

Draft Resolution on the future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2023-2025

Submitted by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

Action requested:

- The Standing Committee is invited to review and approve the attached draft resolution for consideration at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Draft Resolution XIV.xx

Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2023-2025

1. RECALLING Resolution XII.5, *New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*, which modified the modus operandi and responsibilities for the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP);
2. FURTHER RECALLING paragraph 44 of Annex 1 of Resolution XII.5, which requests that the STRP identify, in consultation with the Secretariat and the Standing Committee, “scientific and technical priorities for the coming triennium, and funding needs, and indicate potentially relevant partner organizations, for the consideration of the Conference of Parties”;
3. ALSO RECALLING paragraph 45 of Annex 1 of the same Resolution, which requires that the list of scientific and technical priorities “reflect the content of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for the coming triennium, resolutions of the last COP, and other priority issues which have been identified by regional or global wetland networks”;
4. RECALLING Resolution XII.9, *The Ramsar Convention’s Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024*;
5. NOTING WITH APPRECIATION and expressing gratitude to:
 - STRP members, International Organization Partner observers, observers from other organizations and STRP National Focal Points for their valuable contributions to the work of the STRP during the triennium;
 - the Secretariat for its support;
 - The Government of Norway for its generous financial contribution to support the delivery of the Panel’s work on tropical peatland restoration and rewetting (Task 2.2) and blue carbon and wetlands (Task 5.1);

- The Governments of Norway and Finland for their generous financial contribution to support the delivery of the STRP’s work on gender mainstreaming¹ (Task 4.1); and
 - The Government of Australia for its generous in-kind contribution in the form of technical support to the ad-hoc advisory task on Criterion 6.
6. RECALLING Decision SC57-30 of the Standing Committee, which approved the work plan of the STRP for the 2019-2021 triennium; and
 7. ALSO RECALLING Decision SC57-25 of the Standing Committee, which agreed on the participation of one or more STRP members in discussions during Standing Committee meetings addressing important emerging issues or those for which significant new information had become available;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

8. WELCOMES the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) products delivered during the 2019-2021 triennium, listed in Annex 1 of the present Resolution;
9. URGES Contracting Parties, the Ramsar community, and other sectors to use them as appropriate;
10. INVITES Contracting Parties to use available communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) tools with the help of their CEPA National Focal Points and others to disseminate STRP products;
11. INVITES the Convention’s International Organization Partners and other members of the Ramsar community to widely promote and disseminate STRP products, including the *Global Wetland Outlook: Special Edition 2021*;
12. APPROVES the priority thematic work areas for the STRP for the 2023-2025 triennium listed in Annex 2 of the present Resolution;
13. APPROVES the revised list of bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP for the 2023-2025 triennium, included in Annex 3 of the present Resolution;
14. INSTRUCTS the STRP to develop its work plan for 2022-2024 for approval of the Standing Committee at its 62nd meeting; ENCOURAGES it in so doing to give due consideration to including unfinished high, medium and lower-priority tasks from the 2019-2021 work plan, as well as to including elements of the Strategic Plan which the Secretariat reported that Parties are struggling to implement²; and ALSO INSTRUCTS it to ensure that the plan developed is streamlined and achievable within a single triennium; and
15. REQUESTS the STRP to explore with the Secretariat, as applicable and depending on future developments resulting from the global pandemic, alternative virtual means to ensure the work of the STRP progresses.

¹ the Management Working Group instructed the Panel to focus on its highest priority tasks, and asked the Secretariat to move the task forward.

² See Ramsar [COP13 Doc.11.1](#).

Annex 1

List of Scientific and Technical Review Panel outputs produced during 2019-2021

Note: Outputs are listed in order of the task in the STRP work plan.

1. Global Wetland Outlook—Special edition 2021 (GWO task)
2. Briefing Note No. 13: *Wetlands and agriculture: Impacts of farming practices and pathways to sustainability* (Task 1.2)
3. Policy Brief No. 6: *Transforming agriculture to sustain people and wetlands* (Task 1.2)
4. Technical Report No. 11: *Ramsar global guidelines for peatland rewetting and restoration* (Task 2.2)
5. Briefing Note No. 11: *Practical peatland restoration* (Task 2.2)
6. Policy Brief No. 5: *Restoring drained peatlands: A necessary step to achieve global climate goals* (Task 2.2)
7. Briefing Note No. 12: *The contribution of blue carbon ecosystems to climate change mitigation* (Task 5.1)

Annex 2

Scientific and Technical Review Panel Thematic Work Areas 2023-2025

Thematic Work Areas and their relevance to the Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 are presented below. Proposed future priorities under each Thematic Work Area are identified in the report of the Chair of the STRP to SC 59 Resumed Session 2022.

Thematic Working Areas (TWA)	Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024
<p>TWA 1. Wetlands of International Importance, development of the site network and application of criteria.</p>	<p>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management. Target 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.</p> <p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.</p> <p>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation Target 14: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language. Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels. Target 19: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.</p>
<p>TWA 2. Tools for wetland assessment, mapping and monitoring, and development of inventories.</p>	<p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands Target 8: National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands. Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. Target 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.</p>
<p>TWA 3. Direct and climate change related pressures on wetlands, their impacts and responses.</p>	<p>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation. Target 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>

	<p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone. Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated. Target 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.</p> <p>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation Target 14: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>TWA 4. Wise use, sustainable management and restoration of wetlands in the wider landscape/seascape.</p>	<p>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation. Target 2: Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale <i>inter alia</i> at the basin level or along a coastal zone.</p> <p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i>, within a river basin or along a coastal zone. Target 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.</p> <p>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation Target 14: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p>
<p>TWA 5. Cross cutting issues, supporting functions, and synergies with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA).</p>	<p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands Target 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</p>

	<p>Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.</p> <p>Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</p> <p>Target 14: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.</p> <p>Target 17: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.</p> <p>Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.</p> <p>Target 19: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.</p>
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Annex 3

Bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for the 2023-2025 triennium

Observer organizations are defined as global and regional multilateral environmental agreements, global intergovernmental organizations and processes, regional intergovernmental organizations and processes, international organizations and other non-governmental organizations and organizations devoted to wetlands.

They include, but are not restricted to:

- Ducks Unlimited (DU)
- European Space Agency – ESRIN (ESA-ESRIN)
- Flora and Fauna International
- Global Environment Facility (GEF: Secretariat and/or the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- Greifswald Mire Centre (GMC)
- Group on Earth Observation – Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON)
- Group on Earth Observation – Wetlands Initiative (GEO-Wetlands)
- IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- The Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- International Crane Foundation (ICF)
- International Mire Conservation Group (IMCG)
- International Peat Society (IPS)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- Scientific and Technical Network of the Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet)
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements including the Secretariats and/or representatives of their technical bodies, as follows: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and related instruments, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC), Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
- Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)
- Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Tour du Valat Research Institute for the Conservation of Mediterranean Wetlands
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) – Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)