

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

Tuesday 25 June 2019

10:00 – 13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 1: Opening statements

1. Opening statements were made by:
 - H.E. Eng. Mohamed Al Afkham, Chair of the Standing Committee;
 - Dr Grethel Aguilar, Acting Director General of IUCN;
 - Mr Richard Holland, Director of Operations and Network Development, Wetlands International, on behalf of the six International Organization Partners (IOPs); and
 - Ms Martha Rojas Urrego, Secretary General of the Convention.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the provisional agenda

2. The **Secretariat** drew attention to document SC57 Doc.2 Rev.1, *Provisional agenda*, and proposed three modifications, namely:
 - the amendment of agenda item 12, to make the existing item *Terms of reference of the Executive Team* a sub-item under the *Report of the Executive Team*;
 - the addition of an agenda item to follow item 15.2, concerning the implementation of Resolution XIII.1 on *World Wetlands Day*; and
 - the addition of an agenda item to follow item 21.1 *Report of the Secretariat on COP13*, to include an oral report by the Secretariat on the Ramsar Award on Innovation.
3. A proposal was made by **France** to include an item on potential contributions of the Convention to the forthcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress, to be held in Marseille in 2020. It was suggested to include this as a separate item after agenda item 17 on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*.

Decision SC57-01: The Standing Committee adopted the provisional agenda with the proposed amendments, as included in document SC57 Doc.2 Rev.2.

Agenda item 3: Adoption of the provisional working programme

4. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Doc.3, *Provisional working programme*, and following a suggestion of the Subgroup on Finance, proposed moving discussion of agenda item 7 on *Financial and budgetary matters* to the morning of Friday 28 June. The Secretariat proposed moving items 11 (*Final reports of the Chairs of retired working groups*) and 12 (*Report of the Executive Team*) forward to Tuesday 25 June.

5. An intervention was made by the **Republic of Korea** to bring forward to Tuesday 25 June the discussion of Agenda item 26 on *Wetland City Accreditation: Guidance for the 2019-2021 triennium*.

Decision SC57-02: The Standing Committee adopted the provisional working programme with the proposed amendments, as included in document SC57 Doc.3 Rev.1.

Agenda item 4: Admission of observers

6. The **Secretariat** outlined the key paragraphs of document SC57 Doc.4 *Admission of observers*.

Decision SC57-03: The Standing Committee admitted the observers listed in document SC57 Doc.4.

Agenda item 5: Report of the Secretary General

7. The **Secretary General** summarized the work of the Secretariat for the period from 29 October 2018 to 15 April 2019, set out in document SC57 Doc.5, under five thematic areas:
- strengthening service to Contracting Parties' decision-making and accountability;
 - increasing the relevance of wetlands and the Convention to global sustainable development policy objectives;
 - strengthening support and enabling implementation;
 - enhancing the visibility of wetlands and the Convention; and
 - strengthening the Secretariat's efficiency and effectiveness.
8. Participants congratulated the United Arab Emirates on its successful hosting of the 13th Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP13), and the Secretary General on her excellent work in putting the Convention on a sound financial and operational footing. Several Parties noted that they believed that Ramsar Secretariat had made considerable improvements in effectiveness and accountability over the past two years and was now in a much stronger position to enable Parties to implement the Convention.
9. Interventions were made by **Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria** on behalf of the European Contracting Parties, **Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chad, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Sweden, Uganda, the United States of America** and **Uruguay**.

Agenda item 6: Report of the Management Working Group

10. The **Chair of the Standing Committee**, as Chair of the Management Working Group, introduced the report of the Management Working Group, which had been shared as document SC57 Com.3¹. He summarized the process undertaken to establish the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).
11. The **Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee (Sweden)** as Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel, outlined the process undertaken in the establishment of the Panel, as summarized in the same document.

¹ As annexed to the present report at Annex 1.

12. The **Secretary General** drew attention to the inconsistency in existing Resolutions regarding the establishment of the CEPA Oversight Panel and the complexity of the process of the appointment of the STRP, noting the desirability of establishing new Panels at COP meetings with the nominations processes carried out before that, and sought the guidance of the Standing Committee as to how this might be achieved.

Decision SC57-04: The Standing Committee approved the nomination of the following as members of the CEPA Oversight Panel:

- **Chair: Sweden (as the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee);**
- **Vice-Chair: Vice-Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel;**
- **Australia;**
- **Honduras;**
- **Nepal;**
- **Uganda;**
- **Ukraine;**
- **United States of America;**
- **CEPA NGO Focal Points from Iraq and Sudan; and**
- **Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) as International Organization Partner.**

Decision SC57-05: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to liaise with appropriate bodies to develop revised processes for appointing both the CEPA Oversight Panel and the STRP.

Agenda item 8: Urgent challenges to the wise use of wetlands to receive enhanced attention

13. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Doc.8, which synthesized information extracted from a number of sources, including:
- the *Global Wetland Outlook*;
 - document COP13 Doc.11.1, the *Global implementation* report reviewing National Reports submitted to COP13;
 - United Nations assessments including the *World Water Development Report* and the *Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction*; and
 - The World Economic Forum's *Global Risks Report*.
14. Participants commended the work of the Secretariat, noting the scale of the challenges faced and the need for priority-setting and leveraging of resources. The importance of climate change and wetland restoration, and the need for comprehensive and reliable wetland inventories were emphasized. The continuing need to raise awareness, and the fundamental importance of the capacity of Contracting Parties and their human and technical resources, were underlined.
15. Interventions were made by **Armenia, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Uganda** on behalf of Parties in the Africa region, the **United States of America** and **Uruguay**.
16. Contracting Parties considered how best to apply this information, for example in updating guidance and identifying gaps in it, and invited the Chair of the STRP to consider how these urgent challenges might be reflected in discussions to follow regarding the STRP work plan for the triennium.
17. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** appointed an informal group, comprising Austria, Australia, Algeria, Bhutan, Japan, the United States of America and Uruguay, to review the

document further and make suggestions for further prioritization, to be presented at a later session.

Agenda item 9: Report of the Working Group on the Review of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention

18. **Uganda**, as the newly-elected Chair of the Working Group, summarized the report of the Group, which had been shared as document SC57 Com.4². He recalled the tasks outlined for the Working Group in Annex 1 of Resolution XIII.5 on *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention*, which are intended to culminate in the submission of a proposal for a draft resolution to the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC59) in early 2021.
19. The need for transparency and speed in completing the appointment of a consultant was underlined, in order to enable a well-developed submission to SC58. Attention was drawn to the low rate of response from Contracting Parties to the questionnaire evaluating the implementation of the current Strategic Plan.

Decision SC57-06: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to share the shortlisting assessment of the candidates with the members of the Group, and include the Chair of the Working Group in panel interviews of the shortlisted candidates for the consultancy.

Decision SC57-07: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to proceed expeditiously with the appointment of the consultant and inception of the project work plan, in order that it might be well advanced before the end of 2019, to enable the submission of an advanced draft report to SC58 in 2020.

Decision SC57-08: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to organize an inception meeting with the selected consultant on their appointment, to define detailed timelines and outputs, in light of existing processes such as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) in October 2020 and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Decision SC57-09: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to seek further responses from Contracting Parties to the survey on implementation of the current Strategic Plan, and invited regional representatives of the Standing Committee to encourage Parties in their respective regions to respond.

Decision SC57-10: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to finalize the work plan of the Working Group to reflect the discussions of its meeting of 24 June 2019.

15:00 – 17:40 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 25: Report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives in 2018 and 2019, and establishment of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group

20. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Doc.25, *2019 Update on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives*, noting that annual reports received from the various Ramsar Regional Initiatives

² As annexed to the present report at Annex 2.

(RRIs) were summarized in Annex 1 of the document and that the full reports were available on the Ramsar website and accessible through a link in the document.

21. Participants emphasized the value of the RRIs, in particular in their ability to leverage funding and their potential role in capacity building.
22. The **Secretary General** drew attention to paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of the document concerning the lack of consistency in reports received from RRIs, their sometimes unclear legal status and challenges for the Secretariat in determining how to interact most appropriately with them.
23. Interventions were made by **Algeria, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Mexico, Uganda** and the **United States of America**.
24. **Mexico** as chair of the Subgroup on Finance clarified that the Subgroup would address the allocation of funds for RRIs.
25. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** established an informal working group, comprising Algeria, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chad, Costa Rica, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kenya, Panama, Sweden, Togo and Ukraine, to address the concerns raised by the Secretary General on the need to have clear guidance on the role of the Secretariat in the Regional Initiatives and standard reports for RRIs, and report back to a later session.

Decision SC57-11: The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to review the reporting format and process to prepare the summary assessment requested in paragraph 28 of Resolution XIII.9 and to submit a proposal to the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee.

Agenda item 26: Wetland City Accreditation: Guidance for the 2019-2021 triennium
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26. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Doc.26, *Wetland City Accreditation: Guidance for the 2019-2021 triennium*, noting that Resolution XII.10 on *Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention* did not provide clear operational guidelines to the Secretariat. It drew attention to paragraph 19 of the document on the role of the Secretariat, indicating that provision of some core budget funds had been identified as necessary for the Secretariat to fulfil its responsibilities.
27. Several participants praised the Wetland City Accreditation as a very successful venture, noting that the Accreditation ceremony at COP13 had gained the highest media profile of any event at the meeting. They stressed the potential role of the Accreditation as a flagship for Ramsar, and stated that they considered it appropriate that some of the identified budget surplus be devoted to furthering its development.
28. Other participants raised concerns about the potentially growing financial implications of the process, particularly if the number of cities applying for accreditation were to increase significantly. They noted that they had raised similar concerns in discussions at COP12, and had not opposed Resolution XII.10 on the understanding that its implementation would be cost-neutral to the Secretariat. Some Parties pointed out that it was problematic procedure to approve the use of core resources when it was explicitly prohibited in Resolution XII.10 and without conducting the review that was mandated in the same Resolution, presenting a lack of discipline and setting a problematic procedure and precedent.

29. Interventions were made by **Austria, Australia, Chad, China, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America, the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia, and Wetlands International.**
30. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** established an informal working group, comprising Austria, Chad, China, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, South Africa and the United States of America, to elaborate on the role of the Secretariat and the timeline and report back at a later session.

Agenda item 11: Final reports of the Chairs of retired working groups

31. The **Secretariat** introduced documents SC57 Doc.11.1, SC57 Doc.11.2, SC57 Doc.11.3, SC57 Doc.11.4, SC57 Doc.11.5 and SC57 Doc.11.6, these being the final reports of the Transition Committee, the Resource Mobilization Working Group, the Working Group on CEPA Implementation, the Facilitation Working Group, the Language Strategy Working Group and the Staffing Working Group respectively, provided in accordance with paragraph 10 of Resolution XIII.3 on *Governance of the Convention*.
32. Interventions were made by **Sweden, the United States of America and Uruguay.**

Decision SC57-12: The Standing Committee took note of the final reports of the six retired working groups.

Agenda item 12.1: Report of the Executive Team – Terms of reference of the Executive Team

33. The **Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee** introduced document SC57 Doc.12 containing draft terms of reference for the Executive Team, which had been drafted by the Executive Team in accordance with paragraph 16 of Resolution XIII.4 *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*.
34. Interventions were made by **Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** on behalf of the European Contracting Parties suggesting amendments to the draft terms of reference, and the **United States of America.**
35. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** asked all those with comments on the draft terms of reference to forward these for consideration by the Executive Team, which would produce a revised version for consideration and discussion at a later session.

Agenda item 13: Review of the Rules of Procedure
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36. The **Legal Adviser** to the Secretariat introduced document SC57 Doc.13, *Review of the Rules of Procedure*, noting that this was a work in progress.
37. Participants appreciated the work undertaken and supported its continuation, noting that the work was essentially a two-stage process, one identifying gaps and inconsistencies that needed to be addressed prior to COP14, and the other responding to other processes regarding the roles and responsibilities of subsidiary bodies of the Convention.
38. Interventions were made by **Dominican Republic, France, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.**

39. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** asked all interested Contracting Parties to send their comments and observations to the Secretariat for incorporation into a revised document to be considered at SC58.

Decision SC57-13: The Standing Committee took note of the progress in the review of the Rules of Procedure and instructed the Secretariat to prepare a revised document with the comments received, to be presented at SC58.

Wednesday 26 June 2019

10:00 – 13:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 20: Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, including work plan for 2019-2021

40. The **Chair of the STRP** presented document SC57 Doc.20 Rev.1, detailing the process for appointing STRP members and containing the draft STRP work plan for the 2019-2021 triennium. He sought guidance from the Standing Committee on:
- direction for any follow-up to the *Global Wetland Outlook*;
 - direction on the approach to sequencing the delivery of prioritized work;
 - possible ways of sourcing funding for the implementation of tasks contained in the approved STRP work plan (2019-2021), if necessary; and
 - guidance as to how the preliminary draft terms of reference for the Ramsar Culture Network set out in Annex 3 to the document should be taken forward.
41. Participants recognized the success of the *Global Wetland Outlook* and its value as a branding tool for Ramsar. Some advocated periodic updates covering areas where there was rapid environmental change; others believed that care should be taken not to dilute the brand by producing updates before significant new information was available. The suggestion was made that the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the Convention could serve as an opportunity to focus attention on the *Outlook*. Regarding priorities, some participants believed that a flexible approach could be adopted to allow the STRP to take advantage of funding opportunities that might arise while others indicated some of their priorities. Some urged that inputs to STRP work by National Focal Points be enhanced, and opportunities to that end be given attention, while others indicated that previously submitted comments had not been fully taken into account and questioned the appropriateness of the STRP developing terms of reference for the Ramsar Culture Network. They believed that proposed budget allocations for some activities were high.
42. Interventions were made by **Algeria, Austria, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Panama, Switzerland, Uganda and the United States of America.**
43. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** asked all interested Contacting Parties to submit comments so that a revised work plan could be produced for consideration at a later session.

Agenda item 18: Observer status in the United Nations General Assembly
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44. The **Secretary General** noted that, in Decision SC55-12, the Standing Committee had instructed the Secretariat, with support from an informal group of interested Contracting Parties, to bring forward a structured proposal regarding the possibility of the Convention obtaining observer status at the United Nations General Assembly, taking into account the various options, for consideration at SC57.
45. The **Secretariat** had contacted all Parties to determine if any were interested in pursuing the process. As a result a small informal group had been convened, comprising Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chad, Colombia, Guinea, the United States of America and Uruguay. Four of the members had participated in a teleconference on 17 May 2019.
46. **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)** presented the report of the informal group, which is included as Annex 3 to the present report, with three recommendations for Standing Committee consideration for the way forward on the observer status.
47. During interventions, participants noted that the question of the legal status of the Secretariat had been addressed at length in document Ramsar COP10 DOC.20 Addendum 1. In view of the difficulties likely to be encountered in obtaining observer status for the Secretariat, several participants advocated undertaking a creative approach, including working through the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and permanent missions at the United Nations headquarters. It was noted that observer status would be of particular value in helping the Convention engage effectively in global fora and processes such as UN-Water, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals; however concerns were expressed regarding the financial implications of pursuing the process.
48. Interventions were made by **Argentina, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Switzerland, Uganda** and the **United States of America**.

Decision SC57-14: The Standing Committee agreed the following way forward on the observer status:

- a. **Endorsement by SC57 of the continuity of the Observer Status Working Group (previously informal group) with the inclusion of Mexico, the Russian Federation and Switzerland;**
- b. **Analysis of the different options and other options that might not yet have been addressed including the inputs from the Legal Adviser and the ones received from Parties during the meeting;**
- c. **Allocation of funds from the surplus for the independent analysis to be presented at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee.³**

Agenda item 21.1: Follow up to COP13 and preparation of COP14 – Report of the Secretariat on COP13
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49. The **Secretariat** summarized document SC57 Doc.21.1 and noted key findings from the review of COP13 and its preparation and implementation, observing that the Secretariat had benefited from and continued to benefit from:

³ Through Decision SC57-47 below, the Standing Committee subsequently approved the allocation of CHF 15,000 from the 2018 core budget surplus to “Legal status analysis consultancy”.

- a better Secretariat structure to manage meetings, both of the Conference of Contracting Parties and of subsidiary bodies;
 - more formal procedures and working groups to plan for COP13, and follow-up actions such as a review of the model hosting agreement, and the ongoing update of the Secretariat's COP handbook; and
 - the new customer relationship management (CRM) system to manage contacts and registration processes.
50. The **Secretariat** highlighted new processes applied and results achieved during COP13.
51. Relevant findings included that:
- the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Convention provides an opportunity for coordinated messaging at COP14 and World Wetlands Day in 2021;
 - holding COP14 in July 2021 would enable timely preparation and follow-up, and better sequencing of lead-up events, so as not to concentrate the demands on funders and the Secretariat in the COP year;
 - the deadlines for Contracting Parties to submit proposals for draft resolutions to the final full Standing Committee meeting of the triennium, and for the Secretariat to publish documents for that meeting, could be more coherent;
 - COP14 could be extended by one day, which could possibly be dedicated to production of final draft resolution texts.
52. Participants welcomed the progress of the Secretariat and the achievements noted above to facilitate a successful meeting, while underlining the need to limit the number of draft resolutions and ensure faster sharing of inputs on draft resolutions. Protocols for including commitments for third parties in resolution texts, such as those used for Global Environment Facility (GEF) resolutions, could be considered in advance. The added cost of an extra day was noted, but its potential value recognized. Engagement with STRP members, events related to the 50th anniversary and youth events were noted as possible opportunities.
53. The significance and awareness-raising potential of the 50th anniversary were acknowledged along with the need for a robust and structured response.
54. It was noted that the sequencing and mandate of pre-COP regional meetings fell within the mandate of the Effectiveness Working Group.
55. Interventions were made by **Australia, France, the United Kingdom** on behalf of the Contracting Parties in Europe, and the **United States of America**.

Decision SC57-15: The Standing Committee requested that the Subgroup on COP14 include in its remit the identification of effective actions to mark the 50th anniversary of the Convention, and engage with other Contracting Parties as appropriate to achieve this.

Agenda item 21.1 Bis: Follow up to COP13 and preparation of COP14 – Oral report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Award on Innovation

56. The **Secretariat** recalled that through Decision SC55-15, the Standing Committee had confirmed that presentation of the Ramsar Award for Wetland Innovation should be deferred for six months, pending clarification of legal issues affecting the recipient. The legal issues had not been resolved in the interim period.

Decision SC57-16: The Standing Committee decided that the Ramsar Award for Wetland Innovation for 2018 should not be presented.

Agenda item 21.2: Follow up to COP13 and preparation of COP14 – COP14 Host and establishment of the Subgroup on COP14

57. The **Secretary General** outlined that, as no formal offer to host COP14 had been received by COP13, the Conference had set a new deadline for offers, of one month before SC57. The Secretariat had received two formal offers by 24 May 2019; one had been withdrawn, leaving an offer by China.
58. **China** informed the Standing Committee that its offer had been confirmed by the State Council on 6 May 2019, and, after reading the letter of invitation from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, formally passed it to the Secretary General. A video and a presentation introducing the proposed host city, Wuhan in Hubei Province, were presented.

Decision SC57-17: The Standing Committee accepted by acclamation the offer of China to host the 14th Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties in Wuhan.

15:00 – 18:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 21.2: Follow up to COP13 and preparation of COP14 – COP14 Host and establishment of the Subgroup on COP14 (continued)

59. The **Standing Committee** considered the establishment of the Subgroup on COP14, comprising one representative from each of the six Ramsar regions. The Committee agreed that the remit of the Subgroup could be extended to include the development of initial ideas for the 50th anniversary of the Convention in 2021, and that a larger Subgroup composition might support this.

Decision SC57-18: The Standing Committee established the Subgroup on COP14, chaired by China and also comprising Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Costa Rica, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, to oversee the COP14 planning process and to develop ideas regarding the celebration of the Convention's 50th anniversary in 2021, seeking the support of other Contracting Parties as required.

Agenda item 14: Review of all previous Resolutions and decisions

60. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Doc.14, presenting a preliminary response to paragraphs 24 and 25 of Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*.
61. Participants recognized the scale of the task faced by the Secretariat in attempting to review all previous Resolutions and decisions, and agreed that any comprehensive work to classify them and identify protocols for their eventual retirement or consolidation would require financial resources. It was suggested that, as a first step, a preliminary classification of existing Resolutions into major thematic areas could be undertaken by the Secretariat. This would serve as a basis for the selection of priority areas for further action, the identification of which

would take into account the priorities identified under Agenda item 8 on *Urgent challenges to the wise use of wetlands to receive enhanced attention*.

62. The importance of building on earlier work within the Convention and by other multilateral environmental agreements and organizations was emphasized.
63. Interventions were made by **Australia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Japan, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America**.

Decision SC57-19: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to carry out a preliminary grouping of existing Resolutions into major thematic areas, identifying possible priority areas for further action in line with the prioritization of urgent challenges under Agenda item 8, to submit intersessionally to a group comprising the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States of America and the Chair of the STRP for their consideration, along with advice on the capacity that would be needed to take the process further.⁴

Agenda item 10: Report of the Effectiveness Working Group and approval of the terms of reference of the Group

64. The **United Kingdom** presented an update of the Group's activities to date, drawing attention to the Group's terms of reference proposed in document SC57 Com.1⁵ and noting that a consultant had been appointed. The Group had appointed the United Kingdom and Zambia as Co-Chairs.

Decision SC57-20: The Standing Committee approved the terms of reference of the Effectiveness Working Group in document SC57 Com.1 and took note of the appointment of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Zambia as Co-Chairs of the Group.

Agenda item 16: Work plan of the Secretariat for 2019-2021
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65. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Doc.16, *Workplan for the Secretariat for 2019-2021*, noting the integration of the annual plan for 2019, the triennial plan for 2019-2021 and the CEPA Action Plan, in line with Standing Committee Decision SC53-07.
66. Interventions were made by **Australia, France and the United States of America**, commending the plan's content and structure while drawing attention to some minor editorial amendments and underlining the importance they attached to actions towards gender equality.

Decision SC57-21: The Standing Committee approved the Workplan for the Secretariat for 2019-2021, with the addition of minor editorial amendments to be submitted by Parties to the Secretariat.

⁴ Through Decision SC57-47 below, the Standing Committee subsequently approved the allocation of CHF 20,000 from the 2018 core budget surplus to "Resolutions review (resolution XIII.4)".

⁵ As annexed to the present report at Annex 4.

Agenda item 15.1: Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)
– Establishment of the CEPA Oversight Panel

67. The **Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel** provided an update on work carried out by the newly constituted Panel, noting that its mandate was not very clear. The chair noted that a first task might be a small survey of Contracting Parties to identify their successful CEPA-related activities and outstanding needs. It was proposed to hold a teleconference of the Panel in September.

Agenda item 15.2: Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)
– Report of the Secretariat on World Wetlands Day

68. The **Secretariat** provided an update on World Wetlands Day 2019, the theme of which had been “wetlands and climate change”, noting that nearly 1,500 events in 108 countries had been registered, with nearly 500 million people reached through social media.
69. Participants congratulated the Contracting Parties (and notably France) which had been successful in holding a large number of events and commended the materials produced by the Secretariat.
70. Interventions were made by **Australia**, the **United Kingdom** and the **United States of America**.

Agenda item 15.3: Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)
– Implementation of Resolution XIII.1 on World Wetlands Day (UN request)

71. The **United Arab Emirates** provided an oral update on efforts to have 2 February designated as World Wetlands Day by the UN General Assembly. The Party had, with Secretariat support, been preparing a submission including draft resolution text, to be submitted for consideration by the next session of the General Assembly before the 25 July 2019 deadline. Contracting Parties were encouraged to engage their permanent missions in support of the initiative, and invited to consider co-sponsoring the draft resolution.
72. Interventions were made by **France**, **Uganda**, and the **United States of America**.

Decision SC57-22: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to draft talking points and share them with Contracting Parties to enable consistent messaging in support of the initiative.

Agenda item 19: Ramsar Convention Resource Mobilization Work Plan

73. The **Secretariat** introduced Document SC57 Doc.19, noting that a database of potential funding organizations was now available on the Ramsar website⁶.
74. **Australia** and the **United States of America** thanked the Secretariat for its work and stressed the importance of support to build the resource mobilization capacities of Contracting Parties.

Decision SC57-23: The Standing Committee took note of the Ramsar Convention Resource Mobilization Work Plan.

⁶ See <https://www.ramsar.org/activity/funding-organization-database>

Agenda item 26: Wetland City Accreditation: Guidance for the 2019-2021 triennium (continued)

75. The **Republic of Korea** reported that the informal working group had met on 26 June, and provided an update of its work on the timeline for the Wetland City Accreditation process in the 2019-2021 triennium.⁷ The delegate encouraged Contracting Parties from each region to nominate candidates to serve on the Independent Advisory Committee for the 2019-2021 triennium, so that the composition of the Group could be finalized during SC57.

Decision SC57-24: The Standing Committee approved the timeline for the process in the 2019-2021 triennium for the City Accreditation.

Agenda item 23: Update on the status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance

76. The **Secretariat** presented its report on the status of Sites on the Ramsar List, document SC57 Doc.23 Rev.1, and sought the advice of the Contracting Parties regarding the instruction in Resolution XIII.10 on database-to-database transfer of information.
77. Participants welcomed the positive news within the report which stands in contrast to the findings of the *Global Wetland Outlook*.
78. The **Chair of the STRP** drew attention to the European Environment Agency's database-to-database protocols and guidance regarding Birds Directive information. Some countries expressed concerns on the complexity and difficulties on the database-to-database transfer of information.
79. **Algeria** reported that, since the end of the reporting period of the document, the updating of 47 of its 50 Ramsar Sites had been completed, and that all 50 Sites would be up to date shortly.
80. Interventions were made by **Algeria, Dominican Republic, France, Sweden**, and the **Chair of the STRP**.

Agenda item 24: Ramsar Advisory Missions: Operational guidance

81. The **Secretariat** presented the draft operational guidance for Ramsar Advisory Missions which was annexed to document SC57 Doc.24, noting the input of the STRP to its preparation.
82. Interventions were made by **France, Japan** and the **United States of America**.
83. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** instructed the Secretariat to revise the document according to comments submitted by Contracting Parties, and publish it for consideration in a later session.

Agenda item 22: National Reports for COP14

84. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Doc.22 *Draft format for National Reports to COP14*, drawing attention to updates and proposed changes in the report format.

⁷ For details of the timeline, see the final report of the informal working group at Annex 5 of the present report.

85. Participants drew attention to problems in reconciling information from different legislative regimes within one country; they stressed the importance of maintaining continuity so that historical information was not lost. Attention was drawn to the large number of indicators in the current format and the relative complexity of the wetlands classification system used under the Convention. Some participants had editorial comments.
86. Interventions were made by **Armenia, Austria, Australia, Colombia, Japan, Panama, Sweden, Switzerland**, the **United Kingdom** and the **United States of America**.
87. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** asked all those with comments to submit them to the Secretariat so that a revised version could be produced for consideration at a later session.

Agenda item 27.1: Implications of joint meetings of the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

88. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Doc.27.1, noting that this was a response to paragraph 16 of Resolution XIII.8 on *Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021*.
89. The **Secretariat** had examined two scenarios regarding the implications of back-to-back and overlapping meetings of the STRP and Standing Committee, one in which the meetings ran one after the other and the other with a two-day overlap. It had noted capacity and cost implications for the two scenarios.
90. Participants questioned the value of holding overlapping meetings in achieving the objective of fostering communication and synergies, particularly in view of the implications, noting that there was normally relatively little overlap in the agendas of the two meetings.
91. The **Chair of the STRP** suggested that one or more STRP members could be invited to participate in discussions during Standing Committee meetings, addressing important emerging issues or those for which significant new information had become available. This received widespread support. Participants also recalled the possible inclusion of time in the COP14 schedule during which delegations might engage with STRP members on identified priority issues.
92. Interventions were made by **Argentina, Australia, France, Japan, Switzerland**, the **United Kingdom** and the **United States of America**.

Decision SC57-25: The Standing Committee agreed on the suggestion that one or more STRP members could be invited to participate in discussions during Standing Committee meetings addressing important emerging issues or those for which significant new information had become available.

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

93. 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.
94. 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 .
95. **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, from 21 to 24 May 2019. The Party drew attention to the valuable coordinating role of Ramsar in the Global Peatland Initiative.
96. The **Secretariat** was encouraged to cooperate with the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, based in Geneva.
97. Interventions were made by **Austria, Australia, Bhutan, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Japan, Kuwait, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uruguay**, and a representative of the **Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity**.

Decision SC57-26: 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 global 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 SC57-27: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat:

- a. 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 SC57-26.
- b. 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.

- c. to 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.
- d. to 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 17 Bis: Contributions of the Convention to the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020
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- 98. **France**, as host of the forthcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress to be held in Marseille from 11 to 19 June 2020⁸, 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. France encouraged the Secretariat to liaise with IUCN as a matter of urgency, given the deadline, to consider how the Convention might take part in the forum beyond the contributions of individual Contracting Parties, to make wetlands and wetland issues visible under the different Congress themes, and to report back to the Parties.
- 99. **Australia** expressed its intention to play an active role in the Congress.

15:30 – 16:45 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 25: Report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives in 2018 and 2019, and establishment of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group (continued)

- 100. **Costa Rica** presented the report of the meeting that had been held regarding implementation of Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021*⁹, noting that representatives of ten Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) had met, along with nine other Contracting Parties.
- 101. The group had determined that the Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives should be made up of the coordinators of each of the RRIs and the regional representatives on the Standing Committee. Preliminary discussion on operational guidelines had focused on: identifying specific characteristics of each of the RRIs; the allocation of funds, administration and implementation of individual projects; and mobilization of resources.
- 102. The group had stressed that work should focus on identifying successful experiences for the implementation of RRIs in all regions, and on how they might support their effective

⁸ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/iucn-2020-world-congress-information-note-to-ramsar-contracting-parties-and-secretariat>

⁹ As annexed to the present report at Annex 6.

implementation of the Convention. The Group expected to present its terms of reference and work programme to SC58.

103. **Australia** noted that the financial implications of the Group's work had been addressed by the Sub-Group on Finance and would be discussed under agenda item 7.

Decision SC57-28: The Standing Committee recognized the Working Group on Ramsar Regional Initiatives comprising the coordinators of each of the Initiatives and the regional representatives on the Standing Committee. It asked the Group to develop its terms of reference and work programme options for addressing Resolution XIII.9, and present these at SC58.¹⁰

Decision SC57-29: The Standing Committee asked the Secretariat to seek further guidance from the Ramsar Legal Adviser on the legal status of Ramsar Regional Initiatives and report back to SC58.

Agenda item 12.1: Report of the Executive Team - Terms of reference of the Executive Team (continued)

104. The **Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee** introduced amendments to the terms of reference which the Executive Team had compiled following comments received.
105. **Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States of America** made further comments on the presented text, including regarding the need to avoid inappropriate use of formal treaty language.
106. The **Chair of the Standing Committee** deferred further discussion to the following plenary session.

Agenda item 20: Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, including work plan for 2019-2021 (continued)

107. The **United States of America** presented changes proposed by the discussion group tasked by the Chair of the Standing Committee to consider amendments to the draft work plan for 2019-2021 of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (document SC57 Doc.20 Rev.1). The group had *inter alia* refined the titles of some of the tasks.
108. Regarding the selection of priority tasks, the group had further recommended that the STRP be allowed flexibility to take advantage of funding opportunities for lower priority tasks on the understanding that this would not interfere with the successful completion of high-priority tasks.
109. Regarding possible updates to the *Global Wetland Outlook*, the group had agreed that it would be premature to produce a comprehensive revised version in the immediate future but strongly supported the production of a special edition linked to the Convention's 50th anniversary. The group had considered that the STRP should be invited to advise on an appropriate theme or themes.

¹⁰ Through Decision SC57-49 below, the Standing Committee subsequently approved the use of CHF 21K carried forward from the 2018 budget line "Support to Regional Initiatives – General" for the operation of the Working Group on Ramsar Regional Initiatives as per paragraph 9 of Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021*.

110. The group considered the draft terms of reference for the Ramsar Culture Network (annex 3 of the same document) well crafted, and commended the STRP on its efforts. They proposed that these be forwarded directly to the Network.

Decision SC57-30: The Standing Committee approved the draft work plan of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, with the amendments agreed by the discussion group.¹¹

Agenda item 21.2: Follow up to COP13 and preparation of COP14 - COP14 Host and establishment of the Subgroup on COP14 (continued)

111. **China**, as Chair of the Subgroup on COP14, presented an oral summary of the first meeting of the Subgroup. Two separate workstreams had been identified, one focusing on the logistical tasks ahead, and the other on possible activities for the 50th anniversary of the Convention.
112. Regarding the 50th anniversary, initial ideas mooted had included: a high-level segment at COP14; a special award; 2021 as a year of wetlands, running from World Wetlands Day to the COP; and key concepts of water, youth, future responsibility, and value. Wider consultation would follow.
113. In logistical terms, the need to define the event dates quickly was underlined, to avoid clashes and synchronize with other related processes.
114. The **UN Food and Agriculture Organization** offered, as the current Vice-Chair of UN-Water, to support efforts to promote partnership with Ramsar and its COP14 messages. The representative recalled that the period from 2018 to 2028 has been identified as the Water Action Decade, drew attention to major New York events upcoming in 2021 and 2023, and encouraged joint action to make Ramsar more visible on the decennial website.
115. **Uganda** noted that the most recent Ramsar high-level segment had been held at COP9 in Kampala, and offered to share experience as needed.

Friday 28 June 2019

10:00 – 12:00 Plenary Session of the Standing Committee

Agenda item 26: Wetland City Accreditation: Guidance for the 2019-2021 triennium (continued)

116. The **Republic of Korea** presented the final report of the informal group established under Agenda item 26 (which is annexed to the present report as Annex 5) and asked the Standing Committee to agree members to serve on the Independent Advisory Committee for the next triennium.
117. The **Republic of Korea** also noted that:
- the Secretariat had been asked to provide an estimate of staff time spent on the process, to guide the IAC in shaping its ongoing role;

¹¹ The final work plan is annexed to the present report at Annex 7.

- funds would be required in the triennium for the first face-to-face meeting of the IAC, and that the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia (RRC-EA) would contribute USD 40K to host the meeting;
- the IAC would report on the meeting to SC58, including on steps to ensure the sustainability of the Accreditation; and
- a round-table meeting of mayors of accredited cities was planned for 2019 at the RRC-EA, and other potential hosts had expressed interest in hosting such meetings in 2020 and 2021.

118. Interventions were made by **Australia, Chad, Dominican Republic** on behalf of the Parties of the Caribbean, **Japan**, the **United Kingdom**, and **Uruguay** on behalf of the Parties of Latin America.

Decision SC57-31: The Standing Committee agreed the following regional representatives on the Independent Advisory Committee of the Wetland City Accreditation:

- **North America: no nomination;**
- **Oceania: Australia;**
- **Africa: Chad;**
- **Europe: Austria;**
- **Latin America and The Caribbean: nomination to follow.**

Agenda item 12.1: Report of the Executive Team – Terms of reference of the Executive Team (continued)

119. The **Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee** introduced document SC57 Com.11 with amended terms of reference for the Executive Team, which are annexed to the present report, without tracked changes, as Annex 8.

Decision SC57-32: The Standing Committee adopted the terms of reference for the Executive Team as annexed to the present report at Annex 8.

Agenda item 7: Financial and budgetary matters – Report of the Subgroup on Finance

120. **Mexico**, as Chair of the Subgroup on Finance, introduced documents SC57 Com.6 and SC57 Com.9, these being parts I and II of the report of the meeting of the Subgroup on Finance.¹²

121. **Zambia**, on behalf of the Africa group, drew attention to the budget allocation for capacity building and stressed the importance of this activity to African Contracting Parties, noting that many of them were limited in their capacity to use webinars and other types of technologies and stressing the importance of a needs assessment.

122. The Standing Committee took the following decisions, listed below in the order in which they are addressed in parts I and II of the report of the Subgroup on Finance.

Decision SC57-33: The Standing Committee accepted the 2018 audited financial statements as of 31 December 2018.

Decision SC57-34: The Standing Committee took note of the core budget results for 2018 and carry-forward of 2018 surplus.

¹² Parts I and II of the report of the Subgroup are annexed to the present report as Annex 9.1 and Annex 9.2.

Decision SC57-35: The Standing Committee took note of the status of non-core funding and voluntary contributions for 2018.

Decision SC57-36: The Standing Committee took note of and approved the Secretariat's adjustments to the COP13-approved core budget for 2019 (see Annex 1 of Annex 9.1 of the present report), which make no changes but show for transparency and clarity the approved use of surplus from the previous triennium.

Decision SC57-37: The Standing Committee took note of the non-core balances.

Decision SC57-38: The Standing Committee took note of the progress in implementing the recommendations of the *IUCN Financial Management Review of Non-core (Restricted) Fund Accounts* and approved the following actions:

- a. to adopt the use of the standard terms "core" and "non-core" to describe Ramsar funds;
- b. to agree to engage with the auditor in its annual meetings, looking at the most cost-effective way, including virtual participation, or by sharing the auditor's report at least three months in advance of the meeting (or earlier), in accordance with the Rules of Procedure on meeting documents; and
- c. to request the Secretariat to collect and share questions from members of the Subgroup by email in advance and collect answers from the auditor in time for the meeting.

Decision SC57-39: The Standing Committee approved the external auditor's proposed modification for the calculation of the provision for outstanding Contracting Party contributions (document SC57 Doc.7.1, paragraph 42, option a.) and accordingly to increase the provision for 2019. The source of funding is detailed in the Report of the meeting of the Subgroup on Finance, Part II (Annex 9.2 to the present report), paragraph 1.b viii.

Decision SC57-40: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to explore the practicality of a group approach or other creative solutions for confirmation of outstanding Contracting Party balances for the 2019 audit.

Decision SC57-41: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to include a note regarding the existence or lack thereof of other potential large provision items, such as future pension obligations, that are not required to be disclosed under Swiss Law, and disclose any accounting policies and information related to such potential liabilities in future financial statements.

Decision SC57-42: The Standing Committee encouraged the Secretariat to provide input to IUCN and invited Parties to work with their counterparts responsible for IUCN to provide feedback on any IUCN consideration of options for future auditing contracts.

Decision SC57-43: The Standing Committee took note of the requests of Panama and Switzerland to join the Subgroup on Finance for the current triennium.

Decision SC57-44: The Standing Committee took note of the status of annual contributions and the actions taken to encourage payment of outstanding contributions, and instructed the Secretariat to continue encouraging timely payments of annual contributions.

Decision SC57-45: The Standing Committee took note of the change in annual contributions receivable and in the annual provision against contributions receivable.

Decision SC57-46: The Standing Committee took note of the current status of a balance of CHF 91K of the voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties in the Africa region.

Decision SC57-47: The Standing Committee approved the allocation of 2018 surplus as per Table 1 of Annex 9.2 of the present report.

Decision SC57-48: The Standing Committee approved the allocation CHF 100K from the core budget to Ramsar Regional Initiatives as per Table 2 of Annex 9.2 of the present report, and instructed the Secretariat:

- a. to contact SenegalWet regarding the unspent balance from previous years and its capacity to implement an additional contribution for 2019;
- b. if this additional allocation of CHF25K was not needed by SenegalWet or the Initiative's representatives do not respond by the Secretariat's deadline, to allocate then the amount equally between the remaining three initiatives listed in Table 2; and
- c. to report to the Subgroup on Finance inter-sessionally on the outcome of this situation.

Decision SC57-49: The Standing Committee approved the use of CHF 21K carried forward from the 2018 budget line "Support to Regional Initiatives – General" for the operation of the Working Group on Ramsar Regional Initiatives as per paragraph 9 of Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021*.

Decision SC57-50: In accordance with the responsibilities defined in Resolution 5.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*, Annex, 3, paragraph 8, the Standing Committee agreed that uncommitted/unexpended balances for budget lines can be carried forward to the next year within the triennium and presented to the following meeting of the Subgroup on Finance.¹³

Decision SC57-51: The Standing Committee took note of the actions taken by the Secretariat to phase out the Small Grants Fund programme, approved the selection of recipients to receive funding from the Small Grants Fund proposed at Table 4 of Annex 9.2 of the present report, and approved the use by the Secretariat of the remaining Small Grants Fund balance of CHF 2.8K for the development of updated guidance for Contracting Parties on preparing and writing project proposals.

Agenda item 22: National Reports for COP14 (continued)
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123. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Com.10¹⁴, comprising a revised version of the draft format for National Reports to COP14 drawing attention to the changes that had been made.

¹³ The Contracting Parties decided at COP13, in paragraph 11 of Resolution XIII.2, that the *Terms of Reference for the Financial Administration of the Convention* contained in Annex 3 to Resolution 5.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters* (1993), shall be applied *in toto* to the 2019-2021 triennium.

¹⁴ As annexed to the present report at Annex 10.

124. Participants stressed the importance of national targets in implementation of the Convention, also pointing out some minor editorial amendments.

125. Interventions were made by **Costa Rica, Japan** and the **United States of America**.

Decision SC57-52: The Standing Committee approved the format for National Reports as presented in Annex 10 to the present report, subject to the inclusion of the editorial amendments noted.

Agenda item 8: Urgent challenges to the wise use of wetlands to receive enhanced attention (continued)

126. The **United States of America** introduced the outcomes of the informal group established to examine this agenda item¹⁵ and presented two draft decisions accompanied by an explanatory outline for consideration by the Committee.

Decision SC57-53: The Standing Committee decided to focus on the topic of inventories for the current triennium in order to allow Parties to focus on measures to address this urgent challenge, potentially resulting in a draft resolution or resolutions for consideration at COP14, and to use the outline attached to guide this work.

Decision SC57-54: The Standing Committee decided to allocate time on the agenda of SC58 for discussions on current best practices in the development of wetland inventories and to create an opportunity for an engagement between Parties, STRP representatives, the CEPA Oversight Panel, IOPs, the Ramsar Secretariat, and others on tools and approaches to address the challenges for many Parties in developing, improving, finalizing, and maintaining wetland inventories.

Agenda item 24: Ramsar Advisory Missions: Operational guidance (continued)

127. The **Secretariat** introduced document SC57 Com.7, containing an amended version of the operational guidance to Ramsar Advisory Missions.

128. One participant drew attention to a current circumstance whereby the report of a Ramsar Advisory Mission had been submitted by a Contracting Party as relevant documentation to a boundary dispute currently being heard at the International Court of Justice in the Hague, the Netherlands.

129. The **Secretary General** explained that the work of the Secretariat, including Ramsar Advisory Missions, was restricted to the mandate and scope laid down by the Convention Text and the decisions of the Contracting Parties.

130. Interventions were made by **Bolivia (Plurinational State of)** and **Chile**.

Decision SC57-55: The Standing Committee adopted the amended version of the operational guidelines for Ramsar Advisory Missions as annexed to the present report at Annex 12.

¹⁵ See the group's report at Annex 11 of the present report.

Agenda item 28: Adoption of the report of the meeting

131. Amendments to parts of the report were made by **Japan, Sweden, the United States of America, Uruguay, the Chair of the STRP** and the **Secretary General**, to be incorporated into a final version to be made available on the Ramsar website.

Decision SC57-56: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to submit the draft report of the final day to Standing Committee members for review and approval, and approved the draft daily reports of the previous days, subject to the amendments submitted.

Agenda item 27.2: 58th meeting of the Standing Committee - Dates of the 58th meeting

132. The Standing Committee noted that following consultation with IUCN regarding the availability of suitable meeting space and avoidance of clashes with other relevant meetings, three possible dates were identified for SC58: from 4 to 8 May 2020; from 22 to 26 June 2020; and from 29 June to 3 July 2020. It was noted with regret that two of these dates followed the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, from 11 to 19 June 2020.
133. Interventions were made by **Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bhutan, Congo, Dominican Republic, France, Japan, Kuwait, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Republic of Korea, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America** and **Uruguay**.

Decision SC57-57: The Standing Committee decided to hold its next meeting from 22 to 26 June 2020.

Agenda item 30: Closing remarks

134. Participants thanked the Chair for his guidance, and the Secretary General and the Secretariat team for their support. They acknowledged the excellent spirit of negotiations, which had enabled the compromises necessary for progress in implementation of the Convention.
135. The **Secretary General** thanked the Chair for his guidance and able management of the meeting; the Vice Chair and the Chair of the Subgroup on Finance; and the participating Contracting Parties for their commitment to an effective meeting, and for the clear guidance which they had given the Secretariat. She also thanked the rapporteur; the interpreters; IUCN for all its logistical support; the catering staff; the legal adviser; and the Deputy Secretary General and the Secretariat team.
136. The **Chair** expressed his thanks to the Secretariat and to the Contracting Parties for their efforts in negotiating in the best interests of the Convention. He wished all the participants a safe homeward journey.

The **Chair** closed the meeting at 12:00.

Annex 1

Report of the Management Working Group

(published as SC57 Com.3)

Report on the process of selection of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for the 2019-2021 triennium in accordance with Resolution XII.5

1. The Secretariat outlined the process of selection of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, indicating that a diplomatic note had been sent to all Contracting Parties in November 2018 seeking nominations. A total of 51 nominations were received. The final group comprised 35 members: eight representatives from Africa, seven from Asia, ten from Europe, six from Latin America and the Caribbean, three from North America and one from Oceania, with a gender balance of nine women and 26 men.
2. The work of the Secretariat in supporting the establishment of the Panel was noted by Australia but concern was expressed with the complexity of the process and the difficulties in engaging faced by some Contracting Parties and regional groups, given the very tight timelines imposed.
3. The Secretariat expressed concerns on the complexity of the process and suggested that it could be reviewed towards COP14.

Report on the establishment of the CEPA Oversight Panel

4. Sweden, as Chair, outlined the progress to date in establishing the Panel. The Secretariat had sent out a call for nominations through regional representatives on the Standing Committee. In addition to the Chair (Sweden, as the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee) and the Vice-Chair of the Panel (Lisa Rebelo, the Vice-Chair of the STRP), the following Contracting Parties had been nominated, comprising one member from each region:
 - Australia;
 - Honduras;
 - Nepal;
 - Uganda;
 - Ukraine; and
 - the United States.
5. Also included as members of the Panel were:
 - CEPA NGO Focal Points from Iraq and Sudan; and
 - the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust as International Organization Partner.
6. It was noted that instructions in existing Resolutions for establishing the Panel were inconsistent and outdated. Further guidance had been sought from the Standing Committee to enable a new structure and process.
7. The importance was noted of streamlining and expediting the process for the next triennium to ensure that the Panel might be established at COP14.
8. An intervention was made by Australia.
9. The Management Working Group took note of the composition of the Panel, and recommended that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to implement a process to

establish the Panel for the 2021-2024 triennium prior to COP14, so that the Parties might agree on a final composition at that meeting.

Annex 2

Report of the Working Group on the Review of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention

(published as SC57 Com.4)

1. The Secretariat outlined the tasks agreed for the Working Group listed at Annex 1, paragraph 9, of Resolution XIII.5 on *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention*, which are intended to culminate in the submission of a proposal for a draft resolution to the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC59) in early 2021.
2. Uganda was unanimously elected as Chair of the Working Group.
3. The Secretariat provided an update on progress to date, particularly with reference to the appointment of a consultant called for in Annex.1, paragraph 11, of Resolution XIII.5. Ten proposals had been received, and the Secretariat had drawn up a shortlist of four based on the criteria included in the terms of reference provided by the Working Group.
4. During discussions the need for transparency and speed in completing the appointment of the consultant was underlined. It was recommended that the consultancy result in a well-developed submission to SC58. Attention was drawn to the low rate of response from Contracting Parties to the questionnaire evaluating the implementation of the current Strategic Plan.
5. Interventions were made by Australia, Dominican Republic, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.
6. The Working Group recommended that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to share the shortlisting assessment with the members of the Group, and include the Chair of the Working Group in panel interviews of the shortlisted candidates for the consultancy.
7. The Working Group recommended that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to proceed expeditiously with the appointment of the consultant and inception of the project work plan, in order that it might be well advanced before the end of 2019, to enable the submission of an advanced draft report to SC58 in 2020.
8. The Working Group recommended that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to organize an inception meeting with the selected consultant on their appointment, to define detailed timelines and outputs, in light of existing processes such as the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) in October 2020 and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
9. The Working Group recommended that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to seek further responses from Contracting Parties to the survey on implementation of the current Strategic Plan, and invite regional representatives of the Standing Committee to encourage Parties in their respective regions to respond.
10. The Working Group recommended that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to finalize the work plan of the Working Group to reflect the discussions of its meeting of 24 June 2019.

Annex 3

Report of the informal group of interested Contracting Parties on the observer status in the United Nations bodies to SC57

The Standing Committee discussed the issue of the Observer Status at its 54th and 55th meetings (SC54, April 2018 and SC55, Dubai October 2018). At these meetings, several Contracting Parties stressed the importance of better engagement for the Convention in the environment-related processes that take place within fora of the United Nations.

At SC55 the Chair reported on the steps taken so far and noted that this matter had been further postponed for consideration at the 74th session of the UNGA, in 2019, since there was still no consensus among Member States. The Secretariat recalled the various options that had been pursued to try to raise the visibility of the Convention within the UNGA.

Following a discussion, SC55 adopted the following decision:

Decision SC55-12: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat, with support from an informal group of interested Contracting Parties, to bring forward a structured proposal, taking into account the various options, for consideration at SC57.

Pursuant to Decision SC55-12, the Secretariat sent a message to all Contracting Parties on the 3rd April in order to identify which Parties would be interested to liaise with the Ramsar Secretariat to *bring forward a structured proposal* and explore the various options for gaining access to relevant meetings of the UNGA and related high-level fora.

Six Parties, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chad, Colombia, Guinea, United States of America and Uruguay expressed interest on this matter. The Secretariat set a conference call with them on the 17th May.

Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, United States of America and Uruguay participated in the conference call and discussed the following issues:

1) Observer Status under the General Assembly

This matter has been differed to the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly that will take place from 17-30 September 2019.

2) Other options

Participants discussed options to address the issues regarding the status of the Secretariat to enable gaining access to relevant meetings of the UNGA and related high-level fora. These drew from previous decisions of the Standing Committee.

- a) ECOSOC- in order to seek guidance regarding the process for requesting observer status specifically in this forum of the United Nations as per SC54 discussions, the Secretary General has written on the 1 April to the President of ECOSOC but a response has not been received yet.
- b) Legal personality-the Secretary General has requested the views of the host country on the Convention's legal personality.

3) Some limitations experienced by the Secretariat due to the lack of legal personality such as:

- a) Visibility of the Convention on UN process and meetings,
- b) Difficulties in the management of projects in particular when donors do not accept the delegation of authority to the Secretary General and request projects to be signed by IUCN,
- c) PWC auditors has expressed concern on the risk that Contracting Parties' arrears represent for the Convention and
- d) In terms of recruitment of staff, the Convention is not competitive compared with UN conditions and benefits (salary scales, pensions, education allowance).

The interested Contracting Parties agreed to recommend to SC57 the following way forward on the observer status:

- a) Endorsement by SC57 of the continuity of the observer status informal group
- b) Analysis of the different options and other options that might have not yet been addressed including the inputs from the legal advisor.
- c) Recommendation to allocate funds from the surplus for the independent analysis to be presented to Standing Committee 58.

Annex 4

Effectiveness Working Group – Terms of Reference

(published as SC57 Com.1)

1. Introduction

The 13th Conference of the Parties in adopting Resolution XIII.3:

- Acknowledged the importance of providing an adequate institutional set-up for Ramsar, a global convention with 170 Parties.
- Established the Effectiveness Working Group (EWG) to review the governance structure of the Convention with the assistance of an independent consultant.
- Established that the EWG be composed of one Standing Committee representative from each Ramsar region as well as any other interested Contracting Parties, keeping in mind the desirability of equitable participation and keeping the group to a manageable size.¹⁶

2. Scope

Resolution XIII.3 directs the EWG to:

- i. Review the governance structure of the Convention with the assistance of an independent consultant, as that structure exists at the close of the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (CPs), for the purpose of:
 - a. recommending revisions (as necessary) that further enhance the effectiveness, including cost effectiveness, and efficiency of the Convention in order to reduce administrative burden and speed up the processes to achieve the mission of the Ramsar Convention; and
 - b. proposing a process to implement its recommendations;
- ii. Define its terms of reference (ToR) for presentation to the Standing Committee (SC) at its 57th meeting and to report at each SC meeting thereafter, with final recommendations at its 59th meeting, which should include a draft resolution for consideration by the Standing Committee;
- iii. Complete the above outlined work by the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee.

3. EWG Terms of Reference

- i. **EWG Chair/Co-Chair Vice-Chair**
- ii. The EWG Chair and Co-Chair will be appointed by group consensus following voluntary nominations by EWG members;
- iii. The Chair/Co-Chair will co-ordinate tasks in preparation for EWG meetings and/or EWG members' contributions. All EWG members will be encouraged to support the work of the Chair and Co/Vice Chair;
- iv. The Chair/Co-Chair will set out relevant tasks for the group with a clear deadline for completion. Wherever possible (aside from any urgent, absolutely unavoidable deadline), members will be afforded at least 10 working days to provide their contributions; for complex and/or far-reaching decisions that warrant broader consultation, members will be afforded at least 20 working days to provide their contributions, with the expectation that EWG SC members from each Ramsar

¹⁶ The membership of the Effectiveness Working Group comprises, at present, the following members of the SC: Australia (SC), Bhutan (SC), the Dominican Republic (SC), Japan (SC), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (SC), the United States of America (SC), Sweden (SC), Uruguay (SC) and Zambia (SC) and the following other interested parties: Austria, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Kenya, Lesotho, the Netherlands, Senegal, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.

- region will seek further contributions from other members/Parties within their regions, as appropriate;
- v. The group will work by consensus;
- vi. The Chair/Co-Chair may facilitate consensus through individual discussions with members to reach an agreement in a timely manner;
- vii. The Chair/Co-Chair will act as the focal point for the Consultant and will be the recipient of all output produced by the Consultant to be promptly shared with the group;
- viii. The Chair/Co-Chair will submit a written report on work progress to the Secretariat three months in advance of SC meetings;
- ix. The Chair/Co-Chair will report on the group work at each Standing Committee meeting until COP14.

3.2 EWG

- i. The EWG will carry out its work via written electronic exchange (either email and/or share-point). Internet meetings may be organised if needed in urgent, time-sensitive situations, on a time-zone rota system ensuring participation of at least one representative from each Ramsar region.
- ii. EWG members should notify the Chair/Co-Chair of any alternative (primary contact for the EWG ;
- iii. The rapporteur for EWG meetings will ensure minutes of the meeting are sent to the Chair/Co-Chair within 5 working days from the meeting occurring to be distributed to the group;
- iv. The EWG will work according to the time-line set out in (provisional) **section 6.ii** work table. However the schedule may be revised if EWG members determine it is necessary to do so;
- v. The EWG will assess each output provided by the Consultant and where appropriate it may direct the Consultant to carry out further research on any specific topic;
- vi. The EWG may request the Secretariat to provide information or other assistance in support of the EWG's work.

4. Work Schedule

- i. The review will commence by July 2019. The Consultant will report to the EWG Chair/Co-Chair according to benchmarks set in the Consultancy ToR document once agreed with the EWG.

ii. EWG Work Table

Timing	Purpose
June 2019 – at SC57	EWG meeting (23.06) - to finalise EWG ToR + review topics (face to face meeting)
By 16 th August 2019	Appointment of Consultant and initial scoping meeting between Consultant and EWG – to discuss review topics and timeline of work (via teleconference)
By 30 th September 2019	Submission of full project plan received from Consultant following on basis of agreed review topics and scoping discussion
January/ February 2020	EWG meeting with Consultant – to discuss 1 st interim report + next steps (via teleconference)
3 months before SC58	Submission by EWG of report to Secretariat for SC, including identification of topics still needing resolution

TBD 2020 – at SC58	EWG meeting – to discuss progress of work (face to face meeting)
4/5 months before SC59	EWG meeting with Consultant – to discuss final report and the preparation of a draft resolution (TBC – face to face meeting)
3 months before SC59	Submission by EWG of final report to Secretariat for SC, including identification of topics for further future consideration
Date TBD 2021	SC59

Annex 5

Report of the Contact Group on Item 26

Wetland City Accreditation: Guidance for the 2019-2021 triennium

Submitted by Republic of Korea
Co-chair of IAC for WCA

The contact group on the agenda item 26, 'Wetland City Accreditation: Guidance for the 2019-2021 triennium' met after the plenary meeting on 26 June to discuss issues raised by several Parties.

The first issue was the **procedural matter** that there was no process "to review implementation progress and financing of the framework and the voluntary accreditation system at COP13," which was decided in Resolution XII.10. While a report on the progress of the WCA was shared to the then Standing Committee members at the SC54, it was suggested that the IAC should briefly report to this Standing Committee on the aforementioned progress. As a Co-chair of the IAC, the Republic of Korea agreed to do so before the closure of this Standing Committee meeting. It was also agreed that the IAC would undertake the review during its 2019 face-to-face meeting and report back to SC58 and it was reflected in the timeline table accordingly.

The second issue was **the role of the Secretariat** in the WCA process. Resolution XII.10 specifies that "Any costs for preparing and approving the Wetland City accreditation shall not be borne by the core budget of the Secretariat," which also includes staff time, and Decision SC53-14 states that the administrative role of the Secretariat should be minimal, limited to receiving applications and forwarding them to the IAC. The Parties, while appreciating the Secretariat's assistance during the previous triennium as the IAC was in a formative stage, note that some of the activities conducted by the Secretariat listed in Doc.26 para 10 should be borne by the IAC from the second round of the WCA, such as checking Parties' endorsement of applications, replying to queries, and coordinating with local governments for the accreditation ceremony, to reduce the Secretariat's workload. The group agreed that detailed guidance on the Secretariat's role will be developed by the IAC at its first meeting to be held in September 2019, and will keep the Secretariat's involvement at a minimum as decided in Resolution XII.10 and Decision SC53-14.

There was also a comment on the necessity to improve the website of the WCA that it does not reach the level of what was expected in accordance with Resolution XII.10 Paragraph 16 that "INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to develop a global online network of cities which have obtained the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention." A suggestion was made to use materials developed by accredited cities to make the website more appealing rather than leave it as a simple introduction page. The IAC will discuss how to do this in a way that does not burden the Secretariat.

The group shared the same view on the positive impacts that the WCA scheme has brought and will bring to the Convention and agreed that, depending on the scale and the amount of work required for the future process, potential allocation of core budget funds could be considered by the Subgroup on Finance at a future COP to enable the Secretariat to be more involved but that for the foreseeable future this support would come from sources outside the Convention and/or from non-core contributions that could include secondments to the Secretariat.

The third issue was the **timeline for the 2019-2021 triennium**. The main changes made by the group include; a) removing the conference call on updating the application form allocated on July 2019, as the existing form will be used for this triennium while an updated version will be used for the next triennium; b) advancing the date for launching the call for applications from September to 15 July 2019 to allow local governments to begin the preparation earlier, since they could be time-

consuming; and c) postponing the deadline for heads of AA to submit the applications to the Secretariat from 15 January to 15 March 2020 to ensure AAs of Parties to have enough time to review the applications and select their finalists. The group also made it explicit that SC59 will review and approve the cities recommended by the IAC to avoid the uncertainty experienced at COP13, the embargo will be imposed by SC59, and a certificate awarding ceremony will be held at COP14.

Table 1 in Doc.26 with the changes mentioned above is as follows:

Dates	Actions
15 July 2019	Secretariat to launch the call for applications
15 July 2019 to 31 December 2019	Interested cities to prepare and send applications to Head of Ramsar Administrative Authority (AA)
September 2019 (tentative)	Face-to-face meeting of IAC in Republic of Korea (hosted by RRC-EA) IAC to review implementation progress and financing as required in Resolution XII.10 para 11
October 2019 (tentative)	Meeting of the COP13 accredited cities in Republic of Korea (hosted by RRC-EA)
By 15 March 2020	Heads of AA to submit applications to the Ramsar Secretariat through the online submission
By 15 April 2020	Ramsar Secretariat to forward applications to the IAC
By SC58 (2020)	IAC to provide the results of its review of implementation to SC58
By 2 months before SC59 (2021)	IAC to review applications and determine which cities to accredit
At SC59 (2021)	IAC to report its decision to SC59 SC59 to review and approve the IAC recommended cities and impose a media embargo to be lifted at COP14
After SC59 (2021)	The Secretariat to invite the approved cities to the certificate awarding ceremony at COP14 and prepare the ceremony with support from the IAC
COP14 (2021)	COP14 to recognize accredited cities through the certificate awarding ceremony at COP14

The group agreed on the composition of the IAC proposed in Paragraph 18 of Doc.26 and welcomed the Republic of Korea's proposal to continue to engage in the IAC as an observer to share its experience from the last triennium and to coordinate the work of the IAC until the new chair is selected. The group also recognized the necessity of the IAC meeting and expects detailed work to be done through the meeting including conducting the review of implementation progress and financing, development of the guidance for the Secretariat's role, reflection of the feedback from the STRP on the assessment criteria, and considerations of sustainable operation of the scheme.

Annex 6

Report of the meeting held regarding implementation of Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021*

June, 27. Gland

Plenary Session of the Standing Committee 57.

Costa Rica facilitates the meeting and the group considers that the presidency of the working group should be defined in future TORs that specify the working format of the group.

The working group to be formed for regional initiatives should be composed of each of the coordinators of regional initiatives and regional representatives.

The participation of:

Panama (Center of training), Colombia, Kenya, Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (High Andean Wetlands), Uruguay (Cuenca del Plata), Costa Rica (part of 2 regional initiatives East Asia Regional Center, Japan, Sweden (north-val green regional initiative) , Algeria, South Africa, Uganda (Regional Center of East Africa), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (represents the regional initiative based in Ramsar), Ukraine (member of 2 initiatives - coordinate Black-sea wet initiative), Kazakhstan (regional initiative of Asia central), Butan and Dominican Republic.

The following topics that the representatives consider important to develop the recommendations presented at the next meeting of the CP58 related to SC57 Doc.25, on the Update on the Ramsar regional initiatives for 2019 and the actions requested of the Standing Committee, were discussed;

Resolution XIII.9. Regional Ramsar initiatives for 2019-2021

- The evident need to improve the form and content of the IRR reports, which will be worked by the secretary of the Convention.
- It is emphasized that regional initiatives currently have to comply with some guidelines - according to (paragraph 8 of resolution XIII.9) and this adds to the objective of improving their evaluation.
- And with regard to the review of the Operational Guidelines, the following topics were considered.
 1. Institutional particularities of each of the parties for the implementation of each of the IRR
 2. Aspects of implementation and administration of projects
 3. Mobilization of resources and use of available funds

Therefore, the Standing Committee is asked to approve the formation of the working group on IRR so that it can move forward with the purpose of the order made in Resolution XIII.9

The group will work on its recommendations in view of the meeting of the Permanent Committee 58, and will present the TORs that specify the working format of the same.

It is important to highlight that the work focus is directed at identifying successful experiences for the implementation of IRR in all regions and how they can support the efficiency of the implementation of the Convention. Also keeping the integrity and consistency of it. This approach supports the effective and synergistic work that is recommended for the implementation of IRRs.

Future work to improve operational guidelines should be based on inclusive principles that contribute to the overall implementation of the initiatives, and thus improve the identification of impacts, transparency and efficiency of IRR.

The positive particularities identified in the implementation of the IRR will benefit all of them and the particularities to improve will have to be resolved in order to support the global implementation.

As the Contracting Parties request in Resolution XIII.9. the Standing Committee is recommended to request the Secretariat to prepare the legal analysis of the relevant resolutions by the legal adviser of the Convention and to submit its report to the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee; besides being an input for this work group.

In the same way, the Secretariat is requested to provide the coordination of this group with the contacts of the representatives of the region and regional initiatives and to remind them that this is an open-ended group.

Annex 7

Work plan of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for 2019-2021

Introduction

Development of this draft

The STRP developed this draft work plan for the 2019-2021 triennium at its 22nd meeting (18-22 March 2019). The Standing Committee at its 57th meeting (24-28 June 2019) approved the work plan.

The draft work plan was drafted pursuant to the process outlined in Resolution XII.5: *New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention* (Annex 1, paragraphs 49-51), and taking into account the five priority thematic work areas approved by Contracting Parties at COP13 in Annex 2 of Resolution XIII.8: *Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021*.

In accordance with Resolution XII.5, the draft work plan was revised after a broad consultation process with Heads of Administrative Authorities, National Focal Points and STRP National Focal Points.

Costs

The indicative budget for the tasks generally assumes that the costs for layout, design, review, translation, and publication are: up to CHF 1,240 for a Factsheet, up to CHF 2,960 for a Policy Brief, up to CHF 6,400 for a Briefing Note and up to CHF 22,600 for a Ramsar Technical Report. Consultancy reports (up to 40 pages) have been estimated at up to CHF 30,600, drafting workshops at up to CHF 10,000 and web design at up to CHF 4,000¹⁷ (based on financial information from the Secretariat).

Note that the cost implications for engagement, as required, with international processes (such as other Conventions, IPBES and possibly technical work related to monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals), are largely unknown at this stage as this will depend on the nature and type of input requested, for example whether travel costs will be required.

Priorities

In developing this draft work plan and consistent with Resolution XIII.8, the STRP attempted to apply a consistent and explicit approach to priority setting. High-priority tasks were those that had several of the following characteristics (not listed in rank order), namely those which:

- closely align with the objectives of Ramsar's Strategic Plan (2016-2024);
- align with priority thematic work areas established by the COP per Resolution XIII.8;
- are of significant policy relevance to other international legislative or policy frameworks in the context of Resolution XIII.7;
- have high potential for communication and outreach, especially to influential audiences;
- address pressing conservation needs;

¹⁷ Web design costs clearly depend on the scope and complexity of the work. This is an average and indicative cost based on five days of work at 700 CHF/day

- involve novel activities not significantly overlapping with initiatives undertaken by others; and/or
- address elements of the Strategic Plan which Parties are struggling to implement¹⁸, to the extent possible.

The STRP then identified highest priority tasks from the initial list of high priority tasks, as indicated in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Highest priority tasks

Task title	Task no.	Target audience(s)	Estimated cost (CHF)
Global Wetland Outlook special edition for the 50 th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention		Contracting Parties, International community	To be determined
Compiling and reviewing positive and negative impacts of agricultural practises on wetlands including extent of changes in area from agricultural land conversion since 1970s, and how adverse impacts can be avoided in the future	1.2	Practitioners (wetland managers); policymakers (governments-agriculture sector especially)	64,200
Elaborating on practical experiences of restoration methods for tropical peatlands	2.2	Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers) / policymakers (high level)	55,000-65,000
Desktop study of coastal blue carbon ecosystems in Ramsar Sites (consistent with relevant IPCC guidelines)	5.1	Policy-makers within Contracting Parties (especially those responsible for the coastal zone); Research community and IOPs	31,600

Priorities relate to the entire work plan rather than established within each of the priority thematic work areas.

Advisory functions

Note that in addition to the specific priority thematic work areas and tasks outlined below, it is important to recall that, within the framework of Resolution XII.5, the STRP has a number of core *ad-hoc* advisory functions (summarized below). These support other Convention processes and actors.

Audiences

The outputs proposed in this draft work plan are aimed at two target audiences, in line with Resolution XII.5, Annex 1, paragraph 54, as follows:

- Policy-makers, including those from the environment and water sectors and other related sectors such as energy, health and sanitation, agriculture, infrastructure; and

¹⁸ As outlined in the Secretary General's review of the implementation of the Convention for COP13: https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop13doc.11.1_global_implementation_e.pdf

- Practitioners, in particular wetland managers and stakeholders, and others from related fields, such as protected area managers and staff of wetland education centres.

For clarity purposes, for outputs seeking to target Ramsar Site managers, the target audience is specified as “Practitioners (Ramsar Site Managers)”. However, for outputs aimed at wetland managers in general, the target audience is specified as “Practitioners (wetland managers)”.

Capacity building

Resolution XIII.8, paragraph 18, urged that scientific and technical capacity-building activities (for National Focal Points, and STRP and CEPA Focal Points) be undertaken subject to the availability of funding “including *inter alia* through regional capacity-building workshops and other training opportunities, including in the margins of STRP meetings held in regions, to further enhance the effectiveness of the Convention... ”.

The potential for such opportunities will be explored with the Secretariat, as any agreed programme of work is developed, subject always to resource availability.

Prioritization of STRP engagement with other international processes

A significant number of other international processes are relevant to Ramsar’s mission. The STRP, in consultation with the Secretariat, considers that the following processes are those where there is greatest opportunity to influence and engage in support of Contracting Parties, noting resource and capacity constraints. In particular, we see support of assessment processes as being particularly important.

Any such engagement will be in line with Resolution XII.5¹⁹, in support of the Secretariat and in line with a plan being developed for SC58 by the Secretariat to strengthen synergies with other MEAs and contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (as requested by Resolution XIII.7).

- IPBES
- IPCC (and UNFCCC)
- UNCCD
- Convention on Biological Diversity especially in the context of the development of the post-2020 development agenda
- Technical support to relevant SDG monitoring
- Convention on Migratory Species and relevant daughter Agreements
- Global Coastal Forum – when established
- Global Peatlands Initiative

Engagement will be largely through either members and/or STRP NFPs who will otherwise be attending meetings, although engagement needs will be assessed for each meeting bearing in mind also the important need for consistency of involvement in work streams. Working with the Secretariat, an engagement strategy will be developed for each process identifying opportunities to support Contracting Parties with relevant technical inputs.

¹⁹ See Resolution XII.5: paragraph 51 and Annex 1, paragraph 13(ix).

Abbreviations

CEPA	Communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness
CSAB	Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions
GPI	Global Peatland Initiative
GWO	Global Wetland Outlook
IKI	International Climate Initiative
IMCG	International Mire Conservation Group
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MEP	Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (IPBES)
NFP	National Focal Point
RAM	Ramsar Advisory Mission
RAWES	Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem Services
RCN	Ramsar Culture Network
RSIS	Ramsar Sites Information Service
RTR	Ramsar technical report
SC	Standing Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SP	Strategic Plan
ToR	Terms of reference
TWA	Thematic work area
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WEDO	Women's Environment and Development Organisation

Thematic Work Areas and their constituent tasks

Ad-hoc advisory functions and collaboration with other International bodies and processes								
Task	Res.	SP ²⁰ goal & target	Description and task leads	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
Ramsar Convention Processes								
Reporting to Standing Committee	XIII.4 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 13; 19 (h)	4.14	STRP Chair will participate at meetings of SC as an observer, and will present the draft work plan for approval, reporting on progress with its implementation, and providing guidance for its future development.	Core	Reporting and advice to the Standing Committee	STRP Chair's report	Contracting Parties	Included in Chair's travel budget
Responding to requests for advice or input from the Secretariat and Standing Committee	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15 (ii); XIII.5 , ¶¶ 20, 26	4.14	Requests may include, inter alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advice on Strategic Plan and CEPA matters; • input into the effectiveness review process on request; • advice on the consolidation of past scientific and technical Resolutions, on request; • simplifying and repackaging existing guidance on Ramsar Sites management for the production of a simplified manual; • update Ramsar Sites Management Toolkit; • Engagement with IPCC/ UNFCCC; and/ or 	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties via Secretariat and Standing Committee	Advice	Contracting Parties and Secretariat	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis (unless travel is involved)

²⁰ Strategic Plan (SP): https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop12_res02_strategic_plan_e_0.pdf

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide scientific and technical guidance on priority global processes (above), including IPBES (see also below), CMS, CBD (see also below), UNCCD, etc.). 					
Support to Secretariat and Standing Committee in relation to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	XII.3, ¶ 52; XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15	3.11, 4.14, 4.18	<i>Ad-hoc</i> review and advice to support reporting, development of guidance and toolkit (and capacity building) for national wetland inventories being developed by Secretariat.	Core	Secretariat to provide the STRP with a summary of deliverables and work to be done and request STRP to review and provide advice	Written advice	Contracting Parties	Costs implication for STRP budget dependent on nature and scale of request especially if additional products prepared or travel required
Drafting or providing input on Draft Resolutions	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2, 12 (iii)	4.14	The STRP may draft, at the request of the Standing Committee, a Draft Resolution or it may provide (on request) input to Draft Resolutions submitted to the COP by Contracting Parties.	Core	Responsive advice to Parties	Advice/ Draft Resolutions	Contracting Parties	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis
Responding to national or regional relevant requests for advice from Contracting Parties, as capacity allows	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 2, 59	4.14	The STRP may provide advice, as appropriate, to requests from any Contracting Party coming via the Secretariat, as capacity and expertise allow.	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties	Advice	Contracting Parties	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis.

Advising on Removals of Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1- 2, 12 (v) ; XIII.11 , ¶¶ 19, 21	2.5, 2.7, 4.14	<p>STRP to advise, as requested by Parties on removals from the Montreux Record.</p> <p>Work with the Secretariat in its efforts to advise Contracting Parties in their efforts to manage Sites on the Montreux Record and Sites for which reports on adverse change in ecological character have been received, engaging Regional Centres in such efforts as appropriate.</p>	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties	Advice	Contracting Parties and Secretariat	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis
Advising on Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs)	XII.5 , Annex 1, 12 , (v); XIII.11 , ¶15,	2.5, 2.7, 4.14	<p>The STRP may assist the Ramsar Secretariat with Ramsar Advisory Missions, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advising the Secretariat in the preparation of RAMs operational guidance for adoption at SC57; and • on request advising on appropriate scientific and technical expertise to include in RAM teams. 	Core	<p>Responsive advice to Contracting Parties</p> <p>Advice to Secretariat</p>	Draft for SC57	Contracting Parties and Secretariat	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis
Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee	XII.10, Annex, ¶ 16 (e)	3.11, 4.14	An STRP expert will serve in the Wetland City Accreditation Independent Advisory Committee.	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties	Advice		No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis

Providing advice on emerging issues	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 2, 15 (ii), 38	4.14	The STRP will keep under review emerging and strategic issues of relevance for the Convention, which may require action or advice in the future and will advise the Standing Committee accordingly.	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties	Advice	Contracting Parties and Secretariat	No cost implications for STRP budget: advice provided on a voluntary basis
Other international processes of relevance to the Convention and that contribute to implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan								
Engagement with IPBES and CSAB	XII.3, ¶ 48; XII.5, Annex 1, ¶ 13 (ix), 51; XIII.8 , ¶ 13	4.14, 4.18	Continue engaging in the work of IPBES through: participation of the STRP Chair in IPBES and MEP meetings, participation of STRP members and other Ramsar experts in global and regional assessments, review of requests to IPBES for thematic assessments, pursuant to Res. XIII.8. Engagement with meetings of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB), as appropriate.	Core	As they arise (in the case of IPBES, a Ramsar-sponsored assessment may be agreed as an IPBES priority in the future)	Input as required	International community	Potential travel costs dependent on nature and scale of engagement in future assessments. STRP Chair travel costs covered separately.
Support to Secretariat and Standing Committee in relation to post-2020 Biodiversity Framework	XII.5 , Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2; 12 (iii), (v); 15 ; ¶ 22	3.11, 4.14, 4.18	Provide inputs, as appropriate and on request, to the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework	Core	Responsive advice to Contracting Parties		Contracting Parties	Unclear costs implications as depends on the nature of advice sought. Potential travel costs

Future updates of Global Wetland Outlook (GWO): State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to people	
Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Lisa-Maria Rebelo (lead), David Stroud (co-lead),</i> Hugh Robertson, Guangchun Lei, Reda Fishar, Robert Hendricks (STRP NFP Netherlands)
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	Relevant organizations within environment and water, energy, health, sanitation, agriculture, or infrastructure sectors and others to be confirmed

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
Global Wetland Outlook special edition for the 50 th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention		Supports SP	Special edition, linked to the 50 th anniversary theme	Highest	To be further elaborated by STRP immediately after SC57	To be further elaborated by STRP immediately after SC57	To be further elaborated by STRP immediately after SC57	To be further elaborated by STRP immediately after SC57
Summarizing the extent of new intertidal wetland Ramsar Site designations for succeeding COPs and include the information in future updates of the GWO	XIII. 20 , ¶ 42	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Prepare a status report summarizing the number and extent of inter-tidal Ramsar site designations, on a regional scale.	Lower (output from Task 1.6)	Extract and analyse data from the RSIS to assess the number and extent of designations annually since 1971. Potentially report findings in future updates of the GWO	Paper (Short status report); data available for GWO Timeline: to be determined Uptake/Objective Provides direction to CPs on progress since Res. VI.21	Contracting Parties	6,400
Integrate data on the global extent of blue carbon ecosystems, potentially through the GWO	XIII. 14 , ¶¶ 11(c)	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Present best evidence of the extent of blue carbon ecosystems	Highest (output from Task 5.1)	See Thematic Work Area 5 for details	Data for the GWO Objective is to inform international awareness about these ecosystems and their services.	Contracting Parties	See Thematic Work Area 5 for details
Global assessment of gaps in Ramsar site network	XII.5, Annex	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Collate and analyse comprehensiveness, adequacy and	Medium (output	Undertake analysis of RSIS data on representation of different wetland types in	Paper presenting a summary of analysis. Data may contribute	Contracting Parties	6,400

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
	1, ¶¶ 1-2		representativeness of the Ramsar site network and identify priority regions and wetland types for future designation.	from Task 1.7)	different bioregions within the Ramsar Sites network. Provide comments on improvements as well as areas of focus. Assess whether guidance on under-represented wetland types will need to be updated.	to GWO if agreed by SC (COP14). Objective is to provide direction to Parties to review findings and potentially set targets for future designations	(policy-makers)	

Thematic Work Area 1: Best practice methodologies / tools to identify and monitor Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, including surveying, mapping, inventorying, and global and regional analysis of the priorities for enhancing the Ramsar site network

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Hugh Robertson (lead)</i> , Laura Martinez, Reda Fishar, Sangdon Lee, Edson Junqueira, Siobhan Fenessy, Guangchun Lei, Lisa-Maria Rebelo, Andrei Sirin, Dulce Infante, Ritesh Kumar, Eduardo Mansur (FAO), Marlos de Souza (FAO), Amani Alfarra (FAO), Lammert Hilarides (GEO-Wetlands), Christian Perennou (TDV), Lisa Ingwall-King (UNEP-WCMC), James Robinson/Tomos Avent (WWT), Matthew Simpson (SWS), Priyani Amerasinghe (IWMI), Hans Joosten (GMC), Martina Eiseltova (STRP NFP Czech Republic), Obaid Al Shamsi (STRP NFP UAE), Janine van Vessem (STRP NFP Belgium), Rob Hendricks (STRP NFP Netherlands), Anne van Dam (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education), and Max Finlayson (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education)
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	FAO, Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), GEO-Wetlands, Tour du Valat (TDV), UNEP-WCMC, Greifswald Mire Center (GMC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IHE Delft Institute for Water Education

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
1.1 Sharing information from the review and compilation of outputs from the Rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services (RAWES) approach	XIII.17 , ¶¶ 22, 23	3.11, 4.14	Working with IOPs, compile information on the application of the RAWES methodology in different Ramsar Regions as well as its application to Ramsar Reporting and Site management. If limited data (since RAWES only recently adopted), then as a minimum undertake an inventory/ compilation of groups applying RAWES	Lower	Compile inventory of wetland sites and Parties that have applied the RAWES approach and review its effectiveness to evaluate ecosystem services, including whether it addresses negative implications of promoting particular services. Review application in RIS updates and management planning.	Short status report. Timelines: to be determined. Uptake: Enhanced through training and linking RAWES to National Report indicators	Contracting Parties (NFPs, STRP NFPs), Practitioners (Ramsar Sites managers), IOPs	Translation (120 CHF per A4 page)
1.2 Compiling and reviewing positive and negative impacts of agricultural practises on	XIII.19 , ¶¶ 28, 29	1.1,4.14, 4.18	Review information on the positive and negative impacts of agriculture on/near wetlands, including biodiversity and	Highest	Compile case studies on sustainable agriculture practices in wetlands and evaluate them in relation to wise use and maintaining and	RTR with key messages or derived outputs for policymakers. Policy Brief and infographic	Case studies: Practitioners (wetland managers); Policy makers (governments-	64,200 [22,600 RTR production & translation; 10,000 workshop; 9,000 consultancy,

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
wetlands including extent of changes in area from agricultural land conversion since 1970s, and how adverse impacts can be avoided in the future			<p>ecosystem services, in context of climate change.</p> <p>Evaluate the extent of wetland loss (since 1970) due to conversion of land to agricultural development.</p> <p>Potential scope also for synthesis of related key messages drawn from recent FAO and IPBES assessments, and TEEB, packaged for Ramsar audience. Collaboration with IOPs and FAO will be crucial to increase sharing of findings</p>		<p>enhancing the ecological character of wetlands, liaising with IOPs, Parties and FAO.</p> <p>Compile and review data on RSIS on Ramsar sites that have agricultural practices within them and summarise best-practice examples.</p> <p>Provide recommendations for promoting sustainable agricultural practices in and adjacent to wetlands.</p> <p>Consider gains from restoration from agriculture back to wetlands.</p> <p>Literature review: Building on the GWO and data collated for SDG 6.6.1, undertake a literature review of existing assessments of wetland loss that have been attributed to</p>	<p>Policy Brief and infographic</p> <p>Timeline: Initiate project in 2019; Products delivered in early 2021</p> <p>Uptake/Objective Overall aim is to support CPs to develop sustainable agricultural practices and conserve wetlands.</p> <p>Specific objective is a more detailed understanding on causes and consequences of wetland loss to agriculture including any lessons learnt on how to prevent further degradation/loss of wetlands.</p>	<p>agriculture sector especially)</p> <p>Literature review: Policy makers (governments-agriculture sector especially); practitioners (wetland managers)</p>	<p>based on a rate of 700 for 14 days]</p> <p>[if with Policy Brief add: 2,000 (layout), 960 translation)]</p> <p>22,600 for literature review of losses</p> <p>Seek FAO in-kind support</p>

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
					agricultural development. Complete meta-analysis using that data.			
1.3 Prepare guidance on inventories and monitoring of small wetlands, and their multiple values for biodiversity conservation, especially in the contexts of landscape management and climate change	XIII.21 , ¶ 23	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Summarise technical knowledge on the significance of small wetlands for biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services and threats to them and prepare guidance on best-practice approaches to their inventory and monitoring, highlighting a range of different legislation, policy and other best practice approaches.	Medium	Develop definition of “small wetlands” building on Res. XIII.21. Summarise literature on their significance, including for livelihoods. Summarise threats to provide clear recommendations for their protection and wise use. Review and supplement existing guidance for wetland inventory and monitoring to describe best-practices approaches (including eDNA) for small wetlands in different Ramsar regions. Link to SDG 6.6.1 guidance review produced by Secretariat	Policy Brief on the importance of small wetlands with infographic Briefing Note on guidance for small wetlands inventory and monitoring Timeline: to be determined Uptake/Objective Aim to ensure Parties and others understand the critical importance of small wetlands in planning and other processes. Provide practitioners with best practice guidance for small wetland inventory and monitoring.	Policy Brief: Policy makers (in environment and planning sectors especially) Briefing note: Practitioners (scientists, wetland managers)	9,360 and cost for infographic

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
1.4 Complete Ramsar Technical Report and a toolkit on assessing multiple values of wetlands and applying them to integrated management	XIII.8 ¶ 14	3.11, 4.14	RTR complements the Policy Brief on integrating multiple values of wetlands into decision-making.	Lower	Build on the Policy Brief and existing toolkit, integrating RAWES and other suite of tools (available within Ramsar and external). Integrate relevant IPBES and Values outcomes	RTR Timeline: to be determined Uptake/Objective: Aim to assist wetlands managers in assessing and integrating multiple values in site management and other wetland wise use responses	Practitioners (wetland managers)	22,600
1.5 Complete Ramsar Technical Report 10 : The use of Earth Observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring.	XIII.8 , ¶ 14	4.14	Ramsar Technical Report 10 : The use of Earth Observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring.	Medium	Complete subject to final editorial checking and translation.	RTR Timeline: to be determined	Practitioners (wetland managers, practitioners mapping), Contracting Parties	CHF 120 per A4 page; Costs for amendments to existing layout TBD;
1.6 Summarizing the extent of new intertidal wetland Ramsar Site designations for succeeding COPs and include the information in future updates of the GWO	XIII.20 , ¶ 42	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Prepare a status report summarizing the number and extent of inter-tidal Ramsar site designations, on a regional scale.	Lower	Extract and analyse data from the RSIS to assess the number and extent of designations annually since 1971. Potentially report findings in future updates of the GWO	Paper (Short status report); data available for GWO Timeline: to be determined Uptake/Objective Provides direction to CPs on progress since Res. VI.21	Contracting Parties	6,400

Task	Res.	SP	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
1.7 Global assessment of gaps in Ramsar site network	XII.5, Annex 1, ¶¶ 1-2	2.5, 2.6, 4.14	Collate and analyse comprehensiveness, adequacy and representativeness of the Ramsar site network and identify priority regions and wetland types for future designation.	Medium	Undertake analysis of RSIS data on representation of different wetland types in different bioregions within the Ramsar Sites network. Provide comments on improvements as well as areas of focus. Assess whether guidance on under-represented wetland types will need to be updated.	<p>Paper presenting a summary of analysis. Data may contribute to GWO if agreed by SC (COP14).</p> <p>Objective is to provide direction to Parties to review findings and potentially set targets for future designations</p>	Contracting Parties (policy makers)	6,400

Thematic Work Area 2: Best practices for developing and implementing tools for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, recognizing traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Lars Dinesen (lead)</i> , Dulce Infante, Georgina Castillo, Kassim Kulindwa, Andrei Sirin, David Stroud, Laura Martinez, Ritesh Kumar, Tomos Avent/ James Robinson (WWT), Priyane Amerasinghe (IWMI), Hans Joosten (GMC), Jack Rieley (IPS), Nick Davidson (SWS), Mathew Simpson (SWS), Tatiana Minayeva (WWF), Bettina Hedden-Dunkhorst (STRP NFP Germany) [and others to be confirmed]
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	Global Peatland Initiative (GPI), International Peat Society (IPS), Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
2.1. Publish RTR on <i>Peatland restoration and rewetting methodologies in northern bogs</i>	XIII.13 , ¶25	2.5, 2.6, 3.12,4.14	Finalize draft RTR, which currently focuses on acid bog restoration, considering a global compilation of experiences on peatland restoration and rewetting methods, which CPs will provide, and which can be adapted to local or national contexts. Will complement global guidelines on peatland restoration to be developed (Task 2.2. below)	Medium	Draft well advanced in last triennium but peer-review, editing and publication needed	RTR Enhanced content on peatland pages of Ramsar website Uptake/Objective: Technical guidance for wetland managers Timeline: to be determined	Practitioners (wetland managers)	22,600 [web design costs starting at 4,000]
2.2. Elaborating on practical experiences of restoration methods for tropical peatlands	XIII.13 , ¶33	2.5, 2.6, 3.12,4.14	Related to current SP, elaborate on practical experiences of restoration methods for peatland types not yet covered by Ramsar guidance, such as tropical peatlands. Provide rationale for choosing of restoration methods and an overview rationale for different	Highest	Update existing IMCG manual on peatland restoration techniques. (ToR and list of content drafted); High level Policy Brief on setting objectives	Ramsar guidelines on peatland restoration; Enhanced content on peatland pages of Ramsar website. Policy Brief and video Comms product on what is a peatland?	Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers)/ policymakers (high level)	Contract out update: [30-40,000 CHF] Website set up 15.000 CHF) Video teaser 10.000 CHF: STRP to develop concept;

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
			restoration approaches depending on peatland type and setting.		in rewetting/ restoration projects; Prepare contents for a Communication infographic – what is a peatland?	Timeline: ToR developed by July 2019 Uptake/Objective: A range of products as outlined		professional design needed
2.3. Assessing implementation status of Res. VIII.17: <i>Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands</i>	XIII.13 , ¶34	4.14	Assess progress since Res. VIII.17 by critical review including: any overlaps with Global Peatland Initiative; gaps; relevance; and in relation to developments in other MEAs and international processes. Seek guidance on what Parties needs with respect to a strategic document on peatlands Consider development of national indicators related to peatland conservation and restoration	Medium	Prepare a draft assessment of issues to be discussed at STRP23, including policy issues, in context of COP 14 preparations.	Assessment report drafted by STRP containing a spreadsheet with the assessment and updated issues and recommendations Timeline: to be determined Uptake: Liaison with GPI	Contracting Parties	32, 600 (report 22,600 + workshop 10,000)
2.4. Developing guidance for the cost-benefit analysis, a cost-effectiveness analysis and multiple-criteria analysis of peatland restoration projects, and templates to assist parties to report on peatland restoration								
2.4.(a) Assess national peatland restoration experiences	XIII.13 , ¶34	2.5, 3.12,4.14	Assess any relevant national peatland restoration experiences. Request information on approaches from Parties (cost-benefit depends on carbon market	Lower	Call for case studies/ experiences by Parties, IOPs and others. Consultant to prepare draft review for	Policy Brief Timeline: to be determined	Policymakers (in environment and climate sectors especially)	5,000 consultancy

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
			values and other assumptions). Assessments to include cost of inaction.		consideration at STRP23.	Uptake: Summary review of experiences		
2.4.(b) Developing templates for national reporting on peatland restoration	XIII.13 , ¶134	2.5, 3.12, 4.14	Assess existing reporting structures and templates for restoration of peatlands	Lower	Check with UNFCCC and other relevant conventions Possibly request to Parties and IOPs for relevant templates	Internal assessment report with recommendations. Next step depends on the assessment results. Timeline to be determined Uptake: GPI is a key partner	Contracting Parties and Practitioners (Ramsar Site managers) as applicable	No cost implications for STRP budget
2.5. ToR for the Ramsar Culture Network (RCN)	XIII.15 , ¶18	3.10, 4.14	With interested Contracting Parties develop Terms of Reference for the Ramsar Culture Network	Medium	Initial draft ToR developed at STRP22. Yet to be circulated to Contracting Parties.	Draft for SC57 Timelines: completed at SC57	Contracting Parties	No cost implications for STRP budget
2.6. Reviewing and revising the Rapid Cultural Inventories for Wetlands guidance	XIII.15 , ¶19	3.10, 4.14	Develop updated briefing note (working with RCN) reviewing the application and uptake of the guidance together with supplementary guidance as required. The review and BN drafting would include a mechanism for incorporating indigenous communities' inputs.	Medium	Note will provide examples and best practices for integrating cultural values in wetlands management policies, practices and governance. Drafting will be aligned with the task related to wetlands and gender (TWA 3).	Briefing Note Infographic that illustrates cultural values and their importance for wetland wise use Timeline: to be determined.	Practitioners (wetland managers)	6,400 and infographic costs

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
						Uptake: IOP input will be crucial		
2.7. Updated urban wetland guidance as required	XIII.16, ¶18	1.1, 2.5, 4.14	<p>Review existing Briefing Note 6: <i>Towards the wise use of urban and peri-urban wetlands</i> and assess whether update needed, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Challenges, opportunities and risks – features common to urban wetlands Role of wetlands for climate change adaptation in urban environments New sources of existing information especially any case studies on economic valuation and cultural significance 	Medium	<p>Review existing Briefing Note 6 as well as other important wetlands</p> <p>Produce infographic on key messages accessible to target audiences.</p> <p>Integrate into Ramsar online management toolkit information on urban/peri-urban wetland issues, capturing past WWD materials. Organized by potential users (regulators; architects; ecologists; health sector)</p>	<p>Revised Briefing Note & Infographic</p> <p>Integrate existing guidance into Ramsar online management toolkit</p> <p>Timeline: Revised Briefing Note & infographic: to be determined</p> <p>Online toolkit integration: to be determined.</p> <p>Uptake: Raise visibility of existing Ramsar and external guidance on urban and peri-urban wetlands.</p>	City regulators; investors and financial actors Possibly general public Groups seeking wetland city accreditation	To be determined, depending on whether update to the Briefing Note is needed and extent of it, there may be design and translation costs involved
2.8. Additional content for Ramsar wetland Sites management toolkit	XIII.8, ¶ 14	2.5, 4.14	Input further content as opportunities allow	Lower	Existing urban and peri-urban guidance will be integrated within 2019	<p>Updated webpage</p> <p>Timeline: To be determined</p>	Practitioners (wetland managers); Contracting Parties	No costs implications for STRP budget

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
2.9. Complete Briefing Note 10 : Wetland Restoration for Climate Change Resilience	XIII.8 , ¶ 14	2.5, 3.12, 4.14	Report needs a further round of edits by authors and layout/translation by Secretariat.	Medium		Briefing Note Infographic Timeline: To be determined	Practitioners (wetland managers)	Layout costs to be determined, depending on extent of amendments to existing layout; translation costs: CHF 1,200 per A4 page; Infographic costs to be determined

Thematic Work Area 3: Methodologies for the economic and non-economic valuation of the values of the functions and services of wetlands, and improved methodologies and knowledge exchange on current and future drivers of wetland loss and degradation

Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Kassim Kulindwa (lead), Ritesh Kumar (co-lead), David Stroud, Reda Fishar, Hari Bhadra Acharya, Priyanie Amerasinghe (IWMI), Tomos Avent/ James Robinson (WWT), Mathew Simpson (SWS), Janine van Vessem (STRP NFP Belgium) [and others to be confirmed]</i>
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), BirdLife

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
3.1. Participate in the Global Coastal Forum	XIII.20, ¶ 37		Consider actively participating in the Global Coastal Forum to promote the restoration of coastal wetlands and other relevant habitats	Medium (once GCF is established)	Engage when the Global Coastal Forum is created	ToR	Global Coastal Forum. Actors interested in blue carbon	No costs implications for STRP budget until the GCF is established when possible travel costs would occur depending on nature of input
3.2. Develop guidance on the conservation, wise use and management of sustainable “working coastal habitats” in coordination with the scientific subsidiary bodies of other MEAs under the proposed coastal forum	XIII.20, ¶ 45	1.2, 2.5, 4.14, 4.18	In preparation for Global Coastal Forum formation, develop TOR for possible work that might be undertaken on possible guidance related to the conservation, wise use and the management of sustainable “working coastal habitats”	Lower	Review Handbook 12 on Coastal management for relevant content. Establish a subgroup to develop concept further and TOR for guidance. Uptake: In consultation with other relevant actors	ToR to be developed Timeline: To be determined	Global Coastal Forum	No costs implications for STRP budget

Thematic Work Area 4: Promoting wetland conservation within sustainable development frameworks and other relevant development initiatives	
Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Laura Martinez (lead)</i> , David Stroud, Rebecca Welling (IUCN) [and others to be confirmed]
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	IUCN (Global Water Programme)

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
4.1. Develop guidance on integrating gender issues in the implementation of the Convention	XIII.18. ¶15	4.14	<p>Carry out a global analysis (including a range of case studies) on the gender dimensions of wetland management and wise use.</p> <p>Build on existing literature from a range of sources on wetland management, but also more broadly to include land and water resources management to inform the wetland community about women in wetland management and wise use. Will include information on: women's participation in wetland management; impacts of wetland mismanagement on women; governance and women's rights related to wetland wise use; women's technical, socio-cultural and innovative knowledge about wetlands; the value of their leadership in wetland wise use and restoration activities; include examples (cases studies) of successful participation in wetland management and wise use</p>	Medium	Initial scoping to advice on future ToR undertaken at STRP22. Engage a consultant to undertake the report. Engage organizations such as UN Women, IUCN, and WEDO with relevant expertise.	<p>Report and derived comms products</p> <p>Timeline: to be determined</p> <p>Uptake: to mainstream gender issues in wetland management and implementation of the Convention.</p>	Contracting Parties	20,000 (report and consultancy)

Thematic Work Area 5 : Climate change and wetlands: innovative methodologies for carbon accounting/assessments related to wetlands	
Working Group lead(s) and participants:	<i>Siobhan Fenessy (lead), Sangdon Lee (co-lead),</i> Hugh Robertson, David Stroud, Edson Junqueira, Christian Perennou (TDV), Max Finlayson (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education), Leanne Wilkinson (STRP NFP Australia) [and others to be confirmed]
Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/others]	Tour du Valat; IHE Delft Institute for Water Education [and others to be confirmed]

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
5.1. Desktop study of coastal blue carbon ecosystems in Ramsar Sites (consistent with relevant IPCC guidelines)	XIII.14 , ¶¶ 15(a)-(d); 11(c)	3.11, 4.14	<p>Undertake a desk review to give a high-level summary of the state of knowledge of blue carbon ecosystems in each Ramsar Region, the availability of data and information; and addressing issues highlighted in para 15(a) of Res. XIII.14.</p> <p>Review will also consider and provide advice on how best to undertake tasks specified in para 15 (b), (c), and (d) of Res. XIII.14 in relation review findings, including development ToR for future such work to actually address those issues.</p> <p>Present best evidence of the extent of blue carbon ecosystems</p>	Highest	<p>5.1(a) Produce ToR for the desktop review by July 2019 (after adoption of work plan);</p> <p>Engage consultant by Fall 2019;</p> <p>Product delivered early 2021 at latest;</p> <p>Work to actually complete the tasks in paras 15(b), (c) and (d) will be reviewed in 2020</p> <p>Data for GWO</p>	<p>RTR (early 2021 at latest)</p> <p>Infographic concepts on Blue Carbon for development by Secretariat</p> <p>Uptake: Work to inform future development of GWO, and to raise international awareness about blue carbon ecosystems and their services.</p>	Policy makers within Contracting Parties (especially those responsible for the coastal zone); Research community and IOPs	31, 600 (RTR 22,600 and 9,000 consultancy). Infographic cost to be determined

Task	Res.	SP goal & target	Description	Priority	Process and outcomes	Output	Audience	Costs CHF
5.2 Develop methods to rapidly assess climate vulnerability of wetlands, particularly those important as habitats for marine turtles	XIII. 24, ¶ 23		<p>(a) In relation to marine Turtles. Significant work being undertaken by other MEAs and Parties. STRP to take supporting role developing understanding of extent of current work, particular promoting good case studies of wider utility.</p> <p>(b) In relation to wetland climate vulnerability. Review existing guidance (RTR 5) and project by IKI and develop ToR for potential future work.</p>	Lower	Potential collation of case studies. Development of ToR only in this triennium.	<p>Advice</p> <p>ToR for task</p> <p>Timeline: to be determined</p>	Contracting Parties; Practitioners (wetland managers)	No cost implications for STRP budget

Annex 8

Terms of reference of the Executive Team

Members of the Executive Team

1. Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee, and Chair of the Subgroup on Finance.

Role and functions

2. The Standing Committee's oversight of the Secretariat is conducted on its behalf between meetings of the Standing Committee by its Executive Team (Chair, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Subgroup on Finance) with the Secretary General" (Resolution XIII.4, paragraph 4).
3. For any matter that arises intersessionally and for which the Standing Committee has not already taken a decision, or where the matter falls outside the policies and guidance already provided by the Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee, the Executive Team is to request the Secretariat to contact the Standing Committee to ask for a decision to be taken through electronic communication regarding that matter as soon as practicable.
4. Within this context, specific functions to be carried out by the Executive Team as may be necessary between meetings of the Standing Committee are the following:
 - a. provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the execution of the Secretariat's budget and the conduct of the Secretariat's work programmes; and
 - b. provide guidance and advice to the Secretariat on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters relating to the exercise of its functions brought to it by the Secretariat.
5. In carrying out function a. above and, in particular, regarding the guidance and advice on the execution of the Secretariat's budget, the Executive Team will take into account the roles and responsibilities of the Subgroup on Finance specified in Resolution VI.17, on *Financial and budgetary matters*, paragraph 11, in particular, that "the Subgroup Chair, in consultation as appropriate with the Chair of the Standing Committee and, when so required, the Subgroup as a whole, shall provide guidance and advice to the Secretary General in the discharge of his/her duties in connection with the administration of the finances of the Convention...". These responsibilities are reaffirmed in Resolution XIII.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters*, paragraph 12. To implement this, if there are budgetary implications, the Executive Team must inform the broader Sub-group on Finance through its Chair.

Operation

6. As the Executive Team functions as a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Conference of the Parties apply to its operations *mutatis mutandis* within the context of the "Delegation of Authority to the Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands and its Supplementary Note".

Reporting

7. At each meeting of the Standing Committee in between COPs, the Executive Team will provide a written report to the Standing Committee on the activities it has carried out since the previous meeting.

Annex 9.1

Report of the Meeting of the Subgroup on Finance

Part I

This Report includes the recommendations for the Standing Committee consideration made during the first meeting of the Subgroup on Finance on 24 June 2019. Pending items are scheduled to be considered by the Subgroup and a report Part II will be issued.

The Subgroup on Finance discussed and recommended the following:

1.a Report on financial matters for 2018 (DOC SC57-7.1)

- i. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee accept the 2018 audited financial statements as of 31 December 2018.
- ii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee note the core budget results for 2018 and carry-forward of 2018 surplus.
 - The Secretariat explained that the presentation of the core budget line categories changed from the previous triennium to the current triennium and will remain the same for the current triennium (Annex 2 and Annex 4).
- iii. The Subgroup on Finance recognize the surplus (as per Table 1, Item III below).

Table 1: 2018 core surplus to be allocated (in '000 CHF)

Fund balance at 31 December 2018 per audited statement (I)	2,196
Approved and pre-committed	
Reserve fund at 15% (Resolution XIII.2, para 33)	762
Pre-committed balances of CHF 437K	437
Complement to voluntary funding for COP13 delegate support (Resolution XIII.2, para 13)	94
Approved use of 2016-2018 triennium surplus for the 2019-2021 triennium (Resolution XIII.2, paragraph 15) to supplement the 2019-2021 budget	228
Approved use of 2016-2018 triennium surplus for the 2019-2021 triennium to support the work of the Effectiveness Working Group (Resolution XIII.2, para 16)	70
Correction for the Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) for the Amazon River Basin	28
Total approved and pre-committed (II)²¹	1,619
2018 core surplus after approved and pre-committed (III = I – II)	577

1.b Non-core funding status and voluntary contributions for 2018 (DOC SC57-7.1)

- iv. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee note the status of non-core funding and voluntary contributions for 2018.
 - The Subgroup on Finance acknowledges all Contracting Parties who have provided voluntary funding and encourages the Secretariat to continue fundraising efforts.

²¹ Note the typo correction of the total approved and pre-committed per Table 2 DOC SC57-7.1. This does not change 2018 core surplus after approved and pre-committed of CHF 577K

- The Subgroup noted that DOC SC57-7.1 paragraph 37 should read “Pre-2016 **Swiss** Grants for Africa (SGA)” in place of “Pre-2016 **Small** Grants for Africa (SGA)”. This correction will be taken into account in all future documents.
- v. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee note and approve the Secretariat’s adjustments to the COP13-approved core budget for 2019, which make no changes but show for transparency and clarity the approved use of surplus from the previous triennium (Annex 1 to the report).
- vi. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee note the non-core balances.
- The Subgroup appreciates the generosity of donors to non-core activities and the efforts taken by the Secretariat to clean up and adjust non-core balances to ensure accurate accountability.
- vii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee note the progress in implementing the recommendations from the IUCN *Financial Management Review of Non-core (Restricted) Fund Accounts* and recommends the Standing Committee approve the following actions:
1. to adopt the use of the standard terms “core” and “non-core” to describe Ramsar funds; and
 2. to agree to engage with the auditor in its annual meetings, looking at the most cost effective way, including virtual participation, or by sharing the auditor’s report at least three months in advance of the meeting (or earlier), in accordance with the Rules of Procedure on meeting documents
 3. to request the Secretariat to collect and share questions from members of the Subgroup by email in advance and collect answers from the auditor in time for the meeting.
- Contracting Parties emphasised that the engagement of the external auditor at annual meetings was a fiduciary duty and should be reflected in the contract for their services.
- viii. External auditor’s related items:
1. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee approve the external auditor’s proposed modification for the calculation of the provision for outstanding Contracting Party contributions (DOC SC57-7.1, paragraph 42, option a.) and accordingly to increase the provision for 2019.
 - In order for Ramsar to continue to be audited in accordance with Swiss law, the annual calculation for the provision against dues receivable from Contracting Parties must be expanded. To more accurately reflect the requirement of the Swiss Law, the change will be to increase the provision to 100% for balances outstanding for less than five years, for Contracting Parties who have not made a contribution payment in the past four years. At 31 December 2018 this would represent an increase of CHF 178K.
 - The proposed source of funding for CHF 178K is CHF 57K of 2018 carry forward and CHF 121K use of 2018 core surplus to be discussed and recommended during the meeting on 27 June 2019.
 - Alternatives were discussed and Subgroup on Finance supported increasing the provision in order to avoid a qualified audit opinion in non-compliance with Swiss law, as this would risk the reputation of the Convention, thereby making donor contributions and fundraising from the private sector significantly more difficult.

- In addition to the options presented in DOC SC57-7.1, paragraph 42, the alternative of using International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) was discussed, as other Conventions use this standard. This would need further analysis before any future decisions could be taken. The external auditor indicated that their interpretation of provision for outstanding contributions would be a more realistic and accurate reflection of credit risks in compliance with Swiss law. This interpretation of Swiss Law would also apply under any accounting standard, including IPSAS. It was recognized by members of the Subgroup that any transitions to a new accounting standard may be costly and very time consuming, requiring a separate decision from the Conference of the Parties, in consultation with the Subgroup on Finance and IUCN.
- 2. Regarding confirmation letters; the standard individual confirmation letters sent by external auditors are not suitable to be sent to Contracting Parties. The Subgroup on Finance invites the Secretariat to explore the practicality of a group approach for confirmation of outstanding Contracting Party balances along with other forms of establishing an audit-confirmation proof. To be further discussed during the meeting on 27 June 2019. The external auditors expressed willingness to consider the above mentioned group approach.

1.c Other matters discussed (DOC SC57-7.1)

1. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee instruct the Secretariat to include a note regarding the existence or lack thereof of other potential large provision items, such as future pension obligations that are not required to be disclosed under Swiss Law and disclose any such accounting policies and information related to such potential liabilities in future financial statements. The Chief Finance Officer of IUCN confirmed that the pension plan is a defined contribution plan, implying that there are no unreported liabilities.
2. Considering the fact that Ramsar necessarily uses the same auditors as IUCN, the Subgroup on Finance encouraged the Secretariat to provide input to IUCN and invites Parties to work with their counterparts responsible for IUCN to provide feedback on any IUCN consideration of options for future auditing contracts.
 - Note regarding Document 7.2. *Report of the auditor on the financial statements 2018* is included in DOC SC57-7.1.
 - The Subgroup on Finance recommended the Standing Committee take note of the request from Panama and Switzerland to join the SubGroup for the current triennium.

2. Report on status of annual contributions (DOC SC57-7.3)

- i. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee take note of the status of annual contributions.
- ii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee note the actions taken to encourage payment of outstanding contributions and instruct the Secretariat to continue encouraging timely payments of annual contributions.
 1. The Subgroup instruct the Secretariat to explore different solutions in order to improve payments of outstanding Contracting Parties contributions. In addition, the Subgroup requested Contracting Parties to share their best practice experiences in resolving outstanding contributions in Ramsar and other Conventions and organisations.

2. The Subgroup on Finance recommended the regions to consider the status of outstanding balances when making regional nominations, while taking into account national circumstances.
 - The Subgroup on Finance discussed the possibility of “sanctions” for Contracting Parties with outstanding contributions, and while not explicitly recommending this action, it discussed reflecting divergent opinions on this matter, including considering measures taken by other international bodies/Multilateral Environmental Agreements -in order to foster prompt payment of outstanding contributions. There was broad agreement, however, that other measures that highlight the benefit and opportunities of being a member of the Ramsar family should be reinforced.
- iii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee note the change in annual contributions receivable and in the annual provision against contributions receivable.
- iv. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee note the current status of a balance of CHF 91K of the voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties in the Africa region.
 - In accordance with Resolution XIII.2, paragraph 24, the Secretariat will inform Ramsar Regional Initiatives in Africa of this balance after SC57. In the same Resolution, Regional Initiatives in Africa are invited to submit requests to the Secretariat to access available funds in accordance with the provisions of Resolution XIII.9 on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021 and accordingly those Regional Initiatives are invited to submit requests to access the available funds by 31 December 2019. Regional Representatives at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC58) will be invited to decide on the requests submitted and inform the Secretariat accordingly (Resolution XIII.2, paragraph 25).
 - The Subgroup on Finance recommended to change the order of columns in Annex 2 DOC SC57-7.3 Voluntary Contributions from Contracting Parties in the Africa region, to move the last column to become the second column.

Annex 1 (SC57-7.1 Annex 4)
Proposed Core Budget 2019

Ramsar Budget 2019 CHF 000'S	Budget 2019 (COP13- approved)	Authorized use of 2016- 2018 surplus in 2019-2021	Committed from 2018 budget (carry over to 2019)	Pre- committed from 2017 (carry over to 2019)	Proposed budget 2019 after reallocation (E)=(A)+(B)+(C) +(D)
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)		
INCOME					
Parties' Contributions	3,779				3,779
Voluntary contributions	1,065				1,065
Income Tax	225				225
Income Interest	12				12
TOTAL INCOME	5,081	0	0	0	5,081
EXPENDITURES					
A. Secretariat Senior Management	1,009	15	0	0	1,024
Salaries and social costs	918				918
Other employment benefits	51				51
Travel	40	15			55
B. Resource Mobilization and Outreach	638	135	0	0	773
Salaries and social costs	450				450
Other employment benefits	5				5
CEPA Program	30				30
Comms, Translations, Publications and Reporting Implementation	60	120			180
Web/IT support and Development	84				84
Travel	10	15			25
C. Regional Advice and Support	1,325	30	66	0	1,421
Salaries and social costs	1,178				1,178
Other employment benefits	72				72
Travel	75	30			105
Ramsar Advisory Missions	0		66		66
D. Support to Regional Initiatives	100	0	36	28	164
Regional networks and centers	100		36	28	164
E. Science and Policy	754	15	114	0	883
Salaries and social costs	559				559
Other employment benefits	4				4
STRP implementation	35	15			50
Travel STRP Chair	5				5
STRP meetings	50				50

Ramsar Budget 2019 CHF 000'S	Budget 2019 (COP13- approved)	Authorized use of 2016- 2018 surplus in 2019-2021	Committed from 2018 budget (carry over to 2019)	Pre- committed from 2017 (carry over to 2019)	Proposed budget 2019 after reallocation
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)=(A)+(B)+(C) +(D)
Ramsar Sites Information Service (maintenance and development)	91				91
Travel	10				10
Strategic Plan (2019 - 2021)	0		44		44
SDG 6.61	0		70		70
G. Administration	436	33	133	0	602
Salaries and social costs	315				315
Other employment benefits	1				1
Staff hiring and departure costs	25		52		77
Secretariat Staff Travel	0				0
Operating Costs including equipment	95				95
Planning and Capacity building	0	33	81		114
H. Standing Committee Services	150	70	0	0	220
Standing Committee delegates' support	45				45
Standing Committee meetings	10				10
SC translation	60				60
Simultaneous interpretation at SC meetings	35				35
Effectiveness Working Group	0	70			70
I. IUCN Administrative Service Charges	560	0	0	0	560
Administration, Human Resources, Finance & IT services	560				560
J. Miscellaneous - Reserve Fund	109	0	88	0	197
Provisions	50		57		107
Legal Services	59		31		90
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	5,081	298	437	28	5,844

Notes:

Column B – Resolution XIII.2 use of CHF 228K plus up to CHF 70K for 2019-2021 triennium

Column C – Committed from 2018 budget (see Table 1 and Paragraph 11)

Column D - Pre-committed from 2017

Annex 9.2

Report of the Meeting of the Subgroup on Finance

Part II

This Report includes the recommendations for the Standing Committee consideration made during the second meeting of the Subgroup on Finance on 27 June 2019.

This Report addresses the remaining issues that were not covered in the Part I report. Both Report Part I and Part II of the Subgroup on Finance should be considered together in order to cover all Subgroup on Finance issues.

1.a Report on financial matters for 2018 (DOC SC57-7.1) (*cont'd*)

iii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended the Standing Committee to approve the allocation of 2018 surplus (as per Table 1 below).

Table 1: Allocation of 2018 core surplus (in '000 CHF)

Allocation of core surplus	
Complement amount needed to increase the reserve for outstanding contributions	121
Net amount to replenish the non-core AVC project (IUCN oversight review)(DOC SC57-7.3, paragraph 18)	33
Resolutions review (resolution XIII.4)	20
Ramsar advisory missions (a RAM has been requested by Malawi to the Lake Chilwa Site)	30
Project proposal writing capacity building RRI	5
2020 Planning (facilitator for development of annual work plan)	10
Legal status analysis consultancy	15
Capacity building related to triennium challenges	20
50th Anniversary – campaign development	15
WWD 2021 (year 2021 budget shortfall due to decrease in Danone funding)	30
Inventories (support to CPs in the completion of wetlands inventories)	50
Operational reserve (Resolution XIII.2, paragraph 15)	228
Total proposed use 2018 surplus	577
Core surplus balance remaining	0

1.b Non-core funding status and voluntary contributions for 2018 (DOC SC57-7.1) (*cont'd*)

v.bis. The Subgroup on Finance invited the Standing Committee to approve the allocation of Ramsar Regional Initiatives Resources core budget as follows:

1. 2019 Budget line “Support to Regional Initiative” of CHF 100K allocated as per Table 2, noting that given that no information had been received yet from SenegalWet regarding the unspent balance from previous years and their capacity to implement an additional contribution for 2019, the Subgroup requested the Secretariat to contact this initiative to seek this information. If this additional allocation of CHF25K was not needed by SenegalWet or the initiative's representatives do not respond by the Secretariat's deadline, then the amount should be allocated equally between the remaining three initiatives listed below in Table 2.

2. The Secretariat was asked to report to the Subgroup on Finance inter-sessionally on the outcome of this situation.

Table 2: Allocation of 2019 core budget “Support to Regional Initiatives” (in ‘000 CHF)

Description	
Senegal Basin Regional Initiative	25
Amazon River Basin Regional Initiative	25
Central Asia Regional Initiative	25
Indo-Burma Regional Initiative	25
Total allocation	100

3. The Subgroup on Finance noted the carry forward from 2018 budget line “Support to Regional Initiatives –General” of CHF 21K and invited the Standing Committee to approve that the amount should be used for the operation of the Working Group on Regional Initiatives as per Resolution XIII.9, paragraph 9.
- viii. In Part I Report the Subgroup on Finance invited the Standing Committee to approve the external auditor’s proposed modification for the calculation of the provision for outstanding Contracting Party contributions (DOC SC57-7.1, paragraph 42, option a.) and accordingly to increase the provision. The source of funding for this increase of CHF 178K is CHF 57K of 2018 carry forward resulting from the reduction in the provision for 2018 and CHF 121K use of 2018 core surplus (see Table 1 above).
- viii. 2. The Subgroup on Finance recommended the Standing Committee to request the Secretariat to explore the practicality of a group approach or other creative solutions for confirmation of outstanding Contracting Party balances for the 2019 audit.

3. Other matters discussed (DOC SC57-7.1) (cont’d)

- In accordance with the responsibilities defined in Resolution 5.2: Financial and budgetary matters, Annex 3, paragraph 8, the Subgroup on Finance agreed that uncommitted/unexpended balances for budget lines can be carried forward to the next year within the triennium and presented to the following meeting of the Subgroup on Finance.

4. Report on “Small Grants Fund – Proposal for final beneficiaries” (DOC SC57-7.4)

- i. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee take note of the actions taken by the Secretariat to phase out the Small Grants Fund programme.
- ii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee review and approve the proposed selection of recipients to receive funding from the Small Grants Fund, as per Table 4 below.

Table 4: Proposed grant recipient for endorsement of Small Grants Fund (in '000 CHF)

Description	
Tanzania: Adapting indigenous/traditional knowledge and innovations to maintain wetland dependent lifestyles (CHF 34,876)	34.9
Cambodia: Strengthen Cambodia's wetland conservation through enhancing Ramsar site management effectiveness and improving site legal status (CHF 35,000)	35.0
Mexico: Integración en la planificación y estrategia de comunicación de Ramsar MX (CHF 29,526)	29.5
Paraguay: Strengthening Paraguay's capacity of conservation and wise use of wetlands (CHF 34,818)	34.8
Subtotal allocation to Recipients	134.2
Remaining balance	2.8
Total balance	137.0

- iii. The Subgroup on Finance recommended that the Standing Committee approve the use by the Secretariat of the remaining Small Grants Fund balance of CHF 2.8K (CHF 2,779) for the development of updated guidance for Parties on how to prepare and write project proposals.

Annex 10
Revised draft format for National Reports to COP14
(published as SC57 Com 10, updating SC57 Doc.22)



**NATIONAL REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS**

**National Reports to be submitted to the 14th Meeting
of the Conference of the Contracting Parties,
2021**

The purpose of this Microsoft Word form is to help Contracting Parties to collect data for the National Report. However, the data collected through this form must be transferred to the online national reporting system at <https://reports.ramsar.org>, or the Word form must be sent by email to nationalreports@ramsar.org, by 21 January 2021 for the official submission of the National Report. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (nationalreports@ramsar.org).

Please note that for Contracting Parties wishing to provide information in the online reporting system on national targets (optional Section 4 of the National Report Format or on the Word form), the deadline is ~~24~~⁹ ~~January~~ ~~November~~ 2019.

Ramsar COP14 National Report Format (NRF)

Background information

1. The COP14 National Report Format (NRF) has been approved by the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting (SC57) for the Ramsar Convention's Contracting Parties to complete as their national reporting to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the Convention (Information on the host country of COP14 will be updated after SC57).
2. The NRF is being issued by the Secretariat in 2019 to facilitate Contracting Parties' implementation planning and preparations for completing the Report. The deadline for submission of national targets is 29 November 2019 and the deadline for submission of completed National Reports is 21 January 2021 (final dates will be updated once the dates for COP14 are agreed).
3. This COP14 NRF closely follows that used for COP13, to permit continuity of reporting and analysis of implementation progress by ensuring that indicator questions are as far as possible consistent with previous NRFs (and especially the COP13 NRF). It is also structured in terms of the Goals and Strategies of the 2016-2024 Ramsar Strategic Plan adopted at COP12 through Resolution XII.2.
4. This COP14 NRF includes 95 indicator questions. In addition, Section 4 is provided as an optional annex in order to facilitate the task of preparing the Party's national targets and actions for the implementation of each of the Targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in accordance with Resolution XII.2.
5. As was the case for previous NRFs, the COP14 NRF includes an optional section (Section 5) to permit a Contracting Party to provide additional information on indicators relevant to each individual Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) within its territory.
6. Note that, for the purposes of this national reporting to the Ramsar Convention, the scope of the term "wetland" is that of the Convention text, i.e. all inland wetlands (including lakes and rivers), all nearshore coastal wetlands (including tidal marshes, mangroves and coral reefs) and human-made wetlands (e.g. rice paddy and reservoirs), even if a national definition of "wetland" may differ from that adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

The purposes and uses of national reporting to the Conference of the Contracting Parties

7. National Reports from Contracting Parties are official documents of the Convention and are made publicly available on the Convention's website.
8. There are seven main purposes for the Convention's National Reports. These are:
 - i) to provide data and information on how, and to what extent, the Convention is being implemented;
 - ii) to provide tools for countries for their national planning;
 - iii) to capture lessons and experience to help Parties plan future action;
 - iv) to identify emerging issues and implementation challenges faced by Parties that may require further attention from the Conference of the Parties;
 - v) to provide a means for Parties to account for their commitments under the Convention;

- vi) to provide each Party with a tool to help it assess and monitor its progress in implementing the Convention, and to plan its future priorities; and
 - vii) to provide an opportunity for Parties to draw attention to their achievements during the triennium.
9. The data and information provided by Parties in their National Reports have another valuable purpose as well, since a number of the indicators in the National Reports on Parties' implementation provide key sources of information for the analysis and assessment of the "ecological outcome-oriented indicators of effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention".
10. To facilitate the analysis and subsequent use of the data and information provided by Contracting Parties in their National Reports, the Ramsar Secretariat holds in a database all the information it has received and verified. As for COP13, the COP14 reports will be in an online national reporting system.
11. The Convention's National Reports are used in a number of ways. These include:
- i) providing an opportunity to compile and analyze information that contracting parties can use to inform their national planning and programming;
 - ii) providing the basis for reporting by the Secretariat to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the global, national and regional implementation, and the progress in implementation, of the Convention. This is provided to Parties at the COP as a series of Information Papers, including:
 - the Report of the Secretary General on the implementation of the Convention at the global level; and
 - the Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 (b), (c), and (d) concerning the List of Wetlands of International Importance);
 - iii) providing information on specific implementation issues in support of the provision of advice and decisions by Parties at the COP;
 - iv) providing the source data for time-series assessments of progress on specific aspects in the implementation of the Convention included in other Convention products. An example is the summary of progress since COP3 (Regina, 1997) in the development of National Wetland Policies, included as Table 1 in Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 2 (4th edition, 2010); and
 - v) providing information for reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) on the national implementation of the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan and the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role on wetlands for the CBD. In particular, the Ramsar Secretariat and STRP used the COP10 NRF indicators extensively in 2009 to prepare contributions to the in-depth review of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems for consideration by CBD SBSTTA14 and COP10 during 2010 (see UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/14/3). Similar use of COP13 NRF indicators is anticipated for the CBD's post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

The structure of the COP14 National Report Format

12. The COP14 National Report Format (NRF) is in five sections:

Section 1 provides the institutional information about the Administrative Authority and National Focal Points for the national implementation of the Convention.

Section 2 is a ‘free-text’ section in which the Party is invited to provide a summary of various aspects of national implementation progress and recommendations for the future.

Section 3 provides the 95 implementation indicator questions, grouped under each Convention implementation Goals and Targets in the Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and with an optional ‘free-text’ section under each indicator question in which the Contracting Party may, if it wishes, add further information on national implementation of that activity.

Section 4 is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that has developed national targets to provide information on the targets and actions for the implementation of each of the targets of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

In line with Resolution XII.2, which encourages Contracting Parties “to develop and submit to the Secretariat on or before December 2016, and according to their national priorities, capabilities and resources, their own quantifiable and time-bound national and regional targets in line with the targets set in the Strategic Plan”, all Parties are encouraged to consider using this comprehensive national planning tool as soon as possible, in order to identify the areas of highest priority for action and the relevant national targets and actions for each target.

The planning of national targets offers, for each of them, the possibility of indicating the *national priority* for that area of activity as well as the *level of resourcing available, or that could be made available during the triennium, for its implementation*. In addition, there are specific boxes to indicate the *National Targets* for implementation by 2021 and the *planned national activities* that are designed to deliver these targets.

Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 shows the synergies between CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Ramsar Targets. Therefore, the NRF provide an opportunity that Contracting Parties indicate as appropriate how the actions they undertake for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets according to paragraph 51 of Resolution XII.3.

Section 5 is an optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that so wishes to provide additional information regarding any or all of its Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites).


General guidance for completing and submitting the COP14 National Report Format

Important – please read this guidance section before starting to complete the National Report format

13. All Sections of the COP14 NRF should be completed in one of the Convention’s official languages (English, French, Spanish).
14. The deadline for submission of the completed NRF is January 21st 2021. It will not be possible to include information from National Reports received after that date in the analysis and reporting on Convention implementation to COP14.

15. The deadline for submission of national targets is by 29 November 2019.

16. All fields with a pale yellow background  must be filled in.

Fields with a pale green background  are free-text fields in which to provide additional information, if the Contracting Party so wishes. Although providing information in these fields is optional, Contracting Parties are encouraged to provide such additional information wherever possible and relevant, as it helps us understand Parties' progress and activity more fully, to prepare the best possible global and regional implementation reports to COP.

17. To help Contracting Parties refer to relevant information they provided in their National Report to COP13, for each appropriate indicator a cross-reference is provided to the equivalent indicator(s) in the COP13 NRF or previous NRF, shown thus: {x.x.x}

18. For follow up and where appropriate, a cross-reference is also provided to the relevant Key Result Area (KRA) relating to Contracting Parties implementation in the Strategic Plan 2009-2015.

19. Only Strategic Plan 2016-2024 Targets for which there are implementation actions for Contracting Parties are included in this reporting format. Those targets of the Strategic Plan that do not refer directly to Parties are omitted in the National Report Format as the information is provided through the Ramsar Sites Data Base or the Work Plan of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (e.g. targets 6 and 14).

20. The Format is created as a form in Microsoft Word to collect the data. You will be able to enter replies and information in the yellow or green boxes.

For each of the 'indicator questions' in Section 3, a legend of answer options is provided. These vary between indicators, depending on the question, but are generally of the form: 'A - Yes', 'B - No', 'C - Partially', 'D - In progress'. This is necessary so that statistical comparisons can be made of the replies. Please indicate the relevant letter (A, B etc.) in the yellow field.

For each indicator question you can choose only one answer. If you wish to provide further information or clarification, do so in the green additional information box below the relevant indicator question. Please be as concise as possible (**maximum of 500 words** in each free-text box).

21. In Section 4 (Optional) for each target the planning of national targets section looks as follows (in the example of Target 8 on inventory):

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	<i>[Example text]</i> To have comprehensive inventory of all wetlands by 2021
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	<i>[Example text]</i> To update the existing inventory so as to cover all the national territory, and to incorporate relevant information about wetlands, including digital information, when possible

Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	<i>[Example text] A comprehensive inventory of all wetlands</i>
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The input has to be made only in the yellow boxes. For **PRIORITY** and **RESOURCING**, the coded answers are given in the right part of the table (always in *italics*). The answer chosen should be typed inside the yellow box at the left side of the coded options. **TARGETS** and **PLANNED ACTIVITIES** are text boxes; here, Contracting Parties are invited to provide more detailed information in the respective box on their National Targets for achievement in implementation by 2021 and the planned national activities that are designed to deliver these targets.

Please note that only ONE coded option –the one that better represents the situation in the Contracting Party– should be chosen. Blanks will be coded in COP14 National Reports Database as “No answer”.

22. The NRF should ideally be completed by the principal compiler in consultation with relevant colleagues in their agency and others within the government and, as appropriate, with NGOs and other stakeholders who might have fuller knowledge of aspects of the Party's overall implementation of the Convention. The principal compiler can save the document at any point and return to it later to continue or to amend answers. Compilers should refer back to the National Report submitted for COP13 to ensure the continuity and consistency of information provided. In the online system there is an option to allow consultation with others.
23. After each session, **remember to save the file**. A recommended filename structure is: COP14NRF [Country] [date], for example: COP14NRFSpain13January 2021.doc
24. After the NRF has been completed using the word version (offline), please enter the data in the NR online system at this link: <https://reports Ramsar.org> or send it by email (nationalreports@ramsar.org) by January 21st 2021. If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice at (nationalreports@ramsar.org).
25. The completed NRF **must be accompanied by a letter that can be uploaded in the online system or send by email (nationalreports@ramsar.org) in the name of the Head of Administrative Authority, confirming that this is the Contracting Party's official submission of its COP14 National Report.**

If you have any questions or problems, please contact the Ramsar Secretariat for advice (nationalreports@ramsar.org).

National Report to Ramsar COP14

Section 1: Institutional information

Important note: the responses below will be considered by the Ramsar Secretariat as the definitive list of your focal points, and will be used to update the information it holds. The Secretariat's current information about your focal points is available at <https://www.ramsar.org/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Aperson#search-contacts>.

Name of Contracting Party:

Designated Ramsar Administrative Authority

Name of Administrative Authority:

Head of Administrative Authority - name and title:

Mailing address:

Telephone/Fax:

Email:

Designated National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention Matters

Name and title:

Mailing address:

Telephone/Fax:

Email:

Designated National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

Name and title:

Name of organisation:

Mailing address:

Telephone/Fax:

Email:

Designated Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)

Name and title:

Name of organisation:

Mailing address:

Telephone/Fax:

Email:

Designated Non-Government National Focal Point for Matters Relating to The Programme on Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA)

Name and title:

Name of organisation:

Mailing address:

Telephone/Fax:

Email:

Section 2: General summary of national implementation progress and challenges

In your country, in the past triennium (i.e., since COP13 reporting):

A. What have been the five most successful aspects of implementation of the Convention?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

B. What have been the five greatest difficulties in implementing the Convention?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

C. What are the five priorities for future implementation of the Convention?

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)

D. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning priorities for implementation assistance and requirements for such assistance from the Ramsar Secretariat?

--

E. Do you (AA) have any recommendations concerning implementation assistance from the Convention's International Organisation Partners (IOPs)? (including ongoing partnerships and partnerships to develop)

--

F. How can national implementation of the Ramsar Convention be better linked with implementation of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), especially those in the 'biodiversity cluster' (Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), World Heritage Convention (WHC), and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)?

--

G. How is the Ramsar Convention linked with the ~~can~~ implementation of water policy/strategy ~~the Ramsar Convention be better linked with the implementation of water policy/strategy~~ and other strategies in the country (e.g., on sustainable development, energy, extractive industries, poverty reduction, sanitation, food security, biodiversity) and how this could be improved?

--

- H. According to paragraph 21 of Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and wetlands*, please provide a short description about the balance between men and women participating in wetland-related decisions, programmes and research~~discussions, and to highlight areas where change is necessary for achieving gender equality, and lessons learned when trying to improve equality between genders.~~

- I. Do you (AA) have any other general comments on the implementation of the Convention?

- J. Please list the names of the organisations which have been consulted on or have contributed to the information provided in this report:

Section 3: Indicator questions and further implementation information

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

1.1	Have wetland conservation and the identification of issues/ wetlands benefits been integrated incorporated into sustainable approaches to the following other national strategies and planning processes, including: {1.3.2} {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i	
A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant		
a)	National Policy or strategy for wetland management:	
b)	Poverty eradication strategies:	
c)	Water resource management and water efficiency plans:	
d)	Coastal and marine resource management plans:	
e)	Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan:	
f)	National forest programmes:	
g)	National policies or measures on agriculture:	
h)	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans drawn up under the CBD:	
i)	National policies on energy and mining:	
j)	National policies on tourism:	
k)	National policies on urban development:	
l)	National policies on infrastructure:	
m)	National policies on industry:	
n)	National policies on aquaculture and fisheries {1.3.3} KRA 1.3.i:	
o)	National plans of actions (NPAs) for pollution control and management:	
p)	National policies on wastewater management and water quality:	
1.1	Additional information:	

Target 2. Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 7 and 8], [Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

2.1	Has the quantity and quality of water available to, and required by, wetlands been assessed to support the implementation of the Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands (Resolution VIII.1, VIII.2) ? 1.24.	
		A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
2.1	Additional information:	

2.2 Have assessments of environmental flow been undertaken in relation to mitigation of impacts on the ecological character of wetlands (Action r3.4.iv)	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
2.2 Additional information:	

2.3 <u>What, if any, initiatives been taken to improve the sustainability of water use (or allocation of water resources) in the context of ecosystem requirements across major river basins (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12)? (Action 3.4.6.)</u> Have Ramsar Sites improved the sustainability of water use in the context of ecosystem requirements?	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; O= No Change; X= Unknown
2.3 Additional information:	

2.4 Have the Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions of wetlands (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.12) been used/applied in decision-making processes. (Action 3.4.6.)	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
2.4 Additional information:	

2.5 Have projects that promote and demonstrate good practice in water allocation and management for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands been developed (Action r3.4.ix.)	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
2.5 Additional information:	

2.6 <u>Percentage</u> How many of households/municipalities are linked to sewage system? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	% E=# household/municipalities; F= Less than #; G= More than #; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.6 Additional information:	

2.7 What is the percentage of sewerage coverage in the country? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.	E=# percent; F= Less than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
2.7 Additional information:	

<p>2.8 What is the percentage of users of septic tank/pit latrine <u>if relevant to your country</u>? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>E=# percent; F=Less Than # percent; G= More Than # percent; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.8 Additional information:</p>	
<p>2.9 Does the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>A= Yes, B= No; C= Partially, D=Planned X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.9 Additional information:</p>	
<p>2.10 How do the country use constructed wetlands/ponds as wastewater treatment technology perform? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>A=Good; C=Functioning; B=Not Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.10 Additional information:</p>	
<p>2.11 Number of How many centralised wastewater treatment plants <u>(or volume treated exist at national level)</u>? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>E= # plants; F= Less than #; G=More than #; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.11 Additional information:</p>	
<p>2.12 How is the functional status of the wastewater treatment plants? <u>If relevant to your country</u> SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>A=Good; B=Not Functioning; C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.12 Additional information:</p>	

<p>2.13 The percentage of decentralized wastewater treatment technology, including constructed wetlands/ponds is? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>A=Good; B=Not Functioning C=Functioning; Q=Obsolete; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.13 Additional information:</p>	

<p>2.14 <u>number of is there a wastewater reuse systems (or volume re-used) and purpose?</u> SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.14 Additional information:</p>	

<p>2.15 What is the purpose of the wastewater reuse system <u>if relevant to your country</u>? SDG 6 Target 6.3.1.</p>	<p>R=Agriculture; S=Landscape; T=Industrial; U=Drinking; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>2.15 Additional information: Please indicate if the wastewater reuse system is for free or taxed or add any additional information.</p>	

<p><u>2.15 bis. Does your country use a wastewater treatment process that utilizes wetlands as a natural filter while preserving the wetland ecosystem?</u></p>	<p><u>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</u></p>
<p><u>2.15 Additional information: If Yes, please provide an example</u></p>	

Target 3. Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. {1.10}
[Reference to Aichi Targets 3, 4, 7 and 8]

<p>3.1 Is the private sector encouraged to apply the Ramsar wise use principle and guidance (Ramsar handbooks for the wise use of wetlands) in its activities and investments concerning wetlands? {1.10.1} KRA 1.10.i</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p>
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3.1 Additional information:

3.2 Has the private sector undertaken activities or actions for the conservation, wise use and management of? {1.10.2} KRA 1.10.ii:	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y= Not Relevant
a) Ramsar Sites b) Wetlands in general	a) b)
3.2 Additional information:	

3.3 Have actions been taken to implement incentive measures which encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.1} KRA 1.11.i	
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
3.3 Additional information:	

3.4 Have actions been taken to remove perverse incentive measures which discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands? {1.11.2} KRA 1.11.i	
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
3.4 Additional information:	

Target 4. *Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.*
{Reference to Aichi Target 9}

4.1 Does your country have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands? {1.9.1} KRA 1.9.i	
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
4.1 Additional information:	

4.2 Have national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management been established or reviewed for wetlands? {1.9.2} KRA 1.9.iii	
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
4.2 Additional information:	

4.3 How many invasive species are being controlled through management actions?.	E= # species; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
4.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate the year of assessment and the source of the information):	

4.3.1 Has your country successfully controlled through management actions invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems?	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown
4.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the successful management actions)	

4.3.2 Are there invasive species of high risk to wetland ecosystems that have not been successfully controlled through management actions?	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown
4.3.2 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please provide examples, including the species name and the successful management actions)	

4.4 Have the effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes been assessed?	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
4.4 Additional information:	

Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 6, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 5. The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}

[Reference to Aichi Targets 6,11, 12]

5.1 Have a national strategy and priorities been established for the further designation of Ramsar Sites, using the <i>Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List</i> ? {2.1.1} KRA 2.1.i	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
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5.1 Additional information:	
5.2 Are the Ramsar Sites Information Service and its tools being used in national identification of further Ramsar Sites to designate? {2.2.1} KRA 2.2.ii	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
5.2 Additional information:	
5.3 How many Ramsar Sites have a formal an effective management plan? {2.4.1} KRA 2.4.i	E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.4 Of For how many of the Ramsar Sites with a formal management plan, for how many of these -is the plan being implemented? {2.4.2} KRA 2.4.i	E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.5 Of the Ramsar sites without a formal management plan, f For how many is there Ramsar Sites is effective management planning currently being implemented through other relevant means e.g. through existing actions for appropriate wetland management? {outside of formal management plans}? {2.4.3} KRA 2.4.i	E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
5.3 – 5.5 Additional information:	
5.6 Have all Ramsar sites been assessed regarding the effectiveness of their management (i.e. sites with either a through formal management plan or management via other relevant means where they exist e.g or otherwise through existing actions for appropriate wetland management ? {1.6.2} KRA 1.6.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
5.6 Additional information:	
5.7 How many Ramsar Sites have a cross-sectoral management committee? {2.4.4} {2.4.6} KRA 2.4.iv	E= # sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X=Unknown, Y=Not Relevant;
5.7 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):	
5.8 For how many Ramsar Sites has an ecological character description been prepared (see Resolution X.15)? {2.4.5}{2.4.7} KRA 2.4.v	E=# sites; F=Less than # sites; G=More than # sites; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

5.8 Additional information (If at least 1 site, please give the name and official number of the site or sites):

~~5.9 Have any assessments of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management been made? {2.5.1} KRA 2.5.i~~

A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Sites

~~5.9 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15, and the source of the information):~~

Target 7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.
[Reference to Aichi Targets 5, 7, 11, 12]

7.1 Are mechanisms in place for the Administrative Authority to be informed of negative human-induced changes or likely changes in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.1} KRA 2.6.i

A=Yes; B=No;
C=Some Sites;
D=Planned

7.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some sites', please summarise the mechanism or mechanisms established):

7.2 Have all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites been reported to the Ramsar Secretariat, pursuant to Article 3.2? {2.6.2} KRA 2.6.i

A=Yes; B=No;
C=Some Cases;
O=No Negative Change

7.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Some cases', please indicate for which Ramsar Sites the Administrative Authority has made Article 3.2 reports to the Secretariat, and for which sites such reports of change or likely change have not yet been made):

7.3 If applicable, have actions been taken to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record, such as including requesting a Ramsar Advisory Mission? {2.6.3} KRA 2.6.ii

A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable

7.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):

Goal 3. Wisely using all wetlands

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

Target 8. National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i
[Reference to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19]

8.1 Does your country have a complete National Wetland Inventory? {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned
8.1 Additional information:	
8.2 Has your country updated a National Wetland Inventory in the last decade?	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; C1= Partially; D=Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
8.2 Additional information:	
8.3 Is wetland inventory data and information maintained? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
8.3 Additional information:	
8.4 Is wetland inventory data and information made accessible to all stakeholders? {1.1.2} KRA 1.1.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
8.4 Additional information:	
8.5 Has the condition* of wetlands in your country, overall, changed during the last triennium? {1.1.3} a) Ramsar Sites b) wetlands generally Please describe on the sources of the information on which your answer is based in the green free- text box below. If there is a difference between inland and coastal wetland situations, please describe. If you are able to, please describe the principal driver(s) of the change(s). * 'Condition' corresponds to ecological character, as defined by the Convention	N=Status Deteriorated; O=No Change; P=Status Improved
8.5 Additional information on a) and/or b):	

8.6	Based upon the National Wetland Inventory if available please provide a figure in square kilometres for the extent of wetlands (according to the Ramsar definition) for the year 2020 and provide the relevant disaggregated information in the box below. This Information will also be used to report on SDG 6, Target 6.6, Indicator 6.6.1, for which the Ramsar Convention is a co-custodian.	
		E= # Km ² ; F=Less than # Km ² ; G=More than # Km ² ; X= Unknown

8.6
According to the Ramsar definition and classification of wetlands, the disaggregated information on wetland extent is as follows:

Area by type of wetland				Total area by category of wetland
Marine/Coastal	e.g Coral Reefs: xx Km ²	e.g Estuarine waters xx Km ²	e.g Coastal brackish/saline lagoons: xx Km ²	
Inland	e.g Permanent freshwater marshes/swamps: xx Km ²	e.g Non-forested peatlands (includes shrub or open bogs, swamps, fens): xx Km ²	e.g Permanent freshwater lakes: xx Km ²	
Human-made				
Total				xx Km ²
Date of the inventory:				
Reference or link:				

Note:

The minimum information that should be provided is the total area of wetlands for each of the three major categories; “marine/coastal”, “inland” and “human-made”.

If the data on inventories are partial or not complete, use the information that is available.

~~Additional information: If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years. Please note: For the % of change in the extent of wetlands, if the period of data covers more than three years, provide the available information, and indicate the period of the change.~~

Guidance on information on national wetland extent, to be provided in Target 8 “National Wetlands Inventory” of the National Report Form can be consulted at:

<https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-information-on-national-wetland-extent>

Additional information: If the information is available please indicate the % of change in the extent of wetlands over the last three years. Please note: For the % of change in the extent of wetlands, if the period of data covers more than three years, provide the available information, and indicate the period of the change.

8.7 Please indicate your needs (in terms of technical, financial or governance challenges) to develop, update or complete a National Wetland Inventory

Target 9. *The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3}.*

[Reference to Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7].

9.1 Is a Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) that promotes the wise use of wetlands in place? {1.3.1} KRA 1.3.i (If 'Yes', please give the title and date of the policy in the green text box)	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; D=Planned
9.1 Additional information:	
9.2 Have any amendments to existing legislation been made to reflect Ramsar commitments? {1.3.5}{1.3.6}	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned
9.2 Additional information:	
9.3 Do your country's water governance and management systems are treat wetlands <u>treated</u> as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins? {1.7.1} {1.7.2} KRA 1.7.ii	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
9.3 Additional information:	
9.4 Have Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) expertise and tools been incorporated into catchment/river basin planning and management (see Resolution X.19)? {1.7.2}{1.7.3}	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
9.4 Additional information:	
9.5 Has your country established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change? {1.7.3} {1.7.5} KRA 1.7.iii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned

9.5 Additional information:

9.6 Has your country formulated plans or projects to sustain and enhance the role of wetlands in supporting and maintaining viable farming systems? {1.7.4} {1.7.6} KRA 1.7.v	
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
9.6 Additional information:	

9.7 Has research to inform wetland policies and plans been undertaken in your country on: a) agriculture-wetland interactions b) climate change c) valuation of ecosystem services {1.6.1} KRA 1.6.i	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
	a) b) c)
9.7 Additional information:	

9.8 Has your country submitted a request for Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention, Resolution XII.10 ?	
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
9.8 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate How many request have been submitted):	

9.9 Has your country made efforts to conserve small wetlands in line with Resolution XIII. 21?	
	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
9.9 Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate what actions have been implemented):	

Target 10. *The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.*
[Reference to Aichi Target 18]

10.1 Combined with 11.4 Have the guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19) been used or applied? (Action 6.1.2/ 6.1.6)	
	A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation; C1= Partially; D= Planned; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

10.1 Additional information:

10.2 Have case studies, participation in projects or successful experiences on cultural aspects of wetlands been compiled. Resolution VIII.19 and Resolution IX.21? (Action 6.1.6)

A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation;
D=Planned

10.2 Additional information: (If yes please indicate the case studies or projects documenting information and experiences concerning culture and wetlands).

10.3 Have the guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities' and indigenous people's participation in the management of wetlands been used or applied such as

- a) stakeholders, including local communities and indigenous people are represented on National Ramsar Committees or similar bodies
- b) involvement and assistance of indigenous people's and community-based groups, wetland education centres and non-governmental organizations with the necessary expertise to facilitate the establishment of participatory approaches;

A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation;
D=Planned

. (Resolution VII. 8) (Action 6.1.5)

10.3 Additional information: (If the answer is "yes" please indicate the use or application of the guidelines)

10.4 Traditional knowledge and management practices relevant for the wise use of wetlands have been documented and their application encouraged (Action 6.1.2)

A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation;
D=Planned

10.4 Additional information:

Target 11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.}

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1, 2, 13, 14]

11.1 Have ~~s an assessment been made of the~~ ecosystem benefits/services provided by ~~Ramsar Sites and other~~ wetlands been researched in your country, recorded in documents like State of the Environment reporting, and the results promoted? {1.4.1} KRA 1.4.ii

A=Yes; B=No; C=In Preparation;
C1=Partially;
D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

11.1 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):

11.2 Have wetland programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans been implemented? {1.4.2} KRA 1.4.i	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
11.2 Additional information:	
11.3 Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
11.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):	
11.4 Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands including traditional knowledge for the effective management of sites (Resolution VIII.19) ? {1.4.3}{1.4.4} KRA 1.4.iii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
11.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if known, how many Ramsar Sites and their names):	

Target 12. Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. {1.8.}
[Reference to Aichi Targets 14 and 15].

12.1 Have priority sites for wetland restoration been identified? {1.8.1} KRA 1.8.i	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
12.1 Additional information:	
12.2 Have wetland restoration/rehabilitation programmes, plans or projects been effectively implemented? {1.8.2} KRA 1.8.i	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant

12.2 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, if available the extent of wetlands restored):

12.3 Have the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands and on Peatlands, climate change and wise use (Resolutions VIII.1 and XII.11) been implemented <u>including</u> ?	
<u>a) Knowledge of global resources</u>	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
<u>b). Education and public awareness on peatlands</u>	<u>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</u>
<u>c). Policy and legislative instruments</u>	<u>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</u>
<u>d). Wise use of peatlands</u>	<u>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</u>
<u>e). Research networks, regional centres of expertise, and institutional capacity</u>	<u>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</u>
<u>f). International cooperation</u>	<u>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</u>
<u>g). Implementation and support</u>	<u>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</u>
12.3 Additional information: (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate, the progress in implementation:	

Target 13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 6 and 7].

13.1— Have actions been taken to enhance sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands?	
	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned

~~13.1. Additional information: (If 'Yes', please indicate the actions taken):~~

13.2 Are Strategic Environmental Assessment practices applied when reviewing policies, programmes and plans that may impact upon wetlands? {1.3.3} {1.3.4} KRA 1.3.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
13.2 Additional information:	
13.3 Are Environmental Impact Assessments made for any development projects (such as new buildings, new roads, extractive industry) from key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries that may affect wetlands? {1.3.4} {1.3.5} KRA 1.3.iii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Some Cases
13.3 Additional information:	

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

Target 15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. {3.2.}

15.1 Have you (AA) been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention? {3.2.1} KRA 3.2.i	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
15.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Planned', please indicate the regional initiative(s) and the collaborating countries of each initiative):	
15.2 Has your country supported or participated in the development of other regional (i.e., covering more than one country) wetland training and research centres? {3.2.2}	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
15.2 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the name(s) of the centre(s):	

Target 16. Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 18].

<p>16.1 Has an action plan (or plans) for wetland CEPA been established? {4.1.1} KRA 4.1.i</p> <p>a) At the national level b) Sub-national level c) Catchment/basin level d) Local/site level (Even if no CEPA plans have been developed, if broad CEPA objectives for CEPA actions have been established, please indicate this in the Additional information section below)</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=In Progress; D=Planned</p> <p>a) b) c) d)</p>
<p>16.1 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'In progress' to one or more of the four questions above, for each please describe the mechanism, who is responsible and identify if it has involved CEPA NFPs):</p>	
<p>16.2 How many centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established? {4.1.2} KRA 4.1.ii</p> <p>a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands</p>	<p>E= # centres; F=Less than #; G=More than #; X=Unknown; y=Not Relevant;</p> <p>a) b)</p>
<p>16.2 Additional information (If centres are part of national or international networks, please describe the networks):</p>	
<p>16.3 Does the Contracting Party:</p> <p>a) promote stakeholder participation in decision-making on wetland planning and management b) specifically involve local stakeholders in the selection of new Ramsar Sites and in Ramsar Site management? {4.1.3} KRA 4.1.iii</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned</p> <p>a) b)</p>
<p>16.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please provide information about the ways in which stakeholders are involved):</p>	
<p>16.4 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v</p>	<p>A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant</p>
<p>16.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP13; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):</p>	

16.5 Do you have an operational cross-sectoral body equivalent to a National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee? {4.1.6} KRA 4.3.v	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
16.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', indicate a) its membership; b) number of meetings since COP13; and c) what responsibilities the Committee has):	

16.6 Are other communication mechanisms (apart from a national committee) in place to share Ramsar implementation guidelines and other information between the Administrative Authority and: a) Ramsar Site managers b) other MEA national focal points c) other ministries, departments and agencies {4.1.7} KRA 4.1.vi	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned a) b) c)
16.6 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please describe what mechanisms are in place):	

16.7 Have Ramsar-branded World Wetlands Day activities (whether on 2 February or at another time of year), either government and NGO-led or both, been carried out in the country since COP13? {4.1.8}	A=Yes; B=No
16.7 Additional information:	

16.8 Have campaigns, programmes, and projects (other than for World Wetlands Day-related activities) been carried out since COP13 to raise awareness of the importance of wetlands to people and wildlife and the ecosystem benefits/services provided by wetlands? {4.1.9}	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
16.8 Additional information (If these and other CEPA activities have been undertaken by other organizations, please indicate this):	

Target 17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2.}

[Reference to Aichi Target 20]

17.1 a) Have Ramsar contributions been paid in full for 2018, 2019 and 2020? {4.2.1} KRA 4.2.i	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
b) If 'No' in 17.1 a), please clarify what plan is in place to ensure future prompt payment:	
17.2 Has any additional financial support been provided through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities? {4.2.2} KRA 4.2.i	A=Yes; B=No

17.2 Additional information (If 'Yes' please state the amounts, and for which activities):

17.3 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Has the agency provided funding to support wetland conservation and management in other countries? {3.3.1} KRA 3.3.i	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.3 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate the countries supported since COP12):	

17.4 [For Contracting Parties with a development assistance agency only ('donor countries')]: Have environmental safeguards and assessments been included in development proposals proposed by the agency? {3.3.2} KRA 3.3.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant; Z=Not Applicable
17.4 Additional information:	

17.5 [For Contracting Parties that have received development assistance only ('recipient countries')]: Has funding support been received from development assistance agencies specifically for in-country wetland conservation and management? {3.3.3}	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.5 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate from which countries/agencies since COP12):	

17.6 Has any financial support been provided by your country to the implementation of the Strategic Plan?	A=Yes; B=No; Z=Not Applicable
17.6 Additional information (If "Yes" please state the amounts, and for which activities):	

Target 18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

18.1 Are the national focal points of other MEAs invited to participate in the National Ramsar/Wetland Committee? {3.1.1} {3.1.2} KRAs 3.1.i & 3.1.iv	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.1 Additional information:	

18.2 Are mechanisms in place at the national level for collaboration between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the focal points of UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO)? {3.1.2} {3.1.3} KRA 3.1.iv	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.2 Additional information:	

18.3	Has your country received assistance from one or more UN and other global and regional bodies and agencies (e.g. UNEP, UNDP, WHO, FAO, UNECE, ITTO) or the Convention's IOPs in its implementation of the Convention? {4.4.1} KRA 4.4.ii. The IOPs are: BirdLife International, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Wetlands International, WWF and Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT).	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; X=Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
18.3 Additional information (If 'Yes' please name the agency (es) or IOP (s) and the type of assistance received):		

18.4	Have networks, including twinning arrangements, been established, nationally or internationally, for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features? {3.4.1}	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.4 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate the networks and wetlands involved):		

18.5	Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites and their status been made public (e.g., through publications or a website)? {3.4.2} KRA 3.4.iv	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.5 Additional information:		

18.6	Has information about your country's wetlands and/or Ramsar Sites been transmitted to the Ramsar Secretariat for dissemination? {3.4.3} KRA 3.4.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
18.6 Additional information:		

18.7	Have all transboundary wetland systems been identified? {3.5.1} KRA 3.5.i	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
18.7 Additional information:		

18.8	Is effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example, in shared river basins and coastal zones)? {3.5.2} KRA 3.5.ii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned; Y=Not Relevant
18.8 Additional information (If 'Yes' or 'Partially', please indicate for which wetland systems such management is in place):		

18.9 Does your country participate in regional networks or initiatives for wetland-dependent migratory species? {3.5.3} KRA 3.5.iii	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
18.9 Additional information:	

Target 19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 17]

19.1 Has an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention been made? {4.1.4} KRAs 4.1.iv & 4.1.viii	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
19.1 Additional information:	

19.2 Are wetland conservation and wise-use issues included in formal education programmes?.	A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
19.2 Additional information: If you answer yes to the above please provide information on which mechanisms and materials:	

19.3 How many opportunities for wetland site manager training have been provided since COP13? {4.1.5} KRA 4.1.iv a) at Ramsar Sites b) at other wetlands	a) b) E=# opportunities; F=Less than #; G= More than #; X= Unknown; Y=Not Relevant
19.3 Additional information (including whether the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks were used in the training):	

19.4 Have you (AA) used your previous Ramsar National Reports in monitoring implementation of the Convention? {4.3.1} KRA 4.3.ii	A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned; Z=Not Applicable
19.4 Additional information (If 'Yes', please indicate how the Reports have been used for monitoring):	

Section 4. Optional annex to allow any Contracting Party that has developed national targets to provide information on those

Goal 1. Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15]

Target 1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.

[Reference to Aichi Target 2]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 2. Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale *inter alia* at the basin level or along a coastal zone.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 7 and 8], [Sustainable Development Goal 6, Indicator 6.3.1]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they	

contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 3. *Public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands. {1.10}.*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 3, 4, 7 and 8]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 4. *Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.*
[Reference to Aichi Target 9]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Goal 2. Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 6,11,13,14, 15]

Target 5. The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored through effective, planning and integrated management {2.1.}.

[Reference to Aichi Target 6,11, 12]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed {2.6.}.
[Reference to Aichi Targets 5, 7, 11, 12]

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Goal 3. Wisely Using All Wetlands

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15]

Target 8. National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands {1.1.1} KRA 1.1.i.
[Reference to Aichi Targets 12, 14, 18, 19].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and	

Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 9. *The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone {1.3.}.*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 4, 6, 7].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 10. *The traditional knowledge innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.*
[Reference to Aichi Target 18].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer

National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 11. *Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. {1.4.}*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 1, 2, 13, 14].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 12. *Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation. {1.8.}*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 14 and 15].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target :	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 13. *Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.*
[Reference to Aichi Targets 6 and 7].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	

Additional information:

Goal 4. Enhancing implementation

[Reference to Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17]

Target 15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention. {3.2.}

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 16. Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness {4.1}.

[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 18].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they	

contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available. {4.2}.
[Reference to Aichi Target 20].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels {3.1}

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	

Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Target 19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.
[Reference to Aichi Targets 1 and 17].

Planning of National Targets

Priority of the target:	A= High; B= Medium; C= Low; D= Not relevant; E= No answer
Resourcing:	A= Good; B= Adequate; C= Limiting; D= Severely limiting; E= No answer
National Targets (Text Answer):	
Planned Activities (Text Answer):	
Outcomes achieved by 2021 and how they contribute to achievement of the Aichi Targets and Sustainable Development Goals	
Note: this field has to be completed when the full report is submitted in January 2021	
Additional information:	

Section 5: Optional annex to enable Contracting Parties to provide additional voluntary information on designated Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites)

Guidance for filling in this section

1. Contracting Parties can opt to provide additional information specific to any or all of their designated Ramsar Sites.
2. The only indicator questions included in this section are those from Section 3 of the COP14 NRF which directly concern Ramsar Sites.
3. In some cases, to make them meaningful in the context of reporting on each Ramsar Site separately, some of these indicator questions and/or their answer options have been adjusted from their formulation in Section 3 of the COP14 NRF.
4. Please include information on only one site in each row. In the appropriate columns please add the name and official site number (from the [Ramsar Sites Information Service](#)).
5. For each 'indicator question', please select one answer from the legend.
6. A final column of this Annex is provided as a 'free text' box for the inclusion of any additional information concerning the Ramsar Site.

Name of Contracting Party:

List of indicator questions:

- 5.7** Has a cross-sectoral site management committee been established for the site?
- 5.9** If an assessment of the effectiveness of Ramsar Site management has been made please indicate the year of assessment, which assessment tool did you use (e.g. METT, Resolution XII.15), the result (score) of the assessment and the source of the information in the box for additional information.
- 11.1** Has an assessment been made of the ecosystem benefits/services provided by the Ramsar Site?
- 11.3** Have socio-economic values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
- 11.4** Have cultural values of wetlands been included in the management planning for the Ramsar Site?
- 16.3a** Is stakeholder participation in decision-making promoted, especially with local stakeholder involvement in the management of the Ramsar Site?
- 16.6a** Have communication mechanisms been established to share information between the Ramsar Administrative Authority and the Ramsar Site manager(s)?

Ramsar Site number	Ramsar Site name	5.7 ①	5.9 ①	11.1 ③	11.3 ④	11.4 ④	16.3a ①	16.6a ①	Any additional comments/information about the site
<i>Ex:1603</i>	<i>Lake White</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>A - Yes</i>	<i>B - No</i>	<i>D - Planned</i>	

- ① A=Yes; B=No; D=Planned
 ③ A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; D=Planned
 ④ A=Yes; B=No; C=Partially; Z=No Management Plan

Annex 11

Recommendations from the group working on challenges

Recommended draft SC57 decisions:

1) Decides to focus on the topic of inventories for the current triennium in order to allow Parties to focus on measures to address this urgent challenge, potentially resulting in a draft resolution or resolutions for consideration at COP-14, and to use the outline attached to guide this work.

2) Decides to allocate time on the agenda of SC58 for discussions on current best practices in the development of wetland inventories and to create an opportunity for an engagement between Parties, STRP representatives, CEPA Oversight Panel, IOPs, the Ramsar Secretariat, and others on tools and approaches to address the challenges for many Parties in developing, improving, finalizing, and maintaining wetland inventories.

1. Main topic: Inventories

- a. Inventories themselves
- b. Their role in policy formulation, planning, and management
- c. Their use in avoiding loss and fostering restoration
- d. Matters related to SDG 6.6.1

2. Key question: There is lots of STRP guidance, so why are we still struggling with inventories?

- a. There are too many wetland types
 - i. What are the key wetland types that are the most critical to inventory?
- b. Lack of data
 - i. What tools, techniques, and data sets are already out there?
 - ii. How to prioritize filling in gaps in data?
- c. Special challenges
 - i. Forest cover
 - ii. Marshlands
 - iii. Cloud coverage
 - iv. Ephemeral and seasonal systems
 - v. Karsts and groundwater

3. Capacity building will be vital

- a. Simple measuring techniques that people with a range of levels of expertise can use
- b. Using existing databases
- c. Ground truthing data

4. Secretariat support in partnership with the STRP and CEPA Oversight Panel

- a. Messaging for policymakers about the importance of inventories
 - i. Why should staff time and other resources be spent on them?
 - ii. How can they be used to benefit the country?

Annex 12

Operational Guidance for Ramsar Advisory Missions

- A. Context and process to initiate a Ramsar Advisory Mission
- B. Preparing a RAM
- C. Implementing and following up a RAM

A. Context and process to initiate a Ramsar Advisory Mission

1. This section provides guidance on the context in which to initiate a Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM), and describes what a RAM is, who can request one, and how it links with other Convention tools. It addresses how the RAMs are undertaken, and whether a RAM can address several Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) or wetlands that are not designated as Ramsar Sites.

Circumstances that trigger the proposed use of a RAM

2. Contracting Parties are encouraged to maintain the ecological character of all wetlands and are required by Article 3.2 of the Convention to report any actual or potential adverse human-induced changes in a Ramsar Site, notably as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference, to the Secretariat. The RAM is an independent technical advisory mechanism through which a Contracting Party may request expert advice on how to respond to such changes and associated wetland issues (as explained in paragraphs 1 and 9 of Resolution XIII.11 on *Ramsar Advisory Missions*).

3. The procedure was established by the Standing Committee in 1988 and later endorsed by the Conference of Contracting Parties in 1990 in Recommendation 4.7 *Mechanisms for improved application of the Ramsar Convention*, which instructs the Secretariat to continue to operate RAMs (originally named the “Monitoring Procedure”) when it receives information on adverse or likely adverse changes in ecological character at Ramsar Sites. In order to implement the mechanism, the Contracting Party concerned has to report any such change and officially request that the Secretariat implement a RAM. When such information comes to the attention of the Secretariat, it may suggest to the Party concerned to consider using the RAM mechanism.

RAMs to candidate Ramsar Sites and other undesignated wetlands

4. Priority is given to address change in the ecological character of one or more designated Ramsar Sites including Sites on the Montreux Record (pursuant to Recommendation 4.8 on *Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites*). However, a RAM may also address such issues at candidate Ramsar Sites but should generally not be used for other non-urgent purposes, such as initial scoping of sites for future designations. COP13 instructed the Secretariat (Resolution XIII.11, paragraph 11), to prioritize the application of a RAM:

- i. for sites that are facing problems similar to those at many other Ramsar Sites;
- ii. where the RAM report may be of use for many other wetlands; or
- iii. where the RAM can add value to existing knowledge on how to address the described challenges.

Nature of the RAM tool and its links with Article 3.2

5. The RAM is an operational and advisory mechanism. It is not a compliance mechanism or in any sense a “negative” or disciplinary procedure. On the contrary, the RAM offers significant opportunities to find sustainable solutions to the problems that cause change in the ecological character of a Ramsar Site.

6. In Resolution XIII.10 on *Status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*, Contracting Parties are requested to submit information to the Secretariat in response to reports of change or likely change in ecological character, and submit as appropriate information to the Standing Committee on the steps taken or to be taken to address such changes. Contracting Parties should also provide such an “Article 3.2 report” if they do not intend to request a RAM. However, their efforts to respond to threats to the ecological character of a Ramsar Site may well include the application of the RAM tool where this is considered useful, feasible and effective.

Links with the Montreux Record

7. According to the Annex to Resolution VI.1 on *Working definitions of ecological character, guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed Sites, and guidelines for operation of the Montreux Record*, “The Montreux Record is the principal tool of the Convention for highlighting those Ramsar Sites where an adverse change in ecological character has occurred, is occurring, or is likely to occur, and which are therefore in need of priority conservation attention. It shall be maintained as part of the Ramsar Database and shall be subject to continuous review.”

8. A Site can only be included in the Montreux Record with the approval of the Contracting Party concerned. To do so, the Party must submit relevant information to the Secretariat, according to the format provided in Annex 1 of Resolution XIII.10. This gives the Site increased international visibility and signals firstly that the Party accepts that the ecological character of a Site is changing or likely to change, and secondly that the situation needs to be addressed through involvement of international expertise to find a sustainable solution for the issues highlighted in the Party’s Article 3.2 report.

9. Listing the Ramsar Site in the Montreux Record is not a precondition for requesting a RAM. However, when a RAM covers a Site that is listed in the Record, the Mission report must spell out the conditions or recommended actions required to remove the Site from the Record. A wetland may be removed from the Record following a request of the Contracting Party using the format provided in Annex 1 of Resolution XIII.10, and after consideration of advice and/or comment from the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP). The final decision will be made by the Contracting Party.

Initiating a RAM and approving its terms of reference

10. The Ramsar Administrative Authority (AA) of the Contracting Party concerned initiates the process by sending a letter requesting a RAM to the Secretariat, which works with the AA to determine the terms of reference (TORs) and the expertise needed for the mission. Without an official request and the approval by the AA of its TORs, a RAM cannot take place.

Application in a transboundary context

11. The RAM procedure can be applied to a wetland ecosystem shared between two or more Contracting Parties, which may consist of several Ramsar Sites in neighbouring countries that

together form a Transboundary Ramsar Site. In this case, the Secretariat interacts with the AAs of all the Contracting Parties concerned and seeks their common approval for the TORs and other aspects of the RAM.

Role of the Secretariat

12. The Secretariat plays a critical role prior to, during and after the RAM. Its functions include initial consultations with the Contracting Party and regular interaction with its AA on all aspects of the mission; compiling background information; preparing the TORs; and coordinating the Mission. The Secretariat also hires independent consultant experts needed for the Mission, as agreed with the AA; participates in the Mission; contributes to and coordinates the preparation and submission of the report to the AA for approval; publishes the approved report on the Convention's website (Resolution XIII.11 paragraph 14); and liaises with the Contracting Party during the implementation phase and when following up to collect information on progress in implementing the recommendations formulated in the Mission report.

13. The Secretariat reviews and reports progress to the Standing Committee on the conservation status of Sites to which its attention has been drawn through a Ramsar Advisory Mission, and maintains a register of activities undertaken in this regard (Recommendation 4.7).

Role of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

14. Paragraph 12 v) of Annex 1 of Resolution XII.5 on *Proposed new framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention* cites among the main collective responsibilities of the STRP to assist the Secretariat with scientific and technical issues upon request and on Ramsar Advisory Missions, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources.

15. The STRP through its work plan for 2016-2018 conducted a comprehensive review and analysis of RAM reports, and with the Secretariat produced Briefing Note No.8 *Ramsar Advisory Missions: Technical advice on Ramsar Sites* to help Ramsar Site managers understand the use of the RAM process and to highlight selected case studies, and Policy Brief No.3 *Ramsar Advisory Missions - A mechanism to respond to change in ecological character of Ramsar Sites* to help policy makers within AAs understand the RAM concept, the values of RAMs, and lessons learned on their effective application. Both usefully complement the present Operational Guidance. They are available at: <https://www.ramsar.org/resources/publications>. The STRP is also a source of scientific and technical expertise that may be useful in the context of developing and implementing a RAM.

Role of International Organization Partners and other stakeholders

16. With the agreement of the concerned Contracting Party, stakeholders including International Organization Partners (IOPs), and national or local NGOs which have expressed an interest in issues to be addressed by a RAM, may have an opportunity to meet the Mission team and present their views. It is the prerogative of the AA to organize meetings and consultations with stakeholders, and lead press conferences and interactions with media.

17. Experts from IOPs, other international organizations or UN agencies may be considered as appropriate on issues to be addressed by the RAM.

18. In the past, IOPs have provided substantial support to specific RAMs, including financial support, which has been highly appreciated. Financial support is welcome, as long as it is not

conditional and does not limit in any way the independence of the Mission team and the preparation of its advice.

Joint Missions with mechanisms of other international agreements

19. Where a Ramsar Site is also designated under another multilateral environmental agreement (MEA) such as the World Heritage Convention or the Convention on Migratory Species and its Agreements, or another international agreement (e.g. the European Union's Natura 2000 network, the Council of Europe's Emerald Network) the Secretariat will seek to organize a joint Mission, particularly in situations where the other agreements have established similar procedures, such as the Reactive Monitoring Missions of the World Heritage Convention, or the On-the-Spot Appraisal of the Bern Convention. Undertaking joint Missions based on common TORs, and producing a common report, is cost-effective and ensures coordinated advice to the Contracting Party concerned.

B. Preparing a RAM

20. Once the context has been clarified, and the Secretariat has received a written request from the AA to organize a RAM, it prepares the full RAM operational cycle, taking the following points into account.

Pre-RAM investigations and advice

21. The Secretariat compiles the background information needed to analyse and address single or multiple issues related to actual or potential change in the ecological character of the Ramsar Site to make relevant recommendations as part the RAM report. The AA and National Focal Points may provide the relevant information on the Site. STRP members and other experts may also be invited to provide relevant information as appropriate.

Developing terms of reference

22. The Secretariat prepares TORs for the RAM to guide the Mission and to enable the assessment of progress during the Mission and its follow-up phase. The TORs need to be agreed between the Secretariat and the AA prior to the RAM and the possible hiring of Mission experts. The agreed TORs are published as part of the Mission report.

23. RAM TORs should cover the following aspects:

- An introduction, summarizing the RAM mechanism;
- The objective and scope of the Mission, including the list of the issues to be addressed;
- A description of the local situation that triggered the RAM;
- Basic information about the Ramsar Site concerned;
- The composition of the RAM team;
- The planned timetable and schedule of the RAM and its meetings (on-site, field visits), including the list of the stakeholders to be met ; and
- An outline of the Mission follow-up, including the process of finalizing the Mission report and the implementation of its recommendations.

Scope of the RAM

24. The scope of the RAM, including the objectives and the list of the concrete issues to be addressed by the RAM team during the Mission and in its subsequent report, needs to be agreed beforehand between the Secretariat and the AA. The list of issues will be included in the TORs and the Mission report. The scope of the RAM also makes reference to the need to implement the Convention at all levels, as outlined in its Strategic Plan.

Coordination and composition of the Mission team

25. The Ramsar Secretariat leads and coordinates the RAM. The Secretariat ensures complete neutrality and transparency of all experts participating in the Mission, in accordance with its competencies and mandates, and guarantees that rules, decisions and Resolutions adopted by the Convention are applied. The Secretariat is independent from the AA or any other stakeholder position.

26. The Mission team includes, besides a coordinator designated by the Secretariat, one or more additional experts as needed to address the issues to be covered. The Secretariat will liaise with the STRP, Intergovernmental and International Organizations, and the scientific bodies and networks of MEAs to identify technically qualified and independent experts. The AA also appoints national experts to be part of the Mission.

27. The expert(s) need to be qualified to assess the issues listed in the TORs. They have to develop recommendations based on their own assessment, independent of possible positions of the AA or any other stakeholder, as an important function of the RAM is to provide a neutral, external and independent perspective.

28. The experts hired by the Secretariat must be fluent in writing and speaking the official languages of the Convention used in the country where the RAM is taking place.

29. Expert members of the Mission team, other than the Secretariat and AA representatives, are hired by the Secretariat through a process that ensures their technical expertise and independence. COP13 through Resolution XIII.11 paragraph 16 instructed the Secretariat to ensure that regional expertise is included in RAM teams in order to leverage the knowledge and experience of national and regional experts, including from IOPs, research and educational institutions, and civil society where relevant.

Timeframe considerations

30. Once the preparation for a RAM has started, the dates and timing of the Mission are set with the AA. In order to contain costs, the average duration of the on-site Mission is approximately six days including international travel.

31. After the Mission, the draft report is prepared and coordinated by the Secretariat with the experts, normally within three months.

32. A draft of the report will be submitted by the Secretariat to the AA for comment and approval. This may require further exchanges between the Secretariat and the AA. However, the report should be approved within three months of its submission. After its approval by the AA, the Mission report will be published by the Secretariat on the Convention website (Resolution XIII.11 paragraph 14).

Resourcing the RAM

33. The cost of a RAM usually includes transport, accommodation and subsistence of the Mission team and the fees of the consultant experts hired. As indicated in Resolution XIII.11, there has since COP7 in 1999 been no allocation from the core budget to support implementation of the RAM process. If a Contracting Party is unable to cover the costs of a RAM itself it will fall within the priorities of the non-core budget of the Convention for the triennium, as agreed by the COP (Annex 3 of Resolution XIII.2 *Financial and budgetary matters*) or the Standing Committee. The Secretariat aims to raise necessary funds from specific donors with the help of the AA.

C. Implementing and following up a RAM

34. The points listed above allow a structured and straightforward planning for a RAM and its implementation. During and after the RAM, the following issues need to be considered

Structure and contents of RAM reports

35. RAM reports are structured according to a common concept, as outlined below. When joint Missions with other Conventions or institutions result in a common report, it may be necessary to adapt the structure slightly. However, it is important that Mission reports contain all the elements listed.

36. As a general rule, RAM reports should be as short as possible (and as long as necessary) with an average length of 12 pages (ranging from two to 46 pages). RAM reports are written in one of the Convention's official languages and should contain a concise executive summary. The AA is encouraged to translate the executive summary into its national language, where this is different.

37. RAM reports should be structured as follows:

- An **executive summary**, providing a brief overview of the objectives of the Mission, issues addressed and the ecological character of the Ramsar Site concerned, date and duration of the RAM, composition of the Mission team, principal conclusions and recommendations of the RAM, and a statement how they should be followed up;
- An **introduction** to the Convention and the Mission, with a brief summary of the official request by the AA and the threats to the ecological character of a Ramsar Site, objectives, programme and composition of the Mission.
- A **brief description of the wetland site**, including a location and site map; baseline (former and current ecological character) with technical descriptions of direct relevance to the specific issues being addressed by the RAM (e.g Ramsar Information Sheet).
- A **description of the current situation of the site** as assessed by the RAM team, focusing on findings on changes in the ecological character and conclusions that apply to the core issues of the Mission;
- A list of **recommendations and conclusions**;
- A **bibliography**; and
- **Annexes** covering:
 - the terms of reference for the RAM;
 - the composition of the RAM team;
 - the programme of the on-site Mission; and
 - the list of stakeholders consulted and other contributors.

38. The members of the Mission team draw up the RAM report and its recommendations, based on their independent assessment of the situation and the issues at stake. Advice provided by the RAM team will support well-informed processes to prepare the best possible decisions by the AA or by any other part of the government of the Contracting Party concerned.

39. Recommendations listed in the RAM report should be linked to the findings and conclusions of the Mission team, and these in turn should be linked to the issues listed in the terms of reference for the Mission. Related recommendations may be grouped under corresponding sub-headings. Each recommendation should clearly identify the action to be taken; it may be helpful to distinguish between short-term, medium-term and long-term actions to be undertaken.

The process for following up a RAM report

40. COP13 urged diligent follow-up by Contracting Parties hosting RAMs, to foster implementation of the recommendations made in the RAM report and to evaluate and report on the outcomes (Resolution XIII.11 paragraph 13). The report is not an end in itself, but should be a step in a longer-term process. For example, the recommendations, if implemented, could facilitate a Site's removal from the Montreux Record or the submission of an updated Ramsar Information Sheet for the Site concerned. It is ultimately the responsibility of the Contracting Party to follow up and decide whether and how to implement recommendations addressed to it. An effective response to RAM reports depends on engendering national-level ownership of that response and engaging stakeholders. One means of achieving this might be for the Contracting Party involved to follow up with a national workshop or process that might still have participation from international Ramsar experts, to translate RAM recommendations into an action plan within the country.

41. As part of the regular reporting process to Standing Committee and the COP on the status of Ramsar Sites, after the RAM the Secretariat asks the Party concerned to provide a short update on progress in implementing the recommendations. Through this process, Ramsar Sites subject to a RAM will remain in the list of Sites with an "open Article 3.2 file" until the AA reports to the Secretariat that the Mission Recommendations have been satisfactorily implemented, or for Sites that are on the Montreux Record that the process to remove the Ramsar Site from the Record (according to Annex 1 of Resolution XIII.10) was successfully completed.

Reporting on the activities of the RAM including a review of outcomes

42. The Secretariat reports regularly to the Standing Committee and the COP on the status of Ramsar Sites in accordance with Article 8.2 of the Convention, Recommendation 4.7 and Standing Committee Decision SC35-28. The reports include the status of Article 3.2 cases, and an update on RAMs and Sites in the Montreux Record.

43. The Secretariat and AA may opt to publish news articles before, during, or after the RAM as they deem appropriate, noting that any such articles published by the Secretariat would be done with the agreement of the AA, and the main outcomes included in the Ramsar Newsletter.

44. The Secretariat then follows up with the AA on the recommendations of the RAM and will report accordingly to the Standing Committee and the COP on the status of the site.