



13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21-29 October 2018**

Resolution XIII.8

Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021

1. RECALLING Resolution XII.5, *New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention*, which sets out the new *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; and
 - donors for their generous financial contributions, including Norway (regarding the Wetland Extent Trends Index) and WWF (regarding the analysis of Ramsar Advisory Mission reports); and
6. RECALLING Decision SC52-04 of the Standing Committee, which approved the work plan of the STRP for the 2016-2018 triennium;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. WELCOMES the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) products delivered during the 2016-2018 triennium, listed in Annex 1 of the present Resolution;
8. URGES Contracting Parties, the Ramsar community, and other sectors to use them as appropriate;
9. 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;
10. 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*;
11. APPROVES the priority thematic work areas for the STRP for the 2019-2021 triennium listed in Annex 2 of the present Resolution;
12. APPROVES the revised list of bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the STRP for the 2019-2021 triennium, included in Annex 3 of the present Resolution;
13. APPROVES the guidelines for submitting proposals to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) contained in Annex 4 of the present Resolution; REQUESTS that the STRP review proposals submitted and provide advice to the Standing Committee in this regard in accordance with the procedure described in Annex 4; and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to facilitate the process outlined in Annex 4 and subsequently submit any submission to IPBES before 31 December 2018, in order to meet the deadline established by IPBES for multilateral environmental agreements;
14. INSTRUCTS the STRP to develop its work plan for 2019-2021 for approval of the Standing Committee at its 57th meeting; ENCOURAGES it in so doing to give due consideration to including unfinished high-priority and low-priority tasks from the 2016-2018 work plan as well as to including elements of the Strategic Plan which the Secretariat reported¹ that Parties are struggling to implement; and ALSO INSTRUCTS it to ensure that the plan developed is streamlined and achievable within a single triennium;
15. REQUESTS the Secretariat and the STRP, building on lessons learned regarding the timing of the STRP's work during the 2016-2018 triennium, to test a new procedure for sequencing its work throughout the 2019-2021 triennium that maximizes time available within a triennium to develop outputs and products for the Conference of the Parties (COP), noting that STRP outputs need to be finalized about nine months prior to meetings of the COP, and to advise the Standing Committee of progress and report to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on its results;

¹ Ramsar COP13 Doc.11.1 Rev.1

16. REQUESTS the Secretariat to schedule the second STRP meeting in conjunction with the second Standing Committee meeting of the triennium, starting with the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee and continuing in future triennia, with a view to benefiting the development of the STRP's work and more broadly fostering communication and synergies across the work of the Convention;
17. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretariat, as a means to foster diversity and greater participation from STRP Focal Points from all regions and subject to the availability of resources, to hold the third STRP meeting of the triennium in the region or country of the host of the forthcoming meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and INVITES Contracting Parties and Ramsar Regional Centres to offer to host such meetings in order to support enhanced engagement by and capacity of STRP Focal Points from their respective regions, noting that, if no such offer is forthcoming, STRP meetings would be held in the host country of the Secretariat of the Convention; and
18. ADDITIONALLY REQUESTS the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to undertake activities to build the capacity of Parties' National Focal Points and STRP and CEPA Focal Points, including *inter alia* through regional capacity-building workshops and other training opportunities, including on the margins of STRP meetings held in regions, as a means to further enhance the effectiveness of the Convention; and INVITES Parties, and interested entities in a position to do so, to provide support, including in-kind support, to the Secretariat's capacity-building efforts.

Annex 1

List of Scientific and Technical Review Panel outputs produced during 2016-2018

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

1. *Global Wetland Outlook*
2. *Wetland Extent Trends (WET) Index* (as a key component of the *Global Wetland Outlook*)
3. Ramsar Technical Report No. 10: *Best practice guidelines for the use of earth observation for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring* (Task 1.1)
4. Draft Resolution on *Guidance on identifying Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteria* (Task 1.2)
5. Briefing Note No. 8: *Best Practice guidelines for tropical peatlands inventories for their designation as Wetlands of International Importance* (Task 1.2)
6. Ramsar Sites management toolkit (<https://www.ramsar.org/resources/ramsar-sites-management-toolkit>) (Task 2.1)
7. Ramsar Policy Brief No. 2: *Integrating multiple wetland values into decision-making*. <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-policy-brief-2-integrating-multiple-wetland-values-into-decision-making> (Task 3.1)
8. Ramsar Policy Brief No. 1: *Wetlands for disaster risk reduction – Effective choices for resilient communities*. <https://www.ramsar.org/document/ramsar-policy-brief-1-wetlands-for-disaster-risk-reduction-effective-choices-for-resilient> (Task 3.2)
9. Policy Brief No. 3: *Implementing environmental flows with benefits for society and different wetland ecosystems in the river system* (Task 4.1)
10. *Comprehensive review and analysis of Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) reports* (Task 4.2)
11. Policy Brief No. 4: *Ramsar Advisory Missions: A tool to respond to ecological character change in Wetlands of International Importance* (Task 4.2)
12. Briefing Note No. 9: *Ramsar Advisory Missions: Technical Advice on Ramsar Sites* (Task 4.2)
13. Briefing Note No. 8: *Potential and rationale for wetland restoration in a climate change context* (Task 5.1)
14. Draft Resolution on *Guidance on restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity* (Task 5.3)
15. Ramsar Technical Report No. 11: *Restoration of degraded peatland soils to mitigate and adapt to climate change* (Task 5.3)

Annex 2

Scientific and Technical Review Panel Priority Thematic Work Areas for 2019-2021

STRP Priority Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024	Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024
<p>Best practice methodologies / tools to identify and monitor Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, including surveying, mapping, inventorying, and global and regional analysis of the priorities for enhancing the Ramsar site network.</p>	<p>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</p> <p>Target 5 The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management</p> <p>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>Target 7 Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed</p> <p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</p> <p>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</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>Best practices for developing and implementing tools for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, recognizing traditional practices of indigenous peoples and local communities.</p>	<p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</p> <p>Target 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> <p>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>Target 11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p>

STRP Priority Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024	Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024
	<p>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>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>Methodologies for the economic and non-economic valuation of the values of the functions and services of wetlands, and improved methodologies and knowledge exchange on current and future drivers of wetland loss and degradation.</p>	<p>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation.</p> <p>Target 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> <p>Target 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> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>Target 11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p>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>

STRP Priority Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024	Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024
	<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>Promoting wetland conservation within sustainable development frameworks and other relevant development initiatives</p>	<p>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation.</p> <p>Target 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, and fisheries at the national and local levels.</p> <p>Target 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> <p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Target 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> <p>Target 11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p>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>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</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>

STRP Priority Thematic Work Areas, as matched to Ramsar Strategic Plan Targets 2016 – 2024	Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024
<p>Climate change and wetlands: innovative methodologies for carbon accounting/assessments related to wetlands.</p>	<p>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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>Target 11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.</p> <p>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>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>

Annex 3

Bodies and organizations invited to participate as observers in the meetings and processes of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel for the 2019-2021 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)

Annex 4

Guidelines for developing requests to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) for its future work programmes

(As proposed as interim guidelines to the Standing Committee in document SC47-19 on *Outcomes of the second plenary meeting of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-2)* and approved through Decision SC47-24.)

1. The Ramsar Secretariat notifies the Ramsar Contracting Parties and broader community of the opportunity to develop requests to be submitted to IPBES and provides guidance on the form and detail of such requests and a deadline for submissions to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (via the Secretariat), as well as, as appropriate, a template for such submissions.
2. Any Contracting Party, Ramsar Regional Initiative, the STRP, and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) that are proposing a joint submission may develop a proposal for consideration.
3. All proposals are submitted to the STRP, which reviews them and makes recommendations to the Standing Committee. The STRP's review and recommendations will take into account the extent to which the requests advance the Ramsar Strategic Plan and are consistent with IPBES priorities.
4. It is important to note that the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel prioritizes requests based on the following information:
 - a. Relevance to the objective, functions and work programme of the Platform;
 - b. Urgency of action by the Platform in the light of the imminence of the risks caused by the issues to be addressed by such action;
 - c. Relevance of the requested action in addressing specific policies or processes;
 - d. Geographic scope of the requested action, as well as issues to be covered by such action;
 - e. Anticipated level of complexity of the issues to be addressed by the requested action;
 - f. Previous work and existing initiatives of a similar nature and evidence of remaining gaps, such as the absence or limited availability of information and tools to address the issues, and reasons why the Platform is best suited to take action;
 - g. Availability of scientific literature and expertise for the Platform to undertake the requested action;
 - h. Scale of the potential impacts, and potential beneficiaries of the requested action;
 - i. Requirements for financial and human resources, and potential duration of the requested action; and
 - j. An identification of priorities within multiple requests submitted.

5. The Standing Committee decides which proposal or proposals to submit to IPBES. Owing to timing constraints, it is likely that the proposals will need to be presented to Standing Committee members virtually and approval or comments provided within a short period.
6. The Secretariat submits the proposal to IPBES on behalf of the Ramsar Convention.

Figure 1. Process for developing IPBES requests

