

Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- Take note of the report of the Working Group;
- Review and approve the attached Draft Resolution for consideration by the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Introduction

1. Contracting Parties, in Resolution XIII.5 *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention*, agreed a process to review the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention 2016-2024 (SP4) and requested that Standing Committee establish a Strategic Plan Working Group to conduct the review and propose key elements for preparation of the fifth strategic plan (SP5).
2. Standing Committee (SC56, October 2018) established the Working Group with membership from all Ramsar regions, chaired by Paul Mafabe of Uganda, until his tragic passing and then by Australia.
3. As part of the review, the Working Group conducted a survey of Contracting Parties to evaluate their efforts to implement SP4 and appointed a consultant to help with information gathering and analysis of implementation, including specific targets where Parties were facing challenges. The Working Group worked closely with the Chair of the CEPA Oversight Panel, consistent with Resolution XIII.5.
4. The Working Group presented the outcomes of the review and its recommendations about SP4 and proposed elements for SP5 to SC59 in June 2021. The Working Group recommended minimal refinements to SP4 to maintain continuity, and the use of thematic annexes for emerging issues, including updating Annex 2 once the new Global Biodiversity Framework is agreed. To assist with the implementation of SP4, the Working Group further recommended that these annexes be shared with Parties ahead of COP14 and that existing Ramsar guidance could be communicated to Parties.
5. For SP5, the Working Group proposed core elements of SP4 be retained in SP5 for consistency and comparability, and that the Global Wetland Outlook and Global Implementation report, as well as elements external to the Convention, the new Global Biodiversity Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals, and any future relevant work of IPBES or the IPCC, would be useful to help inform the new plan.

6. Standing Committee, at SC59, invited the Working Group to recommend to COP14:
 - to add thematic annexes to the Fourth Strategic Plan that address emerging and other issues, noting that the existing Annex 2 will be updated to map the Ramsar Targets with the post-2020 Biodiversity Goals and Indicators when available (Decision SC59-16);
 - the basic elements for the preparation of a proposed framework for the Fifth Strategic Plan Decision (SC59-18); and
 - to extend the term of the Fourth Strategic Plan from 2024 until such time as COP15 may be held, in order to ensure continuity between successive Plans (Decision SC59-19).

7. Standing Committee further agreed that existing guidance and tools be communicated to Contracting Parties to support the implementation of the Fourth Strategic Plan in the gap year to COP14, subject to available capacity within the Secretariat (Decision SC59-17). On 7 February 2022, the Secretariat Informed the Contracting Parties on existing guidance and tools available to support the implementation of the Fourth Strategic Plan. The communication provided hyperlinks to access relevant guidance tools and documents to support the implementation of specific targets during the remaining period of the Fourth Strategic Plan.

8. Through Decision SC59-20, the Standing Committee established a new working group with membership from Contracting Parties, the STRP and International Organization Partners, to commence preparation of the Fifth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, with the terms of reference and work plan to be agreed intersessionally, and be designed to accommodate the key elements and any additional priority elements and modalities for the Fifth Strategic Plan that may be agreed at COP14. The Standing Committee encouraged the participation of members of the Working Group on the Review of the Fourth Strategic Plan in the new working group, for continuity purposes.

9. In line with Decision SC59-20 , the Secretariat issued a call for nominations of members for the new Working Group. The following Parties expressed their willingness to become members of the new Working Group: Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Brazil, Canada, Chad, China, Finland, Kenya, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Oman, Slovenia, South Africa and Tunisia, plus the International Water Management Institute and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust on behalf of the Convention’s International Organization Partners and an expert of the STRP.

10. A first physical meeting of the new Working Group is planned for 23 May 2022, 11:00-13:00 at Gland, prior to the opening of the resumed session of SC59 to develop draft terms of reference for the Group, consistent with guidance provided by the Effectiveness Working Group, for intersessional decision by the Standing Committee. The new Working Group will also consider preparatory work that can be progressed, including opportunities for consultation on SP5 at COP14, in cooperation with the Subgroup on COP14.

11. A draft resolution on the review of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan, and proposed basic elements for development of SP5 is in Annex 1 for review by the Standing Committee, and for subsequent consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Financial implications of implementation

Paragraph	Action	Cost (CHF)
15.	Preparation of SP5 for adoption at COP15 Note: Budget approved by Decision SC59-32	CHF 90,000

Annex 1

Draft Resolution on Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, additions for the 2022-2024 triennium and key elements for SP5

Submitted by the Strategic Plan Working Group to the Standing Committee

1. RECALLING the adoption of *The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024* by Resolution XII.2 “as the basis for the implementation of the Convention during this period”; and decision by Contracting Parties “to undertake a review of the fourth Strategic Plan at COP14”;
2. ALSO RECALLING in Resolutions XII.2 and XIII.5 and XIII.7, Contracting Parties recognised that implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan makes an important contribution towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals;
3. FURTHER RECALLING that, through Resolution XIII.5, *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention*, Contracting Parties approved the scope and modalities for the review of the fourth Strategic Plan, requested the Standing Committee to establish a Strategic Plan Working Group to conduct the review, and FURTHER INSTRUCTED the CEPA Oversight Panel to coordinate its efforts on a new approach for supporting CEPA implementation with the Strategic Plan Working Group;
4. NOTING that the Strategic Plan Working Group’s review of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan, was informed by a survey of, and consultation with, Contracting Parties and International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other stakeholders, and an analysis of National Reports to COP13;
5. FURTHER NOTING the global changes resulting from the pandemic and greater knowledge about the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change since COP13 reinforces the urgency to arrest the loss of wetlands;
6. RECOGNISING the findings of the Special Edition of the Global Wetland Outlook on the importance of well-managed wetlands to human health and livelihoods, as well as biodiversity and climate solutions through implementation of the Convention;
7. FURTHER RECOGNISING that the implementation of the Convention is critical for accelerating wetland restoration actions to deliver on global commitments and targets relating to biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development in the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and to meet wetland ecosystem targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework; and
8. NOTING the Decisions of the 59th Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC59-20, SC59-32) to establish a new Strategic Plan Working Group, and approval of a budget to prepare the fifth Strategic Plan;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Review of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan

9. CONFIRMS that implementation of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 by Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders is central to achieving the mission of the Convention, as well

as contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals and Global Biodiversity targets, and URGES Contracting Parties to continuously monitor progress in implementing the Plan;

10. NOTES that the review of the fourth Strategic Plan has identified a number of targets and indicators where some Parties are experiencing challenges with implementation, and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to publicise any existing Ramsar guidance and target this outreach to those Parties experiencing difficulties;
11. FURTHER NOTES the Global Implementation Report to COP14 that highlights the areas of progress and challenges with implementation of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024;
12. AGREES to adjust the fourth Strategic Plan to add three thematic Annexes, 3-5, to assist Parties implement emerging issues over the final triennium of the Plan, including:
 - Annex 3 Wetland conservation actions to achieve the SDGs' targets,
 - Annex 4 The new CEPA approach and wetland policies and practices, and
 - Annex 5 Gender-responsive wetland policies and practices, to apply Resolution XIII.18.
13. FURTHER AGREES to update existing Annex 2 of the fourth Strategic Plan to map the new Global Biodiversity targets to align with the Ramsar Strategic Plan goals and targets;
14. ENCOURAGES Parties to consider these annexes in their implementation of the fourth Strategic Plan, allocate from national budgets financial resources for this purpose, and include that implementation in their national reporting to the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties;
15. AGREES that the term of the Fourth Strategic Plan be extended from 2024 until the occurrence of COP15 to ensure continuity between successive Strategic Plans.

Basic elements for the preparation of a proposed Framework for preparation of the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan

16. NOTES the new Strategic Plan Working Group has commenced preparatory work to ensure a draft Plan is ready for adoption at COP15 and FURTHER NOTES the Strategic Plan Working Group will be adjusted at COP14 based on the selection of new regional representatives to the Standing Committee;
17. REAFFIRMS the Convention's wise use principle considers the needs and aspirations of current and future generations;
18. AGREES that the Goals of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan be retained in the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan, to maintain consistency and continuity in reporting, and that targets and actions be framed to deliver critical wetland contributions to meet global environmental challenges over the implementation period of the new Plan;
19. FURTHER AGREES that the fifth Strategic Plan will be informed by the Special Edition of the Global Wetland Outlook, the Secretariat's analysis of the national reports to COP14, as well as key elements external to the Convention, Sustainable Development Goals, Global Biodiversity Framework, the UN Decade of Restoration, and any relevant work of IPBES or the IPCC;
20. RECOGNISES the critical role of young people, women, Indigenous and local communities, and the business sector in providing solutions to global environmental challenges by wetland conservation and management;

21. AGREES to use the thematic Annexes to the fourth Strategic Plan in the framing and development of the fifth Strategic Plan; and
22. INSTRUCTS the STRP to prioritise its participation in the development of the fifth Strategic Plan as part of its Workplan for 2022-2024.

ANNEX

Adjustments to Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024

Add the following Annexes to the current Strategic Plan, to be numbered consecutively after current Annex 1.

ANNEX 2:

This Annex will be updated using a similar format to map the new CBD Global Biodiversity Framework targets to the Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and targets.

The Global Biodiversity Framework is expected to be adopted during the resumed fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, May 2022.
<https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022>

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ANNEX 3: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Context

The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs provide a roadmap for national and international action from governments, civil society, private sector, and other actors to achieve sustainable development for current and future generations. Wetlands provide a range of values and services such as clean water, food, biodiversity, and infrastructure that sustain livelihoods and local to national economies. Investing in wetlands will result in many co-benefits to nature and society.

The commitment of Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to designate Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) and to conserve and use wisely all their wetlands is critical in achieving the SDGs. The Convention thus provides a ready platform to implement the SDGs.

The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024) identifies four overarching goals and 19 specific targets that directly support achievement of both the SDGs as well as the Aichi Targets set up by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The integrated nature of the SDGs, Aichi Targets and the Ramsar Strategic Plan call for increased integration and synergies across existing multilateral agendas.

Resolution XIII.7 (paras 14-19 and 39-44) captures the breadth of SDG and Ramsar engagement, with the Secretariat further instructed as co-custodian of Goal 6 Indicator 6.6.1 to continue working with Contracting Parties on the completion of national wetland inventories and wetland extent to report on SDG Indicator 6.6.1.

The Secretariat is also instructed to participate as appropriate in relevant international efforts to address the 2030 Goals and specifically Goals 14 and 15¹ and Targets 14.2 and 15.1. The same Resolution underlined the relevance of SDGs 1, 2, 5, 11 and 13 to the Convention.²

Drawing on the Secretariat's "Wetlands and the SDGs – scaling up wetland conservation, wise use and restoration to achieve the SDGs" report, the following table maps where Contracting Parties can further integrate SDGs as part of their practical implementation of the Strategic Plan.

¹ **Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development; **Goal 15:** Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

² *FURTHER NOTING that other SDGs that are relevant to the Convention are: SDG 1, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"; SDG 2, "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"; SDG 5, "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"; SDG 11, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"; and SDG 13, "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" [Para 17].*

Key Actions to support practical implementation of the SDGs

SP Goals and Targets	Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG Planning Processes	Related SDG targets
Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation		
1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level	<p>Adopt policies and practices for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in order to reverse current and future wetland loss and degradation</p> <p>Integrate wetlands conservation, wise use and restoration into diverse sectoral policies, such as agriculture, forestry or urban planning amongst others, to promote their role in meeting multiple objectives.</p>	1.b; 2.4; 6.1; 6.2; 6.5; 8.3; 8.9; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.9
2. Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.	Scale up wetland interventions. A landscape or watershed approach that considers a larger area can help to consider both the wider ecological processes of wetlands and the human impacts of their loss, and conversely, of their restoration	6.4; 6.5; 6.6
3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands		2.3; 2.5; 3.9; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 6.a; 6.b; 8.4; 9.1; 9.5; 11.4; 11.5; 11.6; 11.7; 12.2; 12.6; 14.1; 14.2; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 14.7; 14.b; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.6; 15.7
4. Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment		15.8
Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network		
5. The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.	Develop multi-stakeholder partnerships as a critical means of implementation for wetland conservation, wise use, and restoration. As such, efforts are necessary to promote these partnerships between different sectors of society in Ramsar Sites.	6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4

SP Goals and Targets	Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG Planning Processes	Related SDG targets
6. There is a significant increase in area, numbers, and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and transboundary sites		6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4
7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.		6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 12.4; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4
Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands		
8. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed, or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	Utilize Ramsar national reports and accompanying reporting mechanisms to provide information for inventories and monitoring related to SDG 6.6.1 and 15.1.	6.6; 11.4; 14.5; 15.1
9. The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.		1.4; 5.a; 6.5; 8.4; 11.b; 14.7; 14.c
10. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels	Engage stakeholders at all levels to facilitate integration of wetland conservation, wise use, and restoration into livelihood strategies, thereby ensuring the sustainability of such efforts. In particular, the role and knowledge of local and indigenous communities is increasingly being valued as fundamental to the long-term sustainability of interventions	2.3; 2.5; 5.5; 5.a; 6.b; 12.8; 15.c
11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented, and disseminated.	Identify clearly the services that wetlands including Ramsar Sites provide for people and the environment when they are being designated to help improve understanding of a Site's values and subsequent proposed actions related to conserving, using and restoring it. Ramsar Sites can be managed as pilot sites for promoting sustainable development	1.5; 14.7; 15.9

SP Goals and Targets	Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG Planning Processes	Related SDG targets
12. Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.	Integrate wetland services in NDCs for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change	6.6; 14.2; 14.4; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3
13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods		1.b; 2.4; 6.5; 8.3; 8.9; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 12b; 13.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.9
14. Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language		9.5; 9.a; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 17.6
15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention		1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 9.1; 11.a; 14.2; 15.1; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9
Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation		
16. Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation, and awareness.	Ensure that wetland conservation, wise use and restoration are integrated into SDG planning and implementation	2.4; 4.7; 4.a; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.7; 17.9
17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the four Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016–2024 from all sources are made available	Increase funding for comprehensive actions in wetlands including Ramsar Site to reflect the importance of these sites, not only from a biodiversity point of view, but also from a sustainable development perspective.	9.a; 10.6; 15.a; 15.b; 17.3

SP Goals and Targets	Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG Planning Processes	Related SDG targets
<p>18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels, (<i>locally, nationally, sub-regionally (for example RRI's), regionally and globally</i>).</p>	<p>Seize opportunities and synergies with other sectors, conventions and priorities. An important action is the need to foster collaboration between national focal points for different conventions and focal points for SDG planning and implementation and in particular Statistical Offices to advance broader landscape approaches to conservation and sustainable development related to Ramsar Sites, but also other protected areas such as World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves</p> <p>Contracting Parties should ensure that their efforts to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan are integrated into their national SDG plans and implementation</p> <p>Contracting Parties should ensure that reports on progress on the SDGs reflect the contributions of wetlands so that their conservation, wise use and restoration link to the sustainable development agenda.</p>	<p>1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 6.a; 10.6; 12.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.1; 15.6; 16.8; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9</p>
<p>19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced</p>		<p>2.4; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.c; 17.9</p>

Sources and Available Resources

How Wetlands Achieve select SDGs: [Scaling up wetland conservation, wise use and restoration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.](#)

ANNEX 4: NEW APPROACH TO CEPA

Context

In general, CEPA activities and CEPA elements should be integrated in planning and activities of the Convention (locally, nationally, internationally) where appropriate, with effort focused on a smaller number of high priority activities.

The guidance below provides a pathway for Contracting Parties to work towards building this new approach to CEPA into their implementation of the Convention over the next triennium.

General Considerations to support implementation of SP4

Support focal points, and build more networks and partnerships

National Focal Points and CEPA National Focal Points are important to ensure a coordinated and strategic national approach to Ramsar implementation. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the key implementers of CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities as appropriate.

Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The Secretariat can provide advice and information to Contracting Parties, for example, introduction materials about Ramsar CEPA work for new CEPA NFPs and CEPA NGO FPs and sharing good examples from other countries.

Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs are encouraged to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communications materials and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved. Contracting Parties should also be encouraged to coordinate with their focal points for other MEAs who are conducting similar work.

Contracting Parties should increase engagement with other sectors, consistent with priorities identified in the strategic plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience.

Specific considerations to Contracting Parties can apply the new CEPA approach to support implementation of the Strategic Plan

Goals and relevant Targets	Implementing the new CEPA Approach
Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation	
1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contracting Parties to continue to contribute wetland input to the debate on global policy issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and efforts to decarbonise under the Paris Accord (including through blue carbon ecosystems).• Contracting Parties to identify mechanisms for greater sectoral input to Ramsar and CEPA planning, including recognising the value, experience, and resources of IOPs, NGOs, Contracting Parties and business partners in planning, resourcing, developing, and implementing Ramsar CEPA messages and products.• Contracting Parties should increase engagement with sectors that have impact on wetlands, consistent with

Goals and relevant Targets	Implementing the new CEPA Approach
	<p>priorities identified in the strategic plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience.</p>
<p>2. Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to promote case studies of sustainable urban wetland management including examples from Wetland City Accreditation, and undertake CEPA activities that engage stakeholders and promote wise use and management of their wetlands and their surroundings in a way that both water quality and water quantity are well considered.
<p>3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to promote existing Convention guidance and share between CPs practical local guidance best practises and case studies which may be more broadly relevant. Contracting Parties to share best practice case studies.
<p>4. Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties, to raise awareness of invasive alien species in wetland ecosystems through the development and dissemination of training and communication materials among the public and private sectors.
<p>Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network</p>	
<p>5. The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to integrate CEPA activities in all Ramsar site management plans and/or activity plans.
<p>7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to identify current and emerging threats, including the umbrella threat of climate change, and develop, and share between Parties, practical CEPA tools and guidance for managing Ramsar sites and other wetlands in the long-term
<p>Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands</p>	
<p>8. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed, or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties communicate the results of national wetland inventories for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.
<p>9. The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See Target 1 and Target 13.

Goals and relevant Targets	Implementing the new CEPA Approach
10. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to better engage indigenous people in wetland research, planning, management, restoration and CEPA activities (including case studies) as well as promoting the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands at national and local levels.
11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented, and disseminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to support Ramsar site managers to develop signage to communicate site values
13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to give priority to engaging sectoral decision-makers in integrating wetland values in their planning and decision-making.
Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation	
16. Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation, and awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties to build on the effective CEPA activity and engagement achieved through for example World Wetlands Day, Ramsar Regional Initiatives and Wetland Education Centres. Contracting Parties to use networks and structures (Wetland Link International network, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, Wetland Education Centres, Youth Engaged in Wetlands) to improve support of implementing the convention, such as raising awareness, engagement in activities, and capacity-building Contracting Parties to use various media channels which are appropriate for the purpose, such as social media to raise public awareness (and potentially lead to public concern and pressure on decision-makers) along with other approaches to engage sectoral decision-makers. Contracting Parties to identify new communication avenues and opportunities to promote Ramsar goals.
18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels, (<i>locally, nationally, sub-regionally (for example RRIIs), regionally and globally</i>).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communications materials and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved. Contracting Parties should encourage their Ramsar NFPs to facilitate CEPA activities with their focal points for other MEAs

Goals and relevant Targets	Implementing the new CEPA Approach
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracting Parties to ensure that CEPA aspects are considered when planning and developing all Resolutions, guidance materials, STRP products and other outcomes from the Ramsar Convention. • Contracting Parties to investigate opportunities to improve wetland conservation by applying techniques drawn from behavioural economics and psychology and undertaking joint projects with behavioural insights teams or “nudge” units.
<p>19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contracting Parties to build an emphasis on capacity-building, to support people with a range of roles in wetland conservation and wise use. This would involve using the expertise of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), communications and networking by the Secretariat, and sharing of experiences between Contracting Parties. • Contracting Parties to evaluate the reach and effectiveness of activities including CEPA, so that effective approaches are identified, shared, and implemented • Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the key implementers of CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities when necessary.

Available Resources

DR XIV.XX New Approach to CEPA

ANNEX 5: GENDER CONSIDERATIONS AND THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

Context:

Women and men have different levels of access to and control over wetland resources, knowledge and information about their conservation and wise use. This affects how wetlands are managed, as well as rights and customary uses of wetland products and services

Women's roles and knowledge in wetlands management continue to be overlooked and under acknowledged, with social and cultural norms often reinforcing their unequal participation in decision-making. Water collection disproportionately falls on women and girls. Lack of onsite water can increase the vulnerability to violence experienced by women and girls as travel to water sources exposes them to harassment and sexual abuse. On the other hand, increased access to water can increase school attendance and income-generation, reducing gender inequalities and poverty.

Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and wetlands*, approved at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13) in 2018, encourages Parties to mainstream a gender perspective in their implementation of the Convention, and requested the production of guidance on the integration of gender issues in the implementation of the Convention. National Reports to COP14 also included, for the first time, information from Contracting Parties on gender balance in wetland-related activities.

Ramsar Guidance on Mainstreaming Gender has now been published to provide a series of key operational and practical entry points to enhance the mainstreaming of gender equality under the Convention. The guidance below provides a pathway for Contracting Parties seeking to meaningfully integrate gender considerations into implementation of the Convention.

General considerations to support implementation of SP4:

Contracting Parties are encouraged to implement the Strategic Plan at national and regional levels by developing national wetlands policies, strategies, action plans, projects, and programmes.

These instruments should intrinsically consider gender-responsive, human rights-based, and intersectional approaches to promote conservation and wise use of wetlands to ensure:

- people-centred governance that respects women in all their diversity and those living in margins of development through full access and control of valuable assets, including land ownership, rights, and economic autonomy.
- Secure equal access to and control of natural resources for women and young women to manage and protect their livelihoods.
- Recognize women and young women as decision-makers and leaders, participating in decision-making processes at all levels in the wise use and conservation of wetlands.

Building gender considerations into the Strategic Plan

Goals	Gender considerations	Key Targets
Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation	<i>Parties recognize that the drivers of wetland degradation intersect with and impact gender and other social dimensions.</i>	
Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network	<i>Parties commit themselves to protect and effectively manage existing Ramsar Sites and enable full and effective participation of stakeholders, including women- in all their diversity, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities.</i>	Target 5.7: How many Ramsar Sites have cross-sectoral management committee that enables participatory and inclusive decision making with women - in all their diversity, youth and indigenous peoples represented.
Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands	<i>Parties address wetlands beyond those currently included in the Ramsar Site network. Mainstreaming gender specifications in a wide range of sectors and with a broad array of actors will help to ensure the success of this effort.</i>	Target 10: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, especially those of women, relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.
Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation Paragraph 11 of Resolution XIII.18 encourages "...to consider how different genders are reflected in wetland communication material in order to promote equal representation and fairness".	<i>Parties ensure that communication strategies and materials should reflect women's perceptions, needs, and perspectives. Particular attention should be placed on the selection of communication channels that are most appropriate for women.</i> <i>Parties themselves, and in partnership with other Parties and other entities, should take a gender equality responsive approach with regard to scientific and technical advice and guidance, resource mobilization, public awareness, visibility and capacity building.</i> <i>All major environmental finance mechanisms now have gender policies, action plans and gender mandates that must be complied with to secure funding.</i>	Target 16: Mainstream wetland conservation and wise use with a gender-responsive approach through capacity development, education, participation, and awareness. <i>Note: The new CEPA Approach includes mainstreaming gender equality as an activity.</i>

Available Resources:

The guidance provides Contracting Parties to the Convention with a series of key operational and practical entry points to enhance the mainstreaming of gender equality under the Convention and presents several case studies on the value of taking a gender-sensitive approach to the wise use and management of wetlands. The document is available for download:

<https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-mainstreaming-gender-under-the-ramsar-convention-on-wetlands-0>.