

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands Actions for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China and Geneva, Switzerland, 5-13 November 2022**

Ramsar COP14 Doc.18.19

Note from the Secretariat:

As the resumed session of its 59th meeting, the Standing Committee in Decision SC59/2022-25 approved the draft resolution on *Integrating wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies* in document SC59/2022 Doc.24.5 Rev.1, with amendments to paragraphs 2 and 3 as agreed by the Committee, and agreed to forward this to COP14 for its consideration.

**Draft resolution on integrating wetland conservation and restoration
into national sustainable development strategies**

Submitted by China

1. RECOGNIZING wetland, as a globally important ecosystem, is a unique carrier of the global water cycle, nutrient cycle and energy flow, and provides a variety of irreplaceable functions and services such as fresh water, food, hydrological and climate regulation, cultural heritage and health protection (GWO 2018). Wetland has a central position in the promotion of global sustainable development, especially in maintaining global biodiversity, mitigating climate change, poverty eradication and disaster reduction;
2. ALERT TO THE FACT that global wetlands have declined by 35% since 1970 and that the trend of declining has not been effectively halted (GWO 2018; IPBES 7, 2019). Such tendency will affect the achievement of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the mitigation and adaptation to climate change according to the Paris Agreement and UNFCCC, and the 2050 Vision on Biodiversity;
3. [WELCOMING UNEP/EA.5/Res.5, which recognizes that nature-based solutions play an essential role in the overall global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and NOTING the potential of wetlands as effective nature-based solutions;]
4. NOTING the *Global Wetland Outlook* (GWO) of 2018, which states that the direct drivers of wetland decline include changes in physical regimes such as hydrology and sedimentation, extraction such as water use and fishing, introduction of eutrophication, pollution and invasive species, and structural modification such as wetland drainage and wetland use conversion; while indirect drivers include water energy, food and fibre, infrastructure, tourism and recreation. These factors are interconnected and strongly influenced by the adverse impacts of climate change;

5. AWARE THAT cross-sectoral interventions at the national level are a vital means of addressing adverse drivers (IPBES 7, 2019) and that addressing direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss requires the mobilization of government sectors and society as a whole through integrated and holistic planning and implementation (GBO 5, 2020); similarly, changing the drivers of wetland decline requires the integration of national wetland policies into more integrated and systematic national strategies;
6. RECALLING that Convention Article 3.1, Recommendation 6.9 and Resolution VII.6 request Parties to develop and implement national policies for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. RECALLING the relationship between wetlands and sustainable development, recognized in Resolution XI.21, the *Strategic Plan 2016-2024 of the Ramsar Convention* contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, Resolutions XIII.14, XIII.16, XIII.19, IX.4, VIII.32 invite Parties to enhance the sustainable management and wise use of coastal, urban, agricultural, fisheries and mangrove wetlands;
7. FURTHER RECALLING: Resolutions IX.1 and its Annex C, Resolution IX.3, and Resolution XII.12, calling upon Parties to strengthen integrated management of water resources; Resolution IX.1 Annex Ci and Resolution VII.18 inviting Parties to strengthen integrated river basin management; Resolution VIII.4 focusing on integrated coastal zone management; and Resolution IX.20 on integrated wetland management in small island States;
8. CONCERNED that the Ramsar Convention still lacks national-level wetland conservation and restoration tools which help Parties integrate wetlands with climate change, water, biodiversity and sustainable development;
9. NOTICING that Parties have introduced national integrated wetland conservation and restoration frameworks at the national level [reflecting actions towards the wise use of all wetlands to ensure their management for human health and livelihoods]. For example, China's wetland conservation and restoration framework set a target for total wetland area control and incorporated wetland use control into the unified national land planning, and included wetland conservation and management in the National Development Vision 2035. Another example is the inclusion of goals for restoration and monitoring of blue carbon in coastal wetlands in Costa Rica within the framework of the National Decarbonization Plan; and [(Parties are invited to share country cases in this paragraph.)]
10. AWARE of the need to integrate wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies to facilitate coordinated and integrated policies and actions on wetland conservation and restoration with climate change, water and biodiversity;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

11. CALLS upon Parties to assess whether the existing wetland conservation, restoration, sustainable management and wise-use policies and actions have been integrated into national sustainable development strategies, and to evaluate the role of wetland conservation and restoration in national and global sustainable development in line with the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development Goals; and ENCOURAGES Parties to integrate existing national wetland policies into national sustainable development strategies [generating co-benefits] [as nature-based solutions] for climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, disaster reduction and poverty alleviation and to promote harmony between human and nature;

12. RECOGNIZES that the effective integration of wetland conservation, restoration, sustainable management and wise-use policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies is critically dependent upon adequate resources, including financing, capacity building and development and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies on mutually agreed terms and, in particular, the need to mobilize increased financial resources, including from innovative sources, for developing-country Contracting Parties;
13. RECOMMENDS that Parties conduct systematic national wetland inventories, using the *New Toolkit for National Wetland Inventories* of 2020 on the Convention website, assess the status and trends of wetlands, analyse national needs and gaps for wetland conservation, develop integrated, systematic and adaptive conservation and restoration planning, and develop integrated national management actions for wetlands and other associated ecosystems;
14. ENCOURAGES Parties to set targets for the management of national wetlands and, through land-use planning, minimize the conversion of wetlands, and protect and maintain the ecological character of wetlands;
15. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Parties to identify the status of national and local degraded wetlands, set wetland restoration targets, and take measures to enhance the condition of wetland ecosystems and arrest their loss;
16. ENCOURAGES Parties to develop transboundary wetland conservation and restoration strategies in collaboration with neighbouring countries within the relevant frameworks;
17. REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to strengthen case studies and tool development for the integration of national wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies and to develop technical guidelines; and REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to further promote the important role of wetlands in the national and global sustainable development agenda;
18. INVITES International Organization Partners to work with relevant stakeholders to provide support to develop national wetland policies that integrate wetland conservation and restoration into sustainable development, providing financial, technical, and other resources as well as CEPA support, and summarizing experience models; and
19. REQUESTS that the Secretariat enhance closer cooperation with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant organizations to promote global mainstreaming of wetland conservation and restoration.