

**Review and consolidation of current Resolutions:  
Consolidation of Resolutions on  
Inventories**

**Actions requested:**

The Standing Committee is invited to approve the attached draft consolidation of current Resolutions on "Inventories" to be submitted for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its 15th meeting.

1. At its 14th meeting (COP14), the Conference of the Contracting Parties adopted Resolution XIV.5, on *Review of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties*. Annex 1 of that Resolution contains a *List of Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties and their status*. Annex 2 of that Resolution specifies the agreed *Categories of Resolutions of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands* as a basis for the preparation of draft consolidated resolutions.
2. Annex 2 of Resolution XIV.5 indicates that, at present, there are seven Resolutions and Recommendations dealing specifically with inventories of wetlands, as follows:
  - Recommendation 1.5 on *National Wetland Inventories*;
  - Recommendation 4.6\* on *Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites*;
  - Resolution VI.12\* on *National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing*;
  - Resolution VII.20 on *Priorities for wetland inventory*;
  - Resolution VIII.6 on *A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory*;
  - Resolution VIII.7\* on *Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring*; and
  - Resolution X.15\* on *Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance*.

\* Indicates that the Recommendation or Resolution includes text also identified for consolidation in other subject categories.
3. At the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC59) the Secretariat presented a draft consolidated resolution on "Inventories" in document SC59 Doc.13.3. It took into account all of the seven Recommendations and Resolutions listed above. It also took into account the annexes to Resolution IX.1 that refer to inventories. The draft resolution presented in that document is therefore used as the basis for a draft consolidated resolution on inventories in the present document.

4. However, the Conference of the Parties has indicated, in Annex 1 of Resolution XIV.5, that Recommendations 1.5 and 4.6 and Resolution VIII.7 can be repealed. They are therefore not to be taken into account in any consolidation process. However they can be formally repealed in the consolidated resolution on inventories.
5. On the other hand, at COP14, the Conference of the Parties adopted two Resolutions that make specific reference to inventories in the operative part; Resolutions XIV.6 and XIV.16. The relevant paragraphs of those Resolutions are therefore also to be considered for consolidation.
6. Taking the above into account, Annex A of the present document contains a draft consolidated resolution on "Inventories". As this builds on the draft consolidation in document SC59 Doc.13.3, it follows the principle indicated in that document of keeping the preamble to a minimum required to introduce the operative part, which is the purpose of a preamble.
7. In the table in Annex A, the left-hand column shows the consolidated resolution text presented in SC59 Doc. 13.3 with proposed amendments. The right-hand column indicates the source of the text, together with a comment regarding any proposed change. Some very minor changes that were purely editorial have not been indicated. The valid Annexes to the Resolutions that are being consolidated are to be annexed to the draft consolidated resolution.
8. Annex B to the present document contains the clean version of the draft consolidated resolution, taking into account the amendments indicated in Annex A.

**Annex A**  
**Annotated draft consolidated resolution on Inventories**

**Explanatory version**

<p align="center"><b>TEXT FROM EXISTING RESOLUTIONS</b>  <b>(BUILDING ON AMENDMENTS PROPOSED IN DOCUMENT SC59 DOC.13.3)</b></p> <p align="center"><i>Proposed new text is underlined</i>  <i>Proposed deletions are marked with strikethrough.</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>NOTES</b></p> <p align="center">[including original source]</p>
<p><u>RECALLING Recommendation 1.5 on <i>National wetland inventories</i> and Recommendation 4.6 on <i>Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites</i> adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties at its first and fourth meetings respectively; and Resolution VI.12 on <i>National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing</i>, Resolution VII.20 on <i>Priorities for wetland inventory</i>, Resolution VIII.6 on <i>A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory</i>, Resolution VIII.7 on <i>Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring</i> and Resolution X.15 on <i>Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance</i>, adopted at the sixth, seventh, eighth and tenth meetings; as well as Resolution XIV.6 on <i>Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</i>, and Resolution XIV.16 on <i>Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies</i>, adopted at the fourteenth meeting;</u></p>	<p>Proposed new text to recognize the Resolutions being consolidated, with an addition made because many preambular paragraphs have been deleted, in response to comments made at SC59, to minimize the preamble.</p>
<p><u>RECALLING also the numerous references to the value and importance of inventories in other Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, including Resolution 5.3, adopted at the fifth meeting, and Resolution IX.15, adopted at the ninth meeting; and NOTING that these remain on the record;</u></p>	<p>New text to note that other Resolutions refer to inventories.</p>
<p><u>NOTING the value of comprehensive inventories of wetland resources as an aid to implementing the wise use obligation under the Convention, improving the general level of knowledge of the world's wetlands and identifying wetlands suitable for inclusion in facilitating the designation of sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List);</u></p>	<p>[para. 2 of Resolution VI.12]</p> <p>Addition proposed in compensation for deletion of several preambular paragraphs.</p>
<p><u>RECALLING CONSIDERING that this Conference has also adopted the <i>Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetlands Policies</i> (Resolution VII.6), the <i>Wetland Risk Assessment Framework</i> (Resolution VII.10), the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (Resolution VII.11), and Resolution VII.17 on <i>Restoration as an element of national planning for wetland conservation and wise use</i>, all of which, as noted by the previous Resolutions and Recommendations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, would be greatly assisted by the availability of national scientific inventories;</u></p>	<p>[para.8 of Resolution VII.20]</p> <p>Text updated to remove reference to 'this Conference', and to take account of changes in paragraph numbers.</p>
<p><u>TAKING ACCOUNT of the findings given in the report prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and presented to COP7 Technical Session IV entitled <i>Shared wetlands and river basins of the world</i>; and</u></p>	<p>[Resolution VII.20, para. 9]</p> <p>Deletion proposed as no longer relevant.</p>

<p>NOTING the scope of the proposed Millenium Assessment of the World's Ecosystems, currently under development, to deliver valuable related information of relevance to the application of the Convention;</p>	<p>[para. 10 of Resolution VII.20] Deleted as out of date.</p>
<p>RECALLING Recommendation 1.5, in which the Contracting Parties stated the need to prepare inventories of their wetlands "as an aid to the formulation and implementation of national wetland policies", and Resolution VII.6, in which the Parties adopted guidelines on these matters;</p>	<p>[para.1 of Resolution VIII.6] Paragraph deleted as the Recommendations and Resolutions to be recalled are now listed in the first paragraph of the preamble.</p>
<p>RECALLING ALSO Recommendation 4.6, Resolutions 5.3 and VI.12, and Action 6.1.2 of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002, in all of which the Parties recognized the value of national inventories for identifying sites suitable for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List) under the Convention;</p>	<p>[para.2 of Resolution VIII.6] Paragraph deleted as the Recommendations and Resolutions to be recalled are now listed in the first paragraph of the preamble.</p>
<p>AWARE that in Action 6.1.3 of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002 and Resolution VII.20 the Parties also recognized the importance of baseline wetland inventory for quantifying the global wetland resource as the basis for assessment of its status and trends, for identifying wetlands suitable for restoration, and for risk and vulnerability assessments;</p>	<p>[para.3 of Resolution VIII.6] Proposed deletion because reference to a Strategic Plan from more than 20 years ago is no longer pertinent, and does not serve to justify any part of the operative part.</p>
<p>NOTING that this meeting has adopted <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16); <i>Wetland issues in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)</i> (Resolution VIII.4); <i>Additional guidance for identifying and designating under-represented wetland types as Wetlands of International Importance</i> (Resolution VIII.11); <i>New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> (Resolution VIII.14); and <i>Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands</i> (Resolution VIII.17), the implementation of all of which will be substantially assisted by the availability of wetland inventory at national and other scales;</p>	<p>[para.4 of Resolution VIII.6] Deleted because it refers to 'this meeting' which will not be relevant for the consolidated resolutions, and does not serve to justify any part of the operative part.</p>
<p>AWARE that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) is evaluating the condition, status and trends in global ecosystems including inland wetlands, subterranean (karst), and coastal and marine systems, and that this will include new applications of remote sensing which may enhance information on the global distribution of wetlands and their status;</p>	<p>[para.7 of Resolution VIII.6] Text deleted as out of date as it is about what was in process in 2002, and does not serve to justify any part of the operative part.</p>
<p>RECALLING that in Resolution VII.20 the Conference of the Parties urged "all Contracting Parties yet to complete comprehensive national inventories of their wetland resources, including where possible wetland losses and wetlands with potential for restoration, to give highest priority in the next triennium to the compilation of comprehensive national inventories", but NOTING with concern that, in their National Reports to this meeting only 51 Contracting Parties have reported the existence of partial inventories or the initiation of national wetland inventory, and only 29 the completion of comprehensive inventories;</p>	<p>[para.9 of Resolution VIII.6] Text deleted as it is recalling Resolution VII.20, which is being consolidated, and the rest is out of date.</p>
<p>ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution VII.20 the Contracting Parties requested the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), in collaboration with Wetlands International, the Ramsar Bureau, and other interested organizations, to review and further develop existing models for wetland inventory and data management, including the use of remote sensing and low-cost and user-friendly geographic information systems, and to report their findings to the 8th Meeting of the</p>	<p>[para.10 of Resolution VIII.6] Text deleted as it is recalling Resolution VII.20, which is being consolidated, and the rest is out of date.</p>

Conference of the Contracting Parties with a view to promoting international common standards;	
<del>FURTHER RECALLING that in Resolution VII.20 the Contracting Parties resolved that their inventory data, where it exists, should be housed and maintained in such a way that the information resource should be available to all decision makers, stakeholders, and other interested parties;</del>	[para.11 of Resolution VIII.6] Text deleted as it is recalling a Resolution whose content is being consolidated here.
<del>APPRECIATIVE of the financial support of the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America for the preparation by the STRP of further guidance on wetland inventory;</del>	[para.12 of Resolution VIII.6] Text deleted for brevity as suggested in the Standing Committee, noting that the expression of appreciation remains on the record in the original Resolution.
RECOGNIZING that various methodologies for national inventory can in general be applied also to local, subnational (e.g. provincial) and transboundary international scales;	[para.13 of Resolution VIII.6]
<del>AWARE of the suite of technical and scientific guidelines and other materials prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to support Contracting Parties in their implementation of wetland conservation and wise use;</del>	[para.1 of Resolution X.15] Proposed deletion.
<del>NOTING that the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP9) instructed the STRP to prepare further advice and guidance for consideration by Contracting Parties at COP10 that would focus upon the immediate and high priority tasks set out in Annex 1 to Resolution IX.2; and</del>	[para.2 of Resolution X.15] Proposed deletion as not relevant for the consolidation.
<del>THANKING the STRP for its work in preparing the advice and guidance annexed to this Resolution as part of its high priority work during the 2006-2008 triennium;</del>	[para.3 of Resolution X.15] Old expressions of appreciation are removed for the consolidation process but remain on the record in the original Resolution.
<b>THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES</b>	Standard text to introduce the operative part of the Resolution.
<u>Regarding establishment and maintenance of wetland inventories and inventory methodology</u>	New subheading.
<del>ADOPTS the “<i>Framework for Wetland Inventory</i>” as annexed contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution;</del>	[Resolution VIII.6, para. 14] The reference to the Annex is updated for the consolidation.
RECOGNIZES that it is appropriate to apply different wetland inventory approaches, methods and wetland classifications for different purposes and objectives, but that common standards can be achieved by ensuring consistency in the collection of a core (minimum) dataset, as provided in the Framework;	[Resolution VIII.6, para. 15]
URGES all Contracting Parties that have yet to complete comprehensive national wetland inventories to continue to give a high priority <del>in the next triennium</del> to the compilation of such inventories, utilizing the <i>Framework for Wetland Inventory</i> to ensure that their inventory design appropriately addresses their purpose and objectives, in order that their activities that require the sound basis of wetland inventory, such as policy development and Ramsar site designations, can be carried out on the basis of the best possible information;	[Resolution VIII.6, para. 16] A minor amendment is proposed to remove the time-bound text.
<u>ADOPTS the <i>Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring</i>, attached as Annex 2, and the <i>Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity</i>, attached as Annex 3; and INVITES Contracting Parties to make good use of them</u>	New text adapted from Resolution IX.1, paras. 7 & 8 to include Annexes E and Ei from that Resolution in the

as appropriate, adapting them as necessary to suit national circumstances; and URGES Contracting Parties to draw the framework and guidelines to the attention of all relevant stakeholders;	consolidated resolution on inventories.
<del>ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties with shared wetlands or river basins to work cooperatively in the gathering of inventory and related management information, as urged through the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention</i> (provided in Resolution VII.19);</del>	[Resolution VII.20, para. 14 ] Deleted here, as this was identified as to be repealed in Resolution XIV.5.
<del>FURTHER URGES that, in undertaking inventory activities, Contracting Parties give consideration to affording highest priority to those wetland types identified as at greatest risk or with poorest information in the <i>Global review of wetland resources and priorities for wetland inventory</i> report;</del>	[Resolution VII.20, para. 12]
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties initiating development of a national wetland inventory to consider the application or adaptation of an existing inventory methodology and data management system, including the updated inventory methodology developed by the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), the Asian Wetland Inventory and other appropriate methodologies, so as to ensure consistency in inventory data and information collected;	[Resolution VIII.6, para. 17]
<del>ALSO CALLS UPON all Contracting Parties and others who have undertaken, or are undertaking, wetland inventories to document information about the inventory, its data holdings, management and availability using the standard metadata record provided in the <i>Framework for Wetland Inventory</i>, so as to make this information available as widely as possible;</del>	[Resolution VIII.6, para. 19)
<del>CALLS UPON Contracting Parties that have undertaken wetland inventories to ensure that they have appropriate arrangements in place for storing and maintaining their wetland inventory data, in both printed and electronic formats, and, where appropriate, to ensure that the data and information is accessible to all decision-makers, stakeholders and other interested parties, where possible through the World Wide Web and CD-ROM formats;</del>	[Combination of Resolution VII.20, para. 16, and Resolution VIII.6, para. 18] This text was proposed in document SC59 Doc. 13.3 but is deleted here as outdated, as suggested in the Committee.
<del>FURTHER CALLS UPON bilateral and multilateral donors to assign priority to supporting wetland inventory projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, noting the importance of such projects in forming the basis for developing and implementing the sustainable use of wetlands;</del>	[Resolution VIII.6, para. 24] Paragraph deleted as suggested in the Standing Committee as not appropriate for a resolution on inventories.
<u>Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory</u>	New subheading.
WELCOMES the guidance on “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory” provided in <del>the annex</del> Annex 4 to this Resolution, and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;	[Resolution X.15, para. 4]  A minor change is proposed to correct the Annex reference.
URGES Contracting Parties to draw this guidance to the attention of relevant stakeholders, including in particular those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands;	[Resolution X.15, para. 6]
INVITES Contracting Parties and those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites to apply <del>these guidelines</del> <u>this guidance</u> in the preparation of ecological character descriptions of Ramsar sites, and as part of their management planning processes, so that these descriptions constitute a complementary basis to the Information	[Resolution X.15, para. 7]

<p>Sheets on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) for detecting and notifying changes in ecological character, as established through Article 3.2 of the Convention <del>text</del>; and RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties provide any completed descriptions of the ecological character of Ramsar sites to the Secretariat as a supplement to the information provided in the RIS;</p>	
<p><del>INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to disseminate widely this guidance on “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory” annexed to this Resolution, including through amendment and updating of the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks;</del></p>	<p>[Resolution X.15, para. 9) Deleted as out of date, as stated in Resolution XIV.5.</p>
<p>ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen their efforts to complete their national wetland inventories and to report on wetland extent to report on SDG indicator 6.6.1; and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue working with Contracting Parties to actively support these efforts;</p>	<p>[Resolution XIV.6, para. 49]</p>
<p>RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties conduct systematic national wetland inventories, using the <i>New Toolkit for National Wetland Inventories</i> of 2020<sup>1</sup>, assess the status and trends of wetlands, analyse national needs and gaps in wetland conservation, develop integrated, systematic and adaptive conservation and restoration planning, and develop integrated national management actions for wetlands and other associated ecosystems as appropriate;</p>	<p>[Resolution XIV.16, para. 16] Res.XIV.16 does not indicate where to find this Toolkit; a link has been added as a footnote.</p>
<p><u>REPEALS the Recommendations and Resolutions or parts thereof listed hereunder:</u></p> <p>a) <u>Recommendation 1.5 (Cagliari, 1980) - <i>National Wetland Inventories</i>;</u></p> <p>b) <u>Recommendation 4.6 (Montreux, 1990) - <i>Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites</i>;</u></p> <p>c) <u>Resolution VI.12 (Brisbane, 1996) - <i>National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing</i>;</u></p> <p>d) <u>Resolution VII.20 (San Jose, 1999) - <i>Priorities for wetland inventory</i>;</u></p> <p>e) <u>Resolution VIII.6 (Valencia, 2002) - <i>A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory</i>;</u></p> <p>f) <u>Resolution VIII.7 (Valencia, 2002) - <i>Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring</i>;</u></p> <p>g) <u>Annexes E and E.i) of Resolution IX.1 (Kampala, 2005) - <i>Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept</i>;</u></p> <p>h) <u>Resolution X.15 (Changwon, 2008) - <i>Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance</i>;</u></p> <p>i) <u>Resolution XIV.6 (Wuhan and Geneva, 2022) - <i>Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</i>, paragraph 49; and</u></p> <p>j) <u>Resolution XIV.16 - <i>Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies</i>, paragraph 16;</u></p> <p>DECIDES to revise Resolution IX.1, paragraph 7, to eliminate reference to Annexes E and Ei; and</p> <p>INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to make any necessary consequential changes to the Annexes or to other Resolutions, only for the purpose of</p>	<p>New text to recognize the status of Resolutions indicated in Resolution XIV.5 and to repeal the Resolutions or parts thereof that are covered by this consolidation.</p>

<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/new-toolkit-national-wetlands-inventories>.

<u>correcting grammar or references, or to ensure accuracy without changing the intent or substance.</u>	
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[ NB: The Annexes to this draft consolidated resolution are:

- Annex 1 is the Annex to Resolution VIII.6, “A Framework for Wetland Inventory”; however, in accordance with Resolution XIV.5, Table 2 of the Annex to Resolution VIII.6 is replaced with Table 2 under para. 35 of the Annex to Resolution X.15.
- Annex 2 is Annex E to Resolution IX.1, “An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring”
- Annex 3 is Annex Ei to Resolution IX.1, “Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity”
- Annex 4 is the Annex to Resolution X.15 “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory”]



## Annex B

### Draft consolidated resolution on Inventories: Clean version

1. RECALLING Recommendation 1.5 on *National wetland inventories* and Recommendation 4.6 on *Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites* adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties at its first and fourth meetings respectively; and Resolution VI.12 on *National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing*, Resolution VII.20 on *Priorities for wetland inventory*, Resolution VIII.6 on *A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory*, Resolution VIII.7 on *Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring* and Resolution X.15 on *Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance*, adopted at the sixth, seventh, eighth and tenth meetings; as well as Resolution XIV.6 on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*, and Resolution XIV.16 on *Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies*, adopted at the fourteenth meeting;
2. RECALLING also the numerous references to the value and importance of inventories in other Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, including Resolution 5.3, adopted at the fifth meeting, and Resolution IX.15, adopted at the ninth meeting; and NOTING that these remain on the record;
3. NOTING the value of comprehensive inventories of wetland resources as an aid to implementing the wise use obligation under the Convention, improving the general level of knowledge of the world's wetlands and identifying wetlands suitable for inclusion in facilitating the designation of sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List);
4. RECALLING the *Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetlands Policies* (Resolution VII.6), the *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* (Resolution VII.10), the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VII.11), and Resolution VII.17 on *Restoration as an element of national planning for wetland conservation and wise use*, all of which would be greatly assisted by the availability of national scientific inventories; and
5. RECOGNIZING that various methodologies for national inventory can in general be applied also to local, subnational (e.g. provincial) and transboundary international scales;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

#### Regarding establishment and maintenance of wetland inventories and inventory methodology

6. ADOPTS the "*Framework for Wetland Inventory*" contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution;
7. RECOGNIZES that it is appropriate to apply different wetland inventory approaches, methods and wetland classifications for different purposes and objectives, but that common standards can be achieved by ensuring consistency in the collection of a core (minimum) dataset, as provided in the Framework;
8. URGES all Contracting Parties that have yet to complete comprehensive national wetland inventories to continue to give a high priority-to the compilation of such inventories, utilizing the

*Framework for Wetland Inventory* to ensure that their inventory design appropriately addresses their purpose and objectives, in order that their activities that require the sound basis of wetland inventory, such as policy development and Ramsar site designations, can be carried out on the basis of the best possible information;

9. ADOPTS the *Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring*, attached as Annex 2, and the *Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity*, attached as Annex 3; and INVITES Contracting Parties to make good use of them as appropriate, adapting them as necessary to suit national circumstances; and URGES Contracting Parties to draw the framework and guidelines to the attention of all relevant stakeholders;
10. URGES that, in undertaking inventory activities, Contracting Parties give consideration to affording highest priority to those wetland types identified as at greatest risk or with poorest information in the *Global review of wetland resources and priorities for wetland inventory* report;
11. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties initiating development of a national wetland inventory to consider the application or adaptation of an existing inventory methodology and data management system, including the updated inventory methodology developed by the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), the Asian Wetland Inventory and other appropriate methodologies, so as to ensure consistency in inventory data and information collected;
12. CALLS UPON all Contracting Parties and others who have undertaken, or are undertaking, wetland inventories to document information about the inventory, its data holdings, management and availability using the standard metadata record provided in the *Framework for Wetland Inventory*, so as to make this information available as widely as possible;

Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory

13. WELCOMES the guidance on “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory” provided in Annex 4 to this Resolution, and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;
14. URGES Contracting Parties to draw this guidance to the attention of relevant stakeholders, including in particular those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands;
15. INVITES Contracting Parties and those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites to apply this guidance in the preparation of ecological character descriptions of Ramsar sites, and as part of their management planning processes, so that these descriptions constitute a complementary basis to the Information Sheets on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) for detecting and notifying changes in ecological character, as established through Article 3.2 of the Convention; and RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties provide any completed descriptions of the ecological character of Ramsar sites to the Secretariat as a supplement to the information provided in the RIS;
16. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen their efforts to complete their national wetland inventories and to report on wetland extent to report on SDG indicator 6.6.1; and FURTHER

REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue working with Contracting Parties to actively support these efforts;

17. RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties conduct systematic national wetland inventories, using the *New Toolkit for National Wetland Inventories* of 2020<sup>2</sup>, assess the status and trends of wetlands, analyse national needs and gaps in wetland conservation, develop integrated, systematic and adaptive conservation and restoration planning, and develop integrated national management actions for wetlands and other associated ecosystems as appropriate;
18. REPEALS the Recommendations and Resolutions or parts thereof listed hereunder:
  - a) Recommendation 1.5 (Cagliari, 1980) - *National Wetland Inventories*;
  - b) Recommendation 4.6 (Montreux, 1990) - *Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites*;
  - c) Resolution VI.12 (Brisbane, 1996) - *National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing*;
  - d) Resolution VII.20 (San Jose, 1999) - *Priorities for wetland inventory*;
  - e) Resolution VIII.6 (Valencia, 2002) - *A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory*;
  - f) Resolution VIII.7 (Valencia, 2002) - *Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring*;
  - g) Annexes E and E.i) of Resolution IX.1 (Kampala, 2005) - *Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept*;
  - h) Resolution X.15 (Changwon, 2008) - *Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance*;
  - i) Resolution XIV.6 (Wuhan and Geneva, 2022) - *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*, paragraph 49; and
  - j) Resolution XIV.16 - *Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies*, paragraph 16;
19. DECIDES to revise Resolution IX.1, paragraph 7, to eliminate reference to Annexes E and Ei; and
20. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to make any necessary consequential changes to the Annexes or to other Resolutions, only for the purpose of correcting grammar or references, or to ensure accuracy without changing the intent or substance.

[ NB: The Annexes to this draft consolidated resolution are:

- Annex 1 is the Annex to Resolution VIII.6, "A Framework for Wetland Inventory";

however, in accordance with Resolution XIV.5, Table 2 of the Annex to Resolution VIII.6 is replaced with Table 2 under para. 35 of the Annex to Resolution X.15.

- Annex 2 is Annex E to Resolution IX.1, "An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring"

- Annex 3 is Annex Ei to Resolution IX.1, "Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity"

- Annex 4 is the Annex to Resolution X.15 "Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory"]

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<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/new-toolkit-national-wetlands-inventories>.