

## Meeting of the 5th Strategic Plan (SP5) Working Group

Thursday 1 June 2023, 05.00 – 06:20 CEST (by videoconference)

### Participants

- Working Group members: Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Eswatini, Finland, Japan, Slovakia, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Zambia, STRP WWT, YEW
- Observer: BirdLife
- Secretariat: Deputy Secretary General
- Consultant: Rob McInnes + team members

### Minutes

1. The Co-Chair, Luiz Eduardo Andrade de Souza, the National Focal Point for Brazil, opened the meeting, welcomed participants and introduced the agenda. The Co-Chair stressed the importance of focusing on process at this stage of the development of the new strategic plan and that matters regarding implementation would be addressed later in the process.
2. The Consultant (Rob McInnes) was invited to share an update on the engagement and consultation strategy. The Consultant thanked members of the Working Group for their comments and that he had made a best effort to incorporate comments into the revised version of the strategy. Overarching takeaways from the comments received was the need to engage a broader range of stakeholders, particularly at the regional level, and that the engagement approach and ultimately the strategic plan needed to be adaptable to regional and local contexts.
3. The Consultant shared a revised work plan (annexed to these minutes) and the Co-Chair invited comments to the work plan.
4. Australia inquired as to the nature of the strategic plan website referenced in the work plan. The consultant clarified that web pages to support the development of the strategic plan would be embedded in the Convention website and that the Secretariat would develop these web pages. The Secretariat indicated that the development of these pages had been discussed internally and that the Secretariat was envisioning areas of content to include strategic plan working group member information, meetings (past and planned with past meeting minutes), and documents with the possibility of a function to comment on documents. The web page would be live in early July to coincide with the launch of the updated Convention website.
5. The Chair of the STRP expressed the importance of ensuring that current and past information on implementation of the current strategic plan was available to inform the development of the new strategic plan and suggested an information package on the status of wetlands as background information. The Consultant and the Co-Chair expressed that this was a good suggestion and thought would be given as to what background information should be provided and how.
6. Zambia noted that for some countries an “invitation” to participate in the strategic plan development process was needed to make sure relevant authorities were aware of the process and that designated focal points receive authorization to participate. The Secretariat indicated it could

send a notice to Contracting Parties and looked to the Co-Chairs and the Consultant as to what the content of the notification would be.

7. Colombia stressed the importance of realizing synergies with other processes notably the Global Biodiversity Framework and harnessing opportunities presented at the regional level with an example being the upcoming meeting in Colombia of the Society of Wetland Scientists.
8. Switzerland noted the additional time would be needed for translation of the information gathering questionnaire into local languages and suggested the work plan be adjusted to reflect this. There was agreement from the Group that this adjustment should be made.
9. A question was raised about the workshop proposed on the margins of SC62. The Co-Chair indicated that the content and format of the workshop would be informed by work taking place over the coming months and that more information on the proposed workshop would be shared with the Working Group in due course.
10. The Chair of the STRP was invited to share work undertaken to date by the STRP noting how the STRP envisions contributing to the development of the new strategic plan. Contributions and areas of advice the STRP is prepared to make to the process include; targets, barriers to wetland conservation and wise use, opportunities, action pathways and indicators.
11. Australia, as the liaison for the Youth Working Group to the Strategic Plan Working Group, provided an update on the work undertaken to date by the Youth Working Group and how the Youth Working Group intends to support the strategic plan development process.
12. The Co-Chair thanked members for their participation in the meeting, noting that it was both early and late for many of the participants.

### **Action Items**

- The Consultant to develop a draft of the questionnaire.
- The Consultant to update the work plan to provide more time for distribution of the questionnaire to account for the need translation and the time required by countries to disseminate the questionnaire to relevant stakeholders.
- The Secretariat to circulate the presentation provided by the Consultant and the STRP Chair with the meeting minutes.
- The Co-Chairs, the Consultant and the Secretariat to develop the strategic plan web page for launch in early July.
- The Consultant to attend the Youth Engaged in Wetlands virtual meeting in July.
- If Working Group members have any further comments on the work plan or items discussed, please send comments to the Co-Chairs at [spwg@ramsar.org](mailto:spwg@ramsar.org).