

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

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Update on activities

Mandate

- Resolution XIV.4 Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands:
 - FURTHER REAFFIRMS that the Convention's wise use principle considers the needs and aspirations of current and future generations
 - DECIDES that the process to develop the fifth Strategic Plan be inclusive, transparent and accessible to enable the full and effective participation of all interested Contracting Parties, partners and stakeholders
 - ENCOURAGES the new Working Group to use the thematic Annexes to the fourth Strategic Plan in the framing and development of the draft fifth Strategic Plan



Update on completed activities

Phase 2 workstreams

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



Update on activities

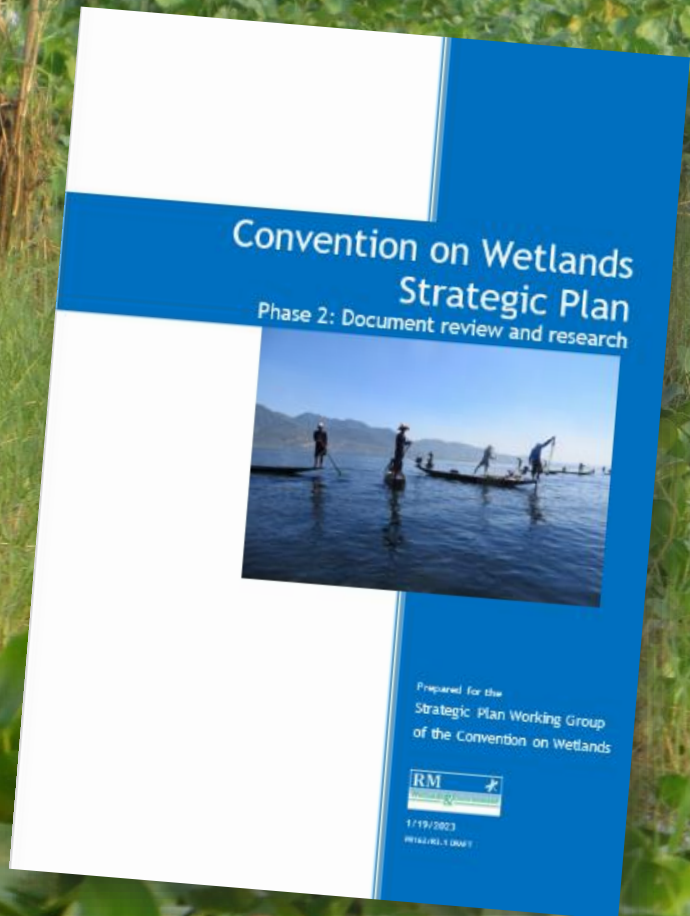
- Engagement and consultation
 - Over 1350 responses to questionnaire
 - 25 virtual workshops
 - Consulted over 200 people through other meetings
- Literature review
 - Over 100 peer-reviewed publications
 - Major reports, including GWO and other MEAs and intergovernmental organisations
- Convention implementation
 - Analysis of National Reports and other reports



Update on activities

Reporting

- *Phase 2: Document Review and Research* report submitted to the SP5WG
- Now online on the Convention's website
- This provides a robust evidence base that considers the needs and aspirations of current and future generations



Key messages

Synthesis

- Appropriate consideration is needed in aligning with other inter-governmental processes and concepts.
- There is strong and mutually supporting evidence of the direct drivers of wetland degradation and loss.
- **Agricultural** practices, **urban** pollution, invasive species and hydrological mismanagement are the main direct drivers of wetland degradation.
- Land conversion for **agriculture**, **urban** and infrastructure development are the main direct drivers of wetland loss.
- **Climate change** is the main ultimate driver of loss degradation and loss.
- There are a range of key solutions that need to be applied widely to help stem wetland degradation and loss, including reframing the **human-nature** relationship.
- The development and implementation of solutions needs to be context specific at the site level.
- The Convention on Wetlands needs to understand the reasons behind the limited implementation of the 4th Strategic Plan.
- The Convention's Centres, Initiatives and partners should be utilised to assist implementation at a site level.

Reflections



- The Convention cannot be expected to control the ultimate drivers
- The main drivers of wetland degradation and loss are clear
- Wetland loss and degradation are two different things
- But there are proven effective actions that can mitigate direct drivers
- The outside world's relationship with nature has moved on
- Historically the reporting focus has been on monitoring processes not outcomes
- The Convention is demonstrably struggling to deliver on its (strategic) objectives

Key questions considered

5th Strategic Plan

- What makes the plan strategic?
- What are the key priorities?
- Is transformative change required?
- What does it mean to align with other intergovernmental processes?
- Why align with other global processes that are demonstrably failing to deliver?
- How are negative conclusions transformed into positive action?
- How can the plan make the Convention become more effective?
- How can reporting move to assessing outcomes rather than processes?
- What is the best construct to achieve this?





The human-wetland relationship is broken

Degradation and loss of wetlands

(Exacerbated by) weak implementation of the Convention

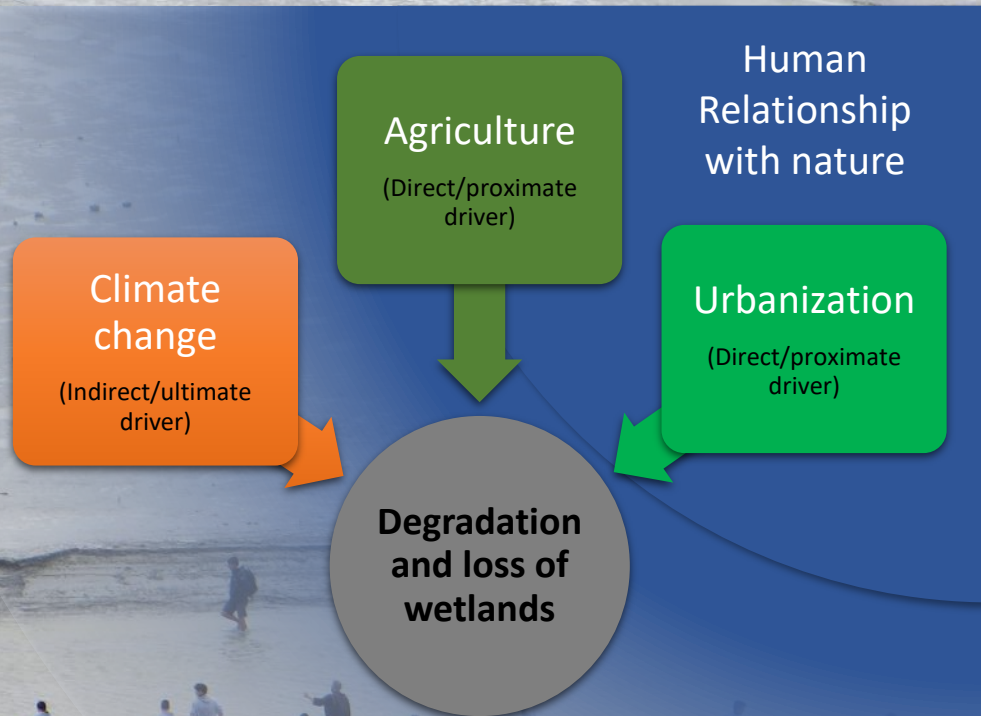
Alter the human-wetland relationship

Reverse the degradation and loss of wetlands

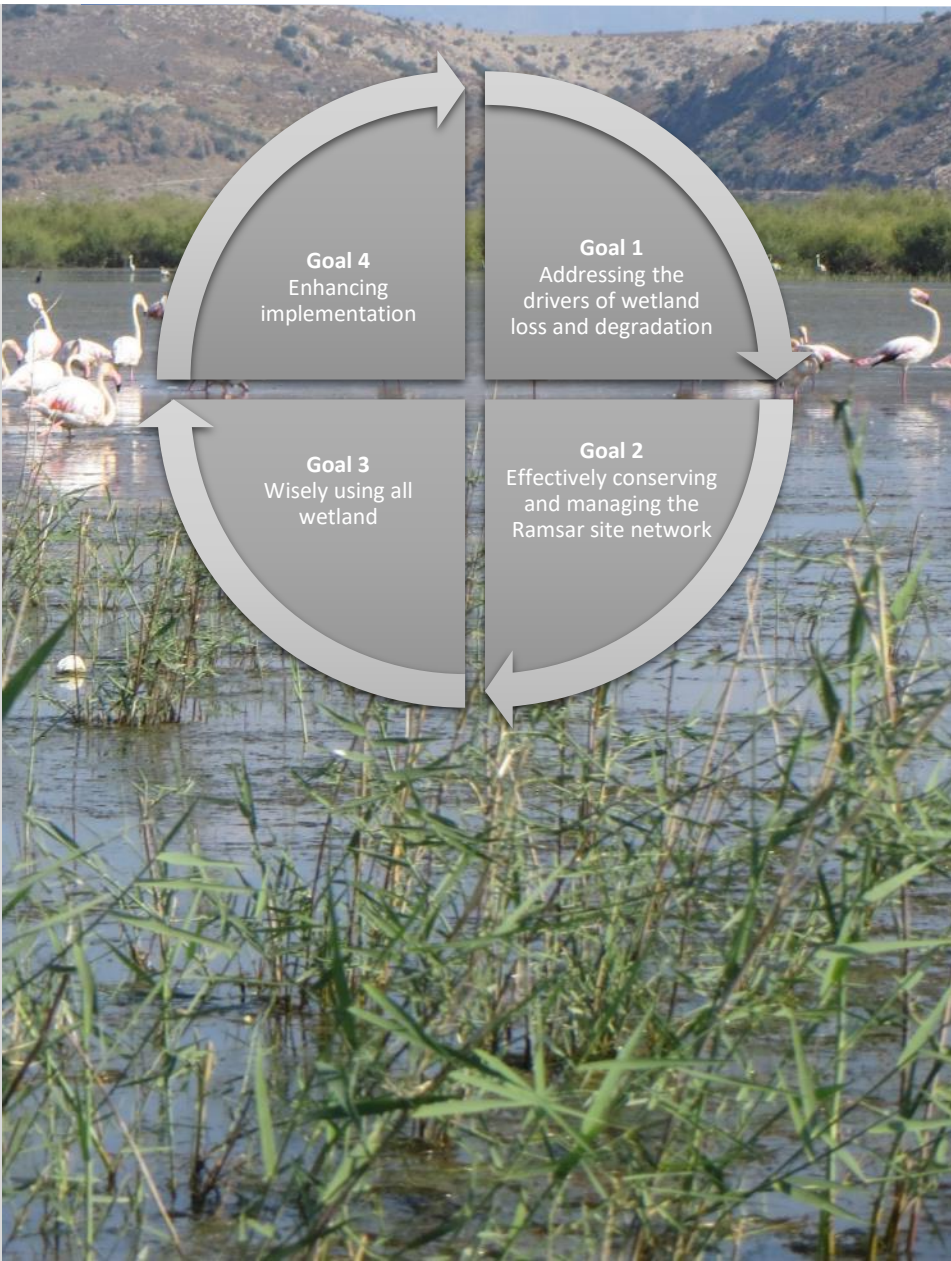
Enhance the implementation of the Convention

Goals - Targets – Activities – Inputs - Indicators

Priorities for SP5



Considerations for SP5WG



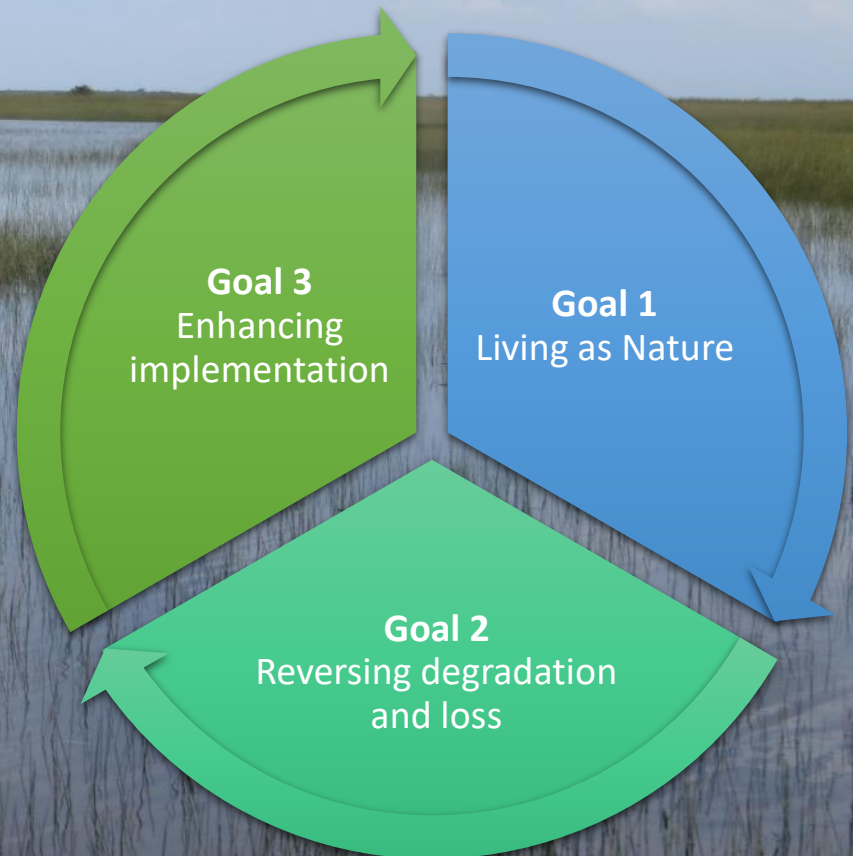
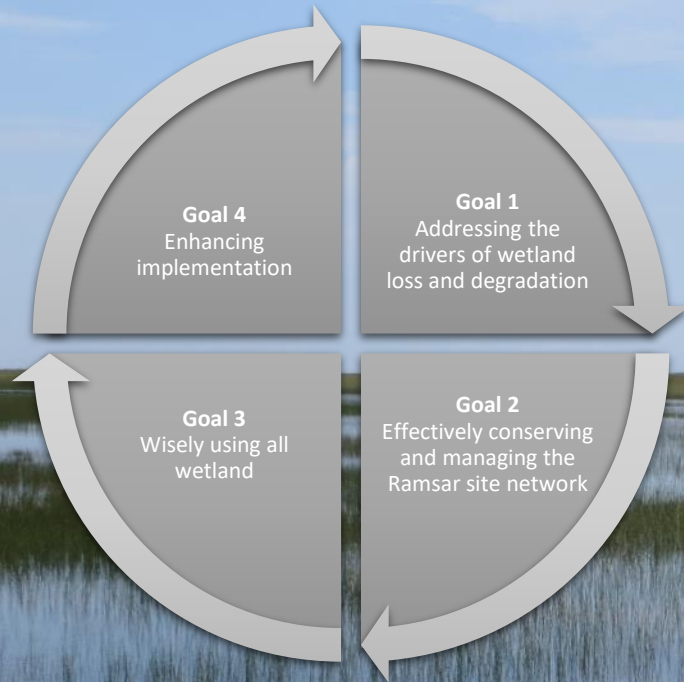
Existing Structure

- 4th Strategic Plan had four Goals and 19 Targets
- Targets had underlying information:
 - Tools, actions and resources
 - Key Actors
 - Indicators (and Baselines)
- SP5WG has expressed a desire to retain a similar structure but to streamline wherever possible

Proposed Draft Structure

- Based on a theory of change...
- Draft structure:
 - Three Goals (Outcomes)
 - Nine Targets (Outputs)
 - Activities-Inputs-Indicators

Proposed Goals



Proposed structure

