

THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
59th meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland, 21-25 June 2021

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Draft Resolution on Integrating wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategy

Submitted by China

Secretariat cover note:

The DR refers to the earlier requests to Contracting Parties to develop and implement national policies, starting with Recommendation 6.9, and refers to Resolutions on a number of specific related topics, notably Resolutions VII.6, VII.18, VIII.4, VIII.32, IX.1, IX.3, IX.20 and XII.12. The DR does not address matters of a scientific or technical nature requiring review by the STRP.

Draft Resolution on Integrating wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategy

Action requested:

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

Introduction

Information for Standing Committee

The draft resolution aims to emphasize the importance of wetland conservation and restoration in supporting national sustainable development strategies, and calls upon Parties to take integrated wetland conservation and restoration actions. The Ramsar Convention requests Parties to develop and implement national policies and planning for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and the Ramsar Convention 2016-2024 Strategic Plan is structured towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order to promote Parties to adopt wetland conservation and restoration as nature-based solutions from a practical perspective and to advance the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the 2050 Vision of Harmonious Coexistence between People and Nature, Parties will be invited to integrate national wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies.

Financial implications of implementation

Paragraph (Number and key part of text)	Action	Cost (CHF)
Not Applicable	-	No financial implications

Draft Resolution XIV.xx

Integrating wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies

1. RECOGNIZING wetland, as a globally important ecosystem, is a unique carrier of the global water cycle, nutrient cycle and energy flow, and provides a variety of irreplaceable functions and services such as freshwater, food, hydrological and climate regulation, cultural heritage and health protection (GWO 2018). Wetland has a central position in the promotion of global sustainable development, especially in maintaining global biodiversity, mitigating climate change, poverty eradication and disaster reduction.
2. BE ALERT OF THE FACT that global wetlands have declined by 35% since 1970 and the trend of declining has not been effectively halted (GWO 2018; IPBES 7, 2019). Such tendency will affect the achievement of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement of UNFCCC, and the 2050 Vision on Biodiversity.
3. NOTING GWO 2018 states that the direct drivers of wetland decline include changes in physical regimes such as hydrology and sedimentation, extraction such as water use and fishing, introduction of eutrophication, pollution and invasive species, and structural modification such as wetland drainage and wetland use conversion; while indirect drivers include water energy,

food and fibre, infrastructure, tourism and recreation. These factors are interconnected and strongly influenced by both climate change and governance.

4. BE AWARE THAT cross-sectoral interventions at the national level are a vital means of addressing adverse drivers (IPBES 7, 2019) and that addressing direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss requires the mobilization of government sectors and society as a whole through integrated and holistic planning and implementation (GBO 5, 2020), similarly, changing the drivers of wetland decline requires the integration of national wetland policies into more integrated and systematic national strategies.
5. RECALLING Convention Article 3.1, Recommendation 6.9, Resolution VII.6 request Parties to develop and implement national policies for the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Recalling the relationship between wetlands and sustainable development recognized in Resolution XI.21, the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 of the Ramsar Convention contributes to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, Resolutions XIII.14, XIII.16, XIII.19, IX.4, VIII.32 invite Parties to enhance the sustainable management and wise use of coastal, urban, agricultural, fisheries and mangrove wetlands.
6. FURTHER RECALLING Resolutions IX.1 and Annex C, Resolution IX.3, XII.12 calling upon Parties to strengthen integrated management on water resources. Resolution IX.1 Annex Ci and Resolution VII.18 inviting Parties to strengthen integrated river basin management, Resolution VIII.4 focusing on integrated coastal zone management, and Resolution IX.20 on integrated wetland management in small island states.
7. CONCERNING that the Ramsar Convention still lacks national-level wetland conservation and restoration tools which help Parties integrate wetland with climate change, water, biodiversity and sustainable development.
8. NOTICING that there are Parties which have introduced national integrated wetland conservation and restoration framework at the national level, reflecting actions towards ecological civilization and those ecosystems are a community of life and people live in harmony. For example, China's wetland conservation and restoration framework set a target for total wetland area control and incorporated wetland use control into the unified national land planning, and included wetland conservation and management in the National Development Vision 2035. (Parties are invited to share country cases in this paragraph.)
9. BE AWARE OF the need to integrate wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies to facilitate coordinated and integrate policies and actions on wetland conservation and restoration with climate change, water and biodiversity.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

10. CALLS upon Parties to assess whether the existing wetland conservation and restoration policies and actions have been integrated into national sustainable development strategies and to evaluate the role of wetland conservation and restoration in national and global sustainable development; encourages Parties to integrate existing national wetland policies into national sustainable development strategies as national nature-based solutions for climate change, biodiversity conservation, disaster reduction and poverty alleviation, and promote harmony between humans and nature and development of ecological civilization.

11. RECOMMENDS that Parties conduct systematic national wetland inventories, assess the status and trends of wetland, analyse national needs and gaps for wetland conservation, develop integrated, systematic, and adaptive conservation and restoration planning, and develop integrated national management actions for wetlands and other associated ecosystems.
12. ALSO RECOMMENDS that Parties set targets for the control of the total area of national wetlands and specify the control of wetland use in land use planning, strictly control the conversion of wetland, protect and maintain the ecological characteristics of wetlands.
13. FURTHER RECOMMENDS that Parties identify the status of national and local degraded wetlands, set wetland restoration targets, take measures of requisition-compensation balance, promote zero net loss of wetlands, and take measures to enhance the quality of wetland ecosystems.
14. ENCOURAGES Parties to develop transboundary wetland conservation and restoration strategies in collaboration with neighbouring countries within the framework of regional sustainable development strategies on each continent.
15. REQUESTS STRP to strengthen case studies and tool development for the integration of national wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies and to develop technical guidelines; requests CEPA Oversight Panel to further promote the important role of wetlands in the national and global sustainable development agenda.
16. INVITES IOPs to work with multiple NGOs to provide supports to develop national wetland policies that integrate wetland conservation and restoration into sustainable development, providing financial, technical, and other resources as well as CEPA support, and summarizing experience models.
17. REQUESTS that the Secretariat enhance closer cooperation with the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other multiple environmental agreements to promote global mainstreaming of wetland conservation and restoration.