

Issues and process for the development of the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan, for 2016 onwards

Action requested. The Standing Committee is invited to consider and advise on the issues and options concerning the focus, structure and content of the next Strategic Plan for the Ramsar Convention, and to agree the process through which it will be developed for consideration by COP12.

Prior to SC46, members of the Standing Committee are urged to seek the views of their regional groups of Contracting Parties in relation to the issues and questions set out below, namely:

- a) What should be the structure of the next Strategic Plan?
- b) What time period should the new Strategic Plan cover?
- c) What should be the scope and focus of the new Strategic Plan?
- d) What should the new Strategic Plan be entitled?
- e) To what extent should the new Strategic Plan be aligned with the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets?
- f) Should specific 'Targets' be included in the new Strategic Plan?

Background

1. This note has been prepared by the Secretariat to provide the Standing Committee with a basis for its discussions on the preparation of the Ramsar Convention's 4th Strategic Plan. It identifies a number of issues and questions concerning the focus and structure of the next Strategic Plan, for 2016 onwards, which will need to be submitted to Parties at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP12) in 2015, notably in relation to the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets* adopted as Decision X/2 by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at CBD COP10 in 2010. For information, the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity* is provided as Annex 1 to this note. This note also provides suggestions for the process for developing a new Ramsar Strategic Plan during the present triennium.
2. The Contracting Parties first adopted a Strategic Plan for the Ramsar Convention at COP6 in 1996. The third such Ramsar Strategic Plan (for 2009-2015) was adopted as Resolution X.1 at COP10 in 2008. Each of the three Strategic Plans to date has covered a six-year period (i.e., two triennia). Some minor mid-term adjustments to the current Strategic Plan were adopted at COP11 in Resolution XI.3.
3. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) is currently undergoing a redevelopment of its Strategic Plan process and has established an intersessional Working Group of CMS Parties to undertake the work, led by a consultant, which will submit to the next CMS COP in second half of 2014 what is anticipated to be a "Strategic Plan for migratory species" with links to the 2020 Aichi Targets. Likewise, CITES at its COP16 in March

2013 is considering extending its *Strategic Vision* to 2020 and amending it to include reference to the relevant Aichi Targets (see CITES COP16 Doc. 12). Sharing experiences and issues from these CMS and CITES processes may be helpful to the Ramsar process.

Issues and questions to consider in establishing the scope, focus, structure and content of next Strategic Plan

What should be the structure of the next Strategic Plan?

4. The current Ramsar Strategic Plan, following a similar structure to previous Plans, has a covering text providing background, identifying who the Plan is for and how it should be used, and itemizing a number of key issues for achieving the wise use of wetlands. This is followed by the *Mission*, and five *Goals*. For each Goal there are a number of implementation *Strategies*, and each of those Strategies has a small number of *Key Result Areas (KRAs)* to be achieved by 2015. The KRAs can thus be regarded as the time-bound *Targets* for implementation progress by the end of the Plan period.
5. For continuity, should the new Plan be broadly similar in structure to the 2009-2015 Plan? If so, are there any improvements to that which should be recommended? Alternatively, should the Strategic Plan itself be a shorter *high-level strategy* for the longer term, with an implementation strategy/action plan (for the Convention's bodies and processes) for shorter periods separate from but linked to the Strategic Plan?

What time period should the new Strategic Plan cover?

6. Each of the three Ramsar Strategic Plans to date has been for a six-year (i.e., two triennia) period. At the mid-term for the 2nd Strategic Plan (2003-2008), Parties at COP9 (2005) adopted Resolution IX.8 *Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2003-2008*. Mid-term through the current Strategic Plan, Parties at COP11 adopted Resolution XI.3 making *Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 triennium*.
7. Should the current approach of six years (two triennia) be continued for the period 2016-2021, or would it be appropriate to align its period with the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity*, i.e. for 2016-2020? Or, depending upon the structure of the new Plan, if the best approach is decided to be a short *high-level strategy* for the longer term (e.g., for a period such as 2016-2050), there might also be developed an implementation strategy/action plan linked to it, with a shorter (updatable) time period (e.g., 2016-2021), with mid-term review and adjustments?

What should be the scope and focus of the new Strategic Plan?

8. An important issue to consider is the extent to which the new Plan should focus only on wetlands themselves or rather on the broader issues concerning wetland ecosystems and the benefits/services they provide, particularly in relation to water. The Strategic Plan 2009-2015 already recognizes the importance of connecting cross-sectorally if the conservation and wise use of wetlands is to be achieved, for example, through its 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 and quality, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, environmental flows, environmental integrity, flood defense, climate change mitigation and/or adaptation, food security, poverty eradication, tourism, productive sectors, cultural heritage, education, and scientific research, by developing and disseminating methodologies to achieve the wise use of wetlands.

9. In addition, through additional text concerning the Convention's Mission adopted in Resolution XI.3, Parties have further recognized that the maintenance and restoration of the natural infrastructure of wetlands to provide their vital ecosystem services, especially those related to water, is essential to achieving the Mission. This language in turn speaks directly to Aichi Target 14 concerning ecosystem services.
10. The Standing Committee may also wish to consider the extent to which the Ramsar Convention and its new Strategic Plan should be recognized as playing a key role for ecosystems and water in implementing the outcomes of the Rio+20 conference on sustainable development outcomes, notably paragraph 122 of "The Future We Want":

We recognize the key role that ecosystems play in maintaining water quantity and quality and support actions within respective national boundaries to protect and sustainably manage these ecosystems.

11. Furthermore, concurrent with our development of the new Strategic Plan is the ongoing consultation process concerning water in the post-2015 sustainable development goals that are intended to follow on from the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the Standing Committee may wish to take into consideration the outcomes of this process and its relevance to Ramsar implementation.

What should the new Strategic Plan be entitled?

12. The current and previous Strategic Plans are simply entitled "Ramsar Strategic Plan", and their Strategies, implementation actions, and KRAs focus on implementation by core Ramsar stakeholders: Contracting Parties, Convention bodies, International Organization Partners (IOPs), Regional Initiatives, etc. If the new Strategic Plan is to be designed for implementation by all those involved in the conservation and wise use of wetlands, including other key sectors of government and society which both depend upon and affect wetlands, a different form of title may be more appropriate?
13. If the new Plan continues to focus only upon direct Ramsar stakeholder implementation, as previous Plans have done, then continuing with a title such as *Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-[xxx]* may be appropriate. If, however, it is considered that the new Plan should be targeted to implementation by a wide audience of players involved in delivering wetland conservation and wise use, it would be consistent with the approach of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020*, which was adopted by governments that are Parties to the CBD but which is intended to serve everyone who is concerned with biodiversity conservation, and in that case the new Ramsar Plan might better be entitled *Strategic Plan for wetlands* or

Strategic Plan for wetlands and water. This would also be consistent with the concurrent approach understood to be being followed by the Convention on Migratory Species.

To what extent should the new Strategic Plan be aligned with the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020* and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets?

14. In Resolution XI.6 Ramsar Parties affirmed the relevance of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity* to all biodiversity-related conventions, as well as the opportunities it provides to enhance synergies and harmonization between conventions, especially as Ramsar has acted as the “lead implementation partner of CBD for wetlands” since CBD COP3 in 1993. Thus Ramsar’s implementation, through its Strategic Plan Strategies, contributes directly to implementation of the CBD as well. Appendix 1 to Resolution XI.3 (provided as Annex 2 to this note) maps Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 Strategies against each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
15. Noting that the Ramsar Convention has its own unique mandate and scope and maintains its distinct role as an MEA equal in international treaty law to all other MEAs, a similar approach might be considered for the new Strategic Plan, perhaps with an alternative structure that demonstrates how each Ramsar Strategy (or its equivalent) in the new Strategic Plan speaks to which Aichi Target or Targets.
16. Other issues the Standing Committee may wish to take into consideration are that: a) the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity* is largely silent about specific implementation strategies/actions needed by Parties and others to achieve the Targets; b) for many of the Aichi Targets, a similar suite of implementation strategies/actions are likely needed for their achievement; c) the Aichi Targets are one part, but not the whole, of the *Strategic Plan for Biodiversity*, and d) the Aichi Targets themselves do not cover all aspects of delivery of the Ramsar Convention. If the new Strategic Plan should be organized solely as a “wetlands version” of each of the Aichi Targets, then there may be a risk of this implying that the Ramsar Convention is solely a delivery protocol for the CBD, which is not the case.

Should specific ‘Targets’ be included in the new Strategic Plan?

17. In addition to issues concerning alignment with the Aichi Targets, it has been noted that whilst the current Ramsar Strategic Plan has a mission, goals and strategies, it does not explicitly set clear “targets”. To what extent should the current KRAs approach be (perhaps reworded and) treated as Targets in the new Strategic Plan? These might be set within the context of what could be considered the overarching Convention target established in the preambular paragraphs of the text of the Convention: “to stem the progressive encroachment on and loss of wetlands now and in the future”.

Processes and timelines for preparation of new Strategic Plan

18. For the current and previous Ramsar Strategic Plans, the process has been that the Standing Committee, at its first meeting of the triennium, agreed an overall approach to its content and structure, established a Subgroup on the Strategic Plan, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a draft for the Subgroup’s consideration. The Subgroup then reviewed a draft of the Plan at the mid-term Standing Committee meeting and submitted a final draft to the last SC meeting signing off on Draft Resolutions for the COP. For the

previous Strategic Plan (for 2003-2008), in addition to a similar process through Standing Committee being followed, the Secretariat also sought to engage input from Contracting Parties and others by issuing a printed version of the draft Strategic Plan, with space for adding comments, in the anticipation that Parties would provide intersessional feedback to the Standing Committee. That process yielded little such feedback, however.

19. General principles for the development process for the new Strategic Plan might be that:
 - i) the scoping and drafting process should be as inclusive as possible of all key Ramsar stakeholders – CPs (AAs, CEPA & STRP National Focal Points, IOPs, Regional Initiatives, STRP, other MEAs, etc.); and
 - ii) involvement of Parties and others in scoping and developing the Plan should start as early as possible in the process.

20. The overall timeline (as for any other material to be transmitted by the Standing Committee to COP12 for consideration) is that the work needs to start not later than at SC46 in April 2013, and that SC48 (likely to be scheduled for about January 2015 – depending on the dates for COP12) must approve a draft Strategic Plan and Draft Resolution to go to COP12. This gives a total of 21 months for scoping, drafting and intersessional consultations. A first draft should be ready for consideration at SC47 (likely to be about March 2014, i.e., 11 months after SC46).

21. Prior to SC46, Standing Committee members are urged to seek the views of their regional groups of Contracting Parties in relation to the issues and questions set out above, as well as on any other Strategic Plan development issues that should be considered.

22. At SC46, the Standing Committee will need to decide on the intersessional process through which the new Strategic Plan will be developed. The Committee may wish to establish a Subgroup on the Strategic Plan, as for previous Strategic Plans, but it should be noted that this will mean that three SC subgroups will be working concurrently during this triennium (the others being Finance and COP12), plus the Management Working Group. An alternative option to consider might be to entrust the Management Working Group to oversee the intersessional process of Strategic Plan development, and this option might be raised with the Management Working Group at its meeting immediately before SC46.

23. It should be noted that no additional funds (either from the Core budget or as voluntary contributions) are currently available for supporting any of the new Strategic Plan preparation processes. However, Parties at COP11 adopted a non-Core budget line for “Strategic Visioning/Planning for 40+ and 2016-2021” with an indicative budget of CHF 50,000 for 2013, CHF 100,000 for 2014 and CHF 100,000 for 2015. Therefore, if the Standing Committee considers, for example, that holding further drafting workshops and/or engaging a consultant to facilitate the scoping and drafting process is desirable, it will need to consider seeking voluntary contributions for this work against that budget line item.

24. Other considerations relevant to the process of preparing the new Strategic Plan include:
 - i) So as to seek input as to the scope and content of the new Strategic Plan from all Parties and other stakeholders, as a next step the Standing Committee may wish to

consider requesting the Secretariat to prepare and circulate a short questionnaire seeking views on preferences against the questions and possible options outlined above. It should be noted, however, that the attempt to seek such feedback on the draft Strategic Plan 2003-2008 was largely unsuccessful. The Secretariat also understands that in its current Strategic Plan development the CMS followed a similar questionnaire approach, and that that too yielded an extremely low response rate from Parties;

- ii) As part of its considerations surrounding the 40th anniversary of Ramsar in 2011, the Secretariat undertook an internal visioning exercise on possible future directions for the Convention. Draft materials on this can be made available and aspects of it have already been incorporated into Resolution XI.3, *Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015*.
- iii) A Top Priority task requested of the STRP for 2013-2015 by Resolution XI.17 should be closely related to the preparation of the new Strategic Plan. This is: “Ramsar, water and wetlands: review and development of a strategy for engaging in the global water debate (2013-15/44)”. Its summary description in the STRP’s draft Work Plan is to: “Develop a strategy for Ramsar to engage fully in the global water debate, focusing on the role of wetlands as natural water infrastructure. This includes specifying aims, mechanisms for engagement, and products needed to support the engagement.” At its 17th meeting, in February 2013, the Panel established a Task Group to lead this work, led by IOP STRP members Patrick MacQuarrie (IUCN) and Eugenio Barrios (WWF). It is recommended that this Task Group be requested to be closely involved in the Strategic Plan redevelopment work.

Opportunities for further involving Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in preparing and reviewing the draft Strategic Plan during 2013 and 2014

- 25. Regardless of the availability of any additional funds needed to facilitate development of the new Strategic Plan, the Standing Committee may wish to consider a range of options in the coming two years for encouraging input from Parties and others into the strategic planning process. Since no major Ramsar Contracting Party meetings are currently planned for 2013, between SC46 and SC47, the Committee may wish to consider (in addition to the suggested ‘scoping questionnaire’ above) circulating a first draft new Strategic Plan to all Parties for comment and input prior to SC47. With SC47 anticipated as being held in about March 2014, this implies that a firstdraft new Strategic Plan should have been prepared not later than late 2013.
- 26. **The intersessional (pre-COP12) Contracting Party regional meetings** will provide the major ‘face-to-face’ opportunity for engaging all CPs in the Strategic Plan preparatory process. For the 2013-2015 cycle, a major purpose and focus of these meetings therefore should be to review and contribute to the finalization of the draft new Strategic Plan. If the Standing Committee agrees, these meetings should be held in the second half of 2014 (rather than later), when a second draft Strategic Plan is available following SC47, and well before SC48 is anticipated to meet in about January 2015.

27. **Ramsar Regional Initiatives' meetings.** Any such meetings (bringing together groups of Parties and others) should be requested to include in their agendas a review the draft new Strategic Plan.
28. **IOPs' meetings.** Likewise, any major IOP meetings should be invited to review and provide input to the draft Strategic Plan. For example, the next BirdLife Global Congress in late June 2013 (Ottawa, Canada) will include a session on BirdLife's engagement with MEAs.
29. **Other Ramsar-related meetings.** Further opportunities may arise through seeking input from other organizations/networks with which Ramsar has working relationships (e.g., through MoCs), for example CBD's next SBSTTA meeting scheduled for October 2013.

Annex 1

CBD Decision X/2 Annex

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

“Living in harmony with nature”

1. The purpose of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 is to promote effective implementation of the Convention through a strategic approach, comprising a shared vision, a mission, and strategic goals and targets (“the Aichi Biodiversity Targets”), that will inspire broad-based action by all Parties and stakeholders. The Strategic Plan will also provide a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and for enhancing coherence in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including the programmes of work and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as well as the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization. It will also serve as the basis for the development of communication tools capable of attracting the attention of and engaging stakeholders, thereby facilitating the mainstreaming of biodiversity into broader national and global agendas. A separate Strategic Plan has been adopted for the Biosafety Protocol that will complement the present one for the Convention.⁸
2. The text of the Convention, and in particular its three objectives, provide the fundamental basis for the Strategic Plan.

I. THE RATIONALE FOR THE PLAN

3. Biological diversity underpins ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services essential for human well-being. It provides for food security, human health, the provision of clean air and water; it contributes to local livelihoods, and economic development, and is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction.
4. The Convention on Biological Diversity has three objectives: the conservation of biological diversity; the sustainable use of its components; and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. In the Convention’s first Strategic Plan, adopted in 2002, the Parties committed themselves “to a more effective and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth.” The third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3), drawing upon national reports, indicators and research studies, assesses progress towards the 2010 target, and provides scenarios for the future of biodiversity.
5. The 2010 biodiversity target has inspired action at many levels. However, such actions have not been on a scale sufficient to address the pressures on biodiversity. Moreover there has been insufficient integration of biodiversity issues into broader policies,

strategies, programmes and actions, and therefore the underlying drivers of biodiversity loss have not been significantly reduced. While there is now some understanding of the linkages between biodiversity, ecosystem services and human well-being, the value of biodiversity is still not reflected in broader policies and incentive structures.

6. Most Parties identify a lack of financial, human and technical resources as limiting their implementation of the Convention. Technology transfer under the Convention has been very limited. Insufficient scientific information for policy and decision making is a further obstacle for the implementation of the Convention. However, scientific uncertainty should not be used as an excuse for inaction.
7. The 2010 biodiversity target has not been achieved, at least not at the global level. The diversity of genes, species and ecosystems continues to decline, as the pressures on biodiversity remain constant or increase in intensity mainly, as a result of human actions.
8. Scientific consensus projects a continuing loss of habitats and high rates of extinctions throughout this century if current trends persist, with the risk of drastic consequences to human societies as several thresholds or “tipping points” are crossed. Unless urgent action is taken to reverse current trends, a wide range of services derived from ecosystems, underpinned by biodiversity, could rapidly be lost. While the harshest impacts will fall on the poor, thereby undermining efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, no-one will be immune from the impacts of the loss of biodiversity.
9. On the other hand, scenario analysis reveals a wide range of options for addressing the crisis. Determined action to value and protect biodiversity will benefit people in many ways, including through better health, greater food security and less poverty. It will also help to slow climate change by enabling ecosystems to store and absorb more carbon; and it will help people adapt to climate change by adding resilience to ecosystems and making them less vulnerable. Better protection of biodiversity is therefore a prudent and cost-effective investment in risk reduction for the global community.
10. Achieving this positive outcome requires actions at multiple entry points, which are reflected in the goals of this Strategic Plan. These include:
 - a) *Initiating action to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss*, including production and consumption patterns, by ensuring that biodiversity concerns are mainstreamed throughout government and society, through communication, education and awareness, appropriate incentive measures, and institutional change;
 - b) *Taking action now to decrease the direct pressures on biodiversity*. Engagement of the agricultural, forest, fisheries, tourism, energy and other sectors will be essential to success. Where trade offs between biodiversity protection and other social objectives exist, they can often be minimized by using approaches such as spatial planning and efficiency measures. Where multiple pressures are threatening vital ecosystems and their services, urgent action is needed to decrease those pressures most amenable to short-term relief, such as over-exploitation or pollution, so as to prevent more intractable pressures, in particular climate change, from pushing the system “over the edge” to a degraded state;
 - c) *Continuing direct action to safeguard and, where necessary, restore biodiversity and ecosystem services*. While longer-term actions to reduce the underlying causes of biodiversity are

- taking effect, immediate action can help conserve biodiversity, including in critical ecosystems, by means of protected areas, habitat restoration, species recovery programmes and other targeted conservation interventions;
- d) *Efforts to ensure the continued provision of ecosystem services and to ensure access to these services, especially for the poor who most directly depend on them.* Maintenance and restoration of ecosystems generally provide cost-effective ways to address climate change. Therefore, although climate change is an additional major threat to biodiversity, addressing this threat opens up a number of opportunities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- e) *Enhanced support mechanisms for: capacity-building; the generation, use and sharing of knowledge; and access to the necessary financial and other resources.* National planning processes need to become more effective in mainstreaming biodiversity and in highlighting its relevance for social and economic agendas. Convention bodies need to become more effective in reviewing implementation and providing support and guidance to Parties.

II. VISION

11. The vision of this Strategic Plan is a world of “Living in harmony with nature” where “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

III. THE MISSION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN

12. The mission of the Strategic Plan is to “take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet’s variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach.”

IV. STRATEGIC GOALS AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

13. The Strategic Plan includes 20 headline targets for 2015 or 2020 (the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”), organized under five strategic goals. The goals and targets comprise both: (i) aspirations for achievement at the global level; and (ii) a flexible framework for the establishment of national or regional targets. Parties are invited to set their own targets within this flexible framework, taking into account national needs and priorities, while also bearing in mind national contributions to the achievement of the global targets. Not all countries necessarily need to develop a national target for each and every global target. For some countries, the global threshold set through certain targets may already have been achieved. Others targets may not be relevant in the country context.

Strategic goal A. Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

Target 1: 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.

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.

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.

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.

Strategic goal B. Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Target 5: 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.

Target 6: 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.

Target 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Target 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

Target 9: 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.

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.

Strategic goal C. Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

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.

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.

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.

Strategic goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

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.

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.

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.

Strategic goal E. Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building

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.

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.

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.

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.

V. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING, REVIEW AND EVALUATION

14. **Means for implementation:** The Strategic Plan will be implemented primarily through activities at the national or subnational level, with supporting action at the regional and global levels. The means of implementation for this Strategic Plan will include provision of financial resources in accordance with respective obligations under the Convention, taking into account Article 20 of the Convention. The Strategic Plan provides a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets⁹. National biodiversity strategies and action plans are key instruments for translating the Strategic Plan to national circumstances, including through the national targets, and for integrating biodiversity across all sectors of government and society. The participation of all relevant stakeholders should be promoted and facilitated at all levels of implementation. Initiatives and activities of indigenous and local communities, contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan at the local level, should be supported and encouraged. The means for implementation may vary from country to country, according to national needs and circumstances. Nonetheless, countries should learn from each other when determining appropriate means for implementation. It is in this spirit that examples of the possible means for implementation are provided in the note by the Executive Secretary on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: provisional technical rationale, possible indicators and suggested milestones for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets . It is envisaged that implementation will be further supported by the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization and other components of the international regime on access and benefit-sharing which will facilitate the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.¹⁰
15. **The programmes of work:** The thematic programmes of work of the Convention include: biodiversity of inland waters, marine and coastal biodiversity, agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity, biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands, mountain biodiversity and island biodiversity. Together with the various cross-cutting issues¹¹ they provide detailed guidance on implementation of the Strategic Plan, and could also contribute to development and poverty reduction. They are key tools to be considered in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.
16. **Broadening political support** for this Strategic Plan and the objectives of the Convention is necessary, for example, by working to ensure that Heads of State and Government and the parliamentarians of all Parties understand the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Parties to the Convention should be encouraged to establish national biodiversity targets that support the achievement of the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and outline the measures and activities that will achieve this, such as the development of comprehensive national accounting, as appropriate, that integrates the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into government decision-making with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders.

17. **Partnerships** at all levels are required for effective implementation of the Strategic Plan, to leverage actions at the scale necessary, to garner the ownership necessary to ensure mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors of government, society and the economy and to find synergies with national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements. Partnerships with the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, as well as with other conventions and multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations, women, indigenous and local communities, and non-governmental organizations, will be essential to support implementation of the Strategic Plan at the national level. At the international level, this requires partnerships between the Convention and other conventions, international organizations and processes, civil society and the private sector. In particular, efforts will be needed to:
- a) Ensure that the Convention, through its new Strategic Plan, contributes to sustainable development and the elimination of poverty, and the other Millennium Development Goals;
 - b) Ensure cooperation to achieve implementation of the Plan in different sectors;
 - c) Promote biodiversity-friendly practice by business; and
 - d) Promote synergy and coherence in the implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements.¹²
18. **Reporting by Parties:** Parties will inform the Conference of the Parties of the national targets or commitments and policy instruments they adopt to implement the Strategic Plan, as well as any milestones towards these targets, and report on progress towards these targets and milestones, including through their fifth and sixth national reports. Suggested milestones, as well as suggested indicators, are to be developed in accordance with the processes laid out in paragraphs 3 (b), (e) and 17 (g) of [decision X/2](#) on the Strategic Plan as well as [decision X/7](#) on goals, targets and associated indicators. Parliamentarians, by responding to the needs and expectations of citizens on a regular basis, should play a role in reviewing the implementation of the Convention at the national and subnational levels, as appropriate, to help Governments produce a more comprehensive review.
19. **Review by the Conference of the Parties:** The Conference of the Parties, with the support of other Convention bodies, in particular the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention, will keep under review implementation of this Strategic Plan, and support effective implementation by Parties ensuring that new guidance is informed by the experience of Parties in implementing the Convention, in line with the principle of adaptive management through active learning. The Conference of the Parties will review the progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets¹³ as set out in the Strategic Plan and make recommendations to overcome any obstacles encountered in meeting those targets, including revision of the provisional technical rationale, possible indicators and suggested milestones for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and measures contained therein, and, as appropriate, to strengthen the mechanisms to support implementation, monitoring and review. To facilitate this work, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) should develop a common set of biodiversity metrics to be used to assess the status of biodiversity and its values.

VI. SUPPORT MECHANISMS

20. **Capacity-building for effective national action:** Many Parties, especially the developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States and the most environmentally vulnerable countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, may require support for the development of national targets and their integration into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, revised and updated in line with this Strategic Plan and guidance from the Conference of the Parties ([decision IX/8](#)). Global and regional capacity-building programmes could provide technical support and facilitate peer-to-peer exchange, complementing national activities supported by the financial mechanism in line with the four-year framework of programme priorities related to utilization of GEF resources for biodiversity for the period from 2010 to 2014 ([decision IX/31](#)). Capacity-building on gender mainstreaming in accordance with the Convention's gender plan of action, and for indigenous and local communities concerning the implementation of the Strategic Plan at national and subnational levels should be supported.
21. The Strategic Plan will be implemented through the programmes of work of the Convention on Biological Diversity, implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other national, regional and international activities.
22. **Clearing-house mechanism and technology transfer:** Collectively those involved in implementing the Convention have a wealth of experience and have developed many useful good practice cases, tools and guidance. There is additional useful information beyond this community. A biodiversity knowledge network will be developed, including a database and network of practitioners, to bring together this knowledge and experience and to make it available through the clearing-house mechanism to facilitate and support enhanced implementation of the Convention.¹⁴ National clearing-house mechanism nodes comprising networks of experts with effective websites should be developed and sustained so that in each Party, all have access to the information, expertise and experience required to implement the Convention. National clearing-house mechanism nodes should also be linked to the central clearing-house mechanism managed by the Convention Secretariat, and information exchange between these should be facilitated.
23. **Financial resources:** The strategy for resource mobilization including the proposed concrete initiatives, targets and indicators to be developed, and processes for developing innovative mechanisms, provides a roadmap for achieving the effective implementation of Article 20, paragraphs 2 and 4, of the Convention, in order to provide adequate, predictable and timely new and additional financial resources, in support of the implementation of this Strategic Plan.¹⁵
24. **Partnerships and initiatives to enhance cooperation:** Cooperation will be enhanced with the programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations system as well as conventions and other multilateral and bilateral agencies, foundations and non-governmental organizations¹⁶ and indigenous and local communities, to support implementation of the Strategic Plan at the national level. Cooperation will also be enhanced with relevant regional bodies to promote regional biodiversity strategies and the integration of biodiversity into broader initiatives. Initiatives of the Convention such as South-South cooperation,¹⁷ promoting engagement of subnational governments, cities and local authorities,¹⁸ and business and biodiversity¹⁹ and promoting the engagement of

parliamentarians, including through inter-parliamentary dialogues will contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

25. **Support mechanisms for research, monitoring and assessment:** The following are key elements to ensure effective implementation of the Strategic Plan:
- a) Global monitoring of biodiversity: work is needed to monitor the status and trends of biodiversity, maintain and share data, and develop and use indicators and agreed measures of biodiversity and ecosystem change;²⁰
 - b) Regular assessment of the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services, future scenarios and effectiveness of responses: this could be provided through an enhanced role for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice as well as the proposed intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services;
 - c) Ongoing research on biodiversity and ecosystem function and services and their relationship to human well-being;²¹
 - d) The contributions of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to all the above;
 - e) Capacity-building and timely, adequate, predictable and sustainable financial and technical resources.

2 This note has been updated, consistent with the targets as adopted and taking into account the points listed in the footnote to paragraph 17 (g) of the present decision and is available as document [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27/Add.1](#).

3 [General Assembly resolution 61/295](#) of 13 September 2007.

4 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.

5 [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/INF/21](#).

6 See www.teebweb.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=bYhDohL_TuM%3d&tabid=924&mid=1813.

7 These include the following:

The need for baselines should be reflected in the technical rationales of several targets.

The definition of “other means” in the technical rationale of target 11 should be replaced with a definition of “other effective area-based conservation measures”.

The paramount importance of water should be highlighted in the technical rationale of target 14

A reference to Article 16 of the Convention will be added to the technical rationale of target 19.

An updated document is available as [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27/Add.1](#).

8 [Decision BS-V/16](#), annex

9 The note, updated consistent with the targets as adopted and [decision X/2](#), is available as [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27/Add.1](#).

10 Note that the international regime on access and benefit-sharing is constituted of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising from their Utilization, as well as

- complementary instruments, including the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Bonn Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising Out of Their Utilization ([decision X/1](#), preamble).
- 11 A full list of programmes and initiatives is available at: www.cbd.int/programmes
- 12 The TEMETEA modules for the coherent implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and related instruments may be a useful tool to support this.
- 13 A note on provisional technical rationale, possible indicators and suggested milestones for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is provided as [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/27/Add.1](#).
- 14 The prospective Biodiversity Technology Initiative is relevant ([decision X/6](#)).
- 15 See also [decision X/3](#).
- 16 Including, among others, UNEP, UNDP, the World Bank, FAO and IUCN.
- 17 See also decisions [X/25](#) and [X/23](#), on a multi-year plan of action for South-South cooperation on biodiversity for development for the period 2011-2020.
- 18 [Decision X/22](#) on the Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities on biodiversity. See also the Aichi/Nagoya Declaration on Local Authorities and Biodiversity.
- 19 Decisions [VIII/17](#) , [IX/26](#) and [X/21](#).
- 20 The GEO-Biodiversity Observation Network, with further development and adequate resourcing, could facilitate this, together with Global Biodiversity Information Facility and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership.
- 21 This is facilitated by, *inter alia*, DIVERSITAS, the Programme on Ecosystem Change and Society and other global change research programmes of the International Council for Science (ICSU).

Annex 2

Resolution XI.3 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 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 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 3.2 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 and quality, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, environmental flows, environmental integrity, 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 and quality, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, environmental flows, environmental integrity, 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, 1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7 & 3.5</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>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 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>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 2.6 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 6: 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 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 and quality, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, environmental flows, environmental integrity, 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 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 7: By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.</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 and quality, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, environmental flows, environmental integrity, 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 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 8: By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.</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 and quality, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, environmental flows, environmental integrity, 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>Target 9: 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 and quality, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, environmental flows, environmental integrity, 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 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, 4th ed.).</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 2.7 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>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 and quality, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, environmental flows, environmental integrity, 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 and quality, coastal protection, integrated coastal zone management, environmental flows, environmental integrity, 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>

<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</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 1.6 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 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 2.4 Ramsar Site ecological character. Maintain the ecological character of all designated Ramsar Sites, through planning and management.</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 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>STRATEGY 4.4 Working with IOPs and others. Maximize the benefits of working with the Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others.</p>
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<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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