

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

“Wetlands Actions for People and Nature”  
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Ramsar COP14 Doc.18.19 Rev.2

**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 protection, conservation, and restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies**

*Submitted by China*

1. RECOGNIZING ~~wetlands-wetland~~, as a globally important ~~ecosystems, ecosystem~~, is a unique carriers [~~conveyors~~] of the global water cycle, nutrient cycle and energy flow, and ~~providers of~~ provides a variety of irreplaceable functions and services such as fresh water, food, hydrological and climate regulation, cultural heritage and health protection (GWO 2018). FURTHER RECOGNIZING that wetlands have ~~Wetland has~~ a central position in the promotion of global sustainable development, especially in maintaining global biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to climate change, poverty eradication and disaster risk reduction;
2. ALERT TO THE FACT that, ~~globally, global~~ wetlands have declined by 35% since 1970 and that the trend of declining has not been effectively halted (GWO 2018; IPBES 7, 2019). This trend ~~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;
- 2bis. TAKING NOTE, with deep concern, that many wetland-dependent communities face persistent levels of poverty, including extreme poverty, inequalities, unemployment and food insecurity, and RECOGNIZING the need to strengthen the sustainable use of biodiversity to support sustainable livelihoods and address the social and economic challenges that often undermine the implementation of conservation, restoration and management activities;
3. [WELCOMING UNEP/E.A.5/Res.5, which recognizes that nature-based solutions, with their social and environmental safeguards, play an essential role in the overall global effort to

~~achieve the Sustainable Development Goals [restoration and conservation], 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 the supply of water energy, food and fibre, infrastructure, tourism and recreation. These factors are interconnected and strongly influenced by both governance and the adverse impacts of climate change;
5. AWARE THAT cross-sectoral interventions at the regional, national and local levels 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, the private sector and society as a whole through integrated and holistic planning and implementation (GBO 5, 2020). ~~FURTHER NOTES that halting; similarly, changing~~ the drivers of wetland decline requires the implementation-integration of national wetland policies through into more integrated and systematic [national] strategies which contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
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. FURTHER RECALLING the relationship between wetlands and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals-sustainable development, recognized in Resolution XI.21, the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 of the Ramsar Convention and contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, Resolutions XIII.13, 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; and Resolution XIII.20 on promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically associated habitats;
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 policies [strategies and tools];
9. ~~NOTING-NOTICING~~ that Parties have introduced national integrated wetland conservation and restoration frameworks; [at the national or subnational level [reflecting actions among others 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 that integrating of the need to integrate~~ wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies ~~or subnational strategies, as appropriate, may to~~ facilitate coordinated and integrated policies and actions on wetland conservation and restoration with those addressing climate change policies, water quality and quantity and biodiversity loss, agriculture, health, disaster risk reduction, urban development, and poverty eradication, in line with national circumstances and priorities;

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11. ~~ENCOURAGES CALLS upon~~ Parties to integrate ~~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 strategies in line with the 2030 ~~agenda~~ Agenda for Sustainable Development ~~Goals~~, NBSAPs required under the CBD as well as NDCs and adaptation plans under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the UNCCD and its Land Degradation Targets; and

- 11bis ~~ENCOURAGES~~ Parties to integrate existing national wetland policies into national sustainable development strategies, to engage all relevant partners and stakeholders, and, where appropriate, deploying wetland focused [nature-based solutions] and or [ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change, while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human wellbeing benefits, in alignment with Resolution "XIV.XX" (Secretariat, refer to the NbS Resolution)]

- ~~11bis. ENCOURAGES Parties, when integrating existing national wetland policies into national sustainable development strategies, to engage all relevant partners and stakeholders, with a view to generate co-benefits from wetlands [generating co-benefits] [as nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches] [promoting integrated approaches] for adapting to and mitigating climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, disaster risk reduction and poverty alleviation and to promote positive connections harmony between humans [people] 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 ~~advocacy for wetlands and~~ resources, including financing which may require the need to mobilize increased financial resources from all sources, capacity building and exchange of knowledge, in particular for developing country Contracting Parties 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];~~

- 12bis. RECOGNIZES the importance of advocacy for wetlands for the effective integration of wetland conservation, restoration and wise use policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies.

- 12terbis. RECOGNIZES that, in the context of the Convention on Wetlands, sustainable development is consistent with in and supportive of ensuring the conservation and wise use of wetlands through maintaining or enhancing their ecological character;

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 as appropriate;

14. ENCOURAGES Parties to set targets for the management of ~~national~~ wetlands, consider the principles of wise use in spatial and, through land-use planning processes and integrated coastal management to avoid, minimize, or where necessary compensate, minimize the conversion of wetlands, and ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken and measures identified to minimize the impacts of projects on wetland ecosystems, 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;
- 15bis. ENCOURAGES Parties to regularly monitor policies and actions to conserve, restore and sustainably manage wetlands; and RECOGNIZES that effective progress monitoring is dependent upon establishing measurable ~~and time-bound~~ targets in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Convention on Biological Diversity, using appropriate performance indicators using relevant indicators, and ensuring regular progress reporting;
16. ENCOURAGES Parties, where appropriate and in line with national circumstances, to develop ~~international transboundary~~ wetland conservation and restoration, sustainable use and management partnerships, including for transboundary waterbasins and connectivity for migratory species, strategies in collaboration-cooperation with neighbouring countries within the relevant frameworks, ~~such as the UNECE Water Convention~~;
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, including as part of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans under the Convention on Biological Diversity;
18. INVITES International Organization Partners to work with relevant stakeholders to provide support to the integration of develop national wetland policies that integrate wetland conservation and restoration into sustainable development plans and programmes 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), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), other multilateral environmental agreements,~~ and other relevant organizations to promote global mainstreaming of wetland conservation and restoration, sustainable use and management.