

Draft resolution on gender and wetlands

Submitted by Colombia

Action requested:

- The Standing Committee is invited to review and approve the attached Draft Resolution for consideration by the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Introduction

Information for Standing Committee

Worldwide, millions of women live in or near wetlands and protected areas. Women's traditional knowledge, use and management of wetlands as a source of food, livelihood, and apothecary, may be different to those of their male counterparts.

Women also have vital knowledge about water resources, including water quality and reliability, and are key to the success of wetlands development protection. Yet women's knowledge and roles in wetlands management is still largely unrecognized, and social and economic norms often reinforce unequal participation and decision-making.

Moreover, women also have different access to and control over natural resources and information about how protection categories and norms shape the way in which wetlands are managed, affecting their rights and customary uses of wetland products and services. For these reasons, ignoring issues related to how women and men interact and manage wetlands may prevent effective and efficient conservation, sustainable use and equitable access to benefits of these protected areas.

The use of a gender approach in dealing with the socio-environmental dynamics of wetlands can open avenues and opportunities for achieving equality between women and men by considering their unique interests, demands and expectations. A gender approach to wetland conservation and management also considers the ethnic-cultural characteristics of the population and emphasizes affirmative actions to address women's disadvantageous position and condition in many societies.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands through its 2002 Resolution VIII.19 has acknowledged the need to take gender and social issues into account when managing wetlands. With its 13th Conference of the Parties approaching, the Convention is in a unique position to review and update the manner in which gender equality and women's empowerment are treated within its framework. Learning from similar processes, particularly those from the Rio Conventions, this draft resolution calls for the establishment of a process to increase awareness among contracting Parties on the linkages

between gender equality and wetland management, while encouraging them to report on their ongoing actions.

Financial implications of implementation

Paragraph (number and key part of text)	Action	Cost (CHF)

Draft Resolution XIII.xx

Gender and wetlands

1. *Recalling* the General Assembly resolution 70/1, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which recognizes that women play a vital role as agents of development and acknowledges that realizing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets.
2. *Emphasising* the importance of coherence between gender-responsive climate and biodiversity policies and the balanced participation of women and men in the RAMSAR process and the provisions of international instruments, conferences, summits and outcomes such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of its reviews, among others.
3. *Highlighting* that the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification have recognized the importance of addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment in their implementation;
4. *Recognizing* that women play a crucial role in the provision, management and safeguarding of wetland resources, especially water, and their role conserving the culture, folklore, music, mythology, oral traditions, customs, traditional knowledge around wetlands, among others, also paying special attention to the specific needs of women because they are disproportionately affected by inadequate water facilities;
5. *Further recalling* that the 4th Strategic Plan 2016-2024¹ anticipates the relevance of the Sustainable Development Goals² will have on wetlands and that the plan is to be implemented in accordance with internationally agreed environmental goals and targets;³
6. *Acknowledging* that the 4th Strategic Plan 2016-2024, in its article 38, encourages contracting Parties to synergize their efforts aimed at implementing the Convention with measures that take to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, among other global multilateral environmental agreements.

¹ The 4th Strategic Plan 2016-2024. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (2015). At: https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf

² Art. 15, 4th Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

³ Art. 37, 4th Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. Encourages contracting Parties to mainstream a gender-responsive approach in RAMSAR processes, considering the crucial role of women in the provision, management and safeguarding of wetlands, paying special attention to their specific needs;
8. Also encourages contracting Parties to incorporate a gender-responsive approach, and the secretariat to provide support in this regard, in the implementation of the Programme on Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024;
9. Request the Conference of the Parties to include, as part of the midterm review process of the Strategic Plan, a gender-responsive approach;
10. Encourages also the Secretariat to support contracting Parties mainstreaming a gender-responsive approach in the Strategic Plan of the Convention, as well as in the Programme on Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024, including through financial and non-financial resources;
11. Request the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to developed guidance on how to integrated gender issues in the implementation of the Convention, and submit proposals to the Conference of the Parties for its consideration;
12. Invites Contracting Parties to assist:
 - (a) Training and awareness-raising for all delegates on issues related to gender and wetlands;
 - (b) Strengthen the skills and capacity of all delegates for equal participation of women and men in RAMSAR meetings through training on, inter alia, negotiation skills, the drafting of legal documents and strategic communication
13. Requests the Secretariat to strengthen its knowledge on gender issues and support the organization of the training and capacity-building efforts referred to in paragraph 6, inter alia, in conjunction with sessions of the Standing Committee or regional meetings;
14. Invites contracting Parties to consider the increase of the participation and representation of women in their national delegations and the chairing and facilitation of formal and informal negotiating groups;
15. Encourages contracting Parties to give due consideration to a balanced gender representation in the bodies established under the Convention,
16. Encourages contracting Parties to include, where applicable, sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in their national reports, including information on differentiated impacts and benefits accrued by women and men as a result of wetland management and conservation actions;
17. Request the Secretariat to support contracting parties, upon request, to strengthen their national statistic systems to improve the incorporation of se sex-disaggregated data and gender analysis in their national reports; and,

18. Request the Secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on the gender relevant and sex-disaggregated information provided by contracting Parties in national reports, including the actions of the Secretariat in this regard.