THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

59th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 21 – 25 June 2021

**SC59 Doc.13.1**

**Review of all previous Resolutions and Decisions**

**Process for conducting the review**

**Actions requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited :

a) to review and comment on the draft resolution (including its Annexes) in Annex 1 to the present document, and to agree that this should be forwarded for consideration at COP14, after any necessary changes to take into account the comments of the Standing Committee, as requested in Resolution XIII.4, para. 25;

b) to consider the preliminary grouping of Resolutions and Recommendations presented in Annex 2 as a guide for the preparation of further drafts of consolidated resolutions;

c) to agree that the Secretariat should prepare at least two further draft consolidated resolutions for consideration at SC60, on themes selected from the preliminary grouping of Resolutions and Recommendations presented in Annex 2;

d) to approve the allocation of CHF 12,000, including CHF 3,000 in unspent funds, to cover the cost of the continued work on the consolidation of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties, using consultancy services;

e) to agree that the Secretariat should establish, and maintain up-to-date, on the Convention website: a dedicated page listing all valid Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties and a separate list of all Resolutions and Recommendations that are no longer in effect; and

f) to agree that decisions that were adopted before COP11 (or another date, to be specified by the Standing Committee) are no longer in effect, and that the governing bodies will keep track of Decisions taken and their implementation.

**Background**

1. Resolution XIII.4, on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*, includes the following request to the Standing Committee, in paragraph 25:

 *REQUESTS that the Standing Committee, at SC57, review the Secretariat’s report on the validity of Resolutions and decisions and provide feedback, and consider the Secretariat’s recommendations on this subject at SC58, with a view to including, in a relevant draft resolution for COP14, the retirement of outdated Resolutions and decisions and the establishment of a practice for the Convention to retire outdated Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones.*

2. Further to that request, at its 57th meeting (SC57, 2019), in Decision SC57-19, "*The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to carry out a preliminary grouping of existing Resolutions into major thematic areas, identifying possible priority areas for further action* ... ".

3. To advance the implementation of the request in Resolution XIII.4, at its 58th meeting (SC58, 2020), the Committee adopted Decisions SC58-19 and SC58-21, as follows:

 *Decision SC58-19: The Standing Committee decided that, in consultation with the Standing Committee’s consultative group on the review of Resolutions and Decisions of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat should prepare the following documents for consideration by the Committee at its 59th meeting and, if appropriate, forwarding for consideration at COP14:*

*...*

*ii.  draft guidance for the Parties, the chairs of committees, panels and other Convention bodies and the Secretariat, to specify how Resolutions should be drafted, adopted and recorded in future, to ensure that the soft law of the Convention remains clear, accessible and easy to use for matters with multiple prior COP Resolutions and/or Recommendations.*

 *Decision SC58-21: The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to prepare a revised document (SC58 Doc.13) with the consultative group to be presented to SC58 in October 2020, giving due consideration to the feedback from Contracting Parties on the approach to implement Standing Committee Decision SC57-19, and to seek the guidance of the consultative group of interested Contracting Parties on its possible revision, in advance of SC58, as a number of smaller thematic documents.* (The meeting planned for October 2020 was subsequently cancelled.)

4. The present document has been prepared in response to these requests, in particular as a revision of document SC58 Doc.13 regarding the process for the review of existing Resolutions. As Decision SC58-21 also supports the implementation of Decision SC57-19, on the grouping of Resolutions into major themes, a draft of that preliminary grouping is attached as Annex 2 to the present document.

**Instructions from the Conference of the Parties**

5. In Resolution XIII.4, the Secretariat is instructed by the Conference of the Parties to develop recommendations for a process to:

a) retire outdated Resolutions and decisions;

b) establish a practice of retiring outdated or contradictory Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones; and

c) prepare a consolidated list of Resolutions and decisions, to be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties and as needed after meetings of the Standing Committee.

6. The Secretariat understands the reference to “Resolutions” in Resolution XIII.4 to include 'Recommendations' of the Conference of the Parties because:
- these have been adopted under the same rules and so have the same legal effect;
- some early Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties were presented in the same form as Resolutions; and
- many of the Recommendations cover the same subject as Resolutions and so must be taken into account.

7. The Secretariat understands the term “decisions”, as used Resolution XIII.4, to be a reference to the numbered decisions of the Standing Committee. Therefore, to avoid any ambiguity, these are referred to in the following text as “Decisions of the Standing Committee”.

8. The Secretariat has prepared a draft resolution, attached as Annex 1, to achieve the objectives of the Conference of the Parties referred to in paragraph 5 above. The following text explains the approach taken to each of those three objectives.

**Retiring outdated Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee**

 Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties:

9. Pursuant to the request to the Standing Committee in Resolution XIII.4, to prepare for a draft resolution for COP14 to include the retirement of outdated Resolutions and decisions, in Decision SC58-19.i), the Committee instructed the Secretariat to prepare a draft list of all existing Resolutions that are effectively defunct and that should be removed from a list of valid Resolutions. The draft list is annexed to document SC59 Doc.13.2, and is included in the draft resolution contained in Annex 1 to the present document.

10. Whether or not the Conference of the Parties agrees to repeal the outdated Resolutions as a group, the process of consolidation of Resolutions on each subject, if agreed by the Conference, will identify and repeal all Resolutions, or parts thereof, that are out of date. The sample consolidated resolution on 'Inventories', presented in document SC59 Doc.13.3, demonstrates how this can be achieved, following an approach used under other treaties.

Decisions of the Standing Committee

11. Regarding the Decisions of the Standing Committee, it should be noted that the Committee has now adopted 1,027 Decisions. Consequently, it would be a large and time-consuming task to consider all of these individually, and to decide whether they have been implemented, or whether parts of them remain in effect. The review of this number of Decisions would take considerable resources of the Standing Committee and the Secretariat. Moreover, it seems that the Decisions of the Standing Committee are, for the most part, operational and short-term in nature. For these reasons, the Secretariat would suggest that a different approach might be taken with these Decisions.

12. One possible approach would be to consider all Decisions adopted before COP11 (or another date to be specified by the Standing Committee) as no longer in effect and to ensure that the governing bodies of the Convention keep track of Decisions taken in the future, and their implementation.

**Establishment of a practice of retiring outdated or contradictory Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee automatically when they are superseded**

Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties

13. One of the objectives of the present exercise is to put in place a process to ensure that, in future, when the review process is complete, the body of Resolutions does not again become more difficult to understand and implement than it needs to be, and that there are not conflicting or duplicative recommendations on any subject. This can be achieved by two actions.

a) The first action is the consolidation of the Resolutions that deal with the same subject, together with the repeal of all previous Resolutions on that subject. The consolidation involves the compilation of the existing texts dealing with the same theme, while removing the parts of each Resolution that are defunct and eliminating conflicts and duplications. To ensure the success of this process, it would be necessary to establish two basic principles for any draft resolution that is proposed in the future.

i) If a draft resolution deals with a subject for which a consolidated Resolution has already been adopted, the draft should be presented in a way that revises or replaces the consolidated Resolution; and

ii) If a draft resolution deals with a subject that is already covered by one or more existing Resolutions that have not been consolidated:

- the preamble should recall all existing Resolutions on the same subject;

- the recommendations in the draft should not duplicate any existing recommendation; and

- if the recommendations in the draft conflict with any existing recommendation, the draft should indicate the repeal of the existing advice.

 It is important to note that, if any existing Resolution is repealed by the Conference of the Parties, it will nonetheless remain on the record as a reflection of the agreement of the Conference at the time of its adoption.

b) The second action for the Conference of the Parties would be to agree that, starting at COP14, the Secretariat should maintain, separately from the list of Resolutions, a list of other “Decisions of the Conference of the Parties”, which would include all decisions taken by the Conference at COP14 and future meetings that contain instructions to Convention bodies and other texts that are time-bound, with a short-term effect. If this is agreed by the Conference, the Secretariat would update the list after each meeting of the Conference, by: including all new Decisions of the COP; deleting all Decisions that had been implemented; and revising and updating any existing Decisions if revisions are agreed during the meeting of the COP.

14. The additional step that is needed to support these actions is for the Conference of the Parties to provide guidance to the Parties and the Secretariat to ensure a clear view of how decisions of the Conference of the Parties would best be adopted and recorded in future. This is needed not only to avoid a proliferation of Resolutions on the same subject but also to ensure that the Resolutions, as the “soft law” of the Convention, contain what they need to contain and nothing more, and that they do not contain text that will become quickly out of date. To this end, in Decision SC58-19.ii., the Standing Committee requested draft guidelines on the preparation and recording of future decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties; and a draft was provided in Annex 1 to document SC57 Doc.14.

15. A draft resolution to put in place the processes requested by the Conference of the Parties is attached as Annex 1 to the present document. It includes text to implement the actions referred to above. It also includes, as annexes, the draft list of defunct Resolutions and the guidelines on preparation and recording of future Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties. The guidelines are based on the draft provided at SC57.

 Decisions of the Standing Committee

16. Regarding the Decisions of the Standing Committee, as indicated in paragraph 12 above, the Secretariat suggests the inclusion of a standing item in the agenda of meetings of the Committee, to receive a report on the implementation of Decisions adopted at the previous meeting, unless they are covered by other agenda items. All Decisions could be considered as outdated and no longer valid unless renewed by the Committee.

**Preparation of a consolidated list of Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee, to be updated after each meeting**

 Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties

17. In accordance with Resolution XIII.4, paragraph 24.b, the Secretariat has published a consolidated list of Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties on the Convention website.

18. When the Conference of the Parties has agreed to a list of Resolutions that are no longer valid, these will then be listed on a separate page on the Convention website. Any Resolutions that are repealed in the future will then be transferred to the list of Resolutions that are no longer valid.

 Decisions of the Standing Committee

19. If the Committee agrees, a different approach could be taken with the Decisions of the Standing Committee. As these Decisions are already available on the Convention website, together with the record of each meeting, the Committee might consider that the compilation of a list of more than 1,000 Decisions, in three languages, is not the best use of resources.

**Further considerations**

20. To the understanding of the Secretariat, the fundamental objective of the requested review is to make the Resolutions easier to understand and implement and to make them a practical tool for Parties, to facilitate and improve the implementation of the Convention. The steps to achieve this are outlined above.

21. As the consolidation process is not intended to revise the substance of decisions previously made by the Conference of the Parties, the Conference may be asked to agree that the procedure for considering and adopting draft consolidated resolutions be different than for other draft resolutions. (This is already the case under CITES, for example.) The Secretariat suggests that the only decision to be made regarding the drafts of consolidated resolutions is whether the consolidation has been correctly done; the substance itself should not be presented for discussion as it has in principle already been agreed by the Parties. This approach would need to be agreed by the Conference of the Parties and is presented in the draft resolution in Annex 1.

22. It is important that all Parties are aware that they remain in control of the review of Resolutions at all times; that texts can be repealed only by the Conference of the Parties; and that all texts previously agreed by the Parties will remain accessible on the Convention website. The history of the development of the soft law of the Convention remains intact.

23. In order to progress the process of consolidation of Resolutions, it would be desirable to have further drafts of consolidated resolutions for approval by the Standing Committee, to be forwarded for consideration and adoption at COP14. Considering the time available, it is possible that two or three additional drafts could be prepared from the grouping of Resolutions and Recommendations presented in Annex 2.

24. As the resources of the Secretariat are already fully committed to the implementation of its programme of work, it would be necessary to use an external consultant with appropriate experience, to progress the review and consolidation of Resolutions, and to conduct work associated with this process. The Secretariat will therefore need to seek the authorization of the Standing Committee to allocate funds for this purpose.

**Recommendations**

25. The Standing Committee is invited :

a) to consider and provide feedback on the draft resolution contained in Annex 1, regarding a process for review and consolidation of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties, and to agree that this, with any necessary changes, should be forwarded for consideration at COP14, to fulfil the requirements of paragraph 25 of Resolution XIII.4;

b) to consider the preliminary grouping of Resolutions and Recommendations presented in Annex 2, produced as requested by the Committee in Decision 57-19, as a guide for the preparation of further drafts of consolidated resolutions;

c) to agree that the Secretariat should prepare at least two further draft consolidated resolutions for consideration at SC60, on themes selected from the preliminary grouping of Resolutions and Recommendations presented in Annex 2 of the present document;

d) to approve the allocation of CHF 12,000, including CHF 3,000 in unspent funds, to cover the cost of the continued work on the consolidation of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties, using consultancy services;

e) to agree that the Secretariat should establish, and maintain up-to-date, on the Convention website: a dedicated page listing all valid Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties and a separate list of all Resolutions and Recommendations that are no longer in effect; and

f) to endorse theapproach that decisions that were adopted before COP11 (or another date, to be specified by the Standing Committee) are considered as no longer in effect, and that the governing bodies will keep track of Decisions and their implementation.

**Annex 1**

**Draft resolution on a process for the review and consolidation of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties**

1. RECALLING Resolution XIII.4 (2018) on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*, and in particular the requirement, expressed in paragraph 24 of that Resolution, for:

 *a process for: retiring outdated resolutions and decisions; establishing a practice of retiring outdated or contradictory Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones; and preparing a consolidated list of resolutions and decisions, to be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and on an as-needed basis following meetings of the Standing Committee;*

2. NOTING that the reference to 'Resolutions' in Resolution XIII.4 encompasses also 'Recommendations' of the Conference of the Parties, and that the term 'decisions' refers to the numbered decisions of the Standing Committee;

3. CONVINCED of the need to ensure that the Resolutions, as the 'soft law' of the Convention, expressing the policy, rules and guidance of the Conference of the Parties, should be clear, concise and readily accessible;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Regarding the retirement of Resolution and parts of Resolutions that are out of date

4. AGREES that the Resolutions and Recommendations listed in Annex 1 are effectively defunct and are therefore repealed;

Regarding lists of

 Current Resolutions,

 Resolutions that have been repealed or replaced and

 Other Decisions of the Conference of the Parties

5. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to maintain, on the website of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands:

- a list of all current Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and

- a separate list of Resolutions that are no longer in effect, including previous versions of Resolutions that have been revised;

6. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to maintain, on the website of the Convention, a list of all other 'Decisions of the Conference of the Parties', that are designed to have a short-term effect. These shall be numbered and shall include only: instructions or requests to committees, panels, working group, other Convention bodies or the Secretariat, unless they are part of a long-term procedure; and recommendations or other forms of decision that are time-bound or expected to be implemented soon after their adoption and will then be obsolete. This list will be updated by the Secretariat after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

Regarding the review and consolidation of current Resolutions

7. DECIDES to establish a process for the consolidation of Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties, as follows:

 a) The general objective of the consolidation is to facilitate the understanding and implementation of Resolutions by combining into a single Resolution the texts from existing Resolutions that deal with the same subject, using the words from the existing Resolutions as far as possible, while eliminating discrepancies and inconsistencies, clarifying the meaning, standardizing the terms used, correcting grammatical errors, updating parts that are out of date and eliminating parts that are defunct;

 b) The Secretariat is instructed to prepare, for each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, one or more draft resolutions to consolidate existing Resolutions dealing with a single subject. The selection of Resolutions shall be guided by the Standing Committee with reference to the preliminary grouping of Resolutions and Recommendations in document SC58 Doc.13 Annex 1;

 c) The document presenting each draft consolidated resolution shall indicate the origins of the texts presented and explain any differences from the existing Resolutions;

 d) Draft consolidated resolutions shall not include any new concepts, policies, rules or guidance that has not previously been agreed by the Conference of the Parties;

 e) The text of each draft consolidated resolution shall indicate that it repeals the Resolutions that are being consolidated and that it is designed to replace;

 f) Each draft consolidated resolution prepared by the Secretariat shall be presented to the Standing Committee, which shall guide the Secretariat and approve the draft to be submitted for adoption by the Conference of the Parties when it is satisfied that the draft has been correctly prepared;

 g) As the process of consolidation of Resolutions is not intended to revise the substance of decisions previously made by the Conference of the Parties, the Rules of Procedure for considering and adopting draft consolidated resolutions shall be different from those for consideration of other draft resolutions in the sense that, as a general rule, the substance should not be presented for discussion as it has in principle already been agreed by the Parties. The primary decision to be made by the Conference is whether the consolidation has been correctly done; and

 h) The process of consolidation of Resolutions shall be considered as completed when there is not more than one Resolution dealing with a major theme determined by the Standing Committee;

Regarding the preparation and adoption of draft resolutions and draft decisions

8. REQUESTS Parties, chairs of committees, panels and other Convention bodies and the Secretariat, to follow the guidance in Annex 2;

Regarding Decisions of the Standing Committee:

9. DECIDES that the procedure for recording and maintaining the Decisions of the Standing Committee shall be decided by the Standing Committee itself, provided that all current and previous Decisions are easily accessible through the website of the Convention; and

10. REPEALS paragraphs 10, 11, 24 and 25 of Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*.

***Draft resolution, Annex 1***

***Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties that are considered as defunct***

List to be inserted from the annex to document SC59 Doc.13.2.

***Draft resolution, Annex 2***

***Guidelines on the Preparation and recording of future Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties***

Guidance to Administrative Authorities and chairs of Convention bodies

Parties are urged to adhere to the following guidance when preparing draft resolutions of the Conference of the Parties.

1. As far as possible, future draft resolutions should be prepared so that, if adopted, they will replace and repeal all existing Resolutions (or, as appropriate, the relevant paragraphs) on the same subject.

2. Where the intention is to amend the approach, instructions or policy contained in an existing Resolution, a proposal to amend that Resolution may be submitted to the Conference of the Parties instead of a new draft resolution.

3. If a draft resolution deals with a subject for which a consolidated Resolution has already been adopted, the draft should be presented in a way that revises or replaces the consolidated Resolution.

4. If a draft resolution deals with a subject that is already covered by one or more existing Resolutions that have not been consolidated:

 - the preamble should recall all existing Resolutions on the same subject;

 - the recommendations in the draft should not duplicate any existing recommendation; and

 - if the recommendations in the draft conflict with any existing recommendation, the draft should indicate that the existing contradictory advice is repealed.

5. Unless practical considerations dictate otherwise, draft resolutions should not include:

a) instructions or requests to the Standing Committee, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, other subsidiary bodies or the Secretariat, unless they are part of a long-term procedure; or

b) recommendations (or other forms of decision) that will be implemented soon after their adoption and that will then be obsolete.

These types of decisions, if adopted, will be included in the 'Decisions of the Conference of the Parties'. There may be some exceptions, such as the resolutions on financial and budgetary matters, which should continue to be adopted and published as resolutions.

Instructions to the Secretariat

6. When the Conference of the Parties adopts amendments to existing Resolutions, a revised version will be published with the agreed changes, and will replace the existing Resolution. As a general rule, the revised version will retain the same number, with the addition of the suffix "(Rev.COPX)", where "X" represents the number of the meeting of the Conference of the Parties at which the changes were adopted.

7. After the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat will publish a document containing all the Decisions that have been made by the Conference of the Parties during the meeting that are short term in effect and are therefore not included in the Resolutions. As far as possible, the list of other Decisions should be sorted according to the body to which they are directed. Where this is not possible, they should be sorted by subject, using the subjects of the Resolutions for guidance.

8. The list of Decisions of the Conference of the Parties should be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to contain all the recommendations (or other forms of decision) that are not recorded in Resolutions and that are still valid. The Secretariat should publish the updated document within one month after each meeting of the Conference.

**Annex 2**

**Preliminary Categorization of Resolutions of the Conference of Contracting Parties
to the Convention on Wetlands**

KEY

Resolutions are indicated by a simple number either in Arabic numerals (e.g. ‘4.5’), or in Roman numerals (e.g. ‘VI.16’).

Recommendations are indicated with the text ‘Recom’ followed by the number.

There are some cases where the Secretariat apparently did not allocate a number to a Resolution at the time of the adoption. These are indicated by the number of the document that contained the adopted text (e.g. ‘Annex to DOC.C.4.14’).

\* indicates a text in more than one group

*At the time of consolidation of the Resolutions in each group, the Resolutions in the group will be checked for text relating to the subject of that group. If, for example, a Resolution appears in the ‘Governance’ group and in the ‘Languages’ group, the text on governance will move to a consolidated resolution on governance, and the text on language will move to a consolidated resolution on language.*

| **Preliminary Grouping** | **Resolutions** |
| --- | --- |
| **STRATEGIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS** |
| **Convention text and amendments** | Recom 1.7[Proposed protocol on amendment procedures](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-1-7-a/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23001_4000_0__)Recom 1.8[Proposed amendments to the Convention](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-1-8/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E22998_4000_0__)Recom 2.2[Amendment of the Convention](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-2-2/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23063_4000_0__)3.4[Provisional Implementation of the Amendments to the Convention](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-3-4/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23393_4000_0__)4.1[Interpretation of Article 10 bis Paragraph 6 of the Convention](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-4-1/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23399_4000_0__) |
| **Accession, political status** | Recom 1.1[Expanding the Convention's membership](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-1-1/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E22987_4000_0__)Recom 1.2[Developing countries in the Convention](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-1-2/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E22983_4000_0__)Recom 3.6[Further Contracting Parties in Africa](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-3-6/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23045_4000_0__)Recom 3.7[Further Contracting Parties in Central America, the Caribbean and South America](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-3-7/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23048_4000_0__)Recom 3.10[Further Contracting Parties in Asia and the Pacific](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-3-10/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23039_4000_0__)4.5[Accession requirements](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-4-5/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23365_4000_0__)VI.16[Accession procedures](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-16/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20973_4000_0__)VII.30[Status of Yugoslavia in the Ramsar Convention](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-30/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E21460_4000_0__) |
| **Meetings of the Conference of the Parties** | Recom 1.9Meetings of the Conference of the PartiesVI.15Amendment of the Rules of Procedure as of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties |
| **Finance, Budget & Resource Mobilization** | Recom 2.4[Possibilities of financial or other support for the Interim Secretariat](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-2-4/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23075_4000_0__)3.2[Financial and Budgetary Matters](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-3-2/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23406_4000_0__)Annex to DOC.C.4.13 [*Resolution without a number*][Resolution on financial and budgetary matters](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-on-financial/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23385_4000_0__)5.2[Financial and budgetary matters](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-5-2/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23558_4000_0__)VI.17[Financial and budgetary matters](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-17/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20977_4000_0__)VII.28[Financial and budgetary matters](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-28/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E21464_4000_0__)VIII.27Financial and budgetary matters IX.12[Financial and budgetary matters](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-ix-12/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23491_4000_0__)X.2Financial and budgetary mattersXI.2Financial and budgetary mattersXII.1Financial and budgetary mattersXII.7Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar ConventionXIII.2Financial and budgetary matters |
| **Strategic Plan** | VI.14[The Ramsar 25th Anniversary Statement, the Strategic Plan 1997-2002, and the Bureau Work Programme 1997-1999](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-14-the/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20980_4000_0__)VIII.25The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008VIII.26\*The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 during the triennium 2003-2005 and National Reports for Ramsar COP9IX.8[Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2003-2008](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-ix-8/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23506_4000_0__)X.1The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015XI.3Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 trienniumXII.2The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024XIII.5 Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention |
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guidelines](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-3-review/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E21031_4000_0__)VI.4[Adoption of population estimates for operation of the specific criteria based on waterfowl](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-4/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E21035_4000_0__)VI.5[Inclusion of subterranean karst wetlands as a wetland type under the Ramsar Classification System](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-5/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E21039_4000_0__)VI.12\*[National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-12/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20956_4000_0__)VI.13[Submission of information on sites designated for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-13/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20952_4000_0__)VII.11[Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-11/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20782_4000_0__)VII.12[Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance: official descriptions, conservation status, and management plans, including the situation of particular sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-12-sites/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20775_4000_0__)VII.13[Guidelines for identifying and designating karst and other subterranean hydrological systems as Wetlands of International Importance](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-13/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20848_4000_0__)VII.23[Issues concerning the boundary definitions of Ramsar sites and compensation of wetland habitats](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-23/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20615_4000_0__)VIII.8\*Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the ConventionVIII.10Improving implementation of the Strategic Framework and Vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance VIII.11Additional guidance for identifying and designating under-represented wetland types as Wetlands of International Importance VIII.13Enhancing the information on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)VIII.20General guidance for interpreting “urgent national interests” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and considering compensation under Article 4.2VIII.21Defining Ramsar site boundaries more accurately in Ramsar Information Sheets VIII.22Issues concerning Ramsar sites that cease to fulfil or never fulfilled the Criteria for designation as Wetlands of International Importance VIII.33\*Guidance for identifying, sustainably managing, and designating temporary pools as Wetlands of International Importance VIII.38Waterbird population estimates and the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance IX.6[Guidance for addressing Ramsar sites or parts of sites which no longer meet the Criteria for designation](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-ix-6/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23500_4000_0__)IX.15[The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-ix-15-the/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23476_4000_0__)IX.22[Ramsar sites and systems of protected areas](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-ix-22-ramsar/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20906_4000_0__)X.13The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International ImportanceX.15\*Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidanceX.20Biogeographic regionalization in the application of the Strategic Framework for the List of Wetlands of International Importance: scientific and technical guidanceXI.4The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International ImportanceXI.8Streamlining procedures for describing Ramsar Sites at the time of designation and subsequent updatesXII.6The status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International ImportanceXIII.10Status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International ImportanceXIII.12Guidance on identifying peatlands as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteriaXIII.24\*The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites |
| **Montreux record & Ecological character of Ramsar sites** | Recom 3.9[Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-3-9/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23123_4000_0__)Recom 4.8[Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites [and establishment of the Montreux Record]](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-8/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23105_4000_0__)Recom 5.2[Guidelines for interpretation of Article 3 (“ecological character” and “change in ecological character”)](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop5-recommendation-5-2/main/ramsar/1-31-58-130%5E23204_4000_0__)5.4[The record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur (“Montreux Record”)](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-5-4-the/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23569_4000_0__)VI.1\* [Working definitions of ecological character, guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed sites, and guidelines for operation of the Montreux Record](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-1-working/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20929_4000_0__))VIII.7\*Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring VIII.8\*Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the ConventionX.15\*Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidanceX.16A Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character |
| **Ramsare sites, Specific countries or sites** | Recom 2.5\*[Designation of the Wadden Sea for the List of Wetlands of International Importance](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-2-5/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23078_4000_0__)Recom 2.6[Conservation and management of Sahel Wetlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-2-6/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23081_4000_0__)Recom 2.7[Conservation of Djoudj National Bird Park, Senegal](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-2-7/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23084_4000_0__)Recom 2.8[Establishment of a protected area in the River Senegal basin in Mauritania](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-2-8/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23087_4000_0__)Recom 3.8[Conservation of Azraq Ramsar site](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-3-8/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23126_4000_0__)Recom 4.9[Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-9/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23172_4000_0__)Recom 4.9.1[Doñana National Park, Spain](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-9-1-do/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23108_4000_0__)Recom 4.9.2[Everglades National Park, USA](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-9-2/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23099_4000_0__)Recom 4.9.3[Azraq Oasis, Jordan](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-9-3/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23102_4000_0__)Recom 4.9.4[Conservation of the Leybucht, Federal Republic of Germany](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-9-4/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23178_4000_0__)Recom 4.9.5[Greek Ramsar sites](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-9-5/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23175_4000_0__)Recom 5.1[Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop5-recommendation-5-1/main/ramsar/1-31-58-130%5E23157_4000_0__)Recom 5.1.1[Greek Ramsar sites](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop5-recommendation-5-1-1/main/ramsar/1-31-58-130%5E23166_4000_0__)Recom 5.1.2[Cuare, Venezuela](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop5-recommendation-5-1-2/main/ramsar/1-31-58-130%5E23163_4000_0__)Recom 5.1.3[Lower Danube Basin](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop5-recommendation-5-1-3/main/ramsar/1-31-58-130%5E23160_4000_0__)Recom 6.17[Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-17/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23443_4000_0__)Recom 6.17.1[Greek Ramsar sites](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-17-1/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23326_4000_0__)Recom 6.17.2[National Reserve of Paracas and the national strategy for the conservation of wetlands in Peru](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-17-2/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23329_4000_0__)Recom 6.17.3[Azraq Oasis, Jordan](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-17-3/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23434_4000_0__)Recom 6.17.4[Australian Ramsar sites](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-17-4/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23437_4000_0__)Recom 6.17.5[The Lower Danube Basin](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-17-5/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23440_4000_0__) |
| **WISE USE OF WETLANDS** |
| **Assessment of wetland values and services** | Recom 1.6[Assessment of wetland values](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-1-6/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23004_4000_0__)Recom 6.10[Promotion of cooperation on the economic valuation of wetlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-10/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23353_4000_0__)VI.21[Assessment and reporting on the status of wetlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-21/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20995_4000_0__)VIII.8\*Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the ConventionXIII.17Rapidly assessing wetland ecosystem services |
| **Climate change** | VIII.3Climate change and wetlands: impacts, adaptation, and mitigation X.24Climate change and wetlandsXI.14Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on WetlandsXII.11\*Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar ConventionXIII.13\*Restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity and disaster risk reduction XIII.15\*Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlandsXIII.16\*Sustainable urbanization, climate change and wetlands |
| **Coastal zones** | Recom 6.8[Strategic planning in coastal zones](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-8/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23417_4000_0__)VIII.4Principles and guidelines for incorporating wetland issues into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) |
| **Energy & Biofuels** | X.25Wetlands and “biofuels”XI.10Wetlands and energy issues |
| **Health & well-being** | X.3The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlandsX.23Wetlands and human health and well-beingXI.12Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach |
| **Impact assessment** | Recom 6.2[Environmental Impact Assessment](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-2/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23449_4000_0__)VII.16[The Ramsar Convention and impact assessment: strategic, environmental and social](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-16-the/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20813_4000_0__)VIII.35\*The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems X.17Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance |
| **Invasive species** | VIII.18Invasive species and wetlands VII.14[Invasive species and wetlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-14/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20830_4000_0__) |
| **Inventories of wetlands** | Recom 1.5[National Wetland Inventories](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-1-5/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23007_4000_0__)Recom 4.6\*[Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-6/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23120_4000_0__)VI.12\*[National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-12/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20956_4000_0__)VIII.6A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory VIII.7\*Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring VII.20[Priorities for wetland inventory](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-20/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20627_4000_0__)X.15\*Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance |
| **Management of wetlands** | Recom 6.5[Establishment of further wetland manager training programmes](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-5/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23455_4000_0__)Recom 6.13[Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-13/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23332_4000_0__)Recom 7.1\*[A global action plan for the wise use and management of peatlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-recom-recommendation-7-1-a/main/ramsar/1-31-110%5E23413_4000_0__)VIII.14New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands VIII.15The 'San José Record' for the promotion of wetland management VIII.32\*Conservation, integrated management, and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems and their resources VIII.33\*Guidance for identifying, sustainably managing, and designating temporary pools as Wetlands of International Importance VIII.36Participatory Environmental Management (PEM) as a tool for management and wise use of wetlands XI.11Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlandsXII.15Evaluation of the management and conservation effectiveness of Ramsar Sites |
| **Migratory species** | Recom 3.2[Need for further studies of flyways](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-3-2-need/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23033_4000_0__)Recom 4.12[Cooperation between Contracting Parties for the management of migratory species](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-12/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23130_4000_0__)Recom 6.4\*[The “Brisbane Initiative” on the establishment of a network of listed sites along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-4/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23458_4000_0__)Recom 7.3[Multilateral cooperation on the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Asia-Pacific region](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-recom-recommendation-7-3/main/ramsar/1-31-110%5E23431_4000_0__)VIII.37International cooperation on conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the Asia-Pacific region X.22\*Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways |
| **Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs)** | XIII.11Ramsar Advisory Missions |
| **Sustainable development, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Gender & Livelihoods***Note:**When this group is examined for consolidation, it might be possible to separate the livelihoods and poverty eradication aspects from the cultural values aspects.* | Recom 6.3[Involving local and indigenous people in the management of Ramsar wetlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-cops-cop6-recommendation-6-3/main/ramsar/1-31-58-129%5E23452_4000_0__)VII.8[Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities’ and indigenous people’s participation in the management of wetlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-8/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20736_4000_0__)VIII.19Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites IX.14[Wetlands and poverty reduction](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-ix-14/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23485_4000_0__)IX.21[Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-ix-21-taking/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20902_4000_0__)X.28Wetlands and poverty eradicationXI.20Promoting sustainable investment by the public and private sectors to ensure the maintenance of the benefits people and nature gain from wetlandsXI.21Wetlands and sustainable developmentXIII.15\*Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlandsXIII.18Gender and wetlands |
| **Water, water-related, and water management related** | VI.23[Ramsar and water](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vi-23-ramsar/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E21028_4000_0__)VII.18[Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-vii-18/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E20586_4000_0__)VIII.1Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands VIII.34\*Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management VIII.40\*Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands IX.3\*[Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-resolution-ix-3/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23515_4000_0__)X.19Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance XII.12\*Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future |
| **Wise use, Conservation, Ecology, Restoration, etc.** | Recom 2.9[Conservation action and protection of wetlands not designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-2-9/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23030_4000_0__)Recom 3.3[Wise use of wetlands](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-3-3-wise/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23036_4000_0__)Recom 4.1[Wetland restoration](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-1/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23145_4000_0__)Recom 4.4[Establishment of wetland reserves](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-4/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23096_4000_0__)Recom 4.10[Guidelines for the implementation of the wise use concept](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-resol-recommendation-4-10/main/ramsar/1-31-107%5E23148_4000_0__)Recom 5.3[The essential character of wetlands and the need for 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