

**DRAFT UNDER DISCUSSION BY A CONTACT GROUP**  
**Draft resolution on cultural values and practices of indigenous and local communities and their contribution to climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands**

*Submitted by Burkina Faso, Senegal and Tunisia*

**Note from the Secretariat**

Through Decision SC54-22, the Standing Committee at its 54th meeting instructed the Secretariat to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.6 for consideration at COP13, subject to inclusion of the further amendments tabled. These have been implemented in the present text.

1. RECALLING Resolution VIII.19 on Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites and Resolution IX.21 on Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands, which recognize and highlight the cultural connections between communities and wetlands and encourage the Convention's Parties to take cultural values into consideration in managing their wetlands and in designating them as internationally important sites;
2. RECALLING Resolution X.24 on *Climate change and wetlands*, Resolution XII.2 on *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024*, and Resolution X.28 on *Wetlands and poverty eradication*;
3. RECOGNIZING the vital importance of wetlands and the freshwater for human well-being, livelihoods, and food security; and NOTING that paragraph 1 of Resolution 64/292 of the United National General Assembly on *The human right to water and sanitation* recognizes the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights;
4. CONCERNED that wetlands are among the ecosystems most vulnerable to climate change<sup>1</sup>; and ALSO CONCERNED that wetlands, which provide climate change mitigation and adaptation opportunities to communities, are currently degrading rapidly;
5. NOTING that Article 7 of the Paris Agreement acknowledges that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions;

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<sup>1</sup>Third Assessment Report, IPCC

- 5 bis NOTING that UNFCCC Decision 1/CP.21 recognizes the need to strengthen knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of local communities and indigenous peoples related to addressing and responding to climate change, and establishes a platform for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner;
6. ACKNOWLEDGING the important contribution that the Convention has made through its application of Resolutions on culture for the integration of cultural values in the conservation and wise use of wetlands,
7. NOTING the report of the IUCN-World Commission on Protected Areas' Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas titled *Sacred Natural sites: Guidelines for protected area managers* and the relevance of these guidelines in supporting wetland conservation and wise use under the Convention,
8. RECOGNISING that efforts under the Ramsar Convention can contribute to addressing climate change goals or actions set out in the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its Strategic Plan 2011 and Aichi targets;
9. ACKNOWLEDGING the significant contributions made by indigenous peoples and local communities to wetland conservation and wise use through their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices – including contributions to mitigating and adapting to climate change.
10. RECOGNIZING that the communities which are most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change (such as small island states) and suffer the consequences of the increase of extreme weather events are often communities that also suffer from socio-economic vulnerabilities, including poverty, indigence and exclusion;
- 10bis. ALSO RECOGNISING the MAVA Foundation's support of the project *Conservation of the natural and cultural heritage in wetlands*, and in further enhancing the work of the Ramsar Cultural Network<sup>2</sup>.
11. NOTING WITH CONCERN that, owing to climate change and land and wetland degradation from a variety of anthropogenic pressures, food security is increasingly at risk and fisheries are particularly at risk;
12. CONSIDERING that while climate change is a global issue, the innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities (the primary observers of the effects of climate change on their lands) ,can provide locally-appropriate and effective resilience to climate impacts.; and

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<sup>2</sup> Note: the Ramsar Cultural Network is not a group with a formal status under the Ramsar Convention. It is an informal network of Contracting Parties, IOPs and others working together on issues and initiatives to further the connection of culture to wise use of wetlands.

13. RECOGNIZING indigenous peoples and local communities as key actors in decision-making to achieve the preservation, conservation and adaptation to climate change in wetlands.

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

14. EMPHASIZES that environmental, social and cultural solutions including those of indigenous peoples and local communities will all be needed to achieve climate change targets, including through mitigation and adaptation actions , ecosystem conservation and protection as well as their restoration to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity, as well as innovative infrastructure and land-use planning approaches, as appropriate; and RECOGNIZES that the Ramsar Convention can play a key role in making the links between the societies, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the integrity of wetland environments;
- 14.bis ENCOURAGES Parties to protect, support and promote the use of cultural values, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) in adapting to the increasing negative impacts of climate change, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems
15. INVITES Contracting Parties to include in their national reports to COP 14, as appropriate, case studies including those developed by indigenous peoples and local communities, that demonstrate how cultural diversity and traditional knowledge, innovations contribute to significantly increasing resilience of wetlands to climate change .
16. INVITES the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) , consistent with its ongoing work program and strategic priorities consider reviewing and revising the Guidance: Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands with a view to ensuring that these guidelines are effective in evaluating the cultural ecosystem benefits of wetlands, including in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, in advance of COP14 and ALSO REQUESTS that the STRP include indigenous representation in conducting the proposed work;
- 16bis. REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)/ Standing Committee develop a coordination mechanism with the Platform of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples established under the UNFCCC.
- 16ter. CALLS UPON contracting parties and others to promote policy guidelines and governance tools to incorporate the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities into climate change adaptation plans for wetlands.
17. REQUESTS that the Secretariat ( subject to the availability of resources), Contracting Parties, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, interested organizations and networks continue to undertake enabling activities for the effective consideration of the cultural values of wetlands into wetland protection and management consistent with the Platform of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples established under the UNFCCC.
18. REQUESTS Contracting Parties to regularly report to Standing Committee on the consideration of the cultural values of wetlands, such as local and indigenous knowledge and practices, into wetland protection and management undertaken.

- 18 bis. URGES Contracting Parties to seek mechanisms that allow the conservation and transmission of traditional knowledge of local communities and indigenous peoples in the sustainable use of natural resources, with scientific advice;
19. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to continue to promote cultural diversity and traditional knowledge systems within wetlands as part of holistic approaches to the planning and implementation of relevant national and regional policies, as appropriate, including poverty reduction strategies, Nationally Determined Contributions and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the need to base such approaches on an understanding of current and projected functionality of specific wetlands, particularly where wetland services and functions may change over time and may be affected by climate change;
20. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to collaborate with local communities and relevant institutions (including planning and wetland management agencies) in the development of activities for the prevention of forest degradation and deforestation, suitable tourism and recreation activities, as well as other livelihood activities in wetlands in general , and especially in Ramsar sites, in order to create opportunities to eradicate , support the integrity of wetlands and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
21. INVITES Contracting Parties, when submitting mitigation and adaptation projects to development banks, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund and other funding instruments, to support the implementation of the present Resolution, including through supporting capacity building.