

## Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group

### Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. note the progress report of the Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG); and
- ii. welcomes the progress made by the SPWG in Annex 3 below as a basis for continued discussions to work towards a draft resolution for COP15.

### Background

1. This Report of the Strategic Plan Working Group covers the period from the 62nd meeting of the Standing Committee (SC62), which was held from 4 to 8 September 2023, through 20 March 2024. The report of the SPWG to SC62<sup>2</sup> provides information on the mandate, formation and activities of the Working Group prior to SC62. The terms of reference (TORs) for the Working Group are included as Annex 1 to the present document.<sup>3</sup>

### Strategic Plan Working Group activities up to SC63

2. The Working Group met on the margins of SC62 on 4 September 2023 and reviewed the preliminary results of the stakeholder survey, acknowledging the importance of this exercise to solicit the views of various stakeholders to inform the development of the new Fifth Strategic Plan. The structure of the new Plan was discussed, with members noting that the existing structure of goals, targets and indicators from the Fourth Strategic Plan remain, and that there should be continuity with previous Plans. Members also stressed that there should be alignment with other processes, notably the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) and that indicators should align with the National Report format.
3. The Working Group met again on 11 December 2023. The consultant provided an update on activities since the previous meeting including the final results of the stakeholder survey and the regional workshops. Targets and indicators were discussed with overall agreement that:
  - a. targets and indicators should be global within a flexible framework for regions;

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<sup>1</sup> Document revised to include new Annex 3 *Strategic Plan Goal wording agreed to by the SP5WG as of June 5, representing consensus to date and a basis for discussion in future WG meetings.*

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc62-doc10-report-strategic-plan-working-group>.

<sup>3</sup> The TORs were approved intersessionally by Standing Committee in August 2022 and updated in November 2022 to include the Framework for preparation of the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan (Resolution XIV.4 paras. 18 to 22).

- b. prioritization, while important, should be done by Parties based on their respective context and situation;
  - c. targets and indicators should be more “outcome” oriented rather than “process” oriented;
  - d. suggestions were provided on additional elements that should be included in the Plan, including social and economic challenges of wetland dependent communities (e.g. livelihoods), participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their contributions to wetlands conservation, restoration and wise use, climate adaptation, means of implementation, including innovative financial mechanisms, interlinkages with the GBF, a focus on sustainable development and global environmental priorities of climate, biodiversity and pollution, and youth, women and other underrepresented groups; and
  - e. targets and indicators should align with the KM-GBF and the indicators of other MEAs, bearing in mind different mandates.
4. The meeting report and a revised timeline were shared online, following the meeting. The *Draft Content and Structure of the 5th Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands* was shared with the Working Group members by email on 23 February 2024, with an invitation to provide online comments by 12 March 2024.
  5. The Working Group met again on 19 March 2024. During the meeting the consultant provided an overview of the *Phase 2: Document research and review* report and introduced the zero draft of the Fifth Strategic Plan, which built upon recommendations by the Co-Chairs, and had been commented on by several Working Group members. During this meeting, several members mentioned that they would still require more time to review the document and that they were not ready to engage in text-based negotiations. The Co-Chairs took note of those concerns and recalled that the meeting was aimed at presenting this zero draft and collecting initial views, to identify potential areas of convergence and divergence amongst countries, while being mindful that countries may wish to revisit the document in the next meeting of the SPWG and when it is formally introduced during SC63. The preambular text in Sections A through E of the zero draft of the Fifth Strategic Plan was reviewed and discussed. Sections F (Goals) and G (Targets) were not discussed due to time limitations. It was agreed during this meeting that sections A through E of the zero draft would be updated to reflect comments where there seemed to be areas of convergence during the meeting, and that this updated version alongside sections F and G would be presented to SC63 for discussion and consideration. This updated zero draft of the Fifth Strategic Plan is presented as Annex 2 to the present report.
  6. The Working Group will meet on 18 April to discuss the framing of the goals and targets and, if time allows, proceed with discussing detailed wording.
  7. The Working Group will meet on 3 June 2024 on the margins of SC63 to continue to discuss the zero draft of the Strategic Plan. The Co-Chairs will then update the Standing Committee on progress made since document submission during its report to the plenary (agenda item 11).

## Inclusivity and transparency

8. The framework agreed in Resolution XIV.4<sup>4</sup> for preparation of the Fifth Strategic Plan calls for the process to be inclusive, transparent and accessible to enable the full and effective participation of all interested Contracting Parties, partners and stakeholders. To this end, a page on the Convention website was created where information on the preparation of the Plan is accessible to all Contracting Parties and interested stakeholders.<sup>5</sup> This page identifies Working Group members, and provides reports of the Group's meetings and reports and presentations prepared by the consultant.
9. The Working Group adopted an engagement and consultation strategy in June 2023 that called for the undertaking of a stakeholder survey to gather views on drivers of wetland loss and possible solutions from a diverse range of stakeholders. The survey was carried out and 1,380 responses were received from individuals representing all regions and a range of stakeholders. The consultant presented the insights gathered from the survey during the 11 December meeting of the Working Group<sup>6</sup> and provided a synthesis in the *Phase 2: Document research and review* report.
10. Findings and insights from the stakeholder survey were discussed and explored through 25 virtual regional workshops involving over 140 participants. These workshops provided an opportunity for different stakeholders including Contracting Parties, NGOs, Ramsar Regional Initiatives, Indigenous Peoples, academics and the Secretariat to share views on the principal drivers of wetland loss and degradation, and the principal solutions along with possible targets and indicators for identified solutions. The findings and insights from these regional workshops were presented to the Working Group by the consultant during its 19 March 2024 meeting, synthesised in the *Phase 2: Document research and review* report, and published on the Fifth Strategic Plan webpage.<sup>7</sup>

## Revised draft of the Fifth Strategic Plan

11. The zero draft of the Fifth Strategic Plan as of the date of this report is presented in Annex 2 to the present report. In advance of SC63, the Working Group will meet to further discuss the document with the aim to present to SC63 a revised draft of the Fifth Strategic Plan reflecting agreement on proposed text and identifying text where further discussion and negotiation are required.

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

<sup>5</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/about/our-mission/strategic-plan/fifth-strategic-plan>.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/consultant-update-sp5wg-11-december-2023>.

<sup>7</sup> See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/phase-2-document-review-research-report-5-march-2024>.

## Annex 1

### Terms of Reference <sup>8</sup>

#### Fifth Strategic Plan Working Group (SP5WG)

##### 1. Purpose of the SP5WG

The Fifth Strategic Plan Working Group established by the Standing Committee (Decision SC59-20) is to:

- a) develop for consideration at COP15, the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2025-2030, taking account of:
  - i) input from Contracting Parties, Convention bodies, working groups and IOPs,
  - ii) the outcomes of the review of the fourth Strategic Plan,
  - iii) the agreed framework in XIV.4 for preparation of the Fifth Strategic Plan, that:
    - *Encourages* the new Working Group to keep the Goals of the fourth Strategic Plan in the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan to maintain consistency and continuity in reporting, and to take into account the role of wetland conservation and restoration in promoting sustainable development and addressing global environmental challenges;
    - *Decides* that the fifth Strategic Plan will be informed by, *inter alia*, the Special Edition 2021 of the *Global Wetland Outlook*, the Convention Secretariat's analysis of the national reports, as well as key agreed elements external to the Convention including: the SDGs, the Global Biodiversity Framework, wetland contributions to the UNFCCC, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and any relevant work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other global programmes relating to wetlands;
    - *Recognizes* the important role that all partners and stakeholders – individuals, societies and organizations – can play, and the need to enable the contributions in particular of Indigenous Peoples, youth, all women and girls, local communities and the business sector to conserving, restoring and wisely using wetlands and to providing solutions to global environmental, social and economic challenges;
    - *Decides* that the process to develop the fifth Strategic Plan be inclusive, transparent and accessible to enable the full and effective participation of all interested Contracting Parties, partners and stakeholders; and
    - *Encourages* the new Working Group to use the thematic Annexes to the fourth Strategic Plan in the framing and development of the draft fifth Strategic Plan.
- b) develop a comprehensive programme of consultation and engagement for SP5 that is tailored to the needs of the Contracting Parties and their regions, and other Convention bodies, IOPs and external stakeholders;
- c) appoint facilitators to undertake preparatory engagement prior to COP14 and facilitate a programme of engagement with key stakeholders at COP14, and post-COP14.
- d) regularly report its progress to the Standing Committee.

The Secretariat shall under the guidance of the Working Group, assist with contracting appropriate consultant/s to support the work of the Strategic Plan Working Group.

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<sup>8</sup> The ToR was approved intersessionally by Standing Committee in August 2022 and updated November 2022 to include the Framework for preparation of the fifth Ramsar Strategic Plan Resolution XIV.4 (paras. 18 to 22).

## 2. Composition and regional representation

- The Working Group will have membership from Contracting Parties, with all regions represented;
- The Chairs of the STRP and CEPA Outreach Panel will liaise with the Working Group, and, if they find it suitable, they or any appointed member of the STRP and CEPA can join the Working Group as members;
- International Organization Partners representatives are welcome to be members;
- The Working Group may invite external parties to observe and attend meetings as required.

## 3. Structure, meetings and Secretariat support

- The Working Group will appoint among itself a Chair, and a Vice Chair and any other roles that it deems necessary;
- The Working Group will hold meetings using means that allow the full and active participation of all members and/or regions in the group. These may be face-to-face (in association with other Ramsar meetings), hybrid or virtual, the latter using an agreed platform to which all members have access;
- The Working Group will take decisions by consensus;
- The Chair and Vice Chair will liaise and work closely with other bodies of the Convention and relevant working groups and/or external parties as necessary for development of SP5;
- The Secretariat will provide secretariat services for the Working Group (meeting invitations and minutes) and act as a point of contact.

## Annex 2

### Convention on Wetlands Fifth Strategic Plan – Zero Draft

# Convention on Wetlands Fifth Strategic Plan

## Section A. Background

1. Wetlands are fundamental to human well-being, a healthy planet, and economic prosperity for all people, including for living in a healthy and sustainable environment in harmony with nature. Humans depend on wetlands for food, medicine, energy, clean air and water, climate stability, security from natural disasters as well as for recreation and culture.
2. The Convention on Wetlands' Fifth Strategic Plan seeks to respond to the findings in the *Global Wetland Outlook* publications. The Fifth Strategic Plan is informed by additional research and assessments, to target the main drivers of wetland degradation and loss. These recent assessments have emphasised the parlous state of wetlands, concluding that:
  - The global area of wetlands is rapidly decreasing.
  - A quarter of all wetland plants and animals are at risk of extinction.
  - The state of the world's remaining wetlands is also declining.
  - The main global drivers of wetland degradation and loss are climate change, unsustainable agricultural practices and urbanisation.
  - Locally, drainage, pollution, alien invasive species, unsustainable use and, disrupted flow regimes, and other factors are also impacting on the state of wetlands.
  - Despite the adoption of the Fourth Strategic Plan by the Convention on Wetlands, the degradation and loss of wetlands has continued.
  - Wetlands can also provide multiple solutions to human challenges and are critical to delivering on a range of global commitments including those relating to biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development.
  - Application of conservation management measures, increasing local community awareness and embedding cultural values and traditions into wetland management are demonstrably the most effective drivers of good ecological condition in wetlands.
  - Wetlands embody diverse concepts of nature and a plurality of value systems.
3. The Convention on Wetlands' Fifth Strategic Plan builds on previous Strategic Plans adopted by the Convention, recognising their successes but, critically, addressing their limitations, to deliver a pathway to living in harmony with nature.
4. The Fifth Strategic Plan acknowledges the important roles and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities as custodians of wetlands and as partners in their conservation, restoration and sustainable use. The Plan also embraces the principle of intergenerational equity and the need to ensure meaningful participation of younger generations in decision-making processes at all levels as well as the need to ensure gender equality in the implementation of the Fifth Strategic Plan through a gender-responsive approach, where women and girls in all their diversity have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the objectives of the Convention.

## **Section B. Purpose**

5. The Convention on Wetlands' Fifth Strategic Plan recognises the urgency to act and to halt and reverse the main drivers of wetland degradation and loss in support of wetland dependent communities. The Plan aims to address the main drivers of wetland degradation and loss, catalyse transformative change and target critical interventions that can make an effective and lasting positive impact on wetlands at all levels.
6. The Convention on Wetlands' Fifth Strategic Plan promotes coherence and complementarity among the Conventions processes, as well as with other multilateral environmental agreements and institutions, to deliver for wetlands, in line with their respective mandates.
7. This is not a Plan that seeks to routinely implement every commitment made through historical resolutions of the Convention. The time for business as usual has passed. The ambition of the Plan is to be results-orientated by prioritising the critical and urgent interventions, targets, and activities that are essential and, by definition, strategic to stem the ever-increasing degradation and loss of wetlands.

## **Section C. Relationship with the global agendas**

8. [Historical failure to meet global targets, such as the Aichi Targets, and the at best moderate progress to meet Target 6.6 under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), suggests that a new approach may be needed for the Convention on Wetlands. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), offers an opportunity to target and align strategic wetland actions as contribution to the delivery of the Framework's goals and targets and the objectives of CBD.]
9. Through prioritising the critical, strategic actions, implementation of the Convention on Wetlands' Fifth Strategic Plan will enhance synergies, cooperation or collaboration with and contribute to fulfilment of different multilateral environmental agreements and processes, including, but not limited to, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, the CBD and its Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, [the global water agenda,] as well as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals especially SDG 6, in line with respective mandates and taking into account different national circumstances. The implementation of strategic actions for the conservation, wise use and restoration of wetlands will contribute to the confluence of actions towards delivering sustainable development, [addressing the water crisis,] reversing biodiversity loss and tackling climate change.
10. More than half a century after the Convention on Wetlands was adopted, its mission is more urgent than ever. Maintaining and enhancing the multiple wetland values, while awarding wetlands the protection they need, requires international cooperation and national and local actions. The Fifth Strategic Plan will position the Convention in a key role as a global forum for negotiation and delivery against the many global challenges.

## **Section D. Theory of transformative change**

11. The Convention on Wetlands' Fifth Strategic Plan is built around a theory of transformative change which recognizes that urgent action is required globally, regionally, nationally and locally so that the critical drivers of undesirable change that have exacerbated wetland loss and

degradation will be stemmed and/or reversed to allow for the recovery of all wetland ecosystems.

12. The theory of transformative change acknowledges the vision of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of a world living in harmony with nature and promotes collective actions, including by Indigenous Peoples and local communities, Mother Earth-centric actions, rights-based and [non-market-based] approaches including community-based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the restoration, conservation and wise use of wetland ecosystems.

#### **Section E. Mission and Vision**

13. The mission of the Convention on Wetlands is:

*“the 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”.*

14. The vision of the Fifth Strategic Plan is:

*A world living in harmony with nature whereby wetlands are valued, conserved, restored and wisely used.*

#### **[Section F. Goals**

15. The Fifth Strategic Plan has three goals.

##### ***Goal 1: Living as nature***

16. *Issue:* Wetlands are critical to life on earth but are amongst the most threatened ecosystems on the planet.
17. **Goal 1:** Wetlands are used wisely and their multiple values are understood, appreciated, maintained and restored for the benefit of present and future generations and nature. Communication, education, capacity building programmes and inclusive participation of everyone is enabled to take action for wetlands and to deliver the Fifth Strategic Plan.

##### ***Goal 2: Reversing degradation and loss***

18. *Issue:* Under a business-as usual scenario, the future for wetlands is bleak. Globally, wetlands are being lost at alarming rates. The key global drivers of wetland degradation and loss are climate change, unsustainable agricultural practices and urbanization.
19. **Goal 2:** Effective conservation and wise use measures and actions are implemented to address the key global drivers of wetland degradation and loss. Effective restoration is delivered to reverse wetland degradation and loss to benefit all life on Earth.

##### ***Goal 3: Enhancing implementation***

20. *Issue:* There continues to be insufficient implementation of the resolutions agreed upon under the Convention and its previous strategic plan. Significant evidence shows that wetlands, including those of international importance, are often poorly managed. Persistent lack of



adequate means of implementation, such as adequate financial resources, capacity building and scientific and technical cooperation, hampers countries' ability to fully implement the Convention.

21. **Goal 3:** Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, are provided and equitably accessible to all Contracting parties, to enable the effective management of wetlands and to significantly improve wetland conservation and wise use.

### Section G. Targets

22. Each of the three Goals is underpinned by a number of Targets. The successful outcome of the Targets will depend on the implementation of activities. The activities will require a variety of inputs to create the enabling environment for success. Indicators are required to track progress against the activities, targets and goals (see Annex 1).

#### **Target 1.1 Recognise humans as nature**

*People and nature are one.* The human-wetlands relationship is transformed from one of exploitation, extraction, and depletion to one that recognizes and values wetlands to people and nature and the contributions wetlands make to achieving sustainable development.

**Activity 1.1.1:** Recognize, through a behavioural shift, the multiple values of wetlands. Promote the integration of wetlands values into regulation, planning and management, to enable the full understanding of their benefits through:

- Education –wetland materials should reflect the multiple values of wetlands.
- Cultural change – opportunities for wetland interaction should include multiple ways of knowing wetlands, leading to a more diverse understanding of wetland values and how they function.
- Management practices - management strategies and techniques that reflect an understanding of the holistic health, well-being, and biodiversity of the wetland community (including humans) should be implemented, taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups.

#### **Target 1.2 Ensure inclusive participation**

*All voices should be heard.* Full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation for all aspects of wetland decision-making and interactions is required. The rich cultural connections and traditional knowledge that have sustained the connection between wetlands and people must be recognised. This needs active participation of all, including but not limited to Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and girls in all their diversity, children and youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

**Activity 1.2.1:** Ensure inclusive legislation, policies and guidance for how Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women and girls, children and youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities are included in wetland decision-making and interactions.

**Activity 1.2.2:** Ensure participation of all in wetland site management and decision-making at a variety of scales, particularly through representation on committees.

**Activity 1.2.3:** Acknowledge, record and share examples of diverse community-based management initiatives and community participation in wetland management

**Activity 1.2.4:** Recognise and actively include the science, knowledge and experience of Indigenous Peoples and local communities within decision-making, in line with their free, prior and informed consent.

### **Target 1.3 Enable people to take action for wetlands**

*Everyone has a role to play in wetland conservation.* Communication, education, capacity building, participation and awareness raising can be used to help people know what wetlands are, where they are and why they are important. This will provide inclusive opportunities for people to take action for wetlands.

**Activity 1.3.1:** Ensure governments partner with institutions, non-governmental organisations, and other partners in the public and private sectors to develop communication products for the public and engagement programs for targeted audiences, including World Wetlands Day programs.

**Activity 1.3.2:** Establish national communication policies and/or strategies for the dissemination of Convention of Wetlands' products to ensure all government agencies, site staff and stakeholders can access and utilise them.

**Activity 1.3.3:** Develop wetland education resources for the formal education sector by partnering with wetland educational institutions.

### **Target 2.1 Address climate change, unsustainable agricultural practices and urbanization as the key global drivers of wetland degradation and loss**

*Globally, wetlands continue to be lost at alarming rates.* Ensure that the impacts of three key negative drivers of wetland degradation and loss, namely climate change, unsustainable agricultural practices and urbanization, are addressed comprehensively.

**Activity 2.1.1:** Integrate the conservation and wise use of wetlands into national and local climate change, agriculture and urbanization plans and policies.

**Activity 2.1.2:** Enhance the resilience of wetlands to climate change through activities such as protecting peatlands, coastal and other wetlands ecosystems, and through protecting and restoring wetlands that provide co-benefits for climate mitigation and adaptation.

**Activity 2.1.3:** Manage wetlands to deliver positive contributions to agriculture by ensuring sustainable land management, protecting wetlands from agricultural pollutants and drainage, improving agricultural practices to reduce pressures on wetlands, promoting sustainable, integrated farming systems, taking into account food security and livelihoods.

**Activity 2.1.4:** Manage wetlands to deliver positive contributions to urban environments and human settlements by avoiding wetland loss and conversion, recognising their multiple values, mainstreaming wetland protection, management and restoration in the context of green-blue spaces and biodiversity-inclusive urban planning.

### **[Target 2.2 Address regional and national drivers of wetland degradation and loss**

*Drivers of wetland degradation and loss differ from country to country.* Ensure that the national, local and site level drivers of wetland degradation and loss are addressed comprehensively through policies, plans and actions.

**Activity 2.2.1:** Evaluate and integrate the conservation of wetlands into national and local plans and policies to reverse the degradation and loss of wetlands resulting from nationally and locally significant drivers.

**Activity 2.2.2:** Integrate the positive contributions wetlands make to national and local plans and policies which address nationally and locally significant drivers.

**Activity 2.2.3:** Implement national and local plans and policies for nationally and locally significant drivers.

**Activity 2.2.4:** Manage wetlands to deliver positive contributions to nationally and locally significant drivers.]

### **Target 2.3 Restore wetlands**

*Wetland restoration is urgently needed.* Ensure that degraded and lost wetlands are under effective restoration for the critical role they play for all life on Earth.

**Activity 2.3.1:** Integrate wetland restoration targets into national and local plans and policies.

**Activity 2.3.2:** Deliver effectively restored wetlands at national and local levels.

**Activity 2.3.3:** Restore wetlands to halt the extinction of threatened wetland-dependent species and to aid the recovery and conservation of wetland-dependent species.

**Activity 2.3.4:** Promote the sustainable management of wild species from restored wetlands, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on wetland biodiversity

### **Target 3.1 Ensure cooperation among stakeholders and partners for wetlands**

*No one person or organization can deliver the Convention.* Collaboration at all scales (global, regional, national, local and site levels) and across all sectors is vital but is under resourced. Many different stakeholders and partners must work together to achieve the goals of the Convention.

**Activity 3.1.1:** Ensure capacity and knowledge exchanges are implemented to support effective cooperation within and between the Convention Secretariat, National Governments, stakeholders and partners of the Convention (including *inter alia* National Administrative Authorities, National Committees, Regional Initiatives, Wetland Cities Network, the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel, International Organisation Partners, Observers, Youth initiatives, Ramsar Culture Network).

**Activity 3.1.2:** At international scale, ensure cooperation, knowledge exchange, scientific and technical cooperation and capacity-building for the effective management of wetlands and wetland-dependent species.

**Activity 3.1.3:** Increase cooperation to improve the availability and accuracy of wetland-relevant data at national and site scales for wetland mapping, inventory, assessment and monitoring purposes.

**Activity 3.1.4:** Develop and establish an inclusive monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the state of wetlands at national and site scales.

### **Target 3.2 Deliver a global network of Wetlands of International Importance**

*Improving designation, and management and monitoring of Wetlands of International Importance is urgently needed.* Although there are over 2,500 Wetlands of International Importance, many, many more qualifying wetlands have not yet been designated. Wetlands of International Importance in an increasing number of countries are reported as having deteriorating status. Implementing effective site management demonstrably benefits wetlands.

**Activity 3.2.1:** Ensure effective management for the maintenance of the ecological character of all designated wetlands.

**Activity 3.2.2:** Increase the areas of wetlands that are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

### **Target 3.3 Establish adequate financing to implement the Convention**

*Implementing the Convention costs money.* It is extremely challenging to implement the various Convention processes without adequate financial resources. The lack of financial resources

directly compromises the ability of national governments, partners and stakeholders to deliver on the Convention's mission. Progressively increasing the level of financial resources available to the Convention from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, is critical to the future success of the Convention.

**Activity 3.3.1:** Establish a pro-active global financing mechanism for wetlands to support implementation of the Convention from the site to the global scale.

**Activity 3.3.2:** Increase international financial resources from developed countries to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States.

**Activity 3.3.3:** Explore innovative financial mechanisms for Convention implementation; leverage private finance, promote blended finance, implement strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encourage the private sector to invest in wetlands, including through impact funds and other instruments, and stimulate innovative finance schemes such as payments for ecosystem services.]

## Guidance framework

(This is a working draft provided only as an indication of a possible structure for inclusion in the Fifth Strategic Plan. A limited number of examples of Inputs are provided to illustrate the conceptual thinking.)

	<b>Goal</b> (the desired outcome to be achieved)	<b>Target</b> (the output required to achieve the outcome)	<b>Activity</b> (the actions that need to be undertaken to produce the outputs)	<b>Inputs</b> (the enablers and competencies to support the delivery of the activities)	<b>Links to other Targets / Activities within the Fifth Strategic Plan</b> (cross-cutting and mutually supporting links)	<b>Indicator</b> (the measures of change at all levels: Goals, Targets and Activity)	<b>Useful resources</b> (links existing concepts, materials and resources)
<b>1</b>	<b>Living as nature</b>					Headline indicator:	
		1.1 Recognise humans as nature	Activity 1.1.1:			Component indicators:	
		1.2 Ensure inclusive participation	Activity 1.2.1: Activity 1.2.2: Activity 1.2.3: Activity 1.2.4:			Component: indicators:	
		1.3 Enable people to take action for wetlands	Activity 1.3.1: Activity 1.3.2: Activity 1.3.3:	Education programmes in Wetland Schools; Engagement and dissemination through Wetland Centres; Knowledge exchange through and by Wetland Cities;		Component: indicators:	
<b>2</b>	<b>Reversing degradation and loss</b>					Headline indicator:	
		2.1 Address climate change, unsustainable agricultural practices and urbanization as the key global drivers of wetland degradation and loss	Activity 2.1.1: Activity 2.1.2: Activity 2.1.3: Activity 2.1.4:	Global wetland monitoring systems; Cross-sectoral National Wetland Committees; Agricultural training programmes; Knowledge exchange through and by Wetland Cities;		Component indicators:	
		[2.2 Address regional and national drivers of wetland degradation and loss]	Activity 2.2.1: Activity 2.2.2: Activity 2.2.3: Activity 2.2.4:			Component indicators:	

	<b>Goal</b> (the desired outcome to be achieved)	<b>Target</b> (the output required to achieve the outcome)	<b>Activity</b> (the actions that need to be undertaken to produce the outputs)	<b>Inputs</b> (the enablers and competencies to support the delivery of the activities)	<b>Links to other Targets / Activities within the Fifth Strategic Plan</b> (cross-cutting and mutually supporting links)	<b>Indicator</b> (the measures of change at all levels: Goals, Targets and Activity)	<b>Useful resources</b> (links existing concepts, materials and resources)
		2.3 Restore wetlands	Activity 2.3.1: Activity 2.3.2: Activity 2.3.3: Activity 2.3.4:			Component indicators:	
<b>3</b>	<b>Enhancing implementation</b>					Headline indicator:	
		3.1 Ensure cooperation among stakeholders and partners for wetlands	Activity 3.1.1: Activity 3.1.2: Activity 3.1.3: Activity 3.1.4:	Ramsar Regional Initiatives cooperation and capacity building; Governmental capacity building programmes;		Component indicators:	
		3.2 Deliver a global network of Wetlands of International Importance	Activity 3.2.1: Activity 3.2.2:	Intergovernmental dissemination and knowledge exchange;		Component indicators:	
		3.3 Establish adequate financing to implement the Convention	Activity 3.3.1: Activity 3.3.2: Activity 3.3.3:			Component indicators:	

**Annex 3**

**Strategic Plan Goal wording agreed to by the SP5WG as of June 5**

The wording of the goals included below represents consensus to date and a basis for discussion in future Working Group meetings. The zero draft in Annex 2 and text under discussion that has not yet been agreed will be considered in these meetings.

***GOAL 1: ADDRESS AND REVERSE WETLAND LOSS AND DEGRADATION***

*Goal statement:* By 2034, the impacts of key drivers of wetland loss and degradation are addressed and effective restoration actions are implemented to conserve wetlands and to reverse loss and degradation of wetlands for the benefit of all life on Earth.

***GOAL 2: ACHIEVE THE WISE USE OF WETLANDS***

*Goal statement:* By 2034, wetland wise use is delivered, where the multiple values, functions and services of wetlands are understood and recognised in policy and planning, the inclusive participation of all is enabled in decision-making, and action is taken for wetlands for the benefit of present and future generations.

***GOAL 3: CONSERVE AND MANAGE WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE EFFECTIVELY***

*Goal statement:* By 2034, Wetlands of International Importance are recognized, effectively conserved and managed and, through designating sites that qualify, there is a significant increase in area, numbers and ecological connectivity across the Ramsar Site Network.

***GOAL 4: ENHANCE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION***