



## 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands

**“Protecting wetlands for our common future”  
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 23-31 July 2025**

**COP15 Doc.23.4**

### **Note from the Secretariat:**

At its 64th meeting, the Standing Committee in Decision SC64-18 ii) instructed the Secretariat to submit the draft resolution in document SC64 Doc.14 on *enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies in partnership with multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* to COP15 for its consideration, amended to take into account the inputs presented by the Committee.

### **Draft resolution on enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions**

1. RECALLING that Resolutions XIV.6 on *Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other institutions*, XII.7 on *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention*, and XII.3 on *Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* instruct the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with bodies of the United Nations system, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and international organizations, in line with their respective mandates, in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation, and to report progress to the Standing Committee on a regular basis;
2. WELCOMING the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in its Decision 15/4, and the decision of the Seventh Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to approve the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF);
3. NOTING CBD Decisions 15/6 and 15/13 which, inter alia, recognize that other biodiversity-related MEAs will contribute to the implementation of the KM-GBF, consistent with their respective mandates and priorities; encourage the strengthening of cooperation and synergies among relevant Conventions and MEAs in the implementation of the KM-GBF; and invite the governing bodies of biodiversity-related Conventions and relevant MEAs to contribute to the monitoring of the KM-GBF;

4. FURTHER NOTING that CBD Decision 15/13 invites the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related Conventions and relevant MEAs to formally endorse the KM-GBF through their own governance processes, as appropriate, in order to support its operationalization and contribute to the transparency and monitoring of progress in its implementation by, among others, using synergetic modular reporting tools such as the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT);
5. RECALLING CBD Decision 3/21 which invites the Convention on Wetlands to cooperate as a lead partner in the implementation of activities related to wetlands under the CBD;
6. WELCOMING the finalization of the sixth joint work plan between the Convention on Wetlands and the CBD, which seeks to align efforts towards achievement of the objectives of both Conventions, enhance cooperation between them, and maximize the impact of their actions in addressing the challenges of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands;
7. CONVINCED of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies at all levels to enhance coherent implementation of MEAs as well as to advance mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors;
8. RECALLING that the Secretariat is requested by Resolutions XII.3 and XIV.6 to continue its work with the Biodiversity Liaison Group to enhance coherence and cooperation and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related Conventions;
9. EMPHASIZING the importance of cooperation at the national and international levels, including among MEAs, organizations and initiatives, to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the CBD and the KM-GBF, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and its voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Global Goal on Adaptation and Nationally Determined Contributions of the Paris Agreement, and in this context RECOGNIZING the relevance of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands to these instruments;
10. WELCOMING the outcomes of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including Resolution EA.6/Res.6 on *Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements*, as well as Resolution EA.6/Res.4 on *Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments*;
11. NOTING the outcomes of the Bern III Conference on cooperation among the biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the KM-GBF, held in January 2024 with the active participation of representatives of Parties to the Conventions, secretariats of MEAs, relevant organizations and stakeholders, and RECOGNIZING the support provided by the Government of Switzerland towards the Bern process;
12. RECALLING UN General Assembly Resolution 73/284, which proclaims 2021-2030 to be the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the primary aim of preventing, halting and reversing the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, and in this regard NOTING that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, inter alia through Recommendation 4.1 and Resolutions

VII.17, VIII.16, XII.11, XIII.13, XIII.14, XIII.20, XIV.15, XIV.16 and XIV.17, has recognized the importance and benefits of wetland restoration; and that Contracting Parties have prioritized restoration of degraded wetlands in the development of the Convention's Fifth Strategic Plan;

- [13. FURTHER RECALLING UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 on *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which stresses the importance of enhancing programmatic synergies among the Rio Conventions and recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) made by the MEAs, including the Convention on Wetlands;]
- [13.bis FURTHER RECALLING the UN General Assembly's invitation to enhance programmatic synergies among MEAs, including the Convention on Wetlands, to achieve sustainability;]
- [14. NOTING the relevance of the Convention on Wetlands to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular: SDG 6, "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" and its Target 6.6, "By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes"; SDG 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", and its Target 14.2, "By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans"; and SDG 15, "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss", and its Target 15.1, "By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements" as well as its Target 15.3 "By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world";]
- [14.bis NOTING the relevance of the Convention on Wetlands to the achievement of the wise management of water resources, and to serve as an inspiration for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, marine resources, terrestrial and other inland freshwater ecosystems, mountains and arid zones and thus combat desertification and soil degradation;]
15. RECALLING that the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and UNEP are co-custodian agencies for SDG indicator 6.6.1 "Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time", and that the reporting stream compiled by the Secretariat will be based on the national reporting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on wetland extent;
16. NOTING the progress of the Contracting Parties on the preparation of national wetlands inventories and reporting data on indicator 6.6.1 in their National Reports to the 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties;
17. RECALLING Resolution XIV.6 which instructs the Secretariat to continue working actively with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as well as with other relevant UN agencies, on water-related indicators, and in particular SDG Indicator 6.6.1; and

18. WELCOMING UN General Assembly Resolutions 77/334 and 78/327 on the 2026 “United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 2 to 4 December 2026, co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

##### *Visibility and stature, and increasing synergies*

19. INVITES Contracting Parties, United Nations agencies, the International Organization Partners of the Convention (IOPs) and other stakeholders to work to raise the visibility of the Convention at the national, subnational, regional and international levels as appropriate;
20. REAFFIRMS the importance of enhancing cooperation and synergies in the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, the Rio Conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), at the global, regional and national levels, in a manner fully consistent with their mandates and priorities, and in this context TAKES NOTE of the outcomes of the Bern III Conference as an important contribution to enhancing synergies among MEAs;
21. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue the collaboration with the Secretariats of relevant MEAs including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
22. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue its engagement in the Biodiversity Liaison Group;
23. ENDORSES the 6th Joint Work Plan, 2024-2030, of the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands, and INVITES Contracting Parties, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the CEPA (communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness) Oversight Panel and the Secretariat to support its implementation in line with its voluntary guidance;
24. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to the Convention that are also Parties to other MEAs such as the CBD, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, or the UNCCD, to consider, as appropriate, the relevance of their actions to implement the Convention on Wetlands in delivering on commitments under other MEAs, taking into account the importance of conserving, restoring, sustainably managing and using wetlands to achieving their respective goals and targets;
25. INVITES Contracting Parties, where relevant, to develop national wetland policies, strategies or equivalent policy instruments, and to mainstream wetlands, their functions and their contributions to people in national sustainable development plans, relevant sectoral strategies, plans and regulations, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other biodiversity-related strategies and plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and other climate change strategies and plans, and voluntary land degradation neutrality target setting programmes, thereby strengthening efforts to address biodiversity loss, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other environmental, social and economic challenges through wetland restoration, conservation, sustainable management and wise use;

26. URGES Contracting Parties to establish national collaboration mechanisms between MEA focal points to promote synergies and effectiveness of national efforts, for example, through national biodiversity working groups, relevant measures in NBSAPs, and harmonized knowledge management and national reporting, including by making use of the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT);
- [27. ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to the Convention to continue to increase their efforts to coordinate with the national focal points and focal agencies for Rio Conventions and other MEAs as well as with institutions and agencies working to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs;]
- [27.bis ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to the Convention to continue to increase their efforts to coordinate with the national focal points and focal agencies for Rio Conventions and other MEAs as well as with institutions and agencies working to achieve sustainability;]
28. FURTHER ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to continue strengthening coordination with all wetland practitioners including managers of Wetlands of International Importance, to inform them of activities under the Convention on Wetlands and be informed by them about processes and issues of common interest;
29. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to continue to develop and activate cooperation and networking mechanisms, including national wetlands committees or similar bodies, to ensure collaboration among national ministries, departments and agencies, and to continue to establish or strengthen mechanisms to enhance effective coordination between relevant national and subnational authorities;
30. INVITES Contracting Parties to continue working with global and regional bodies and initiatives, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Regional Commissions, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to enhance the wise and sustainable use of wetlands;
31. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to enhance synergies and cooperation at local, regional and international levels, including with respect to Wetland City Accreditation and sites with multiple international designations (such as Wetlands of International Importance that are also designated as Man and the Biosphere Reserves or World Heritage Sites), and ENCOURAGES local and subnational governments to support such efforts;
32. ENCOURAGES members of the Independent Advisory Committee, IOPs and other partners, to strengthen the visibility of the Wetland City Accreditation scheme, including through platforms such as the CitiesWithNature initiative of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the Urban Alliance Index of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the New Urban Agenda of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);
33. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to continue to implement the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19), including by establishing cooperative mechanisms for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins to enhance transboundary cooperation, and establishment of transboundary Wetlands of International Importance;

34. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue its engagement as a Global Partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and to continue working with FAO, UNEP, the biodiversity-related Conventions and the IOPs in its implementation;
35. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to integrate the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* contained in Resolution VIII.16 into their national wetland policies and plans, in undertaking national wetland inventories of wetlands with the potential for restoration, and in applying the Convention toolkit for national wetland inventories, and to report their progress on these matters in their triennial National Reports to the COP as a contribution to the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
36. INSTRUCES the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with relevant international organizations including the World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, FAO, WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
37. FURTHER INSTRUCES the Secretariat to continue collaborating with CMS and other entities through the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity launched at the 14th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CMS, to support the efforts of Contracting Parties to maintain, enhance, and restore ecological connectivity in key areas for migratory species of wild animals, including through the designation and strengthened management of Wetlands of International Importance;
38. WELCOMES the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding with UNEP to enhance collaboration on areas of common interest;
39. WELCOMES the renewed memorandum of cooperation between the Secretariat and the six IOPs of the Convention; THANKS the IOPs for their continued commitment to the Convention; and INVITES them to support the implementation of the Convention's Fifth Strategic Plan;
40. DECIDES to authorize the Secretary General to enter into new cooperation agreements with organizations that meet the criteria found in Annex 1 of the present Resolution, that promote visibility, synergies and implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan; and accordingly ALSO DECIDES to repeal Decision SC63-08 of the Standing Committee;
41. INSTRUCES the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on progress in implementing the present Resolution and Resolution XI.6 on *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*, including on the results of existing cooperation with other Conventions, international organizations and partnerships, and on the exploration of new activities with possible partners;

*The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*

42. WELCOMES the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF), NOTES its related decisions adopted by CBD COP15, and CONFIRMS that collaboration among MEAs and international organizations at the global, regional, and national levels and in line with their respective mandates, is vital for their efficient and effective implementation;

43. RECOGNIZES the critical importance of wetland protection, restoration and wise use for the achievement of the goals and targets of the KM-GBF, and in this regard the importance of the Convention on Wetlands in contributing to its implementation and monitoring, including but not limited to KM-GBF Targets 2 and 3;
44. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to ensure that the Convention's National Reporting Form enables Contracting Parties to indicate how their actions to implement the Convention contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of the KM-GBF, thereby strengthening the relevance of the Convention's national reporting to monitoring of the KM-GBF;
45. REQUESTS the STRP to provide advice to the Secretariat and to Contracting Parties in relation to indicators and reporting, including to promote the use of the Convention's reporting in monitoring of relevant targets of the KM-GBF;

*[The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals]*

*[bis The UN aspiration for sustainability]*

46. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working actively with the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as well as with relevant UN agencies on water-related indicators, and in particular SDG indicator 6.6.1 on extent of water-related ecosystems, and to further strengthen its collaboration with UNEP as co-custodian of indicator 6.6.1;]
- [46.bis INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working actively on water-related indicators on extent of water-related ecosystems, and to further strengthen its collaboration with UNEP on this matter;]
47. URGES Contracting Parties to strengthen their efforts to complete, maintain and update national wetland inventories and to report on wetland extent in national reports; and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working with Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to actively support these efforts through the further development of the national wetland inventories support mechanism;
- [48. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen mechanisms for effective coordination among national and subnational statistical authorities responsible for reporting on the SDGs and in particular those related to wetlands and extent of water-related ecosystems (SDG indicator 6.6.1);]
- [48.bis ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen mechanisms for effective coordination among national and subnational statistical authorities responsible for reporting on the implementation of their national policies related to wetlands and extent of water-related ecosystems;]
- [49. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Global Acceleration Framework and to actively engage, as appropriate, with UN-Water and with international initiatives to promote conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands;]
- [49.bis INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support as appropriate, international initiatives to promote conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands;]

[50. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support Contracting Parties as appropriate and subject to available resources in mainstreaming and raising the relevance of wetlands and the Convention to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including through collaboration with UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, IOPs and other partners in the public and private sectors for the development of guidance and tools, capacity building and identification of opportunities to access resources;]

[50.bis FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support Contracting Parties as appropriate in mainstreaming and raising the relevance of wetlands and the Convention for the development of guidance and tools, capacity building and identification of opportunities to access resources;]

#### *International environmental financing mechanisms*

51. INVITES the GEF to continue to support wetland projects through relevant Focal Areas, to address direct drivers of wetland degradation and loss, protect wetland habitats and wetland-dependent species, including through Wetlands of International Importance, to restore wetlands, and mainstream consideration of wetlands functions and values into relevant sectors and build capacity in this regard;
52. FURTHER INVITES the GEF to explore opportunities within the upcoming ninth replenishment of the Trust Fund to address the critical importance of wetlands, the multiple benefits they provide to both nature and people, and the cost-effectiveness of investments that achieve biodiversity, water, climate and livelihoods objectives;
53. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to enhance support for wetland protection, restoration and wise use through national, multi-country and regional projects submitted to the GEF, including projects targeting the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund for the updating and implementation of NBSAPs;
54. INVITES the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to support Contracting Parties in alignment with the Targeted Results 2024-2027 for Ecosystems, which aim to support developing countries in conserving, restoring or sustainably managing terrestrial and marine areas under the GCF's Strategic Plan 2024-2027;
55. REQUESTS the Secretariat to work closely with international financing institutions including the GEF and GCF and their accredited entities/agencies including relevant IOPs of the Convention, to mainstream wetlands in strategies and plans, and promote the development of wetlands projects;

#### *The relationship with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the work of the Secretariat*

56. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue the cooperation efforts with IUCN through the IUCN/Ramsar Liaison Group to support the operations of the Secretariat under the Service Agreement between the Convention on Wetlands and IUCN; and
57. CONFIRMS that the present Resolution supersedes Resolution XIV.6, which is replaced by the present Resolution.

## Anexo 1

### Decision tree for when cooperative agreements should be used

