

**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.18.9

Note from the Secretariat:

At the resumed session of its 59th meeting, the Standing Committee in Decision SC59/2022-34 asked the Secretariat to revise the draft resolution in document SC59 Doc.21.1 Rev.1 ensuring that the original text of the draft resolution prepared by the Working Group will be retained as well as the alternative text proposed by the contact group. Any text not in the original draft should be placed in square brackets. All references to “shall” in the document will be removed. The Standing Committee agreed to forward the draft resolution to COP14 for its consideration.

This document has been prepared on the basis of the above decision. Original text of the draft resolution prepared by the Working Group that is proposed to be deleted is retained in square brackets and any text not in the original draft is underlined and placed in square brackets.

Draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives [2022-2024] – [Operational Guidelines]

1. RECALLING that Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) under the Ramsar Convention, which include regional centres for training and capacity building and regional networks to facilitate cooperation, are intended as an operational means to provide effective support for improved implementation of the Convention and its strategic plan in specific geographic regions, through voluntary international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern;
2. RECALLING that the Conference of the Contracting Parties [through different Resolutions] has recognized the importance of RRIs in promoting the objectives of the Convention [and sought to strengthen links between RRIs and matters that fall within the scope of the Convention];
3. ALSO RECALLING that at its 13th meeting (COP13), the Conference of the Parties instructed the Secretariat’s legal advisor to conduct a review of relevant Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions, identifying those that were inconsistent with Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021* and relevant Decisions, and propose which should be repealed;
4. FURTHER RECALLING that at COP13, the Conference of the Parties through Resolution XIII.9 re-established the Ramsar Regional Initiative Working Group and instructed it to draft new operational guidelines for RRIs, as well as a draft resolution on RRIs which *inter alia* incorporated the aforementioned list of Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions to be repealed, and that both were endorsed by SC59;

5. [RECOGNIZING the need to keep long-lived decision on RRIs in a separate resolution that is updated only when needed, and that short-lived decisions related to RRIs will be better off in separate resolutions, that can be retired quickly. This to minimize the need for updating and consolidation processes;]
6. [STATES that this resolution on RRIs is containing long-lived decisions on the operational guidelines for RRIs only. The resolution is valid until it is retired. Decisions that are specific for the time between two COPS (most often a triennium) are found in a separate short-lived resolution and are to be applied as well;]
7. [INFORMS that the retirement of older resolutions and SC-decision about RRIs is addressed in resolution XIV¹, and that all old resolutions and SC-decision with RRIs as the main focus have been retired;]

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

8. EXPRESSES its gratitude to the Ramsar Regional Initiative Working Group for their work on drafting new operational guidelines for RRIs;
9. ADOPTS the *Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives* contained in Annex 1 of this Resolution to support the implementation of the Convention [for the period 2022-2024 which shall serve as a reference to assess the operation of Regional Initiatives and their success]. These *Operational Guidelines* supersede the operational guidelines adopted in 2016 through Decision SC52-16 and contained in document SC52-22;
10. REAFFIRMS the effectiveness of regional cooperation through networks and centres, grouped under the term RRIs, in supporting improved implementation of the Convention on Wetlands and its Strategic Plan and Resolutions;
11. [ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to establish RRIs in parts of the world where no such exist yet and would be an opportunity to increase implementation of the Convention;]
12. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to invite regional intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations, organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities, and transboundary river and groundwater basin organizations, to participate in or collaborate with RRIs;
13. RECOGNIZES the [potentiality of] [potential] cooperation within the framework of RRIs in wetlands ecosystems or watersheds shared by Contracting Parties that allows a comprehensive vision of the territory, favouring dialogue, coordination and cooperation between the parties involved;
14. [NOTES that dialogue and coordination between Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay regarding the development of an integrated vision for the Pantanal region is underway; and ENCOURAGES the integration of this vision into the RRI for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin in coordination with Argentina and Uruguay;]
15. DECIDES that [[the Conference of the Contracting Parties is to review existing RRIs against the Operational Guidance for Ramsar Regional Initiatives and the criteria set out in this paragraph at [each meeting of] the [COP14] [Conference of the Parties] to determine if they can be

¹ See Annex 5 below *Proposed draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives – addressing old decisions*.

endorsed as operating within the framework of the Convention. FURTHER DECIDES that the Standing Committee is to perform this function intersessionally. [The Standing Committee with help of the Secretariat is also to monitor the impact of the new Operational Guidance and suggest possible amendments of major nature to COP15]. The criteria based on Resolution XIII.9 are as follows]] [[all RRIs should comply with the following criteria based on Resolution XIII.9 to be formally recognized as an RRI under the Convention]]:

- a. RRIs [must] ~~shall~~ develop written terms of reference which are consistent with relevant Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee. These terms of reference must cover their own rules of procedure, structure, governance and membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation [as advisory] in the RRI;
 - b. The governance and financial structures and activities of RRIs [must] ~~shall~~ be transparent, accountable, compliant with relevant laws [of the host country] and consistent with relevant Resolutions [and Recommendations] of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee;
 - c. RRIs [should] ~~shall~~ undertake tasks related to the implementation of the Convention and its strategic plan in their region and can speak in their own name only, using their own logo [only], to avoid any confusion between RRIs, Ramsar Administrative Authorities at the national level and the Secretariat at the international level;
 - d. [New RRIs shall submit to the Standing Committee through the Secretariat, according to the format in Annex 2 of this resolution, *Template for proposed new regional initiatives*, to be endorsed either by the Standing Committee, or the Conference of Parties];
 - e. RRIs [must] ~~shall~~ submit [to] [an annual report to the Standing Committee through] the Secretariat, according to the format in Annex 3 of this Resolution approved by the Standing Committee [and on an annual basis:
 - i. details of compliance with sub-paragraphs a, b and c;
 - ii. a report of progress on their work;
 - iii. an end-of year financial summary; and
 - iv. a work plan and budget for the following year];
16. The RRIs that satisfy the *Operational Guidelines* are approved by the COP or the Standing Committee as operating within the framework of the Convention for the period between two meetings of the COP, and receive the status of a Ramsar Regional Initiative or, if existing, will have their status confirmed.
17. [REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide the Conference of the Parties and Standing Committee with the information obtained under paragraph 15(d) so as to assist these bodies with their reviews of RRIs (as per para.15 and decisions regarding funding (as per paras.29 and 31));]
18. [INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to provide the Conference of the Parties and Standing Committee a summary of the information obtained from the annual reports so as to assist these bodies for their reviews on RRIs and decisions regarding funding;]
19. [INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to prepare a summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the RRIs operating during the period 2021-2024 for consideration by the Standing Committee and submission to COP15;]
20. [REQUEST Ramsar Regional Initiatives seeking to obtain domestic or international legal personality to inform the Secretariat in order to undertake a risk-benefit analysis (including of

legal issues) to the Convention and the Secretariat in relation to the concerned RRI for COP consideration;]

21. [FURTHER REQUEST, RRIs with current domestic or international legal personality to report to the Secretariat any changes in their legal personality for COP consideration;]
22. [INSTRUCTS all Ramsar Regional Initiatives approved by the Convention to submit to the Standing Committee annual reports on their progress and operations, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines and according to paragraph 15 (d);]
23. REQUESTS the Secretariat to [contact] [warn] RRIs that [fail to] [do not] submit annual reports for one year and request to submit the relevant reports and FURTHER REQUESTS the Standing Committee to consider the [withdrawal of] endorsement of RRIs that have not submitted annual reports for two consecutive years as operating within the framework of the Convention;
24. [REQUESTS that the Standing Committee review the Secretariat's annual report on assessment of the RRIs and take proper actions for the ones not in line with above mentioned criteria. Proper actions are to ask for change and if the RRI gets financial support from the Convention make proper decisions on that and future support. Finally the Standing Committee may ask the next COP not to endorse failing RRIs as RRIs;]
25. [DECIDES that financial support for Ramsar Regional Initiatives that meet the Operational Guidelines eligible for start-up financial support can be obtained for a period of up to six years in total corresponding to the interval between two meetings of the COP;]
26. [NOTES that new RRIs that have been endorsed as operating within the framework of the Convention are eligible for start-up financial support from the Ramsar Convention core budget;]
27. [NOTING that Resolution XIV.x on *Financial and budgetary matters* includes within the Convention core budget for 2022-2024 a budget line "Support to Ramsar Regional Initiatives", to provide start-up support for the running costs of new RRIs;]
28. [DECIDES that financial support for Ramsar Regional Initiatives that meet the Operational Guidelines eligible for start-up financial support can be obtained for a period of up to six years in total corresponding to the interval between two meetings of the COP;]
29. DECIDES that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to eligible RRIs [for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024] will be determined annually by the Standing Committee, based on the information submitted by RRIs to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 15 (d), and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance to the Standing Committee;
30. [DECIDES that the RRI requesting for core funds by Ramsar Regional Initiatives [must] [shall] include a rationale about how the RRI supports Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and its Resolutions and guidance, according to the format in Annex 2 of this Resolution, and ALSO DECIDES that the model contract in Annex 4 of this Resolution has to be signed by the RRI when receiving funds from the Convention;]
31. URGES RRIs that receive financial support from the core budget to consider using part of this support to achieve financial sustainability funding through financial support from other sources,

- including donors that are willing to support RRIs through specific projects and cooperation programmes particularly during the last years in which they qualify for such support;
32. [FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and INVITES other potential donors, bilateral or multilateral, to support RRIs, whether or not they are also receiving funding through the Convention's core budget; and INVITES Contracting Parties that are geographically related to an RRI to consider giving either financial or in kind support, as appropriate;]
 33. [FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to consider giving financial support to RRIs or their specific activities, either as member of an RRI or as a donor country, as appropriate;]
 34. INVITES the Convention's International Organization Partners and other stakeholders to partner with and support RRIs in their undertakings, including in particular through capacity building and fundraising efforts;
 35. [ENCOURAGES RRIs to contact the Secretariat when in need of advice the Secretariat may provide, or in other situations where contact with the Secretariat may be appropriate;]
 36. [INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to limit their support to future and existing RRIs, to be advisory only. The advice should be focused on how to reinforce the RRIs capacity and effectiveness as well as fund-raising. The Secretariat is not to be involved in the administration of the RRI, the RRIs' projects or any day-to-day tasks that are to be run by the RRIs;]
 37. [REQUESTS that the RRIs maintain active and regular contact with the Secretariat; and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to advise RRIs on how to reinforce their capacity and effectiveness, including in relation to the alignment of RRIs with the Convention's Strategic Plan and CEPA Programme;]
 38. [INVITES the Contracting Parties and RRIs to consider the Resolutions in Annex 2 which include paragraphs of relevance to RRIs and REQUESTS the Secretariat to assist RRIs to identify any tasks which remain incomplete;]
 39. [REAFFIRMS the decision taken by the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties that request the Secretariat, within its existing legal framework and mandate, to assist Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in the administration of non-core funded projects, including, but not limited to, successful fundraising for RRIs; and FURTHER INSTRUCTS Secretariat staff in positions identified in Annex 4 as supported with core funds not to be involved in the day-to-day administration of non-core funded projects, these being the responsibility of any Secretariat staff in positions supported with non-core funds for that specific purpose;]
 40. [FURTHER REQUESTS] [INSTRUCTS] that the Secretariat continue publishing on the Convention's website information provided by the RRIs, including on-going projects and reports on their successes [and work plans] [, work plans and other relevant information on RRIs as appropriate;]
 41. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to [publicize] [inform] RRIs at the global level as a mechanism to promote international cooperation and support for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, to complement the efforts of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and the National Focal Points at the national level;

42. [[ENCOURAGES] RRI to adopt participatory monitoring programs as a strategy of ownership, adaptive management and dissemination of the progress and results of their management;]
43. [URGES that the RRI develop within their program of activities, proposals for strengthening capacities in the different areas of interest [, for those involved in the IRR];]
44. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to open the call for proposals for new RRI, to be endorsed by the Conference of the Parties [at COP15 and submit the relevant information for Standing Committee consideration at its meetings before COP15] [or intersessionally by the Standing Committee]. The request for consideration by the Standing Committee will follow the template attached as [annex 1 to the Operational Guidelines] [Annex 2 to this Resolution];
45. [The Standing Committee with help of the Secretariat is also to monitor the impact of the new Operational Guidance and suggest possible amendments of major nature to COP15;]
46. [ENDORSES the existing RRI listed below as operating in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands until COP15:

Four regional Ramsar centres for training and capacity building:

- Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA)
- Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO)
- Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA)
- Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RRC-EA); and

Sixteen Ramsar networks for regional cooperation:

- Ramsar Regional Initiative for West African Coastal Zone Wetlands (WaCoWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Niger River Basin (NigerWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin
- Caribbean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (CariWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin
- East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia
- Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative
- Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet)
- Carpathian Wetland Ramsar Regional Initiative (CWI)
- Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (NorBalWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet)
- The Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative (pending consideration of SC59);]

47. [URGES the proper articulation between the IRRs in geographical and thematic terms to ensure the implementation of their action plans in an articulated manner;]
48. [DECIDES that the Resolution and Recommendations in Annex 3 are repealed.]

Annex 1

Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention

1. Regional Initiatives (RRIs) under the Convention on Wetlands are intended as operational means to provide effective support for an improved implementation of the objectives [and decisions] of the Convention [and] [, especially tasks mentioned in plans or programmes of the Convention, in line with] its Strategic Plan.
2. The Operational Guidelines (OG) are an effort to ensure that the RRIs are [indeed] actively supporting Contracting Parties with a common interest in a particular area, region or ecosystem, to protect wetlands into the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands framework. [They also support risk² reduction, providing and visualizing possible actions to be implemented by regions and strengthening the objectives of the Convention in all aspects once these RRIs become operational.]
3. [Furthermore, the new Operational Guidelines are intended to make clear that neither the Contracting Parties nor the RRIs they are involved in can speak on the behalf of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; they can represent themselves only. This will help reduce risks for the Convention in every aspect of the operations of the RRIs.]
4. The RRIs have various types of governance and coordination approaches, as well as operational and financial management practices. [At this time, some of them don't seem to be as strong as they could be.] [RRIs can be a regional centre or a network, or a mixtures of both, can be cooperation networks not having a legal status or be established organisations of their own with their own legal status, and can have different kinds of governance and coordination approaches.]
5. The Operational Guidelines aim at ensuring that the Contracting Parties at COP provide greater recognition and a stronger formal endorsement to those well performing RRIs, [based on regular external assessments and audits]. This type of recognition will facilitate their efforts in resource mobilization and obtaining more support from third parties, including donors willing to fund regional projects for improved implementation of [strategic priorities of] the Convention in the various regions. Additionally, it is as important that the COP is made aware of challenges faced by some RRIs.
6. The Operational Guidelines should be considered as a guide for the sustainability of RRIs, [and everything that allows] [allowing] them to ensure their long-term effectiveness.
7. Those proposing new regional initiatives [will be encouraged to first assess lessons learned by existing RRIs to avoid duplication of efforts and mistakes. The template for new regional initiatives is attached as annex 1 to this Operational Guidelines.] [are to apply to the Standing Committee or the COP through the Secretariat to become an RRI. The application will include the information following the template in Annex 2 of this Resolution.]

[² An uncertain event or set of events which, should it occur, will have an effect on the achievement of objectives]

8. [Taking into consideration that there are two main distinctive types of coordination structures³ of RRIs, specific paragraphs that only apply to those RRIs with independent Secretariats are presented in Annex 2 of this guidelines.]
9. [In order to help make the RRIs fully complying with all requirement be visible as a part of the Ramsar Convention, a certificate shall be given for the approved period by the Convention. The certificate will be provided by the Secretariat, signed by the Secretary General.]

Chapter 1: The aim and scope of Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs)

10. Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) [have to be endorsed by the Conference of the Parties (COP), or interessionally by the Standing Committee if they are new and are subject to review at each COP. They] [are to] [~~shall~~] support the operational implementation of the Convention and [be in line with] its Strategic Plan in the geographical area they are covering. RRIs improve implementation of the Convention through international cooperation within the region on wetland-related issues of common concern, involving relevant stakeholders.
11. RRIs could either be physically established centres that have a regional training or capacity building programme, regional cooperation networks with no physical centre, or a combination of both.
12. Geographical regions to be covered by RRIs are defined according to the wetland-related needs of the relevant actors in their region. RRIs are intended to provide lasting structural and operational support to facilitate and improve the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the region concerned.

Chapter 2: Governance and functioning of the RRIs

13. Contracting Parties have the main responsibility to create, manage, develop, supervise and coordinate the functioning of the RRI and establish their coordinating unit. Much of this responsibility be delegated to a centre or similar.
14. All Contracting Parties that are members of a given RRI are encouraged to participate in the activities carried out during the year, according to the established workplan. When this is not the case, the coordination body of the RRI will lead a process to promote the active participation of the Contracting Parties.
15. RRIs establish their own governance and advisory mechanisms in order to provide leadership, coordination, guidance and accountability in a transparent and equitable manner. This requires the establishment of a governing body made up of the participating Contracting Parties and other relevant stakeholders, and a coordination body. The coordination body and governance mechanisms of each RRI are defined in its operative rules and [[are encouraged to have] [should encourage] the active participation of all Contracting Parties members of the initiative] [all Contracting Parties involved to the RRIs are encouraged to actively participate into the activities].
16. The governing body meets regularly, guides, defines mandates, rules and principles of procedure, decides on how different work task for the activities of the RRI are to be distributed, monitors its activities work programme and its resources, and [publicly] provides all its

[³ 1- RRIs coordinated by a Contracting Party; 2- RRIs coordinated by an independent Secretariat]

members with relevant information. The operational procedures are made available to the public for example at the individual RRI website or RRI webpage on the Convention's website.

17. All Contracting Parties who are members of an RRI are encouraged to contribute to the RRI, either by financial and/or in-kind resources for each triennium as appropriate.
18. RRIs may request assistance from the [Convention] Secretariat in order to [advise,] strengthen their capacity and effectiveness, including [through] the mobilization of additional resources. The COP [must] ~~[shall]~~ be informed about the support activities [that it has requested or possibly received] [of the Secretariat to the RRIs] during the triennium.
19. RRIs are encouraged to use the best work tools available for them, [(] this [also] include the existing Convention tools [(] in particular the technical annexes of the resolutions, manuals, guidelines, methods, etc. when appropriate [)]. They are to be in contact, where considered fruitful, with Ramsar national focal points for the Convention, including those for CEPA and STRP, of the relevant Parties and when appropriate have these focal points included actively in the work of the RRI.
20. The Secretariat of the Convention and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) may be invited to assist in the review of training modules developed by RRIs to ensure quality and that contents are aligned with approved global tools and are well adapted to regional contexts. The RRIs can also seek assistance from wetland experts, as well as wetland practitioners, for the review of training modules and related publications. On other capacity building activities, details about the number of individuals or organisations that benefitted from the undertaken activities, and results of any evaluations undertaken will be included in the annual reports, to be able to assess impact.
21. RRIs are encouraged to work in synergy with other initiatives [and / or] [.] projects [and / or] [and] programmes of other international agreements such as CBD, CCD, CMS, [UNFCCC], CITES, among others, and to ensure compliance with the activities set out in the annual plans in order to strengthen regional ties and optimize institutional resources.

Chapter 3: Status of the RRIs

22. On-going RRIs are endorsed by the COP. New RRIs are endorsed at the COP or intersessionally by the Standing Committee, provided that their establishment is justified as a response to the needs of the regions and that they comply with existing resolutions and decisions on RRIs [according to the format of Annex 2].
23. [New RRI must be presented to the COP, or inter-sessionally by Standing Committee, by a Ramsar Convention State Party, which is part of and represents this new RRI, in order to formalize its approval and operation. This establishment must be justified as a response to the regional needs and according to the existing resolution/documents on RRI.]
24. RRIs [do not form] [are a part of the Ramsar Convention, but not a] part of the Secretariat of the Convention or of any national authority or organization that may provide them with support or hosting arrangements. The RRIs are encouraged to establish their own identity, which specifies their independence, their status and role. They apply relevant provisions of national legislation and seek to obtain a formal recognition in their host country.

25. RRIs include Contracting Parties and can act on their behalf only by express mandate of their constituents, and in no instance will they be considered as a regional office of the Convention or as spokespersons or representatives of the Secretariat of the Convention.
26. RRIs are requested to adopt their own logo and to use it in combination with the Convention logo in accordance with current guidelines.
27. An active RRI website could be useful to provide visibility to the RRI and including evidence of the communication efforts during the previous year in the annual reports would be beneficial.

Chapter 4: Participation in RRIs

28. The Coordination body is encouraged to organize periodic meetings, ensuring timely planning and full involvement of Contracting Party members and the Secretariat of the Convention.
29. [Meetings with the purpose of exchanging experiences every two/three years will be held, with the assistance and advice of the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands. The meetings should involve all members of the RRI and other relevant stakeholders, (Ministries, Governmental Organizations, International Organization Partners (IOPs) to the Convention on Wetlands),] [The Coordination body is encouraged to organize meetings for the purpose of exchanging experiences, which involve relevant stakeholders, such as Ministries, Governmental Organizations, International Organization Partners (IOPs) to the Convention on Wetlands,] other non-governmental organizations and civil society, universities, local communities and the private sector, as well as CEPA and STRP national focal points of the Convention. [These meetings should be prepared and announced to the members of the initiative, and to the Secretariat of the Convention, in good time and with concrete objectives and expected results.]
30. Effective partnerships with Convention IOPs and other relevant regional or global organisations should be promoted. [The governing body should ensure that the planning of the yearly workplan and the strategic plan involves the relevant partners in the annual report submitted to the Secretariat.] [The Coordination body shall develop an annual workplan and its strategic plan in consultation with relevant partners.]

Chapter 5: Relation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and the RRIs

31. Effective and frequent communication and coordination between the RRI and the Secretariat is important. [RRIs will ensure that the planning of the yearly workplan and the strategic plan involves the Ramsar Secretariat of the Convention along with other key stakeholders.]
32. [RRIs [should] [shall] be encouraged to invite the Secretariat at least once a year.]
33. For RRIs with a mandate to support World Wetlands Day, it is recommended [they inform the Secretariat of the Convention about the relevant activities organised] [to include the relevant activities organized to the Standing Committee in its annual report through the Secretariat].

Chapter 6: The role of the RRIs to implement the Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan

34. The work programme of each RRI is aligned with the approved Strategic Plan of the Convention. [The RRIs ensure that their documents are based upon implementing the Convention's Strategic Plan.]

35. [The RRIs ensure that specific goals and targets of the Convention's Strategic Plan are integrated in the annual workplans and RRI strategic plans, as well as clarifying in the annual reports how the initiative has contributed to meeting the goals/targets.]
36. [RRIs that have not contributed effectively to achieving the targets of the Strategic Plan in as] [RRIs that implement their workplan ineffectively in a] given triennium will be reminded by the Standing Committee of the possibility of not being endorsed as RRIs in the succeeding triennium [, if they fall short of the requirements].
37. RRIs are encouraged to include specific activities related to CEPA in the annual work programme and/or projects. RRIs are invited to ask different kinds of CEPA experts for advice [regarding the works that are related to specific goals and targets of the Convention's Strategic Plan and also to] [and] investigate if there are lessons learnt by other RRIs or Contracting Parties having similar wetland conditions [or if there are CEPA tools/information that can be re-cycled or slightly adapted, instead of starting their CEPA activities from scratch].

Chapter 7: Financing of the RRIs

38. RRIs have their own systems for accounting and presenting reports, overseen by their governing bodies, unless they are part of one or several of the Contracting Parties' accounting and reporting systems.
39. All participating Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide assistance to RRIs, and donors are encouraged to provide funds for their activities, for example through financing provided by specific projects or programmes.
40. The financial section of the annual report includes information on: number of Contracting Parties contributing in-kind or financial resources to the implementation of the initiative; number of other partners contributing to the initiative; expenditures against individual activities and results; as well as the amounts of the financial contributions.
41. RRIs take the necessary measures to establish financial sustainability with resources allowing for the development of their activities over the long term.
42. If lacking reliable resources, RRIs are encouraged to prepare a resource mobilization strategy to facilitate the implementation of their annual workplans. RRIs can request support to the Ramsar Secretary to help their effort to find external financial resources.
43. [The RRIs, receiving core budget from the Convention on Wetlands, are requested to submit the financial audit reports to the Standing Committee as part of the annual report.]
44. Each COP establishes a core budget line to support new RRIs over the coming triennium. The Standing Committee allocates these funds annually, in response to specific requests, to new RRIs that fulfil the Operational Guidelines.
45. The RRI is expected to be self-sufficient after [a few years] have received financial assistance provided from the core budget of the Convention.
46. RRIs support the Contracting Parties in the development of project proposals in the framework of the work plan of the RRI [to implement] [in line with] the Strategic Plan₂ aiming at obtaining financial support from donors.

Chapter 8: Reporting and evaluation of the RRIs

47. RRIs are requested to submit to the [Standing Committee through the] [Ramsar] Secretariat annual reports on progress regarding the workplan implementation and financial status of the past year according to the format [adopted by Standing Committee] [of the Annex 3].
48. The RRIs that are receiving financial support from the Convention are requested to submit the workplan implementation and costs incurred in the past year, together with estimated costs, potential sources of funding and work plans for the coming year, according to the format [adopted by Standing Committee] [of the Annex 3]. A summary of Convention and other funding sources is reported. Annual reports [must] [shall] reach the Secretariat [in time for the preparation] [60 days before the Standing Committee for the preparation by the Secretariat] of the documents for the annual meeting of Standing Committee.
49. The draft on the annual report and the work programme for the coming year has to be endorsed by [all the Administrative Authorities of the Contracting Parties members of the RRI for consultation] [the governing body of the RRI], in order to be sent to the Secretariat.
50. The annual report format is attached as Annex 3.

[Appendix 1 to the Operational Guidelines] [Annex 2 to the draft resolution]
Template for proposed new regional initiatives

1. Name of RRI.
2. Contracting Parties who are members of the initiative shall provide a letter of commitment before every COP, indicating their financial contribution to the initiative, as well as designating the official in the Government that will be the focal point for it during the following triennium.
3. Description of expected coordination body and potential host.
4. Type of RRI: Regional Centre or Regional network, or a combination thereof, with a brief description.
5. Objectives of the RRI [and rationale about how the RRI supports Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and its resolutions and guidance].
6. Describe the main objective to be reached with this RRI indicating the geographical area, region and/or ecosystems to be covered.
7. Please clearly identify the Goals and Targets of the Convention's Strategic Plan that will be supported through the RRI.
8. Please include names of relevant IOPs and other NGOs that would like to participate in the initiative.
9. Please name other potentially relevant partners and describe how they have participated in the preparation of the workplan and what role you expect them to assume if the RRI is endorsed.
10. Potential sources of funding for the RRI.
11. A Workplan and budget for the following three years (CHF/year) – as an attachment.
12. Confirm whether you plan to open an independent Bank account for the initiative.

[Appendix 2 to the Operational Guidelines]
Special requirements for RRI with independent Secretariats

1. RRI are encouraged to assess compliance with the existing ToR/statutes every three years, inform the Administrative Authorities for the Contracting Parties being members of the RRI and do updates the TOR/Status based on the results of the assessments.
2. The Secretariat of the Convention should be fully involved in the annual meetings of the coordinating unit of RRI.
3. Each RRI coordination body should have as a minimum one working meeting per year with the relevant Secretariat staff. The purpose of these meetings should be to keep the information among the members of the RRI updated, regarding the follow-up of the agenda of their activities and the budget, in order to agree on the annual report to be submitted to the Ramsar Secretariat.
4. Financial audited reports for all cash contributions received are shared with the Secretariat on a yearly basis.]

Annex 3 to the draft resolution New reporting format for Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Note by the Secretariat: At the resumed session of its 59th meeting, the Standing Committee in Decision SC59/2022-08, approved the new reporting format for Ramsar Regional Initiatives contained in Annex 2 of document SC58 Doc.22.2 which is included below.

Template, Annual reporting and planning for the coming year

(Please do not change the format)

Annual report for year XXXX and plan for year XXXX
(6 pages maximum)
Submission deadline: XX January XXXX

NOTE – to complete this template, please refer to the attached explanation

1. General information

- a. Name of Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI):
- b. Have the terms of reference (TORs) or equivalent documents been updated? Yes / No
(If yes, please provide the web link to the PDF version for the updated document(s).)

NOTE: Following [Resolution XIII.9 paragraph 8](#), TORs or equivalent documents must be developed, which contain rules of procedure, structure, governance and membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation in the RRI, and which should be consistent with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties.

- c. Is the RRI eligible for core funding from the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands?
Yes / No

NOTE: Eligible RRIs are (1) Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin, (2) Regional Initiative for Central Asia, (3) Indo-Burma Regional Initiative, and (4) Regional initiative for the Senegal River Basin ([Decision SC52-19](#)). Concerning RRIs in Africa, following [Resolution XIII.2 paragraph 24](#), the RRIs in Africa are invited to submit requests as part of reports to access available balance of the African voluntary contribution on an annual basis, in accordance with the provisions of Resolution XIII.9.

2. Work and activities undertaken during year XXXX

Provide a summary of the work undertaken by listing in the table below the Initiative’s activities, the results achieved, verifiable indicators, sources of information to verify achievements, and relevant Goals in the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 to analyse tasks in relation to the implementation of the Convention ([Resolution XIII.9, Paragraphs 8, e](#)). (Please refer to the Ramsar Strategic Plan: http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop12_res02_strategic_plan_e_0.pdf)

Objectives	Activities	Results/ outcomes	Verifiable indicators	Means of verification / source of information	Relevant Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals
1. Objective one	1.1 Activity undertaken	Completed / Not Completed Outcomes:			
	1.2 Activity undertaken	Completed / Not Completed Outcomes:			
2. Objective two					

3. Key achievements / results during year XXXX

- a. Please describe briefly the two or three main achievements / results during year XXXX (max. 200 words).

- b. For those RRIs receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX , if there were changes to the work plan for year XXXX, including postponement or delay, please indicate the reasons (max. 200 words).

--

- c. Please describe briefly the two or three main challenges and lessons learned and planned measures to overcome or apply those (max. 200 words).

--

4. Financial report for year XXXX

Provide financial information on income and expenditure. If a currency other than Swiss francs (CHF) is used, please write each income or expenditure in the currency used and use the current exchange rate to convert the total sum to CHF.

For those RRIs receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget for year XXXX: _____ (CHF) (as submitted in last year's plan)

Details of sources of income and amounts:

Sources of income	Income received
Ramsar core budget	amount
Other sources (please be specific, such as donor's name, project name)	amount
Total (CHF)	(Total amount should be in CHF)

Detailed expenditure:

Budget Items	Planned expenditure	Actual expenditure	Sources of income
1.1 activity			
1.2 activity			
Administration			
Total (CHF)	(Total amount should be in CHF)	(Total amount should be in CHF)	

Certified by (person in charge of financial management) on (date)

Financial balance at 31 December XXXX:

Total amount of unspent and/or uncommitted balance to be carried over to YYYY (the coming year), or deficit: _____ (CHF)

(Please remove either unspent and/or uncommitted balance or deficit as applicable)

- a. If there is an unspent and/or uncommitted balance, please explain how it will be used for the coming year.
- b. Please explain how the funding has been spent or committed, and compare this to the plan on which the funding request was based. Explain any significant changes in scope or timetable.

For those RRIs not receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget for year XXXX: _____ (CHF) (as submitted in last year's plan)

Details of sources of income and amounts:

Sources of income *	Income received
Name of income sources	amount
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF

Detailed expenditure:

Budget Items	Planned expenditure	Actual expenditure (CHF)
1.1 activity		
1.2 activity		
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF	Total amount should be in CHF

Certified by (person in charge of financial management) on (date)

Total amount of unspent and/or uncommitted balance to be carried over to YYYY (the coming year), or deficit: _____ (CHF)

(Please remove either unspent and/or uncommitted balance or deficit as applicable)

**If the RRI cannot disclose financial details, please share the audit reports or financial reports which were submitted to the governance bodies with the Secretariat. Please note that the Secretariat needs to provide such information to the Standing Committee and the Conference of Contracting Parties to ensure the recognized RRI's financial accountability, in accordance with [Resolution XIII.9 paragraph 8.d](#).*

5. Work and activities planned for (coming year YYYY)

Provide a summary of the work planned by listing the Initiative's activities, the results expected, verifiable indicators, sources of information to verify the achievement, and relevant strategic goals according to the format below:

Objectives	Activities	Expected results/ outcomes	Verifiable indicators	Means of verification / source of information	Relevant Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals (link)
1. Objective one	1.1 Activity planned				
	1.2 Activity planned				
2. Objective two					

6. Financial plan for year XXXX

Provide financial information on forecasted/budgeted expenditure and income. If a currency other than Swiss francs (CHF) is used, please write each income or expenditure in the currency used and use the current exchange rate to convert the total sum to CHF.

For those RRIs receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the tables below.

Total planned budget: _____ (CHF)

Details of planned income sources and amount:

Sources of income	Forecast / budgeted income
Ramsar core budget	amount (currency)
Other sources (please be specific if possible, such as donor's name, project name)	amount (currency)
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF

Details of planned expenditure:

Activities	Planned expenditure	Sources of Income
1.1 activity	amount (currency)	

1.2 activity		
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF	

This report is certified by (Responsible person for your RRI) on (date)

For those RRIs not receiving funding from the Convention in XXXX, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget: _____ (CHF)

Details of planned income sources and amount:

Sources of income	Forecast / budgeted income
Name of income sources	amount (currency)
Total	Total amount should be in CHF

Details of planned expenditure:

Activities	Planned expenditure	Sources of income *
1.1 activity	amount (currency)	Name of sources
1.2 activity		
Total (CHF)	Total amount should be in CHF	

This report is certified by (Responsible person for your RRI) on (date)

Explanatory notes

1. Terms of reference of RRIs

Following [Resolution XIII.9 paragraph 8](#), RRIs must develop terms of reference, which cover their own rules of procedure, structure, governance, membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation in the RRI, and which should be consistent with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of Parties ([Resolution XIII.9](#)). Equivalent documents must cover the same items.

2. Eligible for core funding from the Secretariat

Following the Operational Guidelines (2016-2018), financial assistance to an RRI from the core budget is provided for a limited period of time, in principle only for a period corresponding to [Resolution XIII.9 paragraph 8.g](#)). Eligible RRIs are (1) Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin, (2) Regional Initiative for Central Asia, (3) Indo-Burma Regional Initiative, and (4) Regional initiative for the Senegal River Basin (endorsed through [Decision SC52-20](#) in 2016).

Concerning RRIs in Africa, following [Resolution XIII.2 paragraph 24](#), the RRIs in Africa are invited to submit requests as part of reports to access available balance of the African voluntary contribution on an annual basis, in accordance with the provisions of [Resolution XIII.9](#).

3. Items in activity tables

To fill out the table for undertaken activities and planned activities, please make sure that "Objectives", "Activities", "Results/outcomes", "Verifiable indicators" and "Means of verification / source of information" are consistent with the submitted plan for the year.

- Objectives: Please indicate a specific statement narrating a desired accomplishment or outcome (e.g. to improve capacity of the RRI members in the management of wetlands).
- Results/outcomes: Please indicate whether planned activities are completed or not. If you organized a workshop/seminar/training course, please specify the number of attendees including gender information (e.g. XX trainings were organized, XX people attended (XX women, XX men)). This information will enable assessment of achievements and results.
- Verifiable indicators: Indicators are to measure progress and achievement. Please include indicators to verify to what extent progress is being made towards results/outcomes and how those results/outcomes are achieved (e.g. the number of training courses, the number of publications).
- Means of verification / source of information: Please add means of verification, which show how the information about the indicator can be obtained (e.g. training reports, modules).
- Relevance to [the Ramsar Strategic Plan \(2016-2024\) Goals](#): Please indicate which of the Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals each of the objectives most contributes to.
- Under rules of procedures at your RRI, if status of undertaken activities and planned activities are approved by your RRI's governance body, such as steering committee, please add the date of approval.

[Annex 4 to the draft resolution

Template for “model contract” to disburse allocated Ramsar core budget funds to RRI

Beneficiary address

Regional Initiative coordinating body

Date:

Re: **Ramsar Regional Initiatives YEAR-YEAR**
Ramsar Contract No. XXX

With reference to the Resolution XIV. which includes this model contract and the RRI resolution for the present COP-COP period or in accordance with Decision SC- of the th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee in MONTH YEAR, the  **Ramsar Regional Initiative** has been evaluated as fully meeting the conditions for a Ramsar Regional Initiative and is approved as operating within the framework of the Ramsar Convention during the COP-COP period.

In order to retain the status of Ramsar Regional Initiative you are required to report to the Secretariat, annually, in the latest format approved and using the present timetable for reporting as decided by the COP or the SC.

This status makes your initiative eligible for funding in any year during the YEAR-YEAR period. Funding decisions are made annually, based on funding requests made by all approved Regional Initiatives, by the Standing Committee. For YEAR your initiative has been allocated funding from the Ramsar core budget of CHF .

We are pleased to offer the  Ramsar Regional Initiative the following contract for YEAR and CHF  to perform the specific tasks itemized in the funding request received from you by the Secretariat.

The contract will cover a period of  months, starting on **DATE** and terminating upon satisfactory and timely completion of all tasks to be undertaken, but not later than **DATE** unless the contract is otherwise extended or terminated in accordance with normal Swiss contract law. The following terms will apply to the use of the funds allocated under this contract:

1. The sum of **CHF XXX**, representing 60% per cent of the approved sum, will be transferred after receipt by the Ramsar Secretariat of the countersigned copy of this letter, including bank details and an invoice for this amount.
2. A final sum of **CHF XXX**, representing 40% of the approved sum, will be transferred upon acceptance by the Secretariat of an interim progress report. This must be sent to the Secretariat, in the format shown in Annex II, no later than DATE, together with an invoice.
3. Under Swiss Law an **invoice** is required to support each payment in 1 and 2 above. The invoice should state the name of your organization, date, amount, bank name an address, account name/beneficiary, IBAN or account number and SWIFT code.
4. Under the Secretariat’s contractual terms, contract funds and income earned thereon may be expended only for the **purposes** stated in the present letter, and it is understood that these funds will be used for such purposes in accordance with the funding request.
5. Any **funds unused** by the end of the contractual period must be declared in the YEAR final reporting, due to the Secretariat by DATE, and shall be returned to the Secretariat.
6. All the conditions described in the Resolution XIV. and the resolution on RRI for the present the COP-COP period apply to this contract.

7. The Ramsar Secretariat may include **information** on this contract in its periodic reports and may also refer to it in a press release.
8. This agreement is governed by Swiss law.

All correspondence in connection with this contract should be addressed to SURNAME (XXX@ramsar.org) at the above address.

If you agree to the above, kindly confirm your agreement with the contents of this letter by countersigning and initialling each page of the enclosed duplicate copy and returning the complete document to the Ramsar Secretariat.

We wish you continued success in your endeavours over the coming months and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

NAME
Secretary General

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:

I have understood and agree with the terms and conditions set out in the preceding pages.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

PAYMENT SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Full name of bank and/or branch: _____

Address of bank and/or branch: _____

Account name / beneficiary: _____

Account number - IBAN: _____

SWIFTCODE: _____

]

[Annex 5

Proposed draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives – addressing old decisions

Annex I: Earlier decisions (full/parts), on Ramsar Regional Initiative that are repealed by this Resolution

Annex II: Resolutions that include paragraphs concerning RRIs, that are still in force at the time for COP14, and where text can be rephrased when consolidated

Ramsar Regional Initiatives - Retiring old decisions

1. RECOGNIZING the need for retiring older decisions on RRIs, (resolutions, recommendations and SC-decisions and SC documents);
2. RECOGNIZING the need to keep the decisions on retirement of older decisions etc separate from other decisions on RRIs. This to make it possible for this resolution to be retired quickly after having been implemented. The content will not bog down resolutions that will be used for a longer time or create a need for a consolidation process.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

3. DECIDES that all previous resolutions having the RRIs as their main topic, as listed in annex 1, are retired, and no longer valid;
4. DECIDES that all text about RRIs in resolutions that haven't got RRIs as their main topic are retired if they are contradictory to the text in this resolution or are otherwise made redundant by it;
5. DECIDES that all SC-decisions (or relevant parts thereof) on RRIs, (as listed in annex 1, for the period 2010-2022) are retired; ALSO DECIDES that all other SC decisions on RRIs also are retired and no longer valid if they are contradictory to the text in this resolution or otherwise are made redundant by it;
6. DECIDES that all SC-documents with RRIs as their main topic are addressed in the way described in the Resolution IIX.XX (on retirement, consolidation of resolutions, recommendation and SC-decisions etc) if they are contradictory to the text in this resolution or otherwise are made redundant by it. This is of particular importance for all existing version of the Operational Guidelines on RRIs;
7. INSTRUMENTS the Secretariat to if list all kinds of decisions affected by the para 2-5 above in the consolidated list of retired decisions, starting with the ones in Annex 1 to this resolution;
8. DECIDES that paragraphs in resolutions that do not have RRIs as their main focus and listed in annex 2 can have their wording changes when new ones that are to replace them are written or when being part of a consolidation process, suggested possible solutions are listed in the annex 2 as well;
9. DECIDES that this resolution can be retired after the content has been implemented, in other words when its content is reflected in the consolidated list of retired decisions, or in consolidated resolutions not having RRI as a main focus.]

[Annex I: Earlier decisions (full/parts), on Ramsar Regional Initiative that are repealed by this resolution

1. The list of Resolution and Recommendations decisions that can be repealed is based upon the work done by the consultant for the RRI working Group;
2. The list of SC-decisions that can be fully or partly repealed have been found by checking SC reports from all SC meeting from 2010 until March 2022, searching for “regional” and by such search probably having found all SC-decision that have RRI as their main focus or will affect RRI process during this period. Decisions addressing the CEPA OP work about RRIs are not included.

Resolution and Recommendations that are repealed:

Resolution XIII.9

Resolution XII.8

Resolution XI.5

Resolution X.6

Resolution IX.7

Resolution VIII.43

Resolution VIII.41

Resolution VIII.30

Resolution VII.26

Resolution VII.22

Recommendation VI.11

Recommendation V.14

SC-decisions that are history and repealed in full by this resolution:

SC41-19 (budgetary issue)

SC41-20 (budgetary issue)

SC41-21 (annual report format)

SC41-22 (model contract, integrated into XIV.88 *Ramsar Regional Initiatives - the basics*)

SC41-23 (endorsing new RRIs, and repeating SC41-22 and SC41-23)

SC42-20 (endorsing list of RRI, budgetary issues)

SC44-09 (noting the asked for meeting had been held)

SC46-28 (endorsing operational guidelines)

SC47-10 (budgetary issue)

SC48-25 (forwarding DR to COP)

SC49-03 (budgetary issue)

SC51-11 (establishment of Working Group)

SC51-12 (about assessment of the RRIs and communication strategy)

SC51-13 (have workshop on operational guidelines before SC52)

SC51-14 (about having a checklist for new RRIs)

SC51-23 (day for workshop in Gland)

SC52-16 (decision on operational guidelines)

SC52-17 (list of RRIs)

SC52-18 (assessment of applicability of operational guidelines)

SC52-19 (request about summary report from the WG)

SC52-20 (budgetary issue)

SC53-37 (budgetary issue)

SC53-38 (budgetary issue)

SC53-12 (on future DR for the COP)
SC53-09 (budgetary issue)
SC54-30 (ordered study of legal status and forwarded DR to COP)
SC55-11 (took note of document SC55 Doc.9)
SC56-07 (about the Working Group and budget for it)
SC57-11 (reporting format)
SC57-28 (establishment of Working Group and budget for it)
SC57-29 (about seeking advice on legal status for RRI)
SC58-48 (budgetary issue)
SC58-48 (budgetary issue)
SC58-23 (open call for new RRI)
SC58-28 (budgetary issue)
SC59-21 (postponing addressing the report to next meeting)
SC59-33 (budgetary issue)
SC59-34 (how to request fund, integrated into the resolution XIV. RR RRI - the basics)
SC59-35 (budgetary issue)
SC59/2002-XX (not addressed by the draft resolution, but might be added at the COP14)

SC-decisions whose parts on RRI are history and repealed by this resolution:

SC42-15 (budgetary issue for RRI)
SC43-16 (budgetary issue for RRI)
SC43-17 (budgetary issue for RRI)
SC43-21 (budgetary issue, potential cost savings about RRI)
SC46-13 (i, endorsing list of RRI)
SC46-23 (v, budgetary issues for RRI)
SC47-26 (acceptance of annual reports and list of RRI)
SC58-16 (budgetary issue for RRI)
SC59/2002-XX (not addressed by the draft resolution, but might be added at the COP14)

SC-decisions where implementation is uncertain, but can be retired:

SC43-11 (assessment of regional centres in Africa and Asia)
SC46-13 (ii, asking RRI to report on steps taken necessary to address shortcomings)
SC47-26 (a, linking RRI virtually, b, Secretariat to strengthen RRI regional co-operation)
SC59-28 (budgetary issue and study for better understanding RRI)]

Annex II: Other Resolutions [and Recommendations] that include paragraphs concerning RRIs, that are still in force [and of relevance to RRIs] [at the time of COP14, and where text can be rephrased when consolidated]

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
[COP13]		
XIII.2 Financial and budgetary matters	<p>4 NOTING WITH GRATITUDE the additional voluntary financial contributions made by many Contracting Parties, including those from Contracting Parties of Africa specifically earmarked for African Regional Initiatives (in accordance with paragraph 23 of Resolution X.2 on <i>Financial and budgetary matters</i>), and also the contributions made by non-governmental organizations and private companies for activities undertaken by the Secretariat;</p> <p>24 REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide to the Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) in Africa, on an annual basis, the available balance of the African voluntary contribution fund; and INVITES those RRIs to submit requests to the Secretariat as part of the reports to access available funds in accordance with the provisions of Resolution XIII.9 on <i>Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021</i>;</p> <p>26 REQUESTS the Secretariat within its existing legal framework and mandate, to assist, as appropriate, Contracting Parties in the administration of non-core funded projects, including, but not limited to successful fund-raising for Regional Initiatives; and FURTHER INSTRUCTS Secretariat staff, identified in Annex 4, supported with core funds, not to be involved in the day- to-day administration of non-core funded projects as this role would be the responsibility of any Secretariat staff supported with non-core funds for that specific purpose.</p>	<p>[The resolution will be replaced at COP14, the <u>new resolution may include content like the one in para 4 and 24, but content in para 26 need to be re-phrased to be in line with resolution XIV.XX Ramsar Regional Initiatives – the basics</u>].</p>

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
XIII.5 Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention	11 EXPRESSING APPRECIATION for the support provided to Contracting Parties to implement the Strategic Plan by the Ramsar Regional Initiatives, intergovernmental organizations, International Organization Partners and non-governmental organizations; and	[The resolution will be replaced at COP14, the new resolution may include similar content, but it has to be re-phrased to be in line with resolution XIV.XX <i>Ramsar Regional Initiatives – the basics</i> paragraph 7.]
XIII.7 Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions	1 RECALLING that Resolution XI.1, on <i>Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat</i> , in paragraphs 17 and 18, instructs the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties to develop strategies that explore the accommodation of UN languages into the Convention, the elevation of the Convention’s visibility and stature, including <i>inter alia</i> through enhancing high-level political engagement in its work at national, regional, and global levels, the enhancement of synergies with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other international entities including through regional initiatives , and the increased involvement in the initiatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);	[The text marked with bold in the para can be deleted when the resolution in the consolidation process.]
XIII.15 Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands	16 ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and Ramsar Regional Initiatives , and INVITES interested organizations and networks, to protect, support and promote the use of cultural values, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in adapting to the increasing negative impacts of climate change, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems; 22 REQUESTS the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and INVITES Contracting Parties, Ramsar Regional Initiatives , interested organizations and networks, to continue to undertake enabling activities for the effective consideration of the cultural values of wetlands within wetland protection and management;	[The text marked with bold in the para can be deleted when the resolution in the consolidation process.]

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
XIII.8 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021	<p>Annex 3</p> <p>Bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for the 2019-2021 triennium</p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific and Technical Network of the Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet) <p>Annex 4</p> <p>Guidelines for developing requests to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) for its future work programmes</p> <p>...</p> <p>2 Any Contracting Party, Ramsar Regional Initiative, the STRP, and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that are proposing a joint submission may develop a proposal for consideration.</p>	<p>[The text marked with bold in the annexes and para can be deleted when the resolution in the <u>consolidation process or being replaced by new resolution on the STRP.</u>]</p>
XIII.22 Wetlands in West Asia	<p>11 ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties in the West Asia region to consider leveraging existing collaboration and regional initiatives within the context of sustainable development;</p> <p>14 REQUESTS the Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia to follow up the provisions of the present Resolution, within the</p>	<p>[The text marked with bold in the para can be deleted when the resolution in the <u>consolidation process.</u>]</p>

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
	framework of its mandate, and report to the Conference of the Contracting Parties.	
XIII.24 The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites	22 ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to review their Ramsar Site management plans to seek to ensure they include marine turtle conservation actions, as appropriate; and RECOMMENDS enhancement of synergies and better coordination with Ramsar Regional Initiatives and existing networks rather than establishment of new arrangements;	<u>[The text marked with bold in the para can be deleted when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</u>
[COP12]		
XII.2 The Ramsar Strategic Plan	Multiple references throughout	<u>[When the plan is updated it would be better to refer to different kinds of regional co-operations or similar instead of mentioning the Ramsar Regional Initiatives explicit, depending on context it can be OK with RRI.s.]</u>
XII.5 New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention	<i>Role and responsibilities of the STRP members</i> 12 The main collective responsibilities of the Panel members are to: i) establish the scope, deliverables and approach to delivery for each assigned task, including through scoping workshops as appropriate, and in so doing ensure input from the network of STRP National Focal Points, Ramsar Regional Initiatives , and any other relevant organizations;	<u>[The text marked with bold in the para can be deleted when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</u>
XII.9 The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and	13 INVITES all Contracting Parties, as suggested in Resolutions VII.9, VIII.31, X.8 and in the CEPA Programme 2016-2024, to formulate their Wetland CEPA Action Plans (at national, subnational, catchment, or local levels) for priority activities that address international, regional, national, and local needs, and as appropriate to provide copies of	<u>[The resolution will be retired at COP 14 and replaced by the new CEPA approach, the CPEA annex on the overview for the Strategic Plan.]</u>

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024	<p>these to the Ramsar Secretariat as a part of their national reporting, in order for these to be shared as examples of good practice, and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to provide relevant information to the Regional Initiatives on priorities and activities, to support delivery of the CEPA Programme;</p> <p>23 INVITES the IOPs, Ramsar Regional Initiatives and other organizations with which the Ramsar Secretariat has collaborative agreements to support the implementation of the CEPA Programme at the global, regional, national or local levels, as appropriate, with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal;</p> <p>See also:</p> <p>Annex 1 The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024</p>	
XII.11 Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention	<p>20 NOTING the Policy Brief on <i>Peatlands, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation</i> and the report <i>Peatlands and Climate Change in a Ramsar context – a Nordic Baltic Perspective</i> developed under the Ramsar regional initiative NorBalWet as inspiration for other Ramsar regional initiatives and Parties, as appropriate;</p>	[The text marked with bold in the para can be deleted when the resolution in the consolidation process.]
XII.12 Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future	<p>21 WELCOMES the process carried out in Mexico for the creation of water reserves for wetlands, described in the Annex to this Resolution;</p> <p>22 ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to consider the possibility of using Mexico's approach, as appropriate, to identify the opportunities</p>	[The text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.]

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
	to act preventatively, and adapting it as necessary in order to address national and regional conditions and circumstances, within the framework of existing regional initiatives and commitments and within the context of sustainable development;	
[COP11]		
XI.6 Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions	35 REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to review its memoranda of cooperation with other global and regional environment agreements and other organizations with a view to reinvigorating those most likely to be beneficial to the work of the Convention and its international profile within the time and resources available, taking into account the approach and priorities established in the “Strategic Framework for Partnerships for the Ramsar Convention”, and FURTHER ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to continue to establish and strengthen partnerships and closer working relations with intergovernmental regional and subregional groups, notably with regional and subregional organizations and especially with Regional Initiatives , with a view to enhancing the role and visibility of the Convention in those regions;	<u>[The text marked with bold in the para can be deleted when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</u>
XI.10 Wetlands and energy issues	14 WELCOMES the Guidance for addressing the implications for wetlands of policies, plans and activities in the energy sector annexed to this Resolution, and INVITES Contracting Parties to make use of this guidance, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments ; 15..... and REQUESTS the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the CEPA Oversight Panel, the Regional Initiatives and Contracting Parties to support,	[Instructed that no specific request made to RRI regarding this issue. Assuming this resolution is not time bound to 2012-15 cycle (see XI.17, which alludes to this), then para 15 still in force.] <u>[The text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</u>

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
	resources permitting, Contracting Parties training and capacity building efforts;	
XI.11 Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri- urban wetlands	27 REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to strengthen collaborative initiatives with UN-Habitat and continue to develop collaboration with Ramsar Regional Initiatives , the CBD, Ramsar's IOPs, ICLEI and other appropriate urban stakeholders, including individual cities, in order to foster projects that develop demonstration sites which both benefit urban local communities and promote the wise use of wetlands;	[Instructed that there has been no follow up with RRI's regarding this issue. Assuming this resolution is not time bound to 2012-15 [cycle (see XI.17, which alludes to this), then para 27 still in force.] <u>[The text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</u>
XI.14 Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	32 ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to undertake studies of the role of the conservation and/or restoration of both forested and non-forested wetlands in relation to: i) climate change mitigation, including the role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions from degrading wetlands, avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions through removals of wetland carbon sinks, and ii) adaptation to climate change, including water regulation at local and regional scales, such as flood risk reduction, water supply and storage, and reducing the impacts of sea level rise and extreme weather events, including extreme rainfall situations; and to cooperate, within Regional Initiatives or other regional cooperation fora, in developing and disseminating knowledge about the results, and INVITES Contracting Parties and other organizations to make their findings available to the Ramsar Secretariat, the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, and other relevant bodies through existing reporting processes;	[Instructed that there has not been any specific request to RRI's to report on matters referred to in para 32.] [Instructed that in 2012 the STRP produced a briefing note on climate change (item b), however not much progress on the other items in the 2012-15 triennium.] [Assuming this resolution is not time bound to 2012-15 cycle (see XI.17, which alludes to this), then paras 32 and 35 still in force.] <u>[The first text marked with bold in the para can be deleted when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</u>

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
	<p>35 REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP):</p> <p>...</p> <p>iv) in conjunction with the Secretariat and Ramsar Regional Initiative Networks and Centres, to collaborate with relevant international organizations and conventions, within their respective mandates, to further investigate the potential contribution of wetland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation through:</p> <p>a) preparing advice on assessing social resilience and vulnerability of wetlands to climate change, to complement the existing advice on assessing the biophysical vulnerability of a wetlands to climate change (Ramsar Technical Report No. 5/CBD Technical Series No. 57);</p> <p>b) preparing advice on ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change for coastal and inland wetlands; and</p> <p>c) reviewing any relevant advice provide by other MEAs, in particular the outcomes of CBD COP-11;</p> <p>without pre-empting any future decisions of the UNFCCC;</p>	<p>[The second text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</p>
[COP10]		
X.3 The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands	<p>14 FURTHER STRONGLY URGES the Standing Committee, the STRP, the Ramsar Secretariat, CEPA National Focal Points, regional initiatives operating under the framework of the Convention, the International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others to utilise the “Changwon Declaration” in their future work and establishment of priorities, and also to use their own means and all other relevant opportunities actively to promote the Declaration;</p>	<p>[The text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</p>

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
X.15 Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance	4 WELCOMES the guidance on “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory” provided in the annex to this Resolution, and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;	[Instructed that no follow up on whether RRI are using guidance document.] <u>[The text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</u>
X.17 Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance	8 WELCOMES the guidelines on Biodiversity-Inclusive Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Impact Assessment provided in the annex to this Resolution, and INVITES Contracting Parties to make good use of them as appropriate, including within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to the practices already established by the Parties;	[Instructed that no follow up on whether RRI are using guidance document.] <u>[The text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</u>
X.19 Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance	5 NOTES the “Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management” provided in the annex to this Resolution, and INVITES Contracting Parties to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments, in the context of sustainable development and in accordance with national institutions and legal frameworks;	[Instructed that no follow up on whether RRI are using guidance document.] <u>The text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.]</u> <i>Note from the Secretariat: No text was marked with bold in the source document.</i>
[COP9]		
IX.1 Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept	7 WELCOMES the frameworks, guidelines and other advice provided as annexes C, D, and E to this Resolution and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of them as appropriate, adapting them as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances and within	[Instructed that no follow up on whether RRI are using guidance document.] <u>[The text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on</u>

	Relevant content	[Notes] [Will be addressed in the following way]
	the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;	<u>regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.</u> <i>Note from the Secretariat: No text was marked with bold in the source document.</i>
IX.19 The importance of regional wetland symposia in effectively implementing the Ramsar Convention	15 RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties, international NGOs, and other relevant scientific and technical organizations consider the usefulness of establishing similar periodic regional scientific and technical fora where they do not already exist, drawing on the experiences of the Asian Wetland Symposia, as a means of increasing scientific and technical support for the implementation of the Convention including, <i>inter alia</i> , any regional initiatives established under the Convention.	[The text marked with bold in the para can be exchanged to something more general on <u>regional co-operations when the resolution in the consolidation process.</u>]
[COP7]		
[XII.19 Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention]	[No reference to regional initiatives but this resolution is cited throughout other resolutions concerning RRs.]	

[Annex III to the Draft Resolution ⁴

The following Resolution and Recommendations related to Ramsar Regional Initiative are repealed:

Resolution XII.8

Resolution XI.5

Resolution X.6

Resolution IX.7

Resolution VIII.43

Resolution VIII.41

Resolution VIII.30

Resolution VII.26

Resolution VII.22

Recommendation VI.11

Recommendation V.14]

⁴ This Annex is included in the original draft resolution submitted by the RRIs Working Group to SC59 in 2021, in document SC59 Doc.21.1