

## Review of all previous Resolutions and Decisions

### Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- a) in accordance with Resolution XIII.4 "*consider the Secretariat's recommendations on this subject at SC58, with a view to including, in a relevant draft resolution for COP14, the retirement of outdated Resolutions and decisions and the establishment of a practice for the Convention to retire outdated Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones*";
- b) consider and approve the recommendations in paragraph 35;
- c) approve the use of the funds referred to in paragraph 37; and
- d) provide to the Secretariat the feedback on the draft consolidated resolution on "Inventories" in Annex 2, as referred to in paragraph 38.

### Introduction

1. At its 13th meeting (COP13, Dubai, 2018), the Conference of the Contracting Parties adopted Resolution XIII.4 on *Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention*, which includes the following requests, in paragraphs 24 and 25:

#### 24. REQUESTS the Secretariat to:

- a. *review all previous Resolutions and decisions, identifying those or parts of those, if any, that may no longer be valid or applicable, that contradict each other, or are otherwise inconsistent with current Ramsar practices, and at SC57 report its findings, including information on how it reached these conclusions (e.g. inter alia, that the work has been completed, superseded, is contradictory, or is incorporated elsewhere); and*
- b. *based on its findings and Parties' feedback on its report to SC57, develop recommendations for Parties to consider at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC58) to consider a process for: retiring outdated resolutions and decisions; establishing a practice of retiring outdated or contradictory Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones; and preparing a consolidated list of resolutions and decisions, to be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and on an as-needed basis following meetings of the Standing Committee;*

25. *REQUESTS that the Standing Committee, at SC57, review the Secretariat's report on the validity of Resolutions and decisions and provide feedback, and consider the Secretariat's recommendations on this subject at SC58, with a view to including, in a relevant draft resolution for COP14, the retirement of outdated Resolutions and decisions and the establishment of a practice for the Convention to retire outdated Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones.*
2. Consequently, at the 57th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC57, Gland, 2019), the Secretariat presented document SC57 Doc.14, on *Review of all previous Resolutions and Decisions*, recommending a way forward in light of the magnitude of the task to be done.
3. At that meeting, the Standing Committee adopted Decision SC57-19, as follows:

*The Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to carry out a preliminary grouping of existing Resolutions into major thematic areas, identifying possible priority areas for further action in line with the prioritization of urgent challenges under Agenda item 8, to submit intersessionally to a group comprising the Netherlands, Sweden, the United States of America and the Chair of the STRP for their consideration, along with advice on the capacity that would be needed to take the process further.*

#### **Implementation of Standing Committee Decision SC57-19**

##### *Preliminary grouping of existing Resolutions*

4. Following SC57, in accordance with the instruction of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat prepared a table with a preliminary grouping of existing Resolutions and submitted this to the consultative group of Parties for comments. Simply for the purpose of providing some structure in the table, the categories of current Resolutions by subject were organized into higher-level categories.
5. Members of the consultative group provided their comments to the Secretariat. They made a number of proposals for amending the groupings, both at the higher level and in the subject groupings. However, there were differing views from the members of the group and these were not resolved.
6. The Secretariat has prepared a revised version of the table grouping the Resolutions. It has attempted to take account of various elements of the proposals from the consultative group considering that there were incompatible views. The revised table is attached as Annex 1 to the present document. It should be noted that several of the Resolutions deal with more than one subject and have therefore been placed in more than one subject category, with an annotation to indicate that they appear also in other categories.
7. The table in Annex 1 has not been agreed by the consultative group, which might therefore wish to discuss it further before it is considered by the Standing Committee.

##### *Sample draft consolidated resolution*

8. In agreement with the consultative group, the Secretariat contracted a consultant to prepare a draft of a consolidated resolution on "inventories" as a pilot study. This subject was chosen for the pilot because, at its 57th meeting, in Decision SC57-53, the Standing Committee "decided to

focus on the topic of inventories for the current triennium”, noting that it is an urgent challenge.

9. The resulting draft consolidated resolution on “Inventories of wetlands” is attached to the present document as Annex 2.
10. The purpose of the draft in Annex 2 is to demonstrate the process of consolidation. This pilot exercise is based on the process that has been conducted under some other Conventions, notably the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
11. The key point of the process of consolidation is that it is not intended to change the substance of what has already been agreed by the Conference of the Contracting Parties. Rather the purpose is to put together the texts of Resolutions dealing with a single subject, using the existing texts as far as possible while eliminating discrepancies and inconsistencies, clarifying the meaning, standardizing the terms used, correcting grammatical errors, updating parts that are out of date and eliminating parts that are defunct. For this reason, the document presenting the draft consolidation provides an explanation for the inclusion or exclusion of each paragraph from the existing Resolutions that are under discussion. In this process, some minor amendments to the existing text are proposed and explained, but must not be substantive.

#### *Next steps for consolidation of Resolutions*

12. The Secretariat also asked for the views of the consultative group on the next steps for implementing the instructions of the Conference of the Parties to implement the instruction to the Secretariat in Resolution XIII.4.
13. One suggestion was to classify each of the existing Resolutions into four groups:
  - “Resolutions resulting from standing agenda items that are effectively or specifically superseded at each COP or with some regularity”;
  - “Resolutions reflecting fully implemented resolutions and obviously outdated practices”;
  - “Resolutions that are likely reflecting outdated practices but need a cursory review”; and
  - “Resolutions that need a review to determine whether they are outdated or could be combined”.
14. Another suggestion was that there should be three documents for presentation at COP15:
  - a list of Resolutions and Recommendations that are definitively no longer relevant, together with a draft decision to render them invalid;
  - a draft consolidated resolution on “Inventories”; and
  - a document that proposes how to proceed with other groups of Resolutions.
15. In formulating its recommendations below, as requested by the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat has endeavoured to take these suggestions into account.

## Discussion

### *Instructions from the Conference of the Parties*

16. In Resolution XIII.4, the Secretariat is instructed by the Conference of the Parties to develop recommendations for a process to:
  - a) retire outdated Resolutions and decisions;
  - b) establish a practice of retiring outdated or contradictory Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones; and
  - c) prepare a consolidated list of Resolutions and decisions, to be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties and as needed after meetings of the Standing Committee.
17. The Secretariat understands the reference to "Resolutions" in Resolution XIII.4 to include Recommendations because these are adopted under the same rules and so have the same legal effect; because some early Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties were presented in the same form as Resolutions; and also because many of the Recommendations cover the same subject of Resolutions and so must be taken into account. The Secretariat understands the term "decisions" as used Resolution XIII.4 to be a reference to the numbered decisions of the Standing Committee. Therefore, to avoid any ambiguity, these are referred to in the following text as "Decisions of the Standing Committee".

### *Retiring outdated Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee*

#### Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties:

18. It would obviously be a great advantage to identify the Resolutions that are no longer valid. This would provide an immediate clean-up of the list of valid Resolutions and would significantly reduce the work in drafting consolidations of existing Resolutions. The decision as to which Resolutions are no longer valid must of course be made by the Conference of the Parties.
19. It would be preferable if the Standing Committee could, at its last meeting before COP14, consider a draft list of Resolutions, or parts of Resolutions, that are clearly defunct, so that the Committee can decide whether to propose this for adoption by the Conference of the Parties.
20. Whether or not the Conference of the Parties agrees to repeal a number of outdated Resolutions in this way, the process of consolidation of Resolutions on each subject, if agreed by the Conference, will identify and repeal all Resolutions, or parts thereof, that are out of date. The sample consolidation in Annex 2 demonstrates how this is achieved, following an approach used under other treaties.

#### Decisions of the Standing Committee

21. Regarding the Decisions of the Standing Committee, it should be noted that the Committee has now adopted 996 Decisions. Consequently, it would be a large and time-consuming task to deal with all of these, to consider them individually, and to decide whether they have been implemented, or whether parts of them remain in effect. The review and consideration of this number of Decisions would take considerable resources of the Standing Committee and the

Secretariat. Moreover, it seems that the Decisions of the Standing Committee are, for the most part, operational in nature. For these reasons, the Secretariat would suggest that a different approach might be taken with these Decisions.

22. If the Standing Committee agrees it might consider taking a different approach for Decisions. One possible approach would be: to consider all Decisions adopted before 2020 (or another date to be specified) as no longer in effect; and to include in the agenda for all future meetings of the Committee a standing agenda item on "Implementation of Decisions adopted at the previous meeting". A recommendation along these lines is included below.

*Establish a practice of retiring outdated or contradictory Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee automatically when they are superseded*

#### Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties

23. One of the objectives of the present exercise is to put in place a process to ensure that, in future, when the review process is complete, the body of Resolutions does not again become more difficult to understand and implement than it needs to be, and that there are not conflicting or duplicative recommendations on any subject. This can be achieved by two actions.
- a) The first action is the consolidation of the Resolutions that deal with the same subject, together with the repeal of all previous Resolutions on that subject. The consolidation involves the removal of the parts that are defunct and the elimination of conflicts and duplications. To ensure the success of this process, it would be necessary to establish two basic principles for any draft resolution that is proposed in the future.
    - i) If a draft resolution deals with a subject for which a consolidated Resolution has already been adopted, the draft should be presented in a way that revises the consolidated Resolution; and
    - ii) If a draft resolution deals with a subject that is already covered by one or more existing Resolutions that have not been consolidated:
      - the preamble should recall all existing Resolutions on the same subject;
      - the recommendations in the draft should not duplicate any existing recommendation; and
      - if the recommendations in the draft conflict with any existing recommendation, the draft should indicate the repeal of the existing advice.

If possible, the draft should be prepared in such a way as to consolidate and repeal all existing Resolutions on the subject.

- b) The second action for the Conference of the Parties would be to establish a separate list of "Decisions of the Conference of the Parties" (or another name), containing instructions to Convention bodies and other texts that are time-bound, with a short-term effect. If this is agreed by the Conference, the Secretariat would update the list after each meeting of the Conference, by: including all new Decisions of the COP; deleting all Decisions that had been implemented; and revising any existing Decisions if agreed during the meeting of the COP.
24. It is important to note here that, if any existing Resolution were repealed by the Conference of the Parties, it would nonetheless remain on the record as a reflection of the agreement of the Conference at the time of its adoption.

#### Decisions of the Standing Committee

25. Regarding the Decisions of the Standing Committee, as indicated in paragraph 22 above, the Secretariat suggests the inclusion of a standing item in the agenda of meetings of the Committee to receive a report on the implementation of Decisions adopted at the previous meeting, unless they are covered by other agenda items. All Decisions could be considered as outdated and no longer valid unless renewed by the Committee.

*Preparation of a consolidated list of Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties and Decisions of the Standing Committee, to be updated after each meeting*

#### Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties

26. The requirement of the Conference of the Parties to prepare a list of Resolutions, to be updated after each meeting, requires little discussion. The Secretariat can undertake to publish a list of Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties on the Convention website in 2020. It will then start to link the title of each Resolution to the text concerned; this may take some months to complete.
27. When the Conference of the Parties has agreed to a list of Resolutions that are no longer valid, these will then be moved to a separate page on the Convention website. Any Resolutions that are repealed in the future will then be transferred to the list of Resolutions that are no longer valid.

#### Decisions of the Standing Committee

28. If the Committee agrees, a different approach could be taken with the Decisions of the Standing Committee. As these Decisions are already available on the Convention website, together with the record of each meeting, the Committee might consider that the compilation of a list of nearly 1000 Decisions, in three languages, is not the best use of resources. This advice could be provided to the Conference of the Parties at COP14.

#### *Summary and further considerations*

29. To the understanding of the Secretariat, the fundamental objective of the present review is to make the Resolutions easier to understand and implement and to make them a practical tool for Parties, to facilitate and improve the implementation of the Convention.
30. As the Standing Committee has already discussed, this can be achieved by executing a number of steps:
  - a) repealing Resolutions or parts of Resolutions that are defunct, and including these in a list of Resolutions that are no longer valid;
  - b) consolidating existing Resolutions or parts of Resolutions on the same subject, so that all of the agreements and guidance of the Conference of the Parties on any single subject are found in a single document, making them easy to find and understand; and
  - c) putting in place a process to ensure that, in future, the body of Resolutions does not again become unnecessarily complicated.
31. These steps are dealt with above. The additional step that is needed is for the Conference of the Parties to provide guidance to the Parties and the Secretariat to ensure a clear view of how

decisions of the Conference of the Parties would best be adopted and recorded in future. This is needed not only to avoid a proliferation of Resolutions on the same subject but also to ensure that the Resolutions, as the “soft law” of the Convention, contain what they need to contain and nothing more, and that they do not contain text that will be quickly out of date.

32. It may be noted that, as the consolidation process is not intended to revise the substance of decisions previously made by the Conference of the Parties, the procedure for considering and adopting draft consolidated resolutions may be different than for other draft resolutions. (This is already the case under CITES, for example.) The Secretariat suggests that the only decision to be made regarding draft consolidated resolutions is whether the consolidation has been correctly done; the substance itself is not presented for discussion as it has in principle already been agreed by the Parties. This approach would need to be agreed by the Conference of the Parties.
33. It is important that all Parties are aware that they remain in control of the review of Resolutions at all times; that texts can be repealed only by the Conference of the Parties; and that all texts previously agreed by the Parties will remain accessible on the Convention website. The history of the development of the soft law of the Convention remains intact.

## Recommendations

34. In Resolution XIII.4, the Conference of the Parties requested the Standing Committee to *“consider the Secretariat’s recommendations on this subject at SC58, with a view to including, in a relevant draft resolution for COP14, the retirement of outdated Resolutions and decisions and the establishment of a practice for the Convention to retire outdated Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones”*.
35. On the basis of the above, the Secretariat presents the recommendations below for the consideration of the Standing Committee.
  - a) In consultation with the Standing Committee's consultative group on the review of Resolutions and Decisions of the Standing Committee, the Secretariat should prepare the following documents for consideration by the Committee at its 59th meeting and, if appropriate, forwarding for consideration at COP14:
    - i) a draft list of all existing Resolutions that are effectively defunct and that should be removed from a list of valid Resolutions;
    - ii) two to four draft resolutions (the number depending on available time and resources), to consolidate existing Resolutions, on the model of the draft consolidated resolution in Annex 2 of the present document;
    - iii) a document outlining the proposal to maintain two sets of decisions of the Conference of the Parties in future:
      - “Resolutions”, which will contain decisions on the budget, adhesion to the Convention, administration of the Convention and the Secretariat, and all other Conference decisions, guidance, recommendations and interpretations intended to have a long-term effect; and
      - “Decisions” of the Conference of the Parties, which will include instructions to committees, panels, the Secretariat and other Convention bodies, and other

Conference decisions that are intended to have a short-term effect, so that they can be deleted from the list when they have been implemented; and

- iv) draft guidance for the Parties, the chairs of committees, panels and other Convention Bodies and the Secretariat, to specify how Resolutions and Decisions of the Conference of the Parties should be drafted, adopted and recorded in future, to ensure that the soft law of the Convention remains clear, accessible and easy to use.
  - b) The Secretariat should place on a dedicated page of the Convention website, in each of the working languages of the Convention, a list of all valid Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties, with each title linking to a document with the text concerned. The list should be updated after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to include all new or revised Resolutions, with all repealed Resolutions being moved to a new list of Resolutions that are no longer in effect.
  - c) The Standing Committee is invited to consider whether to adopt the following approach to the review of Decisions of the Standing Committee:
    - i) To agree that Decisions that were adopted before 2020 (or another year, to be specified) are considered as no longer in effect; and
    - ii) To agree that, for future meetings of the Committee, a standing item on the agenda will be “Report on implementation of Decisions adopted at the previous meeting”, for which the Secretariat shall provide a concise document, to report on each Decision that is not covered by a separate agenda item.
36. If the table with a preliminary grouping of Resolutions in Annex 1 is going to serve as a basis for determining which Resolutions are to be consolidated, it would be useful for the consultative group to review the table with the Secretariat to agree how it should be amended, for consideration by the Standing Committee.
37. In view of its existing commitments and work programme, the Secretariat would need to use the services of a consultant to complete the tasks listed in paragraph 35.a) above, in combination with the input and oversight of experienced Secretariat staff. It is estimated that this would require up to CHF 30,000. The Secretariat seeks the approval of the Standing Committee to use funds for this purpose.
38. The Standing Committee is invited to provide feedback to the Secretariat regarding the draft consolidated resolution in Annex 2, so that it can take these into account in drafting further consolidations, if this is agreed by the Committee.



## Annex 1

### Categorization of Resolutions of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands

#### KEY

Resolutions are indicated by a simple number either in Arabic numerals (e.g. '4.5'), or in Roman numerals (e.g. 'VI.16').

Recommendations are indicated with the text 'Recom' followed by the number.

There are some cases where the Secretariat apparently did not allocate a number to a Resolution at the time of the adoption. These are indicated by the number of the document that contained the adopted text (e.g. 'Annex to DOC.C.4.14').

\* indicates a text in more than one group

*At the time of consolidation of the Resolutions in each group, the Resolutions in the group will be checked for text relating to the subject of that group. If, for example, a Resolution appears in the 'Governance' group and in the 'Languages' group, the text on governance will move to a consolidated resolution on governance, and the text on language will move to a consolidated resolution on language.*

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
<b>STRATEGIC, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS</b>	
<b>Convention text and amendments</b>	Recom 1.7 Proposed protocol on amendment procedures  Recom 1.8 Proposed amendments to the Convention  Recom 2.2 Amendment of the Convention  3.4 Provisional Implementation of the Amendments to the Convention  4.1 Interpretation of Article 10 bis Paragraph 6 of the Convention
<b>Accession, political status</b>	Recom 1.1 Expanding the Convention's membership  Recom 1.2 Developing countries in the Convention  Recom 3.6 Further Contracting Parties in Africa

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>Recom 3.7 Further Contracting Parties in Central America, the Caribbean and South America</p> <p>Recom 3.10 Further Contracting Parties in Asia and the Pacific</p> <p>4.5 Accession requirements</p> <p>VI.16 Accession procedures</p> <p>VII.30 Status of Yugoslavia in the Ramsar Convention</p>
<b>Meetings of the Conference of the Parties</b>	<p>Recom 1.9 Meetings of the Conference of the Parties</p> <p>VI.15 Amendment of the Rules of Procedure as of the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p>
<b>Finance, Budget &amp; Resource Mobilization</b>	<p>Recom 2.4 Possibilities of financial or other support for the Interim Secretariat</p> <p>3.2 Financial and Budgetary Matters</p> <p>Annex to DOC.C.4.13 [<i>Resolution without a number</i>] Resolution on financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>5.2 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>VI.17 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>VII.28 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>VIII.27 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>IX.12 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>X.2 Financial and budgetary matters</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>XI.2 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>XII.1 Financial and budgetary matters</p> <p>XII.7 Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XIII.2 Financial and budgetary matters</p>
<b>Strategic Plan</b>	<p>VI.14 The Ramsar 25th Anniversary Statement, the Strategic Plan 1997-2002, and the Bureau Work Programme 1997-1999</p> <p>VIII.25 The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008</p> <p>VIII.26* The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 during the triennium 2003-2005 and National Reports for Ramsar COP9</p> <p>IX.8 Streamlining the implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention 2003-2008</p> <p>X.1 The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015</p> <p>XI.3 Adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the 2013-2015 triennium</p> <p>XII.2 The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024</p> <p>XIII.5 Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention</p>
<b>Governance &amp; Effectiveness</b>	<p>Recom 2.3 Action points for priority attention</p> <p>Recom 2.3 Annex Framework for implementing the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>Annex to DOC.C.4.12 [<i>Resolution without a number</i>] Resolution on the Framework for the implementation of the Convention and priorities for attention 1991-1993</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>Recom 4.7 Mechanisms for improved application of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>5.1 The Kushiro Statement and the framework for the implementation of the Convention</p> <p>VI.11 Consolidation of Recommendations and Resolutions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p> <p>VII.27 The Convention Work Plan 2000-2002</p> <p>VIII.45 Operation of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and the effectiveness of Ramsar Convention Resolutions and Recommendations</p> <p>IX.17 Review of the decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p> <p>IX.24 Improving management of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>X.4 Establishing a Transition Committee of the Management Working Group</p> <p>XII.3* Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</p> <p>XIII.3 Governance of the Convention</p>
Secretariat	<p>Recom 1.10 A permanent secretariat</p> <p>3.1 Secretariat Matters</p> <p>3.1, Annex Memo of Agreement between IUCN and IWRB</p> <p>Recom 3.5 Tasks of the Bureau in respect to development agencies</p> <p>Annex to DOC.C.4.15 [<i>Resolution without a number</i>] Secretariat matters</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>Recom 5.11 The new Bureau headquarters in Switzerland</p> <p>Recom 6.6 Appointment of regionally-based Ramsar liaison officers</p> <p>VI.8 Secretary General matters</p> <p>VI.22 Consideration of overall cost reduction and in particular of possible relocation of the Ramsar Bureau and its operations</p> <p>IX.10 Use of the term and status of the “Ramsar Secretariat”</p> <p>X.5 Facilitating the work of the Ramsar Convention and its Secretariat</p> <p>XI.1 Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat</p>
<b>Standing Committee</b>	<p>3.3 Establishment of a Standing Committee</p> <p>Annex to DOC.C.4.14 [<i>Resolution without a number</i>] Resolution on the Standing Committee</p> <p>VII.1 Regional categorization of countries under the Convention, and composition, roles and responsibilities of the Standing Committee, including tasks of Standing Committee members</p> <p>XI.19 Adjustments to the terms of Resolution VII.1 on the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</p> <p>XII.4 The responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XIII.4 Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
<b>Scientific and Technical Review Panel; Scientific Advice &amp; Support</b>	<p>5.5 Establishment of a Scientific and Technical Review Panel</p> <p>VI.7 The Scientific and Technical Review Panel</p> <p>VII.2 Composition and modus operandi of the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)</p> <p>VIII.28 Modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)</p> <p>IX.2 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention</p> <p>IX.11 Revised modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)</p> <p>X.9 Refinements to the modus operandi of the Scientific &amp; Technical Review Panel (STRP)</p> <p>X.10 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention</p> <p>XI.16 Ensuring efficient delivery of scientific and technical advice and support to the Convention</p> <p>XI.17 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2013-2015</p> <p>XI.18 Adjustments to the modus operandi of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) for the 2013-2015 triennium</p> <p>XII.5 New framework for delivery of scientific and technical advice and guidance on the Convention</p> <p>XIII.8 Future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
<b>Languages</b>	<p>4.2 Working languages of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p> <p>Recom 5.15 Working languages of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</p> <p>XII.3* Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</p> <p>XIII.6 Language strategy for the Convention</p>
<b>Partnerships and synergies</b>	<p>Recom 4.11 Cooperation with international organizations</p> <p>Recom 5.4 The relationship between the Ramsar Convention, the Global Environment Facility and the Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p>VI.9* Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity</p> <p>VI.10 Cooperation with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its implementing agencies: the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP</p> <p>VII.4 Partnerships and cooperation with other Conventions, including harmonized information management infrastructures</p> <p>VII.19 Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>VIII.5 Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</p> <p>VIII.9* 'Guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into environmental impact assessment legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment' adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and their relevance to the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>VIII.24 UNEP's Guidelines for enhancing compliance with multilateral environmental agreements, and Guidelines for national enforcement, and international cooperation in combating violations, of laws implementing multilateral environmental agreements</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>IX.3* Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water</p> <p>IX.5* Synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements</p> <p>X.11 Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</p> <p>X.12 Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar Convention and the business sector</p> <p>X.22* Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways</p> <p>XI.6 Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions</p> <p>XII.3* Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</p> <p>XIII.7 Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions</p>
<b>CEPA, etc.</b>	<p>Recom 4.5 Education and training</p> <p>Recom 5.8 Measures to promote public awareness of wetland values in wetland reserves</p> <p>VI.19 Education and public awareness</p> <p>VII.9 The Convention's Outreach Programme, 1999-2002</p>



Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>VIII.31 The Convention's Programme on communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) 2003-2008</p> <p>IX.18 Establishment of an Oversight Panel for the CEPA activities of the Convention</p> <p>X.8 The Convention's Programme on communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2009-2015</p> <p>XII.9 The Ramsar Convention's Programme on communication, capacity building, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) 2016-2024</p>
<b>Declaration of Days, Awards &amp; accreditations</b>	<p>Recom 5.10 The 25th anniversary wetland campaign for 1996</p> <p>VI.18 Establishment of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award</p> <p>XII.10 Wetland City Accreditation of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XIII.1 World Wetlands Day</p>
<b>Development agencies and banks</b>	<p>Recom 3.4 Responsibility of development agencies toward wetlands</p> <p>Recom 4.13 Responsibility of multilateral development banks (MDBs) towards wetlands</p>
<b>Funds for wetlands</b>	<p>4.3 A Wetland Conservation Fund</p> <p>5.8 Future funding and operation of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Fund</p> <p>VI.6 The Wetland Conservation Fund</p> <p>Recom 7.4 The Wetlands for the Future Initiative</p> <p>VII.5 Critical evaluation of the Convention's Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) and its future operations</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>VIII.29 Evaluation of the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) and establishment of a Ramsar Endowment Fund</p> <p>IX.13 Evaluation of the Ramsar Endowment Fund as a mechanism to resource the Small Grants Fund</p> <p>X.7 Optimizing the Ramsar Small Grants Fund during the period 2009-2012</p>
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>X.29 Clarifying the functions of agencies and related bodies implementing the Convention at the national level</p>
<b>National laws and policies</b>	<p>Recom 6.9 Framework for National Wetland Policy development and implementation</p> <p>VII.6 Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies</p> <p>VII.7* Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands</p>
<b>NGOs and International Organization Partners</b>	<p>Recom 5.6 The role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>Recom 5.7 National Committees</p> <p>VII.3 Partnerships with international organizations</p> <p>IX.16 The Convention's International Organization Partners (IOPs)</p>
<b>Regional focus</b>	<p>Recom 5.13 Promotion and strengthening of the Ramsar Neotropical Region</p> <p>Recom 5.14 Collaboration for Mediterranean Wetlands</p> <p>Recom 6.4* The "Brisbane Initiative" on the establishment of a network of listed sites along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>Recom 6.11 Continuing collaboration for Mediterranean wetlands</p> <p>VII.22 Collaborative structure for Mediterranean wetlands</p> <p>VII.26 Creation of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in the Western Hemisphere</p> <p>VIII.39 High Andean wetlands as strategic ecosystems</p> <p>VIII.41 Establishment of a Regional Ramsar Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands in Western and Central Asia</p> <p>VIII.42 Small Island Developing States in the Oceania Region</p> <p>VIII.43 A subregional strategy of the Ramsar Convention for South America</p> <p>VIII.44 New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Africa</p> <p>IX.19 The importance of regional wetland symposia in effectively implementing the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XII.14 Conservation of Mediterranean Basin island wetlands</p> <p>XIII.22 Wetlands in West Asia</p> <p>XIII.23 Wetlands in the Arctic and sub-Arctic</p>
<b>Regional Initiatives</b>	<p>VIII.30 Regional initiatives for the further implementation of the Convention</p> <p>IX.7 Regional initiatives in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>X.6 Regional initiatives 2009-2012 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>XI.5 Regional initiatives 2013-2015 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XII.8 Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>XIII.9 Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021</p>
<b>Reporting, National reports</b>	<p>Recom 2.1 Submission of National Reports</p> <p>Recom 4.3 National reports</p> <p>VIII.26* The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 during the triennium 2003-2005 and National Reports for Ramsar COP9</p> <p>IX.5* Synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements</p>
<b>Small Island States</b>	<p>Recom 7.2 Small Island Developing States, island wetland ecosystems, and the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>IX.20 Integrated, cross-biome planning and management of wetlands, especially in small island developing states</p> <p>X.30 Small Island States and the Ramsar Convention</p>
<b>Thanks to the Host Country</b>	<p>Recom 1.11 Thanks to the Italian hosts</p> <p>Recom 2.10 Thanks to the government of the Netherlands and appreciation of wetland conservation measures taken in the Netherlands</p> <p>Recom 3.11 Recommendation of Thanks [to the Canadians]</p> <p>Recom 4.14 Thanks to the host [Switzerland]</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>Recom 5.12 Thanks to the Japanese hosts</p> <p>VI.20 Thanks to the people and governments of Australia</p> <p>VII.29 Thanks to the host country</p> <p>VIII.46 Thanks to the people and governments of Spain</p> <p>IX.25 Thanks to the host country</p> <p>X.32 Thanks to the host country, the Republic of Korea</p> <p>XI.22 Thanks to the host country, Romania</p> <p>XII.16 Thanks to the Host Country, Uruguay, and the “Declaration of Punta del Este”</p> <p>XIII.25 Thanks to the Host Country, the United Arab Emirates</p>
<b>RAMSAR SITES AND OTHER PROTECTED AREAS</b>	
<b>Ramsar List of wetlands, Designation of Ramsar Sites</b>	<p>Recom 1.3 Designating more wetlands for the Ramsar List</p> <p>Recom 1.4 Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance</p> <p>Recom 2.5* Designation of the Wadden Sea for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>Recom 3.1 Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance and guidelines on their use</p> <p>Recom 4.2 Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance</p> <p>4.4 Implementation of Article 5 of the Convention</p>

	<p>Recom 4.6*</p> <p>Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>Procedure for initial designation of sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>5.7</p> <p>Management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</p> <p>5.9</p> <p>Application of the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>Recom 5.9</p> <p>Establishment of Ramsar guidelines on Wetlands of International Importance as fish habitat</p> <p>VI.1*</p> <p>Working definitions of ecological character, guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed sites, and guidelines for operation of the Montreux Record</p> <p>VI.2</p> <p>Adoption of specific criteria based on fish for identifying Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VI.3</p> <p>Review of the Ramsar Criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance and the accompanying guidelines</p> <p>VI.4</p> <p>Adoption of population estimates for operation of the specific criteria based on waterfowl</p> <p>VI.5</p> <p>Inclusion of subterranean karst wetlands as a wetland type under the Ramsar Classification System</p> <p>VI.12*</p> <p>National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing</p> <p>VI.13</p> <p>Submission of information on sites designated for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VII.11</p> <p>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p>
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	<p>VII.12 Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance: official descriptions, conservation status, and management plans, including the situation of particular sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties</p> <p>VII.13 Guidelines for identifying and designating karst and other subterranean hydrological systems as Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VII.23 Issues concerning the boundary definitions of Ramsar sites and compensation of wetland habitats</p> <p>VIII.8* Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention</p> <p>VIII.10 Improving implementation of the Strategic Framework and Vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VIII.11 Additional guidance for identifying and designating under-represented wetland types as Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VIII.13 Enhancing the information on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)</p> <p>VIII.20 General guidance for interpreting “urgent national interests” under Article 2.5 of the Convention and considering compensation under Article 4.2</p> <p>VIII.21 Defining Ramsar site boundaries more accurately in Ramsar Information Sheets</p> <p>VIII.22 Issues concerning Ramsar sites that cease to fulfil or never fulfilled the Criteria for designation as Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VIII.33* Guidance for identifying, sustainably managing, and designating temporary pools as Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VIII.38 Waterbird population estimates and the identification and designation of Wetlands of International Importance</p>
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Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>IX.6 Guidance for addressing Ramsar sites or parts of sites which no longer meet the Criteria for designation</p> <p>IX.15 The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>IX.22 Ramsar sites and systems of protected areas</p> <p>X.13 The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>X.15* Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance</p> <p>X.20 Biogeographic regionalization in the application of the Strategic Framework for the List of Wetlands of International Importance: scientific and technical guidance</p> <p>XI.4 The status of sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>XI.8 Streamlining procedures for describing Ramsar Sites at the time of designation and subsequent updates</p> <p>XII.6 The status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>XIII.10 Status of Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>XIII.12 Guidance on identifying peatlands as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteria</p> <p>XIII.24* The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites</p>



Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
<b>Montreux record &amp; Ecological character of Ramsar sites</b>	<p>Recom 3.9 Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites</p> <p>Recom 4.8 Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites [and establishment of the Montreux Record]</p> <p>Recom 5.2 Guidelines for interpretation of Article 3 (“ecological character” and “change in ecological character”)</p> <p>5.4 The record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur (“Montreux Record”)</p> <p>VI.1* Working definitions of ecological character, guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed sites, and guidelines for operation of the Montreux Record)</p> <p>VIII.7* Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring</p> <p>VIII.8* Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention</p> <p>X.15* Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance</p> <p>X.16 A Framework for processes of detecting, reporting and responding to change in wetland ecological character</p>
<b>Ramsare sites, Specific countries or sites</b>	<p>Recom 2.5* Designation of the Wadden Sea for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>Recom 2.6 Conservation and management of Sahel Wetlands</p> <p>Recom 2.7 Conservation of Djoudj National Bird Park, Senegal</p> <p>Recom 2.8 Establishment of a protected area in the River Senegal basin in Mauritania</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>Recom 3.8 Conservation of Azraq Ramsar site</p> <p>Recom 4.9 Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties</p> <p>Recom 4.9.1 Doñana National Park, Spain</p> <p>Recom 4.9.2 Everglades National Park, USA</p> <p>Recom 4.9.3 Azraq Oasis, Jordan</p> <p>Recom 4.9.4 Conservation of the Leybucht, Federal Republic of Germany</p> <p>Recom 4.9.5 Greek Ramsar sites</p> <p>Recom 5.1 Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties</p> <p>Recom 5.1.1 Greek Ramsar sites</p> <p>Recom 5.1.2 Cuare, Venezuela</p> <p>Recom 5.1.3 Lower Danube Basin</p> <p>Recom 6.17 Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties</p> <p>Recom 6.17.1 Greek Ramsar sites</p> <p>Recom 6.17.2 National Reserve of Paracas and the national strategy for the conservation of wetlands in Peru</p> <p>Recom 6.17.3 Azraq Oasis, Jordan</p> <p>Recom 6.17.4 Australian Ramsar sites</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	Recom 6.17.5 The Lower Danube Basin
<b>WISE USE OF WETLANDS</b>	
<b>Assessment of wetland values and services</b>	Recom 1.6 Assessment of wetland values  Recom 6.10 Promotion of cooperation on the economic valuation of wetlands  VI.21 Assessment and reporting on the status of wetlands  VIII.8* Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention  XIII.17 Rapidly assessing wetland ecosystem services
<b>Climate change</b>	VIII.3 Climate change and wetlands: impacts, adaptation, and mitigation  X.24 Climate change and wetlands  XI.14 Climate change and wetlands: implications for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands  XII.11* Peatlands, climate change and wise use: Implications for the Ramsar Convention  XIII.13* Restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity and disaster risk reduction  XIII.15* Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands  XIII.16* Sustainable urbanization, climate change and wetlands
<b>Coastal zones</b>	Recom 6.8 Strategic planning in coastal zones

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	VIII.4 Principles and guidelines for incorporating wetland issues into Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)
<b>Energy &amp; Biofuels</b>	X.25 Wetlands and “biofuels”  XI.10 Wetlands and energy issues
<b>Health &amp; well-being</b>	X.3 The Changwon Declaration on human well-being and wetlands  X.23 Wetlands and human health and well-being  XI.12 Wetlands and health: taking an ecosystem approach
<b>Impact assessment</b>	Recom 6.2 Environmental Impact Assessment  VII.16 The Ramsar Convention and impact assessment: strategic, environmental and social  VIII.35* The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems  X.17 Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment: updated scientific and technical guidance
<b>Invasive species</b>	VIII.18 Invasive species and wetlands  VII.14 Invasive species and wetlands
<b>Inventories of wetlands</b>	Recom 1.5 National Wetland Inventories  Recom 4.6* Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites  VI.12* National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>VIII.6 A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory</p> <p>VIII.7* Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring</p> <p>VII.20 Priorities for wetland inventory</p> <p>X.15* Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance</p>
<b>Management of wetlands</b>	<p>Recom 6.5 Establishment of further wetland manager training programmes</p> <p>Recom 6.13 Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</p> <p>Recom 7.1* A global action plan for the wise use and management of peatlands</p> <p>VIII.14 New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</p> <p>VIII.15 The 'San José Record' for the promotion of wetland management</p> <p>VIII.32* Conservation, integrated management, and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems and their resources</p> <p>VIII.33* Guidance for identifying, sustainably managing, and designating temporary pools as Wetlands of International Importance</p> <p>VIII.36 Participatory Environmental Management (PEM) as a tool for management and wise use of wetlands</p> <p>XI.11 Principles for the planning and management of urban and peri-urban wetlands</p> <p>XII.15 Evaluation of the management and conservation effectiveness of Ramsar Sites</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
<b>Migratory species</b>	<p>Recom 3.2 Need for further studies of flyways</p> <p>Recom 4.12 Cooperation between Contracting Parties for the management of migratory species</p> <p>Recom 6.4* The “Brisbane Initiative” on the establishment of a network of listed sites along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway</p> <p>Recom 7.3 Multilateral cooperation on the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Asia-Pacific region</p> <p>VIII.37 International cooperation on conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the Asia-Pacific region</p> <p>X.22* Promoting international cooperation for the conservation of waterbird flyways</p>
<b>Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs)</b>	<p>XIII.11 Ramsar Advisory Missions</p>
<b>Sustainable development, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, Gender &amp; Livelihoods</b>  <i>Note: When this group is examined for consolidation, it might be possible to separate the livelihoods and poverty eradication aspects from the cultural values aspects.</i>	<p>Recom 6.3 Involving local and indigenous people in the management of Ramsar wetlands</p> <p>VII.8 Guidelines for establishing and strengthening local communities’ and indigenous people’s participation in the management of wetlands</p> <p>VIII.19 Guiding principles for taking into account the cultural values of wetlands for the effective management of sites</p> <p>IX.14 Wetlands and poverty reduction</p> <p>IX.21 Taking into account the cultural values of wetlands</p> <p>X.28 Wetlands and poverty eradication</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>XI.20 Promoting sustainable investment by the public and private sectors to ensure the maintenance of the benefits people and nature gain from wetlands</p> <p>XI.21 Wetlands and sustainable development</p> <p>XIII.15* Cultural values and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities and their contribution to climate-change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands</p> <p>XIII.18 Gender and wetlands</p>
<b>Water, water-related, and water management related</b>	<p>VI.23 Ramsar and water</p> <p>VII.18 Guidelines for integrating wetland conservation and wise use into river basin management</p> <p>VIII.1 Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands</p> <p>VIII.34* Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management</p> <p>VIII.40* Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands</p> <p>IX.3* Engagement of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in ongoing multilateral processes dealing with water</p> <p>X.19 Wetlands and river basin management: consolidated scientific and technical guidance</p> <p>XII.12* Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future</p>
<b>Wise use, Conservation, Ecology, Restoration, etc.</b>	<p>Recom 2.9 Conservation action and protection of wetlands not designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance</p>

Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>Recom 3.3 Wise use of wetlands</p> <p>Recom 4.1 Wetland restoration</p> <p>Recom 4.4 Establishment of wetland reserves</p> <p>Recom 4.10 Guidelines for the implementation of the wise use concept</p> <p>Recom 5.3 The essential character of wetlands and the need for zonation related to wetland reserves</p> <p>Recom 5.5 Inclusion of conservation and wise use of wetlands in multilateral and bilateral development cooperation programmes</p> <p>5.6 The wise use of wetlands</p> <p>Recom 6.1 Conservation of peatlands</p> <p>Recom 6.7 Conservation and wise use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems</p> <p>Recom 6.12 Conservation and wise use in private and public funded activities</p> <p>Recom 6.14 Toxic chemicals</p> <p>Recom 6.15 Restoration of wetlands</p> <p>Recom 6.16 Conservation and wise use of wetlands in bilateral and multilateral development cooperation programmes</p> <p>Recom 6.18 Conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Pacific Islands region</p> <p>Recom 7.1* A global action plan for the wise use and management of peatlands</p>



	<p>VII.7* Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands</p> <p>VII.10 Wetland Risk Assessment Framework</p> <p>VII.15 Incentive measures to encourage the application of the wise use principle</p> <p>VII.17 Restoration as an element of national planning for wetland conservation and wise use</p> <p>VII.21 Enhancing the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands</p> <p>VII.24 Compensation for lost wetland habitats and other functions</p> <p>VII.25 Measuring environmental quality in wetlands</p> <p>VIII.2 The Report of the World Commission on Dams (WCD) and its relevance to the Ramsar Convention</p> <p>VIII.7* Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring</p> <p>VIII.12 Enhancing the wise use and conservation of mountain wetlands</p> <p>VIII.16 Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</p> <p>VIII.17 Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands</p> <p>VIII.23 Incentive measures as tools for achieving the wise use of wetlands</p> <p>VIII.32* Conservation, integrated management, and sustainable use of mangrove ecosystems and their resources</p> <p>VIII.34* Agriculture, wetlands and water resource management</p>
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	<p>VIII.35*</p> <p>The impact of natural disasters, particularly drought, on wetland ecosystems</p> <p>VIII.40*</p> <p>Guidelines for rendering the use of groundwater compatible with the conservation of wetlands</p> <p>IX.1</p> <p>Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept</p> <p>IX.4</p> <p>The Ramsar Convention and conservation, production and sustainable use of fisheries resources</p> <p>IX.9</p> <p>The role of the Ramsar Convention in the prevention and mitigation of impacts associated with natural phenomena, including those induced or exacerbated by human activities</p> <p>IX.23</p> <p>Highly pathogenic avian influenza and its consequences for wetland and waterbird conservation and wise use</p> <p>X.14</p> <p>A Framework for Ramsar data and information needs</p> <p>X.18</p> <p>The application of response options from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) within the Ramsar Wise Use Toolkit</p> <p>X.21</p> <p>Guidance on responding to the continued spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza</p> <p>X.26</p> <p>Wetlands and extractive industries</p> <p>X.27</p> <p>Wetlands and urbanization</p> <p>X.31</p> <p>Enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems</p> <p>XI.7</p> <p>Tourism, recreation and wetlands</p> <p>XI.9</p> <p>An Integrated Framework for avoiding, mitigating, and compensating for wetland losses</p>
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Preliminary Grouping	Resolutions
	<p>XI.13 An Integrated Framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication</p> <p>XI.15 Agriculture-wetland interactions: rice paddy and pest control</p> <p>XII.12* Call to action to ensure and protect the water requirements of wetlands for the present and the future</p> <p>XII.13 Wetlands and disaster risk reduction</p> <p>XIII.14 Promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue-carbon ecosystems</p> <p>XIII.19 Sustainable agriculture in wetlands</p> <p>XIII.20 Promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats</p> <p>XIII.21 Conservation and management of small wetlands</p> <p>XIII.24* The enhanced conservation of coastal marine turtle habitats and the designation of key areas as Ramsar Sites</p>

## Annex 2

### Consolidation of valid Resolutions

#### Resolutions Relating to Inventories

1. At present, there are seven Resolutions and Recommendations dealing specifically with inventories, as follows :
  - Recommendation 1.5 on *National Wetland Inventories*
  - Recommendation 4.6 on *Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites*
  - VI.12 on *National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing*
  - VII.20 on *Priorities for wetland inventory*
  - VIII.6 on *A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory*
  - VIII.7 on *Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring ; and*
  - X.15 on *Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance.*
2. Resolution IX.1 includes, as Annex E, *An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring* and, as Annex E.i), *Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity*. As these annexes relate directly to the conduct of inventories, they have been taken into account in the consolidation of Resolutions on this subject.
3. Recommendation 4.6 and Resolutions VI.12, VIII.7 and X.15 also deal with other issues and the text relating to those issues would need to be considered in the context of consolidation of Resolutions dealing with those subjects.
4. Resolution 5.3 on *Procedure for initial designation of sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance* also refers to inventories, but is not included in the consolidation here as inventories are not its main focus. The references to inventories in that Resolution can be revised as necessary when it is consolidated with others.
5. A draft resolution to consolidate these has been prepared and is presented below.
  - The preamble in the attached draft consolidated resolution is based on the preamble of the Resolutions specified in emboldened figures in square brackets at the end of the preambular paragraphs. The Secretariat has used its discretion to suggest consolidations, deletions and other amendments, including minor editorial amendments.
  - The changes to the operative parts of current Resolutions are italicized. On the right of each paragraph in the operative part is indicated the section of each existing Resolution from which the text has been taken. The symbol + indicates that the paragraph has been amended only to improve the grammar, clarity or consistency. The symbol ⊕ indicates that the paragraph has been amended in substance for the reasons stated.

- In cases where paragraphs from two or more Resolutions have been combined, the whole text of the paragraph is italicised.

6. The attached draft resolution has been prepared with the following considerations.

*General:*

- All requests that were time-bound, where the deadline for action has passed, have been eliminated from the consolidation.
- All references to the "Convention Bureau" have been amended to refer to the "Secretariat of the Convention".

*Regarding the preamble:*

- With 50 preambular paragraphs in the Recommendations and Resolutions being consolidated here, an important objective is to significantly reduce the length of the preamble to what is needed to justify the operative part, which is the purpose of a preamble. In the attached draft, a large number of preambular paragraphs have therefore been combined, or have been omitted when they seemed no longer current. It must be noted, however that all existing Resolutions remain on the record as a clear indication of the historical decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.
- Expressions of appreciation have been omitted from the draft consolidated resolution but remain on the record as a reflection of the gratitude of the Conference of the Parties.
- Paragraphs recalling previous Resolutions and Recommendations have all been eliminated and replaced by a new first paragraph of the preamble, which refers to the Resolutions listed above.
- A new paragraph has been inserted recalling the criteria for designation of Ramsar sites, and replaces all paragraphs in existing Resolutions that recall these criteria.
- References to Actions in past Strategic Plans have been omitted from the preamble, but a new paragraph has been included to refer to these generically.
- In Recommendation 4.6, the final preambular paragraph is "*CONSIDERING that REC. 1.4, REC. 2.3 and REC. 3.1 should therefore be supplemented by the following recommendation*". This is superfluous in the consolidation and is not included.
- In Resolution VI.12, preambular paragraph 3 reads "NOTING ALSO the value of recognition of those sites which may be regarded as candidates for listing under the Convention". This has not been included because the essence is in the preambular paragraph of Recommendation 4.6, under "CONVINCED".
- Regarding Resolution VII.20, para. 6, and Resolution VIII.6, para. 5, it is no longer correct that few countries have comprehensive national inventories. These paragraphs are out of date and have been omitted from the consolidation.
- In Resolution VII.20, paragraph 7, the Conference recognizes the priorities for future wetland inventory, on the basis of a report from 1998. Meanwhile, the Standing Committee, in decisions SC54-26 and SC57-47, has approved the allocation of funds to support Parties to complete wetland inventories. On this basis, the Secretariat is supporting Parties to initiate or

complete wetland inventories. The results of the consultancy including priorities are presented in a paper for SC58. The paragraph is therefore out of date and has not been included in the consolidation.

- In Resolution VIII.6, preambular paragraphs 6 and 8 relate to actions that were being conducted by Wetlands International, the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment and the European Space Agency in 2002. As these are somewhat out of date and have no bearing on the operative part of the draft consolidated resolution, they have not been included.

*Regarding the operative part:*

- At its first, fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth and ninth meetings, the Conference of the Parties called on Parties to establish inventories of wetlands, with various supplementary requests. In some cases it called also on “Governments”, presumably meaning non-Parties. The texts concerned are all of those covered by this consolidation except for Resolutions VIII.7 and X.15. In the attached consolidation, these requests have been combined into a single request, incorporating the various elements. In some cases, the original text specified priorities for the following triennium. All such time-bound requests are now out of date and have been excluded.

- Resolution VI.12, para. 5, urges each Party to “officially recognize its identified sites”. It does not relate specifically to inventories and is omitted from the present consolidation. Article 2.1 of the Convention requires each Party to “designate suitable wetlands within its territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance”. The repetition of this obligation in a non-binding Resolution seems superfluous.

- In Resolution VII.20, para. 15, the STRP is requested to collaborate with others to further develop the models for wetland inventory and data management and report at COP8 (2002). This is obviously out of date. The work was completed and guidelines are provided in Resolutions VIII.6 and VIII.7. This paragraph is therefore omitted from the draft consolidated resolution.

- In Resolution VII.20, para. 17, the Conference encourages the provision of “resources to allow Wetlands International to complete and document suitable standardized protocols for data gathering and handling as well as a comprehensive assessment of wetland inventory information”. This encouragement from 1999, seems out of date. Moreover it seems redundant as, in Resolution X.15, the Conference adopted guidelines for “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory”. The paragraph has therefore been omitted from the attached consolidation.

- Resolution VII.20, para. 18, has been superseded by Resolution VIII.6, para. 24, and has therefore been omitted from the consolidation.

- In Resolution VII.20, para. 19, the Conference gives instructions to the Standing Committee regarding its consideration of projects submitted to the Small Grants Fund. This is out of date because, in Resolution XIII.2, the Conference decided to phase out this Fund. The paragraph has therefore been omitted from the consolidation.

- In Resolution VIII.6, para. 20, the Ramsar Secretariat and Wetlands International are requested to make available on the internet, if possible, the standard metadata record for wetland inventory. In 2010, the Secretariat published on its website *Ramsar Technical Report*

*No. 4: A Framework for a Wetland Inventory Metadatabase* (see [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/lib\\_rtr04.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/lib_rtr04.pdf)). Moreover, in *Handbook 13: Inventory, assessment, and monitoring*, it included a section on “Metadata records for wetland inventory” (see <https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-13.pdf>). The request has therefore been complied with to the extent possible and has been omitted from the consolidation.

- In Resolution VIII.6, para. 21, the Conference of the Parties calls for a report to be presented at COP9 and that was done. It also encourages Parties and organizations to provide funds to Wetlands International to update the Global Review of Wetland Resources and Priorities for Wetland Inventory report. As it appears that there has been no update in the intervening 18 years, this encouragement may also be considered out of date. The paragraph is therefore not included in the draft consolidated resolution.
- Resolution VIII.6, para. 22, calls for a report to be presented at COP9. This request is now defunct the paragraph is therefore omitted from the consolidation.
- In Resolution VIII.6, para. 23, the Conference calls on Parties and organizations to share with Wetlands International, their experience in “training and capacity building in wetland inventory”, to make the expertise available through the Ramsar Training Framework. The Resolution was adopted in 2002 but the Ramsar Training Framework still does not exist. Consequently, the recommendation appears to be out of date and has not been included in the consolidation.
- In Resolution VIII.7, para. 15, the Conference requests the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to conduct certain work and report at COP9. As that meeting was held 15 years ago, this request is out of date and the paragraph is therefore omitted from the consolidation.
- In Resolution VIII.7, paras. 16 and 17, the STRP is requested to conduct work to update the “integrated framework for wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring”. This was done and the revised framework was adopted at COP9, in Resolution IX.1. These two paragraphs are therefore omitted from the consolidation.
- In Resolution VIII.7, paras. 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 do not relate specifically to inventories. They have therefore not been included in the consolidation. However, a paragraph has been added at the end of the Resolution to indicate that these remain on the record and will be taken into account during the process of consolidation of Resolutions. The Secretariat will record this to ensure that they are taken into account as appropriate.
- Regarding Resolution IX.1, only Annexes E and E.i) are directly relevant to inventories and have been taken into account in the consolidation of Resolutions on this subject. Text from paragraphs 7 and 8 of that Resolution have been adapted and included to refer to those Annexes in the consolidation. A paragraph has also been inserted to revise Resolution IX.1, to eliminate reference to those Annexes.
- In Resolution X.15, para. 4, the Conference “WELCOMES the guidance on 'Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory' “. The term 'welcomes' implies that the guidance is provided by another body and not by the Conference of the Contracting Parties. In the draft consolidation, an amendment is proposed to clarify that the Conference 'agrees' to the guidance, although 'adopts' would be stronger.

- In Resolution X.15, para. 5, the Conference confirms that the summary description and structure of core data fields for wetland inventory included in that Resolution supersede the guidance in Table 2 of the Annex to Resolution VIII.6, which is the framework for wetland inventory. Therefore para. 5 of Resolution X.15 is omitted from the consolidation but the framework is updated in the annex to the draft consolidated resolution and Resolution VIII.6 is repealed.
- In Resolution X.15, para. 8, the Conference instructs the STRP to conduct certain work in the period 2009-2012. That period is finished and the paragraph is therefore omitted from the consolidation.



## DRAFT CONSOLIDATED RESOLUTION

### Inventories of wetlands

*Recalling Recommendations 1.5 and 4.6 adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties at its first and fourth meetings respectively (Cagliari, 1980; Montreux 1990), and Resolutions VI.12, VII.20, VIII.6, VIII.7 and X.15, adopted at the sixth, seventh, eighth and tenth meetings (Brisbane, 1996; San Jose, 1999; Valencia, 2002; Changwon, 2008);*

*Recalling also the references to inventories in other Resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, including Resolution 5.3, adopted at the fifth meeting (Kushiro, 1993), and Resolution IX.15, adopted at the ninth meeting (Kampala, 2005);*

*AWARE that previous Strategic Plans adopted by the Conference of the Parties have recognized the importance of using information from national scientific inventories, as well as regional directories as a baseline for considering trends in wetland conservation or loss;*

AWARE that Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention undertake to formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the *conservation of the wetlands included in the Ramsar List and, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in their territory*; **[Recom. 1.5] ⊕**  
(Comment: amended for consistency with Article 3.1 of the Convention)

NOTING the value of comprehensive inventories of wetland resources as an aid to implementing the wise use obligation under the Convention; **[Resol. VI.12, para. 2]**

EMPHASIZING that, as mentioned in the World Conservation Strategy, wise use of wetlands involves maintenance of their ecological character, as a basis not only for nature conservation but *also* for sustainable development; **[Recom. 1.5] +**

CONVINCED that establishment of comprehensive national policies would benefit the wise use of wetlands, and that such policies should be based on a nationwide inventory of wetlands and of their resources; **[Recom. 1.5]**

*ACKNOWLEDGING the progress achieved in the establishment of wetland inventories and the development of wetland conservation policies and the increasing awareness, among national, regional and local authorities responsible for water management and land use, of the necessity to conserve wetlands; [Combination from Recommendations 1.5 & 4.6] ⊕*

*RECALLING the criteria for the identification of wetlands of international importance, adopted at the seventh (1999) and ninth (2005) meetings (1999 and 2005) of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, superseding earlier criteria adopted at the fourth and sixth meetings (1990 and 1996), to guide implementation of Article 2.1 on designation of Ramsar wetlands; RECALLING ALSO Resolution XI.8 (2012) on Streamlining procedures for describing Ramsar sites at the time of designation and subsequent updates as well as Resolution XIII.12 (2018) on Guidance on Identifying Peatlands as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteria;*

*RECOGNIZING the value of establishing national scientific inventories of wetlands on the basis of these criteria for improving the general level of knowledge on the world's wetlands and for facilitating the designation of sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List); [Recom. 4.6, & Resol. VII.20, para.2] +*

CONVINCED that the establishment of inventories carried out on the basis of the best scientific information available at both national and international levels constitutes the most effective method to achieve the designation for the *Ramsar* List of the largest possible number of sites; **[Recom. 4.6]**

CONSIDERING that this Conference has also adopted *Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetlands Policies* (Resolution VII.6), the *Wetland Risk Assessment Framework* (Resolution VII.10), the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VII.11), and Resolution VII.17 on *Restoration as an element of national planning for wetland conservation and wise use*, all of which, as noted by the previous Resolutions and Recommendations referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above, would be greatly assisted by the availability of national scientific inventories; **[Resol. VII.20, para. 8]**

TAKING ACCOUNT of the findings given in the report prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and presented to COP7 Technical Session IV entitled *Shared wetlands and river basins of the world*; and **[Resol. VII.20, para. 9]**

NOTING the scope of the proposed Millenium Assessment of the World's Ecosystems, currently under development, to deliver valuable related information of relevance to the application of the Convention; **[Resol. VII.20, para. 10]**

RECALLING Recommendation 1.5, in which the Contracting Parties stated the need to prepare inventories of their wetlands "as an aid to the formulation and implementation of national wetland policies", and Resolution VII.6, in which the Parties adopted guidelines on these matters; **[Resol. VIII.6, para. 1]**

RECALLING ALSO Recommendation 4.6, Resolutions 5.3 and VI.12, and Action 6.1.2 of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002, in all of which the Parties recognized the value of national inventories for identifying sites suitable for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List) under the Convention; **[Resol. VIII.6, para. 2]**

AWARE that in Action 6.1.3 of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002 and Resolution VII.20 the Parties also recognized the importance of baseline wetland inventory for quantifying the global wetland resource as the basis for assessment of its status and trends, for identifying wetlands suitable for restoration, and for risk and vulnerability assessments; **[Resol. VIII.6, para. 3]**

NOTING that this meeting has adopted *Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration* (Resolution VIII.16); *Wetland issues in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)* (Resolution VIII.4); *Additional guidance for identifying and designating under-represented wetland types as Wetlands of International Importance* (Resolution VIII.11); *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* (Resolution VIII.14); and *Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands* (Resolution VIII.17), the implementation of all of which will be substantially assisted by the availability of wetland inventory at national and other scales; **[Resol. VIII.6, para. 4]**

AWARE that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) is evaluating the condition, status and trends in global ecosystems including inland wetlands, subterranean (karst), and coastal and marine systems, and that this will include new applications of remote sensing which may enhance information on the global distribution of wetlands and their status; **[Resol. VIII.6, para. 7]**

RECALLING that in Resolution VII.20 the Conference of the Parties urged “all Contracting Parties yet to complete comprehensive national inventories of their wetland resources, including where possible wetland losses and wetlands with potential for restoration, to give highest priority in the next triennium to the compilation of comprehensive national inventories”, but NOTING with concern that, *according to their National Reports to the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, only 61 Parties had completed a national wetland inventory, and 54 had planned or started the compilation*; [Resol. VIII.6, para. 9, amended to incorporate figures from COP13. ⊕]

ALSO RECALLING that in Resolution VII.20 the Contracting Parties requested the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), in collaboration with Wetlands International, the Ramsar Bureau, and other interested organizations, to review and further develop existing models for wetland inventory and data management, including the use of remote sensing and low-cost and user-friendly geographic information systems, and to report their findings to the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties with a view to promoting international common standards; [Resol. VIII.6, para. 10]

FURTHER RECALLING that in Resolution VII.20 the Contracting Parties resolved that their inventory data, where it exists, should be housed and maintained in such a way that the information resource should be available to all decision-makers, stakeholders, and other interested parties; [Resol. VIII.6, para. 11]

APPRECIATIVE of the financial support of the governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America for the preparation by the STRP of further guidance on wetland inventory; and [Resol. VIII.6, para. 12]

RECOGNIZING that various methodologies for national inventory can in general be applied also to local, sub-national (e.g. provincial), and transboundary international scales; [Resol. VIII.6, para. 13]

RECALLING that through Article 3.1 of the Convention, Contracting Parties undertake to “formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List [of Wetlands of International Importance], and as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory”; and under Article 3.2, to “arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change”; [Resol. VIII.7, para. 1]

ALSO RECALLING that through Resolution VI.1 Contracting Parties adopted working definitions of “ecological character” and guidelines for describing and maintaining the ecological character of listed sites, and through Resolution VII.10 adopted revised definitions of “ecological character” and “change in ecological character”, and that Parties are strongly encouraged to include within their management plans a regime for regular and rigorous monitoring to detect changes in ecological character; [Resol. VIII.7, para. 2]

RECOGNIZING that Objective 4.1 of the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Annex to Resolution VII.11) is “to use Ramsar sites as baseline and reference areas for national, supranational/regional, and international environmental monitoring to detect trends in the loss of biological diversity, climate change, and the processes of desertification”, and that definition and assessment of the ecological character of Ramsar sites is an essential prerequisite for delivering this Objective; [Resol. VIII.7, para. 3]

AWARE that Recommendation 4.7 and Resolution VIII.13 approved categories of information to be provided by Contracting Parties in the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) that include a statement of the ecological character of the sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance; **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 4]**

ALSO AWARE that Contracting Parties have adopted a range of guidance relevant to the identification, assessment, monitoring and management of the ecological character of Wetlands of International Importance and other wetlands, including on wetland inventory (Resolution VII.20), wetland risk assessment (Resolution VII.10), impact assessment (Resolution VII.16), and monitoring (Resolution VI.1); **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 5]**

RECOGNIZING that this meeting of the Conference of the Parties has adopted further guidance relevant to the assessing and managing of the ecological character of wetlands, including *A Framework for Wetland Inventory* (Resolution VIII.6), *New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands* (Resolution VIII.14), and on impact assessment (Resolution VIII.9); **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 6]**

RECALLING that Resolution VII.25 authorized the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), in collaboration with appropriate international bodies, to compile and disseminate reliable criteria and methods for the evaluation of the ecological character of wetlands through the establishment of indicative biological, physical, and chemical parameters; and ALSO RECALLING that through the Annex to Resolution VII.18 the STRP was also requested to compile information on functional and biodiversity assessment methodologies and the means for their integration in wetland management for dissemination to Contracting Parties, for their adaptation to local situations; **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 7]**

HAVING BEEN INFORMED that the STRP has reviewed the available tools and guidelines related to the ecological character of wetlands published in Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks 7 and 8, and has concluded that although there is a substantial range of guidance available and in preparation for use by Contracting Parties, there are gaps and disharmonies in this guidance developed through the Convention process at different times, and that the preparation of further guidance is necessary; **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 8]**

AWARE that the STRP recognized the need to develop an overarching “wetland ecosystem assessment framework” for use by Contracting Parties to provide a conceptual framework for defining the ecological character of wetlands and for assessing and addressing change in ecological character and guidance on which available tools and guidelines should be applied in each stage of the process of inventory, assessment, monitoring and management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands; **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 9]**

NOTING that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has been developed to provide guidance and information to the Ramsar Convention, *inter alia*, concerning the condition and trends in global ecosystems including wetlands, future scenarios, and response options for decision-makers at global and sub-global scales, and is preparing good practice guidelines and methods for undertaking ecosystem assessments, applicable to wetland assessment, at local, national and regional scales; **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 10]**

FURTHER NOTING that other assessment programmes currently underway, including the Global International Waters Assessment, UNESCO’s World Water Assessment Programme, and IUCN’s Freshwater Biodiversity Assessment Programme, will provide information on the status and trends of wetlands, wetland biodiversity, and water resources, and that through the Joint Work Plan 2002-2006 between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity

(CBD) the World Resources Institute has prepared a review of the status and trends of inland waters biodiversity as a contribution to the review and elaboration of the CBD's programme of work on inland water ecosystems; **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 11]**

AWARE that through the CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2002-2006 the STRP and Ramsar Bureau are working with the CBD Secretariat in the preparation of guidance on the rapid assessment of inland water biodiversity, including in small island developing states, and of marine and coastal biodiversity for consideration for adoption by Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention and CBD; **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 12]**

THANKING the STRP's Expert Working Group on Ecological Character for the preparation of the Information Paper available to this meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ramsar COP8 DOC. 16), which outlines a conceptual framework for the application of integrated wetland ecosystem inventory, assessment monitoring and management, stresses the role of wetland ecosystems and their goods and services in human well-being and poverty alleviation, and summarizes the tools and guidance currently available for use by Contracting Parties; and **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 13]**

NOTING that UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) is developing a procedure entitled Biosphere Reserve Integrated Monitoring (BRIM) and that through the Ramsar-MAB joint programme of work it is proposed to test this procedure, including indicators, on wetlands that have been designated both as Ramsar sites and Biosphere Reserves; **[Resol. VIII.7, para. 14]**

*NOTING also that, paragraphs 18 to 22 of Resolution VIII.7 remain on the record to ensure that they are considered at the time of consolidation of the Resolutions dealing with the subjects of those paragraphs;*

AWARE of the suite of technical and scientific guidelines and other materials prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to support Contracting Parties in their implementation of wetland conservation and wise use; **[Resol. X.15, para. 1]**

NOTING that the 9th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP9) instructed the STRP to prepare further advice and guidance for consideration by Contracting Parties at COP10 that would focus upon the immediate and high priority tasks set out in Annex 1 to Resolution IX.2; and **[Resol. X.15, para. 2]**

THANKING the STRP for its work in preparing the advice and guidance annexed to this Resolution as part of its high priority work during the 2006-2008 triennium; **[Resol. X.15, para. 3]**

## THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

<u>Regarding establishment and maintenance of wetland inventories</u>	new subheading
<i>RECOMMENDS that, as soon as possible, and where it has not already been done, Contracting Parties, and interested non-Parties, prepare and maintain national scientific inventories of all wetlands and their resources, as an aid to the formulation and implementation of national wetland policies, indicating those which are of international importance according to the criteria adopted by the Conference of the Parties; and that, as far as possible, such inventories be established in collaboration with competent national and international bodies and, where possible include information on wetland losses and wetlands with potential for restoration;</i>	Combination of: Recom. 1.5; Recom. 4.6, para. under “RECOMMENDS”; Resol. VI.12, para. 4; Resol. VII.20, para. 11; Resol. VIII.6, para. 16; ⊕
ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties with shared wetlands or river basins to work cooperatively in the gathering of <i>information for inventories and of related management information</i> , as urged through the <i>Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention</i> (Resolution VII.19);	Resol. VII.20, para. 14 +
URGES Contracting Parties, in establishing and maintaining inventories, to give consideration to affording highest priority to those wetland types identified as at greatest risk or with poorest information in the <i>Global review of wetland resources and priorities for wetland inventory report</i> ;	Resol. VII.20, para. 12 +
REQUESTS the <i>Secretariat of the Convention</i> to promote the development of wetland inventories by Contracting Parties and <i>to provide assistance to Contracting Parties that may request it</i> ;	Recom. 4.6 +
<u>Regarding inventory methodology and a Framework for Wetland Inventories</u>	new subheading
ADOPTS the <i>Framework for Wetland Inventory contained in Annex 1</i> to this Resolution;	Resol. VIII.6, para. 14
ADOPTS the Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring <i>and the Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity annexed to this Resolution; and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of them as appropriate, adapting them as necessary to suit national circumstances; and URGES Contracting Parties to draw the framework and guidelines to the attention of all relevant stakeholders;</i>	Adapted from Resol. IX.1, paras. 7 & 8 ⊕
AGREES to the guidance on “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory” <i>annexed to this Resolution</i> , and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of it as appropriate, adapting it as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances, within the frameworks of existing regional	Resol. X.15, para. 4 ⊕

initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;	
URGES Contracting Parties to draw this guidance to the attention of relevant stakeholders, including in particular those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites and other wetlands;	Resol. X.15, para. 6
INVITES Contracting Parties and those responsible for the management of Ramsar sites to apply <i>this guidance</i> in the preparation of ecological character descriptions of Ramsar sites, and as part of their management planning processes, so that these descriptions constitute a complementary basis to the Information Sheets on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) for detecting and notifying changes in ecological character, as established through Article 3.2 of the <i>Convention</i> ; and RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties provide any completed descriptions of the ecological character of Ramsar sites to the Secretariat as a supplement to the information provided in the RIS;	Resol. X.15, para. 7 +
INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to disseminate widely this guidance on “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory” annexed to this Resolution, including through amendment and updating of the Ramsar Wise Use Handbooks; and	Resol. X.15, para. 9
RECOGNIZES that it is appropriate to apply different wetland inventory approaches, methods and wetland classifications for different purposes and objectives, but that common standards can be achieved by ensuring consistency in the collection of a core (minimum) dataset, as provided in the Framework;	Resol. VIII.6, para. 15
<i>ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties initiating development of a national wetland inventory to consider the application or adaptation of an existing inventory methodology and data management system, including the updated inventory methodology developed by the Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), the Asian Wetland Inventory and other appropriate methodologies, so as to ensure consistency in inventory data and information collected, and to consider the use of standardized low-cost and user-friendly Geographic Information System methods;</i>	Combination of: Resol. VIII.6, para. 17; Resol. VII.20, para. 13 ⊕
<i>CALLS UPON</i> all Contracting Parties and others who have undertaken, or are undertaking, wetland <i>inventories</i> to document information about the inventory, its data holdings, management and availability using the standard metadata record provided in the <i>Framework for Wetland Inventory</i> , so as to make this information available as widely as possible;	Resol. VIII.6, para. 19 +

<u>Regarding data management</u>	new subheading
<i>CALLS UPON Contracting Parties that have undertaken wetland inventories to ensure that they have appropriate arrangements in place for storing and maintaining their wetland inventory data, in both printed and electronic formats, and, where appropriate, to ensure that the data and information is accessible to all decision-makers, stakeholders and other interested parties, where possible through the World Wide Web and CD-ROM formats;</i>	Combination of: Resol. VII.20, para. 16; Resol. VIII.6, para. 18 ⊕
<u>Regarding funding for inventory projects</u>	new subheading
<i>CALLS UPON</i> bilateral and multilateral donors to assign priority to supporting wetland inventory projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, noting the importance of such projects in forming the basis for developing and implementing the sustainable use of wetlands;	Resol. VIII.6, para. 24
<p><i>REPEALS the Recommendations and Resolutions listed hereunder:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a) Recommendation 1.5 (Cagliari, 1980) - National Wetland Inventories;</i></li> <li><i>b) Recommendation 4.6 (Montreux, 1990) - Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites;</i></li> <li><i>c) Resolution VI.12 (Brisbane, 1996) - National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing;</i></li> <li><i>d) Resolution VII.20 (San Jose, 1999) - Priorities for wetland inventory;</i></li> <li><i>e) Resolution VIII.6 (Valencia, 2002) - A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory;</i></li> <li><i>f) Resolution VIII.7 (Valencia, 2002) - Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring;</i></li> <li><i>g) Annexes E and E.i) of Resolution IX.1 (Kampala, 2005) - Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing the Ramsar wise use concept; and</i></li> <li><i>g) Resolution X.15 (Changwon, 2008) - Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and data needs and formats for core inventory: harmonized scientific and technical guidance; and</i></li> </ul> <p><i>DECIDES to revise Resolution IX.1, paragraph 7, to eliminate reference to Annex E .</i></p>	

## Annexes

### Resolution VIII.6 - Annex: A Framework for Wetland Inventory with five Appendices

NB: Table 2 to be updated with “ the summary description and structure of core data fields for wetland inventory” from the guidance “Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory” in the Annex to Resolution X.15, as stated in para. 5 of that Resolution.



Resolution IX.1

- Annex E: An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring; and
- Annex E.i), Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity.

Resolution X.15 - Annex: Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory.