outputs are listed in order of the task in the STRP 2019-2021 work plan.

1. *Global Wetland Outlook—Special edition 2021*¹² (GWO task)
2. Briefing Note No. 13: *Wetlands and agriculture: Impacts of farming practices and pathways to sustainability*¹³ (Task 1.2)
3. Policy Brief No. 6: *Transforming agriculture to sustain people and wetlands*¹⁴ (Task 1.2)
4. Technical Report No. 11: *Ramsar global guidelines for peatland rewetting and restoration*¹⁵ (Task 2.2)
5. Briefing Note No. 11: *Practical peatland restoration*¹⁶ (Task 2.2)
6. Policy Brief No. 5: *Restoring drained peatlands: A necessary step to achieve global climate goals*¹⁷ (Task 2.2)
7. Briefing Note No. 12: *The contribution of blue carbon ecosystems to climate change mitigation*¹⁸ (Task 5.1)

¹² <https://www.ramsar.org/document/global-wetland-outlook-special-edition-2021>.

¹³ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/briefing-note-13-wetlands-and-agriculture-impacts-of-farming-practices-and-pathways-to>.

¹⁴ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-policy-brief-6-transforming-agriculture-to-sustain-people-and-wetlands>.

¹⁵ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-technical-report-11-global-guidelines-for-peatland-rewetting-and-restoration>.

¹⁶ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/briefing-note-11-practical-peatland-restoration>.

¹⁷ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-policy-brief-5-restoring-drained-peatlands-a-necessary-step-to-achieve-global>.

¹⁸ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/briefing-note-12-the-contribution-of-blue-carbon-ecosystems-to-climate-change-mitigation>.

Annex 2

Scientific and Technical Review Panel Thematic Work Areas and high priority tasks 2023-2025

Thematic Work Areas and their relevance to the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are presented below. Further details on the future scientific and technical priorities including medium and low priority tasks under each Thematic Work Area are identified in the report of the Chair of the STRP to the resumed session of the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC59) in 2022.

| <i>Priority</i> | <i>STRP task</i> | <i>Mandate(s)</i> |
|--|--|--|
| TWA 1: Wetlands of International Importance, development of the Site network and application of criteria. | | |
| High | Further guidance on application of criteria for designating Wetlands of International Importance | Strategic Plan ¹⁹ Goal 4, Target 14. Relevant targets in the Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework ²⁰ . |
| High | Global assessment of gaps in the network of Wetlands of International Importance, and synergies with global climate and biodiversity goals | Initiated in the 2019-2021 triennium (Task 1.7). Strategic Plan Goal 2, Target 6. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |
| TWA 2: Tools for wetland assessment, mapping and monitoring, and development of inventories. | | |
| High | Wetland mapping and inventories to catalyse greater use of available methodologies for wetland carbon assessments | Resolutions XIII.13 ²¹ and XIII.14 ²² . Strategic Plan Goal 3, Target 8. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |
| High | Prepare guidance on inventories and monitoring of small wetlands, and their multiple values for biodiversity conservation, especially in the contexts of landscape management and climate change | Resolution XIII.21 ²³ , paragraph 23. Medium priority in work plan 2019-2021 (Task 1.3). Resolution XI.8 ²⁴ , paragraph 21 iii). Strategic Plan Goal 3, Targets 8 and 11. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |
| TWA 3: Direct and climate-change-related pressures on wetlands, their impacts and responses. | | |
| High | Climate change and wetlands – updated information on the current and projected impacts of climate change on the world's wetlands, and responses | Strategic Plan Goals 1, 2 and 3. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |

¹⁹ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/the-fourth-ramsar-strategic-plan-2016-2024>.

²⁰ See <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15>.

²¹ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii13-restoration-of-degraded-peatlands-to-mitigate-and-adapt-to-climate-change>.

²² <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii14-promoting-conservation-restoration-and-sustainable-management-of-coastal>.

²³ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii21-conservation-and-management-of-small-wetlands>.

²⁴ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xi8-streamlining-procedures-for-describing-ramsar-sites-at-the-time-of>.

| Priority | STRP task | Mandate(s) |
|---|--|---|
| High | Blue carbon guidance, data and models, and support for integration of blue carbon in climate change planning frameworks | Resolution XIII.14, paragraph 15b)-d). Strategic Plan Goal 4, Target 14. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |
| High | Agriculture and wetlands: maintaining and restoring the ecological character of wetlands in agricultural settings | Strategic Plan Goal 3, Target 9. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |
| TWA 4: Wise use, sustainable management and restoration of wetlands in the wider landscape/seascape. | | |
| High | OECMs as an opportunity in promoting wetland conservation and wise use | Strategic Plan Goal 3, Target 9. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |
| High | Develop guidance on the conservation, wise use and management of “working coastal habitats”, including a synthesis of the global pressures on coastal wetlands | Resolution XIII.20 ²⁵ , paragraph 45. Lower priority in work plan 2019-2021, Task 3.2. Strategic Plan Goal 3, Target 10. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |
| TWA 5: Cross-cutting issues, supporting functions, and synergies with other MEAs. | | |
| High | Financial costs of wetland loss and degradation, and investment required to maintain and restore wetlands | Strategic Plan Goal 4, Targets 17 & 19. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |
| High | Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and SDGs | Resolution XIII.5 ²⁶ . Strategic Plan Goal 4, Target 18. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |
| High | Global Wetland Outlook | Strategic Plan Goal 4, Targets 14 and 18. |
| High | Review of policy and legal frameworks for wetland conservation and wise use: scoping study | Standing Committee document SC57 Doc.8 – urgent challenges ²⁷ . Strategic Plan Goal 3, Target 11. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF. |

²⁵ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii20-promoting-the-conservation-and-wise-use-of-intertidal-wetlands-and>.

²⁶ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii5-review-of-the-fourth-strategic-plan-of-the-ramsar-convention>.

²⁷ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc57-doc8-urgent-challenges-to-the-wise-use-of-wetlands-to-receive-enhanced-attention>.

Annex 3

Bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for the 2023-2025 triennium

Observer organizations are defined as global and regional multilateral environmental agreements, global intergovernmental organizations and processes, regional intergovernmental organizations and processes, international organizations and other non-governmental organizations and organizations devoted to wetlands.

They include, but are not restricted to:

- Ducks Unlimited (DU)
- European Space Agency – ESRIN (ESA-ESRIN)
- Flora and Fauna International (FFI)
- Global Environment Facility (GEF: Secretariat and/or the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC)
- Group on Earth Observation – Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON)
- Group on Earth Observation – Wetlands Initiative (GEO-Wetlands)
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- International Crane Foundation (ICF)
- International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)
- International Peatland Society (IPS)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- Scientific and Technical Network of the Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet)
- Multilateral environmental agreements including the Secretariats and/or representatives of their technical bodies, as follows: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and related instruments, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC), Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
- Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Tour du Valat Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)



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**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
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Resolution XIV.15

Enhancing the conservation and management of small wetlands

1. RECALLING the commitments made by Contracting Parties in Article 3.1 of the Convention to promote, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in their territory;
2. RECALLING Resolution VII.20 on *Priorities for wetland inventory*, which urges “all Contracting Parties yet to complete comprehensive national inventories of their wetland resources, including, where possible, wetland losses and wetlands with potential for restoration [...] to give highest priority in the next triennium to the compilation of comprehensive national inventories”, and the Framework for Wetland Inventory as annexed to Resolution VIII.6;
3. ALSO RECALLING Resolution XIII.21 on *Conservation and management of small wetlands*, which encourages Contracting Parties to include small wetlands in their science-based inventories, assess the hydrological connectivity and quality of small wetlands, as appropriate, and promulgate national and regional policy on small wetlands, and which requests the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to prepare guidance on the identification of small wetlands, to address the significant human-induced pressures that threaten small wetlands and prevent further loss;
4. NOTING the ongoing efforts made by many countries to conserve and manage small wetlands that provide examples of small wetland conservation and management;
5. AWARE that some wetland inventories carried out by many countries have not prioritized or fully covered small wetlands nor set clear standards for their identification, classification or evaluation;
6. CONCERNED that small wetlands are increasingly facing development pressures leading to degradation and loss, and that conservation, restoration and management of small wetlands is urgently needed;
7. ALSO AWARE that the lack of unified technical specifications and standards for the identification, classification, inventory, conservation, restoration and management of small wetlands creates great difficulties in various countries;

8. AWARE that small wetlands are often overlooked, or highly depleted, and that, owing to their restricted range, they can support vulnerable populations of threatened species, and are important for the conservation of biological diversity;
9. CONCERNED that non-sustainable land and water development may lead to the fragmentation of small wetlands that provide important habitat for migratory and/or non-migratory wetland-dependent species;
10. CONCERNED that small wetlands may be overlooked as sites of ecological significance and may not be considered for designation as Wetlands of International Importance, even though the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands* supports the designation of small wetlands;
11. AWARE that the *Sixth Assessment Report (2021)* of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated that climate change is already affecting every region across the globe, with human influence contributing to many observed changes in weather and climate extremes;
12. ALSO AWARE that the *Global Wetland Outlook: Special Edition 2021* noted that wetlands are particularly impacted by sea-level rise, coral bleaching and changing hydrology, with Arctic and montane wetlands especially at risk, and that changing weather increases risks of flooding and drought in many places;
13. FURTHER AWARE that the IPCC *Sixth Assessment Report* stated that with every increment of global warming, changes get larger in regional mean temperature, precipitation and soil moisture, and CONCERNED that this may increase the pressure on small wetlands, owing to the effects on their hydrological functioning; and
14. NOTING the publication of *A new toolkit for national wetlands inventories (2020)* by the Convention on Wetlands that can be applied and adapted to small wetlands;

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15. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to consider the conservation and management of small wetlands in policies, plans, programmes, and other policy instruments according to their own national conditions, if possible, and as part of nature-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk management, among its wider relevance to biodiversity conservation, and human health and wellbeing;
16. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to designate small wetlands and small wetland complexes that meet the criteria for identifying wetlands for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, as well as to identify and implement other potential measures that contribute to the conservation and sustainable and wise use of small wetlands, including mapping small wetlands within protected areas and working landscapes, in an effort to ensure the conservation of their biodiversity, and the maintenance of their ecological, cultural and social values;
17. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to develop national plans or to amend existing national and/or subnational plans to promote the conservation, restoration, and wise use of small wetlands;

18. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to develop national and local plans and policies and develop appropriate institutional arrangements to effectively manage small wetlands to maintain and enhance vulnerable populations of threatened migratory or non-migratory wetland-dependent species;
19. REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, based on the latest scientific knowledge and feedback from Contracting Parties, to develop guidance on inventories and monitoring of small wetlands and their multiple values for biodiversity conservation, drawing on the draft framework contained in Annex 1 of the present Resolution, and national best practices and experiences; and
20. REQUESTS the Secretariat, subject to available resources, to compile exemplary policies and cases related to small wetland conservation and develop promotional material or a handbook and include a section on small wetlands in the future editions of the *Global Wetland Outlook*.

Annex 1

Draft framework for the inventory, classification, management and restoration of small wetlands

A. Apply relevant Resolutions and existing guidance for the inventory, classification and assessment of small wetlands, as outlined in document SC59 Doc.13.3²⁸ on the consolidation of wetland inventories

Purpose: To ensure the inventory and assessment of small wetlands is consistent with and benefits from the existing guidance on wetlands.

List of relevant Resolutions on the inventory, classification and assessment of small wetlands:

- Resolution VIII.6 – Annex: *A Framework for Wetland Inventory*;
- Resolution IX.1 – Annex E: *An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring*;
- Resolution IX.1 – Annex E.i: *Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity*;
- Resolution X.15 – Annex: *Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory*.

B. Identify the types of small wetlands that may be overlooked in national and local wetland inventory, assessment and management

Purpose: To improve the inventory, assessment and management of small wetlands by considering the types of small wetlands that are likely to be omitted in local and national inventory.

Examples of small wetland types include: alpine wetlands, ponds, karst wetlands, springs, and temporary/ephemeral streams.

- Identify the types of small wetlands that may be overlooked in national and local inventory of wetland ecosystems, including small wetlands that provide ecosystem services for adjacent communities or otherwise support people and the environment.
- Integrate small wetlands into national and/or subnational wetland inventories.
- If there is no national classification system, apply the Ramsar Classification of Wetland Types.
- Where national or regional classification schemes more accurately map or describe small wetland types, align these schemes to the Ramsar classification system where practical.
- Apply existing and innovative tools for wetland inventory, including those outlined in *A toolkit for national wetlands inventories* (Convention on Wetlands, 2020).

²⁸ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc59-doc133-draft-consolidated-resolution-on-inventories>.

C. Collate information on the multiple values of small wetlands, and pressures on the ecological character of small wetlands

Purpose: To ensure the values of small wetlands are described to inform national and local plans for the management and restoration of small wetlands.

- Describe the unique values of small wetlands that may not be present in regional or national assessment of wetlands, including:
 - rare and endangered species that small wetlands support due to their naturally rare or depleted status;
 - the hydrological functioning of small wetlands, which may be highly vulnerable to changes in water use and current and projected impacts of climate change;
 - the degree that fragmentation impacts on the ecological character of small wetlands;
 - the role of small wetlands in providing refuges, or migratory pathways, for vulnerable populations of wetland-dependent species;
 - the function of small wetlands in supporting wellbeing of people, particularly in urban environments; and
 - the important ecosystem services provided by small wetlands in regulating water quality, flooding, drought and other regulating, provisioning and supporting services.
- Describe the unique pressures on small wetlands, considering how changes in physical drivers (e.g. water quantity, sediment), extraction (e.g. water use, peat harvest), pollution (e.g. agricultural nutrients, urban pollutants), invasive species, and wetland drainage and loss may disproportionately impact small wetlands.
- Ensure the data collated by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and stored by the Convention Secretariat on small wetlands are easily accessible for the purposes of monitoring, reporting and developing management plans.
- Apply the *Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity*.
- Apply the guidance on *Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory* annexed to Resolution X.15.

D. Develop and implement local and national plans that specifically consider the needs of small wetlands

Purpose: To promote the development of local and national plans for management and restoration of small wetlands.

- Apply the information collated from Steps A to C above to develop local and national plans for the management and restoration of small wetlands.
- Focus management and restoration efforts on small wetlands that:
 - are under greatest risk from a decline in ecological character;
 - support species and ecosystems that are important for maintaining local, national and global biodiversity; and
 - provide ecosystem services that are important for maintaining the wellbeing and livelihoods of people, and for regulating the environment.



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Resolution XIV.16

Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies

1. RECOGNIZING wetlands as globally important ecosystems, unique conveyors of the global water cycle, nutrient cycles and energy flows, and providers of a variety of irreplaceable functions and services such as fresh water, food, hydrological and climate regulation, cultural heritage and health protection (*Global Wetland Outlook, 2018*), and FURTHER RECOGNIZING that wetlands have a central position in the promotion of global sustainable development, especially in maintaining global biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to climate change, poverty eradication and disaster risk reduction;
2. ALERT TO THE FACT that, globally, wetlands have declined by 35% since 1970 and that the trend of decline has not been effectively halted (GWO; *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), 2019*); and that this trend will affect the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mitigation and adaptation to climate change under the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;
3. TAKING NOTE, with deep concern, that many wetland-dependent communities face persistent levels of poverty, including extreme poverty, inequalities, unemployment and food insecurity, and RECOGNIZING the need to strengthen the sustainable use of biodiversity to support sustainable livelihoods and address the social and economic challenges that often undermine the implementation of conservation, restoration and management activities;
4. NOTING that the *Global Wetland Outlook* states that the direct drivers of wetland decline include changes in physical regimes such as hydrology and sedimentation, extraction such as water use and fishing, eutrophication, pollution and invasive species, and structural modification such as wetland drainage and conversion of wetlands for different uses; while indirect drivers include the supply of water energy, food and fibre, infrastructure, tourism and recreation; and that these factors are interconnected and strongly influenced by both governance and the adverse impacts of climate change;

5. AWARE THAT cross-sectoral interventions at the regional, national and local levels are vital means of addressing adverse drivers (IPBES, *idem*) and that addressing direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss requires the mobilization of government, the private sector and society as a whole through integrated and holistic planning and implementation (Global Biodiversity Outlook 5, 2020); and FURTHER NOTING that halting the drivers of wetland decline requires the implementation of national wetland policies through integrated and systematic strategies which contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
6. RECALLING that Article 3.1 of the Convention, Recommendation 6.9 and Resolution VII.6 request Contracting Parties to develop and implement national policies for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and FURTHER RECALLING the relationship between wetlands and the achievement of the SDGs, recognized in Resolution XI.21, the Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 of the Convention, and Resolutions XIII.13, XIII.14, XIII.16, XIII.19, IX.4 and VIII.32;
7. FURTHER RECALLING Resolutions IX.1 and its Annex C, Resolution IX.3 and Resolution XII.12, which call upon Contracting Parties to strengthen integrated management of water resources; Resolution IX.1 Annex Ci and Resolution VII.18 which invite Parties to strengthen integrated river basin management; Resolution VIII.4 focusing on integrated coastal zone management; Resolution IX.20 on integrated wetland management in small island States; and Resolution XIII.20 on promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically associated habitats;
8. CONCERNED that the Convention still lacks national-level wetland conservation and restoration tools which help Contracting Parties integrate wetlands with climate change, water, biodiversity and sustainable development policies, strategies and tools;
9. NOTING that Contracting Parties have introduced national integrated wetland conservation and restoration frameworks; and
10. AWARE that integrating wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies or subnational strategies, as appropriate, may facilitate coordinated and integrated policies and actions on wetland conservation and restoration with those addressing climate change policies, water quality and quantity, and biodiversity loss, agriculture, health, disaster risk reduction, urban development and poverty eradication, in line with national circumstances and priorities;

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11. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to integrate wetland conservation, restoration, sustainable management and wise-use policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies, and to evaluate the role of wetland conservation and restoration in national and global sustainable development strategies in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as nationally determined contributions and adaptation plans under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its land degradation targets;
12. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to integrate existing national wetland policies into national sustainable development strategies, to engage all relevant partners and stakeholders, and,

where appropriate, deploy wetland focused nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change, while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits, in alignment with Resolution XIV.17 on *The protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystems in addressing climate change*;

13. RECOGNIZES that the effective integration of wetland conservation, restoration, and wise-use policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies is dependent upon adequate resources, including financing which may require the need to mobilize increased financial resources from all sources, capacity building and exchange of knowledge, in particular for developing country Contracting Parties;
14. RECOGNIZES the importance of advocacy for wetlands for the effective integration of wetland conservation, restoration and wise-use policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies;
15. RECOGNIZES that, in the context of the Convention on Wetlands, sustainable development is consistent with and supportive of the conservation and wise use of wetlands through maintaining or enhancing their ecological character;
16. RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties conduct systematic national wetland inventories, using the *New Toolkit for National Wetland Inventories* of 2020, assess the status and trends of wetlands, analyse national needs and gaps in wetland conservation, develop integrated, systematic and adaptive conservation and restoration planning, and develop integrated national management actions for wetlands and other associated ecosystems as appropriate;
17. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to set targets for the management of wetlands, consider the principles of wise use in spatial land-use planning processes and integrated coastal management to avoid, minimize, or where necessary compensate for the conversion of wetlands, and ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken and measures identified to minimize the impacts of projects on wetland ecosystems, and protect and maintain the ecological character of wetlands;
18. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to identify the status of national and local degraded wetlands, set wetland restoration targets, and take measures to enhance the condition of wetland ecosystems and arrest their loss;
19. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to monitor policies and actions regularly to conserve, restore and sustainably manage wetlands; and RECOGNIZES that effective monitoring of progress is dependent upon the establishment of measurable targets in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD using relevant indicators and ensuring regular progress reporting;
20. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, where appropriate and in line with national circumstances, to develop international wetland conservation and restoration, sustainable use and management partnerships, including for transboundary water basins and to reflect the migratory connectivity of species, in cooperation with neighbouring countries within the relevant frameworks;
21. REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to strengthen case studies and development of tools for the integration of national wetland conservation and restoration into

national sustainable development strategies and to develop technical guidelines; and REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to further promote the important role of wetlands in the national and global sustainable development agenda, including as part of NBSAPs under the CBD;

22. INVITES International Organization Partners to work with relevant stakeholders to provide support to the integration of wetland conservation and restoration into sustainable development plans and programmes; and
23. REQUESTS that the Secretariat enhance cooperation with UNFCCC, UNCCD, the CBD, other multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant organizations to promote global mainstreaming of wetland conservation and restoration, sustainable use and management.



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Resolution XIV.17

The protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystems in addressing climate change

1. RECALLING:
 - a. Resolution XI.14 on *Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*, which urges Contracting Parties to, *inter alia*, maintain or improve the ecological character of wetlands to promote the ability of wetlands to contribute to ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change and to sequester and store carbon as important responses for climate change mitigation;
 - b. Resolution XIII.14 on *Promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue-carbon ecosystems*, highlighting the value of some wetland types as natural carbon sinks; and
 - c. The *Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024*, highlighting the important ecosystem services that wetlands provide, to contribute to halting biodiversity loss, food security, healthy living, water quality and supply, water security, disaster risk reduction, adaptation and mitigation to climate change;
2. FURTHER RECALLING that the United Nations Member States have:
 - a. Decided that “nature-based solutions are actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits” (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5); and
 - b. recognized that “nature-based solutions may contribute significantly to climate action, while recognizing the need for analysis of their effects, including in the long term, and acknowledging that they do not replace the need for rapid, deep and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, but can improve action for adaptation and resilience to and mitigation of climate change and its impact” (UNEP/EA.5/Res.5);
3. NOTING that the 2018 and the 2021 editions of the *Global Wetland Outlook* which state the following facts:

- a. 40% of all the world's species live and breed in wetlands and 25% of wetland-dependent species are threatened with extinction;
 - b. "Coastal wetlands such as mangroves sequester carbon up to 55 times faster than tropical rainforests" and "peatlands, which cover only 3% of the earth's land surface, store 30% of all land-based carbon";
 - c. More than one billion people depend on wetlands for a living; and
 - d. Degraded wetlands can contribute to carbon emissions with drained peatland responsible for about 4% of anthropogenic greenhouse emissions;
4. FURTHER NOTING:
- a. The levels of poverty in wetland-dependent communities and the need to support socially, economically and environmentally sustainable livelihoods;
 - b. That the restoration of wetland ecosystems has the potential to mitigate the effects of climate change and improve resilience to the effects of climate change, including coastal protection against rising sea levels;
 - c. The policy and other recommendations relating to wetlands and climate in STRP publications, particularly: Policy Brief 5 on restoring drained peatlands; Policy Brief 6 on transforming agriculture to sustain wetlands and people; Briefing Note 10 on wetland restoration for climate change resilience; and Briefing Note 12 on blue carbon ecosystems; and
 - d. The need to promote greater alignment between climate and wetlands policy;

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- 5. RECOGNIZES that nature-based solutions, as defined by the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly, and ecosystem-based approaches, as identified under the Convention on Biological Diversity, delivered by wetland ecosystems, are among the approaches that can significantly contribute to climate action, while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits and addressing other social, economic and environmental challenges;
- 6. FURTHER AFFIRMS the value of protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetlands to achieve multiple benefits, including for climate change, biodiversity and human wellbeing, by addressing social, economic and environmental challenges, in accordance with local, national and regional circumstances, consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- 7. ACKNOWLEDGES that the concept of nature-based solutions is cognizant of and in harmony with the concept of ecosystem-based approaches;
- 8. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, in their plans and strategies, to deploy wetland-focused nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change, while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits, in accordance with local, national and regional circumstances, and with appropriate social and environmental safeguards,

and consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the mandates of other relevant multilateral environmental agreements;

9. REQUESTS the Convention Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), other interested Ramsar Regional Initiatives, and interested Contracting Parties, to facilitate the establishment of a community of practice on addressing climate change through the protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystems, while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits, to facilitate global cooperation among regional initiatives and other partners and stakeholders by sharing scientific and technical support and information on accessing financial resources;
10. RECOGNIZES the need to identify options, including innovative financial solutions and incentives, for supporting environmentally, socially and economically sustainable investment in wetland ecosystems protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management to address climate change, while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits, in particular for developing countries;
11. STRONGLY ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to urgently phase out or modify policies, to the extent possible, that contribute to wetlands loss and degradation, and pursue policies and projects to conserve and restore wetlands;
12. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to liaise with relevant international Conventions and organizations, such as the United Nations Environment Programme, while respecting their independence and respective mandates, to promote the protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystem, while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits;
13. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to improve their knowledge base and policy-relevant information on wetland extent and condition, to assess progress in the implementation of wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management activities, and on improvements to the services they provide, including but not limited to those related to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience; and
14. REQUESTS that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, subject to available resources, undertake a desktop study of success stories of nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to protecting, conserving, restoring, sustainably using and managing wetland ecosystems to address climate change and achieve other co-benefits, and share it with Contracting Parties.



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Resolution XIV.18

Waterbird population estimates to support new and existing Ramsar Site designations under Ramsar Criterion 6 – use of alternative estimates

1. RECALLING:
 - i. Resolution 5.9 on *Application of the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance*;
 - ii. Resolution VI.4 on *Adoption of population estimates for operation of the specific criteria based on waterfowl*;
 - iii. Resolution VIII.38 on *Waterbird population estimates and the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance*;
 - iv. Resolution X.22 on *Promoting international co-operation for the conservation of waterbird flyways*; and
 - v. Resolution XIII.20 on *Promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats*;
2. RECOGNIZING the critical importance of waterbirds to the biodiversity and ecological character of wetlands, and that Ramsar Criterion 6 facilitates the designation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) that are internationally important for waterbird conservation;
3. NOTING that:
 - i. the effectiveness of Criterion 6 in supporting waterbird conservation depends on availability of scientifically robust estimates of biogeographical population sizes of waterbirds; and
 - ii. the use of inaccurate or out-of-date population estimates, particularly for species in rapid decline, may undermine the intent of the 1% threshold embedded in Criterion 6;
4. RECOGNIZING that the current “Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), – 2012 Revision” (adopted as Resolution XI.8, Annex 2, Rev. COP13) provides guidance on the application of Criterion 6;
5. RECOGNIZING that measures to enhance the effectiveness of waterbird conservation are relevant to meeting the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international biodiversity conservation agreements;

6. ACKNOWLEDGING the important role of Wetlands International in collating and publishing, at the request of the Conference of the Parties, previous periodic Waterbird Population Estimates, and WELCOMING the new Waterbird Populations Portal launched in 2021;
7. ACKNOWLEDGING critical work being undertaken through cooperative arrangements in the world's migratory bird flyways including Conservation Status Reviews undertaken in the African, Eurasian and East Asian-Australasian flyways and the Avian Conservation Assessment and Population Estimates Databases (ACAD), from the Partners in Flight programme and Bird Conservation, and RECOGNIZING that such work contributes to the ongoing update of the Waterbird Population Estimates;
8. DEEPLY CONCERNED about ongoing global decline of waterbird populations, notably of migratory waterbird species, and the underpinning loss and degradation of intertidal wetlands as well as other habitats on which waterbirds depend that are essential for supporting them throughout their lifecycles; and
9. ALSO CONCERNED that the Waterbird Population Estimates have not been updated since 2012 due to a lack of funding and that there is currently no mechanism in place to ensure that these essential updates are completed in a timely manner;

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10. REAFFIRMS the use of Waterbird Population Estimates to underpin application of Ramsar Criterion 6 as agreed and affirmed under Resolutions VI.4 and VIII.38 and as outlined in the Strategic Framework – 2012 Revision (adopted as Resolution XI.8, Annex 2 (Rev. COP13));
11. AGREES that until the Waterbird Population Estimates are updated with accurate population estimates, alternative data sources may be used by Contracting Parties for the purposes of determining the 1% threshold in the context of applying Ramsar Criterion 6, provided:
 - i. that the biogeographical population of the species concerned is clearly stated for the species as listed in Waterbird Population Estimates available through the Waterbird Populations Portal;
 - ii. that such thresholds should be derived from estimates that are published in the Waterbird Populations Portal, for migratory species, based on Conservation Status Reviews (CSRs) produced under the auspices of flyway instruments, or other peer-reviewed assessments for other migratory populations for which CSR-type assessments do not exist as well as for non-migratory and endemic populations;
 - iii. that the reasons why a new estimate is considered more appropriate are documented with a clear audit trail to original sources, thus allowing third parties to check any derivation of the estimate;
 - iv. that the standard methodology used for the Waterbird Populations Portal to convert from a biogeographic population estimate size to a 1% population threshold should be used; and
 - v. that any alternate thresholds used by Parties for Criterion 6 purposes, and their justification, be communicated both to the Secretariat (to maintain a log of such instances), and Wetlands International;
12. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to amend the Strategic Framework – 2012 Revision, (adopted as Resolution XI.8, Annex 2, Rev. COP13) to give effect to paragraph 11 of the present Resolution, as outlined in Annex 1;

13. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to work cooperatively with flyway agreements and partnerships to facilitate regular updates to Waterbird Population Estimates;
14. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to use best available, scientifically robust data, through the process set out in paragraphs 10 and 11 of the present Resolution, for determining the 1% threshold for Site designations made on the basis of Criterion 6 and for future updates of the Ramsar Information Sheets;
15. REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to include in its work plan for the next triennium the preparation of guidance to facilitate appropriate application of this Resolution by Contracting Parties in liaison with the technical and scientific subsidiary bodies of other relevant treaties, such as the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), as well as the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) and other flyway initiatives;
16. ALSO REQUESTS the STRP to develop a technical proposal to enable the resourcing and implementing of future timely and comprehensive Waterbird Population Estimates updates, in consultation with Contracting Parties, relevant flyway agreements and partnerships, Wetlands International and interested entities; and that this technical proposal, including, with advice from the Secretariat, an outline of funding implications, be presented to the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee, ahead of a draft resolution for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties, concerning the arrangements for future regular updates of the Waterbird Populations Portal; and
17. FURTHER REQUESTS the STRP to also develop guidance that provides technical support to Contracting Parties in closing identified gaps in waterbird population data, and outlines opportunities for capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation and exchange to support Contracting Parties, in particular developing country Contracting Parties, in their assessment of waterbird populations.

Annex 1

Amendments to the “Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), – 2012 Revision” (adopted as Resolution XI.8, Annex 2, Rev. COP13)

Delete and replace paragraph 90 as follows:

For waterbirds, please use Wetlands International’s Waterbird Population Estimates as the definitive source of information on populations and species taxonomy (see also sections 6.1.5 and 6.1.6 below). (Note that there are only a few differences between the nomenclatures adopted by Waterbird Population Estimates and CITES). The most recent reference source is Waterbird Population Estimates, 5th edition, available in the Waterbird Populations Portal.

Amend paragraph 197 by inserting the new text in italics, as follows:

197. Current estimates of the sizes of all waterbird species’ populations and 1% thresholds for those populations for which there is a reliable population size estimate are also available in Wetland International’s periodic publication Waterbird Population Estimates, available in the Waterbird Populations Portal. If this Criterion is being applied to a waterbird species or population which is not covered in Waterbird Population Estimates, or for which that publication does not provide a 1% threshold *or the threshold provided is considered to be out of date, an alternative source of the population size estimate may be used and details of the source must be provided*, both to the Secretariat and to Wetlands International (to maintain a log of such instances). In doing so, details of the methodology for the estimate, which should be well-founded, are to be provided.

After paragraph 207 insert a sub-paragraph as follows:

207(a). An alternative source may also be used where population estimates published in the current Waterbird Population Estimates are considered to be out of date.

Remove the existing hyperlinks and amend paragraph 210 as follows:

International Waterbird Census: Wetlands International, <https://www.wetlands.org/IWC> and the publication *Waterbird Population Estimates* available through the Waterbird Populations Portal <https://wpp.wetlands.org/>.



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.19

Proposal to establish an International Mangrove Centre (a Ramsar Regional Initiative)

1. RECOGNIZING that mangrove ecosystems are rich in biodiversity and that “some 341 species that use mangroves are considered threatened – vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered – by the international community and IUCN” (*State of the World’s Mangroves*, 2021);
2. ACKNOWLEDGING that mangroves are important coastal blue carbon ecosystems, which can store approximately 5.73 gigatons of carbon (conversion of 21 gigatons of CO₂, *Global Mangrove Alliance*, 2021), with Wetlands of International Importance that include mangroves and for which data are available holding an estimated 1.61 gigatons of carbon (*Global Wetland Outlook*, 2021);
3. NOTING that conservation and restoration of mangroves contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 6.6.1 on water ecosystems, SDG 13 on climate action, and SDG 14 on life below water;
4. FURTHER NOTING the levels of poverty in wetland-dependent communities and the need to support socially, economically and environmentally sustainable livelihoods; and RECOGNIZING the benefits of access to innovations, knowledge, data and capabilities relevant for monitoring mangroves and coastal blue carbon ecosystems and for the development of effective conservation, restoration and wise-use policies;
5. FURTHER RECOGNIZING that a Ramsar Regional Initiative focused on mangroves and coastal blue carbon ecosystems can build regional cooperation under the Convention for these crucial ecosystems, enhance partnerships and networks, provide a platform for scientific and technical support, and allow for joint actions and projects on mangroves and coastal blue carbon ecosystems; and
6. NOTING the importance of delivering on the theme (“Wetland Actions for People and Nature”) of the 14th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands;

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7. WELCOMES the proposal to establish a Ramsar Regional Initiative (the “International Mangrove Centre”) by the People’s Republic of China and interested Contracting Parties, in line with the relevant Convention rules, procedures and guidelines;
8. FURTHER WELCOMES the focus of the proposed RRI as the conservation, restoration, and wise use of mangroves and coastal blue carbon ecosystems;
9. ENCOURAGES interested Contracting Parties, non-governmental organizations, and other civil society organizations to voluntarily participate in the establishment and operation of the proposed RRI in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner;
10. FURTHER ENCOURAGES close communication and cooperation with other organizations and ongoing mangrove initiatives to ensure complementarity of efforts during the establishment and future operation of the proposed RRI; and
11. INVITES submission of the proposed RRI to the 62nd Meeting of the Standing Committee for consideration.



COP14  **2022**

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
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Resolution XIV.20

**The Ramsar Convention’s response to
environmental emergency in Ukraine relating to the damage of its
Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)
stemming from the Russian Federation’s aggression**

1. IN VIEW OF the resolutions of the 11th emergency special session of the UN General Assembly: ES11/1 of 2 March 2022 “Aggression against Ukraine”, ES-11/2 of 24 March 2022 “Humanitarian consequences of the aggression against Ukraine”, and ES-11/4 of 12 October 2022 “Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations”;
2. RECALLING UN General Assembly resolutions 68/262 of 27 March 2014 “Territorial integrity of Ukraine”, 71/205, 72/190, 73/263, 74/168, 75/192 and 76/179 “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol (Ukraine)”, and 73/194, 74/17, 75/29 and 76/70 “The problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black and Azov seas”;
3. REAFFIRMING the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters;
4. REAFFIRMING ALSO the principle of customary international law, as restated in UN General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, entitled “Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations”, that no territorial acquisition resulting from the threat or use of force shall be recognized as legal;
5. WELCOMING the legally binding provisional order by the International Court of Justice of 16 March 2022, ordering the Russian Federation to immediately suspend the military operations that it commenced on 24 February 2022 in the territory of Ukraine;
6. RECALLING the obligation of all States under the Charter of the United Nations to refrain in their international relations from the threats or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations;

7. RECALLING ALSO the commitment of all Contracting Parties under Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention on Wetlands with respect to the exclusive sovereign rights of the Contracting Party in whose territory the wetland is situated;
8. EXPRESSING GRAVE CONCERN over the ongoing environmental emergency in Ukraine relating to the damage of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) stemming from the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine;
9. STRESSING that the Russian Federation temporarily controlled, as a result of aggression, territories of Ukraine, that include 16 Wetlands of International Importance, and conducted military activities within those Ramsar Sites, and potentially can cause negative impacts to 15 more Ramsar Sites situated in bordering regions and near to front line;
10. RECOGNIZING that the Russian Federation's war against Ukraine makes it impossible to implement conservation, management and wise use measures, as set out in Articles 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Convention on Wetlands, with respect to six Ukrainian Ramsar Sites located in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and one Site in the Donetsk Region (located on the Sea of Azov coast) since 2014, to nine Ukrainian Ramsar Sites since 2022, and that further escalation of the situation will lead to similar destruction in 15 additional Ramsar Sites; and
11. NOTING the importance of principles of international cooperation and fulfilment of obligations under the Convention on Wetlands and other multilateral environmental treaties;

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12. RECOGNIZES the devastating impact of the Russian Federation's aggression on the environmental situation in Ukraine, including the disruption of the ecological status of 16 Ramsar Sites and potential damage to another 15 Ramsar Sites within Ukraine;
13. CONDEMNS all environmental damage to Wetlands of International Importance in Ukraine caused by the Russian Federation since the beginning of its aggression against Ukraine in 2014;
14. CALLS upon the Russian Federation to respect in full its obligations arising from the Convention on Wetlands, in particular to cease abuses preventing fulfilment by Ukraine of its exclusive sovereign rights to protect, restore and wisely use the Ramsar Sites within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters;
15. DEMANDS the Russian Federation to immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraw all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters, including from the Ramsar Sites within Ukraine, and to refrain from actions which could further damage the Ramsar Sites in Ukraine;
16. STRONGLY ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to take into account the Russian Federation's aggression and gross violation of international law, including as relevant when deciding on nominations to the leadership positions, including chairmanship and seats in the Standing Committee and or chairmanship or vice chairmanship of working groups and bodies, as well as invitations to events and meetings under the auspices of the Convention on Wetlands, provided that such decisions do not affect the best interests of conservation and protection of wetlands;

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17. REQUESTS the Contracting Parties to take into account the presence of Wetlands of International Importance in the territories of Ukraine under temporary military control of the Russian Federation, and ENCOURAGES them to exert pressure on the Russian Federation to prevent further degradation, damage or change of ecological status of those Wetlands of International Importance;
18. REQUESTS the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands to coordinate actions with the Contracting Parties and relevant national and international organizations to conduct assessments of the Ramsar Sites in Ukraine affected by aggression of the Russian Federation, and advise on appropriate mitigation and restoration measures; and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide a report on the assessed damage and mitigation measures to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, in addition to providing an update on the implementation of this Resolution to all intervening meetings of the Standing Committee; and
19. INVITES Contracting Parties to provide support, including financial contributions on a voluntary basis, to the Government of Ukraine in coordination with the Secretariat of the Convention for conducting assessment of the damage to the Ramsar Sites in Ukraine arising from the Russian Federation's aggression and to provide assistance to Ukraine for restoration activities of its Wetlands of International Importance.



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
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Resolution XIV.21

Thanks to the Host Country, the People’s Republic of China

1. APPRECIATING the support provided by the Chinese and Swiss authorities in the preparation of the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP14);
2. AWARE of the significant effort required for the organization of a meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP);
3. NOTING the outcomes of the high-level segment of COP14, which was organized by the Host Country under its own initiative, with the adoption of the “Wuhan Declaration”; and
4. NOTING WITH SATISFACTION that 21 Resolutions considered at the present meeting of the Conference of the Parties were approved;

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5. CONGRATULATES and EXPRESSES its gratitude to the People’s Republic of China for hosting a successful 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and to the people and the Municipal Government of Wuhan City for their great contribution in the preparation of COP14;
6. EXTENDS its thanks and appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for generously providing the conference centre for the meeting, and to the people of Switzerland, and in particular Geneva, for their warm and gracious welcome and hospitality;
7. RECORDS its thanks to the President, the Alternate President and the Vice-Presidents of COP14 for their commitment to ensuring efficient and effective conduct of the plenary sessions;
8. GREATLY APPRECIATES the numerous side events and cultural events that provided a wonderful opportunity for technical and cultural exchanges between delegates; and
9. TAKES NOTE OF the “Wuhan Declaration”, and its intended aim that it will enhance the visibility of the Convention and strengthen high-level commitment to conserve and wisely use wetlands, and to strengthen further the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands.