



Adopted by the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties at Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015, through Resolution XII.2

## The 4th Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 2022 update

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat – the “Ramsar Convention”

### The Mission of the Ramsar Convention

**Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.**

To achieve this Mission it is essential that vital ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature are fully recognized, maintained, restored and wisely used.

### Notes on the 2022 update:

In accordance with paragraphs 11, 12 and 14 of Resolution XIV.4 on *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, additions for the period COP14-COP15 and framework for the fifth Strategic Plan*<sup>1</sup>, the 4th Strategic Plan has been updated as follows:

- Annex 2 has been updated to map the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets to align with the Ramsar Strategic Plan goals and targets;
- three thematic Annexes have been added, to assist Parties in addressing emerging issues over the final triennium of the Plan, including:
  - Annex 3: Key actions to support practical implementation of the SDGs;
  - Annex 4: New approach to communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA); and
  - Annex 5: Gender considerations and the Convention on Wetlands.

The term of the 4th Strategic Plan has been extended from 2024 to the occurrence of COP15 to ensure continuity between successive Strategic Plans.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiv4-review-of-the-fourth-strategic-plan-of-the-convention-on-wetlands-additions>.

## Rationale

### A Vision for the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan

“Wetlands are conserved, wisely used, restored and their benefits are recognized and valued by all”

### Background

1. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, the first of which was prepared in 1997<sup>2</sup>. The work of the Convention has since 1997 been organized around three pillars: i) the wise use of all wetlands through national plans, policies and legislation, management actions and public education; ii) the designation and sustainable management of suitable wetlands for inclusion on the list of Wetlands of International Importance; and iii) international cooperation on transboundary wetlands and shared species.
2. The **wise use of wetlands** is the key concept orienting the work of the Ramsar Convention. “Wise use of wetlands” is defined as “the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development”. Wise use therefore has at its heart the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources, for the benefit of people and nature.
3. In the context of implementation of wetland activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity the Ramsar Convention is recognized as the lead and both conventions are striving to strengthen the cooperation and explore possibilities of synergy. In 2014 the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity invited the Ramsar Convention to provide elements of advice concerning the funding that may be referred to the Global Environmental Facility through the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>3</sup>.

### Importance of Wetlands

4. The Ramsar Convention is the first Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) at the global level, adopted in 1971. The Ramsar Sites network constitutes the largest network of officially recognized internationally important areas in the world. This network of wetlands, comprising 2,208 Ramsar Sites covering 210.7<sup>4</sup> million hectares as of 8 June 2015, constitutes the backbone of a global network of wetlands that maintain vital functions and provide ecosystem services for both people and nature. The identification and the management of these wetlands, for conservation and sustainability, is a core purpose of the Convention, essential for the realization of long-term benefits for biological diversity and people taking into account different approaches and visions.
5. Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.

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<sup>2</sup> Between 1997 and 2015, three Strategic Plans have been implemented: SP1 (1997 – 2002); SP2 (2003 – 2008); SP 3 (2009 – 2015)

<sup>3</sup> CBD Decision XII/30

<sup>4</sup> see <http://www.ramsar.org/>

6. Wetlands deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water supply, water purification, climate regulation, flood regulation, coastal protection, useful fibres, spiritual and cultural inspiration and tourism.
7. Wetlands play a key role in economic activity linked to transportation, food production, water risk management, pollution control, fishing and hunting, leisure and the provision of ecological infrastructure.
8. Most of the water we collect and use comes from wetlands<sup>5</sup>. However, water is unevenly distributed and today, over 700 million people live without access to safe drinking water. In addition 2.5 billion people lack sanitation impacting further on wetlands<sup>6</sup>.
9. Wetlands are too often equated with wastelands and there is little awareness of the vital services that wetlands bring.

### Trends in Wetlands

10. At a global level, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment<sup>7</sup> found that inland and coastal wetland ecosystems were (in 2005) being lost at a rate faster than that of any other ecosystem, and the trend towards loss of wetlands resources has not been reversed since. The primary indirect drivers of this degradation and loss are identified as population growth and change in economic activity; the primary direct drivers of degradation and loss are identified as infrastructure development, land conversion, water use, eutrophication and pollution, overharvesting, overexploitation of wetland resources, climate change and invasive alien species.
11. A recent study<sup>8</sup> of long-term and recent trends in global wetland area, based on a review of 189 reports of change in wetland areas finds that the reported long-term loss of natural wetlands averages between 54% and 57% but that loss may have been as high as 87% since 1700 AD. There has been a much (3.7 times) faster rate of wetland loss during the 20th and early 21st centuries, with a loss of 64% to 71% of wetlands since 1900. Conversion of coastal natural wetlands has accelerated more than that of inland natural wetlands in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and that conversion and loss is continuing in all parts of the world, and particularly rapidly in Asia.
12. In the report *Changes in the Global value of Ecosystem Services*<sup>9</sup>, the costs of loss of freshwater wetlands worldwide from 1997 to 2011 has been valued at US\$2.7 trillion per year, the costs of loss of tidal marshes / mangroves has been estimated at US\$7.2 trillion per year and the loss of coral reefs has been estimated at US\$11.9 trillion.
13. The report *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands*<sup>10</sup> notes that values of inland and coastal ecosystem services are typically higher than for other ecosystem types, that the “nexus” between water, food and energy is one of the most fundamental

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<sup>5</sup> Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, UNICEF, WHO, 2012

<sup>6</sup> See [http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash\\_statistics.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash_statistics.html)

<sup>7</sup> See <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.358.aspx.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> N. Davidson, How much wetland has the world lost? Long-term and recent trends in global wetland area, CSIRO Publishing, Marine and Freshwater Research, 2014, 65, 934 – 942, September 2014

<sup>9</sup> R. Costanza et al., Changes in the Global value of ecosystem services, *Global Environmental Change* 26 (2014) 152 - 158

<sup>10</sup> Russi D., ten Brink P., Farmer A., Badura T., Coates D., Förster J., Kumar R. and Davidson N. (2013) *The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands*. IEEP, London and Brussels; Ramsar Secretariat, Gland.

relationships – and increasing challenges – for societies, that wetlands provide ecological infrastructure that can help to reach a range of policy objectives, that wetland loss can lead to significant loss of human well-being and have negative economic impacts on communities, countries and businesses, and that wetlands-related and water-related ecosystem services need to become an integral part of water management in order to make the transition to a resource-efficient, sustainable economy.

14. The Convention on Biological Diversity's *Global Biodiversity Outlook 4*<sup>11</sup> also indicates that the trend of wetland loss and degradation is worsening. In contrast to natural wetlands, however, it notes that the area of human-made wetlands tends to be increasing, but the quality of these may be lower than that of the ones destroyed. Despite the partly good progress, additional action is required to achieve global Aichi Biodiversity Targets for 2020. For achieving the 2050 vision of an end to biodiversity loss in conjunction with key human development goals for climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, requires changes in society including much more efficient use of land, water, energy and materials, rethinking our consumption habits and in particular addressing trends in food production.

### Global Context

15. **Report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.** It is anticipated that all wetlands and the Ramsar Sites network will have a direct relevance for any Sustainable Development Goals which are related to water quality and supply, food and water security, adaptation to climate change, energy supply, healthy living, biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainable human settlements, poverty eradication, innovation and the development of appropriate infrastructure.
16. The Ramsar Sites network, and the effective management of Ramsar Sites and more widely the wise use of rest of the world's wetlands is an essential contribution to the work of not only the Convention on Biological Diversity but also the other Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the Convention on Migratory Species, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and the water-related Conventions.

### Review<sup>12</sup> of Progress in the Implementation of the Third Strategic Plan

17. A review of progress with implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan was made on the basis of National Reports to COP11 and responses by Contracting Parties and Ramsar partners to a questionnaire on the Strategic Plan in 2014.
18. The main conclusion of the review of implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan was that at an overall, global level, the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan can be characterized as a work in progress. It is noted that a number of core aspects of the Convention, such as the wise use of wetlands identification of potential Ramsar Sites, inventories, preparation of management plans, monitoring of Site status and ecological character, and reporting under the Convention continue to require regular attention and action.
19. The other main finding is that there is an increasing sense of urgency amongst Contracting Parties in the face of accelerating degradation and loss of wetlands and that responding to this

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<sup>11</sup> Report "Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An Assessment of Biodiversity Trends, Policy Scenarios and Key Actions" available at <https://www.cbd.int/gbo4advance>.

<sup>12</sup> A review of the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan has been completed and is available at [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605\\_4000\\_0](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605_4000_0).

requires enhanced engagement with drivers of loss and degradation in order to prevent, stop and reverse degradation through a mainstreaming of wetland values in public and private investments and management of wetlands.

### Priority Areas of Focus<sup>13</sup> for the Convention in the Next Nine Years

20. This summary of priority focus areas of the Ramsar Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Convention in the 2016 – 2024 period is drawn from National Reports to COP11, from the questionnaire on the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan completed by many Contracting Parties and partners in 2014, and from feedback received during the Pre-COP regional consultations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe in October and November 2014.
21. **Preventing, stopping and reversing the loss and degradation of wetlands:** The largest changes in loss of wetlands continue to be from unsustainable agriculture, forestry and extractive industries, especially oil, gas and mining, the impacts of population growth (including migration and urbanization) and changes in land use that override environmental considerations. Addressing and engaging the drivers behind these pressures on wetlands is a condition for limiting, adapting to, and mitigating their impacts. Realization of this fact and its consideration in planning and decision-making requires that wetland resources and wetland ecosystem benefits are measured, valued and understood widely within societies.
22. **Science-based advice and guidance:** Enhancing the generation and delivery of science based advice and guidance to practitioners and policy makers through the STRP and CEPA processes.
23. **Climate change and wetlands:** The critical importance of wetlands for climate change mitigation and adaptation is understood.
24. **Information about ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature:** The services, benefits, values, functions, goods and products that wetlands provide have not yet been integrated in national development plans. The lack of recognition of the role of wetlands to be able to exercise fully the human right to water and poverty reduction, is an important factor in its reduction as well as in the modesty of the efforts invested in restoring wetlands. The integral values and benefits, both material or non-material for people and nature, in a non-consumptive approach include spiritual, existential and future-oriented values.
25. **Communicating ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature:** Mainstreaming wetland values and enhancing the visibility of the Convention through reaching out with effective communications to decision makers and the wider public. This should contribute to an enhanced understanding of the contribution of wetland values to people's livelihoods and health, economic development and biodiversity, soil and water.
26. **Enhancing cooperation:** Coordinating / participating in cooperation platforms<sup>14</sup> (site level, city, river, lake and groundwater basins, national, regional and global levels), to promote mainstreaming of wetland values within water, soil and biodiversity management and public and private investments bringing together site and other managers, key private and public stakeholders.

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<sup>13</sup> Particular challenges and conditions are described for each region in the COP 11 Regional Overviews and in the responses to the Questionnaires to Contracting Parties and partners (see [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605_4000_0__))

<sup>14</sup> National Wetland Committees; biodiversity, water, regional bodies

27. **Implementing the Convention:** Improving compliance with Ramsar provisions concerning Ramsar Site updates, inventories of all wetlands and Wetlands of International Importance, maintenance of ecological character and management of sites, improving the ecological character where not good enough, especially on the Montreux Record, the preparation of management planning processes for all Ramsar Sites, and implementation of such management planning on the ground through the presence of staff, appropriate infrastructure and other resources.
28. **Identifying and designating wetlands as Ramsar Sites and transboundary Ramsar Sites,** based on national inventories to ensure their protection for the future and the inclusion of under-represented wetland types in the Ramsar Site network.
29. **Wise use of wetlands:** Wetlands that are providing local, basin-level, national, regional and global benefits, are well and actively managed to ensure that the ecological functions are maintained.
30. **Invasive alien species:** Acting to limit and eradicate invasive species in wetlands.
31. **Strengthen and support the full and effective participation** and the collective actions of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, for the existence of sustainable, comprehensive and wise use of wetlands.
32. **Synergies<sup>15</sup>:** Enhancing efforts to streamline procedures and processes including reporting and to facilitate data sharing amongst parties responsible for – or cooperating in – the implementation of this and other MEAs and related agreements. Through cooperation, aim to increase the identification of synergies with collaborating MEAs and other international processes at national and global levels.
33. **Financing:** Financing is needed to manage wetlands. The cost for non-action may be severe. Adequate financing is a particular challenge in many countries, especially developing countries.
34. **Basin perspective:** Analysing and expressing wetland functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature at river, lake and groundwater basin level, engaging with the stakeholders is necessary to recognize wetlands as part of a wider water cycle.

#### **Implementing the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan**

35. The 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 calls for actions to be undertaken by the Contracting Parties, supported by the Secretariat, the Ramsar Regional Initiatives, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the CEPA (Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness) network, and in collaboration with International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other international and intergovernmental organizations and MEAs.
36. Contracting Parties should implement the Strategic Plan at national and regional levels by developing national wetlands policies, strategies, action plans, projects and programmes or other appropriate ways to mobilize action and support for wetlands. This can be part of or supplement to the National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan.

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<sup>15</sup> Annex 2 shows convergence between Ramsar Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets.

37. It is understood that the Contracting Parties differ substantially in their situations and in their ability to implement the Convention. Each Party is encouraged to establish its own priorities within the Strategic Plan, develop its own work plan for implementing them, and consider its own use of its own resources. This strategic plan should be implemented as a contribution to the other internationally agreed environmental goals and targets.
38. Contracting Parties are encouraged to synergize their efforts aimed at implementing the Convention with measures that they take to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UN Convention on Migratory Species, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and other regional and global MEAs as they deem appropriate.

### **Enabling Conditions for Implementation**

39. The successful achievement of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan depends on the commitment and engagement of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders. Based on views expressed by Contracting Parties during the consultative process for the preparation of this Strategic Plan, a certain number of factors that will enable and facilitate implementation have been identified. Contracting Parties and Convention partners are urged to cooperate in the implementation of these measures.

### **Resource Mobilization**

40. International and national funding sources committed to the conservation and wise use of wetlands have been facilitated through private, public, national and international resources from all sources including the Global Environmental Facility. Despite this development, the funds available are insufficient to achieve the full suite of goals and targets expressed in this plan. Effective mobilization of additional resources for wetland conservation and wise use, and for engaging with drivers of wetland degradation and loss, is required at local, national, regional and global levels. This mobilization can be achieved through the Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework and the efforts of Contracting Parties, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, IOPs and the Secretariat's Partnership Unit.

### **Outreach and Promotion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan**

41. The Secretariat's activities in Communications will be enhanced, including CEPA (communications, education, participation and awareness raising), to enable the Convention to be better known and its mission more widely recognized, as well as increasing involvement of the target audience in wetlands issues. These efforts will support the CEPA Focal Points network and the outreach and promotion activities of Contracting Parties.

### **Partnerships**

42. The wise use of wetlands and their resources will ultimately involve a range of actors well beyond those responsible for the management and maintenance of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. This holds at local, national, regional and global levels where existing partnerships with Ramsar Regional Initiatives, IOPs and MEAs should be strengthened and new partnerships with civil society and the business sector forged in order to enhance Convention implementation and reverse the rates of loss and degradation of wetlands.

## International Cooperation

43. The Ramsar Convention has put in place a series of arrangements for international cooperation in order to link Ramsar with global debates and processes related to sustainable development including water, livelihoods, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, resilience and carbon sinks. These relationships will be consolidated over the coming period.
- The Ramsar Convention is the lead partner in the implementation of activities related to wetlands under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and has a responsibility to offer political, technical and scientific advice and guidance to the CBD and enhance cooperation between the two conventions at all levels.
  - The Parties to the Ramsar Convention have granted IOP status to six leading organizations (Birdlife International, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International, Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)) which are actively contributing in all the regions and on a regular basis to the further development of policies and tools of the Convention and their application at the national and local levels, particularly by assisting Contracting Parties to deliver conservation and wise use on the ground and meet their obligations under the Convention.
  - The Ramsar Convention participates in the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) bringing together the heads of the Secretariats of seven biodiversity-related conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species and Wild Animals (CMS); the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC); the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA); and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
  - Memorandums of understanding and cooperation have been signed<sup>16</sup> with 48 partners.

## Regional and Bilateral Cooperation

44. Regional and bilateral cooperation should be strengthened to enhance the conservation and wise use of wetlands and water resources. The Ramsar Regional Initiatives are effective mechanisms to promote and support regional and bilateral cooperation, capacity-building, technology and knowledge exchanges, wetland related information, communications and mobilization of financial resources for activities on the ground.
45. Further cooperation between Contracting Parties can be strengthened through the designation and joint management of Transboundary Ramsar Sites at river, lake and groundwater basin level, with the possible support, upon request, of the Ramsar Secretariat, Ramsar Regional Initiatives and IOPs as well as other Contracting Parties and international organizations.

## Capacity Building

46. Contracting Parties, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, IOPs and other partners need to address capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in a range of fields, including inventory, wetland management, wetland status monitoring and assessment,

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<sup>16</sup> The full list of the 48 memorandums of understanding / cooperation signed by the Convention can be found at [http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-mous/main/ramsar/1-31-115\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-mous/main/ramsar/1-31-115_4000_0__)



communications and promotion of wetlands and wetland values, scientific and technical knowledge and guidance, and knowledge and technology exchange.

### **Languages**

47. The use of additional languages by the Convention may constitute an important means for extending its reach and visibility in regions of the world where understanding of the work and value of the Convention is currently not well known.

### **Goals and Targets 2016 – 2024**

The Goals of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan have been formulated in recognition of the fact that a new approach is needed in order to change the negative direction of the trends described above.

These Goals constitute the four priority areas for the Ramsar Convention for the 2016 – 2024 period. They include three Strategic Goals and one Operational Goal which supports them.

The Table in Annex 1 presents more details about the goals, including the tools, lead actors, indicators, and baselines for the Goals and Targets outlined below.

### **Strategic Goals**

#### **Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation**

The multiple human impacts on wetlands are growing. Influencing the drivers of wetland degradation and loss and the integration of the role of wetland values (monetary and non-monetary) into planning and decision-making requires the development of a methodology that enables wetland resources and ecosystem benefits to be assessed so that the multiple environmental functions and benefits are understood widely within societies. Contracting Parties, the Secretariat, Regional Initiatives and IOPs will enhance their engagement with relevant stakeholders in order to diminish threats, influence trends, restore wetlands and communicate good practices.

- Target 1: Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level
- Target 2: Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale *inter alia* at the basin level or along a coastal zone.
- Target 3: The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.
- Target 4: Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

## **Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network**

Ramsar Sites constitute the largest network of officially recognized internationally important wetland areas in the world. This network constitutes the backbone of a larger network of wetlands. Parties must commit themselves to efforts to protect and effectively manage the existing Ramsar Sites and enable the full and effective participation of stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as to expanding the reach of the Convention by continuously working to add more sites and areas of wetlands recognized under the Convention.

Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.

Target 6: There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and Transboundary Sites.

Target 7: Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.

## **Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands**

The wise use of all wetlands requires that Parties ensure they are addressing wetlands beyond those currently included in the Ramsar Site network. This work may occur at the national, subnational, regional, and transboundary levels, including at basin level. Mainstreaming recognition of ecosystem functions, services and benefits into a wide range of sectors and with a broad array of actors will help ensure the success of this effort.

Target 8: National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.

Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, *inter alia*, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.

Target 10: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.

Target 11: Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.

Target 12: Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Target 13: Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.

## **Operational Goal**

### **Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation**

It will be vital for the survival of wetlands and the success of the Convention for Parties to enhance implementation of the Strategic Plan. Various approaches will help strengthen the implementation of the three Strategic Goals, and ultimately of the Convention itself. They involve critical actions to be undertaken by Contracting Parties themselves, and in partnership with other Parties and other entities, in particular with regard to scientific and technical advice and guidance, resource mobilization, public awareness, visibility and capacity building. The Ramsar Secretariat will also play a vital role in raising awareness and visibility of the Convention, as well as mobilizing resources to support enhanced implementation.

- Target 14: Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels are developed on relevant topics and are available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.
- Target 15: Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.
- Target 16: Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.
- Target 17: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.
- Target 18: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels.
- Target 19: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

1. The Table showing Goals, targets, tools, indicators and baseline in Annex 1 can be used as a basis for organizing the implementation of the Strategic Plan at national and other levels. Specific indicators are identified for each of the targets identified. These indicators will be monitored by Contracting Parties as appropriate.
2. The Standing Committee will keep the implementation of the Strategic Plan under review, based on regular reports from the Secretariat and the STRP, and based on National Reports prepared for each reporting cycle.
3. A review of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan at COP14 will be done and the modalities and scope for this review will be established at COP13, taking into account *inter alia* the outcomes of the discussions of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, the work of IPBES and coordination needs with regards to the review of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

4. **Global Indicators:** A small, regionally representative expert group meeting back-to-back with the meeting of the CBD's Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators in Switzerland in July 2015, including interested Contracting Parties, expert support from STRP, IOPs and other relevant MEAs and international processes will be constituted to develop options, for additional indicators for the Strategic Plan having regard in particular to:
- previous Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties related to indicators, including Resolution IX.1;
  - the need for indicators to address outcomes and effectiveness and to be capable of practical implementation;
  - the need to minimize cost of indicator implementation by using existing data and information flows, including through national reporting and reporting on Ramsar Sites.

## Annex 1: Ramsar Goals and Targets with Relevant Tools, Actors, Baselines and Indicators

<b>Strategic Goals</b>				
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b>				
<b>No</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Tools, actions and resources (non-exhaustive)</b>	<b>Key Actors (non-exhaustive)</b>	<b>Indicator(s) and Baselines</b>
1	Wetland benefits are featured in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level	<p>Engage with natural resource users at river, lake, groundwater basin and national level to integrate there the wetland contributions to water, biodiversity and sustainable development targets of the international community</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 2: National Wetland Policies  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/hbk4-02.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/hbk4-02.pdf]</a></p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 7: Participatory Skills  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-07.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-07.pdf]</a></p>	Contracting Parties, with support of Secretariat, IOPs, key sectors (water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure)	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>19% of Parties have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar Sites. (National Reports to COP12<sup>17</sup>).</p> <p>70% of Parties have included wetland issues within national strategies and planning processes such as water resource management and water efficiency plans. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>47% of Contracting Parties have included wetland issues within National Policies or measures on agriculture. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Parties that have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar Sites. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have included wetland issues within national strategies and planning processes such as water resource management and water efficiency plans. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have included wetland issues within National Policies or measures on agriculture. (Data source: National Reports).</p>

<sup>17</sup> Information based on 131 National Reports received to COP 12.

2	Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.	<p>Understand the water requirements and river, lake groundwater basin of wetland ecosystem services, and engage with water users at site and river basin and national level to maintain / restore and evaluate necessary water allocations.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 8: Water-related guidance  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-08.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-08.pdf]</a></p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 9: River basin management  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-09.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-09.pdf]</a></p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 10: Water allocation and management  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-10.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-10.pdf]</a></p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 11: Managing groundwater  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-11.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-11.pdf]</a></p>	Contracting Parties, with support of Secretariat, IOPs, productive sectors.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>70% of Parties have included wetland issues into national strategies and planning processes such as water resource management and water efficiency plans. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Parties that have included wetland issues into national strategies and in the planning processes such as for water resource management and water efficiency plans. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p> <p>{% of Ramsar sites which have improved the sustainability of water use in the context of ecosystem requirements}</p>
3	The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.	<p>Engage with business sector/private sector.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 5: Partnerships  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-05.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-05.pdf]</a></p>	Contracting Parties, with support of Secretariat, IOPs, business/public/private sector.	<p><b>Baselines</b></p> <p>50% of Parties report actions taken to implement incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>37% of Parties report actions taken to remove perverse incentive</p>

		<a href="#">b/hbk4-05.pdf</a>		<p>measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>60% of Parties report private sector undertaking activities for the conservation, wise use and management of wetlands in general. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>% of Parties have national Ramsar Committees that include both governmental and non-governmental representation. (Data source: new question for National Reports).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Parties reporting actions taken to implement incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties reporting actions taken to remove perverse incentive measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties reporting private sector undertaking activities for the conservation, wise use and management of wetlands in general. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties having national Ramsar Committees that include both governmental and non-governmental representation. (Data source: new question for National Reports).</p>
4	Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<p>Complete inventory for all sites.</p> <p>Prepare management response as appropriate (national policies or guidelines).</p> <p>Trends in invasive alien species.</p> <p>Red List Indicator.</p>	Contracting Parties (MEA; IGOs, World Conservation Monitoring Centre)	<p><b>Baselines</b></p> <p>36% of Parties have established national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>20% of Parties have a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p>

				<p>% of Parties that have established or reviewed national policies or guidelines on invasive wetland species control and management. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties having a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p> <p>{Number of invasive species that are being controlled through management actions}</p> <p>{Effectiveness of wetland invasive alien species control programmes}</p>
<b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>				
5	The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management	<p>Improved management of Ramsar sites and wetlands through managements plans and enhanced resources.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 16: Impact assessment [<a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-16.pdf">http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-16.pdf</a> ]</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 18: Managing wetlands [<a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-18.pdf">http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-18.pdf</a>]</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 19: Addressing change in wetland ecological character [<a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/">http://www.ramsar.org/sites/</a></p>	<p>Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat, IOPs.</p> <p>(Cross sectoral and Watershed Committees)</p>	<p><b>Baselines</b></p> <p>At COP12, 973 Ramsar Sites have implemented management plans. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>Number of Ramsar Sites that have effective, implemented management plans. (Data source: new National Report question).</p> <p>27% of Parties have made assessments of effective management of Ramsar sites. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>43% (950 of Ramsar Sites have updated Ramsar Information Sheets. (Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 COP12 Doc.7).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>Number of Ramsar Sites that have effective, implemented management plans. (Data source: National Report).</p> <p>Number of Ramsar Sites that have effective, implemented</p>



		<a href="default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-19.pdf">default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-19.pdf</a>		<p>management planning<sup>18</sup>. (Data source: new National Report question).</p> <p>% of Parties that have made assessments of effective management of Ramsar Sites. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Ramsar Sites that have updated Ramsar Information Sheets. (Data source: Ramsar Sites database).</p> <p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p> <p>{Coverage of wetland dependent bird populations by designated Ramsar Sites. Indicator from Resolution IX.1 to be developed}.</p> <p>{Coverage of wetland dependent non-avian populations by designated Ramsar Sites. Indicator from Resolution IX.1 to be developed}.</p> <p>{% loss of IUCN Red Listed species from Ramsar Sites}</p>
6	There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and transboundary sites	<p>Update the list of Ramsar Sites with under-represented wetland types or transboundary sites.</p> <p>Wetlands inventories and other relevant national and international data sources for example the International Waterbirds Census.</p>	Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat, IOPs.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>By COP12, 2,186 Ramsar Sites have been designated. (Ramsar Sites database).</p> <p>By COP12 2,085,000 ha of Ramsar Sites have been designated. (Ramsar Sites database).</p> <p>By COP12 [16] transboundary Ramsar Sites have been designated. (Ramsar Secretariat).</p> <p>By COP12, Ramsar Sites have been designated for the following under-represented Ramsar Sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems – [110 Sites]</li> <li>Coral reefs – [96 Sites]</li> <li>Wet grasslands – [517 Sites]</li> </ul>

<sup>18</sup> Actions for appropriate wetland management that are not necessarily in the context of a formal management plan – Resolution VIII.14

				<p>Peatlands – [564 Sites]  Sea-grass beds – [249 Sites]  Mangroves – [280 Sites]  Temporary Pools – [729 Sites]  Bivalve (shellfish) reefs – [99 Sites]  (Ramsar Sites database, June 2015).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>Number of Ramsar sites that have been designated. (Data source: Ramsar Sites database).</p> <p>Total hectares of Ramsar sites that have been designated. (Data source: Ramsar Sites database).</p> <p>Number of transboundary Ramsar Sites that have been designated. (Data source: Ramsar Sites database).</p> <p>Number of Ramsar Sites<sup>19</sup> designated for the following under-represented wetland types:  Karst and other subterranean hydrological systems – [XXX Sites]  Coral reefs – [XXX Sites]  Wet grasslands – [XXX Sites]  Peatlands – [XXX Sites]  Sea-grass beds – [XXX Sites]  Mangroves – [XXX Sites]  Temporary Pools – [XXX Sites]  Bivalve (shellfish) reefs – [XXX Sites]  (Data source: Ramsar Sites database).</p>
7	Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.	<p>Identification and implementation of measures to remove sites from Article 3.2 or Montreux Record.</p> <p>Ramsar Advisory missions.</p>	Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>At COP12, [47] Ramsar Sites (2.2%) are listed on the Montreux Record. (Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 COP12 Doc.7).</p>

<sup>19</sup> Totals relate to number of sites containing the relevant habitat site: some sites may contain more than one habitat type and so be counted under each habitat

		<p>Ramsar Handbook 18: Managing wetlands <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-18.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-18.pdf]</a></p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 19: Addressing change in wetland ecological character <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-19.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-19.pdf]</a></p>		<p>21% of Parties have reported to the Ramsar Secretariat all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites pursuant to Article 3.2. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>[76] Ramsar Sites reported by Parties to the Ramsar Secretariat of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites pursuant to Article 3.2. (Data source: Report of the Secretary General pursuant to Article 8.2 COP12 Doc.7).</p> <p>16% of Parties have taken actions to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>Number of Ramsar Sites removed from the Montreux Record. (Data source: Ramsar Site database).</p> <p>% of Parties reporting to the Ramsar Secretariat all cases of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites pursuant to Article 3.2. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>Number of Ramsar Sites reported by Parties to the Ramsar Secretariat of negative human-induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar Sites pursuant to Article 3.2. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have taken actions to address the issues for which Ramsar Sites have been listed on the Montreux Record. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p> <p>{Indicator(s) relating to (numbers of) Ramsar Sites at risk}</p>
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<b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b>				
8	National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	<p>Remote sensing data on wetlands.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 13: Inventory, assessment and management  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-13.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-13.pdf]</a></p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 15: Wetland Inventory  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-15.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-15.pdf]</a></p>	Contracting Parties, IOPs (Secretariat).	<p><b>Baselines</b></p> <p>At COP12, 47% of Parties have a complete national wetlands inventory. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>At COP13, [XX]% of Parties % of Parties have updated their national inventories in the last decade. (New question for National Reports).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Parties that have complete national wetland inventories. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have updated their national inventories in the last decade. (Data source: new question for National Reports).</p>
9	The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, inter alia, within a river basin or along a coastal zone.	<p>Promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in other sectoral policies, plans or strategies.</p> <p>Participatory platforms at wetland, river, lake, groundwater basin, national and other appropriate levels are joined or created to engage with concerned stakeholders.</p> <p>Wetland/ wetland related governance platforms at basin level are in place.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 1: Wise use of wetlands  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/hbk4-01.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/hbk4-01.pdf]</a></p>	Contracting Parties, national and local stakeholders.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>55% of Parties have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote the wise use of their wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>71% of Parties consider wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basin. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Parties that have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote the wise use of their wetlands. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that consider wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basin. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p>

		<p>Ramsar Handbook 9: River basin management  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-09.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-09.pdf]</a></p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 12: Coastal management  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-12.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-12.pdf]</a></p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 16: Impact assessment  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-16.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-16.pdf]</a></p>		{Involvement of stakeholders in various aspects of wetland and/or basin-scale management}
10	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.	<p>Ramsar Handbook 7: Participatory skills  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-07.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-07.pdf]</a></p>	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, Regional Initiatives, Regional Centres, wetland managers and users, MEAs.	<p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p> <p>{Possible use or further development of indicator(s) linked to work currently being undertaken to develop indicator(s) for related Aichi Target 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity}.</p>
11	Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented	Promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in	Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat, IPBES, IOPs.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>19% of Parties have made assessment of ecosystem services of</p>

	and disseminated.	<p>other sectoral policies, plans or strategies.</p> <p>TEEB report, assessment of ecosystems services.</p> <p>Implementation of programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 6: Wetland CEPA  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/hbk4-06.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/hbk4-06.pdf]</a></p>		<p>Ramsar sites. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>39% of Parties have incorporated wetlands issues into poverty eradication strategies. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>42% of Parties have implemented programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Parties that have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar Sites. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have incorporated wetlands issues into poverty eradication strategies. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have implemented programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans. (Data source: National Reports).</p>
12	Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation	Restoration initiatives taken, projects, programmes implemented.	Contracting Parties, IOPs (STRP; Secretariat).	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>68% of Parties have identified priority sites for restoration. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>70% of Parties have implemented restoration or rehabilitation programmes. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Parties that have established restoration plans [or activities] for sites. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have implemented effective restoration or rehabilitation projects. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p> <p>{Outcome-based indicators(s) related to (extent of) wetland</p>

				restoration possibly including remote sensing as appropriate}.
13	Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods			<p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p> <p>{Indicators related to the relevant sectors especially using or linking to relevant Aichi Target indicators and other relevant international processes}.</p>
<b>Operational Goal</b>				
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>				
14	Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language	STRP leads with support from Secretariat in producing guidance.	STRP	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>In 2015, [543] ‘hits’ on scientific and technical guidance pages of the Ramsar web-site. (Data source: Google Analytics Ramsar web-site, May-June, 2015).</p> <p>In 2015, [60] ‘hits’ on STRP briefing notes from the Ramsar web-site. (Data source: Google Analytics Ramsar web-site, May-June, 2015)).</p> <p>In 2015, [176] ‘hits’ of relevant Ramsar Handbooks downloaded from the Ramsar web-site (Data source: Google Analytics Ramsar web-site, May-June, 2015)</p> <p>In 2015, [150] practical tools and guidance documents for wetland conservation and wise use, and other key scientific documentation, which has been developed by either STRP, Parties and others, and is available via the Ramsar website. (Data source: Ramsar website).</p> <p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>Number of ‘hits’ on scientific and technical guidance pages of the Ramsar web-site and associated subtotals by country and Ramsar</p>

				<p>Region of the source of these hits. (Data source: Ramsar web-site analytics).</p> <p>Number of STRP briefing papers downloaded from the Ramsar web-site and subtotals by country and Ramsar Region of the source of these downloads. (Data source: Ramsar web-site analytics).</p> <p>Number of relevant Ramsar Handbooks downloaded from the Ramsar web-site and subtotals by country and Ramsar Region of the source of these downloads. (Data source: Ramsar web-site analytics).</p> <p>Number of practical tools and guidance documents for wetland conservation and wise use, and other key scientific documentation, which has been developed by either STRP, Parties and others, and is available via the Ramsar website. (Data source: Ramsar web-site).</p> <p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p> <p>{Indicator(s) related to the use of guidance and availability in various language versions}.</p>
15	Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.			<p><b>Baselines</b></p> <p>By COP12, [15] Regional Initiatives are in operation under the framework of the Ramsar Convention. (Ramsar Secretariat).</p> <p>68% of Parties have been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>Number of Regional Initiatives successfully implemented. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention. (Data source: National Reports).</p>



16	Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.	<p>The Secretariat's CEPA programme will deliver high profile media and public awareness placements and programs to raise the convention's image.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 6: Wetland CEPA  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/hbk4-06.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/hbk4-06.pdf]</a></p>	Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat and IOPs	<p><b>Baselines</b></p> <p><i>World Wetland Day</i>  89% of Parties have branded World Wetlands Day activities. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>In 2015 884 World Wetland Day activities or events reported to the Secretariat. (Data source: Ramsar Secretariat CEPA program)</p> <p>In 2015, [379] internet references (in the press) to World Wetland Day activities. (Data source: Meltwater internet analysis).</p> <p>In 2015, [58, 566] individual visits to the World Wetlands Day website. {Data source: worldwetlandsday.org website }.</p> <p>In 2015 Social media links to World Wetland Day: 16,135,974 people reached in FaceBook . (Data source: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/RamsarConventionOnWetlands">https://www.facebook.com/RamsarConventionOnWetlands</a>) .</p> <p>795 views of WWD message from Youtube channel (Data source Ramsar Youtube Channel <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/RamsarConvention">https://www.youtube.com/user/RamsarConvention</a>)</p> <p>292,100 reached in Twitter (Data source <a href="https://twitter.com/RamsarConv">https://twitter.com/RamsarConv</a>)</p> <p><i>CEPA programmes</i>  80% of Parties with a) a governmental CEPA National Focal Point and 69% of Parties with b) a non-governmental National Focal Point. (Data source: Ramsar Secretariat Data Base and National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>27% of Parties have established national action plans for wetland CEPA. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><i>Visitor centres</i>  By COP12, 636 centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established in Ramsar sites.</p>
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				<p>(National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>By COP12, 309 centres established at other wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p><i>World Wetland Day</i>  % of Parties that have branded World Wetlands Day activities. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>Number of World Wetland Day activities or events reported to the Secretariat. (Data source: Ramsar CEPA program).</p> <p>Number of internet references to World Wetland Day activities. {Data source: internet analysis}.</p> <p>Number of internet references to the Ramsar Convention. {Data source: internet analysis}.</p> <p>Number of social media links to World Wetland Day. {Data source: social media analysis}.</p> <p><i>CEPA programmes</i>  % of Parties with a) a governmental CEPA National Focal Point and b) a non-governmental National Focal Point (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have established national action plans for wetland CEPA. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p><i>Visitor centres</i>  Number of centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established in Ramsar Sites. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>Number of centres at other wetlands. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p>
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				{Indicator(s) related to whether and how wetland conservation and wise-use issues are included formal education programmes}.
17	Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available	The Secretariat’s Partnership team will raise non-core funds to fund priority convention activities.	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, development assistance agencies.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>21% of Contracting Parties have provided additional financial support through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>40% of Contracting Parties have received funding support from development assistance agencies for national wetlands conservation and management. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have provided additional financial support through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>% of Parties that have received funding support from development assistance agencies for national wetlands conservation and management. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p><b>Possible further indicators that may be developed</b></p> <p>{Indicator(s) related to flows of financing related to different aspects of Strategic Plan implementation}.</p>
18	International cooperation is strengthened at all levels	<p>Regional Initiatives, multilateral and bilateral agreements, Memorandums of Understanding.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 5: Partnerships  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-05.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-05.pdf]</a></p>	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, Regional Centres, MEAs.	<p><b>Baselines</b></p> <p><i>Regional Initiatives</i>  By COP12, [15] Regional Initiatives are in operation under the framework of the Ramsar Convention. (Ramsar Secretariat).</p> <p>68% of Parties have been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention. (National Reports to COP12).</p>

		<p>Ramsar Handbook 20: International co-operation [<a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-20.pdf">http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-20.pdf</a> ]</p>	<p><i>Other aspects of co-operation</i> 35% of Parties have established networks including twinning arrangements nationally or internationally for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>33% of Parties have effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example in shared river basins and coastal zones). (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>[XX]% of Parties have co-ordination mechanisms for the implementation of MEAs existing at a national level. (Data source: new question for National Reports).</p> <p>At COP12, 168 Parties have acceded to the Ramsar Convention. (Report of the Secretary General to COP12 on the implementation of the Convention, COP12Doc8).</p> <p>At COP12, [16] transboundary Ramsar Sites. (Data source: Ramsar Secretariat).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p><i>Regional Initiatives</i> Number of Regional Initiatives successfully implemented. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiative under the framework of the Convention. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p><i>Other aspects of co-operation</i> % of Parties that have established networks including twinning arrangements nationally or internationally for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features. (Data source: National Reports).</p> <p>% of Parties that have effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example in shared river basins and coastal zones). (Data source: National Reports).</p>
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				<p>% of Parties where co-ordination mechanisms for the implementation of MEAs exist at a national level. (Data source: new question for National Reports).</p> <p>Number of Parties which have acceded to the Ramsar Convention. (Data Source: National Reports).</p> <p>Total number of transboundary Ramsar Sites. (Data source: Ramsar Sites Database).</p>
19	Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.	<p>Projects, programmes and events that promote wise use of wetlands with the active involvement of wetland managers and users.</p> <p>CEPA plans, World Wetlands Day, training courses.</p> <p>Ramsar Handbook 7: Participatory skills  <a href="http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-07.pdf">[http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-07.pdf]</a></p>	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, Regional Initiatives, Regional Centres, wetland managers and users, MEAs.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>20% of Parties have made an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>% of Parties that have made an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention. (National Reports to COP12).</p>

**Annex 2: Synergies between CBD Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/COP/DEC/15/4) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan Targets**

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan Goals and Targets 2016 - 2024			Kunming-Montreal 2030 Global Targets
<i>Strategic Goals</i>			
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b>			
<b>Target 1</b>	Wetlands benefits are features in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level	<i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i>  Target 14	Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.
<b>Target 2</b>	Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.	<i>1. Reducing threats to biodiversity</i>  Target 7	Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and also preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.
		<i>2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i>  Target 10	Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

<p><b>Target 3</b></p>	<p>The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.</p>	<p><i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i></p> <p>Target 15</p>	<p>Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:</p> <p>(a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios;</p> <p>(b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;</p> <p>(c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable;</p> <p>in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.</p>
		<p><i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i></p> <p>Target 16</p>	<p>Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.</p>
		<p><i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i></p> <p>Target 18</p>	<p>Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least 500 billion United States dollars per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.</p>
		<p><i>1. Reducing threats to biodiversity</i></p> <p>Target 7</p>	<p>As above</p>
		<p><i>2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i></p> <p>Target 10</p>	<p>As above</p>

<b>Target 4</b>	Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i>  Target 6	Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands.
<b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>			
<b>Target 5</b>	The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management	<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i>  Target 3	Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.
		<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i>  Target 4	Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.
		<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i>  Target 5	Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.
<b>Target 6</b>	There is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands including in underrepresented ecoregions and transboundary sites	<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i>  Target 3	As above



		1.Reducing threats to biodiversity Target 4	As above
		2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing Target 12	Significantly increase the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and the provision of ecosystem functions and services.
<b>Target 7</b>	Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.	1.Reducing threats to biodiversity Target 3	As above
		1.Reducing threats to biodiversity Target 4	As above
		2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing Target 10	As above
<b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b>			
<b>Target 8</b>	National wetland inventories have been either initiated, completed or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	1.Reducing threats to biodiversity Target 1	Ensure that all areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.
		1.Reducing threats to biodiversity Target 2	Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

		<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i> Target 3	As above
		<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i> Target 4	As above
		<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i> Target 6	As above
		<i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i> Target 21	Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, <sup>20</sup> in accordance with national legislation.
<b>Target 9</b>	The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i> , within a river basin or along a coastal zone.	<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i> Target 1	As above
		<i>2. Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i> Target 9	Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

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<sup>20</sup> Free, prior and informed consent refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement.”

		<p><i>2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i></p> <p>Target 10</p>	As above
		<p><i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i></p> <p>Target 15</p>	As above
<b>Target 10</b>	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.	<p><i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i></p> <p>Target 22</p>	Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.
<b>Target 11</b>	Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.	<p><i>2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i></p> <p>Target 11</p>	Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.
		<p><i>2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i></p> <p>Target 12</p>	As above
		<p><i>2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i></p> <p>Target 13</p>	Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030 facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

<b>Target 12</b>	Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation	<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i> Target 2	As above
		<i>1.Reducing threats to biodiversity</i> Target 8	Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.
		<i>2. Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i> Target 11	As above
<b>Target 13</b>	Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries fisheries, agriculture and ecotourism practices when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods	<i>2. Meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing</i> Target 10	As above
		<i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i> Target 14	As above
		<i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i> Target 15	As above

<b>Operational Goal</b>			
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>			
<b>Target 14</b>	Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language	<i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i>  Target 20	Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.
		<i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i>  Target 21	As above
<b>Target 15</b>	Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.	N/A	N/A
<b>Target 16</b>	Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.	<i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i>  Target 21	As above

<b>Target 17</b>	Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available	<p><i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i></p> <p>Target 19</p>	<p>Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by 2030 mobilizing at least 200 billion United States dollars per year by:</p> <p>(a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least US\$ 30 billion per year, including by 2030:</p> <p>(b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;</p> <p>(c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;</p> <p>(d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards</p> <p>(e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises,</p> <p>(f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions<sup>21</sup> and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity</p> <p>(g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use;</p>
<b>Target 18</b>	International cooperation is strengthened at all levels	N/A	N/A

<sup>21</sup> Mother Earth Centric Actions: Ecocentric and rights based approach enabling the implementation of actions towards harmonic and complementary relationships between peoples and nature, promoting the continuity of all living beings and their communities and ensuring the non-commodification of environmental functions of Mother Earth.

<b>Target 19</b>	Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.	<i>3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming</i>  Target 20	As above
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## Annex 3 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

### Context

The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs provide a roadmap for national and international action from governments, civil society, private sector and other actors to achieve sustainable development for current and future generations. Wetlands provide a range of values and services such as clean water, food, biodiversity and infrastructure that sustain livelihoods and local to national economies. Investing in wetlands will result in many co-benefits to nature and society.

The commitment of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands to designate Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) and to conserve and use wisely all their wetlands is critical in achieving the SDGs. The Convention thus provides a ready platform to implement the SDGs.

The fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan (2016-2024) identifies four overarching goals and 19 specific targets that directly support achievement of both the SDGs and the Aichi Targets set up by the Convention on Biological Diversity. The integrated nature of the SDGs, Aichi Targets and the Ramsar Strategic Plan call for increased integration and synergies across existing multilateral agendas.

[Resolution XIII.7](#) (paragraphs 14-19 and 39-44) captures the breadth of SDG and Ramsar engagement, with the Secretariat further instructed as co-custodian of Goal 6 Indicator 6.6.1 to continue working with Contracting Parties on the completion of national wetland inventories and wetland extent to report on SDG Indicator 6.6.1.

The Secretariat is also instructed to participate as appropriate in relevant international efforts to address the 2030 Goals and specifically Goals [14](#) and [15](#)<sup>22</sup> and Targets [14.2](#) and [15.1](#). The same Resolution underlined the relevance of SDGs 1, 2, 5, 11 and 13 to the Convention.<sup>23</sup>

Drawing on the Secretariat's "Wetlands and the SDGs – scaling up wetland conservation, wise use and restoration to achieve the SDGs" report, the following table maps where Contracting Parties can further integrate SDGs as part of their practical implementation of the Strategic Plan.

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<sup>22</sup> **Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development; **Goal 15:** Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

<sup>23</sup> FURTHER NOTING that other SDGs that are relevant to the Convention are: SDG 1, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere"; SDG 2, "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"; SDG 5, "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"; SDG 11, "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"; and SDG 13, "Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts" [Paragraph 17].



## Key Actions to support practical implementation of the SDGs

SP Goals and Targets	Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG planning processes	Related SDG targets
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation</b>		
1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.	<p>Adopt policies and practices for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in order to reverse current and future wetland loss and degradation.</p> <p>Integrate wetlands conservation, wise use and restoration into diverse sectoral policies, such as agriculture, forestry or urban planning amongst others, to promote their role in meeting multiple objectives.</p>	1.b; 2.4; 6.1; 6.2; 6.5; 8.3; 8.9; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.9
2. Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.	Scale up wetland interventions. A landscape or watershed approach that considers a larger area can help to consider both the wider ecological processes of wetlands and the human impacts of their loss, and conversely, of their restoration.	6.4; 6.5; 6.6
3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.		2.3; 2.5; 3.9; 6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 6.a; 6.b; 8.4; 9.1; 9.5; 11.4; 11.5; 11.6; 11.7; 12.2; 12.6; 14.1; 14.2; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 14.7; 14.b; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.6; 15.7
4. Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.		15.8
<b>Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network</b>		
5. The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.	Develop multi-stakeholder partnerships as a critical means of implementation for wetland conservation, wise use, and restoration. As such, efforts are necessary to promote these partnerships between different sectors of society in Ramsar Sites.	6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4
6. There is a significant increase in area, numbers, and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network, in particular under-represented types of wetlands including in under-represented ecoregions and Transboundary Sites.		6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4

SP Goals and Targets	Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG planning processes	Related SDG targets
7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.		6.5; 6.6; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 12.4; 13.1; 14.2; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4
<b>Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands</b>		
8. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed, or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	Utilize Ramsar national reports and accompanying reporting mechanisms to provide information for inventories and monitoring related to SDGs 6.6.1 and 15.1.	6.6; 11.4; 14.5; 15.1
9. The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i> , within a river basin or along a coastal zone.		1.4; 5.a; 6.5; 8.4; 11.b; 14.7; 14.c
10. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.	Engage stakeholders at all levels to facilitate integration of wetland conservation, wise use, and restoration into livelihood strategies, thereby ensuring the sustainability of such efforts. In particular, the role and knowledge of local and Indigenous communities is increasingly being valued as fundamental to the long-term sustainability of interventions.	2.3; 2.5; 5.5; 5.a; 6.b; 12.8; 15.c
11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.	Identify clearly the services that wetlands including Ramsar Sites provide for people and the environment when they are being designated to help improve understanding of a Site's values and subsequent proposed actions related to conserving, using and restoring it. Ramsar Sites can be managed as pilot sites for promoting sustainable development.	1.5; 14.7; 15.9
12. Restoration is in progress in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.	Integrate wetland services in nationally determined contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.	6.6; 14.2; 14.4; 15.1; 15.2; 15.3
13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.		1.b; 2.4; 6.5; 8.3; 8.9; 11.3; 11.4; 11.a; 11.b; 12.b; 13.2; 14.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.9

SP Goals and Targets	Actions to integrate wetlands into SDG planning processes	Related SDG targets
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>		
14. Scientific guidance and technical methodologies at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.		9.5; 9.a; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 17.6
15. Ramsar Regional Initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.		1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 9.1; 11.a; 14.2; 15.1; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9
16. Wetland conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation, and awareness.	Ensure that wetland conservation, wise use and restoration are integrated into SDG planning and implementation.	2.4; 4.7; 4.a; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.7; 17.9
17. Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the four Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available.	Increase funding for comprehensive actions in wetlands including Ramsar Sites to reflect the importance of these sites, not only from a biodiversity point of view, but also from a sustainable development perspective.	9.a; 10.6; 15.a; 15.b; 17.3
18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels ( <i>locally, nationally, sub-regionally (for example RRs), regionally and globally</i> ).	<p>Seize opportunities and synergies with other sectors, conventions and priorities. An important action is the need to foster collaboration between national focal points for different conventions and focal points for SDG planning and implementation and in particular statistical offices to advance broader landscape approaches to conservation and sustainable development related to Ramsar Sites, but also other protected areas such as World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves.</p> <p>Contracting Parties should ensure that their efforts to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan are integrated into their national SDG plans and implementation.</p> <p>Contracting Parties should ensure that reports on progress on the SDGs reflect the contributions of wetlands so that their conservation, wise use and restoration link to the sustainable development agenda.</p>	1.b; 2.5; 6.5; 6.6; 6.a; 10.6; 12.4; 14.5; 14.c; 15.1; 15.6; 16.8; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9
19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.		2.4; 6.a; 11.3; 13.1; 13.3; 15.c; 17.9

### Sources and Available Resources

How Wetlands Achieve select SDGs: [Scaling up wetland conservation, wise use and restoration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.](#)

## Annex 4

### New approach to communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA)

#### Context

In general, communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) activities and elements should be integrated in planning and activities of the Convention (locally, nationally, internationally) where appropriate, with effort focused on a smaller number of high priority activities.

The guidance below provides a pathway for Contracting Parties to work towards building this new approach to CEPA into their implementation of the Convention over the next triennium.

#### General Considerations to support implementation of SP4

##### Support focal points, and build more networks and partnerships

National Focal Points and CEPA National Focal Points are important to ensure a coordinated and strategic national approach to Ramsar implementation. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the key implementers of CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities as appropriate.

Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The Secretariat can provide advice and information to Contracting Parties, for example, introduction materials about Ramsar CEPA work for new CEPA National Focal Points and CEPA NGO Focal Points and sharing good examples from other countries.

Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs are encouraged to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communications materials and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved. Contracting Parties should also be encouraged to coordinate with their focal points for other multilateral environmental agreements which are conducting similar work.

Contracting Parties should increase engagement with other sectors, consistent with priorities identified in the Strategic Plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience.

#### Specific considerations to assist Contracting Parties apply the new CEPA approach to support implementation of the Strategic Plan

Goals and relevant Targets	Implementing the new CEPA Approach
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation</b>	
1. Wetland benefits are featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Contracting Parties to continue to contribute wetland input to the debate on global policy issues, including the Sustainable Development Goals, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and efforts to decarbonize under the Paris Accord (including through blue carbon ecosystems).</li><li>• Contracting Parties to identify mechanisms for greater sectoral</li></ul>

Goals and relevant Targets	Implementing the new CEPA Approach
aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level.	<p>input to Ramsar and CEPA planning, including recognizing the value, experience, and resources of International Organization Partners, NGOs, Contracting Parties and business partners in planning, resourcing, developing, and implementing Ramsar CEPA messages and products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracting Parties should increase engagement with sectors that have an impact on wetlands, consistent with priorities identified in the Strategic Plan at the national level. In particular, messaging should be tailored to emphasize themes that matter to the target audience.</li> </ul>
2. Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their functions and provide services at the appropriate scale <i>inter alia</i> at the basin level or along a coastal zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracting Parties to promote case studies of sustainable urban wetland management, including examples from Wetland City Accreditation, and undertake CEPA activities that engage stakeholders and promote wise use and management of their wetlands and their surroundings in a way that both water quality and water quantity are well considered.</li> </ul>
3. The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracting Parties to promote existing Convention guidance and share between Parties practical local guidance, best practices and case studies which may be more broadly relevant.</li> </ul>
4. Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracting Parties to raise awareness of invasive alien species in wetland ecosystems through the development and dissemination of training and communication materials among the public and private sectors.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network</b>	
5. The ecological character of Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracting Parties to integrate CEPA activities in all Ramsar Site management plans and/or activity plans.</li> </ul>
7. Sites that are at risk of change of ecological character have threats addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracting Parties to identify current and emerging threats, including the umbrella threat of climate change, and develop, and share between Parties, practical CEPA tools and guidance for managing Ramsar Sites and other wetlands in the long term.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands</b>	
8. National wetland inventories have been initiated, completed, or updated and disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracting Parties communicate the results of national wetland inventories for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.</li> </ul>
9. The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter alia</i> , within a river basin or along a coastal zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Target 1 and Target 13.</li> </ul>
10. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contracting Parties to better engage Indigenous Peoples in wetland research, planning, management, restoration and CEPA activities (including case studies) as well as promoting the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous</li> </ul>

Goals and relevant Targets	Implementing the new CEPA Approach
of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.	Peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands at national and local levels.
11. Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented, and disseminated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracting Parties to support Ramsar Site managers to develop signage to communicate site values.</li> </ul>
13. Enhanced sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries, when they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracting Parties to give priority to engaging sectoral decision-makers in integrating wetland values in their planning and decision-making.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>	
16. Wetland conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation, and awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracting Parties to build on the effective CEPA activity and engagement achieved through for example World Wetlands Day, Ramsar Regional Initiatives and Wetland Education Centres.</li> <li>• Contracting Parties to use networks and structures (Wetland Link International network, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, Wetland Education Centres, Youth Engaged in Wetlands) to improve support of implementing the Convention, such as raising awareness, engagement in activities, and capacity-building.</li> <li>• Contracting Parties to use various media channels which are appropriate for the purpose, such as social media, to raise public awareness (and potentially lead to public concern and pressure on decision makers) along with other approaches to engage sectoral decision makers.</li> <li>• Contracting Parties to identify new communication avenues and opportunities to promote Ramsar goals.</li> </ul>
18. International cooperation is strengthened at all levels ( <i>locally, nationally, sub-regionally (for example RRI's), regionally and globally</i> ).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracting Parties with similar CEPA needs to co-operate on CEPA activities. Such co-operation can include exchange of experiences of CEPA campaigns as well as working cooperatively to produce communications materials and translating them into languages as needed by the Contracting Parties involved.</li> <li>• Contracting Parties should encourage their Ramsar National Focal Points to facilitate CEPA activities with their focal points for other MEAs.</li> <li>• Contracting Parties to ensure that CEPA aspects are considered when planning and developing all Resolutions, guidance materials, Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) products and other outcomes from the Ramsar Convention.</li> <li>• Contracting Parties to investigate opportunities to improve wetland conservation by applying techniques drawn from behavioural economics and psychology and undertaking joint projects with behavioural insights teams or "nudge" units.</li> </ul>

Goals and relevant Targets	Implementing the new CEPA Approach
<p>19. Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 is enhanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracting Parties to build an emphasis on capacity building, to support people with a range of roles in wetland conservation and wise use. This would involve using the expertise of the STRP, communications and networking by the Secretariat, and sharing of experiences between Contracting Parties.</li> <li>• Contracting Parties to evaluate the reach and effectiveness of activities including CEPA, so that effective approaches are identified, shared, and implemented</li> <li>• Contracting Parties should ensure that the Focal Points are informed about their responsibilities. The CEPA Focal Points should be recognized as the key implementers of CEPA and should be provided with adequate tools and training opportunities when necessary.</li> </ul>

**Available Resources**

Resolution XIV.8 on *the new CEPA approach*

## **Annex 5**

### **Gender considerations and the Convention on Wetlands**

#### **Context**

Women and men have different levels of access to and control over wetland resources, knowledge and information about their conservation and wise use. This affects how wetlands are managed, as well as rights and customary uses of wetland products and services.

Women's roles and knowledge in wetlands management continue to be overlooked and under-acknowledged, with social and cultural norms often reinforcing their unequal participation in decision making. Water collection disproportionately falls on women and girls. Lack of onsite water can increase the vulnerability to violence experienced by women and girls as travel to water sources exposes them to harassment and sexual abuse. On the other hand, increased access to water can increase school attendance and income generation, reducing gender inequalities and poverty.

Resolution XIII.18 on *Gender and wetlands*, approved at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13) in 2018, encourages Parties to mainstream a gender perspective in their implementation of the Convention, and requested the production of guidance on the integration of gender issues in the implementation of the Convention. National Reports to COP14 also included, for the first time, information from Contracting Parties on gender balance in wetland-related activities.

*Ramsar Guidance on mainstreaming gender* has now been published to provide a series of key operational and practical entry points to enhance the mainstreaming of gender equality under the Convention. The guidance below provides a pathway for Contracting Parties seeking to meaningfully integrate gender considerations into implementation of the Convention.

#### **General considerations to support implementation of SP4:**

Contracting Parties are encouraged to implement the Strategic Plan at national and regional levels by developing national wetlands policies, strategies, action plans, projects, and programmes.

These instruments should intrinsically consider gender-responsive, human rights-based, and intersectional approaches to promote conservation and wise use of wetlands to:

- ensure people-centred governance that respects women and those living in margins of development through full access and control of valuable assets, including land ownership, rights, and economic autonomy;
- secure equal access to and control of natural resources for women and young women to manage and protect their livelihoods; and
- recognize women and young women as decision makers and leaders, participating in decision-making processes at all levels in the wise use and conservation of wetlands.



## Building gender considerations into the Strategic Plan

Goals	Gender considerations	Key Targets
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss and Degradation</b>	<i>Parties recognize that the drivers of wetland degradation intersect with and impact gender and other social dimensions.</i>	
<b>Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network</b>	<i>Parties commit themselves to protect and effectively manage existing Ramsar Sites and enable full and effective participation of stakeholders, including women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.</i>	Target 5.7: How many Ramsar Sites have cross-sectoral management committee that enables participatory and inclusive decision making with women, youth and Indigenous Peoples represented.
<b>Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands</b>	<i>Parties address wetlands beyond those currently included in the Ramsar Site network. Mainstreaming gender specifications in a wide range of sectors and with a broad array of actors will help to ensure the success of this effort.</i>	Target 10: The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, especially those of women, relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention, with a full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities at all relevant levels.
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>  Paragraph 11 of Resolution XIII.18 encourages "...to consider how different genders are reflected in wetland communication material in order to promote equal representation and fairness".	<i>Parties ensure that communication strategies and materials should reflect women's perceptions, needs, and perspectives. Particular attention should be placed on the selection of communication channels that are most appropriate for women.</i>  <i>Parties themselves, and in partnership with other Parties and other entities, should take a gender-equality-responsive approach with regard to scientific and technical advice and guidance, resource mobilization, public awareness, visibility and capacity building.</i>  <i>All major environmental finance mechanisms now have gender policies, action plans and gender mandates that must be complied with to secure funding.</i>	Target 16: Mainstream wetland conservation and wise use with a gender-responsive approach through capacity development, education, participation, and awareness.  <i>Note: The new CEPA approach includes mainstreaming gender equality as an activity.</i>

### Available Resources:

The guidance provides Contracting Parties to the Convention with a series of key operational and practical entry points to enhance the mainstreaming of gender equality under the Convention and presents several case studies on the value of taking a gender-sensitive approach to the wise use and management of wetlands. The document is available for download:

<https://www.ramsar.org/document/guidance-on-mainstreaming-gender-under-the-ramsar-convention-on-wetlands-0>.