

# STRP Chair Report

63rd meeting of the Standing  
Committee

3-7 June 2024

## **Report of the STRP**

- Document 19. STRP Chair report.
- [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/sc63\\_19\\_strp\\_chair\\_e.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/sc63_19_strp_chair_e.pdf)

## **Technical proposal for Waterbird population estimates**

- Document 20. STRP Chair report.
- [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/SC63\\_20\\_waterbird\\_population\\_estimates\\_e.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/SC63_20_waterbird_population_estimates_e.pdf)

## **Submission to AHTEG on K-M GBF Indicators**

- Information paper.
- [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/SC63\\_Inf\\_3\\_ahteg\\_submission\\_e.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/2024-03/SC63_Inf_3_ahteg_submission_e.pdf)



# STRP Documents for SC63

**Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel  
on implementation of the STRP work plan**

**Actions requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. note the Report of the STRP Chair;
- ii. consider the recommendations presented by the STRP in paragraph 49 of this Report, in particular, regarding:
  - a. the 5th Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands,
  - b. the Ramsar wetland classification system,
  - c. a technical proposal with options for resourcing and implementation of timely and comprehensive global Waterbird Population Estimates updates,
  - d. emerging issues, and
  - e. guidelines for application of Criterion 6 and 9.

**Introduction**

1. The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has made considerable progress since the last report of the Chair of the STRP to the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62). This includes the approval of the [STRP Workplan 2023-2025](#) (Pre-SC62 Intersessional Decision 04), organisation of the first intersessional meeting of the STRP and the 26th meeting of the STRP, active involvement in diverse working groups established by the Standing Committee, and

# STRP Chair Report

## Agenda Item 19

- **97 participants**, including STRP members, STRP observer organisations, IOP representatives, Contracting Party representatives, and invited experts.
- Working sessions on **high priority tasks** to progress the STRP Workplan 2023-2025
- Plenary discussion on: **5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan; Ramsar wetland classification; Emerging Issues**

STRP report @ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/report-decisions-26th-meeting-scientific-technical-review-panel>



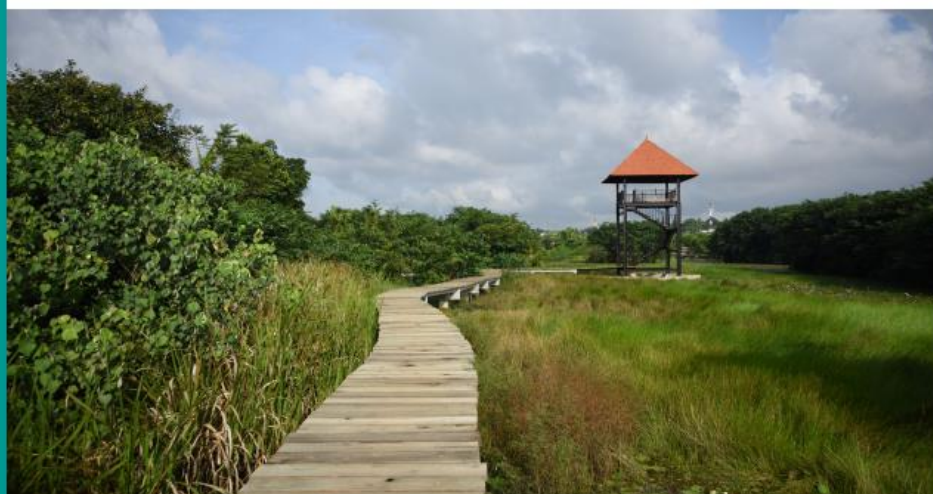
# STRP 26

(February 2024)



# Scaling up wetland conservation and restoration to deliver the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Guidance on including wetlands in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to boost biodiversity and halt wetland loss and degradation



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# Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Upscaling wetland conservation, restoration and wise use through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)

## 1. Introduction

This briefing paper for Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands has been prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) under its workplan 2023-2025, as part of Task 5.2 Guidance to support global implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for wetlands, in collaboration with the International Organization Partners (IOP) of the Convention and in consultation with the Secretariat.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) was adopted by 192 countries at CBD COP15 in December 2022. It contains 4 goals and 23 targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.

Wetlands are explicitly included in KM-GBF Target 2 on restoration, and Target 3 on protected areas (the "30x30 target") through wording on inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems. This is an excellent outcome for wetlands and the nature and people who depend on them. Many other KM-GBF targets are critically important for wetlands too; these are included in this briefing paper.

The KM-GBF provides a powerful new global opportunity for the rapid upscaling of wetland conservation, restoration

and wise use in all countries, and for cross-government, society-wide approaches. The KM-GBF also has a strong focus on addressing the direct and indirect drivers of nature and wetland loss, action by business and finance, and the role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs).

The opportunity now is to secure the essential inclusion of ambitious wetland targets and policies in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), to meet commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and under the Convention on Wetlands, as a designated lead partner on wetlands and work on inland water biodiversity for the CBD (CBD Decision III/21).



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THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
63rd meeting of the Standing Committee  
Gland, Switzerland, 3-7 June 2024

SC63 Inf.3

Submission from the Convention on Wetlands to the 6th meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators on the effective consideration of wetlands in the KMGBF Monitoring Framework

**Actions requested:**

Standing Committee is invited to note the submission from the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators on the effective consideration of wetlands in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).



STRP outputs

Task 5.2

- Requested STRP “to discuss the application of the Ramsar Classification System at STRP26 and to report back to SC63, including, if required, the outline of a proposed approach for a technical review” (**Decision SC62-50**).

### **STRP recommends**

- a two-phase review of the Ramsar wetland classification system as a high priority STRP task, predominantly implemented in the 2026-2028 triennium
- an initial assessment (phase 1) to determine whether a comprehensive assessment is necessary (phase 2)

Refer to **Annex 1** (Doc.19)

Decision  
SC62-50

Wetland  
classification

## Emerging issues for STRP 2026-2028 (draft list)

1. Promote tools for wetland mapping and inventory.
  2. Adequate reporting on the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance in the RIS.
  3. An assessment of transformative change assessment for wetland conservation and wise use.
  4. Increasing frequency of harmful algal blooms.
  5. Improved global reporting: Synergies on development of indicators and methods Source.
  6. Advances in nature-based solutions to address climate change.
  7. Plastic pollution in wetlands and effects on wetland species.
- Comments requested from Contracting Parties and IOPs

## Emerging Issues

Refer to Annex 2 (Doc. 19)

## Recommendations for SC63. Refer to **paragraph 49** of STRP Chair's Report (Doc. 19)

- a. Note the STRP comments relating to the **5th Strategic Plan**.
- b. Consider and endorse the proposal for a two-phase review of the **Ramsar Classification System** for Wetland Type.
- c. Consider and endorse the Technical Proposal on resourcing and implementing **Waterbird Population Estimates**. ([Agenda Item 20](#))
- d. Consider the **emerging issues** detailed in Annex 2
- e. Note the STRP proposes updating **guidance for applying Criterion 9** in a draft resolution. Annex 3.
- f. Note the STRP proposes updating **guidance for applying Criterion 6** in a draft resolution. Annex 4.



## STRP Recommendations for SC63



Refer to **paragraph 49** of STRP Chair's Report (Doc. 19)

- g.** Acknowledge the outputs of **STRP Task 5.2 relating to wetlands and the KM-GBF**
- h.** Request the STRP organize a **consultation with the earth observation community** to foster dialogue, knowledge exchange and guidance for earth observation.
- i.** Note the importance of global reporting on wetland extent and degradation and support a request from the STRP to the Secretariat to further **streamline reporting requirements between UNEP and the Convention on Wetlands.**



STRP  
Recommendations  
for SC63

**Technical proposal of the STRP on resourcing  
and implementing Waterbird Population Estimates**

**Actions requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of the technical proposal of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) on resourcing and implementing Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE);
- ii. consider options to mobilise resources within the Convention, and potentially in collaboration with partners, for the delivery of a 2027 edition of the WPE, to address the urgent and short-term requirements for updating waterbird population estimates;
- iii. consider the proposal to develop an international partnership approach ("Waterbird Estimates Partnership"), as a mechanism to guide periodic and fully resourced future updates of the WPE (from 2027 onwards), for the benefit of the Convention on Wetlands and all other users of waterbird population estimates; and
- iv. consider and approve the six recommendations outlined in the technical proposal.

**Summary**

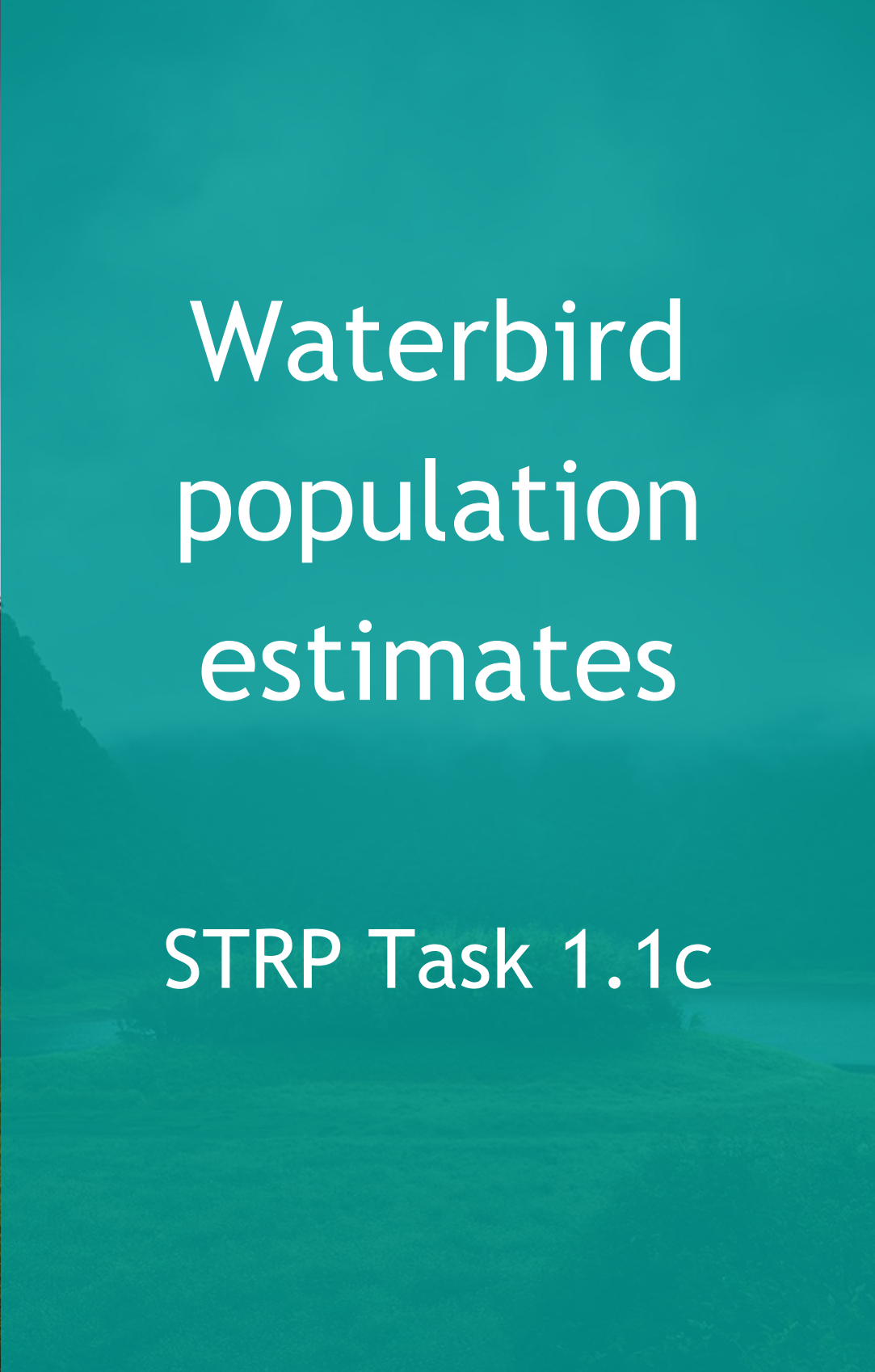
1. The global collation and publication of Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE) is a fundamental information source to deliver multiple aspects of the Convention on Wetlands, especially in the context of the selection and designation of Ramsar Sites (see Annex 1 below), as well as providing data of relevance to anticipated outcome indicators of the Fifth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands.
2. Contemporary data and information on waterbird populations also informs multiple other international and national waterbird and wetland conservation processes (including, among others, relevant targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework). It will also be increasingly important information to inform decision making by investors in nature (including water-related activities) and climate. Such purposes are recognised as of high policy and strategic relevance (see Annex 3).

# Waterbird population estimates

## Agenda Item 20

Paragraph 16 of **Resolution XIV.18** requested:

- the **STRP to develop a technical proposal** to enable the resourcing and implementation of future timely and comprehensive Waterbird Population Estimates updates in consultation with Contracting Parties, relevant flyway agreements and partnerships, Wetlands International and interested entities, including an outline of funding implications, to be presented to SC63.
- ahead of a **draft resolution for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties**, concerning the arrangements for future regular updates of the Waterbird Populations Portal;

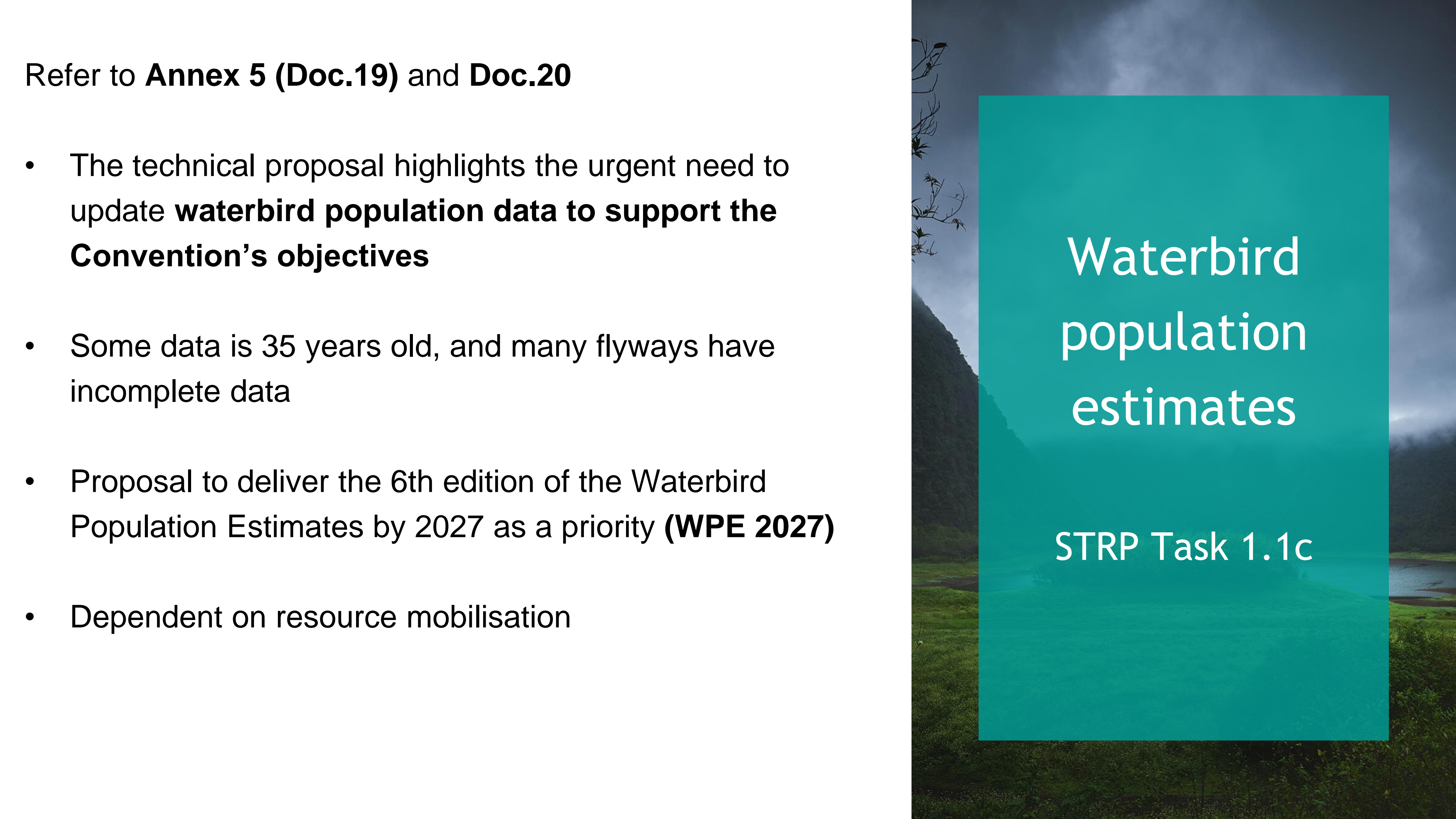


# Waterbird population estimates

STRP Task 1.1c

Refer to **Annex 5 (Doc.19)** and **Doc.20**

- The technical proposal highlights the urgent need to update **waterbird population data to support the Convention's objectives**
- Some data is 35 years old, and many flyways have incomplete data
- Proposal to deliver the 6th edition of the Waterbird Population Estimates by 2027 as a priority (**WPE 2027**)
- Dependent on resource mobilisation

The background of the slide is a landscape photograph showing a green field in the foreground, a body of water in the middle ground, and a forested hillside under a cloudy sky. A large, semi-transparent teal rectangular box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

# Waterbird population estimates

STRP Task 1.1c

- Also, recommend development of an international **Waterbird Estimates Partnership** to guide future updates of waterbird population assessments
- Financial implications for WPE 2027 and Waterbird Estimates Partnership are presented

### **SC63 requested to**

- Endorse the technical proposal for WPE updates
- Consider the resource mobilization implications to deliver WPE2027
- Support approach to develop a Waterbird Partnership Proposal (draft resolution submitted to SC64)

# Waterbird population estimates

STRP Task 1.1c



Many thanks

# TWA1: Wetlands of International Importance, development of the Site network and application of criteria (Lead: Lammert Hilarides)

## \*Task 1.1: Further guidance on application of criteria for designating Wetlands of International Importance

- **Task 1.1. (a)** Guidance on application of Ramsar Criterion 9 for the designation of Wetlands of International Importance [[SC63 Report](#)]
- **Task 1.1. (b)** Guidance to facilitate application of Criterion 6 [[SC63 Report](#)]
- **Task 1.1. (c)** Technical proposal for resourcing and implementation of Waterbird Population Estimate updates. [[Proposal](#)]

\***Task 1.2:** Global assessment of gaps in the network of Wetlands of International Importance, and synergies with global climate and biodiversity goals [[Briefing Note](#)]

# TWA2: Tools for wetland assessment, mapping and monitoring, and development of inventories (Lead: Laurent Durieux)

\***Task 2.1:** Wetland mapping and inventories to catalyse greater use of available methodologies for wetland carbon assessments [[Technical Report](#)]

\***Task 2.2:** 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 [[Policy Brief](#)]

# TWA3: Direct and climate-change-related pressures on wetlands, their impacts, and responses (Leads: Siobhan Fennessy; Anne van Dam)

**\*Task 3.1:** Climate change and wetlands – updated information on the current and projected impacts of climate change on the world’s wetlands, and responses [[Briefing Note](#)]

**\*Task 3.2:** Blue carbon guidance, data and models, and support for integration of blue carbon in climate change planning frameworks [[Briefing Note](#); [Technical Report](#)]

- **Task 3.2. (a)** Development of guidance on prioritizing coastal blue carbon ecosystems for conservation and restoration.
- **Task 3.2. (b)** Compiling and reviewing data and models on carbon stock and fluxes

**\*Task 3.3:** Agriculture and wetlands: maintaining and restoring the ecological character of wetlands in agricultural settings [[Technical Report](#); [Policy Brief](#)]



# TWA4: Wise use, sustainable management, and restoration of wetlands in the wider landscape/seascape (Lead: Ritesh Kumar)

**\*Task 4.1:** OECMs as an opportunity in promoting wetland conservation and wise use [\[Briefing Note\]](#)

**\*Task 4.3:** Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies [\[Briefing Note\]](#)

# TWA5: Cross-cutting issues, supporting functions, and synergies with other MEAs (Leads: Hugh Robertson; Sevvandi Jayakody)

**\*Task 5.1:** Financial costs of wetland loss and degradation, and investment required to maintain and restore wetlands [\[GWO 2025\]](#)

**\*Task 5.2:** Guidance on K-M Global Biodiversity Framework [\[Technical Report\]](#)

**\*Task 5.3:** Develop an approach to deliver future Global Wetland Outlooks (GWOs) [\[SC64 Report\]](#)

**\*Task 5.4:** Review of policy and legal frameworks for wetland conservation and wise use [\[Scoping report\]](#)