



COP14  **2022**

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

**“Wetlands Action for People and Nature”
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Resolution XIV.16

Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies

1. RECOGNIZING wetlands as globally important ecosystems, unique conveyors of the global water cycle, nutrient cycles and energy flows, and providers of a variety of irreplaceable functions and services such as fresh water, food, hydrological and climate regulation, cultural heritage and health protection (*Global Wetland Outlook*, 2018), and FURTHER RECOGNIZING that wetlands have a central position in the promotion of global sustainable development, especially in maintaining global biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to climate change, poverty eradication and disaster risk reduction;
2. ALERT TO THE FACT that, globally, wetlands have declined by 35% since 1970 and that the trend of decline has not been effectively halted (GWO; *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services* (IPBES), 2019); and that this trend will affect the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), mitigation and adaptation to climate change under the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;
3. TAKING NOTE, with deep concern, that many wetland-dependent communities face persistent levels of poverty, including extreme poverty, inequalities, unemployment and food insecurity, and RECOGNIZING the need to strengthen the sustainable use of biodiversity to support sustainable livelihoods and address the social and economic challenges that often undermine the implementation of conservation, restoration and management activities;
4. NOTING that the *Global Wetland Outlook* states that the direct drivers of wetland decline include changes in physical regimes such as hydrology and sedimentation, extraction such as water use and fishing, eutrophication, pollution and invasive species, and structural modification such as wetland drainage and conversion of wetlands for different uses; while indirect drivers include the supply of water energy, food and fibre, infrastructure, tourism and recreation; and that these factors are interconnected and strongly influenced by both governance and the adverse impacts of climate change;
5. AWARE THAT cross-sectoral interventions at the regional, national and local levels are vital means of addressing adverse drivers (IPBES, *idem*) and that addressing direct and indirect

drivers of biodiversity loss requires the mobilization of government, the private sector and society as a whole through integrated and holistic planning and implementation (Global Biodiversity Outlook 5, 2020); and FURTHER NOTING that halting the drivers of wetland decline requires the implementation of national wetland policies through integrated and systematic strategies which contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

6. RECALLING that Article 3.1 of the Convention, Recommendation 6.9 and Resolution VII.6 request Contracting Parties to develop and implement national policies for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and FURTHER RECALLING the relationship between wetlands and the achievement of the SDGs, recognized in Resolution XI.21, the Strategic Plan for 2016-2024 of the Convention, and Resolutions XIII.13, XIII.14, XIII.16, XIII.19, IX.4 and VIII.32;
7. FURTHER RECALLING Resolutions IX.1 and its Annex C, Resolution IX.3 and Resolution XII.12, which call upon Contracting Parties to strengthen integrated management of water resources; Resolution IX.1 Annex Ci and Resolution VII.18 which invite Parties to strengthen integrated river basin management; Resolution VIII.4 focusing on integrated coastal zone management; Resolution IX.20 on integrated wetland management in small island States; and Resolution XIII.20 on promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically associated habitats;
8. CONCERNED that the Convention still lacks national-level wetland conservation and restoration tools which help Contracting Parties integrate wetlands with climate change, water, biodiversity and sustainable development policies, strategies and tools;
9. NOTING that Contracting Parties have introduced national integrated wetland conservation and restoration frameworks; and
10. AWARE that integrating wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies or subnational strategies, as appropriate, may facilitate coordinated and integrated policies and actions on wetland conservation and restoration with those addressing climate change policies, water quality and quantity, and biodiversity loss, agriculture, health, disaster risk reduction, urban development and poverty eradication, in line with national circumstances and priorities;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

11. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to integrate wetland conservation, restoration, sustainable management and wise-use policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies, and to evaluate the role of wetland conservation and restoration in national and global sustainable development strategies in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as nationally determined contributions and adaptation plans under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and its land degradation targets;
12. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to integrate existing national wetland policies into national sustainable development strategies, to engage all relevant partners and stakeholders, and, where appropriate, deploy wetland focused nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to address climate change, while simultaneously providing biodiversity and human

wellbeing benefits, in alignment with Resolution XIV.17 on *The protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystems in addressing climate change*;

13. RECOGNIZES that the effective integration of wetland conservation, restoration, and wise-use policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies is dependent upon adequate resources, including financing which may require the need to mobilize increased financial resources from all sources, capacity building and exchange of knowledge, in particular for developing country Contracting Parties;
14. RECOGNIZES the importance of advocacy for wetlands for the effective integration of wetland conservation, restoration and wise-use policies and actions into national sustainable development strategies;
15. RECOGNIZES that, in the context of the Convention on Wetlands, sustainable development is consistent with and supportive of the conservation and wise use of wetlands through maintaining or enhancing their ecological character;
16. RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties conduct systematic national wetland inventories, using the *New Toolkit for National Wetland Inventories of 2020*, assess the status and trends of wetlands, analyse national needs and gaps in wetland conservation, develop integrated, systematic and adaptive conservation and restoration planning, and develop integrated national management actions for wetlands and other associated ecosystems as appropriate;
17. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to set targets for the management of wetlands, consider the principles of wise use in spatial land-use planning processes and integrated coastal management to avoid, minimize, or where necessary compensate for the conversion of wetlands, and ensure that environmental impact assessments are undertaken and measures identified to minimize the impacts of projects on wetland ecosystems, and protect and maintain the ecological character of wetlands;
18. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to identify the status of national and local degraded wetlands, set wetland restoration targets, and take measures to enhance the condition of wetland ecosystems and arrest their loss;
19. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to monitor policies and actions regularly to conserve, restore and sustainably manage wetlands; and RECOGNIZES that effective monitoring of progress is dependent upon the establishment of measurable targets in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Biodiversity Framework of the CBD using relevant indicators and ensuring regular progress reporting;
20. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, where appropriate and in line with national circumstances, to develop international wetland conservation and restoration, sustainable use and management partnerships, including for transboundary water basins and to reflect the migratory connectivity of species, in cooperation with neighbouring countries within the relevant frameworks;
21. REQUESTS the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to strengthen case studies and development of tools for the integration of national wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies and to develop technical guidelines; and REQUESTS

the CEPA Oversight Panel to further promote the important role of wetlands in the national and global sustainable development agenda, including as part of NBSAPs under the CBD;

22. INVITES International Organization Partners to work with relevant stakeholders to provide support to the integration of wetland conservation and restoration into sustainable development plans and programmes; and
23. REQUESTS that the Secretariat enhance cooperation with UNFCCC, UNCCD, the CBD, other multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant organizations to promote global mainstreaming of wetland conservation and restoration, sustainable use and management.