

THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
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**Proposed draft resolution on
Ramsar Regional Initiatives – COP14-COP15**

Submitted by Sweden

Secretariat cover note:

The DR refers to Resolution XIII.9 on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021. There are two additional DRs on the topic of Ramsar Regional Initiatives submitted by Sweden as documents SC59/2022 Doc.24.9 and SC59/2022 Doc.24.11. The topic is also addressed in the Draft Resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2022-2024 annexed to document SC59 Doc.21.1 *Report of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group on Addressing Resolution XIII.9*. The DR does not address matters of a scientific or technical nature requiring review by the STRP.

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. Review, approve and then submit the attached draft resolution “Ramsar Regional Initiatives – COP14-COP15”.

Introduction*Information for the Standing Committee*

1. Resolution XIII.9 re-established the (open-ended) Ramsar Regional Initiatives Working Group under Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure to draft new operational guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs). The results from the working group is presented in document SC59-21.1 and contains a new draft resolution both including the suggested new operational guidelines and a compilation of old decisions to retire.
2. Parts of the SC59-21.1 was written in haste by a few countries and input from other countries was not included.
3. During the SC59 Sweden encouraged the working group to continue their work and try to solve the remaining differences and submit an updated document to the resumed SC59 in May 2022. Unfortunately, this have not been done, there is no update of the SC59 Doc 21.1 planned. Therefor Sweden have written alternative draft resolutions that cover the topic.
4. Three draft resolutions with the content divided between them according to a foreseeable lifespan, would probably be a better then having one resolution covering all RRI matters in need to be addressed at COP14. One resolution will address the long-lived basics for RRIs, the second will address what might be of interest until the coming COP, and the third will address older decision that can be retired.
5. This way of having resolutions adapted after lifespan will be more efficient and decreasing the need for consolidation processes. It will decrease the workload and the costs for the Ramsar Secretariat, translators and all kinds of delegates at Convention meetings.
6. This SC-document contains the draft resolution for matters that are specific for the future years, it will be retired after having been replaced by a new one at COP15.

Financial implications of implementation

Para graph (number/-s, key part of text)	Action or lack of action	Cost (CHF) and potential benefits
1. Retire old decisions after the procedure stated in another resolution	Updating the consolidated list of retired decisions, when this one is retired, and tagging the document as retired at the website or any other procedure decided in another resolution at the COP14.	Less than 20 CHF
8. Instruction for the Secretariat to end their involvement in the IKI-project.	Activities to finalise the Secretariats involvement in the IKI-project.	Unknown.

Annex 1. Draft Resolution XIV.xx

Ramsar Regional Initiatives – COP14-COP15

1. RECOGNIZING the need for a separate resolution with short-lived decisions on RRIs until COP15 that will complement the resolution XIV.XX *Ramsar Regional Initiatives - the Basics* containing the long-lived decisions, ALSO RECOGNIZING that this way of structuring the resolutions will decrease the need for consolidation processes and that the retirement process for this short-lived resolution will be quick as it has already been addressed in the resolution;
2. FURTHER RECOGNIZING that the Secretariats involvement in the IKI project is not in line with any resolution about the Secretariats works tasks concerning RRIs and is not the kind of work a Secretariat for a global convention is supposed to do, and ALSO RECOGNIZING that there has been no initiative from neither any COP nor any SC-meeting for the IKI project to be administered by the Convention and that the present situation is actually contradictory to Resolution XIII.9 and that older SC-decision on bringing the issue to COP13 has been ignored by responsible.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Basic information on the resolution and other resolutions related to it

3. STATES that this resolution on RRIs is only containing information on what is specific for the period between COP14-COP15 and that decisions of long-lived character are part of Resolution XIV,xx *Ramsar Regional Initiatives – The basics*, that is to be applied as well.
4. DECIDES that this resolution is to be valid until replaced by a new one for the COP15-COP16 period at COP15.

The RRIs for the COP14-COP15 period

4. ENDORSES the RRIs listed below (already existing before the COP14) as operating in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands until COP15:

Four Regional Ramsar centers for training and capacity building:

- Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA)
- Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO)
- Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA)
- Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RRC-EA); and

Fifteen Ramsar networks for regional cooperation:

- Ramsar Regional Initiative for West African Coastal Zone Wetlands (WaCoWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Niger River Basin (NigerWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin
- Caribbean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (CariWet)
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Amazon River Basin

- East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership
 - Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia
 - Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative
 - Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet)
 - Carpathian Wetland Ramsar Regional Initiative (CWI)
 - Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (NorBalWet)
 - Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet);
5. ENDORSES the new RRIs endorsed by the SC since the COP13, listed below as operating in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands until COP15:
- *(x the Secretariat to add possible new RRIs or delete this para);*

Financial matters for the COP14-COP15 only

6. NOTING that Resolution XIV.xx *Financial and budgetary matters* includes within the Convention core budget for 2022-2024 a budget line “Support to Ramsar Regional Initiatives”, to provide financial start-up support for the running costs of RRIs established for fewer than six years;
7. RECOGNIZES that MedWet is financially independent of the Convention and has its own provisional budget for the next triennium, which is presented in Annex 1 for information purposes only, in response to a request by MedWet, without establishing a precedent for RRIs in general;

Work tasks that is for the COP14-COP15 only

8. INSTRUMENTS the Secretariat to find a way to finalize their involvement in the IKI project as soon as possible and start activities to make this happen within three months from the end of COP14. The Secretariat is to have the results reported to the first SC meeting after the deadline for having activities started.
9. SUGGESTS that the Secretariats involvement in the IKI-project could either be finalised by ending the project prematurely, letting another organisation or the donor country take over the responsibilities now held by the Ramsar Secretariat, or that the Contracting Parties involved in either the IKI project or the CARIWET take their responsibility for the project to the full, AWARE of that other suitable solutions can be found acceptable as long as The Secretariat isn't administrating the project or doing other work they are not supposed to do;
10. REQUESTS that all involved Contracting Parties in the IKI project, both the donor country and the countries benefitting from the project should find a way to finalize the involvement of the Ramsar Secretariat in the project. ALSO REQUESTS other countries involved in the CARIWET but not being part of the IKI project to ensure that the RRI they take part in follow existing valid resolutions. See para 9 above for alternative ways to address the issue.

Annex 1 (to be updated by the Med Wet if they need it, otherwise to be deleted)
MedWet budget for the 2019-2021 triennium

Table 1. Budget for the operations of the MedWet Initiative for 2019-2021

BUDGET LINE	2019	2020	2021
EXPENDITURE			
COORDINATOR			
Coordinator on a part-time basis	48,000	48,000	48,000
STAFF COSTS			
All salaries including taxes and social charges	90,000	90,000	90,000
EXPERTS & CONSULTANTS			
Regular needs (STN, MeRSiM-Net and Com)	29,000	29,000	29,000
Other experts	3,000	3,000	3,000
OFFICIAL TRAVEL			
MedWet Coordinator	6,000	6,000	6,000
MedWet Secretariat Staff	4,000	4,000	4,000
MedWet/Com and MedWet/SG	3,000	3,000	15,000
OFFICE COSTS			
Office management	18,000	18,000	18,000
COMMUNICATION SERVICES			
Website & dissemination	1,500	1,500	1,500
Communication tools	3,500	3,500	3,500
MISCELLANEOUS			
Miscellaneous expenses	2,000	2,500	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	208,000	211,500	220,000
INCOME			
MedWet countries contribution	129,378	129,378	129,378
Agence de l'Eau	15,000		
To be secured from other donors	89.122,00	107.622,00	116.122,00
TOTAL INCOME	208,000	211,500	220,000

Table 2. Countries Contribution according to the 2016-2018 UN Scale (in Euro)

Country	UN 2018 All Countries	UN 2018 Med Countries	Euro	Percentage
Albania	0,008	0,056	514	0,4%
Algeria	0,161	1,123	1,466	1,1%
Andorra	0,006	0,042	514	0,4%
Bosnia & Herzegovina	0,013	0,091	514	0,4%
Bulgaria	0,045	0,314	514	0,4%
Croatia	0,099	0,690	901	0,7%
Cyprus	0,043	0,300	514	0,4%
Egypt	0,152	1,060	1,384	1,1%
France	4,859	33,889	44,235	34,2%
Republic of North Macedonia	0,007	0,049	514	0,4%
Greece	0,471	3,285	4,288	3,3%
Israel	0,43	2,999	3,915	3,0%
Italy*	3,748	26,140	28,500	22,0%
Jordan	0,02	0,139	514	0,4%
Lebanon	0,046	0,321	514	0,4%
Libya	0,125	0,872	1,138	0,9%
Malta	0,016	0,112	514	0,4%
Monaco	0,01	0,070	514	0,4%
Montenegro	0,004	0,028	514	0,4%
Morocco	0,054	0,377	514	0,4%
Portugal	0,392	2,734	3,569	2,8%
Serbia	0,032	0,223	514	0,4%
Slovenia	0,084	0,586	765	0,6%
Spain	2,443	17,039	22,241	17,2%
Syrian Arab Republic	0,024	0,167	514	0,4%
Tunisia	0,028	0,195	514	0,4%
Turkey	1,018	7,100	9,268	7,2%
	14,338	100	129,378	100%

*Under the condition of annual approvals in compliance with the Italian legislation, as a voluntary contribution. The UN 22% threshold has been applied to the Italian contribution at the request of Italy.

Note. Annual contributions from the countries participating in the MedWet Initiative are calculated using the UN Scale of Assessment 2018. When the UN Scale of Assessment will be updated through adoption by the UN General Assembly, the countries contributions will be modified accordingly.