

**Proposed draft resolution on strengthening national actions for the
conservation and restoration of waterbird flyways**

Submitted by China and Cambodia

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.

Secretariat cover note

The DR provides an overview of regional efforts to conserve and protect the East Asian-Australasian Flyway (EAAF) and calls for enhanced action by Contracting Parties and other governments in the EAAF. Paragraph 21 requests the Secretariat to review the implementation of Resolution X.22 *Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways* to indicate the gap and weakness in flyway conservation and make recommendations to improve implementation.

Given that Resolution X.22 applies to all flyways globally, the DR would benefit from specifying whether the review of X.22's implementation is intended to focus solely on the EAAF or extend to all flyways worldwide.

Paragraph 24 suggests that the DR would 'extend the content of Resolution X.22 under a new situation after 17 years'. Since Resolution X.22 did not specify an effective deadline, the DR could clarify which specific aspects of the "new situation" justify extending or updating its content.

The Secretariat invited STRP to review methodologies for reviewing the implementation of Resolution X.22 across a flyway.

Introduction

Global waterbird flyways are significant to the Convention on Wetlands and KM-GBF. Resolution X.22 on “Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways” was adopted in 2008, which promoted international cooperation for flyways. Whilst national plans and actions on conservation and restoration of flyways by countries need to be strengthened for enhancing international cooperation. . The draft resolution proposes to strengthen national actions for the conservation and restoration of global flyways with the example of the East Asian – Australasian Flyway.

Financial implications of implementation

Paragraph (number and key part of text)	Action	Cost (CHF)

Draft Resolution XV.xx on Strengthening national actions for the conservation and restoration of Waterbird Flyways

1. RECALLING that “each Contracting Party shall consider its international responsibilities for the conservation, management and wise use of migratory stocks of waterfowl” in Article 2.6 of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat; and that “each Contracting Party shall promote the conservation of wetlands and waterfowl by establishing nature reserves on wetlands” in Article 4.1, and “the Contracting Parties shall endeavour through management to increase waterfowl populations on appropriate wetlands” in Article 4.4; and NOTING that migratory waterfowl and habitat conservation is one of the initial mandates of the Convention;
2. FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution X.22 on *Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways* urges Contracting Parties, other governments and relevant organizations to urgently enhance their individual and collective efforts to address the root causes of the continuing decline in the status of waterbirds;
3. AWARE that the implementation of a flyway-scale approach is necessary for the conservation and restoration of the populations and habitats of migratory waterbirds, and RECALLING that the enhancement of international cooperation is urged in Resolution X.22;
4. WELCOMING progress made under the various international and regional flyway frameworks leading the advancement of the conservation of migratory waterbirds such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) and its Flyways Working Group, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) and the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), founded in 2006 on the basis of Ramsar Recommendation 6.4, Recommendation 7.3 and Resolution VIII.37 and adopted as a Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) by Resolution IX.7 in 2005;
5. WELCOMING the achievements of all Ramsar Contracting Parties in implementing actions for the conservation of migratory waterbirds through the conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands which has led to the increase of some populations - such as the Siberian Crane and Black-faced Spoonbill - and designation of critical flyway sites such as the World Natural Heritage Sites nominated by the People’s Republic of China and the Republic of Korea in the Yellow Sea ecoregion for migratory waterbirds since 2019, some of which are also Wetlands of International Importance;
6. ALSO WELCOMING the advancements of Contracting Parties, non-Contracting Party range states and other organisations to advance the development of national action plans, site networks and other mechanisms to provide essential support to science-based flyway scale conservation through collaboration in monitoring and research at both national and international level;
7. DEEPLY CONCERNED, despite these efforts, about the continued decline of migratory waterbird populations that the 2024 update to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species revealed a decline in populations of migratory shorebirds across the globe, including declines of some common global populations of species by more than a third in recent decades as well as accelerated rates of declines;
8. AWARE that national actions such as national migratory waterbird censuses and wetland habitat inventories, conservation and restoration planning and implementation, national flyway site networking, engagement of national focal points, etc., are the crucial foundation for international flyway conservation; and that efforts need to be made to strengthen national implementation of relevant mandates, particularly in relation to delivery of Resolution X.22.

9. NOTING that flyway conservation, as a large-scale biodiversity conservation action, significantly contributes to delivery of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework across various targets including delivering enhanced connectivity, as well as to synergy with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and other relevant MEAs;
10. WELCOMING the establishment of the Waterbird Estimates Partnership in [Resolution XV.xx] to facilitate the necessary and timely updates of the global waterbird population estimates;
11. ACKNOWLEDGING the economic, social and environmental cost of wetland loss and degradation, and the opportunities to increase funding, from all sources, for wetland conservation and restoration (Global Wetland Outlook, in press);
12. ACKNOWLEDGING that EAAFP MOP11, held in Australia in 2023, adopted Decision 10 on creation of a Youth Task Force, which recognised the implementation of Resolution XIV.12 on *Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth*; ALSO ACKNOWLEDGING that a Flyway University Alliance for Science and Education for flyway conservation and restoration calling for a joint science programme ;NOTING such initiatives contribute to youth engagement in flyway conservation and restoration;

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13. REAFFIRMS that the urgent need for national action for migratory waterbirds through implementation of Resolution X.22 in synergy with relevant flyway frameworks as significant for implementation of the Convention and revising the trend of global biodiversity loss and degradation, as well as for human wellbeing around migratory waterbird habitat wetlands;
14. INVITES non-member Contracting Parties join membership and engage with initiatives in their flyway at national level, including the EAAFP; ALSO INVITES Contracting Parties of the Convention on Wetlands to build connection with the Convention on Migratory Species, especially its Flyways Working Group, and take synchronized and complementary actions to conserve migratory waterbirds;
14. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other governments to conduct migratory waterbird census and/or waterbird population estimates, with wetland habitat assessment when capable, ensuring this data is incorporated into the data collated by the Waterbird Estimate Partnership to inform the management of critical flyway sites and review of flyway conservation status at national level;
15. INVITES Contracting Parties and other governments to develop a National Action/Implementation Plan on Conservation and Restoration of Migratory Waterbird Flyways, particularly critical wetland flyway sites;
16. CALLING ON Contracting Parties to establish and strengthen a National Flyway Partnership including with participative and inclusive national stakeholder coordination mechanisms and a national flyway site network;
17. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties and other governments to support future flyway Conservation Status Reports;

18. INVITES Contracting Parties and other governments to support their flyway initiatives and the implementation of their Flyway Strategic Plans and consider provisions for technical and financial support, and capacity building to least developed countries on voluntary basis and mutually agreed terms;
19. INVITES Contracting Parties and other governments in the EAAF to join the Youth Task Force; and INVITES global universities and institutes that are relevant to migratory bird flyway science and technology to join the EAAFP Flyway University Alliance and promote joint scientific research, shared education and training for youth, and networking of field observatories and laboratories;
21. CALLS ON the International Organization Partners of the Convention, other NGOs and private sectors to support Contracting Parties and other governments in the process of development and implementation of national plans and actions on flyway conservation and restoration;
22. INVITES Contracting Parties engaged with international bodies and initiatives such as the Convention on Migratory Species, the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA), the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative, and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network to exchange best practices and experiences in enhancing national actions on to foster inclusive global flyway conservation efforts.