



**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.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 mainstreaming<sup>1</sup> (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;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

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 implement<sup>2</sup>; and ALSO INSTRUCTS it to ensure that the plan developed is

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<sup>1</sup> The Management Working Group instructed the Panel to focus on its highest priority tasks, and asked the Secretariat to move the task forward.

<sup>2</sup> 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*<sup>3</sup> (GWO task)
2. Briefing Note No. 13: *Wetlands and agriculture: Impacts of farming practices and pathways to sustainability*<sup>4</sup> (Task 1.2)
3. Policy Brief No. 6: *Transforming agriculture to sustain people and wetlands*<sup>5</sup> (Task 1.2)
4. Technical Report No. 11: *Ramsar global guidelines for peatland rewetting and restoration*<sup>6</sup> (Task 2.2)
5. Briefing Note No. 11: *Practical peatland restoration*<sup>7</sup> (Task 2.2)
6. Policy Brief No. 5: *Restoring drained peatlands: A necessary step to achieve global climate goals*<sup>8</sup> (Task 2.2)
7. Briefing Note No. 12: *The contribution of blue carbon ecosystems to climate change mitigation*<sup>9</sup> (Task 5.1)

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/global-wetland-outlook-special-edition-2021>.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/briefing-note-13-wetlands-and-agriculture-impacts-of-farming-practices-and-pathways-to>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-policy-brief-6-transforming-agriculture-to-sustain-people-and-wetlands>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-technical-report-11-global-guidelines-for-peatland-rewetting-and-restoration>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/briefing-note-11-practical-peatland-restoration>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-policy-brief-5-restoring-drained-peatlands-a-necessary-step-to-achieve-global>.

<sup>9</sup> <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>
<b>TWA 1: Wetlands of International Importance, development of the Site network and application of criteria.</b>		
High	Further guidance on application of criteria for designating Wetlands of International Importance	Strategic Plan <sup>10</sup> Goal 4, Target 14. Relevant targets in the Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework <sup>11</sup> .
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.
<b>TWA 2: Tools for wetland assessment, mapping and monitoring, and development of inventories.</b>		
High	Wetland mapping and inventories to catalyse greater use of available methodologies for wetland carbon assessments	Resolutions XIII.13 <sup>12</sup> and XIII.14 <sup>13</sup> . 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 <sup>14</sup> , paragraph 23. Medium priority in work plan 2019-2021 (Task 1.3). Resolution XI.8 <sup>15</sup> , paragraph 21 iii). Strategic Plan Goal 3, Targets 8 and 11. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF.
<b>TWA 3: Direct and climate-change-related pressures on wetlands, their impacts and responses.</b>		
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.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/the-fourth-ramsar-strategic-plan-2016-2024>.

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15>.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii13-restoration-of-degraded-peatlands-to-mitigate-and-adapt-to-climate-change>.

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii14-promoting-conservation-restoration-and-sustainable-management-of-coastal>.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii21-conservation-and-management-of-small-wetlands>.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xi8-streamlining-procedures-for-describing-ramsar-sites-at-the-time-of>.

<b>Priority</b>	<b>STRP task</b>	<b>Mandate(s)</b>
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.
<b>TWA 4: Wise use, sustainable management and restoration of wetlands in the wider landscape/seascape.</b>		
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 <sup>16</sup> , 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.
<b>TWA 5: Cross-cutting issues, supporting functions, and synergies with other MEAs.</b>		
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 <sup>17</sup> . 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 <sup>18</sup> . Strategic Plan Goal 3, Target 11. Relevant targets in the CBD post-2020 GBF.

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii20-promoting-the-conservation-and-wise-use-of-intertidal-wetlands-and>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiii5-review-of-the-fourth-strategic-plan-of-the-ramsar-convention>.

<sup>18</sup> <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)