

## **Meeting of the 5th Strategic Plan (SP5) Working Group**

Tuesday 28 March 2023, 13.00 -15.00 CET (by videoconference)

### **Participants**

- Working Group members: Australia, Bahrain, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Eswatini, Finland, Iraq, Japan, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, IWMI, WWT
- Observer: BirdLife
- Secretariat: Deputy Secretary General
- Consultant: Rob McInnes

### **Minutes**

The outgoing Chair (Australia) welcomed meeting participants and introduced Secretariat staff and the consultant (Rob McInnes).

Decision SC61-10 was referenced by the outgoing Chair, noting that Brazil and Canada had been nominated as Co-Chairs to the Strategic Plan Working Group, to be confirmed by the Working Group. As no other nominations were received, the Chairmanship was confirmed by the Working Group. Australia requested nominations for the role of the Vice-Chair to take place in writing by the next meeting of the Working Group.

The outgoing Chair (Australia) reviewed the work of the Strategic Plan Working Group during the previous triennium, the process for the establishment of the new Strategic Plan Working Group and the preparatory work that had taken place ahead of COP14. The work of these two Groups is reflected in Resolution XIV.4 and the guidance it provides to the current Working Group.

The Co-Chair Brazil introduced himself as the National Focal Point for Brazil and introduced Jacey Scott from Canada as the other Co-Chair. They emphasized that the process moving forward will be inclusive and transparent and that they count on members to be engaged throughout the whole process.

The Secretariat provided an update on the instructions from Resolution XIV.4 to add three thematic annexes (Annexes 3, 4 & 5) and an updated annex 2 into the 2022 update of Strategic Plan 4. The Secretariat informed the members of the Working Group that they have updated the Strategic Plan as requested which is now available on the Convention's website in the three languages. Additionally, the Secretariat will be informing Parties of existing guidance relevant to the implementation of the Strategic Plan in a format similar to that which was used in 2022.

The Consultant (Rob McInnes) provided an overview of the engagement activities carried out during COP14. The feedback received from stakeholders was broad and covered a range of issues, including challenges and barriers for wise use, who to involve in Strategic Plan 5 development process, and what techniques for engagement to include. Challenges were identified in interpreting and anonymizing the feedback, especially on the discussion board. To address this, a group was put together to discuss with interested parties. Major outcomes highlighted were that while IGO mandates span the world, real differences exist across regions and there is a challenge in balancing these elements and providing guidance and documentation. The Working Group discussed the challenges of balancing differences across regions in wetland conservation, resourcing and capacity issues, and the need to engage all

stakeholders, particularly indigenous people and youth. Brazil stressed the importance of aligning SP5 with SDGs and poverty reduction, and the importance of increasing funding for wetland conservation.

The Co-Chairs discussed the work plan for SP5 and the importance of having a well-defined plan to ensure timely completion of tasks. The group discussed the draft engagement strategy and work plan and agreed to provide feedback by 25 April 2023. The progress report to SC62 is to be reviewed by the Working Group and submitted to the Secretariat in advance of the deadline for SC62 documents. Next steps for preparing Strategic Plan 5, including the proposed hybrid workshop during SC62 were discussed.

The meeting was closed by the Co-Chairs, thanking all attendees and emphasizing their availability for questions. The group thanked Australia, Canada, and Brazil for their contributions and discussed the need for a thorough review of the engagement report which will be sent to all Members in a Word format.

### Action Items

- Nominations for Vice-Chair to be submitted by next meeting (1 June). Nominations should be sent to [spwg@ramsar.org](mailto:spwg@ramsar.org)
- Working Group members to reach into their regions and respective networks to provide feedback on the draft Engagement and Consultation Strategy by 25 April. Feedback to be sent to [spwg@ramsar.org](mailto:spwg@ramsar.org)
- Working Group members to provide comments on the 6 questions posed by the consultant during the meeting by 25 April. Comments to be sent to [spwg@ramsar.org](mailto:spwg@ramsar.org)
  - Consider and comment on the categorisation of stakeholders
  - Identify additional stakeholders
  - Suggest approaches that would work in your country/region
  - How can Working Group members help with implementing different approaches
  - Provide information on meetings, workshops, events, etc. in your country/region
  - Identify organisations that can assist with facilitation
- Co-Chairs to draft TORs and send to the Group for comment before the next meeting
- Co-Chairs to draft report of the Working Group to be presented to SC62 by 21 April and send via email for comments from Working Group members. Comments to be received by 11 May for publication of the report by 2 June.
- Any other feedback on work plan or items discussed, please send comments to the Chairs at [spwg@ramsar.org](mailto:spwg@ramsar.org)
- Next meeting on **1 June at 5am CET**. A meeting invite will be sent in due course