THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

59th Meeting of the Standing Committee

Gland, Switzerland, 21-25 June 2021

**SC59 Doc.17.3**

**World Wetlands Day themes for 2022-2024**

**Actions requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to decide the themes for World Wetlands Day 2022, 2023 and 2024.

1. World Wetlands Day has been celebrated on 2 February since 1997. Through Decision 19.10, the Standing Committee at its 19th meeting in 1996 urged all Contracting Parties to observe World Wetlands Day by organizing and undertaking national public awareness activities and events to raise awareness of the benefits of wetlands. World Wetlands Day is the single most important communication and national awareness-raising event for wetlands.

2. An umbrella theme is selected each year to highlight the benefits of wetlands for people and the health of the planet. The previous themes are listed at Annex 1 below. The Secretariat produces information and outreach materials that are relevant to the theme in the three languages of the Convention. These materials facilitate and support the outreach activities of Contracting Parties and partner organizations. The Secretariat also undertakes a global outreach campaign to increase the visibility of World Wetlands Day globally. Since 1997, Danone has financed the production of materials for World Wetlands Day.

3. Standing Committee members have in previous years selected the World Wetlands Day themes based on criteria such as:

* 1. Correspondence with the theme of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
  2. Declaration by the United Nations Agencies of themes with a similar focus;
  3. Highlighting of important benefits of wetlands; and
  4. Demonstration of the relevance of wetlands within current international science and policy agendas.

4. The above-listed criteria ensure that each World Wetlands Day theme is a topic of current relevance, promotes national and international awareness, stimulates actions on the issue, and attracts and mobilizes a diverse audience and actors.

**Proposed themes for 2022, 2023 and 2024**

5. The Standing Committee is invited to make a decision on proposed themes for the coming three years (2022, 2023 and 2024) allowing both Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to benefit from advance planning and to mitigate uncertainties regarding the scheduling of future meetings of the Standing Committee and the Conference of the Contracting Parties. Listed below are the recommendations of the Secretariat for consideration and decision.

6. Following a decision on themes by Contracting Parties, the Secretariat will seek guidance from communications professionals on the exact wording to use for each selected theme to ensure applicability and relevance across the languages of the Convention.

2022 Using wetlands wisely – highlighting wise use as a key element of the Convention’s mission

2023 Wetland restoration – linked to the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

2024 Wetlands and gender – as this has been identified as a priority by Contracting Parties

Other suggestions for consideration:

* Wetlands and human wellbeing
* Nourishing our planet – wetlands and food

**Annex 1**

**Previous themes for World Wetlands Day**

2021 Wetlands and water

2020 Wetlands and Biodiversity

2019 Wetlands and Climate Change

2018 Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future

2017 Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction

2016 Wetlands For Our Future: Sustainable Livelihoods

2015 Wetlands For Our Future

2014 Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth

2013 Wetlands Take Care of Water

2012 Wetland Tourism: A great experience

2011 Forests for water and wetlands

2010 Caring for wetlands – An answer to climate change

2009 Upstream, Downstream: Wetlands connect us all

2008 Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People

2007 Fish for tomorrow?

2006 Livelihoods at Risk

2005 There's Wealth in Wetland Diversity – Don't Lose It

2004 From the mountains to the sea – Wetlands at work for us

2003 No wetlands – no water

2002 Wetlands : Water life and culture

2001 A wetland world – A world to discover

2000 Celebrating our wetlands of international importance

1999 People and wetlands- the vital link

1998 Importance of water to life & role of wetlands in water supply

1997 WWD celebrated for the first time