

**Preparation of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties:
Draft resolution on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards**

Prepared by the Secretariat

Action requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to review and approve the attached draft resolution for consideration by the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Introduction

This draft resolution proposes authorizing the Standing Committee rather than the COP to determine the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award categories and eligibility criteria as noted in paragraph 6. It is the view of the Secretariat that this is an action that can be more efficiently undertaken by the Standing Committee rather than the COP. This approach enables flexibility to make relevant adjustments and to reflect emerging issues. This resolution would replace Resolution XIV.9 and its annexes.

Financial implications of implementation

Paragraphs 8.iv and 10	The Secretariat to seek voluntary contributions to fund the Awards.	CHF 50,000 (non-core budget)
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Draft resolution XV.x on the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards

1. NOTING the achievements of the Convention in promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and the many individuals, organizations and governments that have contributed significantly to this achievement;
2. RECONFIRMING the need to recognize and honour such contributions as a means of motivating greater and continued support for the Convention's cause in the future; and
3. RECALLING Resolution XIV.9 on *the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards*;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

4. DECIDES that the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards should be presented on the occasion of each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;

5. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to do the following for each cycle of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards:
 - i. Approve the nomination process and establish an appropriate timetable;
 - ii. Confirm the Subgroup on COP as the jury to select and recommend award recipients; and
 - iii. Decide the Award recipients in a closed session;
6. DECIDES that the Standing Committee shall determine the Award categories and eligibility criteria for each cycle of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards;
7. DECIDES that the Standing Committee's decisions on the Awards are final and cannot be appealed against;
8. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to do the following for each cycle of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards:
 - i. Propose Award categories, the eligibility criteria, and the nomination process for the Standing Committee's consideration and decision. Proposals by the Secretariat should reflect the goals of the Convention, promote effective and sustainable practices, and be representative of the diverse actors crucial to wetland conservation. Additionally, the award categories should resonate with a global audience and attract nominations from all the regions of the Convention;
 - ii. Submit a shortlist of nominees for consideration by the Subgroup on COP as the jury of the Awards. The Secretariat may seek the advice of the Chairs of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and the CEPA Oversight Panel when appropriate;
 - iii. Oversee all administrative and communication tasks related to the Awards including organizing the Awards Ceremony; and
 - iv. Fundraise and seek voluntary contributions from donors to supplement or complement existing funding;
9. DECIDES that any individuals or organizations (including government institutions, sub-national authorities, non-governmental organizations, private companies and community groups), as well as permanent or temporary co-operations between individuals and/or organizations of any nation or region, are eligible and can be nominated, as long they are within the Award category and fulfil the eligibility criteria;
10. DECIDES that the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award recipients will each receive a trophy and a certificate and a cash award subject to available funding;
11. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to promote the call for nominations for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards to relevant national institutions and to nominate suitable candidates; and
12. CONFIRMS that this updated text supersedes Resolution XIV.9 on *the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards* and its annexes, which are replaced by the present Resolution.