

Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 triennium

Action requested. The Standing Committee is invited to comment on and approve the initial recommendations in the attached Draft Resolution for midterm adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and to agree the process for incorporating any further recommendations from Contracting Parties in their National Reports for the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP11).

1. As discussed at the 41st and 42nd meetings of the Standing Committee (SC), there are two actions required of the Standing Committee concerning implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 which need the Committee's attention (Resolution X.1, para. 10). These are:
 - i) to assess progress and any difficulties in implementing the [Strategic] Plan at each [SC] meeting; and
 - ii) to conduct a midterm review of progress and to propose adjustments, if necessary, [to the Strategic Plan] to be submitted to COP11.
2. At SC41, the SC determined that the Parties' assessments of the Strategic Plan would be included in the National Reports Form rather than by the use of a parallel process of midterm review (Decision SC41-25). The SC requested Contracting Parties to put forward at SC42 information about their progress in implementing the Strategic Plan and any difficulties encountered, as well as any suggestions for amending the Plan in a midterm review at COP11. The Secretariat is not aware of any such proposals yet submitted by Parties to the Standing Committee.
3. As discussed at SC42 and reflected in Decision SC42-29, once completed National Reports for COP11 have been received from most Parties, the Secretariat will compile and assess any proposals from Parties for adjustments to the Strategic Plan and prepare advice to the Standing Committee on this matter, including elements of a Draft Resolution for COP11 if this appears necessary. However, since the submission deadline for National Reports fell just two weeks before documents for SC43 consideration had to be issued by the Secretariat, and a significant number of National Reports had not yet been submitted by Parties, only a preliminary assessment of these Reports will be possible by the time of SC43.
4. As also reported at SC42, the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), as part of its task to further elaborate the Convention's data and information needs, has reviewed the congruence between the Key Result Areas (KRAs) in the Strategic Plan and the COP11 National Report Format indicators (especially those being used in the Panel's ongoing work on indicators of the effectiveness of the Convention).

5. This review has confirmed that there are COP11 National Report indicators that speak to each of the Strategic Plan KRAs, but it has identified several key aspects of Convention implementation for which there are National Report indicators but no current KRAs for such implementation. Importantly, there is no KRA addressed to the Changwon Declaration (which was adopted at COP10 in parallel with the Strategic Plan) or to sectoral understanding and decision making on maintaining wetlands as natural infrastructure, as well as certain other issues such as Environmental Impact Assessment.
6. Accordingly, in the attached Draft Resolution, the STRP and the Secretariat are recommending the addition of a small number of KRAs to the Strategic Plan in order to reflect those points.
7. The Standing Committee will be also be aware of the adoption by COP10 of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, of Decision X/1 *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and its 20 “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”, and that at CBD COP10 all biodiversity-related conventions committed to working jointly to contribute to the implementation of that Strategic Plan.
8. In order to help inform Ramsar Parties that are working jointly with their counterpart focal points for the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions, the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB) at their 4th meeting, in February 2011, requested IUCN to prepare a comparison between the conventions’ Strategic Plans and the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”. The Secretariat is grateful to IUCN for providing an initial analysis of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 and the Aichi Targets, and this forms the basis of the proposed new Appendix 1 to be added to the Ramsar Strategic Plan.
9. Finally, as part of its consideration of a “Vision 40+” for the future direction of the Convention’s implementation, as a contribution to Ramsar’s 40th anniversary, the Secretariat believes that it would be helpful to add a paragraph to the Strategic Plan about what is needed to achieve the current “Mission” statement, and this is included in the Draft Resolution proposed below. This text also speaks particularly to Aichi Target 14 concerning ecosystem services, including water-related services.
10. The Standing Committee may wish to consider and approve the initial recommendations in the attached Draft Resolution for midterm adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015, and to instruct the Secretariat to review any further recommendations from Parties in their National Reports for COP11 and prepare, if necessary, an updated version of the Draft Resolution for electronic circulation for Standing Committee approval.

Draft Resolution XI.xx

Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 triennium

1. RECALLING the adoption by Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 in Resolution X.1 (2008);
2. ALSO RECALLING that Resolution X.1 (para. 10) requested
 - i) the Standing Committee to assess progress and any difficulties in implementing the [Strategic] Plan at each its meetings; and
 - ii) the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to conduct a midterm review of progress and to propose adjustments, if necessary, [to the Strategic Plan] to be submitted to the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP11);
3. AWARE that the National Report Form for COP11 provided the opportunity for Contracting Parties to report on implementation progress and any implementation difficulties and to propose adjustments to the Strategic Plan, and THANKING all those Contracting Parties that have provided such information;
4. ALSO AWARE that the Ramsar Secretariat and the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) have reviewed the congruence and consistency of Strategic Plan Key Result Areas (KRAs) with key implementation activities as reflected in the indicators in the National Report Form for COP11, and NOTING that the review has revealed that there are certain key aspects of the Convention's implementation, notably concerning the Changwon Declaration (Resolution X.3), which are not reflected in Strategic Plan KRAs; and
5. FURTHER AWARE that all biodiversity-related conventions have committed to contributing jointly to the implementation of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and its 20 headline targets for 2015 or 2020 (the "Aichi Biodiversity Targets") that were adopted at the 10th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan, 2010), and NOTING in particular Aichi Target 14 of that Strategic Plan: "By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable";

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

6. RECOGNIZES the important contribution that the Ramsar Convention makes through implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 towards the achievement of the "Aichi Biodiversity Targets" of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
7. ADOPTS the adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 triennium as set out in the annex to this Resolution;

8. URGES Contracting Parties to take these adjustments into account in planning their implementation of the Convention in the 2013-2015 triennium; and
9. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to introduce these adjustments into the text of the Strategic Plan as adopted by Resolution X.1, to reissue the text of the adjusted Strategic Plan for implementation in 2013-2015, and to make this widely available to all Parties and other stakeholders, including in the 5th edition of the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks.

Annex

Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015

1. Amend paragraph 25 to read:

“Externally, the Strategic Plan also contributes to, *inter alia*, achievement of Millennium Development Goals; achievement of the 2010 Biodiversity targets and the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* (CBD COP10 Decision X/1) as set out in Appendix 1; achievement of the 2012 target for Marine Protected Areas; providing responses to the key issues of climate change; and implementation of decisions from the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD13) policies on water and sanitation.”
2. Following the current text of the Mission of the Convention, add the following paragraph:

“To achieve this Mission it is essential that the vital ecosystem services, especially water, delivered to people and nature by the natural infrastructure of wetlands are fully recognized, maintained, restored and sustainably used by governments and other sectors of society.”
3. Under Strategy 1.3 (Policies, legislation and institutions), add the following KRA:

“KRA 1.3.iii. Environmental Impact Assessments made for any new development project which may affect the ecological character of wetlands.”
4. Under Strategy 1.4 (Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services), add the following KRA:

“KRA 1.4.iv. All sectors of government, business and society fully recognize in their decision-making the benefits to them of maintaining wetlands and their services as natural infrastructure, including through dissemination and update of the “Changwon Declaration” (Resolution X.3). (National: CPs)
5. Under Strategy 4.3 (Convention bodies’ effectiveness), add the following KRA:

“KRA 4.3.v. All Contracting Parties to have reviewed the need to establish, or have established, an operational National Ramsar/Wetlands Committee or equivalent body.”
6. Add the following Appendix 1 to the end of the current Strategic Plan text:

Appendix 1

**How implementation of Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies contributes to the
“Aichi Biodiversity Targets” (CBD COP10 Decision X/2 *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity
2011-2020*)**

Note that some Ramsar Strategic Plan Strategies contribute to the delivery of aspects of several Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Aichi Biodiversity Targets	Ramsar Strategic Plan Strategies
<p>Strategic goal A. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society</p>	<p>Strategies 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.7, 1.10, 1.11, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4 & 4.1</p>
<p><i>Target 1:</i> By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of role of the Convention. Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.</p> <p>STRATEGY 3.2 Regional initiatives. Support existing regional arrangements under the Convention and promote additional arrangements.</p> <p>STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention’s Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation, and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention’s goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</p>

<p>Target 2: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.</p> <p>STRATEGY 1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defense, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning, and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.</p> <p>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</p>
<p>Target 3: By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.</p> <p>STRATEGY 1.11 Incentive measures. Promote incentive measures that encourage the application of the wise use provisions of the Convention.</p>
<p>Target 4: By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defense, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>STRATEGY 1.10 Private sector. Promote the involvement of the private sector in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.</p>

<p>Strategic goal B. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use</p>	<p>Strategies 1.4, 1.5, 3.5 & 1.9</p>
<p><i>Target 5:</i> By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of role of the Convention. Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.</p>
<p><i>Target 6:</i> By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.</p>
<p><i>Target 7:</i> By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.</p>
<p><i>Target 8:</i> By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</p>	
<p><i>Target 9:</i> By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.9 Invasive alien species. Encourage Contracting Parties to develop a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently and/or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands, especially Ramsar sites, and ensure mutual supportiveness between the national inventory and IUCN's Global Register on Invasive Species (GRIS); develop guidance and promote procedures and actions to prevent, control or eradicate such species in wetland systems.</p>

<p>Target 10: By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defense, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.</p>
<p>Strategic goal C. Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity</p>	<p>Strategies 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7 & 3.5</p>
<p>Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar site designation. Apply the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (Ramsar Handbook 14).</p> <p>STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar site information. Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service, including the Ramsar Sites Database, is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.</p> <p>STRATEGY 2.3 Management planning – new Ramsar sites. While recognizing that Ramsar site designation can act as a stimulus for development of effective site management plans, generally encourage the philosophy that all new Ramsar sites should have effective management planning in place before designation, as well as resources for implementing such management.</p> <p>STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar site ecological character. Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar sites, through planning and management.</p> <p>STRATEGY 2.5 Ramsar site management effectiveness. Review all existing Ramsar sites to determine the effectiveness of management arrangements, in line with the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i>.</p> <p>STRATEGY 2.6 Ramsar site status. Monitor the condition of Ramsar sites and address negative changes in their ecological character, notify the Ramsar Secretariat of changes affecting Ramsar sites, and apply the Montreux Record, if appropriate, and Ramsar Advisory Mission as tools to address problems.</p> <p>STRATEGY 2.7 Management of other internationally important wetlands. Appropriate management and wise use achieved for those internationally important wetlands that have not yet been formally designated as Ramsar sites but have been identified through domestic application of the <i>Strategic Framework</i> or an equivalent process.</p>

<p>Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.</p>
<p>Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.</p>	
<p>Strategic goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services</p>	<p>Strategies 1.4, 1.5 &1.8</p>
<p>Target 14: By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defense, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of role of the Convention. Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.</p> <p>STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social, or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.</p>

<p>Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.4 Cross-sectoral recognition of wetland services. Increase recognition of and attention in decision-making to the significance of wetlands for reasons of biodiversity conservation, water supply, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, flood defense, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, cultural heritage, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve wise use of wetlands.</p> <p>STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of role of the Convention. Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.</p> <p>STRATEGY 1.8 Wetland restoration. Identify priority wetlands and wetland systems where restoration or rehabilitation would be beneficial and yield long-term environmental, social, or economic benefits, and implement the necessary measures to recover these sites and systems.</p>
<p>Target 16: By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.</p>	
<p>Strategic goal E. Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building</p>	<p>Strategies 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 & 4.4</p>
<p>Target 17: By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.3 Policy, legislation and institutions. Develop and implement policies, legislation, and practices, including growth and development of appropriate institutions, in all Contracting Parties to ensure that the wise use provisions of the Convention are being effectively applied.</p> <p>STRATEGY 1.7 Integrated Water Resources Management. Ensure that policies and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), applying an ecosystem-based approach, are, included in the planning activities in all Contracting Parties and in their decision-making processes, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning, and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.</p> <p>STRATEGY 3.1 Synergies and partnerships with MEAs and IGOs. Work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs).</p>

<p>Target 18: By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels</p>	<p>STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.</p> <p>STRATEGY 4.1 CEPA. Support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention’s Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation, and awareness (CEPA) and work towards wider awareness of the Convention’s goals, mechanisms, and key findings.</p>
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Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

STRATEGY 1.1 Wetland inventory and assessment. Describe, assess and monitor the extent and condition of all types of wetlands as defined by the Ramsar Convention and wetland resources at relevant scales, in order to inform and underpin implementation of the Convention, in particular in the application of its provisions concerning the wise use of all wetlands.

STRATEGY 1.2 Global wetland information. Develop a global wetland information system, through partnerships, to be covered by voluntary contributions, to increase accessibility of data and information on wetlands.

STRATEGY 1.5 Recognition of role of the Convention. Raise the profile of the Convention by highlighting its capacity as a unique mechanism for wetland ecosystem management at all levels; promote the usefulness of the Convention as a possible implementation mechanism to meet the goals and targets of other global conventions and processes.

STRATEGY 1.6 Science-based management of wetlands. Promote successful implementation of the wise use concept by ensuring that national policies and wetland management plans are based on the best available scientific knowledge, including technical and traditional knowledge.

STRATEGY 2.1 Ramsar site designation. Apply the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Ramsar Handbook 14).

STRATEGY 2.2 Ramsar site information. Ensure that the Ramsar Sites Information Service, including the Ramsar Sites Database, is available and enhanced as a tool for guiding the further designation of wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance and for research and assessment, and is effectively managed by the Secretariat.

STRATEGY 2.4 Ramsar site ecological character. Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar sites, through planning and management.

STRATEGY 3.4 Sharing information and expertise. Promote the sharing of expertise and information concerning the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

STRATEGY 3.5 Shared wetlands, river basins and migratory species. Promote inventory and cooperation for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins, including cooperative monitoring and management of shared wetland-dependent species.

STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others.

Target 20: By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

STRATEGY 3.3 International assistance. Promote international assistance to support the conservation and wise use of wetlands, while ensuring that environmental safeguards and assessments are an integral component of all development projects that affect wetlands, including foreign and domestic investments.

STRATEGY 4.2 Convention financial capacity. Provide the financial resources necessary for the Convention's governance, mechanisms and programmes to achieve the expectations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, within the availability of existing resources and by the effective use of such resources; explore and enable options and mechanisms for mobilization of new and additional resources for implementation of the Convention.

STRATEGY 4.3 Convention bodies' effectiveness. Ensure that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Standing Committee, Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and Secretariat are operating at a high level of effectiveness to support the implementation of the Convention.