

Agenda item 7.4

Draft Resolution X.00

Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions

1. NOTING the benefits to be gained from synergy and integrated implementation, where appropriate, among environment-related conventions, at all levels: global, regional, national and local, and from mutually supportive collaboration amongst all relevant players, as increasingly recognized in Resolutions VII.4 (1999), VIII.5 (2002), and IX.5 (2005);
2. WELCOMING the progress made by the Ramsar Convention in the past triennium in cementing and expanding its cooperation with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and with other institutions working in fields relevant to the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
3. RECOGNIZING the generous support from the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the “Strengthening the Implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions through the Strategic Use of Information” project, led by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which with Ramsar participation is working to streamline and harmonize on-line tools for conventions and their secretariats;
4. NOTING the request by the 8th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) for the Ramsar Convention to take the lead in developing a framework for harmonized reporting on inland waters;
5. EXPRESSING ITS APPRECIATION to the Danone Group for its continued generous support for the Convention, and in particular for the communications activities of the Ramsar Secretariat, its World Wetlands Day materials, and the Evian Special Prize associated with the triennial Ramsar Conservation Award, and WELCOMING the recently launched “Biosphere Connections” partnership with the Star Alliance, which has been very helpful in supporting travel for sponsored delegates to Ramsar regional meetings; and
6. EXPRESSING AGAIN ITS APPRECIATION to the five International Organization Partners (BirdLife International, IUCN, the International Water Management Institute, Wetlands International, and WWF International) for their invaluable efforts in the past triennium to support the Ramsar Convention globally, nationally, and locally;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to cooperate closely with relevant conventions through its observer status in the Joint Liaison Group for the three Rio Conventions – the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) – and through the work of the UNEP Environment Management Group (EMG), of which the Ramsar Secretariat is a member;
8. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue to be fully involved in the work of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) established under the *aegis* of the CBD and to report regularly to Standing Committee on progress achieved by this group;
9. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to continue its close collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD presently under the 4th Joint Work Plan between the two conventions; URGES the Secretariat to pursue as actively as possible, time and resources permitting, the review and streamlining of its joint work programme with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) and to explore development of a joint programme with UNCCD under the existing Memorandum of Cooperation; and URGES the Secretariat to review its joint programme of work with the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme and the World Heritage Centre with a view to reinvigorating those collaborative mechanisms;
10. INVITES the Secretariat to continue to develop cooperative relations with UN agencies such as UNEP, UNESCO, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Tourism Organization, and the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as with other relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), UNEP-WCMC, and the CGIAR networks, and to seek to reduce duplicative activities;
11. REQUESTS the Secretariat to undertake a review of its memoranda of cooperation, resources permitting, with other global and regional environment agreements and other organizations with a view to renewing and reinvigorating those most likely to be beneficial to the work of the Convention within the time and resources available;
12. ENDORSES the Secretary General's emphasis upon the value of closer working and consultative relationships with financial institutions, such as the Global Environment Facility and the regional development banks, with a view to facilitating greater access to those resources by the Parties to the Convention;
13. ENCOURAGES the Secretariat to continue working closely with the Danone Group and the Star Alliance in mutually beneficial ways and to be prepared to develop similar relationships with the private sector where these can be beneficial to the Convention and consistent with the Convention's mission and objectives;
14. URGES the Secretariat to continue its extremely valuable collaboration with the five International Organization Partners and ENCOURAGES the IOP representatives to take steps to increase awareness of Ramsar objectives and the collaborative relationship with the Convention to the greatest extent possible throughout their organizations;

15. FURTHER URGES the Secretariat to remain alert for opportunities for developing similarly fruitful relationships with other non-government organizations as they may appear and, following a review of MOUs already in place with other NGOs, to foster increased cooperation with those NGOs that can most benefit the work of the Convention;
16. REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), subject to the availability of time and resources, to exchange information and coordinate activities with the equivalent subsidiary bodies of other MEAs and relevant regional fora, including through meetings of the chairs of scientific and technical subsidiary bodies convened by the Secretariat of the CBD, and to report through the Standing Committee to the Conference of the Parties on these activities;
17. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue its participation in the UNEP-WCMC project for developing tools for the on-line use of the biodiversity-related conventions, including those for possible on-line harmonized reporting by the respective parties; and
18. URGES Contracting Parties to take active steps at national level to improve regular liaison and collaboration between Ramsar Administrative Authorities and focal points and the focal points for related conventions and agreements, perhaps through their inclusion in National Ramsar/Wetland Committees, in order to ensure national responses to global environmental issues that will be as consistent as possible with the objectives and values of the Ramsar Convention.