

**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.18.22 Rev.1

Note from the Secretariat:

At the resumed session of its 59th meeting, the Standing Committee in Decision SC59/2022-46 agreed to forward the draft resolution on the *Establishment of the International Mangrove Center in the Framework of the Ramsar Convention* in document SC59/2022 Doc.24.16 to COP14 for its consideration, with the entire resolution in square brackets.

**Draft resolution on establishment of the International Mangrove Center
in the framework of the Ramsar Convention**

Submitted by China, cosponsored by Cambodia and Madagascar

1. [RECOGNIZING that mangroves are rich in biodiversity, and provide habitats for 371 endangered species around the world. Mangroves also offer important fishery resources. More than 4.1 million mangrove fishers and associated communities globally depend on mangrove ecosystems for livelihood. It is estimated that mangroves reduce flooding risks to more than 15 million people and prevent more than \$65 billion property damages every year. (The State of the Worlds Mangrove, GMA, 2021). Mangroves are particularly important for small island states and coastal communities in developing nations providing for human health and livelihoods as well as biodiversity and climate solutions.
2. ACKNOWLEDGING mangroves are among the most important coastal blue carbon ecosystems, stocking 1,023 tons of carbon per hectare, which is 3 to 4 times that of tropical forests (IUCN and Ramsar, 2020). Mangroves store approximately 5.73 gigatons of carbon (conversion of 21 gigatons of CO₂, GMA, 2021), with 1.61 gigatons in Ramsar sites of mangrove (GWO 2021).
3. NOTING that the total area of mangroves is 13.8-15.2 million hectares, distributing in 118-124 countries (UN WOA, 2016). However, 35% of the mangrove area was lost in the two decades before 2000 (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005). The losses of mangroves 11,700km² since 1996 to 2020. FURTHER NOTING that over 8183 km² of that loss from 1996 to 2020, are restorable (GMA 2022). According to pilot projects, the full return of ‘highly restorable’ areas could restore or stabilize about 0.35 gigatons of carbon (1.3 gigatons of CO₂, GMA, 2021). However, restoration efforts have failed in many places (GMA 2022).
4. BE AWARE that conservation and restoration of mangroves contributes to the achievement of multiple SDGs, especially SDG 6.6.1 on Water Ecosystems, SDG13 on Climate Action and SDG14 on Life below Water, and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity under the CBD, and the climate

mitigation and adaptation pathways under the UNFCCC, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

5. RECALLING Mangroves are under consistent concerns of the Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution VIII.32 emphasizing the importance of mangrove ecosystems and international cooperation on its conservation, and Resolution XIII.14 and Ramsar Briefing Note 12 calling on Parties to promote conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems, including mangroves. The SC40 approved the Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs in May 2009, which has started regional cooperation in Central and South America.
6. FURTHER RECALLING Article 5 obliges Contracting Parties to consult each other when there is shared water system, global mangroves need strong international cooperation under the Convention for living in connected and shared oceans. Resolution VII.19 provided guidelines including 2.3 Partnership with international/regional environment Conventions and agencies, 2.4 Sharing of expertise and information, and 2.5 International assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The guidelines indicate that expending international cooperation is in line with the mission the Convention.
7. NOTICING that there are various ongoing international initiatives, programmes and organizations on mangroves in other frameworks while none inter-regional is under the Ramsar Convention yet. ALERTING that mangroves are still in the trend of continuous loss and large area of them are restorable, then further impactful actions are needed more than ever before on mangrove conservation and restoration. “There is a need for acceleration.” (GMA 2022)
8. RECOGNIZING the need for building a broad coalition under the Ramsar Convention for all mangrove ecosystems and a more proactive and coordinated action platform, *inter alia* a need for inter-regional mangrove initiative under the Convention; FURTHER RECOGNIZING that enhanced visibility of the Ramsar Convention requires a peer coalition for building the partnerships and networks between/among the Ramsar Convention and other programmes, organizations and initiatives relevant to mangroves.
9. ACKNOWLEDGING that there are inter-regional initiatives aiming at championing the goal and targets of MEAs, which provide templates for an inter-regional mangrove initiative under the Ramsar Convention; i.e., Bio-Bridge initiative (<https://www.cbd.int/biobridge/about>) to enhance technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer, High Ambition Coalition (HAC) (<https://www.hacfornatureandpeople.org/home>) for Nature and People and Global Ocean Alliance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/global-ocean-alliance-30by30-initiative>) championing 30x30 targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
10. ALSO NOTEING that there are platforms providing important technical services to the UN environmental agencies and programmes, such as the UNSCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Center (UNEP-WCMC), such entities setup examples for the Ramsar Convention to strengthen its scientific and technical exchanges.
11. RECOGNIZING that Blue Carbon (Task 5.1) is one of the STRP’s Work Priority for 2023-2025 by Resolution XIV.xx (COP14 Doc.18.17). Implementation and practice in mangroves conservation and restoration will contribute to the work of STRP on Blue Carbon.

12. RECOGNIZING that governments, academia, private sectors, NGOs and the public are all stakeholders in mangroves conservation and wise use. The Ramsar Convention can provide a framework for international cooperation bringing together this broad coalition of stakeholders to support Parties in national policy-making, fund raising, technology development, and knowledge transfer, strengthening the role of governments to address challenges on mangroves in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders.
13. FURTHER RECOGNIZING that establishment of an international mangrove cooperation mechanism in the framework of the Ramsar Convention will fill the gap of inter-regional coalition that 1) Builds inter-regional mangrove cooperation under the Convention; 2) Enhances the partnerships and networks between the Ramsar Convention and other ongoing global and regional mangrove initiatives; 3) Sets up a platform to provide intellectual support, technical services and knowledge transfer in mangroves for the Contracting Parties; 4) Conduct joint actions and field projects on mangrove conservation, restoration and wise use.
14. EMPHASIZING that the theme of Ramsar Convention COP14 is “Wetland Actions for People and Nature”. Actions are never so significant to implement UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration and UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, as well as Paris Agreement of UNFCCC, the Global Biodiversity Framework and 2050 Vision, G20 Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation and Enhancing Conservation of Terrestrial Habitats and G20 Global Initiative on Mangrove Management and Rehabilitation. Mangroves are essential ecosystems in global environmental agendas. At the 50th Anniversary of the UN Conference on Environment and “the Big Year of Environment”, when UN Environment, UN Water, UN Ocean, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD, and CITES have their conferences, an action for mangroves taken by the Ramsar Convention COP14 will contribute to raise the visibility of the Ramsar Convention and synergy with UN bodies and other MEAs in global environmental governance.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

15. WELCOME the offer of China to establish an International Mangrove Center in Shenzhen in the framework of the Ramsar Convention, and provide funding for a secretariat, logistics, joint activities and projects by Shenzhen Municipal Government. The Center, with voluntary membership, will serve as the inter-regional technical platform for international mangrove cooperation without demand of core budget of the Ramsar Convention.
16. INVITES interested Contracting Parties, relevant NGOs, and civil societies to establish an International Steering Committee during a 2-year inception phase to define the mission, mandate and ToR, structure, governance, operation, administration, budget and other business of International Mangrove Center under the principle of openness and transparency.
17. ENCOURAGES the International Mangrove Center to closely communicate and cooperate with other ongoing or in-preparation mangrove initiatives and make sure complementarity, including but not limited to the Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs, the World Mangrove Center (Indonesia), Mangrove Alliance for Climate (UAE), Global Mangrove Alliance and its partners, and Global Mangrove Breakthrough.
18. SUGGESTS the International Mangrove Center to act as a mangrove wetland coalition to enhance the implementation of the Ramsar Convention through knowledge transfer, technical exchanges, collaborative research, education and training, and collaborative action projects on conservation, restoration and wise use of mangroves.

19. INVITES the STRP to share scientific and technical support to the International Mangrove Center, and the CEPA Oversight Panel to join CEPA actions on mangroves.
20. INVITES the Secretariat to join the Steering Committee and provide assistance for the engagement of the International Mangrove Center with the Ramsar Convention.]