

**Draft resolution on cultural values, [indigenous peoples and](#), 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, [indigenous peoples and](#), local communities, and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands**

1. [RECALLING Resolution X.24 on climate change, Resolution XII.2 on the Ramsar Strategic Plan, and Resolution X.28 on poverty eradication;](#)
2. 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;
3. CONCERNED that ~~the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has concluded that some~~ wetlands are among the ecosystems most vulnerable to climate change<sup>1</sup>, and ALSO CONCERNED that wetlands, which ~~store contain twice the significant amounts of~~ carbon stored ~~in all the world's forests~~, are currently degrading ~~rapidly faster than any other ecosystem type~~<sup>2</sup> ;
4. ~~FURTHER NOTING~~ that Article 7 of the Paris Agreement concluded at COP21 of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change emphasizes the need for adaptation that is country driven, gender responsive and based on traditional knowledge, local knowledge systems and [indigenous peoples<sup>2</sup> and local communities perspectives, as appropriate;](#)

<sup>1</sup>Third Assessment Report, IPCC – need to identify a more recent source

<sup>2</sup>Need to identify a source

5. FURTHER NOTING that efforts under the relevance of the Ramsar Convention as a central delivery mechanism for the can contribute significantly in addressing climate change targets goals or actions set out in the UNFCCC, 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;
6. AWARE that 80 percent of the world's biodiversity is located in traditional lands and waters and ACKNOWLEDGING the significant contributions made by indigenous peoples and local communities to wetland conservation and wise use through their ~~traditional~~ knowledge, innovations and practices – including to mitigating and adapting to climate change, which also contributes to implementation of –in line with Target 10 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan;
7. “RECALLING Resolutions VIII.19 on the ‘Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites’ and Resolution IX.21 on ‘Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands’, which recognize and highlight the cultural connections between communities and wetlands and encourage the Convention’s Parties to take cultural values into consideration in managing their wetlands and in designating them as internationally important sites;
8. ACKNOWLEDGING the pioneering work that the Ramsar Convention has accomplished in the application of Resolutions on culture for the integration of cultural values in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, through initiatives such as the Ramsar Culture Network;
9. ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING the ~~central key~~ role ~~of played by~~ women in wetland management and wise use, ~~and including~~ in the management, provisioning and safeguarding of water, ~~in line with the Dublin Principles<sup>3</sup>~~, and EMPHASIZING that gender equality and the fully empowering of women in a pre-requisite for are critical to sustainable development, including with respect to climate change mitigation and adaptation and effective wetland and water management;
10. NOTES WITH CONCERN that due to climate change and wetland degradation food ~~in~~security is ~~at risk increasing, and that staples such as rice, wheat and maize are predicted to decrease by 20% by 2050<sup>4</sup>~~, while ~~populations in some parts of the world, such as Sub-Saharan Africa, are expected to double by 2050<sup>5</sup>~~;
11. ALSO RECOGNIZING that some areas of the world are more prone to the impacts of climate change on wetlands and water, and that these ~~areas ‘water shock’ zones~~ tend to be ~~located~~ in regions already experiencing harsh climates and adverse environmental conditions, and where people are further ~~marginalised affected~~ by high levels of poverty, inequality and a rapidly changing socio-economic governance and development context;
12. TAKING NOTE of the Best Practice Guidelines produced by the IUCN-WCPA Specialist Group on Cultural and Spiritual Values of Protected Areas on the role of the cultural and spiritual significance of nature in the governance and management of protected and conserved areas, and the relevance of these guidelines in supporting wetland conservation and wise use under the Convention;

<sup>3</sup>International Conference on Water and the Environment in Dublin, Ireland, 1992

<sup>4</sup>McDonnell – need to check source

<sup>5</sup>Need to identify a source

13. CONSIDERING that while climate change is a global issue, adaptation is achieved locally: wetland adaptation benefits from, and can be driven by the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, and this often provides context locally-appropriate and cost-effective resilience to climate impacts;
14. Parties acknowledge that adaptation action should follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions;
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;~~
15. EMPHASIZES that ~~joined up~~ environmental, economic and social solutions<sup>6</sup> will all be needed are necessary to achieving climate change targets, including through emission reductions, ecosystem conservation and restoration to enhance carbon 'sink' carbon, as well as infrastructure and land-use planning approaches...XXX, and ~~FURTHER CONSIDERS~~RECOGNIZES that the Ramsar Convention ~~has a central role to~~can play a key role in bridging the links between the sustainability of human societies, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the integrity of water environments;
16. ~~ENCOURAGES INVITES~~ 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 cultural diversity and the ~~traditional~~ knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities can contribute to significantly increasing resilience decreasing vulnerability to climate change in wetlands, in advance of the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties;
17. REQUESTS the STRP, ~~working with the IOPs and the RCN and other interested organizations and networks,~~ to consider reviewing and revising 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 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties;
18. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue undertaking enabling activities for the effective integration of the cultural values of wetlands into wetland protection and management, working together with the Contracting Parties and other interested organizations and networks,

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<sup>6</sup>Rockström & Raworth (2013)

and to establish appropriate mechanisms within the Secretariat to that end, taking into account the work undertaken by the Ramsar Cultural Network and Ramsar Regional Initiatives;

19. REQUESTS the Secretariat to regularly report to Standing Committee on the integration of the cultural values of wetlands into wetland protection and management undertaken by the Contracting Parties and other interested organizations and networks.
20. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to continue to mobilize cultural diversity and knowledge systems within seek to integrate wetlands as part of holistic approaches to cultural services into all relevant national and regional policies, as appropriate, including in Poverty Reduction Strategies, National Climate Change Strategies, Determined Contributions and implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account the need to base such strategies approaches on an understanding of specific wetlands' current and projected future productivity, particularly where such wetland services may change over time and due to may be affected by climate change;
21. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to collaborate with relevant institutions in clearly defining and developing activities for the prevention of deforestation by communities, suitable sustainable ecotourism and recreation activities, sustainable businesses based on ecosystem services of wetlands, as well as other livelihood activities in wetlands in general, as well as highlighting their limits, and especially in designated Ramsar sites, in order to facilitate skills development and economic opportunities for vulnerable communities and groups, with the aim of provide opportunities to reduce poverty and while contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as supporting, whilst also taking into consideration the possible negative impacts of such tourism on wetland integrity and on local cultures; and
22. ENCOURAGES the Ramsar Secretariat with interested parties to review and update the Ramsar Guidance on Culture and Wetlands to reflect the provisions of the present Resolution on culture and to enrich the guidance with further recent examples of good practice; and
23. CALLS UPON INVITES development banks, the Global Environment Facility, the Green Climate Fund and other funding instruments 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 indigenous peoples and local communities in order to support the development of context appropriate and cost-effective local solutions.