

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands Actions for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China and Geneva, Switzerland, 5-13 November 2022**

Ramsar COP14 Rep.7

**Draft session report
Day 5 – Wednesday 9 November
(Morning plenary session)**

10.15 – 13.05 Plenary session

Agenda item 18: Consideration of the draft resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee **(continued)**

1. The **President** invited the representatives of contact groups, as well as any informal groups, to report progress on deliberations on draft resolutions.
2. **Australia** reported on the contact group discussions regarding the draft resolution on the review of the fourth Strategic Plan and key elements of the fifth Strategic Plan in document COP14 Doc.18.4, noting that the contact group had met on 7 November to address the draft resolution, and that work was ongoing, with the contact group to meet immediately after this plenary session. It also reported on the discussions of the informal group addressing the draft resolution on strengthening Ramsar connections through youth, in document COP14 Doc.18.14, noting that a revised draft resolution would be submitted for consideration.
3. The Vice-President, speaking on behalf of **Colombia**, reported on the discussions of the contact group addressing the draft resolution on Ramsar Regional Initiatives in document COP14 Doc.18.9. Colombia noted that the contact group had made insufficient progress. Referencing the document’s substantial length, Colombia requested that the Secretariat consolidate all comments and amendments submitted by Contracting Parties in order to facilitate the work of the contact group. The **Secretariat** responded that it would submit a consolidated document to the contact group, with any subsequent comments received to be forwarded separately to the group.
4. **South Africa** reported on the work of the contact group addressing the draft resolution on the Ramsar List in documents COP14 Doc.18.16 and COP14 Doc.18.16 Rev.1, noting fruitful engagement on options for the draft resolution’s withdrawal, deferral, or further discussion. South Africa noted that additional time would be needed to develop a revised version incorporating comments and proposed amendments. **Algeria**, as proponent of the draft resolution and its revision, highlighted that a misunderstanding regarding the intention and rationale of the draft resolution had been addressed through informal discussions, and expressed hope that consensus could be reached.

18.5 Draft list of Resolutions that are effectively defunct and

18.6 Draft resolution on options to continue the review of all previous Resolutions and decisions

5. The **President** drew attention to the discussions on these two agenda items that had taken place during the previous plenary session, including the comments provided to the Secretariat, and briefly outlined the options put forward to the Conference. Noting no further comments, he invited the Secretariat to revise this draft resolution, incorporating comments received, for discussion at a later plenary session.

18.21 Draft resolution on waterbird population estimates to support new and existing Ramsar Site designations under Ramsar Criterion 6 – use of alternative estimates

6. **Australia** introduced the draft resolution in document COP14 Doc.18.21, highlighting the need for up-to-date waterbird population estimates to support the designation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) under Ramsar Criterion 6. Australia drew attention to the request that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) develop a technical proposal to enable the resourcing and implementation of future waterbird population estimates, to be presented at the 63rd meeting of the Standing Committee, in 2023.
7. General support was expressed for this draft resolution by **China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Finland on behalf of the Member States of the European Union (EU) with reservations from Sweden, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, India, Indonesia, Japan, Madagascar on behalf of the Africa Region, Mexico, Norway, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Togo, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zambia and Zimbabwe**, with amendments proposed.
8. The **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** noted its willingness to fund this work through a voluntary contribution, based on the Secretariat's costing of CHF 5,000.
9. Comments were made drawing attention to the need for further funding and capacity building, knowledge sharing and technology transfer in supporting the implementation of this work, as expressed by **Colombia, Guinea Bissau, Madagascar, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Togo and Tunisia**. Support for the STRP's future work on the technical proposal was expressed by **Indonesia, Japan, Mexico and Zambia**. Various sources of alternative waterbird population estimates were noted by **Ecuador, Mexico, Norway and Sweden**. The need to adapt the current census methods, in order to better include migratory waterbird species in the waterbird population estimates, was highlighted by the **Gambia and Senegal**.
10. **Norway** proposed that Wetlands International could coordinate these activities, where appropriate and in full consultation with Contracting Parties, to facilitate updating of the Waterbird Populations Portal in order to make timely information available to the Parties.
11. **Wetlands International, on behalf of the International Organization Partners (IOPs)**, expressed support for the amendments proposed by the Contracting Parties, further emphasizing the importance of the Waterbird Populations Portal as a key repository of the most up-to-date waterbird population estimates. In response to Norway's suggestion, it expressed willingness to take on the proposed coordinating role.

12. Noting strong support for this draft resolution, with minor amendments, as well as **Australia's** comment that it was available to assist the Secretariat and that it welcomed informal discussions, the **President** invited the Secretariat to submit a revised version to a later plenary session.

18.20 Draft resolution on protection, management and restoration of wetlands as [nature-based solutions] [ecosystem-based approaches] to address the climate crisis

13. **Spain** presented the draft resolution contained in document COP14 Doc.18.20, noting that the proposal was prepared jointly with the 27 Contracting Parties that are members of the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet). Spain underlined the critical need to strengthen climate change adaptation through the conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands, to conserve biodiversity and maintain the crucial services that wetland ecosystems provide.
14. **Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana on behalf of the Africa region, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, the Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, India, Indonesia, Iran, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, the Philippines, Senegal, Slovenia on behalf of the Member States of the EU, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe** welcomed the draft resolution and noted the role of wetlands in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss. Parties expressed preference for the use of various terminologies: nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches, and iterations thereof.
15. **Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Mexico, New Zealand, Paraguay, the Philippines, Slovenia on behalf of the Members States of the EU, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America** proposed amendments to the text.
16. **Argentina, Botswana on behalf of the Africa Region, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, the Gambia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the United States of America and Venezuela** suggested broadening the geographical scope of the draft resolution to a global scale, rather than limiting it to the Mediterranean region. To this end, Brazil requested deletion of the annexes of the draft resolution, given their prescriptive nature.
17. **Slovenia on behalf of the Member States of the EU and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** suggested acknowledging within the draft resolution that the term "nature-based solutions" does not replace the need for rapid and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and that these solutions could contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. The **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** further noted that nature-based solutions should be tailored to local conditions, in accordance with local, national and regional circumstances consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
18. **Switzerland** suggested publishing a page in the website of the Convention to collect and showcase examples of nature-based solutions, enabling and encouraging Contracting Parties to share best practices.

19. **Wetlands International, on behalf of the IOPs**, expressed support for this draft resolution, providing suggestions to be submitted to the Secretariat, and noted that it looked forward to working with Contracting Parties to support implementation.
20. The **President** noted the broad support for the draft resolution, acknowledging the substantial changes proposed, and invited the Secretariat to coordinate with Contracting Parties in an informal capacity, in order to develop a revised version of the draft resolution to be presented at a later plenary session.

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21. The **President** noted that the Conference Bureau proposed that the draft resolution on the environmental emergency in Ukraine, in document COP14 Doc.18.24, be considered as the first agenda item in the plenary session on the morning of 10 November.
22. The **President** closed the session at 13.05.