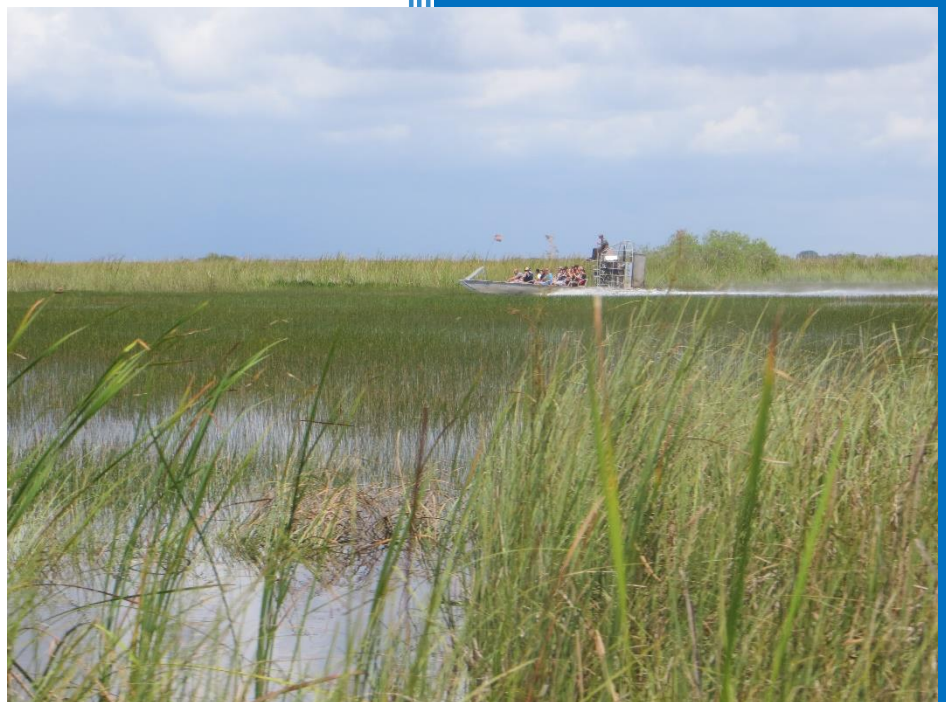


# Ramsar Strategic Plan

## Engagement and Consultation Strategy



Prepared for the  
Strategic Plan Working Group  
of the Ramsar Convention



5/25/2023

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## Quality control

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## Abbreviations

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AA	Administrative Authority
CEPA	Communications, capacity building, education, participation and awareness
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
E&CS	Engagement and consultation strategy
IOP	International Organisation Partners
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RRC	Ramsar Regional Centres
RRI	Ramsar Regional Initiatives
SC	Standing Committee
5SP	5 <sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan
SPWG	Strategic Plan Working Group
STRP	Scientific and Technical Review Panel
SWS	Society of Wetland Scientists
ToR	Terms of Reference
WLI	Wetland Link International
WWN	World Wetland Network

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# 1 Context

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## 1.1 Background

Adopted at the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (COP12) in 2015, the 4th Strategic Plan provides the basis for the implementation of the Convention during the period 2016-2024. The vision for the 4th Strategic Plan is that “*wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all*”.

Resolution XIII.5<sup>1</sup> urged Contracting Parties to continuously monitor their progress towards implementation of the Strategic Plan and to highlight any difficulties experienced in implementing the Plan. Resolution XIII.5 also set out the process for establishing a Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) to conduct a review of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan. Subsequently, the Standing Committee (SC), through Decision SC59-20, established a SPWG with membership from Contracting Parties, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and International Organization Partners (IOPs), to commence preparation of the Fifth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands. The overriding objective is to ensure that a new Strategic Plan is developed in a timely manner for adoption at COP15. A priority for the SPWG is to develop a work plan and engagement programme for consultation to facilitate the development of the 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan (5SP).

The SPWG have scoped out a three-phase approach to the development of the 5SP. The phases include an initial scoping and work planning task; a review of documents and further research; and, finally, development of the plan.

## 1.2 Terms of reference

The terms of reference (ToR) have set out the following tasks:

- a) Deliver an engagement program at the COP14 to:
  - build awareness and interest in the Plan among Parties, IOP’s and other stakeholders
  - elicit preliminary views and issues for the 5SP; and,
  - identify consultation needs of Parties, regions, Convention bodies, IOPs and external stakeholders.
- b) Assist the SPWG to prepare a work plan for the 5SP for consideration by the SC.
- c) Develop an engagement and consultation strategy for 5SP that:
  - is tailored to the needs and preferred means of engagement of key stakeholders, drawing on views and insights from the COP14 engagement;
  - identifies opportunities to consult around scheduled meetings of SC and working groups and relevant international meetings; and
  - allows for stakeholder engagement in relevant phases across the project;
- d) Work closely with the Secretariat to curate a webpage for 5SP and schedule consultation events.

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<sup>1</sup> Convention on Wetlands (2018) *Resolution XIII.5 Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention*. 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21-29 October 2018.

A report was produced in February 2023 which articulated the initial feedback received from conducting task (a), the engagement program undertaken during COP14. This current report has incorporated the comments received from the initial feedback and matters arising from the COP14 consultation and has developed an engagement and consultation strategy that should be implemented from May 2023 through to production of the 5SP.



## 2 Purpose of the engagement and consultation strategy

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### 2.1 Background

The ToR request that the engagement and consultation strategy (E&CS) is tailored to the needs and preferred means of engagement of key partners and stakeholders, drawing on views and insights from the COP14 engagement; identifies opportunities to consult around scheduled meetings of SC and working groups and relevant international meetings; and allows for stakeholder engagement in relevant phases across the project. Furthermore, in the preamble to the ToR it is stated that through genuine engagement and collaboration, the process to prepare the plan should build the broad coalition of relevant actors necessary to implement the new Plan to 2030 and beyond.

However, the ToR do not clearly articulate a single specific aim or objective that the E&CS needs or wants to achieve. Assessment of the language in the ToR highlights the following elements requirements for the E&CS:

- It needs to meet the needs and preferred means of engagement of key stakeholders.
- It should consult around scheduled meetings of the SC, working groups and other international meetings.
- It should allow stakeholders to engage in relevant phases.
- It should facilitate genuine engagement and collaboration.
- It should build a broad coalition of relevant actors necessary to implement the new SP5.

Based on a synthesis of the language utilised in the ToR, it is suggested, therefore, that the overall objective of the E&CS should be *to support the production of the 5SP, which delivers a tighter focus on priority wetland activities, and enable the building of a broad coalition of actors.* The coalition of actors nurtured through the development of the 5SP will also have a critical role in the future delivery of the 5SP.

### 2.2 Best-practice partner and stakeholder engagement and consultation

Effective partner and stakeholder engagement and consultation can make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation while improving the sustainability of projects and enhancing project acceptance<sup>2</sup>. In the case at hand, the project is the development of the 5SP which will guide the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands over the next two COP cycles beyond COP15. Based on recommended best-practices, stakeholder engagement and consultation should be an inclusive process that supports the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships which encourage positive outcomes for both stakeholders and the desired project outcome, in this case conservation, management and wise use, and that help to identify and manage risks.

Conceptually, the development of the E&CS seeks to enable a process that will achieve the desired outcome (Figure 2). The outcome should maximise the impact of the process, and foster the development of a robust and practicable Strategic Plan. The success of the E&CS will depend on the identification and categorisation of stakeholders and partners and their appropriate inclusion in the process. The objectives should specify what needs to be done, who needs to do what, what the

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<sup>2</sup> <https://wwfgeftracks.com/pif/stakeholder-identification>

timeframe and budget will be, and a specific action plan that places the various objectives within a defined framework.



Figure 1. Planning process and structure for the Engagement and Consultation Strategy.

The framework described in Figure 2 has been used to create a bespoke approach to the development of the E&CS required to inform the 5SP.

## 3 Overall aim

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### 3.1 Background

The overall aim of the ‘project’ is to provide the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands (the ‘impact’). To achieve this aim, the 5SP will create a framework to guide implementation of the Convention on Wetlands up until 2030.

The overarching goals of the Convention are articulated in the current Convention text<sup>3</sup> as:

- “RECOGNIZING the interdependence of Man and his environment;
- CONSIDERING the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands as regulators of water regimes and as habitats supporting a characteristic flora and fauna, especially waterfowl;
- BEING CONVINCED that wetlands constitute a resource of great economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value, the loss of which would be irreparable;
- DESIRING to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future;
- RECOGNIZING that waterfowl in their seasonal migrations may transcend frontiers and so should be regarded as an international resource;
- BEING CONFIDENT that the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna can be ensured by combining far-sighted national policies with co-ordinated international action.”

The 5SP needs to provide the framework and establish the regional and international targets necessary to deliver on the Convention’s ambitions as defined above and be informed by past work of the Convention, but also needs to inform the work programs and activities of the Convention Secretariat, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), Contracting Parties, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other stakeholders who can contribute to the achievement of the Convention’s goals.

The E&CS is one component of the larger ‘project’ of developing the 5SP. Whilst it is acknowledged that partner and stakeholder engagement can enhance wetland decision-making, the quality of decisions arising from stakeholder participation is strongly dependant on the nature of the process leading to the development of those decisions. For the E&CS to be successful and to contribute to the overall project of developing the 5SP, best-practice recommends that the partner and stakeholder engagement and consultation process needs to be underpinned by a philosophy that emphasises empowerment, diversity, equity, inclusion, trust and learning<sup>4</sup>. This approach has been

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<sup>3</sup> Ramsar Convention (1987) Resolution 3.4 Provisional implementation of the Amendments to the Convention. 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Regina, Canada, 27 May to 5 June 1987.

<sup>4</sup> Reed, M. S. (2008). Stakeholder participation for environmental management: a literature review. *Biological conservation*, 141(10), 2417-2431.

adopted by the Convention through Resolution XIV.4 which decided that the process to develop the 5SP should be inclusive, transparent and accessible to enable the full and effective participation of all interested Contracting Parties, partners and stakeholders.

### 3.2 What needs to be achieved?

To ensure that the desired impact is realised, namely the goals of the Convention are delivered, the overall aim of the E&CS needs to achieve the following:

- An inclusive, transparent and accessible E&CS needs to be developed and implemented.
- The outputs of the E&CS need to be embedded in the 5SP.
- The 5SP needs to provide the framework to deliver on the Convention's objectives.

If the E&CS achieves its aims it will ensure that the 5SP is a legitimate planning instrument, built on the basis of a broad participation process of all social and institutional actors with an impact on wetland ecosystems, so that the targets, priorities and strategic actions for the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands are embedded in the 5SP.

## 4 Specific aims

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### 4.1 Background

The overall objective of involving partners and stakeholders in the development of the 5SP is to ensure that a broad coalition of actors is developed and diverse views are accounted for to affect positive outcomes aligned with the mission of the Convention both during the development, and over the life, of the 5SP. Partners and stakeholders are key to identifying the state of the world's wetlands and in articulating the on-going and future challenges and potential solutions. Meaningful engagement and consultation should also assist in ensuring that there is an authentic and legitimate commitment by stakeholders in discharging their co-responsibilities in the delivery of 5SP

Whilst there is an aspiration to retain the Goals of the 4th Strategic Plan in the 5SP, to maintain consistency and continuity in reporting, the Convention has also recognized 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 and local communities, youth, all women and girls and the other sectors, consistent with priorities identified in the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience for the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands and to providing solutions to global environmental, social and economic challenges<sup>5</sup>.

### 4.2 Why engage and consult?

The Convention has previously noted that wetland-related activities should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach<sup>6</sup> and that to stem the continued degradation and loss of wetlands requires inclusive and participatory approaches as well as mainstreaming of wetlands in cross-sectoral and governmental plans and programmes at various levels. The Convention has also adopted specific resolutions on strengthening the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the management of wetlands<sup>7</sup>, the

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<sup>5</sup> 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*. 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Geneva, Switzerland, and Wuhan, China 5-13 November 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Resolution XIII.15 *Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands*. 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21-29 October 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Resolution VII.8 *Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands*. 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971). San José, Costa Rica, 10-18 May 1999.

importance of mainstreaming gender perspectives<sup>8</sup>, and recognizing the importance of engaging young people in the implementation of the Convention<sup>9</sup>.

Therefore, in addition to embracing best-practice approaches, there are a variety of adopted obligations that encourage the Convention to engage and consult on a multitude of matters, not least the new approach to communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)<sup>10</sup> and the development of the 5SP. Furthermore, the feedback generated from the initial consultation exercises conducted during COP14 have provided insights into possible aims. Consequently, the specific aims of the E&CS are to:

- Build awareness and interest in the 5SP.
- Utilise opportunities to engage around scheduled meetings of various bodies of the Convention.
- Engage through other national and international wetland-related meetings.
- Facilitate participation at critical stages in the development of the 5SP.
- Engage meaningfully with a diverse range of stakeholders and partners.
- Provide opportunities for stakeholders to participate as well as being consulted and engaged.
- Optimise synergies with other wetland-related processes.
- Address a diversity of wetland types.
- Be inclusive at all stages in the process and consider a gender-responsive approach to the development of the 5SP.
- Identify governance models at different scales that facilitate the implementation of SP5 and enhance the sustainability actions.
- Consider how stakeholders and partners that impact on wetlands identify and recognize their co-responsibility in the wise use of wetlands at a multi-scale level and take ownership of SP5.
- Identify conflicts between the different stakeholders with an impact on wetlands and analyse them in light of the spheres of power.
- Develop a robust timeline for engagement and consultation activities.

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<sup>8</sup> Resolution XIII.18 *Gender and wetlands*. 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21-29 October 2018.

<sup>9</sup> Resolution XIV.12 *Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth*. 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Geneva, Switzerland, and Wuhan, China 5-13 November 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Resolution XIV.8 *The new approach to CEPA*. 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Geneva, Switzerland, and Wuhan, China 5-13 November 2022

## 5 Stakeholders

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### 5.1 Background

The implications of the wise use of wetlands impact on humankind are from the site scale to the global. Humans are fed, nourished and structurally, culturally and spiritually supported and challenged by wetlands<sup>11</sup>. Therefore, it could be argued that the wetland human constituency could extend to Earth's human population. From a practical perspective, the E&CS for the 5SP cannot canvas and incorporate the views of the global population. Therefore, the E&CS needs to engage through appropriate surrogates, that, with respects to wetlands, represent a broad, diverse and inclusive constituency embracing a plurality of world views, cultures and value systems in order to develop the framework for wise use<sup>12</sup>. To achieve the conservation and wise use of wetlands, it is critical to explicitly and transparently recognize, assess and integrate these multiple perspectives in policy-making through the development of the 5SP<sup>13</sup>. Furthermore, the consideration of the complex nature-society interrelations embedded in the use, management, and governance of wetlands, including dimensions such as poverty, cultural significance, intergenerational change and gender equality, need to be addressed to enrich the understanding, framing and effectiveness of wise use within the Convention strategic planning context<sup>14</sup>.

### 5.2 Defining the stakeholders

Notwithstanding the interdependence of humans and wetlands at a global dimension, it is critical that the E&CS considers the appropriate audience and stakeholders that will represent a plurality of world views, cultures and value systems. The representation of this plurality of views should extend spatially across the world from the local to the international, and by doing so set out to embrace multiple socio-ecological, economic and cultural systems at a range of scales. Within regions and countries, the plurality of views captured should extend vertically across governance systems from the local to the national and to the intergovernmental. Engagement must recognise in a meaningful manner the gender perspective and consider the crucial role of women in the

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<sup>11</sup> Horwitz, P. (2022). Wetlands as social ecological systems, and relationality in the policy domain. *Marine and Freshwater Research*, 74(3), 281-285.

<sup>12</sup> Kumar, R., McInnes, R., Finlayson, C. M., Davidson, N., Rissik, D., Paul, S., ... & Fennessy, S. (2020). Wetland ecological character and wise use: towards a new framing. *Marine and Freshwater Research*, 72(5), 633-637.

<sup>13</sup> Kumar, R., McInnes, R.J., Everard, M., Gardner, R.C., Kulindwa, K.A.A., Wittmer, H. and Infante Mata, D. (2017). *Integrating multiple wetland values into decision-making*. Ramsar Policy Brief No. 2. Gland, Switzerland: Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

<sup>14</sup> Joshi, D., Gallant, B., Hakhu, A., De Silva, S., McDougall, C., Dubois, M., & Arulingam, I. (2021). Ramsar Convention and the wise use of wetlands: rethinking inclusion. *Ecological Restoration*, 39(1-2), 36-44.

provision, management and safeguarding of wetlands. Additionally, the importance of engaging with young people to build awareness and empower intergenerational capacity and partnerships needs to be firmly embedded in the E&CS.

Based on an evaluation of published literature, the outputs from the initial COP14 consultation exercises and subsequent feedback from the SP5WG, a working list has been established which defines and groups stakeholders into different interest groups in relation to developing SP5. The initial categorization also summarises their influence and impact on the delivery of the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands and their potential role in informing the development of the 5SP (Table 1). Table 1 should be considered to represent an initial working list and categorization, that will inform the development of the 5SP. In Phase 2 of the development of the 5SP (as defined in the ToR) the various stakeholders and partners will be consulted to evaluate more fully their influence and impact on the wise use of wetlands. For the consultation strategy to provide genuine legitimacy and strength to 5SP it will depend on the identification and categorization of stakeholders and their adequate inclusion in the process.

Consultation and engagement with the stakeholders and partners defined in Table 1 will facilitate the provision of part of the underlying evidence-base and audit trail for the development and implementation of the 5SP. Whilst being informative, and potentially allowing for future synergies, the subsequent role of the individual stakeholders and partners in the implementation of the 5SP remains to be defined. Some of the elements of the 5SP development engagement and consultation strategy may become embedded in the CEPA components of the implementation of the 5SP, as the new approach to CEPA is developed and implemented (Resolution XIV.8). The categorisation recognizes the fact that different stakeholders will play different roles in the development and implementation of the 5SP. For instance, some stakeholders and partners will be knowledge providers, irrespective of the type of knowledge systems, who hold information on the wise use of wetlands will be able to provide robust information on *inter alia* the drivers of wetland degradation and loss at a range of scales and for different wetland types. Whereas the E&CS should also identify 'knowledge needers' and provide them with the opportunity to explain and prioritise their various needs to deliver on the conservation and wise use of wetlands. However, it is possible, and in several circumstances likely, that one stakeholder or partner may play several roles and therefore be classified under multiple spheres. For example, government departments might hold information on the status and trends of wetlands under their jurisdiction but may also require additional information on developing systematic evidence through the establishment of a robust national wetland inventory.

### 5.3 Refining the list of stakeholders

The initial feedback from COP14 highlighted the complexity of the challenges facing wetlands, the plurality of views and the recognition that 'one size does not fit all' in relation to addressing wetland wise use. It is clear that different stakeholders and partners, irrespective of their interest, will have different roles to play and needs to address dependent on their national, geographical, social or economic context. Consequently, a regional, and potentially national or sub-national, lens needs to be applied to each of the interests of stakeholders.

The examples of stakeholders and partners presented in Table 1 should be considered to represent a working list that allows the identification of specific actors at the appropriate scale or context. Each stakeholder or partner will have a different motivation to invest in the E&CS and also to contribute to the development and subsequent implementation of the 5SP.



Table 1 Initial categorisation and description of stakeholders and partners (with illustrative, non-exhaustive examples).

Stakeholder / Partner categorization				Potential influence and impact of Stakeholder / Partner on the wise use of wetlands through the implementation of SP5	
Spatial scope	Stakeholders / partners	Examples (non-exhaustive)	Interest in the SP5 development process	Influence on the wise use of wetlands	Impact on the wise use of wetlands
Global Stakeholders and partners that operate at a global level	MEAs and similar	CBD IPBES Paris Agreement CITES CMS UNEP UNFCCC FAO	Multilateral agreements and organisations that have mandates and interests that include wetlands. They need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and a mutual understanding of synergies, opportunities, efficiencies and challenges needs to be developed to ensure streamlining within SP5.	Strong positive indirect and direct influence if wetlands are considered appropriately	Positive indirect and direct impact through appropriate understanding and integration
	Multilateral banking institutions	GEF World Bank Multilateral development banks	Multilateral banking institutions have the potential to provide resources to support the delivery of conservation, management and wise use of wetlands. They need to be informed of the SP5 development process and opportunities for future support, financing and ensuring the wise use of wetlands need to be mutually explored.	Positive indirect influence through understanding and financial support	Positive indirect impact through funding provision and removal of perverse incentives
	International cooperation agencies	JICA SIDA CIDA NORAD CIDCA SADC KICA	International cooperation agencies have the potential to provide resources to support the delivery of conservation, management and wise use of wetlands. They need to be informed of the SP5 development process and opportunities for future support, financing and ensuring the wise use of wetlands need to be mutually explored.	Positive indirect influence through understanding and resourcing	Positive indirect impact through funding provision, support and facilitation
	International Organization Partners	Birdlife IUCN IWMI Wetlands International WWF WWT	IOPs have a formal role in the Convention on Wetlands. They need to be made aware of, and be engaged in, the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Strong positive indirect and direct influence on the wise use of wetlands from a global to a local scale	Strong positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands from a global to a local scale
	International NGOs	Conservation International FFI SER IMCG ICF SWS	International NGOs need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Strong positive indirect and direct influence on the wise use of wetlands from a global to a local scale	Strong positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands from a global to a local scale

	Convention on Wetlands	Convention Secretariat Standing Committee SP5WG CEPA Oversight Panel STRP Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors	The various bodies of the Convention on Wetlands need to be embedded in the development of SP5. The various bodies have critical roles in informing, shaping, articulating, adopting and delivering SP5.	Strong positive direct and indirect influence from a global to a site level on the wise use of wetlands	Strong positive direct and indirect impact from a global to a site level on the wise use of wetlands
	Representative organisations	WWN WLI YEW	Representative organisations are recognised by the Convention on Wetlands and need to be made aware of, and be engaged in, the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Positive direct and indirect influence on the dissemination and application of knowledge, in its broadest and multiple senses,	Positive direct and indirect impact on the wise use of wetlands at a global scale
<b>Regional</b> Stakeholders and partners that operate at a regional level, such as within a single continent or across a biogeographical region or hydrological basin	Transboundary organisations	Flyway partnerships SPREP RMC NBA ACTO	Transboundary organisations, many of which are formally recognised by the Convention on Wetlands, provide a framework for coordinating and facilitating the wise use of wetlands across international boundaries and need to be made aware of, and be engaged in, the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands across international boundaries.	Positive direct and indirect influence on the management and governance for the wise use of shared wetlands	Positive direct and indirect impact on the wise use of shared wetlands at a transboundary scale
	Regional Initiatives / networks	RAMCEA CREHO RRC-CWA RRC-EA MedWET WaCoWET CariWET	Regional initiatives and networks are formally recognised by the Convention on Wetlands and need to be made aware of, and be engaged in, the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges within their regions and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Strong positive direct and direct influence on the delivery of the wise use of wetlands within their regions	Strong positive direct and direct impact on the delivery of the wise use of wetlands within their regions
	Academia	Regional research groups	Academic institutions working on pan-regional research need to be made aware of the SP5 development and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands across international boundaries.	Positive indirect influence on the delivery of the wise use of wetlands	Positive indirect impact on the delivery of wise use through provision of knowledge
<b>National</b> Stakeholders and partners that operate within a national context	Convention on Wetlands	National Focal Points CEPA National Focal Points	The various national bodies of the Convention on Wetlands need to be embedded in the development of SP5. The various bodies have critical roles in informing, shaping, articulating, adopting and delivering SP5.	Strong positive direct and indirect influence from a national to a site level on the wise use of wetlands	Strong positive direct and indirect impact from a national to a site level on the wise use of wetlands
	Government Ministries and Departments	Environment Water Irrigation Fisheries Agriculture	The mandates, policies, practices and responsibilities of Government Ministries and Departments need to be understood in the development of SP5 as they have the potential to both provide opportunities for and threats to the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands. They	Both positive and negative direct and indirect influence on the wise use of wetlands	Both positive and negative direct and indirect impact on the wise use of wetlands

		Forestry Health Tourism Education Natural resources	need to be informed of the SP5 development process and contribute to the understanding of cross-sectoral challenges to the wise use of wetlands.		
	Private sector	Extractive industries Energy sector Tourism Agriculture Forestry Transport Health Development	Different private sectors have different relationships with wetlands. At a national level, sectors need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges within their sectors and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Negative direct and indirect influence on the wise use of wetlands but potential to be positive through appropriate policies and approaches	Possible negative direct and indirect impacts on the wise use of wetlands but potential to be positive through appropriate policies and approaches
	Indigenous people and local communities	Community leaders and representatives	Indigenous people and local communities can have close relationship with wetlands. They need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of their specific challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Both positive and negative direct and indirect influence on the wise use of wetlands	Both positive and negative direct and indirect impact on the wise use of wetlands
	Consultants	Environmental consultancies	Consultants undertake wetland work for a variety of governmental and non-governmental clients. They need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of their specific challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Limited positive and negative direct and indirect influence on the wise use of wetlands	Both positive and negative direct and indirect impact on the wise use of wetlands
	NGOs	National NGOs	National NGOs need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Strong positive direct and indirect influence on the understanding of issues and the efficacy of solutions	Strong positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands from a global to a local scale
	CSOs	National CSOs	National CSOs need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Positive direct and indirect influence on the understanding of issues and the efficacy of solutions	Positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands from a national to a local scale
	Young people	Youth groups	Young people need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Positive direct and indirect influence on the understanding of issues and the efficacy of solutions	Positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands from a national to a local scale
	Academia	Universities Colleges Schools	National academics need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the	Positive direct and indirect influence on the understanding of issues	Positive indirect and direct impact on the wise

		Informal learning organisations	understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	and the efficacy of solutions	use of wetlands from a global to a local scale
<b>Sub-national Stakeholders and partners that operate within a sub-national or local community context</b>	Wetlands of International Importance	Site managers	Site managers responsible for Wetlands of International Importance play a key role in maintaining their ecological character. They need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges at a site level and to contribute to the solution design to stem the loss of wetlands.	Strong positive direct and indirect influence on the wise use of wetlands	Strong positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands at a national scale
	Other wetlands	Site managers	Site managers are responsible for other protected or not protected wetland sites. They need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges at a site level and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Positive direct and indirect influence on the wise use of wetlands	Positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands at a national scale
	Cities	Mayors City government/ administration	Cities, and their administration, need to be aware of the development of SP5 as they have the potential to both provide opportunities for and threats to the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands at a sub-national level. They need to be informed of the SP5 development process and contribute to the understanding of cross-sectoral challenges to the wise use of wetlands.	Both positive and negative direct and indirect influence on the wise use of wetlands	Both positive and negative direct and indirect impact on the wise use of wetlands
	Regional and District Governments	Planning department Environment department	The mandates, policies, practices and responsibilities of local government need to be understood as they have the potential to both provide opportunities for and threats to the conservation, management and wise use of wetlands at a sub-national level. They need to be informed of the SP5 development process and contribute to the understanding of cross-sectoral challenges to the wise use of wetlands.	Both positive and negative direct and indirect influence on the wise use of wetlands	Both positive and negative direct and indirect impact on the wise use of wetlands
	Indigenous people and local communities	Local leaders Representative organisations	Indigenous people and local communities, and their representatives, need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Positive direct and indirect influence on the understanding of issues and the efficacy of solutions	Positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands from a global to a local scale
	NGOs	Local NGOs	Local NGOs need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Positive direct and indirect influence on the understanding of issues and the efficacy of solutions	Positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands from a global to a local scale
	CSOs	Local CSOs	Local CSOs need to be made aware of the SP5 development process and have opportunities to inform the understanding of challenges and to contribute to the design of solutions to stem the loss and degradation of wetlands.	Positive direct and indirect influence on the understanding of issues and the efficacy of solutions	Positive indirect and direct impact on the wise use of wetlands from a global to a local scale

## 5.4 Summary of stakeholders

The primary role of the E&CS is to inform the development of the 5SP in an inclusive and representative manner whilst also building a constituency of actors that potentially could be critical to the successful longer-term implementation of the Plan. Some of the stakeholders and partners will occupy multiple roles and have a diversity of interests, or potentially conflicting degrees of influence and impact on wetlands. For instance, the private sector, or other government departments, might benefit from wetlands, either directly or indirectly, but by doing so they may introduce a negative impact, such through unsustainable water abstraction or natural resource harvesting. Understanding potential conflicts through the outputs of the E&CS will be essential in order to define and shape solutions within the 5SP. Similarly, understanding different national circumstances and challenges to achieving broader consensus need to be explored through the E&CS. Conversely, opportunities for synergies to be pursued through the implementation of the 5SP need to be explored through the activities conducted as part of the E&CS. For instance, targets or incentives align among different stakeholders and partners, for instance globally across MEAs, nationally among government departments or sub-nationally at city or local community level, need to be identified through the E&CS to inform the subsequent content of the 5SP.

## 6 Objectives

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### 6.1 Background

There are many different levels, qualities, and degrees of stakeholder engagement, and the success of any approach or method will depend greatly on the context in which it is applied. When considering the various groups of stakeholders and partners, it is vital to ensure that the appropriate method or approach is applied to engagement. Different communication and engagement approaches will be necessary depending on the categorization of the stakeholder based on their influence, impact and spatial scope. Similarly, different approaches need to consider the particular social, economic or cultural context of the stakeholders and partners and be perceptive of intersectional issues. Notwithstanding the wider socio-cultural contexts, it may also be possible to employ similar techniques or approaches to communicate and engage with several different stakeholder groups. For instance, IOPs, NGOs and some CSOs may all be able to be engaged through identical means.

There is also a need to engage with multiple groups of different stakeholders and partners and to share and attempt to understand cross-stakeholder interests and challenges. This approach helps to break down siloes and to build consensus or commonality in understanding. Therefore, the approaches and techniques employed as part of the E&CS should be iterative and not linear allowing for issues raised by one group of stakeholders or partners to be tabled and discussed with other, potentially conflicting, group.

An initial, non-exhaustive working list of international, regional, national and sub-national stakeholders and partners has been compiled (Table 1). Some of these stakeholders operate at different scales. Some stakeholders possess a genuinely global perspective, such as the secretariats of some MEAs, whereas some operate internationally but at a regional scale such as the transboundary river organizations or the RRCs. Some organizations have formal agreements with the Convention, such as IOPs, whereas others, whilst not formally recognised through an agreement, are important stakeholders as they represent a wide constituency such as Wetland Link International (WLI) which is a support network to some 350 wetland education centres over six continents.

Beyond the working list presented in the Table 1 and the Appendices, there are many organisations, consultants, universities and academic institutes that potentially have important knowledge and understanding of wetlands who are working at a range of scales from the international to the local. At the local or site scale there is a multitude of stakeholders and partners. These include managers of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) and other important wetlands, Indigenous Peoples and local communities living in and around wetlands, young people engaged in wetlands at the local level, and CSOs working at a site scale or with local communities. Whilst approximately 150 CSOs have a more global voice through the World Wetland

Network (WWN), many CSOs remain independent despite playing a critical role in delivering wetland wise use. The feedback received at COP14 emphasised the critical role that site-based organisations and local groups and communities play in delivering wetland wise use. Similarly, the need for a balanced participation by different genders is considered critical. Therefore, engaging successfully and inclusively at the local level is considered vital to inform the development of the 5SP.

The E&CS will require a several organisations and actors to facilitate implementation of specific activities. Some stakeholders will be requested to operate as 'gateways' to facilitate engagement and consultation. For instance, the RRC-East Asia routinely conducts national and regional training. Similarly, SWS holds international and regional meetings. There is an opportunity to work with stakeholders operating at international and regional levels to 'piggy-back' on their meetings and engage and consult with their constituents. A similar approach should be taken with the IOPs and other international NGOs by working through both their global headquarters and their regional or national networks to optimise the reach of engagement and to garner a diversity of worldviews.

The initial consultation undertaken at COP14, and the feedback from the SP5WG, has identified six **facilitation groups** that will be requested to take on different responsibilities in the implementation of the E&CS. These groups are:

- Contracting Parties through their NFPs, CEPA NFPs and STRP NFPs (including the SP5WG)
- The Convention Secretariat
- IOPS both at global and regional levels
- RRIs and RRCs
- Other observers with formal links to the Convention
- 5SP Consultants

The role of NFPs in facilitating and implementing the E&CS is seen as critical for the development and preparation of the 5SP, and is encouraged in Resolution XIV.8 as part of the Convention's new approach to CEPA. Working through NFPs will facilitate a breadth of opportunities to be accessed and a constituency to be developed in different countries. Similarly, RRIs and RRCs, IOPs and other organisations with a formal link to the Convention will have a crucial role to play in facilitating engagement with a diversity of stakeholders and partners from their own networks. The Convention Secretariat will play an important role in assisting with implementation of the E&CS. The Consultants will provide materials and information to assist other organisation with the planning and implementation of the various activities identified. Additionally, the Consultants will process information gathered through activities and generate further resources in an adaptive manner to inform on-going consultation and engagement activities.

An initial, non-exhaustive list of potential stakeholders and partners has been identified (Table 1 and Appendix 1 to 8). The workplan maps these various stakeholders and partners against the facilitation groups above, including potential approaches, methods or activities, to indicate the breadth of consultation and engagement proposed (Appendix 9).

## 6.2 What needs to be done?

The different groups identified above will all partake in and undertake a range of activities. These are articulated in more detail in Appendix 9. There are numerous widely recognised approaches to engagement and consultation. The challenge is to align the most appropriate approaches or methods with the stakeholder or partner in order to achieve the engagement or consultation

objectives. Table 2 **Error! Reference source not found.** describes a variety of the approaches, activities and methods proposed. These approaches are non-exhaustive and any of the groups conducting engagement or consultation activities can propose and implement their own approaches as appropriate.

Table 2 Engagement and consultation approaches, activities and methods.

Approach / Activity / Method	Description
Website – Routine updates (including linked social media posts)	Develop a dedicated page (or set of pages) on the Convention’s website to keep stakeholders informed of progress or possible engagement activities
Email Newsletter updates	Develop an electronic newsletter that is distributed to stakeholders and partners
Electronic questionnaires/surveys	Design specific online questionnaires or surveys (for instance using Survey Monkey) to target specific issues such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wise use priorities</li> <li>• Capacity building requirements</li> <li>• Site management challenges</li> </ul>
Virtual focus groups/workshops	Interactive virtual workshops to explore specific issues arising from questionnaires and surveys
Webinars/Expert panels	Online presentations and webinars with question-and-answer sessions on specific wetland wise use issues
Electronic face-to-face meetings	Small groups (less than ten) face-to-face virtual meetings with critical stakeholders and partners
Focus groups at planned meetings	Using the opportunity afforded by planned wetland-related meetings to organise and run focus groups to explore regional or national wetland issues including meetings such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• STRP meeting</li> <li>• SC meeting</li> <li>• Meetings planned by RRI and RRCs</li> <li>• Scientific meetings</li> </ul>
Community/public workshops	Working in partnership with stakeholders and partners to utilise existing fora and engagement opportunities to explore issues on a site or local scale
People-to-people meetings	Opportunistic meetings and engagement through people-to-people meetings that may provide specific insights and information

Different approaches and methods are proposed to engage with different stakeholders and partners. There will be the need for translation into the three Convention languages where written methods are employed. Additionally, Contracting Parties may have a need to translate materials into local languages to address a diversity of stakeholder and partner needs. It is essential that the approaches employed work from grass roots or site levels up to the intergovernmental level and reach a broad constituency, including marginalized communities. It will also be critical to ensure that engagement and consultation addresses all regions of the Convention in an equitable manner. The approaches proposed in Table 2 also recommend that opportunities to ‘piggy back’ on other wetland-related meetings are taken whenever possible rather than attempting to convene separate meetings.

For the various approaches to be implemented successfully, and for stakeholders and partners to have their opportunity to engage fully in the development of the 5SP, will require the various groups facilitating the process to be able to address regional representation issues and the understanding of specific challenges faced by wetland stakeholders and partners. It was clear from the feedback received at COP14 that regional differences and nuances are apparent and, with regards to delivering on the wise use of wetlands, addressing this will be critical in the 5SP. Consequently, it follows that the targets and solutions may well demonstrate different regional dimensions that will require due consideration in the development of the 5SP. Using existing networks and active stakeholders in the regions, for instance working closely with RRI and RRCs, will assist greatly the implementation of the various approaches.



## 7 Delivery approach

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### 7.1 Workplan

To coordinate the various activities and to ensure that the final E&CS is implemented robustly requires the development and implementation of a detailed workplan which will act as a road map towards the production the 5SP. Due to the process of consultation and engagement, the workplan is inherently adaptive and non-linear due to the need to process information, feed information back and re-engage as appropriate. The workplan sets out the following elements:

- A clear distinction between global, regional, national and local activities.
- An alignment of activities with particular facilitation groups.
- Details of specific activities or methods, the resources required and the target stakeholders and partners.
- A timeline for activities, updates and reporting back.

A draft outline workplan with an associated timeline structure is presented in Appendix 9. This is illustrative at present and will be developed further following feedback from the SP5WG. The workplan should also be a 'live' document that is regularly informed by ongoing engagement and consultation activities resulting in addition of updated activities. Elements of the workplan should be developed on a regional basis to target particular stakeholders in different regions.

## 8 Appendices

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### Appendix 1: Ramsar Regional Initiatives

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 (EAAFP)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia
- Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)
- 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

### Appendix 2: Multilateral Environmental Agreements

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) including the Paris Agreement
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and relevant CMS Memoranda of Understanding
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

### Appendix 3: Other Intergovernmental organizations

- Global Environment Facility (GEF: Secretariat and/or the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- 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)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- European Space Agency – ESRIN (ESA-ESRIN)
- UN-Water
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

#### Appendix 4: Transboundary Organizations

There are numerous transboundary river initiatives including:

- United Nations Transboundary Waters
- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)
- River Mekong Commission
- Nile Basin Initiative
- Niger Basin Authority
- Lake Chad Basin Commission
- Senegal River Basin Development Organization
- Volta Basin Authority
- Amazonian Cooperation Treaty Organization
- The River Uruguay Executive Commission
- International Sava River Basin Commission
- Danube Commission
- Carpathian Convention

#### Appendix 5: IOPs

- Birdlife International
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- International Water Management Institute (IWMI)
- Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT)
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Wetlands International

#### Appendix 6: Formal Non-Governmental Organization partners

- Conservation International
- The Nature Conservancy
- Ducks Unlimited (DU)
- Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
- Institute for Inland Water Management and Wastewater Treatment (RIZA)
- Nagao Natural Environment Foundation

- Stetson University College of Law
- World Association of Zoos and Aquaria (WAZA)

#### Appendix 7: Other international organizations

- Flora and Fauna International (FFI)
- 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
- International Crane Foundation (ICF)
- International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)
- International Peatland Society (IPS)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
- Tour du Valat Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands
- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

#### Appendix 8: Representative organisations

- Wetland Link International (WLI) – Representing wetland education centres
- World Wetland Network (WWN) – Representing a global network of CSOs
- Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors – Representing accredited wetland cities
- Youth Engaged in Wetlands (YEW) – International youth team platform

Appendix 9: Draft workplan (illustrative at present for consultation - to be developed further following SP5WG meeting)

Facilitating Group	Stakeholders / partners	Examples (non-exhaustive)	Activities								
			July		August		September		October		
			Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	
Consultants & Secretariat	Convention on Wetlands	CPs; IOPs; RRCs/RRIs; Observers	Initial online questionnaire distributed with supporting information								
Secretariat & Consultants	n/a	n/a	Website goes live			Online webinar posted based on feedback from questionnaire					Online webinar posted based on feedback from activities
Consultants	Representative organisations	WWN; WLI; YEW	Virtual meetings to seek assistance								
CPs	Government Ministries and Departments	Environment; Water; Irrigation; Fisheries; Agriculture; Forestry; Health; Tourism; Education; Natural resources		Distribute online questionnaire							
IOPs	Birdlife; IUCN; IWMI; Wetlands International; WWF; WWT	Stakeholders and partners from their networks		Distribute online questionnaire							
RRCs/RRIs	RAMCEA; CREHO; RRC-CWA; RRC-EA; MedWET; WaCoWET; CariWET	Stakeholders and partners from their networks		Distribute online questionnaire							
Observers	WWN; WLI; YEW; SWS; FFI; GMC; ICF; IMCG; IPS; JAXA; ESA; SER; TNC;	Stakeholders and partners from their networks		Distribute online questionnaire							

Facilitating Group	Stakeholders / partners	Examples (non-exhaustive)	Activities								
			July		August		September		October		
			Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	
	MEAs; UN organisations; etc.										
SP5WG Co-Chairs & Consultants	Convention on Wetlands	Convention Secretariat	Virtual meeting								
SP5WG Co-Chairs & Consultants	Convention on Wetlands	STRP Regional Technical, Scientific and Technical Experts	Virtual meeting								
SP5WG Co-Chairs & Consultants	Convention on Wetlands	CEPA Oversight Panel	Virtual meeting								
Consultants	IOPs	Birdlife; IUCN; IWMI; Wetlands International; WWF; WWT	Virtual meeting								
Consultants	n/a	n/a			Review results of online questionnaire						
Consultants	Convention on Wetlands	CPs			Preparation of materials for virtual meetings						
Consultants	Convention on Wetlands	CPs			Report back on results of questionnaire						
CPs	Government Ministries and Departments	Environment; Water; Irrigation; Fisheries; Agriculture; Forestry; Health; Tourism; Education; Natural resources			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>				
CPs	Wetlands of International Importance	Site managers			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>				
CPs	Other wetlands	Site managers			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>				
CPs	Regional and District Governments	Planning department; Environment department			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>				
CPs	Cities	Mayors; City government/ administration			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>				

Facilitating Group	Stakeholders / partners	Examples (non-exhaustive)	Activities							
			July		August		September		October	
			Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4
CPs	Indigenous people and local communities	Local leaders Representative organisations			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>			
CPs	Private sector	Extractive industries; Energy sector; Tourism; Agriculture; Forestry; Transport; Health; Development; etc.			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>			
CPs	National and sub-national NGOs and CSOs	National NGOs, CSOs			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>			
CPs	Young people	Youth groups			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>			
CPs	National and sub-national Academia	Universities; Colleges; Schools; Informal learning organisations			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>			
CPs	National consultants	Environmental consultancies			<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>	<i>Virtual meeting</i>			
IOPs	Indigenous people and local communities	Community leaders and representatives			<i>Virtual meetings</i>	<i>Virtual meetings</i>	<i>Virtual meetings</i>			
IOPs	Birdlife; IUCN; IWM; Wetlands International; WWF; WWT	Regional offices and staff			<i>Virtual meetings</i>	<i>Virtual meetings</i>	<i>Virtual meetings</i>			
Secretariat & Consultants	Secretariats of MEAs and similar	CBD; IPBES; Paris Agreement; CITES; CMS; UNEP; UNFCCC; FAO					<i>Virtual meeting</i>			
Consultants	Multilateral banking institutions	GEF World Bank Multilateral development banks					<i>Virtual meeting</i>			
Consultants	International cooperation agencies	JICA; SIDA; CIDA; NORAD; CIDCA; SADC; KICA					<i>Virtual meeting</i>			
Consultants	RRCs/RRIs	RAMCEA; CREHO; RRC-CWA; RRC-EA; MedWET; WaCoWET; CariWET				<i>One-to-one virtual meetings</i>	<i>One-to-one virtual meetings</i>			
Consultants	International NGOs	Conservation International; FFI; SER; IMCG; ICF; SWS					<i>One-to-one virtual meetings</i>	<i>One-to-one virtual meetings</i>		

Facilitating Group	Stakeholders / partners	Examples (non-exhaustive)	Activities							
			July		August		September		October	
			Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4	Week 1 & 2	Week 3 & 4
Consultants	Transboundary organisations	Flyway partnerships; SPREP; RMC; NBA; ACTO					<i>One-to-one virtual meetings</i>	<i>One-to-one virtual meetings</i>		
RRCs/RRIs	Regional networks	National and sub-national NGOs and CSOs; Academia;					<i>Virtual meetings</i>	<i>Virtual meetings</i>		
SP5WG Co-Chairs & Consultants	Convention on Wetlands	Standing Committee					Workshop			
MORE...										
MORE...										

Notes:

1. The objectives of all the activities are: (1) Raise awareness of the SP5 development process; and (2) gather information and intelligence to understand the challenges, opportunities and solutions for the wise use of wetlands.
2. This Appendix is a working draft for presentation and discussion at the SP5WG meeting.
3. The activities shown in grey italics are to be developed further. Each Facilitating Group is encouraged to develop activities that are appropriate to their own circumstances. Suggested activities are provided in Table 2.
3. If other meetings or engagement opportunities are known they should be added.