



13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

“Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”
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Ramsar COP13 Doc.18.12

Draft resolution on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021

Submitted by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

Note from the Secretariat

The Standing Committee at its 54th meeting instructed the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to work with the Secretariat to prepare a revised text reflecting the amendments proposed during the meeting, and forward this for consideration at COP13.

1. RECALLING Resolution XII.5, *New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*, which sets out the new modus operandi and responsibilities for the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP);
2. FURTHER RECALLING paragraph 44 of Annex 1 of Resolution XII.5, which requests that the STRP identify, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Standing Committee, “scientific and technical priorities for the coming triennium, and funding needs, and indicate potentially relevant partner organizations, for the consideration of the Conference of Parties”;
3. ALSO RECALLING paragraph 45 of Annex 1 of the same Resolution, which requires that the list of scientific and technical priorities “reflect the content of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for the coming triennium, resolutions of the last COP, and other priority issues which have been identified by regional or global wetland networks”;
4. RECALLING Resolution XII.9, *The Ramsar Convention’s Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024*;
5. RECALLING WITH APPRECIATION and expressing gratitude to:
 - STRP members, International Organization Partner observers, observers from other organizations and STRP National Focal Points for their valuable contributions to the work of the STRP during the triennium;
 - the Secretariat for its support; and

- donors for their generous financial contributions, including Norway (regarding the Wetland Extent Trends Index) and WWF (regarding the analysis of Ramsar Advisory Mission reports); and
6. RECALLING Decision SC52-04 of the Standing Committee, which approved the work plan of the STRP for the 2016-2018 triennium;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. WELCOMES the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) products delivered during the 2016-2018 triennium, listed in Annex 1 of the present Resolution;
8. URGES Contracting Parties, the Ramsar community, and other sectors to use them as appropriate;
9. INVITES Contracting Parties, the Ramsar community, and others to use available communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) tools with the help of their CEPA National Focal Points, International Organization Partners, and others to disseminate STRP products;
10. APPROVES the themes and list of priorities for the 2019-2021 triennium listed in Annex 2 of the present Resolution;
11. APPROVES the revised list of bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP for the 2019-2021 triennium, included in Annex 3 of the present Resolution; and
12. APPROVES the guidelines for submitting proposals to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) contained in Annex 4.

Annex 1

List of STRP outputs produced during 2016-2018

Note: Outputs are listed in order of the task in the STRP work plan.

1. *Global Wetland Outlook*
2. *Wetland Extent Trends (WET) Index* (as a key component of the *Global Wetland Outlook*)
3. Ramsar Technical Report No. 10: *Best practice guidelines for the use of earth observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring* (Task 1.1)
4. Draft Resolution on *Guidance on identifying Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteria* (Task 1.2)
5. Briefing Note No. 8: *Best Practice guidelines for tropical peatlands inventories for their designation as Wetlands of International Importance* (Task 1.2)
6. Ramsar wetland Sites management toolkit (<https://www.ramsar.org/resources/ramsar-sites-management-toolkit>) (Task 2.1)
7. Ramsar Policy Brief No. 2: *Integrating multiple wetland values into decision-making*. <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-policy-brief-2-integrating-multiple-wetland-values-into-decision-making> (Task 3.1)
8. Ramsar Policy Brief No. 1: *Wetlands for disaster risk reduction – Effective choices for resilient communities*. <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-policy-brief-1-wetlands-for-disaster-risk-reduction-effective-choices-for-resilient> (Task 3.2)
9. Policy Brief No. 3: *Implementing environmental flows with benefits for society and different wetland ecosystems in the river system* (Task 4.1)
10. *Comprehensive review and analysis of Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) reports* (Task 4.2)
11. Policy Brief No. 4: *Ramsar Advisory Missions: A tool to respond to ecological character change in Wetlands of International Importance* (Task 4.2)
12. Briefing Note No. 9: *Ramsar Advisory Missions: Technical Advice on Ramsar Sites* (Task 4.2)
13. Briefing Note No. 8: *Potential and rationale for wetland restoration in a climate change context* (Task 5.1)
14. Draft Resolution on *Guidance on restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity* (Task 5.3)
15. Ramsar Technical Report No. 11: *Restoration of degraded peatland soils to mitigate and adapt* (Task 5.3)

Annex 2

STRP Thematic Work Areas and priorities for 2019-2021

Thematic Work Areas

STRP Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024	Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024
<p>Best practice methodologies / tools to identify and monitor Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, including surveying, mapping, inventorying and reporting.</p>	<p>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</p> <p>Target 5 The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management</p> <p>Target 7 Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed</p> <p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</p> <p>Target 10 The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.</p> <p>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</p> <p>Target 14 Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Best practices for developing and implementing management plans, action plans and other tools for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, recognizing traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.</p>	<p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</p> <p>Target 8 National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p>Target 9 The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p>

STRP Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024	Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024
	<p>Target 11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p>Target 12 Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</p> <p>Target 14 Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Methodologies for the economic and non-economic valuation of the values of the goods and services of wetlands.</p>	<p>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation.</p> <p>Target 1 Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.</p> <p>Target 3 The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.</p> <p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</p> <p>Target 8 National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p>Target 9 The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p> <p>Target 11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p>

STRP Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024	Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024
	<p>Target 12 Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</p> <p>Target 14 Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
Balancing wetland conservation and sustainable development e.g. infrastructure, urbanization, forestry, extractive industries, and agriculture.	<p>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation.</p> <p>Target 1 Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.</p> <p>Target 3 The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.</p> <p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</p> <p>Target 8 National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p>Target 9 The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p> <p>Target 11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p>Target 12 Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p>

STRP Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024	Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024
	<p>Target 13 Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.</p> <p>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</p> <p>Target 14 Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>Climate change and wetlands: innovative methodologies for carbon accounting/assessments related to wetlands, including blue carbon.</p>	<p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</p> <p>Target 8 National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p> <p>Target 9 The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p> <p>Target 11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p>Target 12 Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</p> <p>Target 14 Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>

Priorities

- Provide guidance to Contracting Parties relating to the national reporting on wetland inventories, which will contribute to reporting under Sustainable Development Goals indicator 6.6.1;
- Undertake a review of, and compilation of data and information from, national wetland inventories, so as to update the 1999 Global Review of Wetland Inventory (GRoWI), building on the information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports to COP13 and other sources such as the Global Mangrove Watch;
- Advise on how wetlands can act as natural capital to encourage investment on wetland restoration and wise use and to promote wetlands as natural solutions/ natural infrastructure;
- Provide guidance on carbon sequestration accounting methodologies, which would contribute, among other things, to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) reporting under UNFCCC;
- Provide advice related to the Resolution XII.2 request to submit a thematic assessment request to IPBES;
- Advise on the focus of future editions of the *Global Wetland Outlook*, taking into account the work of International Organization Partners and other organizations;
- Advise Contracting Parties on the review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention to be presented at COP14 (per the terms of Resolution XII.2);
- Provide advice on applying integrated and landscape-management approaches;
- Collaborate with regional centres to identify opportunities for capacity building workshops on wetland management;
- Continue the work on peatland restoration and rewetting methods for the temperate, Mediterranean, sub-tropic and tropic zones; and
- Identify good practices of agriculture in wetlands, taking into account the existing different systems of sustainable production (e.g. agroecology and organic production; integrated production; integrated systems of production).

Annex 3

Bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP for the 2019-2021 triennium

Observer organizations are defined as global and regional multilateral environmental agreements, Global Intergovernmental Organizations and processes (IGOs), Regional Intergovernmental Organizations and processes (IROs), international organizations and other NGOs and organizations devoted to wetlands.

They include, but are not restricted to:

- Ducks Unlimited (DU)
- Group on Earth Observation – Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON)
- Group on Earth Observation – Wetlands Initiative (GEO-Wetlands)
- Greifswald Mire Center (GMC)
- International Crane Foundation (ICF)
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- International Peat Society (IPS)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- [Flora and Fauna International]
- The European Space Agency – ESRIN (ESA-ESRIN)
- The Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- The Global Environment Facility (Secretariat and/or the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements including the Secretariats and/or representatives of their technical bodies, as follows: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and related instruments, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC), Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)
- The Scientific and Technical Network of the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet)
- The Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
- The Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
- The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- Tour du Valat Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)

Annex 4

Guidelines for developing requests to IPBES for its future work programmes

(As proposed as interim guidelines to the Standing Committee in Document SC47-19 on *Outcomes of the second plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-2)* and approved through Decision SC47-24.)

1. The Ramsar Secretariat notifies the Ramsar community of the opportunity to develop requests to be submitted to IPBES and provides guidance on the form and detail of such requests and a deadline for submissions to the Secretariat, as well as, as appropriate, a template for such submissions.
2. Any Contracting Party, Regional Initiative, the STRP, the Secretariat, [the Standing Committee], [IOPs], and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) may develop a proposal for consideration.
3. All proposals are submitted to the STRP, which reviews them and makes recommendations to the Standing Committee. The STRP's review and recommendations will take into account the extent to which the requests advance the Ramsar Strategic Plan and are consistent with IPBES priorities.
4. It is important to note that the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel prioritizes requests based on the following information:
 - a. Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of the Platform;
 - b. Urgency of action by the Platform in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action;
 - c. Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes;
 - d. Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action;
 - e. Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action;
 - f. Previous work and existing initiatives of a similar nature and evidence of remaining gaps, such as the absence or limited availability of information and tools to address the issues, and reasons why the Platform is best suited to take action;
 - g. Availability of scientific literature and expertise for the Platform to undertake the requested action;
 - h. Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action;
 - i. Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action; and
 - j. An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted.

5. The Standing Committee decides which proposal or proposals to submit to IPBES. Owing to timing constraints, it is likely that the proposals will need to be presented to Standing Committee members virtually and approval or comments provided within a short period.
6. The Secretariat submits the proposal to IPBES on behalf of the Ramsar Convention.

Figure 1. Process for developing IPBES requests

