

# Consultancy for Policy Review and Plan Development Fifth Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan

**Rob McInnes**

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**Christine Prietto**

**Luisa Ricaurte**

**Matthew Simpson**

**Nick Davidson**

**Priyanie Amerasinghe**

**Rebecca Woodward**

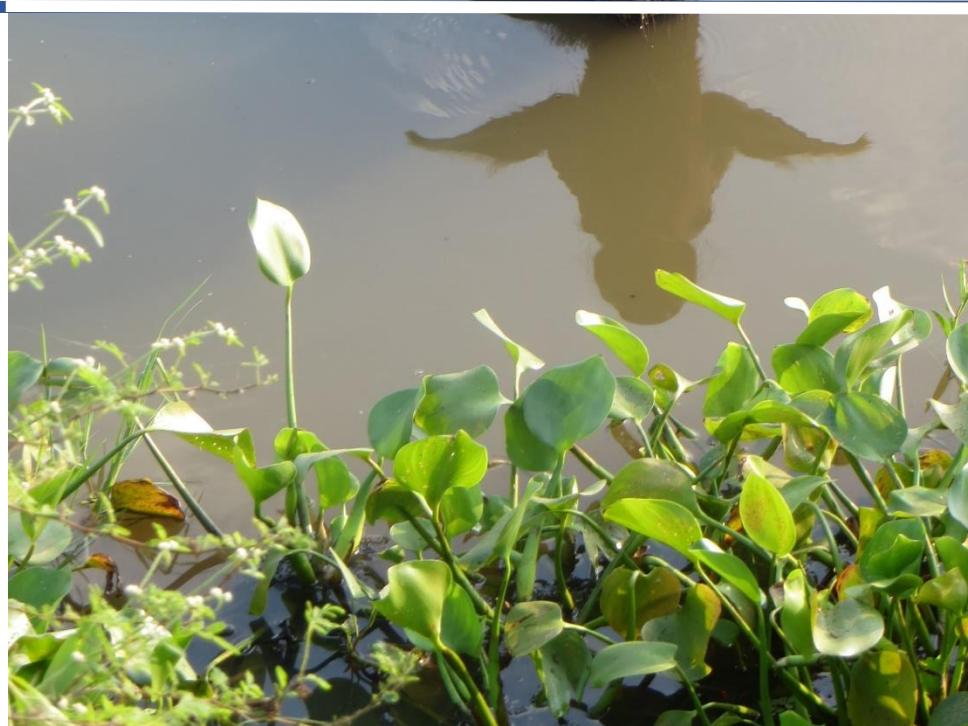
**Sana Mezoughi**

Strategic Plan Working Group Meeting  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2023



Agenda item 1:  
**Update**

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# Update on activities

## Consultancy programme

- The Convention is developing the 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan (SP5) in three phases
  - **Phase 1.** Preliminary scoping, work planning, develop engagement and consultation strategy (October 2022 to June 2023 - Completed)
  - **Phase 2.** Document review and research including engagement and consultation (June 2023 – December 2023 - On-going)
  - **Phase 3.** Plan development (Timing TBC – Contingent on COP15)

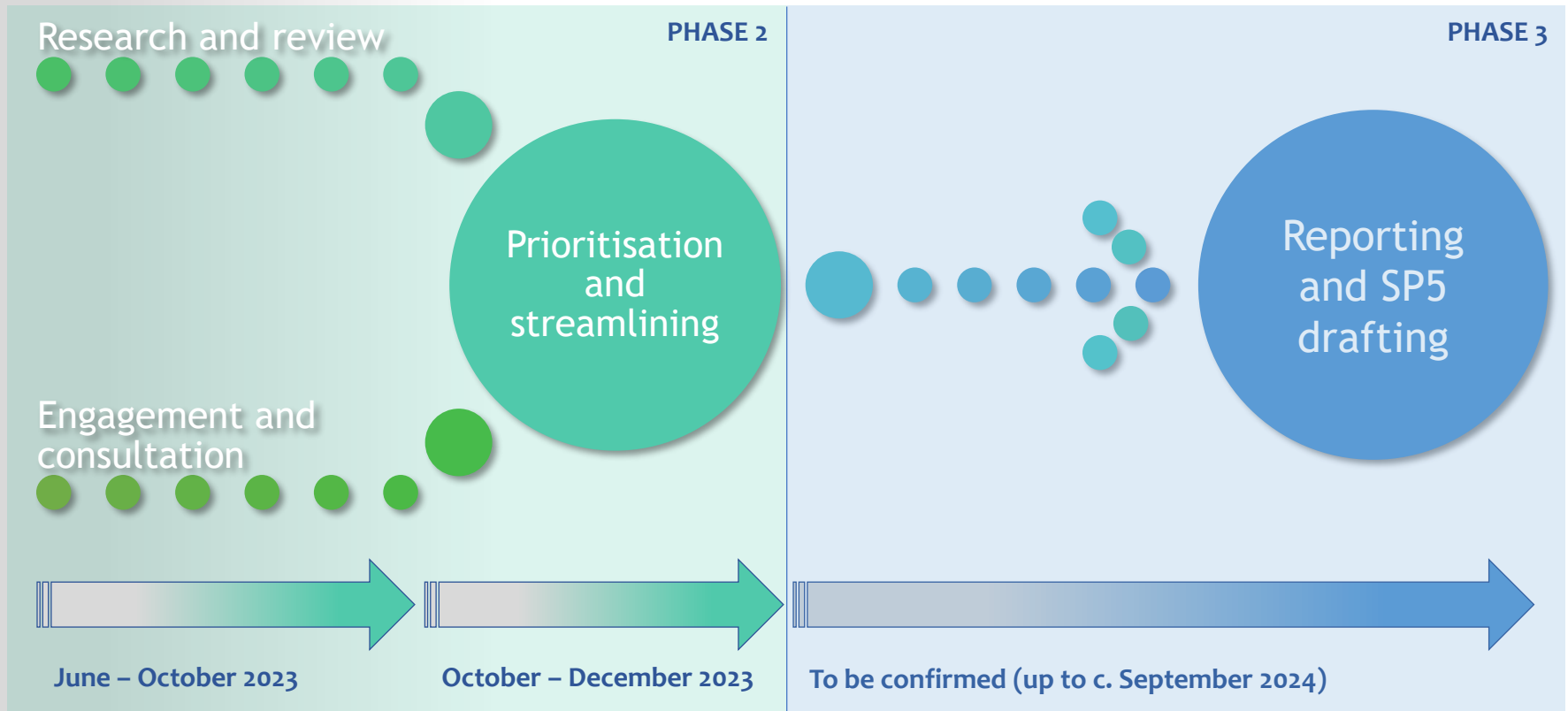




# Update on activities

## SP5 parallel workstreams

- Two parallel workstreams:
  - Research and review
  - Engagement and consultation
- (Verifiable audit trail)
- Development of SP5



# Update on activities



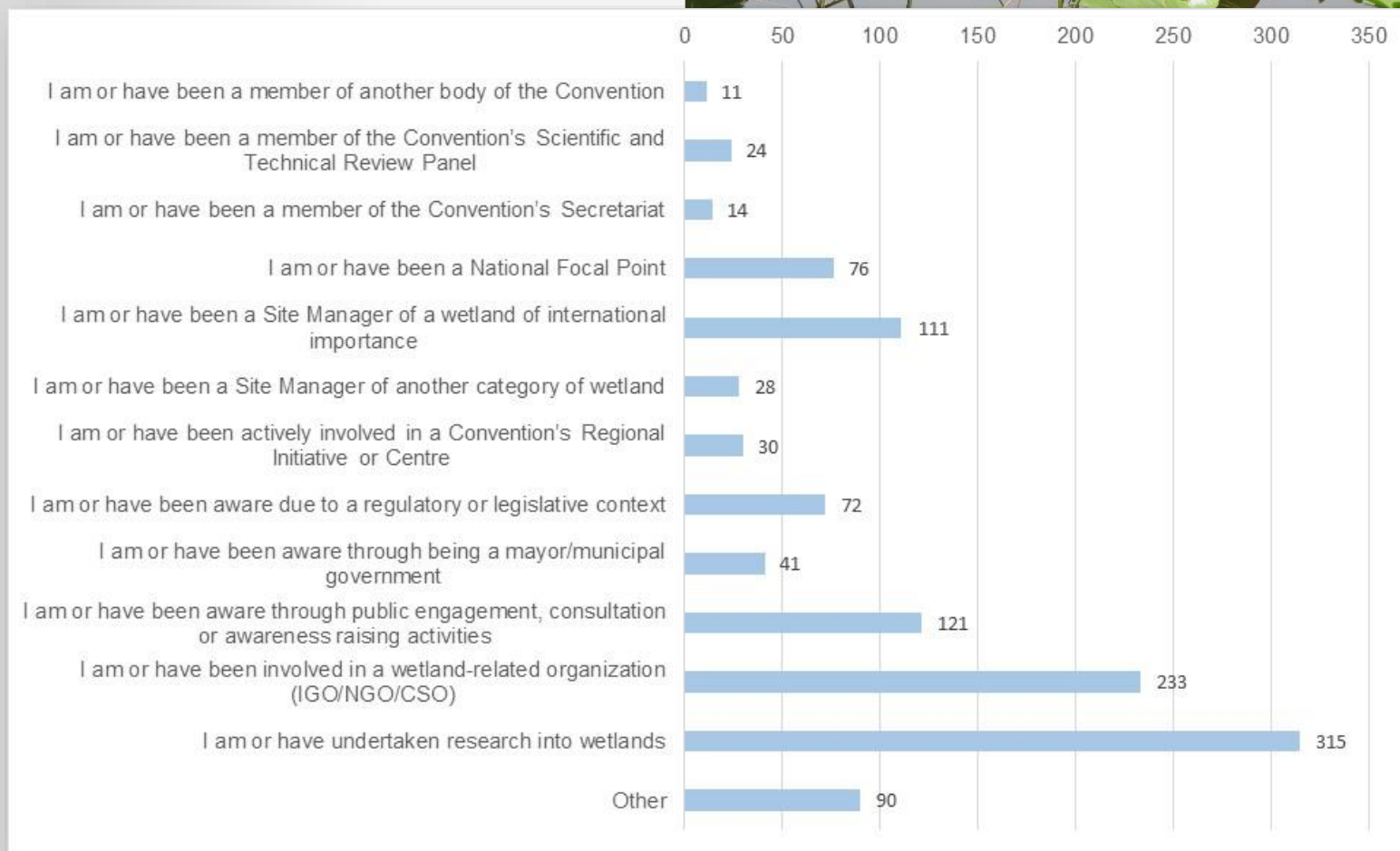
## Questionnaire survey - overview

- 1380 responses
- 1356 usable responses
- 119 different countries
- 76 (44%) of NFPs from Contracting Parties responded
- 82% of respondents actively involved in wetland conservation and wise use
- 48% aware of the development of the 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan

# Update on activities

## Questionnaire survey - Overview

- Different types of respondents

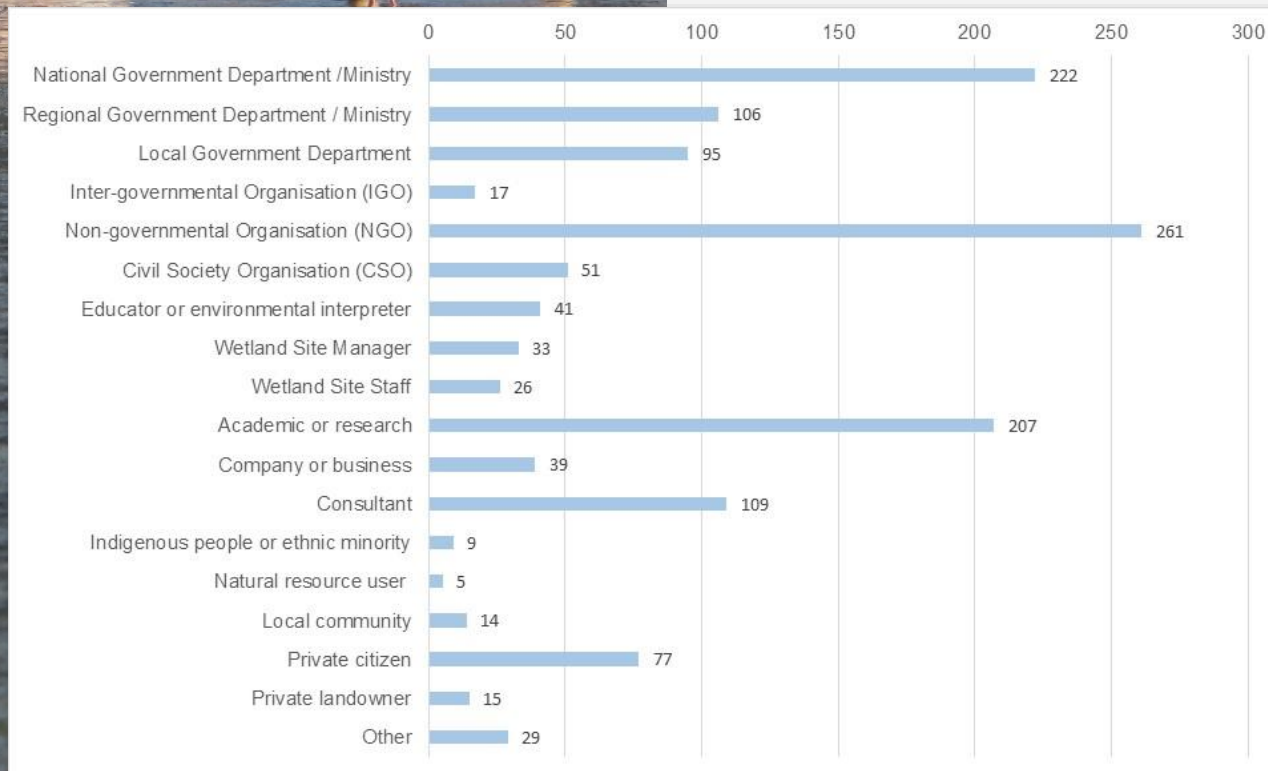




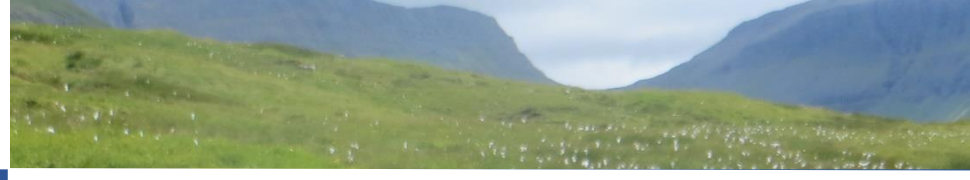
# Update on activities

## Questionnaire survey - Overview

- 31% from government
- 27% NGOs
- 7% wetland site managers
- 15% academics
- 9% indigenous peoples and local communities

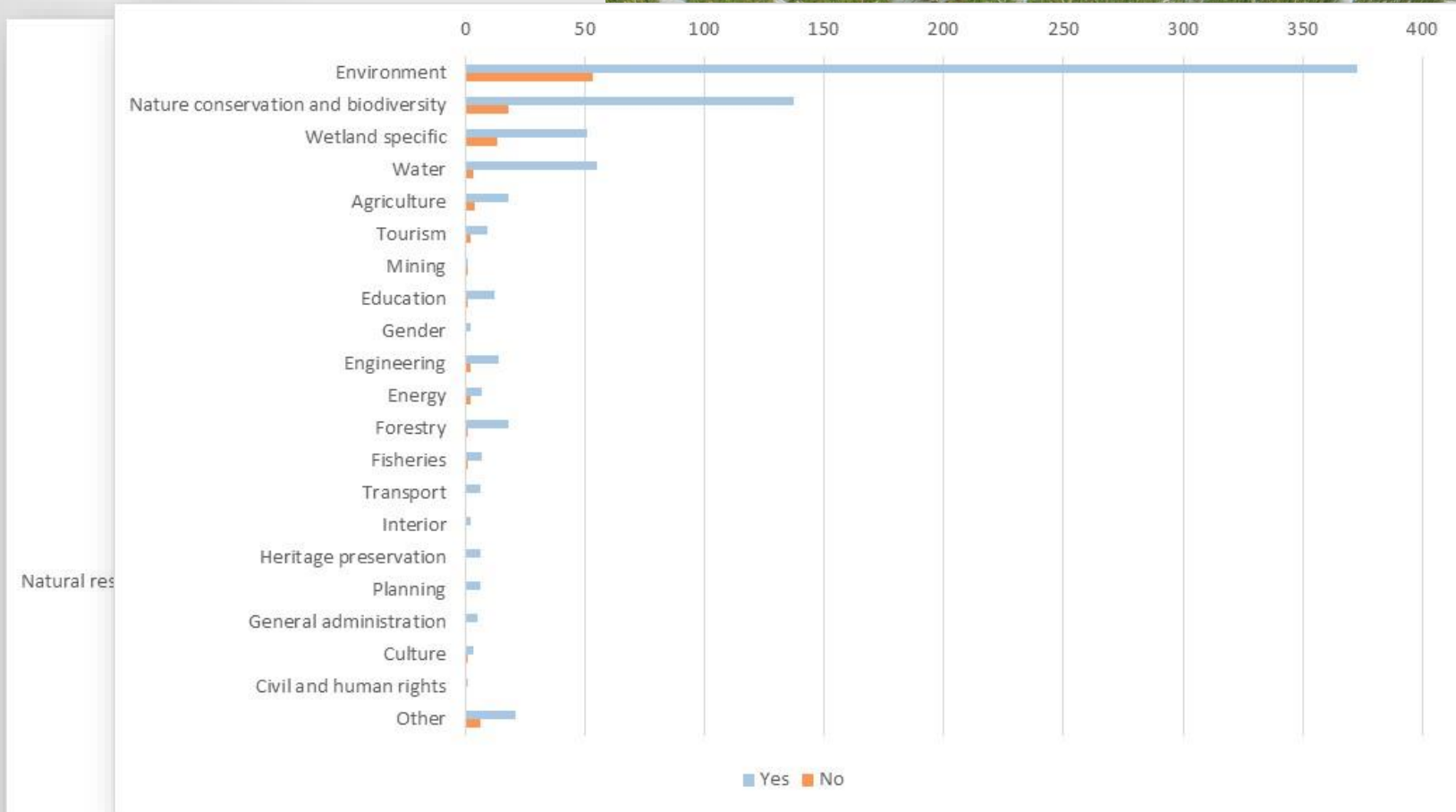


# Update on activities



## Questionnaire survey - Overview

- Respondents predominantly involved in the conservation and wise use of wetlands

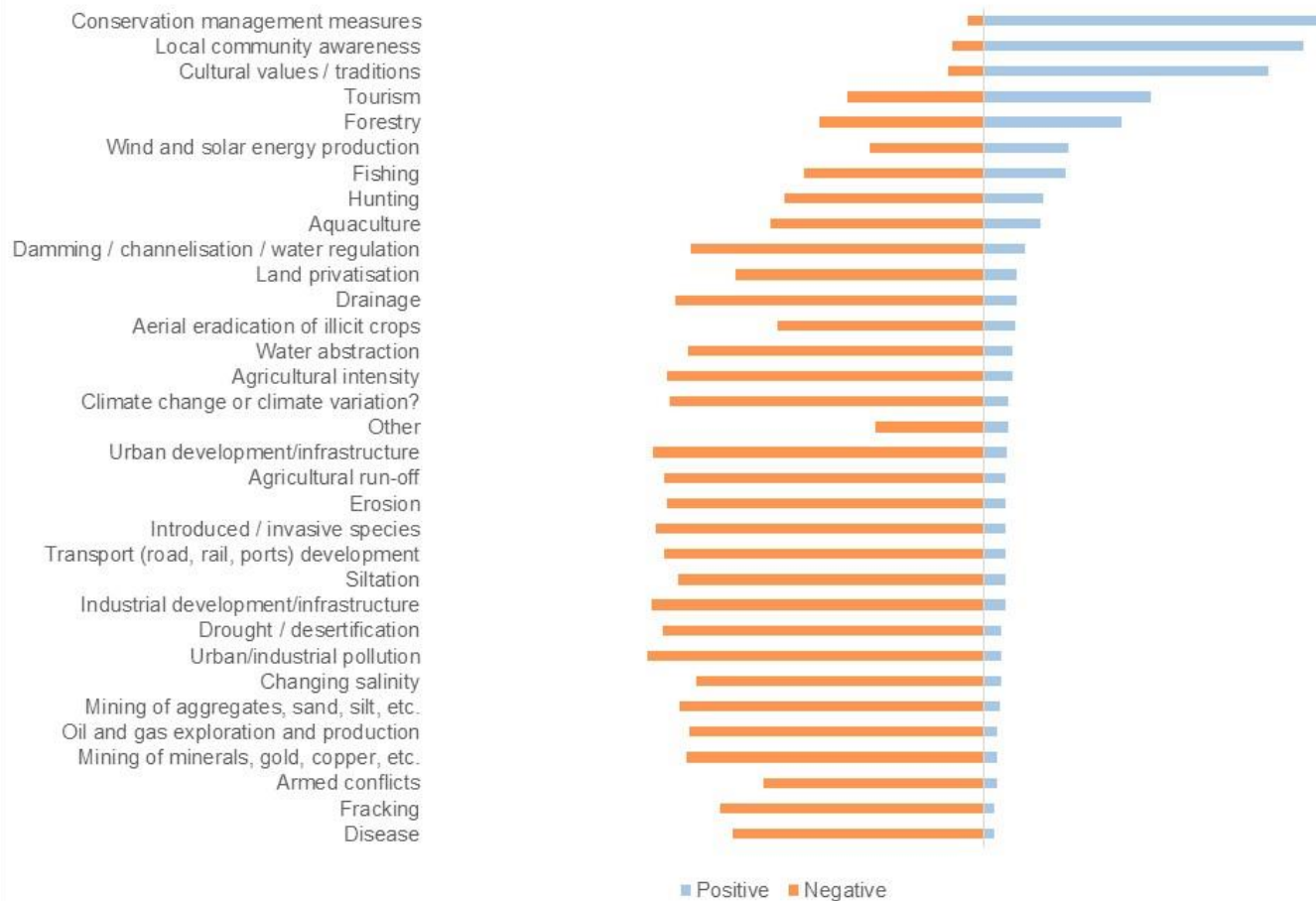




# Update on activities

## Questionnaire survey - Overview

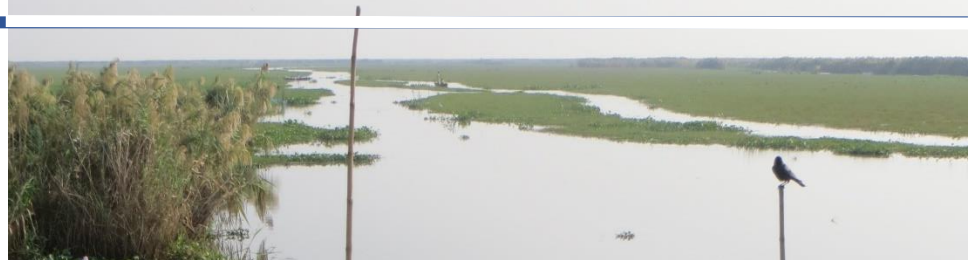
- Few positive drivers
- Many negative drivers



# Update on activities

## Questionnaire survey - Overview

- Different perspectives from different sectors



Sector	Solutions		
Education	Environmental education	Raising local community awareness	Local community involvement and empowerment
Agriculture	Designating wetland protected areas	Good guidance and information for site managers	Good scientific understanding of wetlands
Tourism	Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Conservation management measures	Environmental education
Engineering	Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Environmental education
Environment	Conservation management measures	Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Designating wetland protected areas
Forestry	Conservation management measures	Designating wetland protected areas	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning
Other	Conservation management measures	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Raising local community awareness
Water	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Local community involvement and empowerment	Designating wetland protected areas
Civic & human rights	Conservation management measures	Designating wetland protected areas	Raising local community awareness
Culture	Designating wetland protected areas	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Raising local community awareness
Fisheries	Environmental education	Greater financial resources for management	Conservation management measures
Health	Conservation management measures	Good guidance and information for national and local governments	Designating wetland protected areas
Mining	Environmental education	Demonstrating the importance of wetlands for human society	Wetland mapping and inventories
Planning	Designating wetland protected areas	Greater financial resources for management	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning
Research	Conservation management measures	Understanding and incorporating cultural values and traditional knowledge	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning
Transport	Designating wetland protected areas	Conservation management measures	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning
Transport	Industrial development/infrastructure	Urban development/infrastructure	Urban/industrial pollution



# Update on activities

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## Questionnaire survey - Overview

- Globally different respondents (based on sector or role) report different drivers of wetland loss and degradation as well as different solutions
- Issue to be interrogated further through virtual workshops

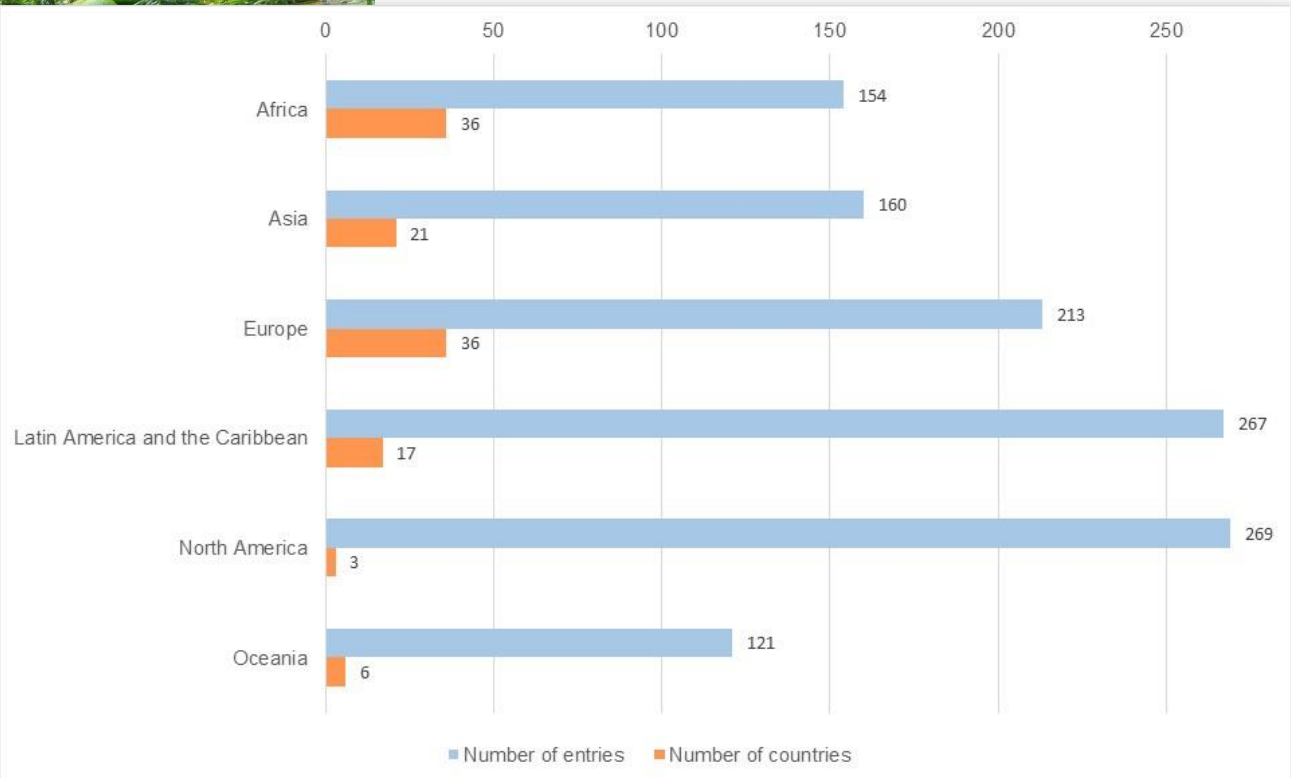




# Update on activities

## Questionnaire survey - Regional

- Responses from 119 different countries
- Most respondents (87%) reported regional, national or local perspectives



# Update on activities

## Questionnaire survey - Regional

- Different drivers and solutions are reported from the six Convention regions



Global	Africa	Asia	Europe	Latin America and the Caribbean	North America	Oceania
Conservation management measures	Conservation management measures	Raising local community awareness	Conservation management measures	Local community involvement and empowerment	Designating wetland protected areas	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning
Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Local community involvement and empowerment	Conservation management measures	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Conservation management measures	Good scientific understanding of wetlands
Designating wetland protected areas	Raising local community awareness	Designating wetland protected areas	Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Raising local community awareness	Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Greater financial resources for management
Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Designating wetland protected areas	Environmental education	Designating wetland protected areas	Conservation management measures	Enforcement of laws and regulations	Designating wetland protected areas
Raising local community awareness	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Demonstrating the importance of wetlands for human society	Enforcement of laws and regulations	Environmental education	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Conservation management measures



# Update on activities

## Questionnaire survey – Economics

- Different drivers and solutions are reported depending on economic status

Global	Least Developed Countries	Low Income Countries	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories	Upper Income Countries
Conservation management measures	Raising local community awareness		Conservation management measures	Conservation management measures	Designating wetland protected areas
Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Local community involvement and empowerment		Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Local community involvement and empowerment	Conservation management measures
Designating wetland protected areas	Conservation management measures		Raising local community awareness	Environmental education	Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning
Robust and integrated legislation, policies and planning	Demonstrating the importance of wetlands for human society		Local community involvement and empowerment	Raising local community awareness	Good scientific understanding of wetlands
Raising local community awareness	Designating wetland protected areas		Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Good scientific understanding of wetlands	Enforcement of laws and regulations



# Update on activities

## Questionnaire - Summary

- Relatively robust coverage (geographical, sector, roles)
- Some consistent reporting...
- However, differences in responses observed from sectors, regions and socio-economic status
- Good information to inform discussions to be held in the virtual workshops





# Update on activities

## Virtual workshops

- To date (11<sup>th</sup> December 2023), 21 virtual workshops have been held (more to come)
- Workshops organised for different attendees
  - NFPs
  - Other government
  - NGOs
  - RRI/RRCs
  - Academics
  - Secretariat
- 26 NFPs (c.15%) attended the virtual workshops



# Update on activities

## Virtual workshops

- The workshops all addressed the same questions:
  - Do attendees broadly agree with the top three negative drivers for the region?
  - Do attendees broadly agree with the top five solutions proposed for the region?
  - For each of the top five solutions for your region
    - What delivery mechanisms can be used to achieve the solutions?
    - What target(s) should be set for implementing each solution?
    - What indicator(s) should be used to measure success (or failure) over the life of the 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan?





# Update on activities

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## Virtual workshops – initial results

- Analysis of outcomes of the workshops is on-going therefore these are only initial observations





# Update on activities

## Virtual workshops

- **Do attendees broadly agree with the top three negative drivers for the region?**
- Mainly agreed but several issues identified:
  - Climate change should be given greater prominence
  - Many drivers were very generic and more detail is needed, for instance, 'Industrial' development is quite ambiguous
  - The importance of different drivers varied within regions
  - A different prioritisation was observed between NFPs and other groups (CSOs, NGOs, sub-national government)





# Update on activities

## Virtual workshops – initial results

- **Do attendees broadly agree with the top five solutions proposed for the region?**
- Again, broad agreement but some issues identified:
  - Conservation measures should include restoration
  - Within region variation needs to be recognised
  - Designation must be accompanied by effective management
  - Solutions need to be targeted at specific drivers of wetland degradation and loss





# Update on activities

## Virtual workshops

- For **targets and indicators**, the following were highlighted:
  - The need to align with other reporting mechanisms, particularly the Global Biodiversity Framework
  - Targets and indicators should be as specific as possible
  - More analysis is required to establish targets and indicators
  - Need to consider hierarchical indicators (headline and secondary/tertiary indicators)
  - Investigate the possibility of single indicators that report on multiple drivers/solutions
  - Need to align with the work of the STRP



# Update on activities

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## Virtual workshops – initial results

- Other issues were also identified including:
  - How are regional and sub-regional differences going to be addressed?
  - How can actions be prioritised for different drivers of wetland degradation and loss?
  - Further consultation would be beneficial when more progress has been made on targets and indicators
- Further analysis is on-going





# Update on activities



## Research and review

- Analysis conducted on:
  - COP14 National Reports (NRs)
  - Global Wetland Outlook
  - Peer-reviewed publications
- Work is still on-going, so these are initial observations

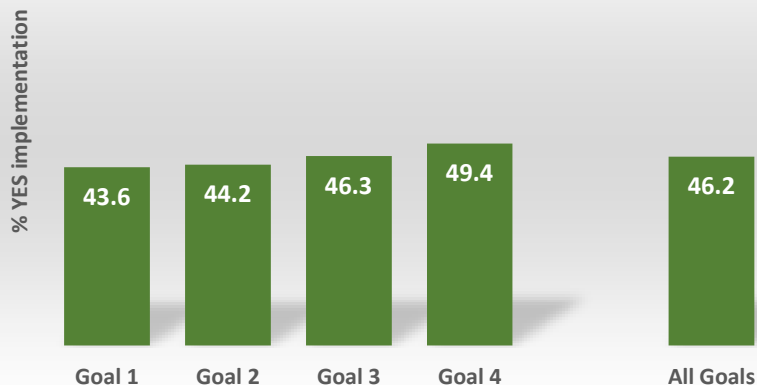
# Update on activities

## Research and review – COP14 NRs

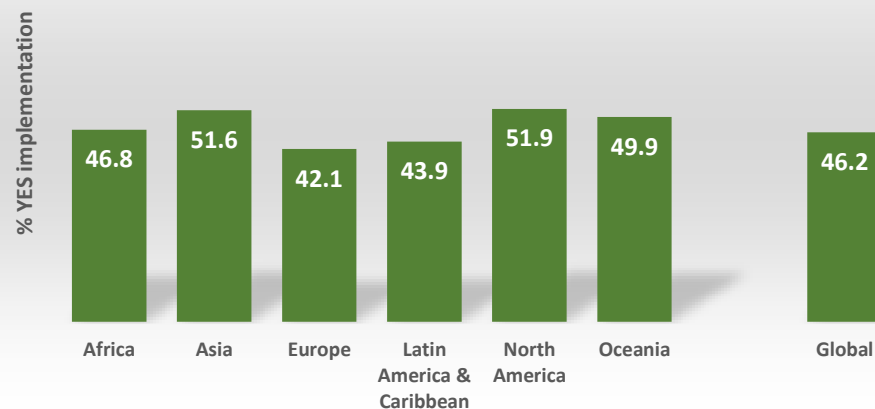
- 122 Contracting Parties (c.70%) submitted NRs
- Globally, the extent of implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan is less than 50%
- There are also subtle differences in the regional extent of implementation



COP14 NRs: Global % YES



COP14 NRs: Regional % YES





# Update on activities

## Research and review

- Of the 101 indicators used in the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan, only 25 have been implemented by more than 60% of Contracting Parties and only nine (9) indicators have been implemented by more than 75%
- Most widespread implementation relates to:
  - Awareness-raising, including World Wetland Day activities (91%); other awareness-raising activities (87%); information about wetlands and Ramsar Sites made public (80%)
  - Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) required (89%)
  - Mechanisms for Article 3.2 reporting (84%)
  - Inclusion of wetlands in NBSAPs (84%)



# Update on activities

## Research and review

- The review of COP14 NRs has implications for the development of the 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan. These include:
  - As the Contracting Parties are currently only implementing parts of their obligations under the Convention, how can this situation be improved?
  - Given that the most widely implemented actions are all ‘processes’ not ‘outcomes’, how can this gap be addressed?
  - Would less targets and indicators result in improved outcomes?





# Update on activities



## Research and review

- Global Wetland Outlook (GWO) and peer-reviewed publications identify similar drivers of wetland degradation and loss but GWO also emphasises particular challenges around climate change, agriculture and pollution
- GWO and other peer-reviewed sources also report the increasingly widespread deterioration of wetlands
- Peer-reviewed sources demonstrate that there is a disconnect between the commitments of the Convention and the ability of governments to deliver on their obligations (reflecting the NR analysis)
- **The 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan needs to address this challenge**



**Update on activities**

**Discussion and questions?**



Agenda item 3:

## Targets and Indicators

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# Targets and Indicators

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## Questions to consider

1. Do all SP5 targets (and therefore indicators) need to be **universal** for the Convention or should there be **focussed regional targets** (and indicators)?
2. Should all targets carry the same weight, or could there be a **prioritisation** of targets?
3. In the 4th Strategic Plan, the majority of targets (and indicators) are about ‘processes’ (i.e., establishing a National Wetland Committee, etc.) rather than ‘outcomes’ (i.e., state of wetlands has been improved). Should the emphasis in the 5th Strategic Plan seek to move away from ‘**process**’ indicators towards more ‘**outcome**’ indicators?
4. How can we build upon and **update the existing targets**?
  - What are elements that countries feel are missing from the 4th Strategic Plan?
  - How much new information should we include in the 5th Strategic Plan?
5. Through the 5th Strategic Plan, how can we enhance the Convention’s **synergies** with other multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. the Convention on Biological Diversity) and other international institutions while respecting the mandate of the Convention on Wetlands?