

Provisional Report and Decisions of the 57th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Thursday 27 June 2019

10:00 – 11:30 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 17: Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

1. The Secretariat introduced document SC57 Doc.17, summarizing the Secretariat's recent activities and drawing particular attention to the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held in Bern, Switzerland from 10 to 12 June 2019, at which a number of Contracting Parties had been present.
2. Participants commended the Secretariat's efforts in enhancing synergies and noted that Ramsar had been well represented at the Bern workshop and the outstanding results in terms of visibility. They further commended the efforts of the Secretariat in providing support to those present. The United States of America introduced for consideration by the Committee a draft decision on the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework .
3. Austria summarized the outcomes of an international expert workshop entitled "Exploring Synergies for Peatlands - Detecting and enhancing the global importance of peatlands in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals" held in Vilm, Germany, 21-24 May 2019. The Party drew attention to the valuable coordinating role of Ramsar in the Global Peatland Initiative.
4. Interventions were made by Austria, Australia, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Japan, Kuwait, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Switzerland the United States of America, Uruguay, and a representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Decision SC57-23: The Standing Committee encouraged Contracting Parties, through their Ramsar National Focal Points, to liaise and engage with their counterparts in the Convention on Biological Diversity and to participate in the development of their national positions related to the CBD's post-2020 biodiversity framework process, in order to seek to ensure that Ramsar-relevant elements are included within country positions and submissions to the CBD process to develop the post-2020 biodiversity framework. The Standing Committee also encouraged Contracting Parties, again through their National Focal Points, to liaise and engage with their counterparts responsible for other biodiversity-related conventions so as to foster synergies at the national level.

Decision SC57-24: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat:

- i. to share with Ramsar National Focal Points all relevant notices it receives from the CBD Secretariat regarding opportunities to make submissions or otherwise contribute to the post-2020 process, and to accompany these notices with a reminder of the encouragement to engage in their national processes contained in Decision SC57-23.**
- ii. to develop and share with all National Focal Points talking points that they could opt to draw from to help them articulate the importance of wetlands and the relevance of Ramsar's work to biodiversity, the relevance of wetlands and Ramsar's work and data to various Aichi Biodiversity Targets, gaps in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets where wetlands are currently overlooked (e.g., marine and coastal work in the Aichi Targets largely omits consideration of coastal wetlands) and the opportunities to share knowledge and data available on Ramsar Sites and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) to address efforts outside protected areas.**
- iii. develop and share with all National Focal Points talking points that NFPs could opt to draw from to help them articulate the importance of wetlands and the relevance of Ramsar's work and data to their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.**
- iv share with all National Focal Points the document it created that maps the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals in support of their efforts to highlight the work and data of Ramsar in their country's efforts to implement their relevant commitments in CBD and SDG processes.**

Agenda item 17bis: Contributions of the Convention to the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020

5. France, as hosts of the forthcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in Marseille from 11 to 19 June 2020¹, provided an update on preparations, drawing attention to a registration deadline of 17 July 2019 for all those interested in submitting proposals for the forum element of the Congress (to be held from 12 to 15 June) and urging all interested Contracting Parties to submit proposals in good time.
6. Australia expressed its intention to play an active role in the Congress.

¹ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/iucn-2020-world-congress-information-note-to-ramsar-contracting-parties-and-secretariat>