

Report and Decisions

Agenda item 1: Opening statements

1. Opening statements were made by:
 - Dr Musonda Mumba, Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands
 - Dr Hugh Robertson, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)
 - Prof. Siobhan Fennessy, Vice-Chair of the STRP
 - Mr Jerker Tamelander, Director, Science and Policy of the Convention Secretariat

Agenda item 2: Adoption of provisional agenda and working programme

2. The **STRP Chair** referred to documents STRP26 Doc.2.1, *Provisional agenda*, and STRP26 Doc.2.2 Rev.2, *Working programme*, for consideration and approval.

Decision STRP26-01: The provisional agenda and provisional working programme were adopted.

Agenda item 3: Process and expected outcomes for the week

3. The **STRP Chair** presented the process and expected outcomes of the meeting, noting that the main objectives of the meeting were to advance the preparation of STRP outputs following the timeframes and milestones set out in the STRP workplan for the 2023-2025 triennium, and reach an agreement on the next steps for the delivery of outputs under the STRP workplan leading up to the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15).
4. 97 participants attended the meeting, including 17 (of 18) appointed STRP members, representatives of STRP observer organizations, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and Contracting Parties, and invited experts. 52 meeting participants took part online, including many experts involved in high-priority tasks and 24 representatives of Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 4: Updates from the STRP Chair and STRP Vice Chair

5. The **STRP Chair** provided an overview regarding progress on high-priority and ad hoc tasks, budget considerations, the STRP workspace, and requests from the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62), as well as preparations for SC63 from 3 to 7 June 2024.
6. Speaking **on behalf of the six IOPs**, Ms Megan Eldred of **Birdlife International** explained the role of the IOPs as observers to the STRP and their perspectives on the Panel's work. It was noted that much progress has been made on a range of STRP tasks and further highlighted that the Convention on Wetlands remains uniquely placed to address critical water-security issues. For the IOPs, three main areas of work for STRP26 stand out as particularly important:
 - i. those tasks that are critical to the future of the Convention, such as the 5th Strategic Plan;
 - ii. the forthcoming submission to the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework; and

- iii. tasks that impact global implementation, such as guidance on the submission of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and tasks that address drivers of wetland loss, such as agriculture, other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) and the next Global Wetland Outlook (GWO).
7. The **STRP Chair** outlined the request from the Standing Committee (Decision SC62-50) for the Panel to discuss the application of the current Ramsar wetland classification system at its 26th meeting and to report back to SC63, including, if required, the outline of a proposed approach for a technical review in consultation with Contracting Parties, IOPs and other multilateral environmental agreements.
 8. The **STRP Chair** presented a draft discussion document for consideration at STRP26, which was further developed based on feedback from STRP members, STRP NFPs, and STRP Observers. The Panel's advice for the Standing Committee on the wetland classification system is presented in the *Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel on implementation of the STRP work plan*¹.
 9. The STRP recommended a two-phase review of the wetland classification system as a high-priority STRP task, predominantly implemented in the 2026-2028 triennium and with preparatory work carried out in the current triennium, such as a cross-walk with the Global Ecosystem Typology (GET). Considering the opportunities and risks of proceeding with a technical review, the review process would include an initial assessment (phase 1) to determine whether a comprehensive assessment, including recommendations (phase 2), is considered necessary².

Decision STRP26-02: Recommending approval by the Standing Committee to allow the STRP to start their work on reviewing the wetland classification system.

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| Agenda item 5: Updates from the Secretariat |
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10. The **Scientific and Technical Officer** presented the requests from SC62 related to the Panel's work, briefing the attendees on the request to review the application of the current wetland classification system and the call for STRP to identify emerging challenges and provide comments on the report to SC63 on the challenges and opportunities related to the submission and updating of Ramsar Information Sheets³. He also presented the communication strategy for STRP outputs, including the STRP Task Communication Plan template.
11. The **Director of Science and Policy** provided an overview of the progress in developing the 5th Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands (SP5). He drew attention to Resolution XIV.4⁴, which instructed the STRP to prioritize its participation in the development of SP5. He highlighted that a draft consultation report and proposed structure of SP5 had been shared with the STRP to enable discussion during the meeting. The **Director of Science and Policy** further provided an overview of other international processes and their relevance to the work

¹ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc63-doc19-report-chair-scientific-technical-review-panel-implementation-strp-work-plan>.

² See Annex 1 of <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc63-doc19-report-chair-scientific-technical-review-panel-implementation-strp-work-plan>.

³ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc63-doc22-report-challenges-opportunities-related-submission-updating-ramsar-information>.

⁴ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/resolution-xiv4-review-fourth-strategic-plan-convention-wetlands-additions-period-cop14>.

of the STRP for the 2023-2025 triennium. He noted inputs being prepared for submission to AHTEG for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework⁵, Secretariat work on national wetland inventories⁶, ongoing STRP work on addressing gaps in and updating waterbird population data estimates⁷.

Agenda item 6: Updates from Thematic Work Area (TWA) leads – status of priority STRP tasks

12. The **STRP Chair** invited each TWA lead, Mr **Lammert Hilarides** (TWA1), Dr **Laurent Durieux** (TWA2), Prof. **Siobhan Fennessy** and Prof. **Anne van Dam** (TWA3), Dr **Ritesh Kumar** (TWA4) and Dr **Hugh Robertson** and Prof. **Sevandi Jayakody** (TWA5), to provide an update on the status of each STRP task as set out in the STRP workplan 2023-2025⁸.

i. **TWA1: Wetlands of International Importance, development of the Site network and application of criteria.**

Mr **Lammert Hilarides** noted that terms of reference (TORs) had been prepared for Task 1.1 (a). This task involves developing a background paper on existing Criterion 9 guidance, collating historical data on its use for Ramsar Site designations, updating population data, and conducting outreach to specialist groups. Planned activities during STRP26 include finalizing the TORs and preparing updated guidance on data sources. Identified challenges include tight timeframes, with support needs for creating an online training module for Administrative Authorities (AAs) and Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) compilers. For Tasks 1.1 (b) and (c), TORs have been prepared, and a consultant has been hired. Planned activities include a working group session to brainstorm information needs and format for the guidance, and Task 1.1 (c), reviewing a draft technical proposal and discussing the Waterbird Population Estimate (WPE) partnership. The main challenge is the tight timeframe. Regarding Task 1.2, Mr Hilarides noted that the first meeting with BirdLife International and Wetlands International had been held, with plans to draft the TORs during STRP26 based on work from the last triennium.

ii. **TWA 2: Tools for wetland assessment, mapping and monitoring, and development of inventories.**

Dr **Laurent Durieux** noted that TORs had been prepared for Task 2.1. He outlined the task's design into four phases: cooperation opportunities, data sources literature review, three best practices based on the literature review, and finalizing the technical report and policy brief. Challenges include difficulties in obtaining spatial information on wetland distribution, short timeframes, and the need for more team support. The decision to limit the output to a technical report instead of extending it to a policy brief was to be taken during STRP26. Furthermore, Dr Durieux noted that TORs had been prepared for Task 2.2. An annotated outline was submitted for discussion at STRP26, and a draft literature review was shared, requiring contributions from group members. Planned activities included synthesizing the literature review and conducting an online meeting to discuss infographic proposals. Identified challenges were primarily related to timeframes, and support needs included the creation of infographics, peer review, and manuscript production.

⁵ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc63-inf3-submission-convention-wetlands-6th-meeting-ad-hoc-technical-expert-group>.

⁶ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc63-doc10-urgent-challenges-wise-use-wetlands-receive-enhanced-attention-update-wetland>.

⁷ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc63-doc20-technical-proposal-strp-resourcing-implementing-waterbird-population-estimates>.

⁸ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/scientific-technical-review-panel-strp-workplan-2023-2025>.

iii. **TWA 3: Direct and climate-change-related pressures on wetlands, their impacts and responses.**

Prof. **Siobhan Fennessy** and Prof. **Anne van Dam** noted that TORs had been prepared for Task 3.1. The task's design includes consultations with the Secretariat and workgroup about approaches linked to the IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6), preparation of a draft scoping document, and planning for follow-up activities. Challenges include organizing a writing workshop, tight timelines, confirming contributing authors, and synthesizing a large volume of material. Prof. Fennessy also noted that TORs had been prepared for Task 3.2 (a) and (b), including consultant contracting. Planned activities include reviewing the scoping document, discussing data sources, and planning for analysis and synthesis. Challenges are assembling large, possibly patchy data and tight timelines. Regarding Task 3.3, Prof. van Dam noted the identification of around 15 potential case studies, discussions with case leaders, and finalizing the methodology. Planned activities include reviewing and selecting case studies, discussing analysis methods, and planning a proposed workshop in June 2024.

iv. **TWA 4: Wise use, sustainable management and restoration of wetlands in the wider landscape/seascape.**

Dr **Ritesh Kumar** noted that TORs had been prepared for Task 4.1. The task involves meeting with the IUCN OECM Working Group to discuss the structure of the briefing note, preparing the first draft, and circulating it for comments. Planned activities during STRP26 include reviewing the draft briefing note and identifying case studies. Challenges include the need for elaboration on various issues through case studies and support needs to focus on obtaining peer feedback on the briefing note. Dr. Kumar further noted that TORs had been prepared for Task 4.3. The draft structure of the briefing note has been prepared. Planned activities during STRP26 include gathering feedback on the draft structure, identifying case studies, and agreeing with the writing team. Support needs include forming the writing team and establishing connections with the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) in the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) for co-writing and co-authoring.

v. **TWA 5: Cross-cutting issues, supporting functions, and synergies with other MEAs.**

Dr **Hugh Robertson** and Prof. **Sevandi Jayakody** noted that TORs had been prepared for Task 5.1. The task's design includes forming a task group, preparing a consultant brief, and drafting a scoping document. Planned activities during STRP26 include reviewing and further developing the scoping document, identifying specific data needs, contributing authors, and developing a communication plan. Challenges include tight timeframes and ensuring the scope of GWO 2025 is appropriate. For Task 5.2, Prof. Jayakody noted that TORs and an annotated outline had been prepared, as well as an initial briefing paper on NBSAPs⁹. Meetings have been held with various organizations to discuss preparedness for indicators related to wetlands. Planned activities during STRP26 include planning a CBD/Ramsar webinar, discussing case studies, the consultant's submission to AHTEG, and further discussions with The Nature Conservancy and other groups. Challenges include tight timeframes and coordination with multiple organizations. Furthermore, Dr Robertson and Prof. Jayakody noted that preliminary discussions for Task 5.3 had taken place. The objective is to develop a proposal for future GWOs for presentation to SC64 by forming a working group with representatives from Contracting Parties, IOPs, other Conventions, MEAs, and global assessment agencies. Planned activities during STRP26 include a working group session to develop the TORs.

⁹ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/kunming-montreal-global-biodiversity-framework-upscaling-wetland-conservation-restoration>.

13. The consultant leading the development of the 5th Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands (SP5) presented the SP5 draft structure (v0.0) and the *Phase 2: Document review and research* report (PR162/R3.1 DRAFT) to the meeting participants. The consultant outlined several open questions for discussion in the STRP plenary relating to the priorities set out in the draft structure for SP5, whether the outlined theory of change to achieve wetland conservation outcomes and the proposed structure were fit for purpose, and if the goals and targets were considered appropriate by the STRP.
14. The STRP considered the draft consultation report and proposed structure of SP5 during a plenary session. Participants acknowledged the considerable efforts of the consultant team to develop SP5 and provided the following observations on the zero-draft SP5:
 - i. Overall, the draft SP5 structure is similar to previous strategic plans. An alternative approach, which is more streamlined and presents aspirational targets, is recommended to enhance the impact of SP5.
 - ii. The Convention's role in leading the implementation of targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM GBF) relating to wetlands is not adequately emphasized. SP5 provides an important mechanism to detail how the Convention implements the KM GBF for inland waters and coastal wetlands. A review is recommended.
 - iii. SP5 should be reframed to be more solution-focused. For example, it highlights agriculture as a primary driver of the loss of wetlands, but with limited acknowledgement that agriculture is fundamental for human survival. Further, the draft SP5 does not propose activities that will deliver the transformation of agriculture to achieve sustainable outcomes for wetlands. It is recommended to reconsider how strategic pathways to achieve the goals of the Convention are presented.
 - iv. A critical target for the Convention is to halt the loss and degradation of wetlands; while necessary, the goal to 'reverse' wetland loss may not be achievable in the short term in all regions of the world. It is proposed that clearer targets for wetland loss and degradation, on a regional basis where necessary, be established in SP5.
 - v. 'Wise use' is a concept and goal fundamental to the Convention. While noting some aspects of wise use may need reframing, the current SP targets do not describe measurable targets for wise use.
 - vi. Emphasizing Wetlands of International Importance as a core 'goal' and pillar of the Convention is recommended.
 - vii. Including targets relating to the conservation of wetland-dependent species would be recommended.
 - viii. The current formulation of goals, targets, and activities in the draft SP5 structure is not presented in a manner that drives the transformative change needed to achieve wetland conservation and wise use. For example, Target 2.3, 'restore wetlands', omits the element of protecting existing wetlands and does not provide a measurable restoration target for the Convention and Contracting Parties to aim for. More clarity on how the goals and targets may achieve transformative change is recommended.
 - ix. The development of quantitative targets for selected SP5 targets is proposed. Collecting baseline information to track progress against SP5 targets was also considered a high priority for effective monitoring and reporting.
15. The STRP Chair noted the STRP's ongoing commitment and availability to help develop targets and indicators for SP5, highlighting that the STRP will elaborate further on the above points and other input during STRP26.

Decision STRP26-03: The STRP Chair, on behalf of the STRP, will provide further detailed feedback on the draft structure v0.0 to the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) by 12 March 2024, including feedback relating to the balance between outcome (results) and process-based indicators.

Agenda item 8: Working group sessions

16. Below is a brief update on the progress made leading up to and during the STRP26 working group sessions. This update outlines the current status and key developments across the thematic work areas:

Thematic Work Area 1: Wetlands of International Importance

Task 1.1: Further guidance on the application of criteria for designating Wetlands of International Importance

Task 1.1. (a) Guidance on application of Ramsar Criterion 9 for the designation of Wetlands of International Importance

- *Objective:* Update Criterion 9 guidance for Wetlands of International Importance designation.
- *Actions:* Enhance collaboration with relevant stakeholders; Identify new data sources for site designation; and update the Strategic Framework and 1% estimates from 2006.
- *Outcome:* Report to the Standing Committee detailing updated guidance and Task 1.1(a) outcomes.
- *Update:* Detailed in [Annex 3](#) of the report of the Chair of the STRP on implementation of the STRP work plan (SC63 Doc.19).

Task 1.1. (b) Guidance to facilitate the application of Criterion 6

- *Objective:* Develop guidance to fill gaps in waterbird population data and update Criterion 6 guidelines in the Strategic Framework.
- *Actions:* Engage with international partners, IOPs, and flyway initiatives and ensure consistency with Task 1.1 (c).
- *Outcome:* Report to the Standing Committee with updated guidance.
- *Update:* Detailed in [Annex 4](#) of the report of the Chair of the STRP on implementation of the STRP work plan (SC63 Doc.19).

Task 1.1. (c) Technical proposal for resourcing and implementation of Waterbird Population Estimate updates.

- *Objective:* Outline options for implementing and resourcing updates to Waterbird Population Estimates (WPEs).
- *Actions:* Explore synergies with related agreements; Propose institutional partnerships and capacity-building priorities; and suggest cost-reduction measures for WPE production.
- *Outcome:* Technical proposal of the STRP on resourcing and implementing Waterbird Population Estimates ([SC63 Doc.20](#)) and summary in [Annex 5](#) of the report of the Chair of the STRP on implementation of the STRP work plan (SC63 Doc.19).

Task 1.2 Global assessment of gaps in the network of Wetlands of International Importance and synergies with global climate and biodiversity goals

- *Objective:* Conduct a global assessment to identify under-represented wetland types, species, and habitats.
- *Actions:* Utilize the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) and other sources; and provide technical information for future designation and prioritization.
- *Update:* The work on this task will be initiated in March 2024.

Thematic Work Area 2: Tools for Wetland Assessment, Mapping, and Monitoring

Task 2.1 Wetland mapping and inventories to catalyse greater use of available methodologies for wetland carbon assessments

- *Objective:* Enhance the utility of national wetland inventories (NWIs) for national GHG accounts and NDCs.
- *Actions:* Produce guidance on methods for carbon GHG assessments.
- *Update:* The Terms of Reference (ToR) and scoping document have been completed, and consultant recruitment is underway. The technical report is expected by the end of 2024.

Task 2.2: Prepare guidance on inventories and monitoring of small wetlands and their multiple values for biodiversity conservation, especially in the contexts of landscape management and climate change

- *Objective:* Raise awareness of small wetlands' significance for biodiversity and climate change.
- *Actions:* Produce a Policy Brief on small wetlands.
- *Update:* TORs and scoping document completed. Policy brief expected by November 2024.

Thematic Work Area 3: Pressures on Wetlands and Responses

Task 3.1: Climate change and wetlands – updated information on the current and projected impacts of climate change on the world's wetlands and responses

- *Objective:* Synthesize technical information from the IPCC 6th Assessment Report to guide climate change impacts, implications, and responses for wetlands
- *Actions:* Focus on climate change impacts and adaptation strategies.
- *Update:* TORs and scoping document completed. Briefing note expected by October/November 2024.

Task 3.2: Blue carbon guidance, data and models, and support for integration of blue carbon in climate change planning frameworks

Task 3.2. (a) Development of guidance on prioritizing coastal blue carbon ecosystems for conservation and restoration.

- *Objective:* Prioritize conservation and restoration of coastal blue carbon ecosystems (BCEs).
- *Actions:* Evaluate existing methods and develop a briefing note.
- *Update:* TORs and scoping document completed. Briefing note expected by October/November 2024.

Task 3.2. (b) Compiling and reviewing data and models on carbon stock and fluxes

- *Objective:* Review carbon stocks, emissions, and dynamics in coastal BCEs.
- *Actions:* The work on this task is carried out together with Task 3.2 (a).
- *Update:* TORs and scoping document completed. Technical Report and Policy Brief expected by October/November 2024.

Task 3.3: Agriculture and wetlands: maintaining and restoring the ecological character of wetlands in agricultural settings

- *Objective:* Develop guidelines for enhancing wetland ecosystem services in agricultural landscapes.
- *Actions:* Engage stakeholders and organize a workshop with FAO.
- *Update:* The TORs and scoping document have been completed. A workshop will be held in June 2024. The Technical Report and Policy Brief are expected by the end of 2024.

Task 3.4: The protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystems in addressing climate change

- *Objective:* Compile successful nature-based solutions for wetland management.

- *Update:* The STRP is prioritizing the delivery of other high-priority tasks and will address this task if possible. The estimated funding requirement is 11,400 CHF.

Thematic Work Area 4: Wise Use and Sustainable Management of Wetlands

Task 4.1: OECMs as an opportunity to promote wetland conservation and wise use

- *Objective:* Develop guidance for wetlands as ‘other effective area-based conservation measures’ (OECMs).
- *Actions:* Prepare a briefing note on OECMs.
- *Update:* TORs and scoping document completed. Final briefing note expected by June 2024.

Task 4.2: Develop guidance on the conservation, wise use and management of “working coastal habitats”, including a synthesis of the global pressures on coastal wetlands

- *Objective:* Develop guidance for the conservation and management of working coastal habitats.
- *Update:* The STRP is prioritizing the delivery of other high-priority tasks and will address this task if possible. The estimated funding requirement is 55,600 CHF.

Task 4.3: Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies

- *Objective:* Integrate wetland conservation into national sustainable development strategies.
- *Actions:* Compile case studies and tools.
- *Update:* TORs and scoping document completed. Briefing note expected by the end of 2024.

Thematic Work Area 5: Cross-Cutting Issues and Synergies

Task 5.1 Financial costs of wetland loss and degradation and investment required to maintain and restore wetlands (GWO 2025)

- *Objective:* Analyse the economic impacts of wetland loss and financing needed for conservation.
- *Actions:* Launch GWO 2025 before COP15.
- *Update:* TORs and scoping document completed. Consultant recruitment is underway.

Task 5.2: Guidance to support global implementation of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) for wetlands

- *Objective:* Support the global implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- *Actions:* Synthesize actions related to NBSAPs and review KM GBF indicators.
- *Update:* The initial [briefing paper](#) has been published. It will be submitted in March to the 6th meeting of the AHTEG on Indicators of the effective consideration of wetlands in the KM GBF Monitoring Framework, and the final briefing note is expected by June 2024.

Task 5.3. Develop an approach to deliver future Global Wetland Outlooks (GWOs)

- *Objective:* Develop a comprehensive plan for future GWOs.
- *Actions:* Form a working group and present an approach to SC64.
- *Update:* Work to be initiated in April 2024.

Task 5.4: Review of policy and legal frameworks for wetland conservation and wise use: scoping study

- *Objective:* Assess policy and legal frameworks for wetland conservation and propose future strategies.
- *Actions:* Produce a technical scoping report for SC64.
- *Update:* TORs pending. A scoping study report is expected by September 2024.

Agenda item 9: Emerging issues

17. The **STRP Chair** highlighted that Standing Committee members had already suggested during SC62 potential future priorities that the STRP may consider for the next triennium. He noted that it had been proposed that the STRP identify emerging challenges to present during SC63. It was further pointed out that the agenda item on emerging issues would provide the basis for a draft list of high-priority tasks for the 2026-2028 period. This would be discussed again during an extended intersessional STRP meeting following SC63.
18. The **STRP Vice-Chair** introduced a draft discussion paper for STRP26 on emerging issues and challenges for the conservation and wise use of wetlands, their relevance, potential impact, and the need for STRP engagement.
19. Feedback from Panel members, STRP National Focal Points, STRP Observers and IOPs was considered in a plenary session during STRP26. Potential priority and emerging issues for consideration included:
 - i. Wetland mapping and inventory,
 - ii. Adequate reporting on the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance in the RIS,
 - iii. Transformative change assessment for wetland conservation and wise use,
 - iv. Further advances in climate change and nature-based solutions,
 - v. Plastic pollution in wetlands and wetland species,
 - vi. Improved global reporting: Synergies on development of indicators and methods, and
 - vii. Increasing frequency of harmful algal blooms (HABs).
20. A summary of each emerging issue is presented in Annex 2 of the report of the Chair of the STRP on the implementation of the STRP work plan (SC63 Doc.19)¹⁰.

Decision STRP26-04: Inputs and recommendations outlined during STRP26 and SC63 will be utilized as a basis for drafting the STRP workplan 2026-2028 leading up to the next STRP resolution to be considered during COP15.

Agenda item 10: Date and venue for STRP27 (in-person) and the next intersessional meeting (online)

21. The **STRP Chair** proposed the week of 2 to 6 December 2024 for the 27th meeting of the STRP (STRP27), considering the time limitations of this triennium and the need to address resolutions and move tasks forward ahead of COP15.
22. An extended online intersessional STRP meeting was proposed to be held on 3 and 4 September 2024, following SC63, organized exclusively to address relevant STRP resolutions going to the Standing Committee in January 2025.

¹⁰ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc63-doc19-report-chair-scientific-technical-review-panel-implementation-strp-work-plan>.

Agenda item 11. Any other business

23. It was proposed that each STRP product should be accompanied by two to three PowerPoint slides that outline key messages about the respective output and, if applicable, any key actions or recommendations.
24. The Secretariat was requested to circulate a list of the remaining draft documents that would need feedback from Panel members, including dates for when input would be needed.
25. Information was shared on the Worlds Wetlands Survey¹¹, a participatory science survey on the state of the world's wetlands organized by the World Wetland Network.

Agenda item 12: Closing remarks

26. The **Director of Science and Policy** thanked all the meeting participants for their dedication and congratulated the Panel on significantly advancing the objectives outlined in the STRP work plan.
27. **Panel members** thanked the Chair, Vice Chair, and TWA leads for facilitating discussions and expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for effectively organizing the meeting.
28. The **Secretary General** provided closing remarks, extending a special thanks to the STRP Chair and Vice-Chair for their leadership in steering STRP26 towards a successful conclusion, emphasizing the significant progress made by all Panel members over the past week. The **Secretary General** further noted the highly relevant observations and contributions made during the discussion on the 5th Strategic Plan and the Convention's wetland classification system.
29. The **STRP Chair** and **Vice-Chair** thanked the TWA Leads for leading the working groups and congratulated the attendees on their hard work and the meeting's outcomes, noting that significant progress had been made across all tasks during STRP26.
30. The **STRP Chair** closed the meeting.

¹¹ See <https://worldwetland.network/our-work/world-wetlands-survey/>.