

Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of the progress since the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee in implementing Resolution XIV.6 on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*.
- ii. decide to forward the draft resolution on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* to COP15 for its consideration.

Background

1. This report has been prepared by the Secretariat pursuant to paragraph 21 of Resolution XIV.6 on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*.
2. The report covers the main activities undertaken since the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee in 2024 (SC63), and the results achieved. It also includes, in Annex 1, text for a draft resolution on the same subject to be submitted for the consideration of the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15).

Biodiversity

Convention on Biological Diversity

3. The Convention on Wetlands is the designated lead partner on wetlands and work on inland water biodiversity for the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD; Decision III/21). Efforts by the Secretariat continue to be focused on facilitating the alignment of the objectives of the two Conventions and enhancing synergies in implementation, with particular focus on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
4. The Secretariat participated in the 26th meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of CBD (SBSTTA 26) from 13 to 18 May 2024, and the fourth Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of CBD (SBI-4) from 21 to 29 May, held in Nairobi, Kenya. Interventions were made in relation to cooperation among Conventions and

international organizations, drawing attention to the sixth Joint Work Plan 2024-2030 of the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands¹ and encouraging parties to support it and to pursue actions in line with the voluntary guidance it contains; as well as in relation to updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, encouraging parties to the CBD to use the guide on *Upscaling wetland conservation, restoration and wise use through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)* prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in further work on NBSAPs, including national target setting. The Secretariat also contributed to side events, including on “Inland Waters: Enhancing implementation through Indicators, guidance and tools” held on 15 May, and “Conserving and Restoring Freshwater Biodiversity: Linking from SDGs to the GBF for Implementation and Monitoring at National & Global Levels” held on 16 May. The Convention’s collaboration with the CBD and role in implementation of the KMGBF was presented in a “Biodiversity Beat” interview.

5. The sixth Joint Work Plan of CBD and the Convention on Wetlands was made available to the Conference of the Parties to the CBD at its sixteenth meeting in Cali, Colombia in October 2024, in information document CBD/COP/16/INF/19.
6. The Secretariat has supported the STRP in preparation of Technical Report 12² *Scaling up wetland conservation and restoration to deliver the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: Guidance on including wetlands in NBSAPs: Guidance on including wetlands in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to boost biodiversity and halt wetland loss and degradation* (Task 5.2 of the STRP Work Plan 2023-2025³). The report was shared with Contracting Parties through a notification on 15 May 2024 and officially launched on 19 June in a webinar on “Integrating Wetlands into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)” organized jointly with the CBD.⁴ The report was also shared through engagement in events in the context of CBD SBSTTA-26 and SBI-4.
7. The Secretariat supported ongoing work of the STRP pursuant to Standing Committee Decision SC62-50, which requested the STRP to discuss the application of the current wetland classification system at its 26th meeting, and Decision SC63-30, which requested the STRP to undertake scoping and planning for a review of the classification system of wetland type to be implemented as a high priority task in the 2025-2027 triennium, and also requested the STRP, working with the Secretariat, to organize a consultation with the Earth observation community on development of an initiative to foster dialogue, knowledge exchange and guidance for earth observation in support of wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring and conservation.
8. The Secretariat continues to participate in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG), and has, *inter alia*, contributed to the preparation of a joint BLG statement to the High Level Segment of CBD COP16, as well as a BLG side event to be held at CBD COP16.

¹ See information document SC63 Inf.1 at <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc63-inf1-6th-joint-work-plan-2024-2030-convention-biological-diversity-convention>.

² See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/scaling-wetland-conservation-restoration-deliver-kunming-montreal-global-biodiversity>.

³ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/scientific-technical-review-panel-strp-workplan-2023-2025>.

⁴ See <https://www.ramsar.org/webinar-integrating-wetlands-national-biodiversity-strategies-action-plans-nbsaps>.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

9. The Secretariat participated virtually on 13 May 2024 in a meeting of the Flyways Working Group of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), along with the World Heritage Convention (WHC) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The meeting identified opportunities to promote the Group's work on ecological connectivity, including its web application and its potential link to the Critical Site Network tool, and explored collaboration with other relevant projects.
10. The Secretariat participated virtually in the 24th Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) on 4 July 2024. The meeting addressed administrative and policy issues, and the Secretariat made interventions on matters related to national reporting by Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands and wetland site management.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

11. The Secretariat participated in the 27th meeting of the Plants Committee and the 33rd meeting of the Animals Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held in Geneva, Switzerland, in July 2024. The Secretariat made interventions concerning wetland-dependent plant and animal species.

Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage

12. The Secretariat contributed to three regional webinars on avian influenza and UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, and Wetlands of International Importance, on 19 and 26 April and 14 May 2024, covering the Africa, Europe, Asia, Oceania, and Latin America regions. Organized in collaboration with the WHC, the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, and CMS and its Scientific Working Group on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds, these webinars sought to equip participants with the knowledge and tools to safeguard animal health and to protect human populations from the risk of avian influenza. The webinars were attended by over 1,000 participants from around the world.

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

13. The Chair of the STRP took part virtually as an observer in the 22nd meetings of the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) and Bureau from 1 to 8 July 2024. The meetings considered and discussed synergies between IPBES and the scientific work of the Convention on Wetlands.

Climate change

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

14. The Secretariat has continued its work to raise awareness of the vulnerability of wetlands and their ecosystem services related to climate change, their critical role in reducing climate change and its impacts, the importance of wetland actions in climate change strategies and plans, and opportunities to leverage commitments and actions under the Convention on Wetlands in delivering climate outcomes. This has included collaboration with relevant international partners in preparations for the 29th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP29), to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024. In this regard, the Secretariat is now a partner of the Water for Climate

Pavilion led by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) to raise the profile of water issues within global climate discussions. The Secretariat also contributed to the development of the UN-Water Analytical brief on *Water for Climate Mitigation* prepared for COP29.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

15. The Secretariat participated in the 60th Session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-60) in Istanbul, Türkiye, from 16 to 19 January 2024. The main focus of IPCC-60 was planning for the seventh assessment cycle, including options for the programme of work. It was decided that a “Special Report on Climate Change and Cities” and a “Methodology Report on Short-lived Climate Forcers” will be provided by 2027. The Secretariat has submitted nominations of participants for the Scoping Meeting for the IPCC Seventh Assessment Report (AR7) and contributors to the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities, based on recommendations provided by the STRP.

Pollution

16. Many types of waste and chemical pollutants are a critical threat to wetlands, passing through and accumulating in wetlands. Aligning efforts with international processes on pollution has become an important area for enhancing synergies and partnerships.
17. The Secretariat continues to engage with the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC). In the lead-up to the fourth session of INC, held in Ottawa, Canada, from 23 to 29 April 2024, the Secretary General delivered a keynote address at the event “Biodiversity and the Global Plastic Treaty: IUCN’s Proposal for a Specific Article on ‘Biodiversity Aspects’ in the Future Treaty” organized by the Geneva Environment Network on 26 March 2024. Additionally, the Secretariat participated in the session “From Source to Sea: Advancing Plastic Pollution International Policy” during Stockholm World Water Week on 26 August 2024.
18. The Secretariat took part in the third session of the Ad hoc Open-Ended Working Group on a Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution Prevention (OEWG) held in Geneva from 17 to 21 June 2024. The Secretariat will remain actively engaged in this process, which aims to establish a science-policy panel that will contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste, and to pollution prevention.

Water

19. Building on the outcomes of the 2023 UN Water Conference and in preparation of the next UN Water Conference that will be held in 2026 under the leadership of Senegal and United Arab Emirates, the Secretariat has continued its global engagement on water, to raise the profile of the Convention and its relevance to the water, biodiversity and climate nexus. The Secretariat has hired an expert consultant to provide support in analysing the Convention’s relevance and contribution to international water-related processes, which will support and further guide the Secretariat’ strategic engagement in water-related processes. This will encompass in-depth interviews with some Contracting Parties.
20. The World Water Forum in Bali, Indonesia, in May 2024, and the World Water Week (WWW) in Stockholm, Sweden, in August, provided speaking opportunities to highlight the importance of wetlands within water cycles, and within societies, economies and cities. Several bilateral meetings were held to increase the Convention’s visibility among policy-makers and its

connections with UN agencies and international partners' work on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, on water and climate.

21. The Secretary General delivered statements at the plenary of the Third High-Level International Conference on the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028, held from 10 to 13 June 2024 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, and also promoted the Convention's gender and wetlands work and campaigns at the International Women and Water Forum, also in Dushanbe. The Secretary General delivered a video message in a high-level event on lakes organized by Indonesia on 23 September during the high-level week of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly.
22. The Secretariat participates in monthly meetings of the international partners of the Freshwater Challenge, as well as other related preparatory meetings, to follow up and advise on the development of the initiative. A FWC members' meeting took place on 31 May 2024 in Gland, Switzerland, with the participation of 32 countries and the European Union. The meeting clarified and prioritized next steps in terms of institutional arrangements, private sector involvement, resource mobilization and technical assistance. Exchanges with the private sector took place in August at WWW, organized by FWC international partners.

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

23. The Secretariat participated in the tenth session of the Meeting of the Parties (MoP 10) to the UNECE Water Convention in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from 23 to 25 October 2024. A side event dedicated to ecosystems and biodiversity was jointly organized with Switzerland and Slovenia, contributing to the development of ideas and approaches for the mutual reinforcement of the Convention on Wetlands and the UNECE Water Convention, particularly in transboundary basins and in liaison with the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO).

UN-Water

24. The Secretariat continues to engage actively as member of the UN-Water Expert Group on Water and Climate Change, including to highlight the potential of wetlands as nature-based solutions. The Secretariat participated in an online meeting on 11 July 2024 and in the development of the UN-Water Analytical brief on *Water for Climate Mitigation* (see the climate change section above).

Sustainable development

25. In its role as co-custodian, along with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), of SDG6 indicator 6.6.1 "change in extent of water-related ecosystems over time", the Secretariat maintains regular contact with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and UNEP. The Secretariat participated in an online meeting on 19 September 2024 organized by the Statistics Division of UN DESA to discuss data and metadata issues with custodian agencies, as well as to prepare the 2025 SDG data transmission process. Responses from the Contracting Parties to the National Report questions related to national wetland inventories will be key to update the current data with new robust data in relation to indicator 6.6.1.⁵

⁵ See document SC64 Doc.10 for further details: <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc64-doc10-urgent-challenges-wise-use-wetlands-receive-enhanced-attention-update-wetland>.

International financial institutions

26. The Secretariat continues to cultivate strategic relationships with international financing institutions to raise awareness of the investment required by Contracting Parties to implement the objectives of the Convention. The Secretariat participated virtually in the 67th Council Meeting of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which took place on 17 June 2024.
27. The Secretary General held two meetings with Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairperson of the GEF, in 2024: at CMS COP14 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in February and at the AMCEN meeting in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, in August. These discussions resulted in an agreement to enhance cooperation between the Secretariats of the GEF and the Convention, including through collaboration on the mapping of wetland projects supported by GEF.
28. The Secretariat has also collaborated with the Independent Evaluation Unit of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), serving as an advisor to the publication of its report *Coastal and Terrestrial Water Sector Interventions in Developing Countries: A Systematic Review*.
29. In August 2024, the Wetland Finance Support Officer joined the Secretariat to enhance engagement with international financial institutions and to develop internal programmes aimed at supporting Contracting Parties' access to international environmental financing.
30. The Secretariat has continued its participation in stakeholder meetings of the Asian Development Bank's Regional Flyway Initiative, which convened once during this reporting period, on 18 April 2024. The Secretariat provides technical advice in identifying priority sites within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway.

Collaboration with international partners

31. The Secretariat continues its involvement in the UN Environment Management Group (EMG). The Secretariat has participated in the consultative process to identify means of strengthening ownership, unlocking win-wins and securing buy-in from UN entities in the work of the EMG. The outcome of this process will be a set of suggestions presented to EMG senior officials at their meeting on 30 October 2024. The Secretary General participated in the 30th Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG, held virtually on 15 October, while the Deputy Secretary General attended the Senior Consultation on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the EMG on 20 August. The Secretariat also contributed to the report *An Overview of UN Activities and Initiatives Related to Pollution*, which highlights the Convention's work on pollution in wetlands.
32. In the context of the memorandum of understanding with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) signed in 2022, the Secretariat participated in a consultative workshop on "Strengthening Science-Policy Interface to Support Environmental Governance Actions" organized by UNEP on 24 and 25 April 2024 in Bonn, Germany. The aim of the workshop was to discuss issues of strengthening science-policy interfaces and policy coherence.
33. The Secretariat attended the 14th Steering Committee Meeting of InforMEA, held in Montreux, Switzerland from 11 to 13 June 2024. The Steering Committee recommended that priority be given to supporting the development and dissemination of courses by the Convention on Wetlands, as well as joint development of courses with participating multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The Secretariat also contributed to discussions regarding systems interoperability, hosting, artificial intelligence and data quality, towards ensuring continuous

functioning of different processes and enhancing data quality and facilitating data sharing between the MEAs.

34. The Secretariat participated in the 10th Special Session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) in Abidjan, from September 1 to 6, 2024. The Abidjan Declaration, the outcome document of the meeting, underscored the critical role of water in enhancing Africa's efforts to combat drought, and recommended that future AMCEN meetings include a round-table discussion on the wise use of wetlands in Africa.
35. The Secretariat participated in a meeting organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) from 17 to 19 June 2024 in Rome, Italy, to validate the FAO Legal Diagnostic Tool encompassing the One Health approach, the SDGs and the objectives of relevant MEAs. The Secretariat provided input to ensure that the Tool adequately incorporates guidance on review of national laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
36. The Secretariat and FAO jointly organized a workshop on "Agriculture and wetlands: maintaining and restoring the ecological character of wetlands in agricultural settings", hosted by FAO in Rome from 10 to 12 June 2024, which focused on finalizing the compilation of case studies for the STRP technical report being prepared as part of Task 3.3 in the STRP Work Plan 2023-2025⁶.
37. The Secretary General met the Assistant Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) responsible for Natural Sciences, along with representatives of the WHC, the MAB Programme, and the Education for Sustainable Development 2030 Programme. The meeting took stock of ongoing and past collaborations between the organizations and identified key actions for strengthening collaboration in the coming years.
38. Pursuant to Resolution XIV.6, paragraph 35, which requests the Secretariat to assess the progress on wetland restoration and report to COP15, the Secretariat has established an advisory committee to support the work. Entities participating in the advisory committee include the G20 Global Land Initiative hosted by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), FAO, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the Secretariat of the CBD, the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), and the STRP.
39. The renewed memorandum of cooperation between the Secretariat and the six International Organization Partners (IOPs) of the Convention was signed on 28 June 2024, with a duration of six years. The overall objective of the partnership is to support Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Convention and the protection, restoration and wise use of wetlands and their resources, and through this contribute towards the achievement of relevant global goals and targets including for sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and climate change. The Secretariat continues its close collaboration with IOPs, including on events organized in the context of meetings of MEAs. The IOPs are also, individually as well as collectively, making extensive contributions towards relevant STRP Tasks.
40. The Secretariat continues to collaborate closely with IUCN to support the operations of the Secretariat under the service agreement between the Convention and IUCN. Regular meetings and alignment of processes and policies continue in the different areas under the service

⁶ See <https://www.ramsar.org/document/scientific-technical-review-panel-strp-workplan-2023-2025>.

agreement, such as finance and accounting, information technology, facilities management and human resources.

41. The Secretariat will continue working to enhance the Convention's visibility and synergies in partnership with MEAs and other international institutions, guided by COP Resolutions and Standing Committee Decisions, and seeking to strategically prioritize such efforts based on expected impact and with consideration of the Secretariat's capacity.

Annex 1

Draft resolution on Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

1. RECALLING that Resolutions XIV.6 on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other institutions*, XII.7 on *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention*, and XII.3 on *Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* instruct the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with bodies of the UN system, multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and international organizations, in line with their respective mandates, in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation, and to report progress to the Standing Committee on a regular basis;
2. WELCOMING the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in its Decision 15/4, and the decision of the Seventh Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to approve the establishment of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF);
3. NOTING CBD Decisions 15/9 and 15/13 which, *inter alia*, recognize that other biodiversity-related MEAs will contribute to the implementation of the KMGBF, consistent with their respective mandates and priorities; encourage the strengthening of cooperation and synergies among relevant Conventions and MEAs in the implementation of the KMGBF; and invite the governing bodies of biodiversity-related Conventions and relevant MEAs to contribute to the monitoring of the KMGBF;
4. FURTHER NOTING that CBD Decision 15/13 invites the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related Conventions and relevant multilateral environmental agreements to formally endorse the KMGBF through their own governance processes, as appropriate, in order to support its operationalization and contribute to the transparency and monitoring of progress in its implementation by, among others, using synergetic modular reporting tools such as the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT);
5. RECALLING CBD Decision 3/21 which invites the Convention on Wetlands to cooperate as a lead partner in the implementation of activities related to wetlands under the CBD;
6. WELCOMING the finalization of the sixth joint work plan between the Convention on Wetlands and the CBD, which seeks to align efforts towards achievement of the objectives of both Conventions, enhance cooperation between them, and maximize the impact of their actions in addressing the challenges of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands;
7. CONVINCED of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies at all levels to enhance coherent implementation of MEAs as well as to advance mainstreaming of biodiversity concerns into relevant sectors;
8. RECALLING that the Secretariat is requested by Resolution XII.3 and XIV.6 to continue its work with the Biodiversity Liaison Group to enhance coherence and cooperation and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related Conventions;

9. EMPHASIZING the importance of cooperation at the national and international levels, including among MEAs, organizations and initiatives, to contribute to the implementation and monitoring of the CBD and the KMGBF, the UNCCD and its Land Degradation Neutrality Targets, the UNFCCC and the Global Goal on Adaptation and Nationally Determined Contributions of the Paris Agreement, and in this context RECOGNIZING the relevance of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands to these instruments;
10. WELCOMING the outcomes of the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including Resolution EA.6/Res.6 on *Fostering national action to address global environmental challenges through increased cooperation between the United Nations Environment Assembly, the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements*.
11. NOTING the outcomes of the Bern III Conference on cooperation among the biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the KMGBF, held in January 2024 with the active participation of representatives of Parties to the Conventions, secretariats of MEAs, relevant organizations and stakeholders, and RECOGNIZING the support provided by the Government of Switzerland towards the Bern process;
12. RECALLING UN General Assembly Resolution 73/284, which proclaims 2021-2030 to be the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the primary aim to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide, and in this regard NOTING that the Conference of the Contracting Parties, *inter alia* through Recommendation 4.1 and Resolutions VII.17, VIII.16, XII.11, XIII.13, XIII.14, XIII.20, XIV.15, XIV.16 and XIV.17, has recognized the importance and benefits of wetland restoration; and that Contracting Parties have prioritized restoration of degraded wetlands in the development of the Convention's Fifth Strategic Plan;
13. FURTHER RECALLING UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 on *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which stresses the importance of enhancing programmatic synergies among the Rio Conventions and recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) made by the MEAs, including the Convention on Wetlands;
14. NOTING the relevance of the Convention on Wetlands to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular: SDG 6, "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all" and its Target 6.6, "By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes"; SDG 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", and its Target 14.2, "By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans"; and SDG 15, "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss", and its Target 15.1, "By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements" as well as its Target 15.3 "By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world";

15. RECALLING that the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and UNEP are co-custodian agencies for SDG Indicator 6.6.1 “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time”, and that the reporting stream compiled by the Secretariat will be based on the national reporting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on wetland extent;
16. NOTING the progress of the Contracting Parties on the preparation of national wetlands inventories and reporting data on Indicator 6.6.1 in their National Reports to the 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties;
17. RECALLING Resolution XIV.6 which INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working actively with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as well as with other relevant UN agencies, on water-related indicators, and in particular SDG Indicator 6.6.1; and
18. WELCOMING General Assembly Resolutions 77/334 and 78/327 on the 2026 “United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 2 to 4 December 2026, co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Visibility and stature, and increasing synergies

19. INVITES the Secretariat, Contracting Parties, United Nations agencies, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and other stakeholders to work to raise the visibility of the Convention at the national, subnational, regional and international levels as appropriate;
20. REAFFIRMS the importance of enhancing cooperation and synergies in the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, the Rio Conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), at the global, regional and national levels, in a manner fully consistent with their mandates and priorities, and in this context WELCOMES the outcomes of the Bern III Conference as an important contribution to enhancing synergies among MEAs;
21. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue the collaboration with the Secretariats of MEAs such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (UNECE Water Convention);
22. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue its engagement in the Biodiversity Liaison Group;
23. ENDORSES the 6th Joint Work Plan, 2024-2030, of the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands, and INVITES Contracting Parties, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the Communication, Capacity Building, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Oversight Panel and the Secretariat to support its implementation in line with its voluntary guidance;

24. ENCOURAGES Parties to the Convention that are also Parties to other MEAs such as the CBD, the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, or the UNCCD, to consider, as appropriate, the relevance of their actions to implement the Convention on Wetlands in delivering on commitments under other MEAs, taking into account the importance of conserving, restoring, sustainably managing and using wetlands to achieving their respective goals and targets;
25. INVITES Contracting Parties, where relevant, to develop national wetland policies, strategies or equivalent policy instruments, and to mainstream wetlands, their functions and their contributions to people in national sustainable development plans, relevant sectoral strategies, plans and regulations, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other biodiversity-related strategies and plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, National Adaptation Plans and other climate change strategies and plans, and Land Degradation Neutrality Plans, thereby strengthening efforts to address biodiversity loss, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and other environmental, social and economic challenges through wetland restoration, conservation, sustainable management and wise use;
26. URGES Contracting Parties to establish national collaboration mechanisms between MEA focal points to promote synergies and effectiveness of national efforts, for example, through national biodiversity working groups, relevant measures in NBSAPs, and harmonized knowledge management and national reporting, including by making use of the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT);
27. ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to the Convention to continue to increase their efforts to coordinate with the national focal points and focal agencies for Rio Conventions and other MEAs as well as with institutions and agencies working to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs;
28. FURTHER ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to continue strengthening coordination with all wetland practitioners including managers of Wetlands of International Importance, to inform them of activities under the Convention on Wetlands and be informed by them about processes and issues of common interest;
29. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to continue to develop and activate cooperation and networking mechanisms, including national wetlands committees or similar bodies, to ensure collaboration among national ministries, departments and agencies, and to continue to establish or strengthen mechanisms to enhance effective coordination between relevant national and subnational authorities;
30. INVITES Contracting Parties to continue working with global and regional bodies and initiatives, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the UN Regional Commissions, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to enhance the wise and sustainable use of wetlands;
31. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to enhance synergies and cooperation at local, regional and international levels, including with respect to Wetland City Accreditation and sites with multiple international designations (such as Wetlands of International Importance that are also designated as Man and the Biosphere Reserves or World Heritage Sites), and ENCOURAGES local and subnational governments to support such efforts;

32. ENCOURAGES members of the Independent Advisory Committee, IOPs and other partners, to strengthen the visibility of the Wetland City Accreditation scheme, including through platforms such as the CitiesWithNature initiative of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the Urban Alliance Index of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the New Urban Agenda of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat);
33. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to continue to implement the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19), including by establishing cooperative mechanisms for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins to enhance transboundary cooperation, and establishment of transboundary Wetlands of International Importance;
34. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue its engagement as a Global Partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and to continue working with FAO, UNEP, the biodiversity-related Conventions and the IOPs in its implementation;
35. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to integrate the *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* contained in Resolution VIII.16 into their national wetland policies and plans, in undertaking national wetland inventories of wetlands with the potential for restoration, and in applying the Convention toolkit for national wetland inventories, and to report their progress on these matters in their triennial National Reports to the COP as a contribution to the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration;
36. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with relevant international organizations including the World Bank, UNEP, UNDP, FAO, WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
37. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue collaborating with CMS and other entities through the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity launched at CMS COP14, to support the efforts of Contracting Parties to maintain, enhance, and restore ecological connectivity in key areas for migratory species of wild animals, including through the designation and strengthened management of Wetlands of International Importance;
38. WELCOMES the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding with UNEP to enhance collaboration on areas of common interest;
39. WELCOMES the renewed memorandum of cooperation between the Secretariat and the six IOPs of the Convention, THANKS the IOPs for their continued commitment to the Convention; and INVITES them to support implementation of the Convention's Fifth Strategic Plan;
40. AUTHORIZES the Secretary General to enter into new cooperation agreements with organizations that meet the criteria found in document SC54-16 Rev.1 that promote visibility, synergies and implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan;
41. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on progress in implementing the present Resolution and Resolution XI.6 on *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*, including on the results of existing

cooperation with other Conventions, international organizations and partnerships, and on the exploration of new activities with possible partners;

The Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

42. ENDORSES the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), WELCOMES its related decisions adopted by CBD COP15, and CONFIRMS that collaboration among MEAs and international organizations at the global, regional, and national levels and in line with their respective mandates, is vital for their efficient and effective implementation;
43. RECOGNIZES the critical importance of wetland protection, restoration and wise use for the achievement of the goals and targets of the KMGBF, and in this regard the importance of the Convention on Wetlands in contributing to its implementation and monitoring, including but not limited to KMGBF Targets 2 and 3;
44. INSTRUMENTS the Secretariat to ensure that the Convention's National Reporting Form enables Contracting Parties to indicate how their actions to implement the Convention contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of the KMGBF, thereby strengthening the relevance of the Convention's national reporting to monitoring of the KMGBF;
45. REQUESTS the STRP to provide advice to the Secretariat and to Contracting Parties in relation to indicators and reporting, including to promote the use of the Convention's reporting in monitoring of relevant Targets of the KMGBF;

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals

46. INSTRUMENTS the Secretariat to continue working actively with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as well as with relevant UN agencies on water-related indicators, and in particular SDG Indicator 6.6.1 on extent of water-related ecosystems, and to further strengthen its collaboration with UNEP as co-custodian of Indicator 6.6.1;
47. URGES Contracting Parties to strengthen their efforts to complete, maintain and update national wetland inventories and to report on wetland extent in national reports, in order to report on SDG Indicator 6.6.1; and INSTRUMENTS the Secretariat to continue working with Contracting Parties and relevant organizations to actively support these efforts through the further development of the national wetland inventories support mechanism;
48. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen mechanisms for effective coordination among national and subnational statistical authorities responsible for reporting on the SDGs and in particular those related to wetlands and extent of water-related ecosystems (SDG Indicator 6.6.1);
49. INSTRUMENTS the Secretariat to support the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Global Acceleration Framework and to actively engage, as appropriate, with UN-Water and with international initiatives to promote conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands;
50. FURTHER INSTRUMENTS the Secretariat to support Contracting Parties as appropriate in mainstreaming and raising the relevance of wetlands and the Convention to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including through collaboration with UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, IOPs and other partners in the public and private sectors for

the development of guidance and tools, capacity building and identification of opportunities to access resources;

International environmental financing mechanisms

51. INVITES the GEF to continue to support wetland projects through relevant Focal Areas, to address direct drivers of wetland degradation and loss, protect wetland habitats and wetland-dependent species, including through Wetlands of International Importance, to restore wetlands, and mainstream consideration of wetlands functions and values into relevant sectors and build capacity in this regard;
52. FURTHER INVITES the GEF to explore opportunities within the upcoming ninth replenishment of the Trust Fund to address the critical importance of wetlands, the multiple benefits they provide to both nature and people, and the cost-effectiveness of investments that achieve biodiversity, water, climate and livelihoods objectives;
53. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to enhance support for wetland protection, restoration and wise use through national, multi-country and regional projects submitted to the GEF, including projects targeting the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund for the updating and implementation of NBSAPs;
54. INVITES the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to support Contracting Parties in alignment with the Targeted Results 2024-2027 for Ecosystems, which aim to support developing countries in conserving, restoring or sustainably managing terrestrial and marine areas under the GCF's Strategic Plan 2024-2027;
55. REQUESTS the Secretariat to work closely with international financing institutions including the GEF and GCF and their accredited entities/agencies including relevant IOPs of the Convention, to mainstream wetlands in strategies and plans, and promote the development of wetlands projects;

The relationship with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the work of the Secretariat

56. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue the cooperation efforts with IUCN through the IUCN/Ramsar Liaison Group to support the operations of the Secretariat under the Service Agreement between the Convention on Wetlands and IUCN;
57. CONFIRMS that the present Resolution supersedes Resolution XIV.6, which is replaced by the present Resolution.