

**Draft Resolution XII.xx**  
**Submitted by the Philippines**

**WETLANDS AND  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

# Preambular paragraphs:

- RECOGNIZING that there exists no specific framework to operationalize the role of the Ramsar Convention in the prevention and mitigation of impacts associated with natural phenomena, including those induced or exacerbated by human activities;
- RECALLING that Resolution X.24 on *Climate change and wetlands* (2008) affirms the relevance of wetlands and the Ramsar Convention to increasing resilience to climate change and extreme weather events;

# Preambular paragraphs:

- ACKNOWLEDGING the important role of healthy and well-managed wetland ecosystems to reduce disaster risk by acting as natural buffers or protective barriers;
- AWARE that the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment recognizes the significant services that (wetland) ecosystems provide to human communities;

# Preambular paragraphs:

- AWARE that the 2011 Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, Rio + 20 reports and similar bodies call for increased coordination among national, regional and international levels for a robust response to international emergencies, improved forecasting and early warning systems;
- CONCERNED that the devastating impacts of natural and human-related disasters on the delivery of ecosystem benefits/services has brought serious effects on the lives and livelihoods of millions of people and cause major environmental, social and economic impacts;

# Operative paragraphs:

- AFFIRMS the need to develop management plans that ensures wise use and protection of wetland ecosystems;
- URGES the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction measures in these management plans;
- URGES Contracting Parties to integrate wetland management plans (e.g., Integrated River Basin Master Plan) into a broader plan;

# Operative paragraphs:

- CALLS UPON Parties to take urgent actions, in conjunction with the STRP, in developing a set of guidelines or a framework which emphasizes Disaster Risk Reduction through the wise use of wetlands;
- Requests the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to develop policy and practical guidance on a set of actions which can be initiated by governments, to ensure the use of wetlands to build resilience to natural and human-induced disasters;

# Operative paragraphs:

- ENCOURAGES the STRP to conduct an analysis of cross-cutting themes to provide guidance on how the management, wise use and restoration of wetlands can reduce risk;
- INVITES the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to further develop the points raised herein to raise the priority of disaster risk reduction in the Strategic Plan for the next Triennium.

Philippine response to feedback received from STRP members, observer organizations and National Focal Points

- We welcome the comments and suggestions of the STRP National Focal Points and invited experts which enhance our draft Resolution.
- We propose that these suggestions be integrated as additional operative paragraphs to the draft Resolution.



## Philippine response to feedback received from STRP members, observer organizations and National Focal Points


- REQUESTS the STRP to review Resolution X.24 on *Climate change and wetlands* and Resolution XI.14 on *Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands* for possible amendments;
- FURTHER REQUESTS the STRP to develop guidelines on ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA), cross-reference EBA with other integrated management strategies;

## Philippine response to feedback received from STRP members, observer organizations and National Focal Points

- ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to integrate the wetland management plan or other broader plans into the local, regional, and/or national land-use and development plans;
- FURTHER ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to integrate ecosystem management related considerations, in particular on wetland and water management, in their national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategy;

## Philippine response to feedback received from STRP members, observer organizations and National Focal Points

- URGES the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to engage in the review process of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction on the Hyogo Framework of Action 2005 – 2015 with a view to emphasizing the importance of conserving and restoring wetlands for disaster risk reduction;



Philippine response to feedback received from STRP members, observer organizations and National Focal Points

- INVITES the Ramsar Secretariat to explore further refinement of the points in the Resolution in order to raise the priority of disaster risk reduction in the next Strategic Plan.



**THANK YOU.**