

**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.8

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

**15.10 – 18.10 Plenary session**

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

1. **Brazil** requested clarification on the procedure the Secretariat would follow in promoting and facilitating informal consultations regarding the draft resolution in document COP14 Doc.18.20 Rev.1 on *protection, management and restoration of wetlands as [nature-based solutions] [ecosystem-based approaches] to address the climate crisis*, recalling its suggestion to establish a contact group.
2. Noting its instructions were to incorporate submitted amendments in a revised version of the draft resolution, the **Secretariat** added this would be shared with Spain, as proponent, in order to determine whether a contact group is required.

**18.12 Draft Resolution on updating the Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention**

3. The **Republic of Korea**, as co-proponent, summarized the draft resolution in document COP14 Doc.18.12, outlining elements of the Wetland City Accreditation (WCA), drew attention to the operational guidance on the WCA held in information document COP14 Inf.2, and highlighted the WCA’s importance in enhancing the visibility of the Convention.
4. General support was expressed for this draft resolution by **Austria on behalf of the Member States of the European Union (EU) with reservations from Sweden, Botswana, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia** and the **United States of America**, highlighting the innovative nature and success of the WCA.
5. Amendments were proposed by **Austria on behalf of the Member States of the EU with reservations from Sweden, Canada, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland** and the **United States of America**.
6. **Switzerland** drew attention to potential synergies with another global initiative, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Trees in the City Challenge. **Indonesia** encouraged the Conference to prepare further guidelines on the management of accredited

cities. **India** provided suggestions on creating categories within the WCA, as well as a mentoring programme for experience sharing. **Sweden** requested further informal discussions with the co-proponents.

7. **Austria**, speaking as co-proponent, highlighted the annual Roundtable of Wetland City Mayors meetings, in response to India's comment on mentoring, and in response to the request of Sweden, noted its willingness to hold informal discussions to provide concise amendments to the Secretariat. It further expressed its commitment to support interested Parties in preparing a new draft resolution on creating a group to help and prepare cities for accreditation for the following COP.
8. The **President** invited the Secretariat to revise the draft resolution taking into account comments and proposed amendments to be admitted at a later plenary session, and encouraged interested Parties to join informal discussions.

#### **18.22 Draft resolution on establishment of the International Mangrove Centre in the framework of the Ramsar Convention**

9. **China** introduced the draft resolution contained in document COP14 Doc.18.22 Rev.1, outlining its call for the establishment of the International Mangrove Center within the framework of the Convention. It highlighted the Center's aims to promote joint actions and inter-regional collaboration, noting it would have no financial implications for the Convention, and highlighted the proposed establishment of an international steering committee to the Center.
10. Support for the draft resolution was expressed by **Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, Colombia, Comoros on behalf of the Africa Region, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eswatini, Iran, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Nepal, Pakistan, Panama, Sierra Leone, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Thailand and Venezuela.**
11. Acknowledging China's engagement on working collaboratively to revise this document, reservations on the draft decision were expressed by **Costa Rica, France on behalf of the Member States of the EU, the Gambia, Indonesia, Japan, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.**
12. Amendments were proposed by **Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Japan, Panama, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela.**
13. Comments requesting clarification on the Center's terms of reference, including its legal, financial and administrative status, its independence with regard to the Convention, as well as how it relates to, and is complementary with, existing mangrove initiatives, were made by **France on behalf of the Member States of the EU, India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.**
14. **Costa Rica** emphasized the need to ensure the Center's objectives are aligned with those of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), highlighting a link to UNFCCC Article 6, and noted that the Centre could be a practical tool in the implementation of Resolution XIII.14 of the Convention on Wetlands, on *Promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue-carbon ecosystems.*

15. Acknowledging the existing initiatives established by Indonesia in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates, **South Africa** called for alignment to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication of efforts by Parties.
16. Suggestions that the Center would be more appropriately established as a Ramsar Regional Initiative were made by **France on behalf of the Member States of the EU, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** and the **United States of America**.
17. Noting the need for further discussions, suggestions on how to move forward were made by: **Costa Rica**, which supported making the draft resolution more comprehensive; the **United States of America**, which suggested submitting the document as a concept note; and the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, supported by **Switzerland**, which recommended establishing a contact group.
18. The **President** noted the Conference's general agreement on the importance of mangroves, acknowledging the need expressed by Parties for collaboration in mangrove conservation initiatives, and the concerns expressed on the modality, mandate and operations of the proposed Center. He established a contact group to enable Parties to continue discussions.

#### 18.15 Draft resolution on the status of Sites in the List of Wetlands of International Importance

19. The **Secretariat** introduced the draft resolution in document COP14 Doc.18.15, recalling its links to the *Report of the Secretariat pursuant to Article 8.2 on the List of Wetlands of International Importance* in document COP14 Doc.10 Rev.1, introduced in the plenary session on 8 November. It noted that the draft resolution invited the Conference to provide its reaction and responses to the status report as presented in document COP14 Doc.10 Rev.1. It drew attention to the section on the *Designation of Ramsar Sites and the extension of the Convention in areas not recognized by the United Nations as being part of their territories*. The Secretariat reminded Contracting Parties that this text invited the Conference to provide guidance on how to address this issue under agenda item 10, and further invited Parties to do so under this draft resolution.
20. **Thailand** requested that the Secretariat undertake work to assess the cost of improving and revising the Ramsar Information Sheets (RISs), and to provide guidance and support to those Contracting Parties which had not yet completed the RISs.
21. **Czechia, on behalf of the Member States of the EU, with reservations from Sweden**, expressed concern regarding the increased delay in the Secretariat's response time for providing feedback to Parties after submission of the RISs, and urged Contracting Parties to continue working toward removing Ramsar Sites from the Montreux Record.
22. Proposed amendments to the draft resolution were provided by **Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechia on behalf of the Member States of the EU with reservations from Sweden, Ecuador, Sweden** and the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, to be submitted to the Secretariat. Sweden noted its concern on budgetary matters.
23. **BirdLife International, on behalf of international organization partners (IOPs)**, suggested aligning this draft resolution with Resolution XIII.20 of the Convention. This was supported by the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**, which proposed a corresponding amendment.

24. The **President** invited the Secretariat to revise this draft resolution, incorporating the proposed amendments, and to submit the revised version for discussion at a later session.

**18.19 Draft resolution on integrating wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies**

25. **China** introduced the draft resolution contained in document COP14 Doc.18.19, calling on Contracting Parties to assess the status of existing wetland conservation and restoration policies, and to promote their integration into national sustainable development strategies, together with nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.
26. **Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, New Zealand, the Philippines, Slovakia on behalf of the Member States of the EU, South Africa, Thailand,** and the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** expressed general support of the draft resolution.
27. **Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Ecuador, New Zealand, the Philippines, Slovakia on behalf of the Member States of the EU, South Africa, Switzerland** and the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland** suggested amendments.
28. **South Africa** underlined the need for a comprehensive approach, consistent with multilateral environmental agreements and other multilateral conventions, and **Brazil** highlighted the link of the draft resolution to wetland-dependent communities and poverty alleviation.
29. **Slovakia on behalf of the Member States of the EU** and **Switzerland** supported the use of terminology on nature-based solutions, noting its international acceptance and application.
30. **Brazil** further stressed that the issue of terminology around nature-based solutions should be addressed under the relevant draft resolution in document COP14 Doc.18.20 Rev.1, and suggested using the term “integrated approaches” as an alternative. **Iran** and **Indonesia** suggested using both “nature-based solutions” and “ecosystem-based approaches” throughout all the draft resolutions.
31. **Brazil, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lesotho, South Africa** and **Thailand** called for technical and scientific support, in the form of capacity building and resource mobilization, to assist Contracting Parties that are developing countries in integrating wetland policies into national sustainable development strategies.
32. Noting strong support, with minor amendments, the **President** invited the Secretariat to revise this draft resolution for consideration at a later plenary session.
33. The **President** closed the session at 18.10.