

## Ramsar Regional Initiatives

### 1. Task

This task has been undertaken in response to Resolution XIII.9, paragraph (**para**) 30, which is as follows:

*INSTRUCTS the Secretariat's legal adviser to review existing relevant Resolutions and decisions, identifying the ones that are inconsistent with the present Resolution and relevant decisions, and propose which ones should be retired or repealed; and FURTHER DECIDES that the results of the review may be shared with the Working Group on the RRIs, to be consolidated and presented for the approval of the Standing Committee at its 58th meeting, for inclusion in a new draft resolution on RRI and subsequent retirement of relevant Resolutions, inter alia,*

- *Resolution VIII.30 (2003-2005),*
- *Resolution IX.7 (2006-2008),*
- *Resolution X.6 (2009-2012),*
- *Resolution XI.5 (2013-2015), and*
- *Resolution XII.8 (2016-2018).*

The Secretariat further instructed me to assist the Working Group by providing some suggestions regarding a draft Resolution concerning RRIs for COP14. These suggestions can be found at **Annex 1**.

### 2. Resolutions and SC Decisions reviewed

In order to complete this task, I reviewed all relevant Resolutions, Recommendations and Standing Committee (**SC**) Decisions. I have divided them into paragraphs from Resolutions, Recommendations and SC Decisions that are current and consistent with Resolution XIII.9,<sup>1</sup> and those that are either redundant<sup>2</sup> or inconsistent with Resolution XIII.9. The Resolutions, Recommendations and SC Decisions reviewed are as follows:

- a) All Resolutions and Recommendations directly concerning regional initiatives (hereafter referred to by their new nomenclature, Ramsar Regional Initiatives or **RRIs**). These are as follows:
  - Resolution XIII.9 – Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021

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<sup>1</sup> Or not inconsistent. This includes paragraphs for which there is no equivalent in XIII.9, but which are not inconsistent with that Resolution per se.

<sup>2</sup> Defined as time bound or referring to a task that has otherwise been completed.

- Resolution XII.8 – Regional Initiatives 2016-18 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention
- Resolution XI.5 – Regional Initiatives 2013-15 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention
- Resolution X.6 – Regional Initiatives 2009-12 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention
- Resolution IX.7 – Regional Initiatives in the framework of the Ramsar Convention
- Resolution VIII.43 – A subregional strategy of the Ramsar Convention for South America
- Resolution VIII.41 – Establishment of Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia
- Resolution VIII.30 – Regional initiatives for the further implementation of the Convention
- Resolution VII.26 – Creation of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere
- Resolution VII.22 – Collaborative structure for Mediterranean wetlands
- Recommendation 6.11: Continuing collaboration for Mediterranean wetlands
- Recommendation 5.14 – Collaboration for Mediterranean Wetlands

b) All Resolutions which include paragraphs referring to RRI. These are as follows:

- Resolution XIII.2 – Financial and budgetary matters
- Resolution XIII.5 – Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention
- Resolution XIII.15 – Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands
- Resolution XIII.22 – Wetlands in West Asia
- Resolution XIII.24 – The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites
- Resolution XII.2 – The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024
- Resolution XII.3 – Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions
- Resolution XII.5 – New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention
- Resolution XII.9 – The Ramsar Convention’s Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024
- Resolution XII.11 – Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention
- Resolution XII.12 – Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future
- Resolution XI.1 – Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat
- Resolution XI.2 – Financial and budgetary matters
- Resolution XI.3 – Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 triennium

- Resolution XI.6 – Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions
- Resolution XI.10 – Wetlands and energy issues
- Resolution XI.11 – Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri- urban wetlands
- Resolution XI.14 – Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Resolution XI.17 – Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2013-2015
- Resolution XI.18 – Adjustments to the modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for the 2013-2015 triennium
- Resolution X.1 – Strategic Plan
- Resolution – X.2 Financial and budgetary matters
- Resolution X.3 – The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands
- Resolution X.8 – The Convention’s Programme on communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2009-2015
- Resolution X.9 – Refinements to the modus operandi of the Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP)
- Resolution X.14 – A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs
- Resolution X.15 – Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance
- Resolution X.16 – A Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character
- Resolution X.17 – Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance
- Resolution X.19 –Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance
- Resolution X.22 – Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways
- Resolution IX.1 – Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept
- Resolution IX.2 – Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention
- Resolution IX.8 – Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2003-2008
- Resolution IX.9 – The role of the Ramsar Convention in the prevention and mitigation of impacts associated with natural phenomena, including those induced or exacerbated by human activities
- Resolution IX.11 – Revised modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) Para 37
- Resolution IX.12 – Financial and Budgetary Matters
- Resolution IX.19 – The importance of regional wetland symposia in effectively implementing the Ramsar Convention
- Resolution VIII.25 – The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008
- Resolution VIII.27 – Financial and budgetary matters
- Resolution VII.19 – Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> NB does not mention RRI but is referred to in Resolutions concerning RRI.

c) All SC Decisions which refer to RRI. These are as follows:

- SC57-11, SC57-28, SC57-29, SC57-48, SC57-49
- SC56-07
- SC55-11
- SC54-30
- SC53-09, SC53-12, SC53-37, SC53-38
- SC52-16, SC52-17, SC52-18, SC52-19, SC52-20
- SC51-11, SC51-12, SC51-13, SC51-14
- SC49-03
- SC48-25
- SC47-08, SC47-10, SC47-26
- SC46-13, SC46-23, SC46-28
- SC43-7, SC43-17, SC43-21, SC43-35
- SC42-15, SC42-20
- SC41-20, SC41-21, SC41-22, SC41-23
- SC41-18, SC41-19,
- SC40-17
- SC37-7
- SC36-13, SC36-19,
- SC35-7
- SC34-21
- SC31-24
- SC30-18
- SC29-4

### **3. Resolutions and Recommendations directly concerning RRIs – redundant or inconsistent with XIII.9**

All paragraphs from Resolutions and Recommendations directly concerning RRIs that are redundant or inconsistent with XIII.9 are organized thematically and set out in **Annex 2**.

#### ***Recommendation 1***

It is my recommendation that all Resolutions and Recommendations directly concerning RRIs up to and including XIII.9<sup>4</sup> be formally retired at COP14. In making this recommendation, it is important to note that any paragraphs from earlier Resolutions that are not inconsistent with XIII.9 have been captured in the suggested draft Resolution for COP14 set out at Annex 1.

### **4. SC Decisions referring to RRIs – redundant or inconsistent with XIII.9**

All SC Decisions concerning RRIs or referring to RRIs that are redundant are set out in **Annex 3**. Note that no SC Decisions were found to be inconsistent with XIII.9.

#### ***Recommendation 2***

It is my recommendation that all SC Decisions set out in Annex 3 be formally retired at COP14.

### **5. Resolutions directly concerning RRIs – current and consistent with XIII.9**

All Resolutions directly concerning RRIs:

- that include paragraphs that are consistent with XIII.9;
- that include paragraphs that are analogous (but not identical to) a paragraph or paragraphs in XIII.9; and
- for which there is no equivalent in XIII.9 but which are not inconsistent with that Resolution

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<sup>4</sup> These are listed in Part 2(a) of this document.

are organized thematically and set out in **Annex 4**.

**Recommendation 3**

It is my recommendation that relevant paragraphs from these Resolutions are incorporated into a new draft resolution concerning RRI. See Part 8 of this document for further advice regarding this matter.

**6. Other Resolutions which refer to RRI (organized by COP) – current and consistent with XIII.9**

All other Resolutions which include paragraphs referring to RRI that are still current and consistent with XIII.9 (or are likely to still be current) are set out in **Annex 5**.

**Recommendation 4**

It is my recommendation that the Working Group take note of those paragraphs directing or encouraging a particular action by or in relation to RRI and consider whether:

- Those elements concerning RRI should be formally retired; or
- There would be utility in referring to them in an annex to a new, draft resolution concerning RRI.

In terms of the latter, by consolidating these paragraphs in an annex, it may make it easier for Contracting Parties, relevant subsidiary bodies and RRI themselves to follow up on necessary tasks. See Part 8 of this document for further advice regarding this matter.

**7. SC Decisions – current and consistent with XIII.9**

All SC Decisions concerning RRI or referring to RRI that are current are set out in **Annex 6**.

#### **Recommendation 5**

It is my recommendation that these Decisions be retired once relevant tasks have been completed. For the sake of clarity, it may also be useful to include them in an annex to a new, draft resolution.

#### **8. Methodology – suggested content to assist the Working Group to draft a Resolution on RRI for COP14**

- The content set out in Annex 1 is primarily based on relevant paragraphs from:
  - XIII.9; and
  - Resolutions concerning RRI that predate XIII.9 but which are not inconsistent with XIII.9.
- The content has been organized thematically for ease of reference (noting that related matters – concerning funding, for example – are often scattered throughout a resolution, which may lead to inefficiencies).
- The text has in certain instances been amended from pre-existing versions in order to remove ambiguity or inconsistencies. For example, paragraphs 6 and 7 from XIII.9 have not been included as they are incompatible with the introduction to paragraph 8 from XIII.9. Specifically, paragraph 6 states that RRI ‘should comply with the principles listed in paragraph 8’; paragraph 7 requests that ‘Contracting Parties participating in any existing or future RRI endeavour to achieve full compliance with the principles listed in paragraph 8’; and the introduction to paragraph 8 states that ‘RRI, to maintain their formal recognition as an RRI, have to be in line with the following principles...’.
- XIII.9 paragraph 8 has been transposed into paragraph 9 in the draft resolution in Annex 1. Please note the following:
  - Old 8(a) has been removed and incorporated into the introduction of new paragraph 9 to avoid duplication and to clarify that the purpose of the review is to determine whether RRI can be endorsed as operating within the framework of the Convention;
  - I have not included the old 8(g) in the new paragraph 9 as it is not a principle, and can be grouped with paragraphs that concern funding;
  - I have expanded the provision concerning financial accountability (old 8(d), new 9(b)) to clarify that this requires transparency and consistency with applicable laws, Resolutions and Decisions;
  - I have expanded the reporting provisions (old para 8(f), new para 9(d)) to include a requirement to report against the criteria for endorsement set out in paragraph 9. This has been added to as it is standard ‘best practice’ for entities to report against specific criteria.

- As noted above, I undertook an exhaustive review of all Resolutions and Recommendations that do not directly concern RRIs but include paragraphs referring to, and in some instances conferring certain tasks, on RRIs. It seems that it would be easier for RRIs and concerned Contracting Parties to go to one source (i.e. the new Resolution on RRIs) to locate all relevant information regarding RRIs, rather than having to peruse multiple Resolutions and extract from these various requests, directions and so on. To that end – and assuming the Contracting Parties do not wish to repeal those elements in relevant paragraphs referring to RRIs – I thought that it would be useful to include them in an Annex to the new Resolution on RRIs.

**Annex 1: suggested content to assist the Working Group to draft a Resolution on RRIs for COP14**

<b>Theme and paragraph number</b>	<b>Content</b>	<b>Source(s) and notes</b>
<b>Preamble</b>		
1	RECALLING that Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) under the Ramsar Convention, which include regional centres for training and capacity building and regional networks to facilitate cooperation, are intended as an operational means to provide effective support for improved implementation of the Convention and its strategic plan in specific geographic regions, through voluntary international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern;	XIII.9 para 1 XII.8 para 1 X.6 para 1
2	RECALLING that the Conference of the Contracting Parties has recognized the importance of RRIs in promoting the objectives of the Convention in several Resolutions;	XIII.9 para 2 XII.8 para 3 (partial)
3	RECALLING that the Contracting Parties have acknowledged and sought to strengthen links between RRIs and matters that fall within the scope of the Convention in a number of Resolutions; and	See list of Resolutions in Annex 5 of this advice
4	ALSO RECALLING that at its 13 <sup>th</sup> meeting (COP13), the Conference of the Parties instructed the Secretariat's legal advisor to conduct a review of relevant Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions, identifying those that were inconsistent with Resolution XIII.9 and relevant Decisions, and propose which should be repealed;	XIII.9 para 30
5	FURTHER RECALLING that at COP13, the Conference of the Parties re-established the RRI Working Group and instructed it to draft new Operational guidelines for RRIs, as well as a draft resolution on RRIs which <i>inter alia</i> incorporated the aforementioned list of Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions to be repealed, and that both were endorsed by SC58;	XIII.9 para 9, para 30  Assuming SC58 endorses these...
THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES		
<b>International and regional co-operation</b>		
6	REAFFIRMS the effectiveness of regional cooperation through networks and centres, grouped under the term RRIs, in supporting improved implementation of the Convention on Wetlands and its Strategic Plan and Resolutions;	XIII.9 para 5 XII.8 para 8

7	ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to invite regional intergovernmental, international and non-governmental organizations, organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities, and transboundary river and groundwater basin organizations, to participate in or collaborate with RRI;	XIII.9, para 23 XII.8 para 23 (partial)
8	NOTES that dialogue and coordination between Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay regarding the development of an integrated vision for the Pantanal region is underway; and ENCOURAGES the integration of this vision into the RRI for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin in coordination with Argentina and Uruguay.	XII.8 para 25  Note that the Secretariat has instructed that this process is underway but as yet incomplete. Hence it ought to be captured somewhere in this Resolution (otherwise it will be repealed)
<b>Governance Reporting Assessment</b>		
9	<p>DECIDES that the Conference of the Contracting Parties is to review existing RRI against the criteria set out in this paragraph at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties to determine if they can be endorsed as operating within the framework of the Convention. FURTHER DECIDES that the Standing Committee is to perform this function intersessionally in relation to new RRI. The criteria are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. RRI must develop written terms of reference which are consistent with relevant Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee. These terms of reference must cover their own rules of procedure, structure, governance and membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat’s participation in the RRI;</li> <li>b. The governance and financial structures and processes of RRI must be transparent, accountable, compliant with relevant laws and consistent with relevant Resolutions and Recommendation of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee;</li> <li>c. RRI should undertake tasks related to the implementation of the Convention and its strategic plan in their region and can speak in their own name only, using their own logo</li> </ul>	<p>XIII.9 para 8 XII.8 para 13 XI.5 para 23 XI.5 para 19</p> <p>Note that 9(d)(i) and 10 are intended to make it easier for the COP and SC to assess whether RRI are operating within the framework of the Convention.</p>

	<p>only, to avoid any confusion between RRIs, Ramsar Administrative Authorities at the national level and the Secretariat at the international level;</p> <p>d. RRIs must submit to the Secretariat, according to the format approved by the Standing Committee and on an annual basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. details of compliance with sub-paragraphs a, b and c;</li> <li>ii. a report of progress on their work;</li> <li>iii. an end-of year financial summary; and</li> <li>iv. a work plan and budget for the following year.</li> </ul>	
10	REQUESTS the Secretariat to furnish the Conference of the Parties and Standing Committee with the information obtained under paragraph 9(d) so as to assist these bodies with their reviews of RRIs (as per para 9) and decisions regarding funding (as per paras 13 and 14);	N/A
11	INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to prepare a summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the RRIs operating during the period 2021-2023 for consideration by the Standing Committee and submission to COP15;	XIII.9 para 28
12	ENCOURAGES RRIs to apply the <i>Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives</i> in <b>Annex A</b> as appropriate;	XIII.9 para 6  Note that this is deviation from XII.2 para 12 and XI.5 para 10, which placed much greater emphasis on assessment of RRIs against the Operational Guidelines.
<b>Funding</b>		
13	NOTES that RRIs that have been endorsed as operating within the framework of the Convention and which have been established for fewer than six years are eligible for start-up financial support from the Ramsar Convention core budget and REQUESTS that eligible, interested RRIs apply for such support in their budget submitted for the following year;	XIII.9 para 8(g). Note that this subparagraph was disaggregated from the rest of XIII.9 para 8 as it is not a criterion for assessment (or a principle – as it was worded in that para).
14	DECIDES that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to eligible RRIs for the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 will be determined annually by the Standing Committee, based on	XIII.9 para 15

	the information submitted to the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 9(d), and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance to the Standing Committee;	Note modification to maintain consistency with proposed reporting requirements in para 9(d) of this draft
15	URGES RRIs that receive financial support from the core budget to consider using part of this support to seek sustainable funding from other sources, particularly during the last years in which they qualify for such support;	XIII.9 para 16 XII.8 para 16 XI.5 para 14
16	ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties concerned to take the necessary steps to achieve financial sustainability and stability of all RRIs, preferably through financial support from a variety of sources, including donors that are willing to support RRIs through specific projects and cooperation programmes;	XIII.9 paras 25, 26
17	FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and INVITES other potential donors, bilateral or multilateral, to support RRIs, whether or not they are also receiving funding through the Convention's core budget; and INVITES Contracting Parties that are geographically related to an RRI to consider giving financial support, as appropriate;	XIII.9 para 18 XII.8 para 17
18	INVITES the Convention's International Organization Partners to partner with and support RRIs in their undertakings, including in particular through capacity building and fundraising efforts;	XIII.9 para 27
<b>Contact with, and support from, Secretariat</b>		
20	REQUESTS that the RRIs maintain active and regular contact with the Secretariat; and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to advise RRIs on how to reinforce their capacity and effectiveness, including in relation to the alignment of RRIs with the Convention's Strategic Plan and CEPA Programme;	XIII.9 para 21 XII.8 para 19 XII.9 para 13
21	INVITES the Contracting Parties and RRIs take note of the Resolutions in <b>Annex B</b> which include paragraphs of relevance to RRIs and REQUESTS the Secretariat to assist RRIs to identify any tasks which remain incomplete;	Resolutions identified in Annex 5 of this advice
22	REQUESTS the Secretariat, within its existing legal framework and mandate, to assist Contracting Parties, as appropriate, in the administration of non-core funded projects, including, but not limited to, successful fundraising for RRIs; and FURTHER INSTRUCTS Secretariat staff in positions identified in <b>ANNEX C</b> as supported with core funds not to be involved in the day-to-day administration of non-core funded projects, these being the responsibility of any Secretariat staff in positions supported with non-core funds for that specific purpose;	XIII.9 para 17

<b>Publicity</b>		
23	FURTHER REQUESTS that the Secretariat continue publishing on the Convention's website information provided by the RRIs, including reports on their successes and work plans;	XIII.9 para 22
24	INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to publicize RRIs at the global level as a mechanism to promote international cooperation and support for the implementation of the objectives of the Convention, to complement the efforts of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and the National Focal Points at the national level;	XIII.9 para 20 XII.8 para 18
<b>STRP, CEPA</b>		
25	ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties concerned to invite National Focal Points designated by the Parties for scientific and technical matters (STRP Focal Points) and for the Convention's programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA Focal Points), to take an active part in the RRIs' organization, work and projects, when appropriate;	XIII.9 para 24
<b>New RRIs</b>		
26	INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to open the call for proposals for new RRIs, to be endorsed by the Conference of the Parties at COP15 or by the Standing Committee at its meetings before COP15;	XIII.9 para 12
<b>Endorsement of RRIs</b>		
27	ENDORSES the existing RRIs listed below as operating in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands until COP15:  <b>INSERT LIST</b>	
<b>Repeal of Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions</b>		
28		
	DECIDES that the Resolution, Recommendations and Decisions in <b>Annex D</b> are repealed.	Resolutions, Recommendations and Decisions identified in Annexes 2 and 3 of this advice.

		Any of the paragraphs from Resolutions in Annex 5 of this advice that the CPs wish to repeal in relation to RRI.
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**Annex 2: Paragraphs from Resolutions and Recommendations directly concerning RRI that are redundant or inconsistent with XIII.9**

<b>Preamble</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Para in XIII.9 with which it is inconsistent Redundant</b>
	<b>XII.8</b>	
FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution X.6 (2008) adopted Operational Guidelines 2009-2012 for regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands to support the implementation of the Convention, and that these Operational Guidelines as subsequently amended by Standing Committee for the triennium 2013-2015 serve as a reference for assessing the operation and effectiveness of regional initiatives, replacing the Guidelines for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands annexed to Resolution VIII.30;	4	Redundant
NOTING that during the years 2013-2015, the Standing Committee approved a number of active regional initiatives as fully meeting the <i>Operational Guidelines</i> , and noted the substantial progress made by many of the initiatives, based on the annual reports which they submitted during those years;	5	Redundant
FURTHER NOTING that new regional initiatives will be developed during the 2016-2018 triennium, such as the Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI), bringing together Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, which will be starting to operate during the second half of 2015; and	6	Redundant
	<b>XI.5</b>	
FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution X.6 (2008) adopted “Operational Guidelines” for Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention, and that these serve as a reference for assessing the operation of Regional Initiatives and their success (replacing the <i>Guidelines for the development of Regional Initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands</i> annexed to Resolution VIII.30);	4	Redundant
NOTING that during the years 2009-2012, the Standing Committee has examined and	5	Redundant

approved a number of active Regional Initiatives as fully meeting the Operational Guidelines and noted the substantial progress made by many of the initiatives during those years, based on their annual reports submitted to the Standing Committee; and		
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the experience gained through the operational years of those initiatives, both the regional networks and the Ramsar Regional Centres (RRCs); the successful application of the Operational Guidelines in selecting and supporting Regional Initiatives operating in the framework of the Convention; and the conclusions derived from the review of their success with a strategic view for the future development of Regional Initiatives;	6	Redundant
	<b>X.6</b>	
FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution IX.7 (2005) endorsed a number of regional initiatives as operating within the framework of the Convention in 2006-2008 and recognized the potential of a number of other initiatives to become operational within the framework of the Convention;	4	Redundant
NOTING the substantial progress that many of these initiatives have made during the years 2006-2008 as regularly reported and assessed by Standing Committee;	5	Redundant
FURTHER NOTING that a number of new proposals were submitted to Standing Committee prior to this meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties; and	6	Redundant
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the experience gained through the first operational years of these initiatives and the conclusions derived from the assessment by Standing Committee with a strategic view for the future development of regional initiatives;	7	Redundant
	<b>IX.7</b>	
RECOGNIZING that the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet) Coordination Unit already operates under the authority of the Secretary General and was recognized by the Parties in Resolution VIII.30 as a model example of such regional initiatives, and ALSO RECOGNIZING that the High Andean Regional Wetlands Strategy has been endorsed by the Council of Environment Ministers of the Andean Community of Nations;	3	Redundant
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Government of Greece has offered to continue hosting and contributing financially to the operation of the MedWet Coordination Unit in Athens for the triennium 2006-2008;	4	Redundant

RECALLING Resolution VIII.42 on Small Island Developing States in the Oceania Region and RECOGNIZING the success of the out-posted Ramsar regional support officer for Oceania during 2005; and	5	Redundant
<p>AWARE that a number of regional initiatives for wetland conservation and wise use are under development in different parts of the world, NOTING the submissions by Contracting Parties to the Standing Committee of proposals for developing regional initiatives to be recognized as working within the framework of the Convention (COP9 DOC. 21), and FURTHER NOTING the following additional regional initiatives announced by Contracting Parties during COP9 as being under development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La Plata/Paraguay-Parana Wetlands System Sustainability Programme – Neotropics</li> <li>• Black Sea Wetlands Initiative (BlackSeaWet) – Europe</li> <li>• Lake Victoria Environmental Management Programme – Africa</li> <li>• Nile River Basin Conservation and Development Initiative – Africa</li> <li>• Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute, International Wetland Training Programme – Africa;</li> </ul>	6	Redundant
	<b>VIII.43</b>	
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT General Objective 3 of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 urges promotion of international cooperation and implementation of the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention;	2	Redundant
ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the conclusions of the first South American Regional Meeting (Buenos Aires, September 2001), at which the participating Contracting Parties decided to develop a subregional strategy for conservation and wise use of wetlands within the framework of the Convention for the countries in South America;	3	Redundant
KEEPING IN MIND the support expressed for this proposal by the Contracting Parties at the second Pan-American Ramsar Meeting (Guayaquil, July 2002);	4	Redundant
IN ACCORDANCE with the contents of Resolution VIII.30 on Regional initiatives for the further implementation of the Convention;	6	Redundant
	<b>VIII.41</b>	
FURTHER RECALLING that Recommendation 6.5 urged Contracting Parties to establish wetland manager training programmes, that Recommendation 6.6 called for the	4	Redundant

establishment of regionally-based Ramsar liaison officers, and that Actions 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 of the Convention's Strategic Plan 1997-2002 called for the development of new training activities and provision of opportunities for manager training;		
NOTING that Wetlands International is developing a "Ramsar Wetland Training Service" designed to provide support to Contracting Parties in their implementation of Operational Objective 20.1 of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 adopted by this meeting; and	5	Redundant
AWARE that the Ramsar Subregional Meeting for West and Central Asia, hosted by the Islamic Republic of Iran on 2-5 February 2002, recognized the special needs of the countries in the region in terms of training and research to meet the major challenges, including drought and other natural disasters, which have caused serious adverse impacts on wetlands and their dependent species, including waterbirds, as acknowledged in Resolution VIII.35 adopted by this meeting, and that establishing mechanisms for cooperation and coordination will play a significant role in assisting Contracting Parties in West and Central Asia to fulfil the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 of the Convention	6	Redundant
	<b>VIII.30</b>	
RECOGNIZING in this context that a framework guidance on the development of and support for regional initiatives to implement the Convention will be useful;	4	Redundant
RECALLING Resolution VII.22 on "Collaborative structure for Mediterranean wetlands" and COP Recommendations 5.14 and 6.11 on the Mediterranean Wetland Initiative (MedWet), and ACKNOWLEDGING that MedWet can be a model example of such regional initiatives;	5	Redundant
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that following Decision SC25-31 of the Standing Committee a Coordination Unit for MedWet has been established in Athens, Greece, in 2001 under the authority of the Secretary General of the Convention, with the financial support of the Greek Government; and	6	Redundant
FURTHER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the Government of Greece has offered to continue hosting and contributing financially to the operation of the MedWet Coordination Unit in Athens for the triennium 2003-2005;	7	Redundant
	<b>VII.26</b>	
REFERRING to Recommendation 6.5 and 6.6 on both the establishment of training programmes and the strengthening of the management of the Convention, through liaison points in the Regions;	2	Redundant

ALSO RECOGNIZING that research, training and the creation of mechanisms for cooperation and coordination are a priority in the Western Hemisphere in order to fulfil the objectives of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002 of the Convention;	3	Redundant
AWARE of the existence of other training programmes for managers and specialists in the field of wetlands in the Western Hemisphere;	4	Redundant
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the offer of the Government of the Republic of Panama to create a Regional Ramsar Centre at the site of the City of Knowledge (“Ciudad del Saber”) and WITH REFERENCE to the support expressed for this initiative by the Standing Committee of the Convention at its 21st meeting;	5	Redundant
ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the support for this initiative expressed by the Contracting Parties in the Western Hemisphere, during the Ramsar Pan-American Meeting, held in San José, Costa Rica, in June 1998;	6	Redundant
GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGING the technical support offered by the Regional Office for Mesoamerica of IUCN-The World Conservation Union (IUCN-ORMA) and other organizations participating in this initiative;	7	Redundant
	<b>VII.22</b>	
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT eight years of collaborative efforts in favour of Mediterranean wetlands, within the framework of the Convention on Wetlands, and more specifically:  a) the launching in 1991 of a concerted effort for the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands under the name ‘Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative’ (MedWet) as a joint effort of the Ramsar Bureau, the European Commission (EC), the Italian Government, the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (now Wetlands International), the Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat (France), and the World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF);  b) the implementation of the MedWet1 project (1993-1996), funded to a large extent by the EC and encompassing France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, during which methods	1	Redundant

<p>and tools for wetland inventory and monitoring, management, application of research results, and public awareness were developed and tested;</p> <p>c) the implementation of the MedWet2 project (1996-1998), carried out in Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Morocco and Tunisia, funded also to a large extent by the EC and managed by the Ramsar Bureau, during which the MedWet approach was adapted to countries of the East and South of the region, and a new socio-economic approach to wetlands conservation and sustainable use was developed;</p> <p>d) the adoption of Recommendations 5.14 at Ramsar COP5 (Kushiro, 1993) and 6.11 at Ramsar COP6 (Brisbane, 1996) on the MedWet Initiative;</p> <p>e) the adoption of the Declaration of Venice and the endorsement of the Mediterranean Wetland Strategy by the Conference on Mediterranean Wetlands, organized by the Italian Government and the Ramsar Bureau in June 1996, within the framework of the MedWet1 project;</p> <p>f) Decision 19.19 of the Standing Committee of the Convention in October 1996 to establish the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) within the framework of the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative, consisting at present of 25 governments of the Mediterranean basin, the Palestinian Authority, the European Commission, the Barcelona and Bern Conventions, and six wetland centres and international NGOs;</p> <p>g) the results of the first two meetings of the MedWet/Com held in Thessaloniki, Greece (March 1998) and Valencia, Spain (January 1999), hosted and financed by the Governments of these two countries;</p> <p>h) the appointment in 1996 by the Secretary General of the Convention of a MedWet Coordinator and the establishment of a secretariat structure, with the financial support of the Governments of France and Greece (and since 1999, of the Government of Spain), as well as of the Station Biologique de la Tour du Valat (France) and WWF International; and</p>		
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i) the launching of two further MedWet projects concerning ten Mediterranean countries, of which one is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF);		
	<b>VI.11</b>	
RECALLING Recommendation 5.14 on collaboration for the Mediterranean wetlands, which welcomed this regional activity and requested the MedWet partners to report on progress of the MedWet initiative at the present meeting;	1	Redundant
NOTING with interest the progress made during the first phase of the MedWet initiative for the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands;	2	Redundant
FURTHER NOTING the extension of MedWet activities through the participation of Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Morocco and Tunisia;	3	Redundant
EXPRESSING THEIR APPRECIATION to the bodies which have provided funds for the MedWet initiative, notably the European Commission (DG XI), the Governments of France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, WWF, Tour du Valat, Wetlands International, the Ramsar Bureau and the GEF;	4	Redundant
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the Themes for the Future paper from the Government of Italy and the MedWet Coordination Group, entitled "MedWet - a Mediterranean Blueprint for Regional Wetland Cooperation," presented in plenary session of the present meeting on 25 March 1996, and the results of the informal consultations on Mediterranean wetlands held during the present meeting; and	5	Redundant
BEING INFORMED of the initiative of the MedWet partners and of the Government of Italy to organize an International Conference on Mediterranean wetlands in Venice in June 1996	6	Redundant
	<b>V.14</b>	
NOTING with interest the MedWet initiative for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands;	1	Redundant
FURTHER NOTING that this initiative is carried out jointly by the Governments of France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain, the Commission of the European Communities, the Ramsar Bureau, Fondation de la Tour du Valat, IWRB and WWF-International;	2	Redundant
ACKNOWLEDGING that the first 3-year preparatory period of MedWet will be of benefit to all countries around the Mediterranean Basin;	3	Redundant
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the presentation on MedWet made in Workshop D of the present meeting, as well as the very positive meeting on Mediterranean collaboration within the MedWet context held in Kushiro on 14 June 1993, with participants from 13 Mediterranean countries: Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Jordan, Slovenia,	4	Redundant

Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, from the Commission of the European Communities, from the Ramsar Bureau and from ADAME, IWRB and WWF;		
RECALLING Recommendation REC. C.4.5 of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties concerning international collaboration;	5	Redundant
<b>International and regional cooperation</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
TAKES NOTES of the dialogue and coordination to be established between Bolivia, Brazil and Paraguay, in accordance with their possibilities and financial capacities, to develop an integrated vision for the Pantanal region; and ENCOURAGES, given the important role of the conservation and sustainable development of the Pantanal region for the maintenance of ecosystem functions in the countries of the La Plata river basin, this dialogue and the generated efforts to be integrated into the Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin in coordination with Argentina and Uruguay.	25	Current (process commenced but not completed).
<b>Governance</b>		
	<b>IX.7</b>	
AUTHORIZES the Secretary General to conclude, where appropriate, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with relevant governments and appropriate bodies with regard to the specific financial and institutional arrangements of the regional initiatives identified in the annex, and DIRECTS the Secretary General to report to the Standing Committee and COP10 on progress with these MoUs and the progress of regional initiatives in general;	12	Redundant
<b>Reporting to SC</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
INSTRUCTS all regional initiatives endorsed by the Convention to continue to submit to the Standing Committee annual reports on their progress and operations, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines, and to continue to submit annual plans according to the timetable and format adopted by the Standing Committee;	11	Reference to Operational Guidelines inconsistent with para 6 of XIII.9.
REQUESTS the regional initiatives to maintain active and regular contact with the Secretariat, to ensure that the global Ramsar guidelines are applied and that the strategic and operational objectives of regional initiatives are in full harmony with the Convention's Strategic Plan, and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support and advise regional initiatives, according to its means, to reinforce their capacity and effectiveness;	19	Clauses 1 and 2 inconsistent with para 21 of XIII.9.
	<b>XI.5</b>	

INSTRUCTS all initiatives approved by the Convention to submit to the Standing Committee annual reports on their progress and operations, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines, as well as to forward annual work and finance plans in the format adopted by the Standing Committee;	9	Reference to Operational Guideline inconsistent with paras 6 and 8f
	<b>X.6</b>	
INSTRUCTS all initiatives under the present Resolution, and particularly those funded from the core budget, to submit to the Standing Committee annual reports on progress and operations of the initiatives concerned, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines;	12	Redundant Inconsistent with paras 6, 8 of XIII.9.
INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to develop for approval by the Standing Committee the standard formats for annual, financial, and work plan reporting required from the coordinating bodies or mechanisms of regional initiatives under the annexed Operational Guidelines 2009-2012; and	16	Redundant
	<b>IX.7</b>	
INSTRUCTS all initiatives under the present Resolution, and particularly those funded from the core budget, to submit to the Standing Committee a report on progress and operations of the initiatives concerned, and specifically their success in complying with the Guidelines contained in Annex I to Resolution VIII.30 and actions taken to replace Ramsar funds with alternative sustainable funds. The Standing Committee and Secretariat, particularly in relation to those initiatives funded by the core budget, should review their success and submit a summary report for consideration at COP10;	14	
<b>Operational Guidelines</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to undertake a review of the Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention, as adopted for 2013-2015 through Standing Committee Decision SC46-28 and published on the Ramsar website, taking into account issues, among others, of governance, capacity, fundraising, and programmatic approach in alignment with the Ramsar Strategic Plan, and adopt the necessary amendments no later than the 52nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC52);	9	Redundant
APPROVES the validity and use of the Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives, as adopted for 2013-2015, for the period 2016-2018, until the amendments requested are adopted by the Standing Committee;	10	Redundant
	<b>X.6</b>	

ADOPTS the annexed Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention, which shall serve as a reference to assess the operation of regional initiatives and their success – the Operational Guidelines are based upon, and they replace, the guidance for the development of proposals for regional initiatives adopted by COP8 (Annex I to Resolution VIII.30), without prejudice to Regional Initiatives already approved or announced by Contracting Parties in previous COPs;	8	Redundant
	<b>XI.5</b>	
APPROVES the continued validity and use of the Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention, as adopted for 2009-2012 and annexed to Resolution X.6, for the period 2013 to 2015;	8	Redundant
INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to revise the guidelines on Regional Initiatives in such a manner that a precise evaluation of their activities and their administrative and financial management and long-term sustainability is possible and to use these new guidelines to determine the level of support (financial or otherwise) in the coming triennium;	11	Redundant
<b>Assessment</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
REQUESTS the Standing Committee to continue to assess annually, based on the reports submitted, according to the format adopted through Standing Committee Decision SC41-21, the functioning of Ramsar regional initiatives in relation to the <i>Operational Guidelines</i> , the implementation of the Convention and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, seeking support from the CEPA Oversight Panel as required;	12	Reference to Operational Guidelines inconsistent with paras 6 and 8f of XIII.9.
FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat i) to assess the achievements of regional initiatives in delivering technical, administrative and collaborative benefits to the Parties in their regions, as well as their effectiveness and efficiency, ii) to analyse weaknesses, strengths and difficulties of regional initiative implementation and management, and iii) to formulate recommendations for improving the Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention;	21	Inconsistent with paras 7 and 8 of XIII.9; redundant .
INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to prepare a summary of its annual assessments, which reviews the operations and success of the regional initiatives operating during the period 2016-2018, for Contracting Parties' consideration at the 13th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties; and	24	Redundant

	<b>XI.5</b>	
INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to continue to assess annually, based on formal reports submitted on time, the extent to which the existing Regional Initiatives continue to meet the standards of the Operational Guidelines and actively contribute to the implementation of the Convention;	10	Inconsistent with paras 6 and 8 of XIII.9
REQUESTS the Standing Committee to prepare a summary report, based on its annual assessments, which reviews the operations and success of the Regional Initiatives operating during the period 2013-2015, for Contracting Parties' consideration at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.	28	Redundant
	<b>X.6</b>	
AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee to examine and approve, between meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, new initiatives selected from those which fully meet the Operational Guidelines listed in the annex to this Resolution as operating within the framework of the Convention. Such new approved initiatives should be reported to the following COP;	9	Redundant
INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to develop for Standing Committee approval evaluation criteria and procedures for evaluations of the regional initiatives operating within the framework of the Convention;	15	Redundant
REQUESTS the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, particularly in relation to those initiatives funded by the core budget, to review their success and submit a summary report for consideration at COP11.	17	Redundant
<b>Financial and budgetary matters</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
DECIDES to include financial support in the Convention core budget line "Support to Regional Initiatives", as listed in Resolution XII.1 on financial and budgetary matters, to support running costs of operational regional initiatives during the period 2016-2018 which fully meet the Operational Guidelines;	14	Redundant
FURTHER DECIDES that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to individual regional initiatives for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 will be determined annually by the Standing Committee, based on the most recent reports and updated work plans to be submitted according to the required format and timetable, and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance;	15	Redundant
	<b>XI.5</b>	

AGREES to earmark financial support in the Convention core budget line “Support to Regional Initiatives”, as listed in Resolution XI.2 on financial and budgetary matters, to be allocated to existing Regional Initiatives for development activities during the period 2013-2015, provided that they are determined by the Standing Committee to fully meet the Operational Guidelines;	12	Redundant
DECIDES that the levels of financial support to individual Regional Initiatives for the years 2013, 2014, and 2015 through that budget line will be determined by the Standing Committee during its annual meetings, based upon updated financial and work plans to be submitted in the required format not later than two months prior to its annual meetings, and with the benefit of the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance;	13	Redundant
	<b>X.6</b>	
AGREES to earmark a global amount of financial support in the Convention core budget line “Support to Regional Initiatives”, as listed in Resolution X.2 on financial and budgetary matters, to be allocated to regional initiatives during the period 2009-2012, elements of which are either regional centres for training and capacity-building or regional networks for cooperation and capacity-building, or both, provided that they fully meet the Operational Guidelines;	10	Redundant
DECIDES that the levels of financial support to individual initiatives for the years 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 through this budget line will be determined by the Standing Committee during its annual meetings at the beginning of these years, based upon updated financial and work plans to be submitted in the required format and in good time prior to the annual meetings, and following the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance;	11	Redundant
	<b>IX.7</b>	
AGREES to contribute financial support from the Convention core budget line “Support to Regional Initiatives” for the 2006-2008 triennium for specific regional initiatives, which qualify by fully meeting the conditions for support set out in the Annex to Resolution VIII.30, specifically paragraphs 8-10, at the levels indicated in Annex I.C for 2006; and ALSO AGREES that levels of financial support for 2007 and 2008 will be determined by the Standing Committee based on recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance;	9	Redundant
RECOGNIZES that financial support for the outposted Ramsar Oceania regional support officer is included in the Staff Costs of the Secretariat for 2006-2008 (Resolution IX.12, Annex I, Financial and Budgetary Matters);	11	Redundant

AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee to approve, between meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, qualifying initiatives which have zero financial implications for the Convention's core budget, and ALSO AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee, within the global allocation for the triennium of the Convention core budget line "Support to Regional Initiatives", to reallocate funding, if considered appropriate, depending on shifts in priorities and needs in response to requests from initiatives, and REQUESTS the Standing Committee to report to COP10 on the development and funding of the suite of initiatives established by 2008;	13	Redundant
	<b>VIII.30</b>	
CONSIDERS appropriate the inclusion of a budget line "Support to Regional Initiatives", when one or more regional initiatives are evaluated by the COP, in accordance with the above <i>Guidance</i> , as worthy for financial support from the Convention core budget;	9	Redundant
<b>Support from Secretariat</b>		
	<b>XI.5</b>	
ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to support Regional Initiatives, to the limit of its means, so as to reinforce their capacity and optimize their management by identifying and providing support by official supporting letters, advice, and orientations about fundraising and implementation; and	27	Inconsistent with para 21 of XIII.9.
<b>Other</b>		
	<b>XI.5</b>	
INVITES all Regional Initiatives to sign a hosting agreement or similar appropriate instrument with their host organizations or countries within one year of their establishment, for the coming years in order to clarify the responsibilities in accordance with the Operational Guidelines;	20	Redundant (time bound – reference to Operational Guidelines). Inconsistent with paras 6, 8 of XIII.9.
	<b>IX.7</b>	
ENDORSES the Regional Initiatives listed in Annex I.A to this Resolution as being within the framework of the Convention on Wetlands in line with the Annex to Resolution VIII.30 and UNDERLINES their value for implementation of the Convention at regional level;	7	Redundant
RECOGNIZES the potential for those regional initiatives listed in Annex I.B to this Resolution to become operative within the framework of the Convention, subject to further development, and URGES the Parties concerned to progress their development and report to COP10 for consideration for endorsement;	8	Redundant

	<b>VII.43</b>	
APPROVES the initiative of the Contracting Parties interested in developing a subregional strategy for the Ramsar Convention for South America;	7	Redundant
URGES the Contracting Parties of that subregion to continue striving to develop this strategy, involving the participation of Ramsar National Committees or equivalent bodies in each country in both the design and implementation phases, within the spirit of Resolution VIII.30 on <i>Regional initiatives for the further implementation of the Convention</i> and following the guidelines annexed to that resolution;	8	Redundant
REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to provide their support for implementation of this initiative; and	9	Redundant
	<b>VIII.41</b>	
WELCOMES the offer of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to establish a Regional Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia, in the city of Ramsar, and its intention to develop this Regional Centre, and EXPRESSES its approval for this initiative;	7	Redundant
ENCOURAGES the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to continue the process of planning and establishing the Regional Centre, and FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties in West and Central Asia, other interested Contracting Parties, as well as the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to advise and contribute to its further development;	8	Redundant
REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau, the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs), and others to assist and advise the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the technical and operational aspects of the development and establishment of the Regional Centre, and in its management once established;	9	Redundant
URGES the Islamic Republic of Iran to ensure that the programme of training and research developed for the Regional Centre focuses, in particular, on addressing the major challenges for wetland conservation and wise use in Western and Central Asia, including drought and other natural disasters, which have caused serious adverse impacts on wetlands and their dependent species, including waterbirds; and	10	May still be in force. Verify.
ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties, particularly the Parties in the region, donor countries, and relevant interested NGOs to contribute financial support for the establishment of the	11	Redundant

Regional Centre, in recognition of its potential for acting as a locus for training and exchange of expertise, cooperation, and other related activities in the region.		
	<b>VIII.30</b>	
ENDORSES the <i>Guidance for the development of Regional Initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands</i> presented in Annex I to this Resolution;	8	Redundant
CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to take into consideration the Guidance referred to in paragraph 8 when launching and developing a regional initiative;	10	Redundant
APPROVES, within this context and for the years 2003-2005, the financial support from the Convention core budget to be provided to the MedWet Initiative as reflected in the MedWet Coordination Unit Budget 2003-2005, presented in Annex II of this Resolution;	11	Redundant
	<b>VII.26</b>	
EXPRESSES ITS APPROVAL of the initiative of the Government of Panama offering to establish a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere within the activities at the site of the “Ciudad del Saber”;	8	Redundant
ENCOURAGES the Government of Panama to continue the process of planning for and creating the Centre, with the participation of the Ramsar Contracting Parties in the Western Hemisphere and interested organizations through permanent mechanisms of consultation;	9	Redundant
REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau to give its support to the Government of Panama in the study of the technical and operational aspects for the development of the Centre and its management; and	10	Redundant
ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to provide support to the Centre and to participate in its development, taking into account the potential that it represents for creating exchange programmes, cooperation and other complementary activities related to wetlands.	11	Redundant
	<b>VII.22</b>	
ENDORSES the initiative for the establishment of a North African Wetland Centre, and URGES Contracting Parties and institutions to contribute financial support for it.	10	Redundant
<b>MedWet</b>		
	<b>IX.7</b>	
RECOGNIZES specifically the critical importance of financial and political support from Contracting Parties of the region to the MedWet Initiative, and especially from the host country of its Coordination Unit, EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE to the Government of Greece for hosting the MedWet Coordination Unit in Athens, ACCEPTS the generous offer of	15	Redundant

the Government of Greece to continue providing office facilities and financial support during the triennium 2006-2008 for the same purpose and INSTRUCTS the Secretary General to renew as appropriate the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the government of Greece for hosting the MedWet Coordination Unit for the triennium 2006-2008; and		
APPROVES the budget for the operation of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee and the Coordination Unit for the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative in the framework of the Ramsar Convention as contained in Annex II of this Resolution.	16	Redundant
	<b>VIII.30</b>	
APPROVES, within this context and for the years 2003-2005, the financial support from the Convention core budget to be provided to the MedWet Initiative as reflected in the MedWet Coordination Unit Budget 2003-2005, presented in Annex II of this Resolution;	11	Redundant
RECOGNIZES the critical importance of financial and political support from Contracting Parties of the region to the MedWet Initiative, and especially from the host country of its Coordination Unit; EXPRESSES ITS SINCERE GRATITUDE to the Government of Greece for hosting the MedWet Unit in Athens, including the provision of adequate office space and financial resources to cover all other expenses during 2001 and 2002; and ACCEPTS the generous offer of the Government of Greece to continue providing office facilities and financial support during the triennium 2003-2005 for the same purpose;	12	Redundant
APPROVES the budget of the MedWet Coordination Unit as contained in Annex II of this Resolution;	13	Redundant
AUTHORIZES the Secretary General to conclude, taking due account of the Guidance and in consultation with the Chair of the Standing Committee, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Greek Government with regard to the specific financial and institutional arrangement of the MedWet Coordination Unit in Athens for the years 2003-2005, and DIRECTS the Secretary General to report to the Standing Committee on the conclusion and implementation of this MoU; and	14	Redundant
REQUESTS the Secretary General to ensure that the experience of the MedWet Coordination Unit and its partners will be at the disposal of other regional initiatives as required and in the most appropriate form.	15	Redundant
	<b>VII.22</b>	
EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION at the work carried out so far under the Mediterranean Wetland Initiative and ITS APPRECIATION to the governments and institutions, in particular the European Commission, that have provided financial support to the Initiative; and	2	Redundant

RECOGNISES it as a model of regional collaboration, based on endogenous efforts and a wide participation of all sectors;		
APPROVES the establishment of the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com) within the framework of the Convention, as a forum for collaboration on wetland issues in the Mediterranean and as an advisor to the Convention in this region;	3	Redundant
ENDORSES the Mediterranean Wetland Strategy and the Venice Declaration, which implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan in the region, as the guiding documents for efforts in the Mediterranean;	4	Redundant
ENTRUSTS the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee with the task of monitoring the implementation of this Strategy and Declaration, and of adapting them to changing conditions;	5	Redundant
ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties around the Mediterranean to use and further develop the methodological tools elaborated under the MedWet1 and MedWet2 projects, with a view to encouraging integrated and sustainable management of wetlands in the region;	6	Redundant
INVITES Contracting Parties in other regions, with the assistance of the Ramsar Bureau, to consider using relevant MedWet tools, in particular, as requested in Resolution VII.20, the methodology and database for collecting, managing and storing inventory data on wetlands; and URGES countries and organizations involved in the MedWet Initiative to provide technical and financial assistance to other countries for this purpose;	7	Redundant
ENDORSES the actions taken by the Secretary General of the Convention to establish and supervise a MedWet Team, consisting of a Coordinator and secretarial units, supported financially by voluntary contributions of governments and organizations in the region and elsewhere;	8	Redundant
URGES Contracting Parties and institutions, in particular the European Commission, to continue providing financial support to the MedWet Initiative, in particular for its work in the developing countries and entities of the Mediterranean region; and	9	Redundant
	<b>VI.11</b>	
WELCOMES this form of concerted and integrated collaboration between government and non-government partners for the conservation and wise use of Mediterranean wetlands and considers it a promising model for wetland activities in other regions;	7	Redundant
ENCOURAGES the current partners to extend this collaboration to all the countries of the Mediterranean Basin, opening it to all Mediterranean governments and appropriate	8	Redundant

institutions, bodies and non-government organizations in the region, including the private sector;		
ENCOURAGES the remaining states of the Mediterranean to participate in this long-term effort through a Mediterranean Wetland Forum or an equivalent body;	9	Redundant
URGES all government and non-government organizations and individuals concerned with wetlands in the Mediterranean to commit their best efforts for the preparation and implementation of a concerted Mediterranean Wetlands Strategy;	10	Redundant
CALLS on funding agencies, both multilateral and bilateral, and from the private sector, to continue their essential financial support for coordinated action for the conservation of Mediterranean wetlands;	11	Redundant
REQUESTS that a full report on all further developments of collaboration for wetlands in the Mediterranean during the coming three-year period is presented at the 7 <sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in 1999; and	12	Redundant
CALLS on Contracting Parties in the Mediterranean to designate as Ramsar sites those wetlands which meet the approved Ramsar criteria, and in particular those of major significance as links on the migratory route between Europe and Africa.	13	Redundant
	<b>V.14<sup>5</sup></b>	
WELCOMES this regional collaboration activity, and considers it to be a very promising approach to wetland conservation at an international level;	6	Redundant
URGES the initial ten MedWet partners to make the utmost efforts for present MedWet activities to include all Mediterranean countries;	7	Redundant
ENCOURAGES other Mediterranean Contracting Parties to work closely with the present MedWet partners to achieve MedWet's aims and, in particular, to arrest and reverse the degradation and loss of wetlands around the Basin and ensure their wise use; and	8	Redundant
REQUESTS the MedWet partners to present a full report on progress of the MedWet initiative at the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in 1996.	9	Redundant

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<sup>5</sup> Equivalent paragraph numbers – they are not numbered in the Recommendation.

### Annex 3: SC Decisions concerning RRI that are redundant

SC Decision	Contents	Note
SC56-07	Decision SC56-07: The Standing Committee agreed to defer further consideration of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group, and of the allocation of funds, until its 57th meeting.	
SC55-11	Decision SC55-11: The Standing Committee took note of document SC55 Doc.9.	
SC54-30	Decision SC54-30: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to conduct a review of the legal status of Ramsar Regional Initiatives and the implications for the Convention; and to edit, finalize and publish the draft resolution contained in document SC54-Com.11 and its Annex for consideration at COP13, with both the text of the draft resolution and the Annex placed in square brackets, but otherwise without additional amendment, noting that Parties held a range of views requiring further discussion at the COP.	
SC53-09, SC53-11, SC53-12, SC53-37, SC53-38	<p>Decision SC53-09: The Standing Committee took note of the update on Ramsar Regional Initiatives contained in document SC53-12 and recommended to the Sub-group on Finance the allocation of CHF 30,000 from the 2017 core budget for RRI to each of the four new initiatives covering the Senegal Basin, Amazon Basin, Central Asia and Indo-Burma. The Standing Committee confirmed that the allocation of funds should be considered by the Sub-group on Finance, during its deliberations on the allocation of the 2016 core budget surplus.</p> <p>Decision SC53-11: The Standing Committee noted that some Contracting Parties would continue to implement the Operational Guidelines in effect as of COP12.</p> <p>Decision SC53-12: The Standing Committee decided that a Draft Resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives should be prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with interested Parties, for consideration at COP13. This work should take account of the information contained in the Working Group's report, as contained in document SC53-12.</p> <p>Decision SC53-37: The Standing Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• took note of the cumulative voluntary contributions of Contracting Parties in the Africa region, which had totaled approximately CHF 99,000 between 2009 and 31</li> </ul>	

	<p>December 2016, and recognized that such contributions should be allocated to Regional Initiatives for the Africa region; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>instructed the Secretariat, upon further analysis and subsequent audit confirmation of the final balance of the voluntary contributions for 2016, to seek advice from the Africa region on the allocation of the 2016 balance for the African Regional Initiatives.</li> </ul> <p>Decision SC53-38: The Standing Committee allocated, from the 2017 core budget for Ramsar Regional Initiatives, CHF 30,000 to each of the following new initiatives: Amazon Basin, Central Asia, Indo-Burma and Senegal Basin.</p>	
<p>SC52-17, SC52-18, SC52-19, SC52-20</p>	<p>Decision SC52-17: The Standing Committee approved the Ramsar Regional Initiatives list as functional within the framework of the Convention for the period 2016-2018, as follows: 1) Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA), 2) Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia (RRC- CWA), 3) Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RRC-EA), 4) Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (<i>Centro Regional Ramsar para la Capacitación e Investigación sobre Humedales en el Hemisferio Occidental</i>, CREHO), 5) West African Coastal Zone Wetlands Network (WACOWet), 6) Niger River Basin Network (NigerWet), 7) Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (<i>Iniciativa Regional de Conservación y Uso Sostenible de los Humedales Altoandinos</i>), 8) Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin (<i>Iniciativa para la Conservación y Uso Sustentable de los Humedales Fluviales de la Cuenca del Plata</i>), 9) Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (CariWet), 10) Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs (<i>Iniciativa Regional para la Conservación y Uso Racional de Manglares y Corales</i>), 11) East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, 12) Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), 13) Carpathian Wetlands Initiative, 14) Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiative (NorBalWet), 15) Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet).</p> <p>Decision SC52-18: The Standing Committee asked the Contracting Parties members of Ramsar Regional Initiatives, through the Working Group, to assess the applicability of Operational Guidelines as approved, at the latest four months before the 53rd Standing Committee.</p>	

	<p>Decision SC52-19: The Standing Committee requested the Working Group, in conjunction with the Secretariat, to present at the 53rd Standing Committee a summary report of the issues raised by the Ramsar Regional Initiatives and any proposals related to them.</p> <p>Decision SC52-20: The Standing Committee endorsed the four new Ramsar Regional Initiatives named in Doc. SC52-12 and approved an allocation from the Ramsar core budget of CHF 30,000 for each (corrected from CHF 25,000 each as proposed in Document SC52-12) as follows: 1) Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin, 2) Regional Initiative for Central Asia, 3) Indo-Burma Regional Initiative and 4) Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin.</p>	
SC51-11, SC51-12, SC51-13, SC51-14	<p>Decision SC51-11: The Standing Committee agreed to establish a new Working Group to examine the implications of the proposed new Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives and asked the Secretariat to support the setting up of this group.</p> <p>Decision SC51-12: The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to complete the assessment of existing Ramsar Regional Initiatives and to support a common communications strategy taking into account the comments made at the meeting.</p> <p>Decision SC51-13: The Standing Committee agreed that a one-day workshop to revise the Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives should be held immediately before SC52.</p> <p>Decision SC51-14: The Standing Committee agreed that proposed new Ramsar Regional Initiatives be invited to submit relevant documentation against a checklist of requirements to be provided by the Secretariat for consideration by SC52.</p>	
SC49-03	Decision SC49-03 The Standing Committee agreed to the allocation of funds from Ramsar core budget line D as set out in column F of Table 1 in Document SC49-02.	
SC48-25	Decision SC48-25: The Standing Committee approved forwarding, without further amendment, Draft Resolution DOC. SC48-24 Rev.1 <i>Regional initiatives operating in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</i> for consideration at COP12.	
SC47-08, SC47-10, SC47-26	<p>Decision SC47-08: the Standing Committee approved the report of the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) and agreed:</p> <p>...</p>	

	<p>viii) to consult the Ramsar Regional Centres in preparing the strategic plan;</p> <p>Decision SC47-10: The Standing Committee agreed to no changes to the COP11 approved core budget for Regional Initiatives for 2014, and endorsed the 2014 funds allocated as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East African centre CHF 28,000</li> <li>• Niger river basin network CHF 30,000</li> <li>• La Plata river basin network CHF 16,000</li> <li>• Caribbean network CHF 16,000</li> <li>• Mangroves and reefs network (Americas)* CHF 20,000</li> <li>• Carpathian Wetland Initiative CHF 10,000</li> </ul> <p>Decision SC47-26: The Standing Committee accepted the annual reports of progress and endorsed the active four regional centres and eleven regional networks as fully meeting the Operational Guidelines 2013-2015 and operating in the framework of the Convention during this period.</p>	
SC46-13, SC46-23, SC46-28	<p>Decision SC46-13: The Standing Committee</p> <p>i) endorsed the 15 Regional Initiatives listed in DOC. SC46-11 as meeting the Operational Guidelines 2009-2012 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and within the framework of the Convention during 2013;</p> <p>ii) noting the shortcomings and priority areas for action identified in the annual reports of the Regional Initiatives, requested the Regional Initiatives to report, through the Secretariat, on the remedial steps they had taken to the Standing Committee at its 47<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p> <p>Decision SC46-23: The Standing Committee approved various matters pertaining to the budget, including allocation of the budget.</p> <p>Decision SC46-28: The Standing Committee endorsed the revised Operational Guidelines 2013- 2015 for Regional Initiatives, and requested the Secretariat to finalise and issue the guidelines taking into account any further amendments received from Parties.</p>	Full text for SC46-23 not included due to length.

<p>SC43-7, SC43-17, SC43-21, SC43-35</p>	<p>Decision SC43-7: The Standing Committee requested the CEPA Oversight Panel to draft an operative paragraph on identifying capacity building needs of Ramsar Regional Centre staff for inclusion in the COP11 Draft Resolution on “Regional Initiatives”.</p> <p>Decision SC43-17: The Standing Committee recognized that financial challenges would likely continue in 2012 and approved the 2012 rebudget (annexed to this report) reflecting zero salary increases, an increase of the Reserve Fund of CHF 100,000, a carryover of CHF 121,000 from 2011 Regional Initiative allocations and further 2012 Regional Initiative allocations of CHF 73,000. The Standing Committee requested that efforts to secure alternative, non-Core sources of funding for Regional Initiatives should be stepped up both for 2012 and for 2013-2015.</p> <p>Decision SC43-21: The Standing Committee noted that a number of items had been identified by the Secretariat and Contracting Parties as providing potential opportunities for cost savings in 2013-2015 budget scenarios, including Regional Initiatives, STRP Chair’s stipend, STRP core contribution to projects, CEPA/ communications activities, travel, and legal support, and requested the Secretariat to focus on these items in particular when developing its revised budget scenarios for Contracting Parties consideration.</p> <p>Decision SC43-35: The Standing Committee, recalling the Terms of Reference for the Partnership Coordinator (DOC. SC41-19 annex), requested the Secretary General and the Secretariat to undertake further work on and revise the Strategic Framework for Ramsar Partnerships as presented in DOC. SC43-09, particularly in order:</p> <p>....</p> <p>b) in cooperation with the STRP, the IOPs, and Regional Initiatives, as well as National Focal Points, to identify potential global, regional, and national donors and to prepare tailor-made products and projects for them;</p>	
<p>SC42-15, SC42-20</p>	<p>Decision SC42-15: The Standing Committee approved the 2011 budget with minor reallocations between core budget lines, as set out in DOC. SC42-07, and agreed to use any unallocated or unused 2011 Regional Initiatives allocations for pre-COP regional meetings or necessary 2011 legal costs; thanked all Parties that have made additional voluntary</p>	

	<p>contributions but expressed concern at the continuing decline in such voluntary contributions; and urged all SC members, Parties, and the Secretariat to redouble their efforts to find voluntary funding for important upcoming activities such as pre-COP11 regional meetings, COP11 sponsored delegates, Small Grants Fund, STRP, and Ramsar Advisory Missions.</p> <p>Decision SC42-20: The Standing Committee noted the progress of the Regional Initiatives that it endorsed at its 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> meetings as operating within the framework of the Convention for 2009-2012; determined to withdraw consideration from three inactive Initiatives (Pacific Islands, Himalayan, and Lake Chad Basin); approved the 2011 allocations to Regional Initiatives as summarized below; agreed to require 2011 reports and requests for 2012 to be submitted by 29 February and make the allocations for 2012 by electronic circulation no later than April 2012; and noted that the Secretariat will prepare a review for SC43 of the success of the Regional Initiative programme to serve as an Information Paper for COP11.</p>	
SC41-18, SC41-19, SC41-20, SC41-23	<p>Decision SC41-18: The Standing Committee once again urged Parties and others to find ways to support the SGF and increase its capacity to fund more excellent projects.</p> <p>Decision SC41-19: The Standing Committee approved allocation of funds for Regional Initiatives for 2010 as follows (in CHF): ...</p> <p>Decision SC41-20: The Standing Committee approved the accrual of any unallocated funds for Regional Initiatives in 2010 for reallocation under the same budget line for 2011 at the 42<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the SC.</p> <p>Decision SC41-23: The Standing Committee noted the Secretariat's report on Regional Initiatives, endorsed the three new Initiatives (Black Sea Coast, Caribbean, and American Mangroves) as operating under the framework of the Convention, adopted the combined format for reporting and forward planning, and welcomed the model contract for disbursing annual budget allocations to the Initiatives.</p>	
SC40-17	Decision SC40-17: The Standing Committee welcomed the model letter of support as found in Annex III of DOC. SC40-10, with the deletion of the last line of para. 3 of the preamble.	
SC37-7	<b>Decision SC37-7:</b> The Standing Committee approved for transmittal to the COP the draft Resolution on regional initiatives and its annex, as amended, and requested the Secretariat to	

	prepare a new version of the explanatory background portions of DOC. SC37-8 as an Information Paper for COP10.	
SC36-19, SC36-13	<p><b>Decision SC36-13:</b> The Standing Committee approved the following 2008 core budget allocations for regional initiatives: ...</p> <p><b>Decision SC36-19:</b> The Standing Committee requested the Management Working Group, working with the Secretariat, to prepare a proposal on “umbrella” regional initiatives to be considered at SC37.</p>	
SC35-7	<p><b>Decision SC35-7:</b> The Standing Committee decided that:</p> <p>i) Owing to a delay in initiation of implementation of the “WacoWet” Initiative during 2006, the 2006 allocation to this initiative is carried over from the 2007 core budget to be available for allocation during 2007; ....</p>	The remaining sub-clauses set out budget allocations.
SC34-21	Decision SC34-21: Having considered the matters raised in DOC. SC34-21 and DOC. SC34-21 Addendum, the Standing Committee decided to: ....	The remaining sub-clauses set out budget allocations.
SC31-24	Decision SC31-24: The Standing Committee instructed that DR8 on regional initiatives be finalized in light of the Subgroup on Finance’s recommendations for funding and endorsement, and circulated to the SC participants for comment before transmittal to the COP for its consideration.	
SC30-18	Decision SC30-18: The Standing Committee welcomed the new developments in bringing the ‘Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere’ to life and expressed gratitude for the gestures of support from the USA, Spain and others for its continuing work. The Committee acknowledged with thanks the great efforts that Panama has made to achieve these results.	
SC29-4	Decision SC29-4: The Standing Committee endorsed Revision 2 of the proposed agreement between Panama and the Ramsar Bureau on the establishment of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere, to be based in Panama.	

**Annex 4: Paragraphs from Resolutions and Recommendations directly concerning RRIs that are not inconsistent with XIII.9**

<b>Preamble</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Equivalent in XIII.9 (where relevant)</b>
	<b>XII.8</b>	
RECALLING that regional initiatives under the Ramsar Convention, which include centres for training and capacity building and networks which facilitate cooperation, are intended as operational means to provide effective support for an improved implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in specific geographic regions, through international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern;	1	Para 1 (note does not include reference to Strategic Plan)
NOTING that the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention</i> (Resolution VII.19, 1999) provide a framework for promoting international collaboration between Contracting Parties and other partners;	2	N/A (no equivalent in XIII.9, but not inconsistent per se).
ALSO RECALLING that the Contracting Parties recognized the importance of regional initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Convention in Resolution VIII.30 (2002), and subsequently through Resolutions IX.7 (2005), X.6 (2008) and XI.5 (2012), and endorsed a number of regional initiatives as operating within the framework of the Convention in 2013-2015;	3	Para 2 (note does not include specific references to Resolutions, though).
TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the experience gained through the operational years of those regional initiatives, the application of the <i>Operational Guidelines</i> in selecting and supporting Initiatives, and the conclusions derived from the review of their effectiveness;	7	Other – no equivalent in XIII.9 but not inconsistent, either. Could be reworked in light of the discretionary application of Operational Guidelines in XIII.9.
	<b>XI.5</b>	
RECALLING that Regional Initiatives under the Ramsar Convention are intended as operational means to provide effective support for an improved implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in specific geographical regions, through international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern;	1	Para 1. Consistent (minus reference to strategic plan ...also 'voluntary international cooperation' is used in XIII.9).
AWARE that the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (Resolution VII.19, 1999) provide the appropriate	2	N/A. Other – not referred to in XIII.9 but not inconsistent per se.

framework for promoting international collaboration amongst Contracting Parties and other partners;		
ALSO RECALLING that the Contracting Parties recognized the importance of Regional Initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Convention in Resolution VIII.30 (2002), and that Resolution IX.7 (2005) both endorsed a number of Regional Initiatives as operating within the framework of the Convention in 2006-2008 and recognized the potential of a number of other initiatives to become operational within the framework of the Convention;	3	Para 3. References to previous resolutions is consistent (although specific resolutions are not mentioned in XIII.9); remainder is redundant.
	<b>X.6</b>	
RECALLING that regional initiatives under the Ramsar Convention are intended as operational means to provide effective support for an improved implementation of the objectives of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in specific geographical regions, through international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern;	1	Para 1. Consistent (although no reference to Strategic Plan in XIII.9).
ALSO RECALLING that the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention</i> (Resolution VII.19, 1999) provide the appropriate framework for promoting international collaboration amongst Contracting Parties and other partners;	2	N/A. Other – not referred to in XIII.9 but not inconsistent per se.
ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution VIII.30 (2002) the Contracting Parties recognized the importance of regional initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Convention and established <i>Guidelines for the development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands</i> ;	3	Para 3. First sentence – Consistent (although XIII.9 doesn't specify Resolutions) Second sentence – Inconsistent.
	<b>IX.7</b>	
RECALLING that the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (Resolution VII.19) provide the appropriate framework for promoting international collaboration amongst Contracting Parties and other partners;	1	N/A. Other – not referred to in XIII.9 but not inconsistent per se.
ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution VIII.30 the Contracting Parties recognized the importance of regional initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Convention and established Guidelines for the	2	Para 2. First sentence – consistent (although XIII.9 doesn't mention specific resolutions) Second sentence – redundant.

development of regional initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands;		
	<b>VIII.43</b>	
RECALLING that Article 5 of the Convention stipulates that the Contracting Parties “shall endeavour to coordinate and support present and future policies and regulations concerning the conservation of wetlands”;	1	N/A. Other – not referred to in XIII.9 but not inconsistent per se.
RECOGNIZING the importance of establishing practical initiatives that support effective implementation of the Convention and its instruments, such as the Strategic Plan and the various guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties; and	5	N/A. Other – not referred to in XIII.9 but not inconsistent per se.
	<b>VIII.41</b>	
AWARE of the importance of training and research as a means of increasing the capacity of Contracting Parties to improve their implementation of the Convention;	1	N/A. Other – not inconsistent but does not reflect current wording in XIII.9.
RECALLING that the Convention was agreed on 2 February 1971 in the city of Ramsar, in the Islamic Republic of Iran;	2	N/A. Other – not inconsistent but does not reflect current wording in XIII.9.
ALSO RECALLING that through Article 4.5 of the Convention, the Contracting Parties “shall promote the training of personnel competent in the fields of wetland research, management and wardening”;	3	N/A. Other – not inconsistent but does not reflect current wording in XIII.9.
	<b>VIII.30</b>	
RECOGNIZING the importance of regional initiatives in promoting the objectives of the Convention in general and in implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan in particular, as they can build upon bio-geographic commonalities, shared wetland systems and wetland- dependent species, and solidly established common social and cultural links;	1	N/A. Other – not inconsistent but does not reflect current wording in XIII.9.
CONSIDERING that the Convention, through its provisions under Article 5 as elaborated by the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (Resolution VII.19), provides the appropriate framework for promoting international collaboration among Parties and other partners;	2	N/A. Other – not referred to in XIII.9 but not inconsistent per se.

ACKNOWLEDGING the positive, catalytic, and decisive role of international collaboration in planning and providing technical and financial support for projects and activities with that aim;	3	N/A. Other – not referred to in XIII.9 but not inconsistent per se.
	<b>VII.26</b>	
RECOGNIZING that Article 4.5 of the Convention provides that “the Contracting Parties should promote the training of scientists for the study, management and conservation of wetlands”;	1	N/A. Other – not inconsistent but does not reflect current wording.
<b>International and regional co-operation</b>	<b>Resolution</b>	<b>Equivalent in XIII.9 (where relevant)</b>
	<b>XII.8</b>	
REAFFIRMS the effectiveness of regional cooperation, through networks and centres, in supporting improved implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan;	8	N/A. Other – no equivalent in XIII.9 but not inconsistent, either.
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and INVITES international organizations and regional and subregional multilateral agreements to identify, for possible inclusion among regional initiatives, transboundary river/groundwater basin organizations;	23	Para 23. Note, however, language inconsistent with para 23 (para 23 ‘encourages CP, as appropriate, to invite...’).
	<b>XI.5</b>	
REAFFIRMS the usefulness of cooperation at regional level through networks and centres for training and capacity building in providing effective support for improved implementation of the objectives and approaches of the Convention;	7	N/A.
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, international organizations, international bodies, regional and subregional organizations to identify for possible inclusion among Regional Initiatives particular basins of global importance, such as the Amazon;	25	Para 23. Note, however, language inconsistent with para 23 (para 23 ‘encourages CP, as appropriate, to invite...’).
<b>Governance</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
EMPHASIZES the importance for regional initiatives to establish governance and financial structures which are transparent, accountable, and permit and motivate the participation and representation of all their relevant parties, including the participation of government agencies and non-governmental organizations;	13	Broadly consistent with paras 8 c, d, f, 23 of XIII.9 (although not identical).
	<b>XI.5</b>	

EMPHASIZES the importance for Regional Initiatives to establish their operational governance structures in a transparent way, based on written terms describing their roles and responsibilities, to ensure that government agencies, research centres, NGOs and all other relevant partners are adequately represented in such structures, and to report on this to the Secretariat;	23	First sentence broadly consistent with paras 8 c, d of XIII.9. Second sentence analogous to para 23 of XIII.9, but for the directive 'to ensure that...'
<b>Reporting to SC</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
INSTRUCTS all regional initiatives endorsed by the Convention to continue to submit to the Standing Committee annual reports on their progress and operations, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines, and to continue to submit annual plans according to the timetable and format adopted by the Standing Committee;	11	Some elements broadly consistent with para 8f of XIII.9. Reference to Operational Guidelines is not consistent with para 6 of XIII.9.
	<b>XI.5</b>	
INSTRUCTS all initiatives approved by the Convention to submit to the Standing Committee annual reports on their progress and operations, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines, as well as to forward annual work and finance plans in the format adopted by the Standing Committee;	9	Some elements broadly consistent with para 8f of XIII.9. Reference to Operational Guidelines is not consistent with para 6 of XIII.9.
	<b>X.6</b>	
INSTRUCTS all initiatives under the present Resolution, and particularly those funded from the core budget, to submit to the Standing Committee annual reports on progress and operations of the initiatives concerned, and specifically on their success in fulfilling the Operational Guidelines;	12	Broadly consistent with elements of para 8f of XIII.9 however inconsistent with para 6 of XIII.9 (which makes adherence to Operational Guidelines discretionary).
<b>Assessment</b>		
	<b>XII.9</b>	
REQUESTS the Standing Committee to continue to assess annually, based on the reports submitted, according to the format adopted through Standing Committee Decision SC41-21, the functioning of Ramsar regional initiatives in relation to the <i>Operational Guidelines</i> , the implementation of the Convention and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, seeking support from the CEPA Oversight Panel as required;	12	Some elements inconsistent; some elements redundant (Para 6; Para 8b and f).
	<b>XI.5</b>	

INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to continue to assess annually, based on formal reports submitted on time, the extent to which the existing Regional Initiatives continue to meet the standards of the Operational Guidelines and actively contribute to the implementation of the Convention;	10.	Inconsistent (Paras 6 and 8 of XIII.9).
	<b>X.6</b>	
AUTHORIZES the Standing Committee to examine and approve, between meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, new initiatives selected from those which fully meet the Operational Guidelines listed in the annex to this Resolution as operating within the framework of the Convention. Such new approved initiatives should be reported to the following COP;	9	Inconsistent (paras 6 and 8 of XIII.9).
<b>Funding</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
STRONGLY URGES those regional initiatives that receive financial support from the core budget to use part of this support to seek sustainable long-term funding from other sources, particularly during the second triennium in which they qualify for such support;	16	Broadly consistent with para 25 of XIII.9 (but not identical).
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other potential donors to support regional initiatives, whether or not they are also receiving funding through the Convention's core budget, and URGES Contracting Parties geographically related to a regional initiative that have not yet done so to provide formal letters of support as well as financial support;	17	Consistent with paras 18, 26 of XIII.9.
	<b>XI.5</b>	
STRONGLY URGES those Regional Initiatives that receive initial financial support from the core budget to use this support <i>inter alia</i> to seek alternative flows of sustainable funding, for example through trust funds, to strengthen their financial sustainability;	14	Broadly consistent with para 25 of XIII.9 (but not identical).
REAFFIRMS that, in accordance with Resolution X.6, financial support for Regional Initiatives from the Convention's core budget will, in principle, only be provided for a period corresponding to the interval between two meetings of COP;	15	Analogous to para 14 in XIII.9 however para 14 focuses on start up support for RRI established for fewer than six years.

DECIDES that financial support for Ramsar Regional Centres that meet the Operational Guidelines can be obtained for a period of up to six years in total;	16	Analogous to para 14 in XIII.9 however para 14 focuses on start up support for RRI established for fewer than six years AND funding is not conditional on meeting requirements of Operational Guidelines as per para 6 of XIII.9.
DECIDES that Regional Initiative Networks that have already received financial support from the Convention's core budget for one triennium may have a three-year phasing out period, giving them the opportunity to find complementary means of financing their activities, and that financial support from the Convention's core budget will then cease;	17	Analogous to para 14 in XIII.9 however para 14 focuses on start up support for RRI established for fewer than six years.
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, intergovernmental agencies, International Organization Partners, national NGOs, private businesses, regional institutions and programmes of relevance to wetlands and other potential donors to support Regional Initiatives seeking financial assistance from the Ramsar Convention with additional voluntary contributions, to match Ramsar funding and ensure the financial sustainability of the initiatives;	18	Broadly consistent with Para 18, 25, 26 of XIII.9.
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties geographically related to a Regional Initiative that have not yet done so to provide support to the initiative and to signal this through the provision of formal letters of support and financial support, as appropriate;	24	Broadly consistent (no reference to letter, though) with para 18, second sentence.
	<b>X.6</b>	
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, intergovernmental agencies, International Organization Partners, national NGOs and other potential donors to support such regional initiatives seeking financial assistance from the Ramsar Convention with additional voluntary contributions;	13	Broadly consistent with paras 18, 25, 26, 27 of XIII.9.
STRONGLY URGES those regional initiatives that receive initial financial support from the core budget to use this support <i>inter alia</i> to seek alternative flows of sustainable funding;	14	Broadly consistent with para 25 of XIII.9.
	<b>IX.7</b>	
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, intergovernmental agencies, IOPs, national NGOs and other donors to support such regional initiatives seeking financial assistance from the Ramsar Convention with additional	10	Broadly consistent with paras 18, 25, 26, 27 of XIII.9.

voluntary contributions, and STRONGLY URGES those regional initiatives that receive financial support from the core budget to use this support inter alia to seek alternative flows of sustainable funding;		
<b>Contact with Secretariat</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
REQUESTS the regional initiatives to maintain active and regular contact with the Secretariat, to ensure that the global Ramsar guidelines are applied and that the strategic and operational objectives of regional initiatives are in full harmony with the Convention's Strategic Plan, and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support and advise regional initiatives, according to its means, to reinforce their capacity and effectiveness;	19	First clause in sentence (up to comma) analogous to first clause of para 21 of XIII.9; second clause in sentence (up to second comma) inconsistent; third clause in sentence analogous but not identical to second clause in para 21 of XIII.9.
	<b>XI.5</b>	
ENCOURAGES the Regional Initiatives to maintain active and regular contacts and exchanges with the Secretariat, <i>inter alia</i> to assist in ensuring that the global Ramsar guidelines are applied and that the strategic and operational objectives of Regional Initiatives are in full harmony with the Convention's Strategic Plan;	21	First sentence (up to comma) analogous to first sentence of para 21 of XIII.9 (the remainder inconsistent, though).
<b>Support from Secretariat</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
REQUESTS the regional initiatives to maintain active and regular contact with the Secretariat, to ensure that the global Ramsar guidelines are applied and that the strategic and operational objectives of regional initiatives are in full harmony with the Convention's Strategic Plan, and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support and advise regional initiatives, according to its means, to reinforce their capacity and effectiveness;	19	Third clause in sentence analogous (but not identical) to second clause in para 21 of XIII.9.
<b>Publicity, CEPA, Identity</b>	<b>XII.8</b>	
INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to publicize at global level regional initiatives as an operational means to provide support for the implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention to complement the efforts of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities at national level and the regional initiatives themselves;	18	Broadly consistent with para 20 of XIII.9 (note that this para also says '...mechanism to promote international cooperation...')
REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue publishing information provided by the regional initiatives, including reports on their success in fulfilling the	20	Broadly consistent with para 22 of XIII.9 (but for reference to Operational Guidelines).

Operational Guidelines and work plans, on the Convention's website, to make it accessible for the parties and the public;		
	<b>XI.5</b>	
INSTRUCTS both Regional Centres and Regional Networks operating in the framework of the Convention to describe themselves as an operational means to provide support for the implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention, but to present themselves with their own independent and individual identities to the public and other partners, in order to avoid any confusion in the public mind between these Initiatives and the different roles of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities at national level and the Ramsar Secretariat at international level, and REQUESTS the Secretariat to support and promote the value of the Regional Centres and Networks and facilitate those efforts to the extent possible;	19	First three clauses (up to 'and Requests) analogous to para 8 e of XIII.9.
REQUESTS the CEPA Oversight Panel to work with the representatives of the Ramsar Regional Centres to identify and advise on the capacity building needs for RRC staff to optimize their performance, and REQUESTS the Standing Committee to assess the functioning of Ramsar Regional Centres in relation to the Operational Guidelines and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015, requesting support from the CEPA Oversight Panel as required;	26	First clause not inconsistent with XIII.9 but no equivalent (closest is para 24 of XIII.9). Second clause redundant.
<b>STRP</b>		
	<b>XII.8</b>	
URGES STRP members and National Focal Points to apply experiences of regional initiatives in their work;	22	Not inconsistent with XIII.9 but no equivalent (closest is para 24 of XIII.9).
URGES the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to explore ways of making good use of experiences from Regional Initiatives in its work;	<b>XI.5</b>	Not inconsistent with XIII.9 but no equivalent (closest is para 24 of XIII.9).
<b>Other</b>		

**Annex 5: Other Resolutions and Recommendations that include paragraphs concerning RRIs that are still in force**

<b>COP13</b>	<b>Relevant content</b>	<b>Notes</b>
XIII.2: Financial and budgetary matters	<p>4 NOTING WITH GRATITUDE the additional voluntary financial contributions made by many Contracting Parties, including those from Contracting Parties of Africa specifically earmarked for African Regional Initiatives (in accordance with paragraph 23 of Resolution X.2 on <i>Financial and budgetary matters</i>), and also the contributions made by non-governmental organizations and private companies for activities undertaken by the Secretariat;</p> <p>24 REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide to the Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs) in Africa, on an annual basis, the available balance of the African voluntary contribution fund; and INVITES those RRIs to submit requests to the Secretariat as part of the reports to access available funds in accordance with the provisions of Resolution XIII.9 on <i>Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021</i>;</p> <p>26 REQUESTS the Secretariat within its existing legal framework and mandate, to assist, as appropriate, Contracting Parties in the administration of non-core funded projects, including, but not limited to successful fund-raising for Regional Initiatives; and FURTHER INSTRUCTS Secretariat staff, identified in Annex 4, supported with core funds, not to be involved in the day- to-day administration of non-core funded projects as this role would be the responsibility of any Secretariat staff supported with non-core funds for that specific purpose.</p>	
XIII.5 Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention	11 EXPRESSING APPRECIATION for the support provided to Contracting Parties to implement the Strategic Plan by the Ramsar Regional Initiatives, intergovernmental organizations, International Organization Partners and non-governmental organizations; and	
XIII.7 Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions	1 RECALLING that Resolution XI.1, on <i>Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat</i> , in paragraphs 17 and 18, instructs the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties to develop strategies that explore the accommodation of UN languages into the Convention, the elevation of the Convention's visibility and stature, including <i>inter alia</i> through enhancing high-level political	

	engagement in its work at national, regional, and global levels, the enhancement of synergies with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other international entities including through regional initiatives, and the increased involvement in the initiatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);	
XIII.15 Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands	<p>16 ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and Ramsar Regional Initiatives, and INVITES interested organizations and networks, to protect, support and promote the use of cultural values, traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in adapting to the increasing negative impacts of climate change, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems;</p> <p>22 REQUESTS the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and INVITES Contracting Parties, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, interested organizations and networks, to continue to undertake enabling activities for the effective consideration of the cultural values of wetlands within wetland protection and management;</p>	
Resolution XIII.8 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021	<p>Annex 3</p> <p>Bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for the 2019-2021 triennium</p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific and Technical Network of the Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet)</li> </ul> <p>Annex 4</p> <p>Guidelines for developing requests to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) for its future work programmes</p>	

	<p>...</p> <p>2 Any Contracting Party, Ramsar Regional Initiative, the STRP, and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that are proposing a joint submission may develop a proposal for consideration.</p>	
XIII.22 Wetlands in West Asia	<p>11 ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties in the West Asia region to consider leveraging existing collaboration and regional initiatives within the context of sustainable development;</p> <p>14 REQUESTS the Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia to follow up the provisions of the present Resolution, within the framework of its mandate, and report to the Conference of the Contracting Parties.</p>	
XIII.24 The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites	<p>22 ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to review their Ramsar Site management plans to seek to ensure they include marine turtle conservation actions, as appropriate; and RECOMMENDS enhancement of synergies and better coordination with Ramsar Regional Initiatives and existing networks rather than establishment of new arrangements;</p>	
<b>COP12</b>		
XII.2 The Ramsar Strategic Plan	Multiple references throughout	
XII.5 New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention	<p><b>Role and responsibilities of the STRP members</b></p> <p>12 The main collective responsibilities of the Panel members are to:</p> <p>i) establish the scope, deliverables and approach to delivery for each assigned task, including through scoping workshops as appropriate, and in so doing ensure input from the network of STRP National Focal Points, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, and any other relevant organizations;</p>	
XII.9 The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024	<p>13 INVITES all Contracting Parties, as suggested in Resolutions VII.9, VIII.31, X.8 and in the CEPA Programme 2016-2024, to formulate their Wetland CEPA Action Plans (at national, subnational, catchment, or local levels) for priority activities that address international, regional, national, and local needs, and as appropriate to provide copies of these to the Ramsar Secretariat as a part of</p>	

	<p>their national reporting, in order for these to be shared as examples of good practice, and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to provide relevant information to the Regional Initiatives on priorities and activities, to support delivery of the CEPA Programme;</p> <p>23 INVITES the IOPs, Ramsar Regional Initiatives and other organizations with which the Ramsar Secretariat has collaborative agreements to support the implementation of the CEPA Programme at the global, regional, national or local levels, as appropriate, with the expertise, networks, skills and resources they have at their disposal;</p> <p>See also:</p> <p>Annex 1 The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024</p>	
XII.11 Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention	<p>20 NOTING the Policy Brief on <i>Peatlands, climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation</i> and the report <i>Peatlands and Climate Change in a Ramsar context – a Nordic Baltic Perspective</i> developed under the Ramsar regional initiative NorBalWet as inspiration for other Ramsar regional initiatives and Parties, as appropriate;</p>	
XII.12 Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future	<p>21 WELCOMES the process carried out in Mexico for the creation of water reserves for wetlands, described in the Annex to this Resolution;</p> <p>22 ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties to consider the possibility of using Mexico's approach, as appropriate, to identify the opportunities to act preventatively, and adapting it as necessary in order to address national and regional conditions and circumstances, within the framework of existing regional initiatives and commitments and within the context of sustainable development;</p>	
<b>COP11</b>		

<p>XI.6 Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</p>	<p>35 REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to review its memoranda of cooperation with other global and regional environment agreements and other organizations with a view to reinvigorating those most likely to be beneficial to the work of the Convention and its international profile within the time and resources available, taking into account the approach and priorities established in the “Strategic Framework for Partnerships for the Ramsar Convention”, and FURTHER ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to continue to establish and strengthen partnerships and closer working relations with intergovernmental regional and subregional groups, notably with regional and subregional organizations and especially with Regional Initiatives, with a view to enhancing the role and visibility of the Convention in those regions;</p>	
<p>XI.10 Wetlands and energy issues</p>	<p>14 WELCOMES the Guidance for addressing the implications for wetlands of policies, plans and activities in the energy sector annexed to this Resolution, and INVITES Contracting Parties to make use of this guidance, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments;</p> <p>15..... and REQUESTS the Secretariat, in collaboration with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the CEPA Oversight Panel, the Regional Initiatives and Contracting Parties to support, resources permitting, Contracting Parties training and capacity building efforts;</p>	<p>Instructed that no specific request made to RRI regarding this issue. Assuming this resolution is not time bound to 2012-15 cycle (see XI.17, which alludes to this), then para 15 still in force.</p>
<p>XI.11 Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri- urban wetlands</p>	<p>27 REQUESTS the Ramsar Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to strengthen collaborative initiatives with UN-Habitat and continue to develop collaboration with Ramsar Regional Initiatives, the CBD, Ramsar’s IOPs, ICLEI and other appropriate urban stakeholders, including individual cities, in order to foster projects that develop demonstration sites which both benefit urban local communities and promote the wise use of wetlands;</p>	<p>Instructed that there has been no follow up with RRI regarding this issue. Assuming this resolution is not time bound to 2012-15 cycle (see XI.17, which alludes to this), then para 27 still in force.</p>
<p>XI.14</p>	<p>32 ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to undertake studies of the role of the conservation and/or restoration of both forested and non-forested wetlands in relation to: i) climate change mitigation, including the</p>	<p>Instructed that there has not been any specific request to</p>

<p>Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</p>	<p>role of wetlands in carbon storage and sequestration, greenhouse gas emissions from degrading wetlands, avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions through removals of wetland carbon sinks, and ii) adaptation to climate change, including water regulation at local and regional scales, such as flood risk reduction, water supply and storage, and reducing the impacts of sea level rise and extreme weather events, including extreme rainfall situations; and to cooperate, within Regional Initiatives or other regional cooperation fora, in developing and disseminating knowledge about the results, and INVITES Contracting Parties and other organizations to make their findings available to the Ramsar Secretariat, the Secretariat of the UNFCCC, and other relevant bodies through existing reporting processes;</p> <p>35 REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP):</p> <p>...</p> <p>iv) in conjunction with the Secretariat and Ramsar Regional Initiative Networks and Centres, to collaborate with relevant international organizations and conventions, within their respective mandates, to further investigate the potential contribution of wetland ecosystems to climate change mitigation and adaptation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) preparing advice on assessing social resilience and vulnerability of wetlands to climate change, to complement the existing advice on assessing the biophysical vulnerability of a wetlands to climate change (Ramsar Technical Report No. 5/CBD Technical Series No. 57);</li> <li>b) preparing advice on ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change for coastal and inland wetlands; and</li> <li>c) reviewing any relevant advice provide by other MEAs, in particular the outcomes of CBD COP-11;</li> </ul> <p>without pre-empting any future decisions of the UNFCCC;</p>	<p>RRIs to report on matters referred to in para 32.</p> <p>Instructed that in 2012 the STRP produced a briefing note no climate change (item b), however not much progress on the other items in the 2012-15 triennium.</p> <p>Assuming this resolution is not time bound to 2012-15 cycle (see XI.17, which alludes to this), then paras 32 and 35 still in force.</p>
<p><b>COP10</b></p>		

<p>X.3 The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands</p>	<p>14 FURTHER STRONGLY URGES the Standing Committee, the STRP, the Ramsar Secretariat, CEPA National Focal Points, regional initiatives operating under the framework of the Convention, the International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others to utilise the “Changwon Declaration” in their future work and establishment of priorities, and also to use their own means and all other relevant opportunities actively to promote the Declaration;</p>	
<p>X.15 Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance</p>	<p>4 WELCOMES the guidance on “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory” provided in the annex to this Resolution, and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;</p>	<p>Instructed that no follow up on whether RRI are using guidance document.</p>
<p>X.17 Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance</p>	<p>8 WELCOMES the guidelines on Biodiversity-Inclusive Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Impact Assessment provided in the annex to this Resolution, and INVITES Contracting Parties to make good use of them as appropriate, including within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development, without prejudice to the practices already established by the Parties;</p>	<p>Instructed that no follow up on whether RRI are using guidance document.</p>
<p>X.19 Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance</p>	<p>5 NOTES the “Consolidated Guidance for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management” provided in the annex to this Resolution, and INVITES Contracting Parties to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments, in the context of sustainable development and in accordance with national institutions and legal frameworks;</p>	<p>Instructed that no follow up on whether RRI are using guidance document.</p>
<p><b>COP9</b></p>		
<p>IX.1 Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept</p>	<p>7 WELCOMES the frameworks, guidelines and other advice provided as annexes C, D, and E to this Resolution and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of them as appropriate, adapting them as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances and within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;</p>	<p>Instructed that no follow up on whether RRI are using guidance document.</p>

IX.19 The importance of regional wetland symposia in effectively implementing the Ramsar Convention	15 RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties, international NGOs, and other relevant scientific and technical organizations consider the usefulness of establishing similar periodic regional scientific and technical fora where they do not already exist, drawing on the experiences of the Asian Wetland Symposia, as a means of increasing scientific and technical support for the implementation of the Convention including, <i>inter alia</i> , any regional initiatives established under the Convention.	
<b>COP7</b>		
XII.19 Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention	No reference to regional initiatives but this resolution is cited throughout other resolutions concerning RRIs.	

### Annex 6: SC Decisions that are still in force

SC Decision	Contents	Note
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.	
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.	
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.	Completed.
SC57-48	<p>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 report of SC57, and instructed the Secretariat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. to contact SenegalWet regarding the unspent balance from previous years and its capacity to implement an additional contribution for 2019;</li> <li>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</li> <li>c. to report to the Subgroup on Finance intersessionally on the outcome of this situation.</li> </ul>	Completed.

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.	
SC52-16	The Standing Committee adopted the revised Operational Guidelines, submitted to the 52 <sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee by the Working Group for the Ramsar Regional Initiatives, as “Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives to support the implementation of the Convention”.	Current. To be revised for COP14 (as per XIII.9, para 6).
SC41-21	The Standing Committee approved the improved “Combined format for annual reporting and forward planning” by the Regional Initiatives, as presented in DOC.SC41-13, annex I.	
SC41-22	The Standing Committee welcomed the model contract (“letter of agreement”) presented in DOC.SC41-13, annex II, used by the Secretariat to disburse annual core budget allocations to Regional Initiatives, which specifies the reporting requirements, subject to minor textual corrections and an amendment proposed by Panama.	
SC40-17	The Standing Committee welcomed the model letter of support as found in Annex III of DOC. SC40-10, with the deletion of the last line of para. 3 of the preamble.	
SC35-8	The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a single clearly set-out paper on regional initiatives not less than one month in advance of the meetings of the Standing Committee that will permit its full review and consideration, and in order to ensure that this can be done, the SC decided that the deadlines for submission of progress reports and requests for further funding by involved regional initiatives are immutable, and that no such information submitted to the Secretariat after established deadlines will be transmitted to the Standing Committee.	Verify that this is still current.