

Draft resolution on cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

Submitted by Burkina Faso, Senegal and Tunisia

Action requested:

- The Standing Committee is invited to review the attached draft resolution for consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Draft Resolution XIII.xx

Cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

1. RECOGNIZING the vital importance of wetlands and the freshwater that they provide for human well-being, livelihoods, and food security, and REAFFIRMING that water is a human right in accordance with [Resolution 64/292](#) of the United National General Assembly;
2. CONCERNED that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that some wetlands are among the ecosystems most vulnerable to climate change¹, and ALSO CONCERNED that wetlands, which contain twice the carbon stored in all the world's forests, are currently degrading faster than any other ecosystem type²;
3. NOTING the relevance of the Ramsar Convention as a central delivery mechanism for the climate change targets set out in the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals, as indicated in [Resolution X.24](#) on climate change, [Resolution XII.2](#) on the Ramsar Strategic Plan, and [Resolution X.28](#) on poverty eradication;
4. AWARE that 80 percent of the world's biodiversity is located in traditional lands and waters, and ACKNOWLEDGING the significant contributions made by local communities to wetland conservation and wise use through their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices – including to mitigating and adapting to climate change - in line with Target 10 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan;

¹Third Assessment Report, IPCC – need to identify a more recent source

²Need to identify a source

5. ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING the central role of women in wetland management and wise use, and in the management, provisioning and safeguarding of water, in line with the Dublin Principles³, and EMPHASIZING that fully empowering women is a pre-requisite for sustainable development, including with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation and effective wetland and water management;
6. NOTES WITH CONCERN that due to climate change and wetland degradation food insecurity is increasing, and that staples such as rice, wheat and maize are predicted to decrease by 20% by 2050⁴, while populations in some parts of the world, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, are expected to double by 2050⁵;
7. ALSO RECOGNIZING that some areas of the world are more prone to the impacts of climate change on wetlands and water, and that these 'water-shock' zones tend to be located in regions already experiencing harsh climates and adverse environmental conditions, and where people are further marginalised by high levels of poverty, inequality and a rapidly changing socio-economic governance and development context;
8. THANKING the government of Senegal, Tunisia and Burkina, for their support and work in developing this Resolution;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

9. CONSIDERS that while climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale and therefore the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities often hold context-appropriate and cost-effective solutions to decreasing vulnerability to climate change and to developing adaptation responses;
10. EMPHASIZES that joined up environmental, economic and social solutions⁶ are necessary to achieving climate change targets, including through emission reductions, ecosystem restoration to 'sink' carbon, as well as infrastructure and land-use planning approaches...XXX, and FURTHER CONSIDERS that the Ramsar Convention has a central role to play in bridging the links between the sustainability of human societies, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the integrity of water environments;
11. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, the International Organisation Partners (IOPs), and others to provide to the Secretariat, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the Ramsar Culture Network (RCN) examples, particularly documented case studies, that demonstrate how the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities can contribute to significantly decreasing vulnerability to climate change in wetlands, in advance of the 14th Conference of the Parties;
12. REQUESTS the STRP, working with the IOPs and the RCN and other interested organizations and networks, to review and revise the *Guidelines for Rapid Cultural Inventories in Wetlands* with a view to ensuring that these guidelines are effective in evaluating the cultural ecosystem services of wetlands, including in relation to climate change mitigation and adaptation, in advance of the 14th Conference of the Parties;

³International Conference on Water and the Environment in Dublin, Ireland, 1992

⁴McDonnell – need to check source

⁵Need to identify a source

⁶Rockström&Raworth (2013)

13. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to continue to seek to integrate wetland cultural services into all relevant national and regional policies, including in Poverty Reduction Strategies, National Climate Change Strategies, Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the need to base such strategies on an understanding of specific wetlands' current and projected future productivity, particularly where such wetland services may change over time and due to climate change;
14. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to collaborate with relevant institutions in developing suitable ecotourism activities in wetlands in general, and especially in designated Ramsar sites, in order to provide opportunities to reduce poverty and contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, whilst also taking into consideration the possible negative impacts of such tourism on wetland integrity and on local cultures; and
15. CALLS UPON development banks and other donors to support the implementation of this Resolution by Contracting Parties, including through supporting capacity-building for governments, and encouraging climate-related investment programmes that integrate the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities in order to support the development of context-appropriate and cost-effective local solutions.