

## Draft consolidated resolution on “Inventories”

### Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited:

- a) to provide to the Secretariat feedback on the draft consolidated resolution on “Inventories” presented in Annex 1; and
- b) if appropriate, to agree that it can be presented for adoption at the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, as a model for the development of further draft consolidated resolutions.

### 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 request, in paragraph 25:
  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on this subject at SC58, with a view to including, in a relevant draft resolution for COP14, the retirement of outdated Resolutions and decisions and the establishment of a practice for the Convention to retire outdated Resolutions and decisions automatically when they are superseded by new ones.*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.*

4. Under the guidance of the consultative group, the Secretariat contracted a consultant to prepare a draft of a consolidated resolution on “inventories” as a pilot study, to demonstrate the process of consolidation of existing Resolutions. 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.
5. The draft consolidated resolution on “Inventories of wetlands” was presented at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, and is attached as Annex 2 to the present document, for information. This pilot exercise was 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).
6. At that meeting, the Standing Committee adopted Decision SC58-20 as follows:

*The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to incorporate feedback received from Parties by 10 July 2020 into a revised draft consolidated resolution on “Inventories” as found in Annex 2 of SC58 Doc.13 for use as a model in preparing future draft consolidated resolutions as instructed by the Standing Committee.*

7. By the deadline of 10 July 2020, the Secretariat received comments from six Contracting parties. On the basis of those comments, the Secretariat has prepared a revision of the draft consolidated resolution, which is presented in Annex 1.

#### **Recommendation**

8. The Standing Committee is invited to provide feedback to the Secretariat on the draft consolidated resolution in Annex 1 to the present document, which reflects comments received from Parties, so that the Secretariat can take these into account in drafting further consolidations, if this is agreed by the Committee. The Committee is also invited to agree that this draft may be forwarded to the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, for consideration and adoption.

## Annex 1

### Consolidation of valid Resolutions on Inventories

Revised draft: taking account of comments received from Parties (additions underlined; deletions marked with 'strikethrough')

#### 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. Those references are for information only and would not appear in the final text if the draft is adopted. 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”.
- 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.

*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. Therefore, in the attached draft, the preamble has been kept to the minimum required for this purpose and a large number of preambular paragraphs have been combined, or have been omitted when they seemed no longer current or directly relevant. It must be noted, however, that all existing Resolutions remain on the record as a clear indication of the historical decisions and considerations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

*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”. That paragraph 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.
- 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 and 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 in 2005, 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 paras. 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 ON INVENTORIES

Inventories of wetlands

Text proposed in first draft with additions underlined and deletions marked in strikethrough.	Comment
	<p>General comment: Deletions of text in the preamble are in response to comments from Parties below and aim to avoid repetition, eliminate text that may be considered out of date, and to keep the preamble to the minimum needed.</p> <p>General comments from Parties: Sweden “the consolidated preamble is too long. It could be worth considering if the consolidated preamble should be an annex instead. Then, a new modern very short preamble could be written highlighting what the Convention would have put in the preamble if the operational part was part of a totally new resolution”</p> <p>Dominican Republic “reduce the resolution as much as possible ... the preamble ... should contain those motivating aspects that are exclusively necessary”; “anything that is obsolete, or has already been fulfilled or has become outdated should be ignored”</p>
<p>1. <i>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), <u>as well as the numerous references to the value and importance of inventories</u></i></p>	<p>Addition made because many preambular paragraphs have been deleted in response to comments, to minimize the preamble.</p> <p>Sweden suggests: “paras in the preamble that repeats</p>

<p><i>in other Recommendations and Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties; and NOTING that these remain on the record;</i></p>	<p>what the Convention has decided earlier be deleted” Not done here as this is the standard practice, especially in consolidations.</p>
<p>2. <i>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);</i></p>	
<p><del>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;</del></p>	<p>Sweden: “Para 3, could paras that just refer to older strategic plans or similar be deleted if there are paras mentioning the importance from a much general point of view”</p>
<p><del>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] ⊕</del> (Comment: amended for consistency with Article 3.1 of the Convention)</p>	<p>Deleted in response to requests to eliminate non-essential</p>
<p><u>3</u> <i>NOTING the value of comprehensive inventories of wetland resources as an aid to implementing the wise use obligation under the Convention, improving the general level of knowledge of the world’s wetlands and identifying wetlands suitable for inclusion in facilitating the designation of sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar List); [based on Recommendations 1.5 &amp; 4.6 and Resols. VI.12, para. 2, VII.20, para.2, and VIII.6, para.2]</i></p>	<p>Addition made in compensation for deletion of several preambular paragraphs</p>
<p><del>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] +</del></p>	
<p>4. 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]</p>	
<p><del>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</del></p>	



<p><i>management and land use, of the necessity to conserve wetlands; [Combination from Recommendations 1.5 &amp; 4.6] ⊕</i></p>	
<p><i>RECALLING the criteria for the identification of wetlands of international importance, adopted at the seventh and ninth 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;</i></p>	
<p><i>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, &amp; Resol. VII.20, para.2] +</i></p>	
<p><i>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]</i></p>	
<p><i>5. RECALLING CONSIDERING that this Conference has also adopted the 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]</i></p>	<p>First deletion as the Guidelines are attached and to make the reference current. Second deletion in view of deletions and changes of numbering above.</p>
<p><i>TAKING ACCOUNT of the findings the report prepared by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre and presented at COP7 Technical Session IV entitled <i>Shared wetlands and river basins of the world</i>; and [Resol. VII.20, para. 9]</i></p>	
<p><i>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]</i></p>	

<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 1]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 2]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 3]</b></p>	
<p>NOTING that this meeting has adopted <i>Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration</i> (Resolution VIII.16); <i>Wetland issues in Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM)</i> (Resolution VIII.4); <i>Additional guidance for identifying and designating under-represented wetland types as Wetlands of International Importance</i> (Resolution VIII.11); <i>New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> (Resolution VIII.14); and <i>Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands</i> (Resolution VIII.17), the implementation of all of which will be substantially assisted by the availability of wetland inventory at national and other scales; <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 4]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 7]</b></p>	
<p>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, <i>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</i>; <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 9</b>, amended to incorporate figures from COP13. ⊕]</p>	<p>Sweden: “the preamble is outdated, even if the operational part isn’t, can such paras be deleted?”</p>

<p>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 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties with a view to promoting international common standards; <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 10]</b></p>	
<p>6. <u>    </u> 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; <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 11]</b></p>	
<p><del>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 <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 12]</b></del></p>	<p>Sweden: “could this be deleted just to make the preamble shorter even if we still appreciate the support given?”</p> <p>Expressions of appreciation have been deleted.</p>
<p>7. <u>    </u> RECOGNIZING that various methodologies for national inventory can in general be applied also to local, sub-national (e.g. provincial), and transboundary international scales; <b>[Resol. VIII.6, para. 13]</b></p>	
<p>8. <u>    </u> 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”; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 1]</b></p>	
<p>9. <u>    </u> 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; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 2]</b></p>	

<p>RECOGNIZING that Objective 4.1 of the <i>Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance</i> (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; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 3]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 4]</b></p>	
<p>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); <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 5]</b></p>	
<p>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 <i>A Framework for Wetland Inventory</i> (Resolution VIII.6), <i>New Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands</i> (Resolution VIII.14), and on impact assessment (Resolution VIII.9); <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 6]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 7]</b></p>	
<p>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</p>	

<p>developed through the Convention process at different times, and that the preparation of further guidance is necessary; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 8]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 9]</b></p>	
<p>NOTING that the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has been developed to provide guidance and information to the Ramsar Convention, <i>inter alia</i>, 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; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 10]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 11]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 12]</b></p>	<p>Sweden: “the preamble is outdated, even if the operational part isn’t, can such paras be deleted?”</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>Expressions of appreciation are removed but remain on the record in the original Resolution.</p>

<p>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 <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 13]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. VIII.7, para. 14]</b></p>	
<p><i>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;</i></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. X.15, para. 1]</b></p>	
<p>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 <b>[Resol. X.15, para. 2]</b></p>	
<p>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; <b>[Resol. X.15, para. 3]</b></p>	<p>Expressions of appreciation are removed but remain on the record in the original Resolution.</p>

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

	EXPLANATION OF ORIGIN and COMMENTS
<u>Regarding establishment and maintenance of wetland inventories</u>	Not to be included in the final Resolution new subheading
<u>10.</u> 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;	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; ⊕
<u>11.</u> ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties with shared wetlands or river basins to work cooperatively in the gathering of information for inventories and of related management information, as urged through the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (provided in Resolution VII.19);	Resol. VII.20, para. 14 +  Sweden: “could parts of the paras referring to old Resolutions, old publications, etc. that could have been part of the preamble instead be deleted from the operational part.”
<u>12.</u> 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 Global review of wetland resources and priorities for wetland inventory report;	Resol. VII.20, para. 12 +
<u>13.</u> REQUESTS the Secretariat of the Convention to promote the development of wetland inventories by Contracting Parties and to provide assistance to Contracting Parties that may request it;	Recom. 4.6 +

<u>Regarding inventory methodology and a Framework for Wetland Inventories</u>	new subheading
<u>14.</u> ADOPTS the "Framework for Wetland Inventory" contained in Annex 1 to this Resolution;	Resol. VIII.6, para. 14
<u>15.</u> ADOPTS the "Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring", <u>attached as Annex 2</u> , and the "Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity", <u>attached as Annex 3</u> ; 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;	Adapted from Resol. IX.1, paras. 7 & 8 ⊕
<u>16.</u> AGREES to the guidance on "Describing the ecological character of wetlands, and harmonized data formats for core inventory" <u>attached as Annex 4</u> to this Resolution, 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 initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;	Resol. X.15, para. 4 ⊕
<del>8.</del> 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  Sweden: "paras with extremely vague and general content could be deleted."
<u>17.</u> 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 +
<u>18.</u> 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



<p><u>19.</u> 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;</p>	<p>Resol. VIII.6, para. 15</p>
<p><u>20.</u> 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;</p>	<p>Combination of: Resol. VIII.6, para. 17; Resol. VII.20, para. 13 ⊕</p>
<p><u>21.</u> CALLS UPON all Contracting Parties and others who have undertaken, or are undertaking, wetland inventories to document information about the inventory, its data holdings, management and availability using the standard metadata record provided in the Framework for Wetland Inventory, so as to make this information available as widely as possible;</p>	<p>Resol. VIII.6, para. 19 +</p>
<p><u>Regarding data management</u></p>	<p>new subheading</p>
<p><del>14. 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;</del></p>	<p>Combination of: Resol. VII.20, para. 16; Resol. VIII.6, para. 18 ⊕</p> <p>Sweden “Para 14, paras with text about technique aspects are quickly getting old; maybe such text parts should be deleted and that the advice should be to use good functioning, secure and effective techniques, not mentioning specific formats or methods etc.”</p>

<u>Regarding funding for inventory projects</u>	new subheading
<p><del>15. CALLS UPON 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;</del></p>	<p>Resol. VIII.6, para. 24</p> <p>Sweden “Para 15, call for donors should not be included in this kind of resolution, better to have a part of the Financial resolution inviting sponsors and giving examples of what can be supported.”</p>
<p><u>22. REPEALS the Recommendations and Resolutions listed hereunder:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Recommendation 1.5 (Cagliari, 1980) - National Wetland Inventories;</li> <li>b) Recommendation 4.6 (Montreux, 1990) - Establishment of national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites;</li> <li>c) Resolution VI.12 (Brisbane, 1996) - National Wetland Inventories and candidate sites for listing;</li> <li>d) Resolution VII.20 (San Jose, 1999) - Priorities for wetland inventory;</li> <li>e) Resolution VIII.6 (Valencia, 2002) - A Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory;</li> <li>f) Resolution VIII.7 (Valencia, 2002) - Gaps in and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment, and monitoring;</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> </ul> <p><u>23. DECIDES to revise Resolution IX.1, paragraph 7, to eliminate reference to Annex E .</u></p>	

Annexes to be attached to the draft resolution

Annex 1:

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.

Annex 2:

Resolution IX.1

- Annex E: An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring.

Annex 3:

Resolution IX.1

- Annex E.i), Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity.

Annex 4:

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

## Annex 2

### Draft consolidated resolution on 'Inventories'

Original draft: published as document SC58 Doc.13 Annex 2

#### 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 <i>wetland inventories</i> by Contracting Parties and <i>to provide assistance</i> to Contracting Parties that may <i>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 <i>Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring 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.