



COP14  **2022**

14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China, and Geneva, Switzerland 5-13 November 2022**

Resolution XIV.19

Proposal to establish an International Mangrove Centre (a Ramsar Regional Initiative)

1. RECOGNIZING that mangrove ecosystems are rich in biodiversity and that “some 341 species that use mangroves are considered threatened – vulnerable, endangered or critically endangered – by the international community and IUCN” (*State of the World’s Mangroves*, 2021);
2. ACKNOWLEDGING that mangroves are important coastal blue carbon ecosystems, which can store approximately 5.73 gigatons of carbon (conversion of 21 gigatons of CO₂, Global Mangrove Alliance, 2021), with Wetlands of International Importance that include mangroves and for which data are available holding an estimated 1.61 gigatons of carbon (*Global Wetland Outlook*, 2021);
3. NOTING that conservation and restoration of mangroves contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicator 6.6.1 on water ecosystems, SDG 13 on climate action, and SDG 14 on life below water;
4. FURTHER NOTING the levels of poverty in wetland-dependent communities and the need to support socially, economically and environmentally sustainable livelihoods; and RECOGNIZING the benefits of access to innovations, knowledge, data and capabilities relevant for monitoring mangroves and coastal blue carbon ecosystems and for the development of effective conservation, restoration and wise-use policies;
5. FURTHER RECOGNIZING that a Ramsar Regional Initiative focused on mangroves and coastal blue carbon ecosystems can build regional cooperation under the Convention for these crucial ecosystems, enhance partnerships and networks, provide a platform for scientific and technical support, and allow for joint actions and projects on mangroves and coastal blue carbon ecosystems; and
6. NOTING the importance of delivering on the theme (“Wetland Actions for People and Nature”) of the 14th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. WELCOMES the proposal to establish a Ramsar Regional Initiative (the “International Mangrove Centre”) by the People’s Republic of China and interested Contracting Parties, in line with the relevant Convention rules, procedures and guidelines;
8. FURTHER WELCOMES the focus of the proposed RRI as the conservation, restoration, and wise use of mangroves and coastal blue carbon ecosystems;
9. ENCOURAGES interested Contracting Parties, non-governmental organizations, and other civil society organizations to voluntarily participate in the establishment and operation of the proposed RRI in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner;
10. FURTHER ENCOURAGES close communication and cooperation with other organizations and ongoing mangrove initiatives to ensure complementarity of efforts during the establishment and future operation of the proposed RRI; and
11. INVITES submission of the proposed RRI to the 62nd Meeting of the Standing Committee for consideration.