

# Consultancy for Policy Review and Plan Development Fifth Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan

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Strategic Plan Working Group Meeting (SC62)  
4<sup>th</sup> September 2023



# 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan

## Consultancy team

- Eight team members
- Allocated one team member per Region
- All team members have experience with different aspects of the Convention
- All the team are willing to work with Contracting Parties and support the development of the 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan



Team member	Region	Email
Rob McInnes	Global	rob@rmwe.co.uk
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Agenda item 3:  
**Update on activities to date**

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# Update on activities

## Consultancy programme

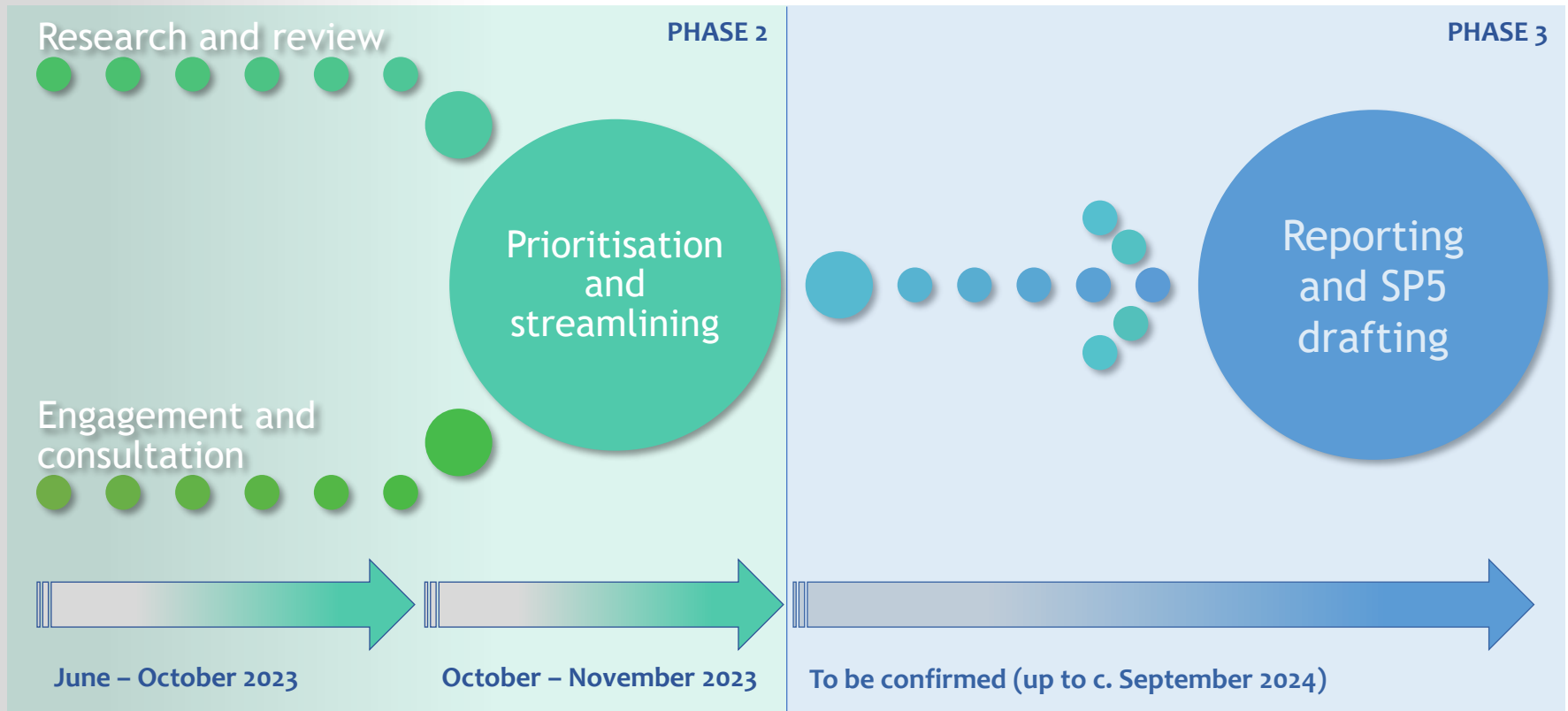
- The Convention is developing the 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan (SP5) in three phases
  - **Phase 1.** Preliminary scoping, work planning, develop engagement and consultation strategy (October 2022 to June 2023 - Completed)
  - **Phase 2.** Document review and research including engagement and consultation (June 2023 – November 2023 - On-going)
  - **Phase 3.** Plan development (Timing TBC – Contingent on COP15)



# Update on activities

## SP5 parallel workstreams

- Two parallel workstreams:
  - Research and review
  - Engagement and consultation
- (Verifiable audit trail)
- Development of SP5



# Update on activities

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## Research and review

- National Reports
- Resolutions
- Published documents
  - GWO
  - Regional Outlooks
  - Peer-reviewed papers
  - Reports
- Synergistic initiatives (GBF, SDGs, NDCs)
- Synthesis and audit trail



# Update on activities



## Research and review

- Initial high-level observations:
  - National Reports are the critical reporting mechanism
  - Potential alignment with other reporting processes and particularly the use of indicators
  - Drivers of threats to wetlands are not universal or consistent (regional and economic differences)
  - Solutions to delivery of conservation and wise use may be hierarchical

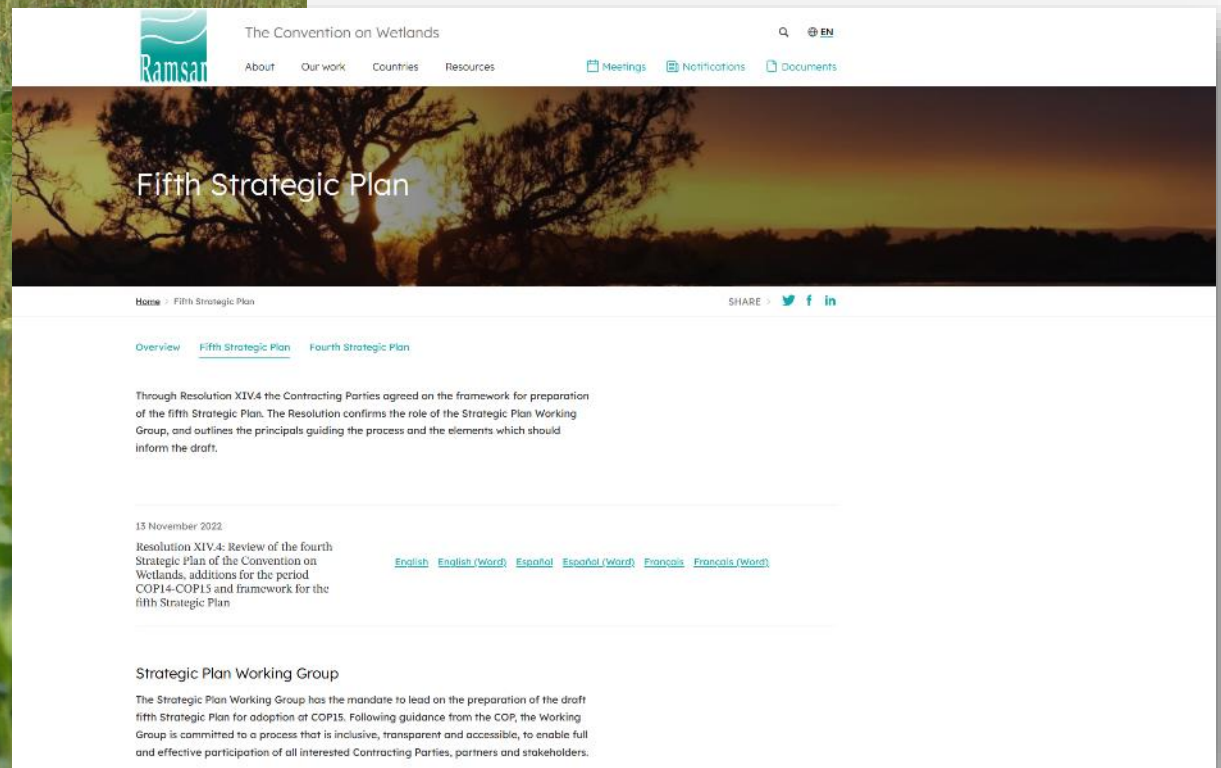




# Update on activities

## Engagement and consultation

- Initial consultation at COP14
- Web page has gone live (<https://www.ramsar.org/fifth-strategic-plan>)



The screenshot shows the Ramsar Convention website page for the Fifth Strategic Plan. The page features a header with the Ramsar logo and navigation links for 'About', 'Our work', 'Countries', and 'Resources'. There are also links for 'Meetings', 'Notifications', and 'Documents'. The main content area has a large image of a wetland at sunset with the title 'Fifth Strategic Plan'. Below the image, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Fifth Strategic Plan'. A 'SHARE' button with social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn is present. The main text states: 'Through Resolution XIV.4 the Contracting Parties agreed on the framework for preparation of the fifth Strategic Plan. The Resolution confirms the role of the Strategic Plan Working Group, and outlines the principals guiding the process and the elements which should inform the draft.' Below this, there is a date '13 November 2022' and a link to 'Resolution XIV.4: Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, additions for the period COP14-COP15 and framework for the fifth Strategic Plan'. At the bottom, there is a section for the 'Strategic Plan Working Group' with a paragraph explaining its mandate.

The Convention on Wetlands

About Our work Countries Resources Meetings Notifications Documents

## Fifth Strategic Plan

Home > Fifth Strategic Plan SHARE

Overview **Fifth Strategic Plan** Fourth Strategic Plan

Through Resolution XIV.4 the Contracting Parties agreed on the framework for preparation of the fifth Strategic Plan. The Resolution confirms the role of the Strategic Plan Working Group, and outlines the principals guiding the process and the elements which should inform the draft.

13 November 2022

Resolution XIV.4: Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, additions for the period COP14-COP15 and framework for the fifth Strategic Plan

[English](#) [English \(Word\)](#) [Español](#) [Español \(Word\)](#) [Français](#) [Français \(Word\)](#)

### Strategic Plan Working Group

The Strategic Plan Working Group has the mandate to lead on the preparation of the draft fifth Strategic Plan for adoption at COP15. Following guidance from the COP, the Working Group is committed to a process that is inclusive, transparent and accessible, to enable full and effective participation of all interested Contracting Parties, partners and stakeholders.

# Update on activities



## Engagement and consultation

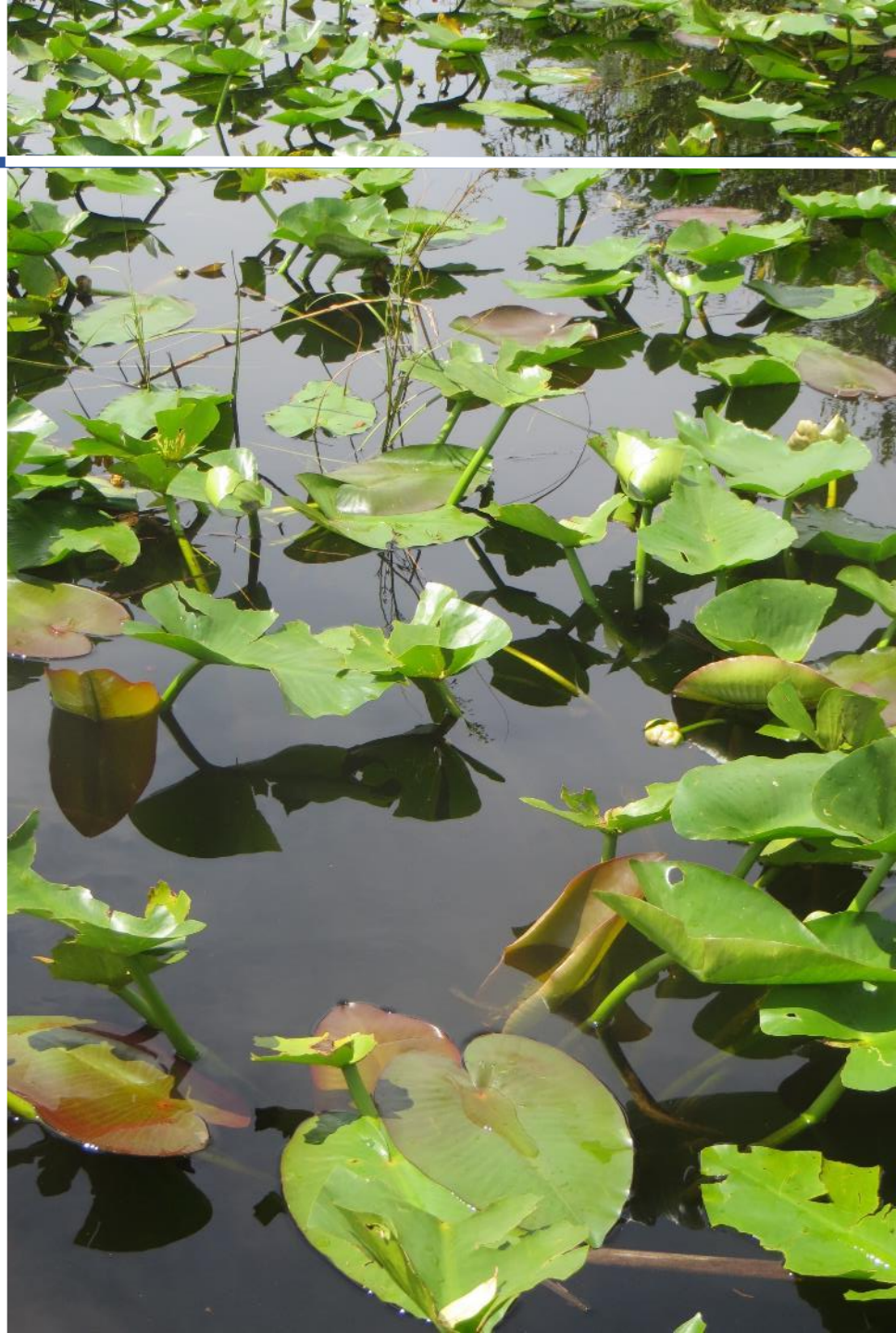
- Initial consultation at COP14
- Web page is live (<https://www.ramsar.org/fifth-strategic-plan>)
- Engagement & Consultation Strategy report produced



# Update on activities

## Engagement and consultation

- Different **Facilitation Groups** identified to assist in engagement and consultation activities:
  - Contracting Parties through their NFPs, CEPA NFPs and STRP NFPs (including the SP5WG)
  - The Convention Secretariat
  - IOPS both at global and regional levels
  - RRIs and RRCs
  - Other observers with formal links to the Convention
  - 5SP Consultants



# Update on activities

## Engagement and consultation

- Presentation at various meetings and with various organisations
  - Convention Secretariat
  - Youth Working Group
  - Asia, Oceania, Africa Pre-SC62 regional meetings
  - Society of Wetland Scientists



# Update on activities

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## Engagement and consultation

- Receiving responses to the questionnaire...
- Beginning to process questionnaire data...
- Designing next phase of consultation and engagement
- Awaiting feedback from Contracting Parties and other bodies to align activities





**Update on activities**

**Any questions?**

Agenda item 4:  
**Preliminary survey results**

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# Preliminary survey results

## Respondents

- To date (2<sup>nd</sup> September) received **686** responses
  - French = **25**
  - English = **436**
  - Spanish = **225**
- **c.18%** of all NFPs from Contracting Parties have completed the questionnaire
- **c.30%** of members of the SP5WG have completed the questionnaire
- Responses received from **71** countries

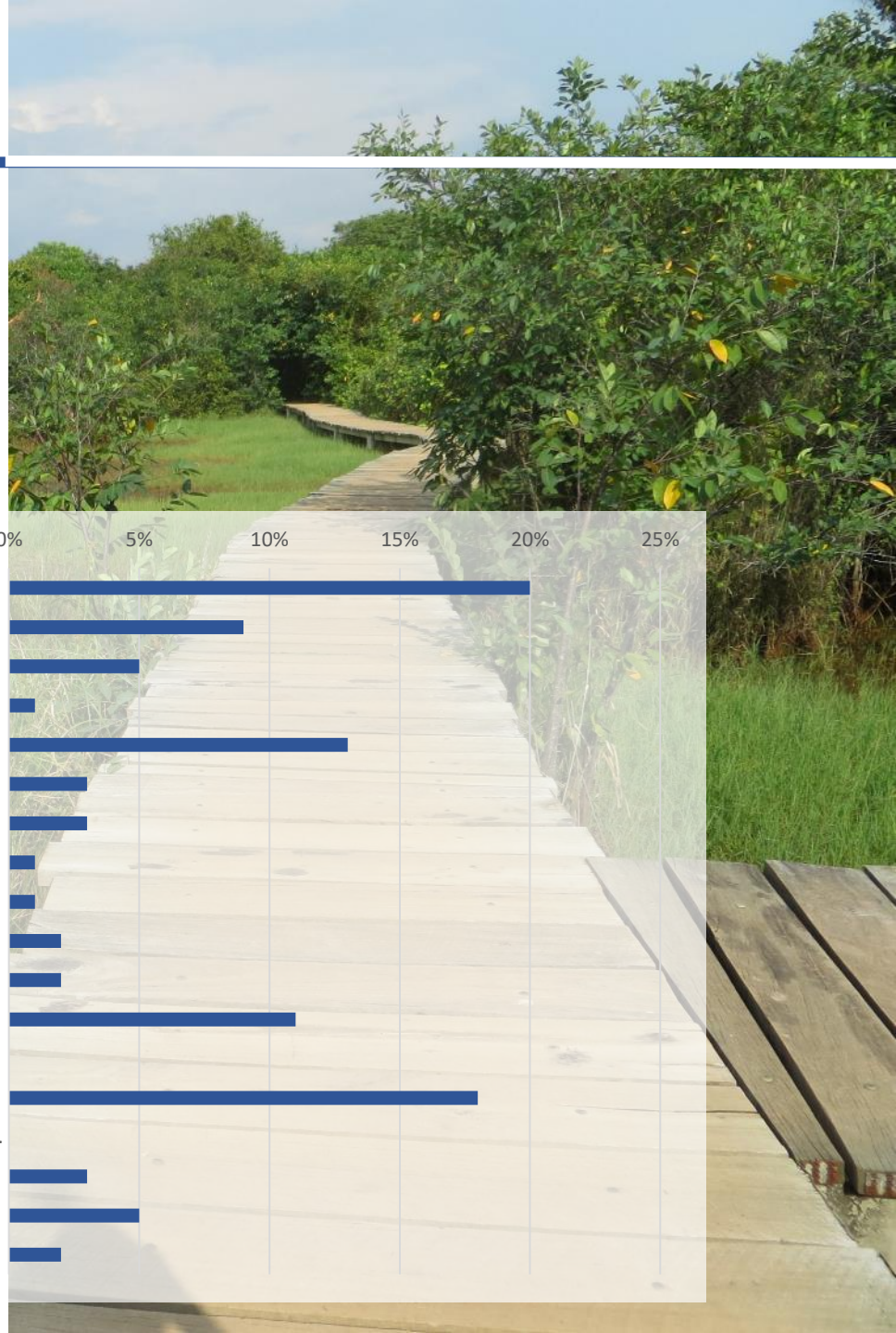
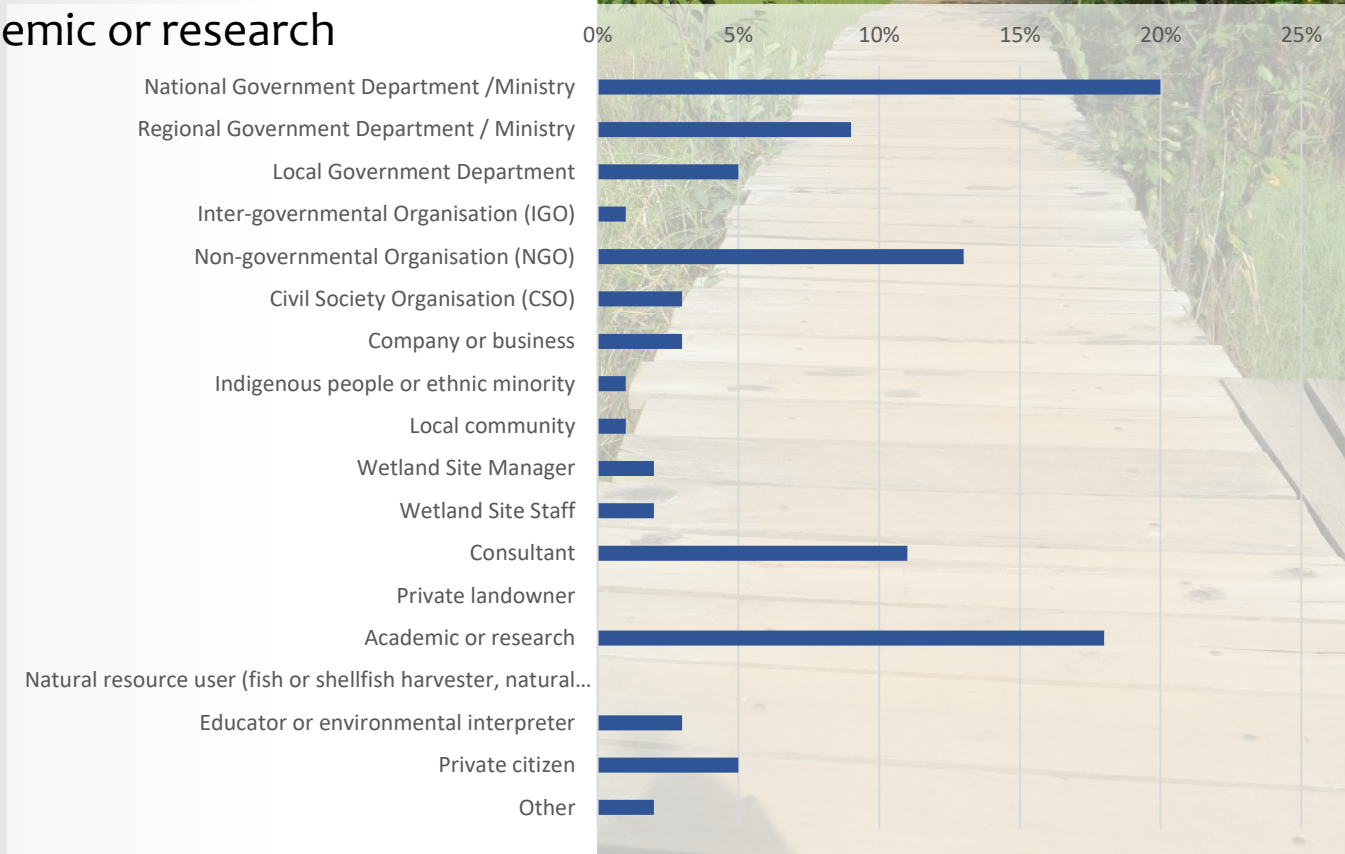




# Update on activities

## Respondees

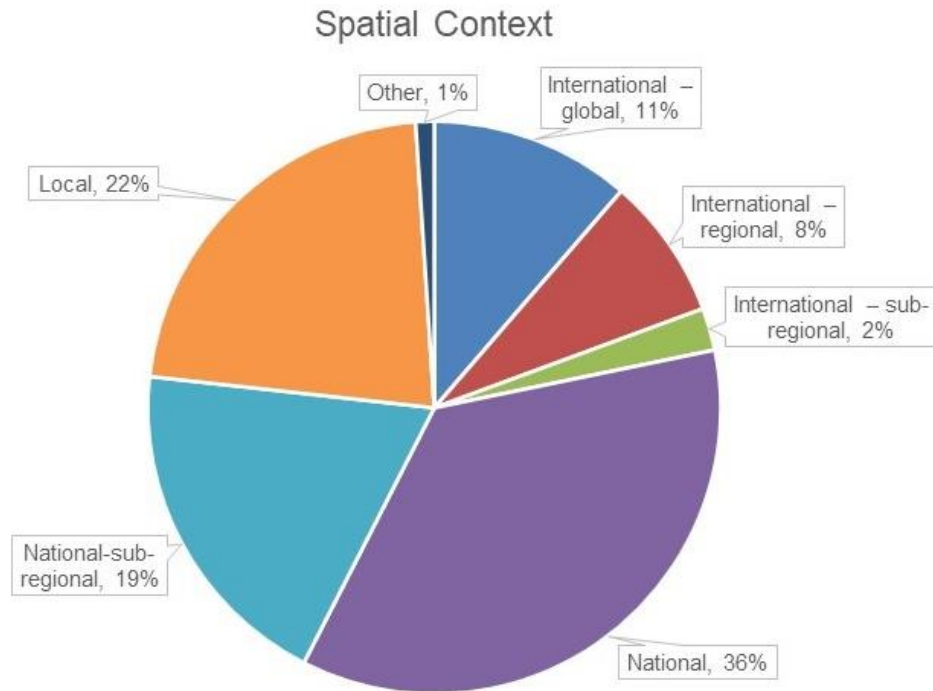
- Almost two thirds of responses from:
  - National government
  - NGOs
  - Consultants
  - Academic or research



# Update on activities

## Spatial context

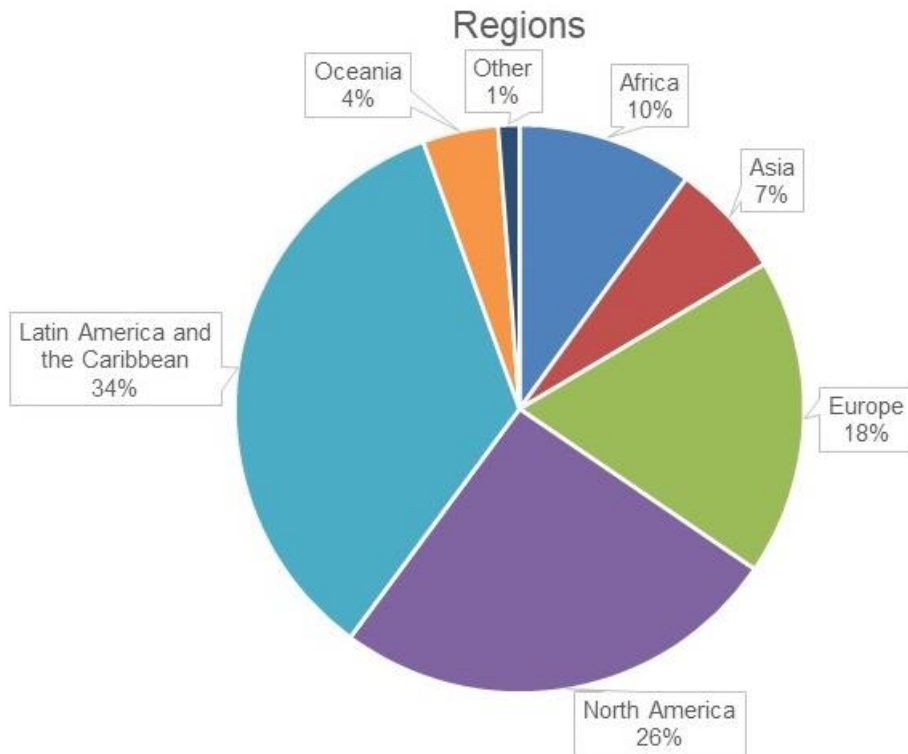
- Reponses represent a range of scales



# Update on activities

## Spatial context

- Responses received from all Regions



# Update on activities

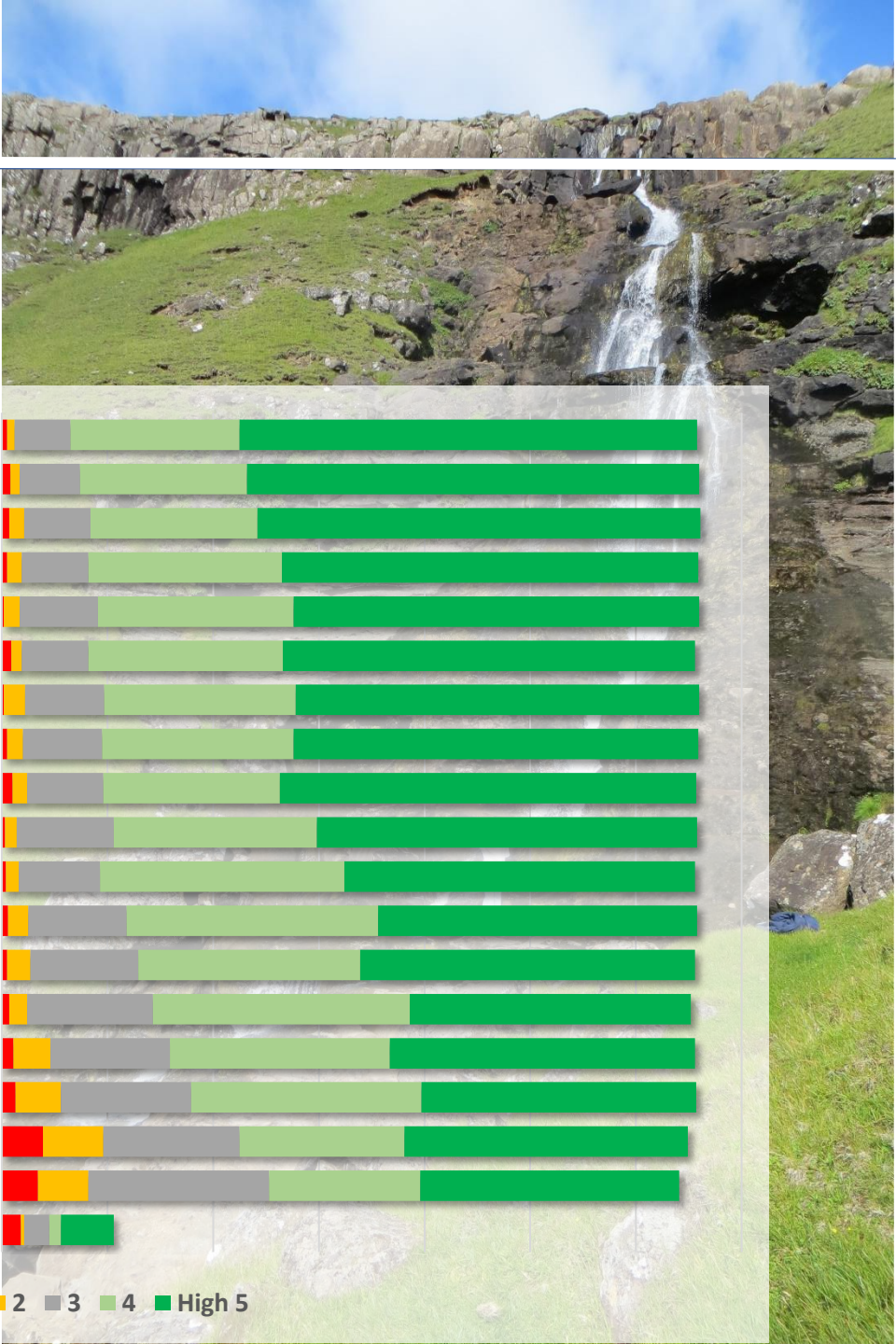
## Drivers of wetland state

- Identification of positive and negative drivers

-100% -80% -60% -40% -20% 0% 20% 40% 60% 80% 100%

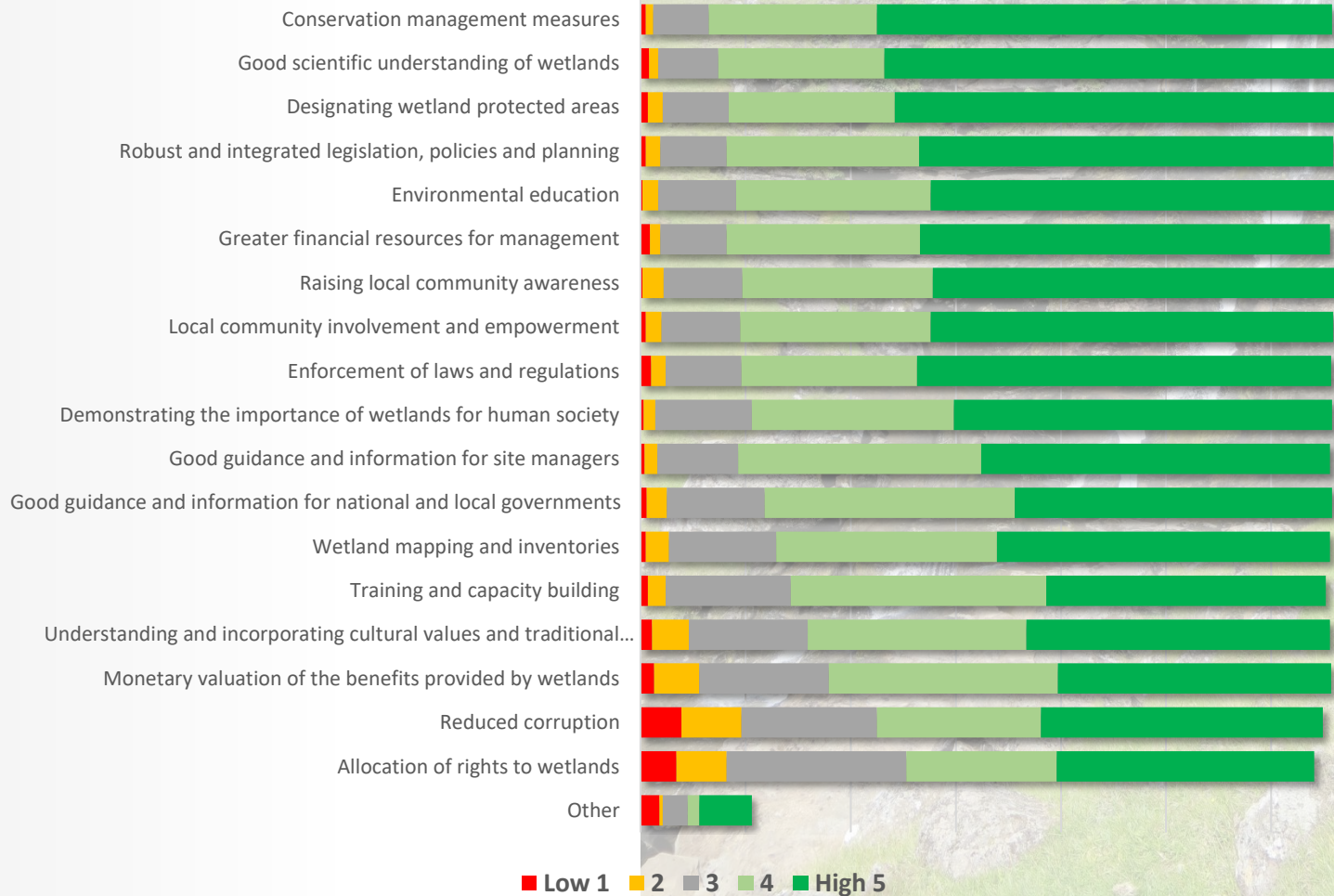


# Update on activities



## Solutions for wise use

- Emerging indication of priority measures and solutions



# Update on activities

## What happens next?

- Extending survey deadline to 29<sup>th</sup> September
- Processing the results of the questionnaire
- Identify gaps in respondents
- Highlight key issues
- Develop next phase of engagement and consultation



# Update on activities

## What happens next?

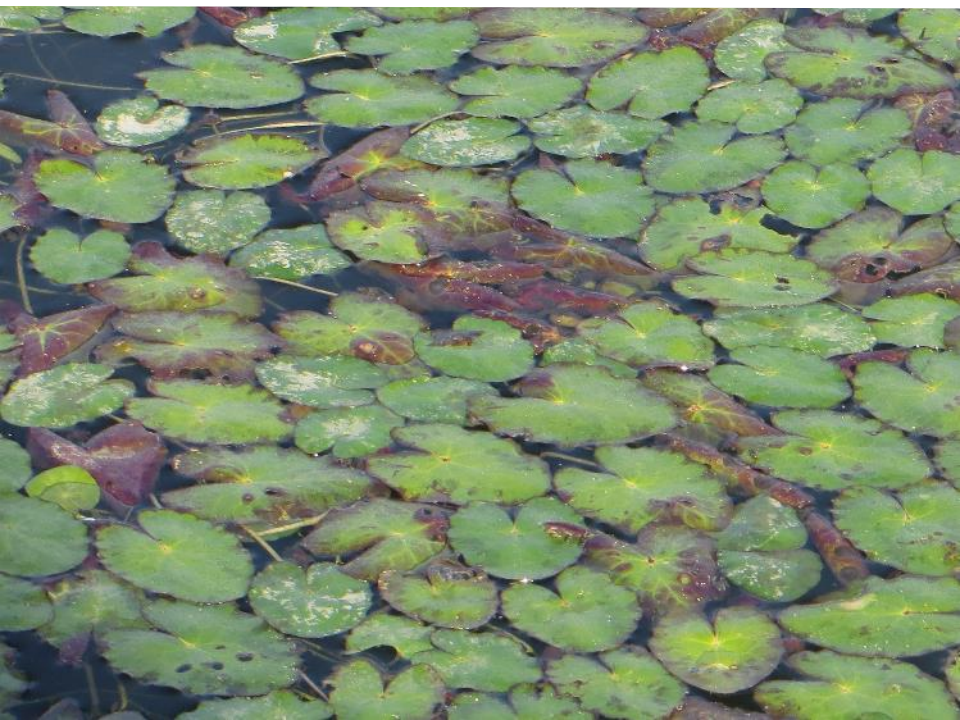
- Virtual workshops?
  - National
  - Regional
- Engagement with other Convention bodies (STRP, IOPs, CEPA Oversight Panel, etc.) through facilitation groups
- Face-to-face meetings
  - Presentations
  - Workshops
- **Suggestions?**
  - **What does the SP5WG recommend?**





Agenda item 6:

## Review of current SP4 targets





# Review of SP4 targets

## Current construct

- Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation
  - 4 Targets
- Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network
  - 3 Targets
- Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands
  - 6 Targets
- Goal 4: Enhancing implementation
  - 6 Targets
- Each Target:
  - Tools, actions, resources
  - Key actors
  - Baseline
  - Indicators



# Review of SP4 targets



## Historical construct

- SP1 to SP3 had similar but different constructs to SP4
- General objectives
- Operational objectives (areas of activity)
- Actions
- Continuity lies more with National Report structure and questions than with the Strategic Plan

# Review of SP4 targets

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## Other constructs

- Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
  - Four overarching global Goals
  - 23 Targets with sub-targets
  - Headline indicators (for Goals and Targets)
  - Component indicators
  - Complementary indicators
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)
  - 17 Goals
  - 169 Targets
  - 241 Indicators



# Review of SP4 targets



## Points for discussion

1. What are the main challenges for Contracting Parties in delivering against Goals and Targets in SP4?
2. Is there a preferred structure for Goals, Targets, Indicators, etc?
3. Are all Goals and Targets equal or should there be a hierarchical structure, a prioritisation process or regional/economic stratification?
4. At what level should streamlining with other processes take place (Target, Indicator, etc.?)

Agenda item 7:

## Monitoring and indicators

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# Monitoring and indicators

## Background

- The link between National Reports and indicators is critical
- Continuity of reporting provided by the NRs is important to track long-term progress of the Convention
- Therefore, indicators should align with NRs
- Not all SP4 indicators are assessed in the NRs
- NRs have evolved over time

# Monitoring and indicators

## Points for discussion

1. Should the format and content of NRs be changed?
2. How do Contracting Parties use the SP4 tools, actors and indicators to complete their NRs?
3. The majority of indicators in SP4 are assessed as ‘% of Contracting Parties’. Is this appropriate to assess how the Convention is delivering on the conservation and wise use of wetlands?

