

**Review of the Fifth Joint Work Plan between the Convention on Biological  
Diversity and the Ramsar Convention On Wetlands (2011-2020)**

*Note by the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands*

The Secretariat is circulating herewith, for the information of the 59<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee, the report of a review of the fifth joint work plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands that was established for the period 2011-2020. The review was conducted and the report was prepared jointly by the Secretariats of the two Conventions. It benefited from responses by Parties to the two Conventions to an online survey announced through a notification issued jointly by the Secretariats (notification [2020-082](#) and [2020-092](#)). The report is also made available as document CBD/SBI/3/INF/33 to participants to the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity from 16 May to 13 June 2021.

**REVIEW OF THE FIFTH JOINT WORK PLAN**  
**BETWEEN THE CBD AND THE RAMSAR**  
**CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (2011-2020)**

May 2021

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>OVERVIEW OF THE FIFTH JOINT WORK PLAN .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIFTH JOINT WORK PLAN .....</b>	<b>4</b>
ACTIVITIES FROM PARTIES .....	5
ACTIVITIES FROM CONVENTION BODIES .....	8
ACTIVITIES FROM SECRETARIATS .....	11
<b>CONSIDERATIONS FOR AN UPDATED JOINT WORK PLAN.....</b>	<b>12</b>
MESSAGES FROM THE ONLINE SURVEY OF PARTY ACTIVITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN UPDATED JOINT WORK PLAN .....	12
<b>ANNEX I – FIFTH CBD-RAMSAR JOINT WORK PLAN 2011-2020.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>ANNEX II – DESK REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FROM PARTIES.....</b>	<b>20</b>
ACTIVITIES FROM PARTIES.....	20
<i>Activity (i). Making use of the Ecosystem Approach in planning processes at national, regional and local levels by taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands and other ecosystems .....</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Activity (ii). Developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way .....</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>Activity (iii). Identifying and implementing joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, including poverty reduction strategies .....</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>Activity (iv). Promoting wetlands and biodiversity, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, as solutions to pressing water-related management and development problems at global, regional, national and subnational scales .....</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Activity (v). Promoting the synergistic implementation of both conventions – including the CBD programme of work on protected areas and the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance .....</i>	<i>40</i>
<b>ANNEX III – ONLINE SURVEY .....</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>ANNEX IV – PARTICIPANTS FOR THE ONLINE SURVEY .....</b>	<b>48</b>

## INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth Joint Work Plan 2011-2020<sup>1</sup> between the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention on Wetlands or Ramsar Convention) expired at the end of 2020. The present document has been prepared jointly by the Secretariats of the two Conventions to provide an overview of the fifth joint work plan, progress in its implementation and to identify lessons learned with a view to inform the preparation of an updated joint work plan. The note is made available by the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Executive Secretary of the CBD for the information of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention at its 59th meeting and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the CBD at its third meeting.

## OVERVIEW OF THE FIFTH JOINT WORK PLAN

2. This review builds on the work of the first four joint work plans that were reported on in [CBD/COP/10/INF/38](#) and remains a good reference for the history and development of the Joint Work Programme between the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands.

3. The fifth Joint Work Plan 2011-2020 was welcomed by the Conferences of the Parties to both Conventions in 2012, in CBD [Decision XI/6](#) and Ramsar [Resolution XI.6](#), respectively. It covers the time-period of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Convention on Wetlands' Strategic Plan 2009-2015 and its Strategic Plan 2016-2024 and it operates in the context of the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for wetlands for the CBD established through CBD decision III/21 and the CBD-Ramsar Memorandum of Cooperation, 1996.

4. The goal of the fifth joint work plan is “the conservation, sustainable and wise use of biodiversity especially in wetlands, helping to assure the full achievement of the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Mission and Targets of the Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan 2009-2015”.

5. It was stated in the fifth joint work plan that the primary responsibility for implementation of the Plan rests with Parties and the Conventions bodies, while the Secretariats play a supporting and facilitating role. The list of activities outlined in the work plan and assessed in this review were designed to lead to other key targeted actions aimed to maximize their contribution to the achievement of the goal of the joint work plan.

6. The completion of the fifth joint work plan provides an opportunity to review its implementation towards its goal and to identify lessons learned for continued collaboration and possible follow-up to the plan, in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework expected to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It would also contribute to the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 of the Convention on Wetlands that is currently aligned to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and will be reviewed in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

## REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIFTH JOINT WORK PLAN

7. The purpose of this review is to take stock of the activities in the fifth joint work plan, to identify lessons learned from its implementation and to inform the next steps towards an updated joint work plan.

---

<sup>1</sup> Fifth Joint Work Plan 2011-2020: [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/moc/CBD-Ramsar5thJWP\\_2011-2020.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/moc/CBD-Ramsar5thJWP_2011-2020.pdf)

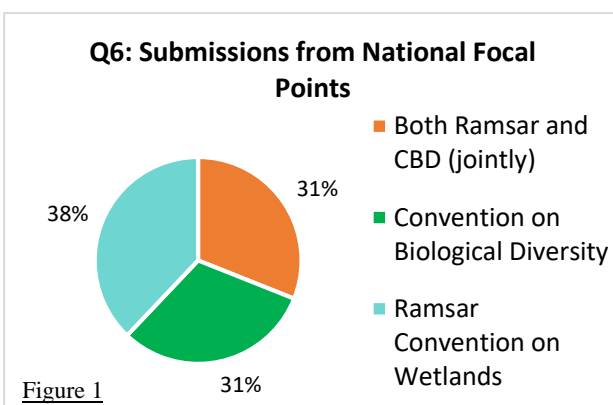
8. The review was organized in three sections that correspond to the structure of the joint work plan. These activities were reviewed jointly by both Secretariats, for the entire length of the Joint Work Plan 2011-2020. The fifth joint work plan and its full list of activities is included in annex I.

### A. Activities from Parties

9. The fifth joint work plan invited Parties to identify specific national actions, depending on the circumstances of each country. The national focal points of the two conventions were invited to cooperate in a proactive and flexible way to implement this work programme. The Plan also presented a list of activities that Parties were invited to implement in order to ensure the wise use of wetlands as well as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all ecosystems, as well as to promote the contribution of biodiversity and wetlands to human well-being. A desk review and online survey were completed to review the Party activities.

10. The Secretariats of both Conventions each reviewed documents submitted by the Parties to their Convention, respectively. For the desk review of the activities from Parties, the CBD Secretariat reviewed the most recent national reports and national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) of a total of 143 Parties using keyword searches. The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands reviewed 150 national reports from COP13 and compared the relevant indicators submitted by 131 Contracting Parties for COP12, in relation to the activities of the JWP.

11. Notification [2020-082](#) invited Parties and other Governments to complete an online survey in order to take stock of progress made toward the implementation of their activities, as outlined in the fifth joint work plan. The survey was jointly organized by the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands. Out of the 28 Parties that submitted, 9 were national focal points for the CBD, 11 were national focal points for the Convention on Wetlands and 9 were focal points who responded jointly for both Conventions. The distribution of submissions by National Focal Points to the Conventions are shown in Figure 1. The complete list of survey questions is available in annex III and a list of participants/respondents is available in annex IV.



12. Below are the main messages of the desk review and online survey<sup>2</sup> organized by activity, reflecting the sections of the fifth joint work plan directed to Parties. The results of the full review of activities from Parties is available in annex II.

*Activity (i). Making use of the Ecosystem Approach in planning processes at national, regional and local levels by taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands and other ecosystems*

13. Regarding activity one, most countries reported on making use of the Ecosystem Approach in their planning processes at all levels in their CBD National Reports and NBSAPs. Out of the 143 countries considered in the desk review, 88 countries (62%) have reported making use of the ecosystem approach in planning processes by taking wetland ecosystem system goods and services into account. Countries often mentioned the benefits of conserving, restoring and wisely using wetland ecosystems for their goods and services, such as water sanitation, irrigation provisioning and flood mitigation, however fewer countries

<sup>2</sup> This section includes responses that reflect the views of respondents and are part of the Secretariats' efforts to collect information on wetland-related activities at the national level. Some responses were slightly modified for editorial purposes.

explicitly reiterated these ecosystem benefits, goods and services when reporting on future wetland-related plans.

14. The application of measures for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands is limited. For COP13, 17% of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands reported that they have assessed the quantity and quality of water available and required by wetlands in response to the *Guidelines for the allocation and management of water for maintaining the ecological functions of wetlands*, which were adopted in 2002 (see Resolutions VIII.1 and VIII.2). All Parties were expected to have made available, by 2015, the Ramsar guidance on water allocation and management for ecosystems to support decision-making on water resource management, however further effort is still needed to provide the required guidance, and thus improve water use according to ecosystem requirement. Concerning the assessment of wetland functions, services and benefits, progress is slow with 24% of Contracting Parties reporting to COP13 their assessment of the ecosystem services of Ramsar sites and other wetlands.

15. Questions 9, 10 and 11 of the online survey asked Parties to report whether they have made use of the Ecosystem Approach in planning processes while taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands, at what level (national, regional or local) and to provide examples. 79% of respondents answered positively, of which, 69% made use of the ecosystem approach at the national level, 34% at the regional level, 52% at the local level and 31% at all levels. The distribution of responses and examples of submissions from Parties can be found in annex II.

*Activity (ii). Developing and implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way*

16. Regarding activity two, many countries have included some form of wetland-related policy in their NBSAPs, however few countries made explicit reference to an existing 'National Wetland Policy' (all Contracted Parties to the Convention on Wetlands are encouraged to develop and implement 'National Wetland Policies'). Many countries reported on their progress of wetland conservation as part of their protected area networks without reporting on the objectives outlined in their Ramsar National Wetland Policy documents. Out of the 143 countries looked at in the desk review, 33 countries (23%) have developed and implemented NBSAPs and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way.

17. While activity two aims to develop and implement National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way, it is positive to see that most Contracting Parties of the Convention on Wetlands have incorporated wetlands in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans drawn up under the CBD (83% of the Parties that submitted their national report in 2018) and in national policies (62% of Parties); these figures are similar to those reported for COP12. The number of Parties with wetland policies or similar instruments in place has increased since COP10 (40%). For COP13, 52% of the Parties report that they have a wetland policy or equivalent instrument that promotes the wise use of wetlands.

18. Questions 12 and 13 of the online survey asked Parties to report whether they have developed and implemented NBSAPs and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way and to provide examples. 38% of participants responded positively, while 10% indicated that positive advances have been made, 28% indicated some progress but more work was needed, 10% indicated little progress and 14% indicated no progress. The distribution of responses and examples of submissions from Parties can be found in annex II.

*Activity (iii). Identifying and implementing joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, including poverty reduction strategies*

19. Regarding activity three, 56 countries (39%) have identified and implemented joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into their sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

20. In general, many countries identified that they rely on tourism as one of the main activities that promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral plans, programmes and policies. Integrating the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into these sectors often implies an indirect contribution to improving wellbeing and livelihoods, however few countries reported on any links between healthy wetland ecosystems and poverty reduction strategies.

21. Under the Convention on Wetlands, with the exception of strategies relating to biodiversity, the incorporation of wetland benefits into national strategies and planning processes is progressing slowly. Wetland benefits featured in national/local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, agriculture, tourism, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries at the national and local level is very slow. There has been little progress in the energy, mining, urban development, infrastructure and industry sectors, as 29% of the responding Parties confirmed the incorporation of wetlands issues into national policies for these sectors. Concerning the integration of wetland benefits into poverty eradication strategies, progress for COP13 was similar to that for COP12, with 30% of the Parties in 2018 reporting having taken action.

22. Questions 14, 15 and 16 of the online survey asked Parties to report whether they have identified joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plan, programmes and policies and to provide any examples if the activities were implemented. 76% of participants responded positively to having joint activities in their plans programmes and policies, of which, 95% indicated that these activities were implemented. The distribution of responses and examples of submissions from Parties can be found in annex II.

*Activity (iv). Promoting wetlands and biodiversity, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, as solutions to pressing water-related management and development problems at global, regional, national and subnational scales*

23. Regarding activity four, 77 countries (54%) have promoted wetlands and biodiversity as solutions to pressing water-related management and development problems at multiple scales. Most countries reported on the importance of wetland ecosystems in relation to the services that inland water ecosystems play in natural processes, such as waterfowl migration, however fewer countries reported on the contribution to people from these ecosystems, such as improved sanitation and water quality and quantity. Where applicable, many countries reported on their efforts in protecting and restoring wetlands for their water-related societal benefits, including flood protection, erosion control, disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Few countries specifically referenced the 'Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention' in their NBSAPs and national reports submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

24. At COP13 of the Convention on Wetlands, 63% of the Parties reported that wetlands are considered as natural water infrastructure, integrated in water resource management at the river-basin scale and 59% of Parties reported having taken actions to integrate wetlands in water resource management. It is important that Parties continue to make efforts to ensure that they include the implementation of integrated water resource management (IWRM) and apply ecosystem-based approaches in their planning activities and decision-making processes and policies, particularly concerning groundwater management, catchment/river

basin management, coastal and nearshore marine zone planning, and climate change mitigation and/or adaptation activities.

25. Questions 17 and 18 of the online survey asked Parties to report on how they have promoted wetlands and biodiversity through the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, as solutions to pressing water-related management and development problems at global, regional, national and subnational scales, and to elaborate on any challenges they may have experienced. Examples of submissions from Parties can be found in annex II.

*Activity (v). Promoting the synergistic implementation of both conventions – including the CBD programme of work on protected areas and the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*

26. Regarding activity five, a high number of countries that have at least one wetland site of international importance, as defined by the Convention on Wetlands, have also reported on their contribution to their networks of national protected areas. Activity (v) showed the highest degree of synergy between the reports submitted to the two Conventions. Out of the 143 countries considered in the desk review, 90 countries (63%) have reported on promoting the synergistic implementation of both Conventions by integrating the CBD programme of work on protected areas and the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance. It should also be noted that this activity was impossible to implement for those countries who are not a Party to both Conventions.

27. The Ramsar site network continued to grow, contributing to the conservation of under-represented wetland types and the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and this Party activity (v). Between COP12 and COP13, 131 new Ramsar sites have been added to the List of Wetlands of International Importance, covering a total of 27,769,212 hectares. Some countries have made efforts to designate Ramsar sites that contribute to the integrated management and ecological connectivity of protected areas. The designation of Ramsar sites by COP13 has supported at least 57 countries in the achievement of national targets established under the CBD that contribute to Aichi Target 11 on protected areas.

28. Questions 7 and 8 of the online survey asked Parties to report whether they have promoted a synergistic approach to implementing both Conventions and to identify any challenges as well as any lessons learned. 31% of participants responded positively, while 17% indicated that positive advances have been made, 27% indicated some progress but more work was needed, 14% indicated little progress and 21% indicated no progress. The distribution of responses and examples of submissions from Parties can be found in annex II.

## **B. Activities from Convention bodies**

29. The fifth joint work plan invited the scientific subsidiary bodies of both Conventions, with the possible assistance of liaison groups, expert groups, specialist organizations or individual experts, to support the joint work plan through the key actions outlined in the joint work plan (see annex I).

30. The Secretariats of the CBD and the Convention on Wetlands reviewed the activities completed by the bodies of both Conventions throughout the period of the fifth joint work plan. The review considered activities reported on by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and Standing Committee (SC) from the Convention on Wetlands and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) from the CBD and the Conference of the Parties of both Conventions. The review can be found below, organized according to the key actions outlined in the joint work plan.

31. In [decision XI/23](#), the COP of the CBD requested the Executive Secretary, and invited the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, under the Joint Work Plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, and in consultation with relevant organizations and initiatives, to develop a cooperative partnership to promote awareness of, and capacity-building for,



ecosystem-based solutions for water resources management as a means to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by the broadest range of stakeholders, as a contribution to sustainable development and to the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation (2013), and to make a progress report available to Parties prior to, and for the consideration of, the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (para 4).

32. In 2014, at its twelfth meeting, the COP of the CBD, in [decision XII/19](#) emphasized the critical importance of coastal wetlands for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, in particular for migratory bird species, sustainable livelihoods, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, and invited Parties to give due attention to the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, and, in this context, welcomed the work of the Ramsar Convention and initiatives that support the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, including options to build a “Caring for Coasts” Initiative, as part of a global movement to restore coastal wetlands (para 6).

33. In CBD [decision XII/9](#), the COP requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to increase efforts to collaborate with other United Nations agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders, including biodiversity-related conventions, on issues related to subnational and local implementation, such as working with the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) on urban and peri-urban wetland issues (para 6(c)).

34. At COP11, [Resolution XI.6](#) of the Convention on Wetlands welcomed the fifth CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan, for 2011-2020, through which Ramsar delivers its lead implementation role for wetlands in CBD programmes of work, including inter alia on inland waters, marine and coastal biodiversity and protected areas, as flexible frameworks for collaboration with the CBD (para 9). The same resolution requested the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat to remain closely involved in the work of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) established under the aegis of the CBD and to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress achieved by this group, and further requested the Secretariat to facilitate the continuing participation of the Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) in the work of the scientific bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB) (para 23);

35. In 2015, at its twelfth meeting, the COP of the Convention on Wetlands adopted the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016-2024 through [Resolution XII.2](#), which arranges the Ramsar Convention to be the lead partner in the implementation of activities related to wetlands under the CBD and has a responsibility to offer political, technical and scientific advice and guidance to the CBD and enhance cooperation between the two Conventions at all levels (para 43).

36. The Convention on Wetlands’ [Resolution XII.3](#), in line with CBD [decision XI/23](#), requested the Ramsar Secretariat to continue its cooperative partnership with the CBD Secretariat to promote awareness of, and capacity-building for, ecosystem-based solutions for water management as a contribution to sustainable development (para 47). The same resolution encouraged Parties to implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to indicate, through their national reports, how the actions they undertake for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention contribute to the achievement of the Aichi Targets (para 51).

37. In 2016, at its thirteenth meeting, the COP of the CBD adopted the short-term action plan on ecosystem restoration in [decision XIII/5](#). The purpose of the action plan is to help Parties, as well as any relevant organizations and initiatives, to accelerate and upscale activities on ecosystem restoration. The action plan can also contribute to the achievement of objectives and commitments under other conventions, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and the United Nations Forum on Forests, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (Annex, para 2).

38. In 2018, [CBD/SBI/2/INF/20](#) introduced the global initiative ‘Caring for Coasts’ for the restoration of wetlands. In paragraph 18, a consultation of Parties and other relevant stakeholders was undertaken to guide the development of the ‘Caring for Coasts’ global coastal wetland restoration initiative, through Notification [2017-085](#) – Invitation to consultation process for the ‘Caring for Coasts’ Initiative. In addition, a proposed [Programme of Work](#) on coastal wetland restoration for the ‘Caring for Coasts’ Initiative, with the following five goals:

- Goal 1. To establish and strengthen global and regional collaborative networks on coastal wetland restoration work, ideally within the framework of the proposed ‘Global Coastal Forum’;
- Goal 2. To secure stronger commitments from governments on national-level implementation of coastal wetland restoration;
- Goal 3. To develop and adopt best practices and internationally agreed protocols and standards in implementing work on coastal wetland restoration;
- Goal 4. To strengthen capacity for the implementation and management of national programmes of work on coastal wetland conservation and restoration and develop national assessments of priorities for coastal wetland restoration; and
- Goal 5. To strengthen communications, education and public awareness on the value of coastal wetland conservation and the importance (and relevance of restoration).

39. The Convention on Wetlands’ [Resolution XIII.5](#) encouraged Contracting Parties that are also Parties to the CBD to actively contribute to the development of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that ensures wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide are adequately covered (para. 21). The same resolution requested the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat and Parties, through their focal points, to actively participate in the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to ensure that issues relevant to wetlands are adequately covered (para. 22).

40. Ramsar [Resolution XIII.7](#) invited Contracting Parties to establish or strengthen, at the national level, mechanisms to enhance effective coordination between relevant national and subnational authorities to support the mainstreaming of wetland ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature, and to increase the synergies in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, nature and especially wetland-based solutions (para. 21). The same resolution also urged action to enhance synergies, coherence and effective cooperation among the biodiversity-related MEAs to strengthen the contribution of these instruments to a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (para. 22) and requested the Ramsar Secretariat to present, at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, a plan to strengthen synergies with other MEAs and contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (para. 23).

41. In [Resolution XIII.20](#), the COP of the Convention on Wetlands requested the Ramsar Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to explore actively with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements [including the CBD], governments, the private sector, relevant international and national non-governmental organizations, experts and other stakeholders, the possibility to set up a multi-stakeholder global coastal forum, to facilitate the protection, management and restoration of coastal ecosystems by raising the profile of the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats within relevant programmes of work, sharing experience and knowledge on solutions related to the conservation, management and restoration of these ecosystems, and encouraging stakeholders to support such initiatives (para 36).

42. In CBD [decision 14/30](#), COP requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to further coordinate the “Caring for Coasts” initiative with the secretariats of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, and other relevant organizations, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the context of its Blue Bio Trade Initiative, in order to advance

synergies in their work on the management and restoration of coastal ecosystems worldwide (para 16). Further to this decision, COP called upon Parties, in accordance with national priorities and capacity, in the light of the results of the consultation process conducted under the “Caring for Coasts” initiative, the resulting work plan presented in the information document issued by the Executive Secretary ([CBD/SBI/2/INF/20](#)) and the related resolutions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at its twelfth meeting and the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat at its thirteenth meeting to provide further support for the implementation of the activities of the proposed work plan, including, among other things, the global “Coastal Forum” focused on coastal wetland conservation (para 15).

### **C. Activities from Secretariats**

43. The fifth joint work plan invited the Secretariats of both Conventions to promote or assist implementation of the joint work programme through the actions outlined in the joint work plan (see annex I).

44. A review of the activities from the Secretariats of both Conventions was completed. The review considered activities reported on by the Conference of the Parties of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and referenced other joint activities and collaborations. The review can be found below, organized according to the key actions outlined in the joint work plan. In addition and complementary to their bilateral cooperation in the context of the joint work plan, the two Secretariats contribute to fostering cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions more broadly through their participation in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions<sup>3</sup>.

45. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Secretariat has participated in the Eleventh, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and several fora under the CBD process, such as the Bogis Bossey Dialogue for Biodiversity Meeting in November 2017 and CBD SBSTTA 21 in December 2017, SBSTTA 22 in July 2018, SBSTTA 23 in November 2019, as well as in the informative meetings in 2020. In addition, the Secretariat participated in the Bern I and II meetings in June 2019 and January 2021, respectively. Furthermore, the CBD Secretariat contributed to the 57<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in June 2019.

46. In 2013, the Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands and CBD and the Institute for European Environmental Policy, along with other partners, published “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands” report that highlights the value of ecosystems and the services that wetlands provide to human kind.

47. The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has continued to work and strengthen collaboration with CBD, providing inputs to various processes, including the preparations of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including the two meetings of the open-ended working group and the thematic consultation on marine and coastal biodiversity. Furthermore, the Secretariat participated in workshops on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and meetings for capacity development coordination between biodiversity-related Conventions and international organizations.

---

<sup>3</sup> The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions comprises the executive heads of the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention on Wetlands or Ramsar Convention), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and International Whaling Commission.

48. In 2015, the CBD Secretariat organized a webinar on increasing awareness of soil biodiversity and carbon, titled “Learning from wetlands – the case for dry soils”. The webinar, convened in collaboration with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and Wetlands International, aimed to build knowledge and expand the understanding of policy and scientific issues related to reducing emissions from soil carbon based on the lessons learned from peatlands and other wetlands.

49. The [Global Implementation Report](#) of the Secretary General to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands assessed the progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan in the period 2015-2018 and reported on the main contributions of the Convention on Wetlands to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

50. The [Global Wetlands Outlook: State of the World’s Wetlands and their Services to People](#) was published in 2018 and provides a snapshot of wetland status, trends and pressures, along with an overview of ways in which countries are working to reverse the historical decline in wetland area and quality. This report is an important resource for biodiversity-related conventions to communicate issues related to wetlands.

51. The Secretariats of both Conventions have engaged with and mutually supported each other’s communications and outreach strategies, including for the International Day for Biodiversity and the International Day on Wetlands. Another outreach activity included the call for nominations for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards held in 2015.

52. In reference to the the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention, adopted in decision [XIII/23](#), the [annex](#) to the information document [SBI/3/INF/14](#) reports on the implementation of substantive capacity-building activities. Activity no. 52 conducted regional workshops to facilitate the description of areas meeting the ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSA) criteria and identification of biologically significant wetlands and mangroves. Regional EBSA training sessions convened to support the organization of a regional workshop on the EBSA description in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea. Activity no. 59 developed training materials and guidelines to improve the contribution of inland water biodiversity and ecosystem services to natural disaster risk reduction (DRR). Training materials and guidelines were developed and made available and capacity was built to mainstream/integrate ecosystem service solutions into water resources management/investments. In addition, one of the partners and members of the technical reference group was the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

53. More information on the CBD Secretariat’s activities in relation to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands can be found in [CBD/SBI/2/INF/12](#) and [CBD/SBI/3/10](#).

54. The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands reports annually to the Standing Committee on the activities in relation to the CBD. The most recent reports can be found in Doc SC57-17, Doc SC58-18 and SC59-16.

## **CONSIDERATIONS FOR AN UPDATED JOINT WORK PLAN**

### **A. Messages from the online survey of Party activities for the development of an updated joint work plan**

55. Question 19 of the online survey asked Parties to provide recommendations for the follow-up of the next Joint Work Plan in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to enhance synergistic implementation of both Conventions regarding wetlands and biodiversity of inland and coastal wetlands. These have been clustered around common themes that emerged in the responses of the survey and they are organized in three sections: messages for Parties, messages for Conventions and messages

related to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Examples of submissions from Parties can be found below.

56. General messages for Parties activities in the next joint work plan include:

- (a) Increased institutional collaboration at the national and subnational scales:
  - (i) Establish and strengthen proximity to technical focal points;
  - (ii) Set national goals jointly for both Conventions on common themes; financing of projects on common themes; and capacity-building on wetland biodiversity;
  - (iii) Evaluate the incentive systems applied and used in the different productive sectors, in order to suggest their adaptation and improvement to influence the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the proper functioning of ecosystems;
  - (iv) Promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity and wetland conservation across sectors, through actions to recognize the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services to sustain productive activities and maintain the well-being of local communities, development of valuation studies social and economic, characterizations of ecosystem services in the territories, studies and evaluations of the impact of degradation and loss of ecosystem services on economic activities;
  - (v) Applying the Ecosystem Approach requires better cooperation and capacity-building about biodiversity, while administrative silos (for example, planning and water management) should be further addressed;
  - (vi) Should have a diverse array of actors such as governments, local municipalities, businesses and citizens so that they recognize the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and autonomously reflect this in their respective actions;
  - (vii) Promote the importance of wetlands/ Ramsar sites as centres for research on biodiversity, education and eco-tourism;
  - (viii) Need to seek a wide ownership from many sectors and interests; public and private, for its successful implementation;
  - (ix) It is recommended to use the best science available, gathered by each Government to protect the seascape, including remote sensing and monitoring, and use all available legislation to enhance the conservation of biodiversity in these areas;
  - (x) The need for countries to modernize and develop better technological tools for environmental management;
  - (xi) The Focal Point of CBD and Ramsar should be under the same department in the Ministry, which makes it easy to cooperate.
- (b) Increased global and regional cooperation and support for countries:
  - (i) The joint work plan must be integrated within the global biodiversity framework and not only at the local scale but also in regional, national and international processes, especially in the case of managing wetlands that share national borders/jurisdictions;
  - (ii) More resources for awareness raising, capacity building and open data for public use;
  - (iii) Knowledge and experience exchange is of high importance;
  - (iv) Need for more resource mobilization – provision of new and adequate financing resources and technology transfer;

- (v) Support through resources, knowledge, among other aspects, the control programs, eradication of invasive species.
- (vi) Promote the active participation of researchers and educational centres in the development of scientific agendas within the framework of the CBD and Ramsar.
- (vii) Strengthen capacity-building and training programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and biological diversity.
- (viii) Make staff and financial resources available and directed to countries, necessary for the implementation of both Conventions.

57. General messages for the Conventions:

- (a) It is necessary to synchronize the objectives and timetables of both Conventions in order to deal with these issues together;
- (b) The need for alignment and efficiencies between conventions in implementation and reporting, that can be assisted by mapping the various targets and goals of biodiversity-related conventions in national reporting templates and developing new reporting tools. This avoids duplication of effort and reduces the burden of reporting, including triennial national reports, submissions and other reporting;
- (c) Promote the coordination and synergy of the conservation and use of biodiversity and wetlands in the agendas of climate change - adaptation and mitigation - and the fight against land degradation and drought;
- (d) Inland water and marine programmes of work [under the CBD] should be updated;
- (e) Communication on the Joint Work Plan should be enhanced;
- (f) Ramsar should be more active and visible in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework process. Ramsar should organize jointly with the CBD secretariat an international workshop on wetlands in the global biodiversity framework to provide inputs to the work of the co-chairs;
- (g) Measures of wetland protection should be included in NBSAPs and national reports;
- (h) Intensify collaboration among the conventions through a knowledge sharing platform on policies, actions and guidelines to assist parties (including state and local government) in implementing wetland conservation efforts;
- (i) Enhance synergetic implementation of both Conventions and closer collaboration between the Secretariats;
- (j) The two Conventions must take into account the laws and customary rules of the localities surrounding the wetlands.
- (k) The coordination of the Conferences of Parties of the two (2) Conventions will assist in the JWP being developed and implemented more efficiently.

58. General messages for the integration of wetland strategies and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework:

- (a) There is an urgent need to strengthen capacity, information and research in some countries and to promote regional agreements or at least bi-national or border policies in order to conserve wetland ecosystems;

(b) The joint work plan must be integrated within the global biodiversity framework and not only at the local scale but also in regional, national and international processes, especially in the case of managing wetlands that share national borders/jurisdictions;

(c) There should be specific targets and indicators for wetlands in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(d) Ramsar and other biodiversity conventions should be reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(e) The conservation, sustainable and effective use of biodiversity of wetlands must be addressed more clearly in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, making specific references to these ecosystems (perhaps developing some specific indicators on this topic), considering some key elements of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity and the CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Programme, and placing greater and more explicit emphasis on water, wetlands and water-related ecosystem services;

(f) There should be a joint goal between the two Conventions;

(g) It is recommended that the new targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework specifically include wetlands as ecosystems that provide important ecosystem services that ensure water security and food security, as well as the livelihoods of our mainly local populations;

(h) Incorporate targets into management indicators that are comparable and show progress in the short, medium and long term, in order to establish plans or mechanisms for their fulfilment;

(i) It would be key to incorporate multi-purpose indicators that allow the commitments of both conventions to be fulfilled in integrated interventions, aimed at key issues such as patterns and models of sustainable consumption and production, nature-based solutions, ecosystem approach, transformational change, among others;

(j) There is a need for a clarification of the concept of ‘wise use’ and what it means for different wetlands and habitats and what it means in practice;

(k) Using biodiversity data as an indicator of changes in wetlands. For example, indicators on changes in the number of migratory birds as well as changes in the diversity of species can be useful as signals to gauge changes in the quality of wetlands, and thus be used for management measures;

(l) There is a need to protect biodiversity and wetlands from climate change impacts;

(m) Improve intra- and inter-institutional articulation and integration of institutions with local communities in the follow-up of the Joint Work Plan and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and in the synergistic implementation of the CBD and the Ramsar Convention.

## *Annex I*

### **FIFTH JOINT WORK PLAN BETWEEN THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2020**

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)  
and  
the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)

5<sup>th</sup> Joint Work Plan (JWP)  
2011 – 2020

#### **Background**

The global environment is rapidly changing, and these changes impact on the capacity of ecosystems to deliver the services needed to sustain and improve human well-being. Policy development, planning and management based upon the Ecosystem Approach are essential to promote the continued delivery of ecosystem services. Among these services, water is the most valuable and the wise management of biodiversity and wetlands is thus critical in this context. Furthermore, while climate change is increasingly on the public and political agenda, the importance of the biodiversity and wetlands in moderating global change and its impacts remain under-recognized.

The new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in decision X/2. This Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets set down a framework for harmonized and concerted action by all stakeholders. Likewise, the third Strategic Plan for the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 2009-2015, adopted by Resolution X.1, lays down the framework for action regarding wetlands consistent with, and supporting, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (as is affirmed in Ramsar COP11 [DR6]).

This 5th CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan covers the time-period of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and operates in the context of the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for wetlands for the CBD (through CBD decision III/21) and the CBD-Ramsar Memorandum of Cooperation (1996; renewed 2011).

#### **Goal**

The goal of this Joint Work Plan is the conservation, sustainable and wise use of biodiversity especially in wetlands, helping to assure the full achievement of the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Mission and Strategies of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015.

#### **Rationale**

Recognizing that:

- i) that the ongoing collaboration between the two conventions is setting a good example in building synergies between conventions to deliver effectively the objectives of both conventions (CBD Decision X/20; Ramsar Resolutions X.11 and [COP11 DR6]) and that we must build upon this success;
- ii) the Ramsar Convention acts as the lead partner for wetlands in implementing the CBD;
- iii) the two conventions do not have the same composition of Parties but that the objectives and principles of the CBD are embodied in the Ramsar Convention, and vice-versa, in a mutually supportive way;
- iv) Article 1.1 of the Ramsar Convention states that "For the purpose of this Convention wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with



water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres”;

- v) wetlands therefore occur in all biomes and are potentially influenced by all sectors’ activities, and that the appropriate management of land and water, using the Ecosystem Approach of the CBD, is required to achieve the goal of the convention: consequently, the JWP will work through all relevant thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues of the CBD, and support implementation of all relevant Resolutions made under the Ramsar Convention;
- vi) the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) has placed greater and more explicit emphasis on water and water-related ecosystem services, as recognised further including as a key subject relevant to most programmes of work of the CBD and Aichi Biodiversity Targets in CBD decision X/28, and that the Ramsar Convention text emphasises the critical role that wetlands play as suppliers of water, and therefore water has emerged as a key area of mutual interest of both conventions;
- vii) the biological diversity of wetlands is under the most severe threat and that threats are rapidly escalating – particularly through competing human demands for water;
- viii) continued biodiversity loss from wetlands will seriously undermine the delivery of important services provided by these ecosystems and will be a significant constraint to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- ix) considerable technical knowledge has already been developed by the CBD, Ramsar, and many partners to manage land and water better in order to sustain their benefits for people; and
- x) whilst the further development of technical tools is required in some areas, the key requirements for the achievement of the objectives of this JWP centre on public and political awareness, institutional weaknesses, and capacity-related issues.

### **Specific Activities**

The primary responsibility for implementation of this JWP rests with Parties and the Convention bodies. The Secretariats play a supporting and facilitating role.

The following is an indicative list of activities. The flexible and innovative nature of this JWP is designed to lead to other key targeted actions aimed to maximise its contribution to the achievement of the goal of the JWP.

**Parties** may identify specific national actions, depending on the circumstances of each country. The national focal points of the two conventions should cooperate in a proactive and flexible way to implement this work programme.

In order to ensure the wise use of wetlands as well as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all ecosystems, as well as to promote the contribution of biodiversity and wetlands to human well-being, key activities include:

- i) making use of the Ecosystem Approach in planning processes at national, regional and local levels by taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands and other ecosystems;
- ii) developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way;
- iii) identifying and implementing joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, including poverty reduction strategies;

- iv) promoting wetlands and biodiversity, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, as solutions to pressing water-related management and development problems at global, regional, national and subnational scales; and
- v) promoting the synergistic implementation of both conventions – including the CBD programme of work on protected areas and the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance.

**Convention bodies.** For the scientific subsidiary bodies of the conventions, with the possible assistance of liaison groups, expert groups, specialist organizations or individual experts, key actions to support this JWP include, inter alia:

- i) prioritising key activities to implement both conventions in a mutually supportive manner;
- ii) advising on further harmonization and consistencies between the CBD Ecosystem Approach and Ramsar “wise use of wetlands”;
- iii) developing tools to measure the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets by elaborating and using relevant wetlands and water-related ecosystem service indicators;
- iv) advising on harmonization between the Ramsar criteria for the designation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) and criteria for identification of areas of global significance for biodiversity;
- v) improving representativeness of wetland protected areas, including using Ramsar sites as catalysts for networks of protected areas within and between countries to conserve wetlands;
- vi) promoting sustainable use of wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services in the framework of wise use;
- vii) supporting complementary and/or harmonized national reporting, including the role of CBD and Ramsar national reports in measuring the implementation of this JWP;
- viii) collaborating to meet the goals of both conventions’ strategic plans, to best monitor and assess the respective achievements in the context of biodiversity and wetlands;
- ix) integrating wetland and water considerations into environmental impact assessments and water management and policy;
- x) facilitating data accessibility and interoperability among the Ramsar data and information systems and the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism, including its national nodes;
- xi) identifying strategic opportunities, and formulating plans, for coordinated action on Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA); and
- xii) further identifying and promoting the importance of cultural diversity in understanding and managing biodiversity and wetlands.

**The Secretariats** will promote or assist implementation of the Joint Work Programme through, inter alia:

- i) any activities requested by their governing bodies relevant to the goals and objectives of this JWP, recognising the differing resources available to, and the comparative advantage of, each secretariat; and
- ii) innovative approaches, within available resources, to implement this JWP, focusing in particular on:
  - a. engaging with major groups and partners in the full implementation of the provisions of both conventions as related to priority issues for the conservation, wise use and international cooperation around wetlands;

- b. awareness raising through strengthened and more effective CEPA activities, including under the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, which target major stakeholders that influence policy and management outcomes for biodiversity, wetlands and water;
- c. promoting, where necessary, capacity of Parties, including through enhanced cooperation; and
- d. jointly facilitating preparation and issuing of reports and information materials on matters of common relevance to the conventions.

### **Reporting**

This Joint Work Plan shall be used as the basis for reporting to their respective bodies on activities and progress by each Secretariat in accordance with the needs of their respective governing and/or scientific bodies.

### **Timeframes**

This Joint Work Plan shall be evaluated and revised approaching 2020 in the context of its contribution to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and subsequent strategies identified by the Parties. In the interim, any further relevant actions requested to be undertaken by the governing or scientific bodies of the conventions shall be included under the Joint Work Plan without the need for its formal revision unless specifically required.

## DESK REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES FROM PARTIES

### Activities from Parties

1. Below are the results of the desk review and online survey<sup>4</sup> organized by activity, reflecting the sections of the fifth joint work plan directed to Parties.

*Activity (i). Making use of the Ecosystem Approach in planning processes at national, regional and local levels by taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands and other ecosystems*

#### *(a) Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

2. In **Antigua and Barbuda**, for example, one national target is aimed at protecting and restoring mangroves for the purpose of reducing the impacts of nutrient runoff from land-based pollution sources. This target captures how Antigua and Barbuda will make use of the ecosystem approach in their planning by taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands and inland water ecosystems.

3. In general, many countries included a holistic ecosystem management approach. **Cameroon**, for example, reported in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) that the protection of wetlands is integrated in management plans for wetlands and restoration of degraded fresh water catchment zones. **New Zealand** has also reported on the interconnectedness between indigenous land, wetland and freshwater ecosystems and marine and coastal ecosystems, and the need to protect and restore this interconnectivity to a ‘healthy functioning’ state.

4. In the **Federated States of Micronesia**,<sup>5</sup> one action is to integrate a ‘ridge-to-reef’ approach to conservation planning, which combines both terrestrial and marine ecosystems in order to capture the interlinkages between ecosystem types, such as mangroves, sea grass beds, lagoon systems and barrier reefs. This is an example of how countries can consolidate planning to make use of the Ecosystem Approach and to wisely use wetlands and the goods and services they provide to other ecosystems and to people.

5. In the **Czech Republic**, the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and the ecosystem approach have been integrated in planning processes through the monitoring and evaluation of biodiversity of water aquatic ecosystems, impact assessments, prevention of pressures on river basins and effective international cooperation in the area of management of water sources. In addition to the country recording 14 wetland sites of international importance under the Convention on Wetlands, the Czech Republic also emphasizes the integrated care of water ecosystems which results in the sustainable use of valuable water sources and with the aim to conserve biodiversity under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

6. In the **Islamic Republic of Iran**, the Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project (CIWP) supports the development and implementation of Wetlands Integrated Management Plans through inter-sectoral coordination structures for more than 20 Iranian wetlands. It puts in place a strong wetlands ecosystem management legislative platform and inter-sectoral administrative structures at the national level, while supporting implementation of the ecosystem approach in wetlands. The project has also introduced integrated and participatory ecosystem-based approaches for conservation of Iran’s wetlands while raising capacity through the training of experts from the Department of Environment at the national and provincial levels.

---

<sup>4</sup> This section includes responses that reflect the views of respondents and are part of the Secretariats’ efforts to collect information on wetland-related activities at the national level. Some responses were slightly modified for editorial purposes.

<sup>5</sup> The Federated States of Micronesia are a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity but not a Party to the Convention on Wetlands.

7. In **Liberia**, the ecosystem approach is comprehensively integrated into planning processes at all levels by taking into account the good and services provided by wetlands and freshwater ecosystems. For example, the country reported that most rural communities benefit directly or indirectly from freshwater ecosystems for various services including provision of drinking water, water for irrigation, water for other home uses and water for food production/processing. Freshwater ecosystems also provide services to the country, such as hydroelectric power generation, water purification and waste removal, nutrient cycling, transportation, recreation, flood control and climate regulation. These inland wetland landscapes are very important for food production, especially in communities where terrestrial soils have become infertile due to overuse and mismanagement. The country also indicated that inland swamps are particularly used for rice cultivation, referred to as paddy farming.

*(b) Reports to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*

8. In **China**, the Ministry of Water Resources began an initiative in 2010 to assess the ecological health of rivers and lakes from multiple dimensions of wetlands, including water quality, ecological connectivity, ecological integrity, biological diversity, as well as ecological goods and services provided by wetlands. The initiative also helped China establish an indicator-based system for evaluating the health of rivers and lakes, so as to strengthen monitoring and appraisal of water quality in wetlands. The results from the second national survey of wetlands in China are detailed enough for valuing ecological services provided by the Ramsar sites or other wetlands in China.

9. In **Egypt**, water quality has been monitored yearly since 1998 by the National Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries, whereas the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources is in charge of water quantity. Several ministerial decrees on environmental impact assessments were issued regarding national development projects near wetlands, such as large fish farms. Land-based sources are being either removed or reduced. Several assessments of ecosystem services were made in recent years, including fish production from fishing and aquaculture in Lake Burulus (Ramsar Site), bird hunting along the Northern Coast and the evaluation of carbon sequestration potentiality of lake Burulus and mangroves along the Red Sea coast to mitigate climate change.

10. In **El Salvador**, there is a national programme for systematic monitoring, called the Water Information System, which operates with information related to the availability, use, consumption and protection of water resources. Likewise, water quality monitoring actions are carried out, as well as some water evaluations in priority basins. These efforts have been made both in wetlands of international importance and other priority wetlands in the country such as Lake Coatepeque and Lake Ilopango. Ecological services assessments have been carried out through the Water Clima Lac project executed by CATIE in the Bajo Lempa pilot zone (convergence zone of the Jaltepeque and Bahia de Jiquilisco Wetlands) and manuals for the valuation of ecosystem services have also been developed.

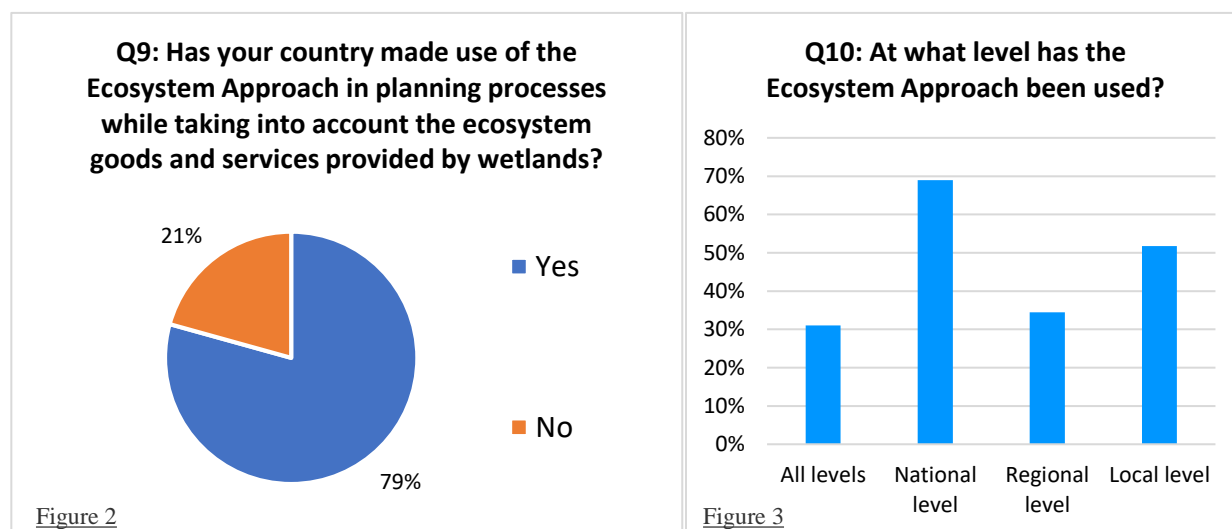
11. In the **Netherlands**, like all other EU Member States, has the obligation to implement the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD establishes a legal framework to protect and restore clean water across Europe and ensure its long-term sustainable use. The directive establishes an innovative approach for water management based on river basins, the natural geographical and hydrological units and sets specific deadlines for Member States to protect aquatic ecosystems. The directive addresses inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. An ecosystem assessment in 2014 was undertaken as a whole and to individual Ramsar sites.

12. In the **United States of America**, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) investigates the occurrence, quantity, quality, distribution, and movement of surface and underground waters and disseminates the data to the public, state and local governments, public and private utilities, and other federal agencies involved with managing water resources through the National Water Information System. It provides national estimates of water budget components for local watersheds, withdrawal data for counties, tools to calculate statistics of daily streamflow records, modeled daily streamflow at ungaged stations, and access to records

of aquatic biology observation. The U.S. government regularly conducts evaluations of ecosystem benefits/services for wetland sites. Larger sites like the Everglades National Park have had individual evaluations. Wetland assessments are also conducted at the state level. As an illustrative example, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency developed one the country's leading rapid assessment methods, known as the Ohio RAM, which has been adapted for use by many other states. This tool allows for the expeditious assessment of the ecological quality and level of function of wetlands and has simplified review and permitting decisions.

(c) *Submissions to the Online Survey*

13. Questions 9, 10 and 11 of the online survey asked Parties to report whether they have made use of the Ecosystem Approach in planning processes while taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands, at what level (national, regional or local) and to provide examples. The distribution of responses are shown in Figures 2 and 3, followed by examples of submissions from Parties.



14. In **Australia**, the ecosystem approach has been used in planning processes at the national and regional levels. Regional planning processes and ecosystem-based management have been effective in strengthening marine protected area network in Australia. An example of ecosystem-based management occurs in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, where a “Zoning Plan” designates certain areas of the park for certain activities, supporting many industries and benefiting many people. A coordinated ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) approach is implemented across all of Australia’s fisheries to ensure sustainable fisheries management. Implementation has focused on a number of key initiatives, such as harvest strategies and ecological risk assessments. Commonwealth managed fisheries are also subject to strategic environmental assessments, which assess the impacts of fishing on the marine environment against the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act, using Guidelines for the Ecologically Sustainable Management of Fisheries. The conservation and ecosystem benefits from Ramsar sites and other wetlands are incorporated into planning, delivery and monitoring strategies. For example, the Murray-Darling Basin Plan provides for additional water to be made available for the basin, based on an assessment of an ecologically sustainable level of consumption to support the protection and conservation of water-dependent ecosystems and connectivity between ecosystems. Key components of the Basin plan are implemented as an integrated package to support maintenance of ecosystems goods and services, and include: ecological objectives and targets; a basin-wide environmental watering strategy; long-term regional watering plans; basin-wide annual watering priorities; and regional annual watering plans.

15. **Brazil** has used the ecosystem approach in planning processes at the national and local levels while taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands. It was reported that an existing

public policy instrument aims decision-making towards planning and implementing appropriate measures for the conservation, recovery and sustainable use of ecosystems in an objective and participatory way. This instrument supports already structured protected areas, such as conservation units, indigenous lands and quilombola territories, the identification of new priority areas and measures to be implemented in these places. In addition, it provides a database with information on the priorities for action in each area that takes into account biological importance and economic and sustainable use.

16. In **Colombia**, the principle of adaptive management provides the framework for the country to incorporate the ecosystem approach in the planning and management of wetlands at regional, national and local levels. The country has worked on closing the gap in knowledge about the dynamics and functioning of wetlands by engaging research institutes, environmental authorities, non-governmental organizations, academia and communities. The generation of this knowledge, in conjunction with knowledge generated from hydrological modelling, has allowed the country to guarantee that environmental and territorial management decisions have solid scientific foundations for the adequate management of wetlands and other ecosystems. It also allows the identification of more effective variables and indicators for monitoring, contributing to the effectiveness of adaptive management. Through the involvement of communities in the planning and monitoring processes, inclusive and effective processes have been generated in which implementation actions become more effective in a given territory. Cases such as the Estrella Fluvial Infrida Ramsar site and the Tarapoto Lakes have allowed more than 38 indigenous communities from more than seven ethnic groups to become involved in the planning and implementation processes of the activities built into the management plans, which results in the effectiveness of the management of these sites.

17. In **El Salvador**, participatory planning and management of wetlands has been promoted at the national level by updating operational plans and establishing channels and platforms for the participation of local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the conservation and management of wetlands. This includes promoting a recognition of the importance that biodiversity and ecosystem services play to sustain productive activities and maintain the well-being of local communities, through social and economic valuation studies, characterizations of wetland ecosystem services, studies and evaluations of the impact of the degradation and loss of ecosystem services on economic activities. In addition, the country has implemented a capacity-building programme to improve the management of wetlands and biodiversity, including the establishment of a National Plan for Communication, Education, Awareness and Participation, a Wetlands Education Center in an existing Ramsar site and the design and implementation of a diploma in Sustainable Management of Ramsar wetlands, aimed at educating technical staff.

18. In **France**, preservation of aquatic and wetland habitats within networks of protected areas have been implemented at all levels. Since the country created a Water and Biodiversity Department within its Ministry of ecology in 2008, it has established a national Biodiversity Office in 2020 as well as regional Biodiversity Agencies in order to achieve more coherent policy implementation between organizations responsible for water, biodiversity and protected areas.

19. During the period of the joint work plan, the **Islamic Republic of Iran** developed a total of 17 integrated management plans for wetlands, based on the ecosystem approach and through a bottom-up participatory process, involving all stakeholders including local communities and non-governmental organizations. In preparation for the integrated management plans, a number of technical and advisory meetings were held and the draft plans were presented to the relevant stakeholders for final comments. The plans were then approved through the Provincial and County Planning and Development Council.

20. One activity that includes the ecosystem approach to ensure the wise use of wetlands at the national, regional and local levels is ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction. For example, in Mikata-goko, a Ramsar site in the Fukui prefecture, **Japan** is undertaking restoration of natural lakeshores and ensuring the flow capacity of river water through dredging of sediment deposited in rivers that takes into account of the natural functioning of rivers, using dredged material for the restoration of natural riverbanks.

**Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR)** is the “sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to reduce disaster risk, with the aim of achieving sustainable and resilient development.” (Estrella and Saalimaa, 2013) For more information, see [CBD Technical Series No. 93](#).

21. **Malaysia** reported that the ecosystem approach was used in their National Physical Plan (NPP), aimed at mainstreaming biodiversity into sectoral planning and development processes, and their National Wetland Policy, which is under the process of being reviewed in order to achieve a more holistic approach in conserving wetlands.

22. **Mexico** has been fostering actions between the federal agencies responsible for water and for land in order to create synergies for both instruments when addressing integrated water management planning. In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT) published a National Policy for Wetlands which provides a legal framework to help maintain the ecosystem approach.

23. In **Panama**, the Ministry of the Environment has prepared a Manual for the Restoration of Degraded Mangrove Areas. This manual aimed to develop procedures that recognize and detect the possible causes that affect the development of mangroves and the techniques or positive experiences of mangrove reforestation that Panama has carried out. The government’s approach recognizes the direct and indirect benefits mangroves provide to populations and their various ecosystem services, as well as the threat from various sectors.

24. **Peru** has integrated the ecosystem approach in their National Wetlands Strategy through the Guidelines for the designation of Ramsar sites and in the Guidelines for the development of Management Plans for Ramsar sites. The process of formulating management instruments related to wetlands and Ramsar sites have been developed in a participatory way, with the involvement of all stakeholders and applying the principles of the ecosystem approach, paying special attention to the principle of subsidiarity.

25. As part of the European Union initiative Natura 2000, **Poland** has developed management plans for wetland conservation sites which are integrated into planning within other sectors, such as forest management plans and regional development strategies.

26. The **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela’s** Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan identified 35 wetlands considered as critical, using variables related to biological diversity and protected areas in coastal zones. Fourteen of these wetlands were identified in conjunction with local coastal communities. At the state level, joint work was undertaken by coastal zone management working committees and associated local communities in order to strengthen Venezuela’s system of national protected areas. This joint work developed proposals to identify areas under special administrative regimes, such as the Punta Arenas and Bahía El Saco wildlife reserves in the Nueva Esparta state. This work also involved extending National Parks to include aquatic ecosystems such as in the Delta del Orinoco Biosphere Reserve or the Paria Peninsula.



*Activity (ii). Developing and implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way*

*(a) Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

27. One example of an NBSAP that was developed in a consistent and mutually supportive way was in **Botswana**. The country's NBSAP makes clear direct links to the Convention on Wetlands, as well as to other MEAs, and identifies opportunities for coordination in reporting between the two Conventions. The NBSAP made clear links between national targets that offer synergistic potential and strategic actions that relate to the Convention on Wetlands.

28. In **Cameroon**, one of the national targets is to strengthen coordination mechanisms by ensuring synergistic national collaboration among the biodiversity-related Conventions. The country has reported that ensuring effective synergy and national collaboration in the application of biodiversity-related Conventions calls for the setting up of a dialogue platform that will bring together National Focal Points for the CBD, Ramsar, CITES and CMS.

29. In **Kyrgyzstan**, the government approved priorities and an action plan for the conservation of wetlands, in accordance with the requirements of Article 3 of the Ramsar Convention, and incorporated this information into the NBSAP. For example, the most significant wetlands in the Ramsar List were also reported on in the NBSAP, which allowed for the joint implementation of this indicator.

30. In **Nepal**, the effective implementation of the National Wetland Policy (updated in 2012) is integrated as a priority action within the country's NBSAP, under the national strategy for the effective conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands biodiversity, in order to support each other in a mutually supportive way. The Policy established a high-level National Wetlands Committee as a means to conserve and manage wetland resources sustainably and wisely. The Policy also aims to involve local people in the management, conservation and rehabilitation of wetland areas; support the wellbeing of wetland dependent communities; enhance the knowledge and capacity of stakeholders along with maintaining good governance in management of wetland areas; identify and prioritize wetlands on the basis of ecological, social and economic importance; identify, respect and utilize traditional knowledge and skills of wetland dependent communities; make provisions for equitable distribution of the benefits arising from the utilization of wetland-based resources; and promote good governance.

31. Countries who are not Parties to the Convention on Wetlands are not required to develop National Wetland Policies but still may report on the progress of wetland conservation and wise use. For example, one of the national objectives of **Angola** is to prepare an inventory of national wetlands in order to identify those of an international nature in accordance with the criteria of the Convention on Wetlands, which will aid in the future development of wetland management and rational use plans.

*(b) Reports to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*

32. In **Algeria**, the National Strategy for Ecosystem Management of Wetlands in accordance with the recommendations of the Ramsar convention on Wetlands, constitutes an essential tool with long-term orientations and short and medium-term action plans for the conservation of wetlands. Its implementation guarantee the preservation of sites and the development of income-generating activities for the benefit of rural populations, under the sustainable intersectoral management of these important and fragile ecosystems. The National Coastal Zone Management Strategy promotes the development of coastal wetlands and the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, conducted under the aegis of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Environment, was developed with a vision and lines of action to preserve biodiversity.

33. In **Argentina**, the National Strategy on Biodiversity and Action Plan 2016-2020 was approved through Resolution 151-E / 2017 of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and considers wetlands as important ecosystems for biodiversity, and in particular, considers Ramsar sites within priority areas for conservation.

34. In **Brazil**, the specific guiding principles for wetland conservation are being included in the Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Wetlands. Before that, they were mainly supported by the National Biodiversity Policy (PNB, Decree No. 4,329, of 08/2002) and the action plans elaborated within CBD's scope.

35. **Guatemala** approved their National Wetlands Policy in 2005 that aims for the protection, wise use and restoration of wetlands including its biodiversity, for the benefit of the current and future generations. The policy promotes the participation and cooperation of stakeholders and strengthens the institutional capacity for the wise use and conservation of wetlands.

36. **Finland** has developed several strategies and action plans that are relevant to wetlands such as the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2012-2020, the supplementation programme for mire conservation, the river basin management plans and their action plans, the European Union Habitat, Birds and Water Framework Directives, Finland's marine strategy, the programme for restoration of small water bodies, the programme for prioritisation of restoration sites in relation to EU Biodiversity Strategy and the CBD Strategic Plan and their targets on restoration of ecosystems.

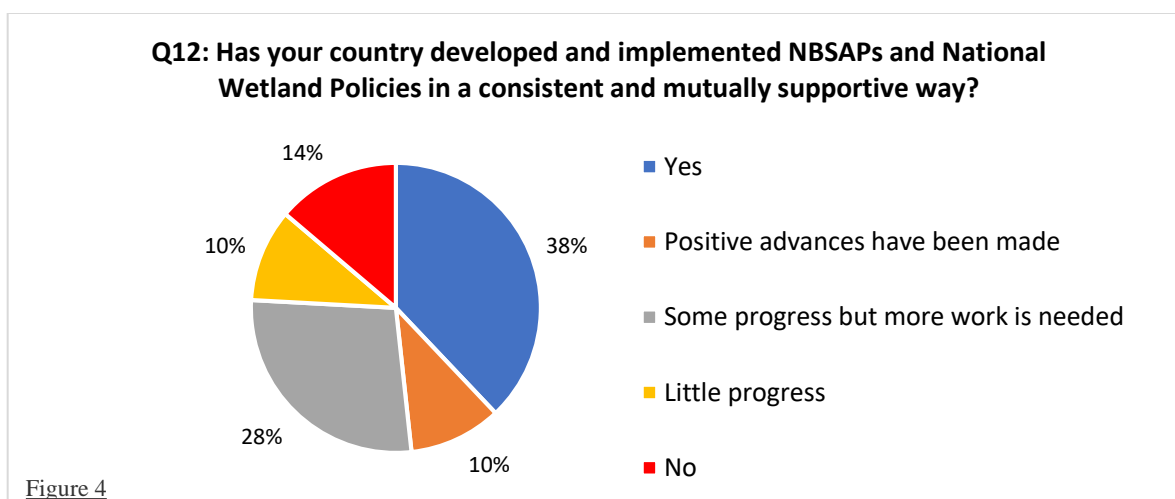
37. In **France**, the 3rd National Action Plan 2014-2018 for wetlands includes 52 priority actions for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands. This national plan also underlines the commitment of the State and its partners to integrate the preservation of these environments into all public policies, including policies relating to water and biodiversity, but also into agriculture, town planning and the prevention of natural risks. This action plan represents a major contribution to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in France and the national strategy for biodiversity. It is also a concrete contribution to the implementation of the framework directive on water, the directive on the assessment and management of flood risks, the directive on renewable energies, the birds directive and the fauna flora habitats directive.

38. In **New Zealand**, two statutory national policy statements cover wetlands: the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (2014, amended 2017) and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010. The National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (Freshwater NPS) provides direction on how local authorities should carry out their responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991 for managing fresh water. The Freshwater NPS directs regional councils, in consultation with their communities, to set objectives for the state of fresh water management units in their regions and to set limits to meet these objectives.

39. In the **Republic of Korea**, the 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has the objectives of the designation of new Ramsar sites; designation of habitats functioning as climate change buffers and as protected area; restoring damaged intertidal mud flats; and setting up a mechanism for ecosystem service assessment, including services provided by wetlands. The Korean government has laid a groundwork for fostering the community-based Wise Use concept, and has set up the local stakeholder governance mechanism, as it implements the Ramsar Convention Wetland City Accreditation.

*(c) Submissions to the Online Survey*

40. Questions 12 and 13 of the online survey asked Parties to report whether they have developed and implemented NBSAPs and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way and to provide examples. The distribution of responses is shown in Figure 4, followed by examples of submissions from Parties.



41. Several countries that responded positively to developing and implementing NBSAPs and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way have coordinated activities related to both Conventions through a specific action or through expert advice from different sectors. For example, countries such as Andorra, Brazil, Egypt and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela consulted a national committee or group of experts on wetlands when planning and implementing an NBSAP, or cross-referencing a countries' NBSAP when developing a National Wetland Policy or Strategy.

42. **Australia** indicated that progress was made in developing and implementing their NBSAP and National Wetland Policy through the Australian Strategy for Nature 2019-2030. Under the Strategy, all levels of government are to demonstrate progress and report every 2 years to Environment Ministers and every 4 years to the Convention on Biological Diversity on a range of measures, including the “retention, protection and/or restoration of wetlands systems to maintain or improve ecological integrity and ecosystem function”.

43. Positive advances have been made in **Colombia**, where the country has implemented a National Inland Wetlands Policy (Política Nacional de Humedales Interiores de Colombia), including activities related to capacity building, knowledge generation, development and implementation of management plans, development of a national wetlands map and the development of the national wetlands monitoring program. Furthermore, the National Development Ministry, is carrying out an evaluation of the Policy with the aim to updating it. Research institutions, environmental authorities, academia and the participation of communities have contributed to the development of the national wetlands monitoring programme and will allow the country to gather and analyse information for more effective adaptive management, based on the ecosystem approach.

44. In **El Salvador**, the National Biodiversity Strategy promotes participatory planning and management of wetlands through the establishment of channels and platforms for participation of local communities and other relevant actors in the protection and management of wetlands. The Strategy recognizes that many economic activities depend on the proper functioning of ecosystems and seeks to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity across different sectors, such as agriculture, fishing and tourism. The Strategy also recognizes that the poorest and most vulnerable populations often depend on biodiversity for their livelihoods and thus promotes plans and efforts to support traditional knowledge on the conservation and sustainable use of priority species, with the full involvement of indigenous and local communities and small farmers, and strengthening local environmental governance processes. To ensure proper management of wetlands, the country designed and is implementing the Integrated Plan for the Improvement of Wetlands, built under a broad participatory process, involving the most relevant local stakeholders in each wetland. This instrument constitutes a Roadmap for the inclusive restoration and conservation of wetland ecosystems, under a holistic approach addressing main components

such as the integral management of solid waste and wastewater, research, governance and environmental education, wildlife management, information management and funding management.

45. In **Finland**, the National Wetland Action Plan also directly implements the Finnish National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan by integrating the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Helmi Programme is a recent and tangible example of the positive advances that have been made regarding water-related resource development and biodiversity through the protection and restoration of wetlands.

46. In **France**, positive advances have been made in developing and implementing their NBSAP and National Wetland Policy, where the 2018 Biodiversity Plan has incorporated a dedicated action on wetlands in addition to integrating wetland issues across several other actions. Moreover, the country reported that the alignment of biodiversity and water-related policies in national strategic documents will be better integrated in the next National Wetland Plan and National Biodiversity Strategy which will be launched at the end of 2021.

47. In **Islamic Republic of Iran**, strategies and a National Action Plan for the conservation of wetlands were developed in a participatory process, with the presence of representatives of all national stakeholders (including from the Department of Energy and Ministries of Energy and Agriculture) and NGOs, considering both the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Ramsar Targets. After reaching a final decision, these strategies and national action plan are in the process of being approved and ratified.

48. In **Mexico**, some progress has been made in developing and implementing mutually supportive biodiversity strategies and wetland policies, however the country reported that more work is needed. Information developed under the National System of Information on Biodiversity has been used by wetland managers and other relevant stakeholders in order to monitor the ecological features of wetlands. Although the National System of Information on Biodiversity is not focused on developing strategies and action plans specifically focused on wetlands, the generation of information on biodiversity in Mexico represents a valuable contribution to the knowledge of species and their distribution in the country and is freely accessible. Since this information is freely accessible, the country reported that better actions can be implemented for conservation across ecosystems.

49. In the last decade, **Panama** has developed planning tools such as the National Wetlands Policy and the update of the National Strategy Biodiversity and Action Plan 2018-2050, which focus more on an ecosystem approach. For example, the Panama Canal is committed to promoting the conservation of cetaceans through a call to follow up on the recommendations and guidelines established by existing maritime traffic devices. These measures not only seek to protect cetaceans from collisions with boats, but also aim to increase the safety of navigation in convergence zones and in zones where there is high traffic density or where the vessels' freedom of movement is diminished by space restrictions, obstacles to navigation, depth limitations, unfavourable weather conditions, use of fishing resources or sensitive coastal and marine areas of importance for the protection of species and their habitats. These devices have considerably reduced the probability of incidents and serious accidents involving humpback whales and other types of cetaceans, which guarantees maritime safety and control of the vessels that pass through Panama waters. The joint work and the integral approach of the Green Route of Panama not only promote the preservation of biodiversity but also contribute to national conservation efforts through commitments made to the IMO and international maritime transport.

50. **Trinidad and Tobago's** National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was revised in 2017 to better align with the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and was informed by the status of the implementation of the Convention as contained in the country's 5th National Report and was guided by a multi-stakeholder National Oversight Committee. The NBSAP is a comprehensive strategy which requires the Government and its stakeholders to take a multidisciplinary approach to its implementation. To achieve its objectives, there is a coordination of actions under the NBSAP and a mechanism whereby the lead organizations and institutions manage their resources to effectively implement the NBSAP. A National Biodiversity Coordination Committee has been established and includes the National Focal Point

from the Convention on Wetlands. Through this committee, the activities being conducted under the CBD are known to the Ministry which has purview over the Wetlands Convention.

*Activity (iii). Identifying and implementing joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies, including poverty reduction strategies*

(a) *Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

51. In **Fiji**, one national objective focused on sustainable use and development is to establish locally managed areas, protected areas and/or Ramsar sites, at priority catchments, wetlands and key biodiversity areas and to strengthen environmental impact assessments for all forms of development activity in inland waters. This objective not only aims to ensure that major threats to inland waters are reduced, but aims to integrate inland waters strategic areas into national frameworks such as national land-use plans, permanent forest estates, integrated coastal management plans, agriculture sector plans and other development sector plans.

52. In **Ghana**, the mainstreaming of wetland management has been integrated into the national land-use planning policy in order to promote the wise use of wetlands for farming, grazing, fishing, woodfuel production and salt winning. The Ghana Forestry Development Master Plan (FDMP) (2016-2036) aims to promote sustainable management of mangroves to safeguard wetlands and protect endangered species. Actions and strategies include revising, mapping, keeping inventory and documenting potential wetlands of global significance by 2025; reviewing and updating/formulating for gazette, participatory wetland management plans for Ramsar sites and other wetlands of national significance by 2025; and promoting community mangrove reservation and rehabilitation of all degraded wetlands for mangrove restoration and marine protection using the Community Resource Management Area governance system by 2025.

53. In **Guyana**, the Government has developed a Sea and River Defence Policy, which calls for alternative solutions to traditional sea defence structures and includes the re-establishment of mangroves for flood protection and safeguarding environmental resources. With this policy framework and support from the EU, a national mangrove management project is being implemented that is seeking to manage and restore mangrove ecosystems as well as provide alternative livelihoods for local communities.

54. In **Japan**, the recognition of paddy fields as wetlands has been fundamentally important for national efforts to implement joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral plans, programmes and policies, such as in the agriculture and forestry sectors. Since the recognition of paddy fields as wetlands came into effect under the Ramsar Convention and a decision at the CBD COP-10, natural environments close to people's settlements which were created through human-nature interactions, have seen a reduction in human intervention. The country has noted the importance of promoting agricultural production that has an enhanced focus on biodiversity conservation as well as the development and conservation of rural areas. This focus aims to ensure biodiversity conservation, the stable supply of food to people and the provision of biodiversity-rich natural environments, through efforts to conserve or restore natural environments that were formed through human activities such as agriculture and forestry. Japan aims to implement several measures to ensure conservation in these areas, such as integrated efforts to prevent wildlife damage; supporting the activities of various entities in rural agricultural and forested areas; and reinvigorating rural areas by utilizing systems to evaluate local biodiversity conservation efforts such as the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) recognized by FAO.

55. In **Kenya**, impacts on aquatic and wetland ecosystems stem from the discharge of high volumes of pollutants; the inadequate control and unsustainable utilization of associated wetland resources, such as fisheries, mangroves, papyrus and coral reefs; and the unplanned and uncontrolled diversion of upstream water resources with no adequate downstream compensation to sustain ecological processes. In response to

these impacts, the country has identified the following strategies in order to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into sectoral plans: reduce the levels of pollutants entering the aquatic systems by sensitizing the industrial sector on the imminent adverse effects and strengthening institutional mechanisms for monitoring and enforcement; promote proper utilization of all aquatic resources (marine and freshwater) and the associated wetlands through creating public awareness on sustainable resource use practices; restore degraded aquatic habitats and create more protected areas, especially in inland ecosystems; and enhance proper utilization of upstream water resources by enforcing environmental impact assessment studies before any water-related development activities are undertaken.

56. In **Kiribati**, national actions have been taken to address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society, including supporting the establishment and implementation of community-based conservation initiatives in the form of replanting mangroves and other coastal vegetation. In addition to increasing community participation and improving decision making for biodiversity conservation and management, mangrove replanting and restoration also supports initiatives that promote sand aggregation and prevent coastal erosion.

57. In **Myanmar**, the Moeyungyi Wetland has become an important habitat for resident and migratory birds and was declared a Ramsar site in 2004. The area is occupied by more than 65,000 people in 17 villages, with more than 70% of these people dependent on the wetland's ecosystem services for their livelihoods, consisting of fishing, water buffalo and cattle grazing, cultivation of rice for subsistence, harvesting of padoma lotus, duck-rearing, rice milling, and industry for Ngapi (fish paste), cheroot (tobacco), lotus textiles and dried stalks of pein (Taro), in addition to providing freshwater to communities. As a means of including Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES) schemes to guide local decisions, the value of ecosystem services can be measured using the Toolkit for Ecosystem Site-based Assessment (TESSA). In a 2015 study<sup>6</sup>, the value of the services in the Moeyungyi Wetland was measured using this toolkit and found the following results for ecosystem service values: \$8.5 million for water resources; \$16.2 million for food and other harvests; \$0.4 million for cultivated goods (rice); \$0.07 million for tourism, and carbon: \$91.6 million for carbon storage. This was offset by emissions of \$3.1 million and management costs of \$0.2 million, for a net conservative total value of \$22.1 million in direct value (>\$2000/ha/yr), plus \$91.6 million in carbon stored. While the study did not include all ecosystem services and needs to be also viewed in the broader landscape scale context owing to downstream affects as well, this work illustrates the role of natural system in providing livelihoods for local communities while benefiting wildlife and biodiversity more generally.

58. In **Nigeria**, forest, marine and wetland resources provide great opportunities for ecotourism, which is widely seen as a viable development strategy for the developing world. Several wetland sites receive millions of migratory birds that can provide potential resources for seasonal bird watching if well developed. While bird watching may prove to be productive in other regions in Africa, the country sees the economic potential of ecotourism as an underutilized opportunity.

59. In **Samoa**, the country reported that opportunities exist for generating revenues for Government and local resource-owning communities and households from the use of biodiversity. The charging of access fees for ecotourism sites is now a common practise in the country, charging for specific activities such as hiking, birdwatching, trekking, canoe tours in mangrove forests and other recreational activities. For example, the Saanapu-Sataoa Mangrove Conservation Project offers a canoe tour within the mangrove forest to tourists and visitors for a fee. Additional community income is generated from the sale of local produce (fruits and drinking nuts) and handicraft souvenirs. The country reported that, most ecotourism activities are operated by and generate income for households and village communities.

---

<sup>6</sup> Peh, K.S.-H., Merriman, J.C., Dae We Aung, T., Theint, S.M., Murata, N., Suzue, K. (2015) Economic valuation of Moeyungyi Wetland, Myanmar. BirdLife International, Tokyo, Japan. <https://chm.cbd.int/api/v2013/documents/F7636AF4-F0E7-CAAE-ED0A-CE0E9F3A7F9C/attachments/Moeyungyi%20Wetland%20Economic%20Valuation%202015%20-%20MOEI.pdf>

60. In **Zimbabwe**, the country has successfully integrated biodiversity and wetland considerations into relevant cross-sectoral policies through its National Agriculture Policy Framework (NAPF) 2018-2030. The overall goals of the NAPF are to enhance the sustainable flow of investment to the agricultural sector to enhance productivity and production, ensure food and nutrition security and promote national economic growth and development. The NAPF also aims to sustainable use wetlands and other biodiverse habitats.

(b) *Reports to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*

61. In **Australia**, wetland issues are comprehensively incorporated into national water strategies and planning processes. The National Water Initiative (NWI) continues to provide Australia's blueprint for national water reform and commits Australian governments to integrated management of water for the environment and to achieve a sustainable level of take from water systems. The NWI also commits governments to statutory water plans and entitlement systems to lock in water for the environment.

62. In **Austria**, the National Water Management Plan (NGP) is a plan for river basins in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive in order to ensure the protection, improvement and sustainable use of water resources. Based on a thorough analysis of the current state of the water bodies, the NGP mentions significant uses and specifies protection and remediation targets and the necessary measures to achieve them. To implement them, the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management publishes a National Water Management Plan every six years. Concerning national policies or measures on agriculture, Austria's Agri-Environmental Programme promotes organic farming and support for water protection, soil protection and groundwater protection measures.

63. In **Burkina Faso**, wetlands are taken into account in the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES), the country's development benchmark. Its development and implementation are based on sectoral policies on water, environment, infrastructure and industry, among others.

64. In **Mexico**, the Comisión Nacional del Agua, in the National Hydric programme, clearly defines the goals to be achieved through the sustainable use of water and the preservation of the environment. In order to preserve the quality of water, wastewater treatment plants have also been built. In the National Agricultural Planning Strategy 2017-2030, a planning order is considered based on the potential productive and commercial opportunities, avoiding the promotion of agricultural activities in Protected Natural Areas that sometimes overlap with RAMSAR sites.

65. **Panama** approved in April 2016, the National Energy Plan 2015–2050, which in its implementation seeks the integral management of water basins and territorial planning to guarantee the sustainability of renewable resources, and also recognizes the urban impact on wetlands and establishes the diversification of the energy matrix for other renewable sources other than hydroelectric. However, it is still necessary to prepare actions in mining.

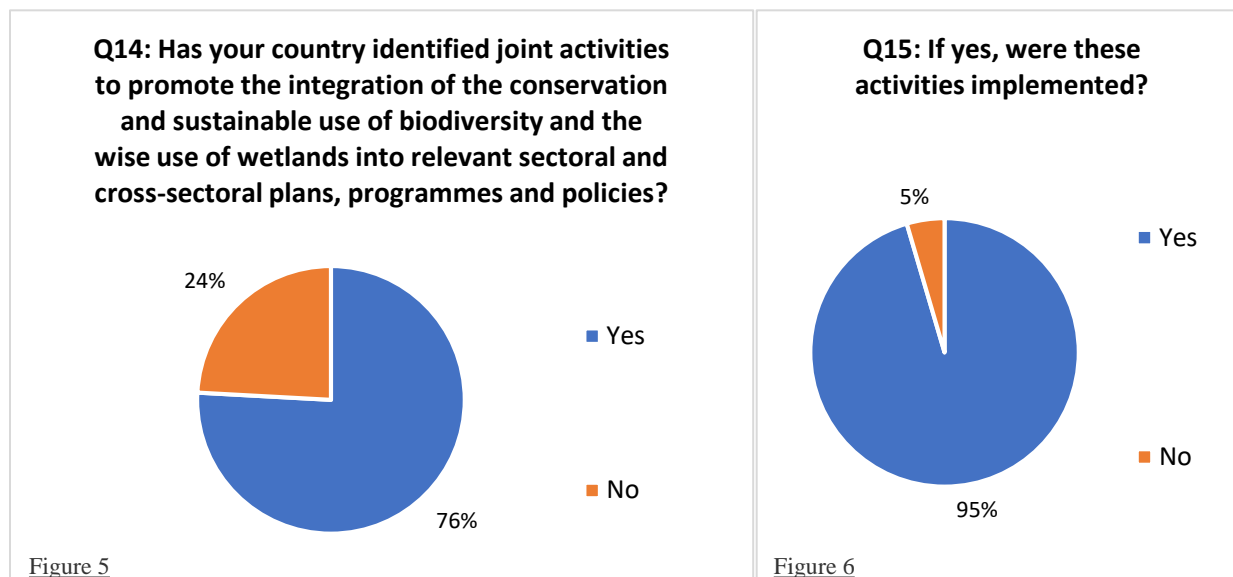
66. **Portugal** has developed several plans, namely Hydrographic Region Management Plans, Management Plans of Public Water Reservoirs, Estuary Management Plans, Coastal Management Plans and a National plan for efficient water use, among others. They have also prepared a National Strategy for Agro-livestock and Agro-industrial Effluents and a National Strategic Plan for Rural Development.

67. In **Thailand**, the wise of wetlands has been included in sectoral plans, such as the Environmental quality management plan, Strategic plan on water resource management, Strategic plan on ground water resources management, Royal Ordinance on fisheries and 20 years pollution management strategy.

(c) *Submissions to the Online Survey*

68. Questions 14, 15 and 16 of the online survey asked Parties to report whether they have identified joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the

wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plan, programmes and policies and to provide any examples if the activities were implemented. The distribution of responses is shown in Figures 5 and 6, followed by examples of submissions from Parties.



69. In the **Republic of Armenia**, several cross-sectoral activities were identified and implemented to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands through measures that improve ecological functions of lakes and their catchment areas, including: the improvement of sewage and biological wastewater treatment facilities; monitoring water levels; management of hydroelectric waters systems; impact assessments of fish on water ecosystems; establishing forest layers around lakes prone to flooding; among others.

70. In **Australia**, the Regional Land Partnerships component of the National Landcare Program has invested in natural resource management, sustainable agriculture and protecting biodiversity. The programme touches on a range of projects targeting national priorities at a regional and local level to protect threatened ecological communities, restore the country's internationally-important Ramsar wetlands and support recovery efforts for species identified under the Threatened Species Strategy. Thirty three of the projects under the programme address restoration of, and reduction in threats to, the ecological character of Ramsar sites, through the implementation of priority actions such as pest animal control, weed treatment, riparian remediation and debris removal. Additional investments under the National Landcare Program include projects that aim to improve riparian and wetland functionality through erosion control and streamside plantings.

71. In **Brazil**, a project entitled the Regional and Local TEEB Project was implemented between 2012 and 2019 and aimed to promote the conservation of biodiversity through the integration of ecosystem services in public policies and business performance. This project played an important role in identifying joint activities for the integration of biodiversity and wetlands into cross-sectoral policies by raising awareness among managers and creating instruments that value biodiversity in the production processes and in public management. A territorial management initiative was also implemented through Ecological-Economic Zoning (EEZ). This initiative aims to make socio-economic development and environmental conservation compatible through the sustainable use of natural resources and promoting ecosystem balance. The EEZ considers the unique environmental, social, economic and cultural characteristics of each zone and establishes alternative uses and management patterns that provide opportunities for competitive advantages of the territory. It is envisaged that the EEZ could become a routine tool in the planning system, informing the monitoring, control and prioritization of programmes, projects and management plans, systematizing dispersed information and providing direction to differentiated scales, thus supporting a variety of users and interested actors.



72. In **Colombia**, joint activities have been developed that integrate the conservation and wise use of wetlands through the incorporation of the information generated under the national map of wetlands, construction of wetland management plans and wetlands of international importance Ramsar in the processes of territorial planning and sectoral agreements. Wetlands can then be incorporated as public goods, into territorial planning processes and sectoral agreements and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. Additionally, progress has been made in intersectoral efforts to identify the pressures originated in productive activities as well as measures for their management such as sustainable agriculture, green infrastructure, responsible mining; however, many challenges remain to be faced given that the agriculture, infrastructure, and mining and energy sectors still have perverse incentives that generate negative impacts on the biodiversity present in wetlands. The country will be exploring opportunities to encourage sustainable production and consumption models in the future.

73. In **Egypt**, many joint activities were implemented to promote the integration of the conservation and wise use of wetlands by several governmental agencies, such as the Ministry of Environment, General Authority for Development of Fish Resources, Governorates, among others. These activities included deepening of the lakes via dredging, clearing weeds, reducing pollution, and monitoring of the status of the lakes.

74. **El Salvador** identified several activities that were implemented by different sectors in order to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands. The country aims to promote the environmental management and adoption of sustainable agricultural practices in buffer zones and areas of influence of wetlands, in order to establish regulations for productive practices and the promotion of sustainable forms of land-use. Several institutions in the country are developing actions so that entrepreneurs and producers adopt sustainable agricultural and livestock practices, such as the incorporation of soil conservation practices; optimizing the use of water and protecting aquatic ecosystems; and the reduction and control of pollution. One example of an initiative under the Business Foundation for Social Action (FUNDEMAS) seeks to achieve sustainability while increasing productivity in the sugarcane and livestock sectors through the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and strengthening of public-private partnerships that favour and increase production and resilience along the value chain. The FUNDEMAS initiative strengthens and provides support to producers for the sustainable management of their natural resources, while improving the local economy and agricultural ecosystems. Other examples include capacity building for crop producers to adopt practices for the proper use of agrochemicals to reduce pollution to wetlands; adopt methods of efficient use of pest and disease control systems to avoid the overuse of agrochemicals in the buffer zone of wetlands; improve fertilization to reduce the contamination of surface and groundwater that feed wetlands; improve prevention systems for the control of pests and diseases for the conservation of biodiversity in wetlands and their buffer areas; and to adopt soil and water conservation practices for their roles in wetland conservation.

75. At the governmental level in **Finland**, conservation and management of biodiversity is secured by the national conservation area network, which includes the most important wetlands. The work outside the national conservation area network has mainly started in 2020 by developing green infrastructure and assessments of ecosystem services. Additionally, the Government adopted a resolution in 2012 that develops principles concerning the sustainable and responsible use and conservation of mires and peatlands.

76. The **Islamic Republic of Iran** has identified plans for the use of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) as an economic instrument in order to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands across sectors. Recognizing that although it may be difficult to determine the value and price of various environmental goods and services, the country indicated that the PES mechanism can be beneficial compared to other available methods as it promotes the participation of users and local communities by making its usage easier and its objectives more achievable. Since 2017, two plans for PES have been implemented in villages around the Kanibrazan Wetland and have resulted in: an agreement among local farmers, organizations and government to improve farming operations in order to reduce the consumption of water and chemical inputs with the aim of improving the quality and quantity

of water; regularized water sampling, thereby improving water quality; prevention of the burning of natural reed beds by livestock farmers and restoration of a portion of the reed beds by the local community; and implementation of initial steps towards a tourism plan for the area.

77. In **Japan**, wetland restoration projects are carried out under the guidance of the Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration, which has established several nature restoration committees across the country. The enhanced networking of committees and stakeholders that resulted from these initiatives have enhanced the conservation and restoration of local culture and resources, as well as the use of restoration sites for environmental education. These initiatives have also contributed to the restoration of wetland vegetation and aquatic environments. The country has also indicated a high level of coordination and exchange of information between several cross-sectoral agencies and actors such as the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and NGOs, particularly in promoting actions laid out in Ramsar Resolution X.31 on enhancing biodiversity in rice paddies as wetland systems.

78. In **Madagascar**, national guidelines for sustainable wetland management were implemented in collaboration with the fisheries and agriculture sectors and other partners working in rural development at Ramsar sites. The Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) was established and implemented in order to evaluate the management effectiveness at each of the Ramsar sites.

**The Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT)** was adopted in Ramsar Resolution XII.15. Ramsar Contracting Parties are invited to use this R-METT as a voluntary self-assessment tool for evaluating the management effectiveness of Ramsar sites and other wetlands. For more information, see [Resolution XII.15](#).

79. In **Malaysia**, a number of activities have been conducted within Ramsar sites, such as the gazettement of forest reserves, replanting of mangroves, water quality monitoring and the enhancement of environmental impact assessments, among others.

80. Since 2012, **Mexico** has developed a water management approach that recognizes the water needs of ecosystems as supporters of all other socio-economic activities. This recognition allows a portion of the surface water of 295 basins in the country, which represent 47% of the annual runoff water, to be decreed as a reserve in order to preserve the ecosystem functions of these basins and to ensure the availability of water for human consumption and economic activities for the next 50 years. In addition, the National Commission of Protected Areas (CONANP) and the tourism sector have developed strategies to promote sustainable tourism within protected wetlands, which can create opportunities for economic benefits to national and local economies, support for local livelihoods and support for wetland conservation.

81. In **Panama**, one method the country is promoting the integration of sustainable and wise use of wetlands is through several water treatment plants that have been established that use artificial wetlands to decontaminate wastewater. This artificial wetland technology does not generate sludge, toxic waste or odours and its installation and operation are low-cost, little maintenance with simple operation, ideal for rural areas and extreme weather conditions, can generate organic fertilizer and treated water high quality and can be adaptable structures with long useful life, all while improving water quality.

82. In **Senegal**, the government has taken a more direct approach to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands by implementing specific biodiversity management projects. These projects aim to implement Integrated Biodiversity Management in the Saloum and Senegal River Deltas by rehabilitating degraded sites and improving the management within protected areas and the management of wetlands and waterbirds. Another project aims to protect migrating birds of prey within the Djoudj National Park. In addition, the country has developed income-generating activities for the benefit of the populations living near conservation sites.

83. In order to spread awareness and increase implementation across sectors, the **Seychelles** have conducted several education and awareness campaigns surrounding World Wetlands Day, which have been adopted by private hotels, NGOs and community-based organizations.

84. World Wetlands Day has also celebrated in **Trinidad and Tobago** in order to spread awareness regarding the importance of wetland and swamp ecosystems. Under the Improving Forest and Protected Area Management project, activities to explore the wetlands and guided tours were held for photographers, artists and primary school students. The country has also undertaken extensive mangrove replanting initiatives in degraded areas to mitigate coastal erosion.

85. Under the National Plan for Integrated Coastal Zone Management, the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela** has identified 53 priority wetlands based on their potential for preservation, protection and recovery, among other variables; with 14 of these wetlands addressed together with associated coastal communities. The National Plan includes direct linkages between the objectives of the CBD and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands within a framework consisting of 10 Coastal Zone Management programmes in total, which, include the following goals and actions: diagnosis and monitoring of ecosystems, natural and sociocultural resources; conservation of natural and cultural spaces; spaces of public domain; sustainable management of natural and socio-cultural resources; infrastructure, equipment and sustainable urban spaces; research and documentation; vulnerable areas; recovery and sanitation of coastal areas; environmental education, citizen participation and training; and environmental guard.

*Activity (iv). Promoting wetlands and biodiversity, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, as solutions to pressing water-related management and development problems at global, regional, national and subnational scales*

*(a) Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

86. In **Denmark**, projects are being carried out under the EU LIFE programme in order to establish more natural habitats and support climate measures while addressing water-related management and development at the regional scale. One project in particular is the LIFE climate project which considers synergies between climate change adaptation and nature management, with climate change mitigation benefits. The project will focus on wetlands that retain water, nutrient salts and pollutants; wetlands that reduce flooding of low-lying towns and highly fertile soil; and controlled flooding of forest and low-lying areas that retain water in extreme weather situations.

87. In **Eswatini**, the country has promoted wetlands and biodiversity as solutions to pressing water-related management by establishing a national target under their Biodiversity Action Plan. By 2022, Target 6.1 aims to ensure sustainable utilization and conservation of aquatic resources (wetlands, rivers, etc.) through several indicative activities, including developing and implementing integrated watershed management programmes for all major river basins; establishing local fisheries management authorities; map the country's wetlands of importance as per the Ramsar Convention; collecting and collating data on the status of aquatic ecosystems; promoting sustainable aquaculture; and establishing ecological flow regimes for all riparian zones. The Action Plan also identifies baseline data, indicators and lead agencies and partners to meet the target.

88. As part of **Fiji's** effort to reduce major threats to inland waters, the country has reported in their NBSAP on their action plan to promote sustainable water management so that river basins, aquifers, flood plains and their associated vegetation can provide solutions to water-related management and development issues. The nationally recognized establishment of locally managed areas, protected areas and Ramsar sites aim to provide better water storage and flood regulation.

89. In **Ireland**, solutions to pressing water-related management are addressed through the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) under the country's national biodiversity target 4.3. Target 4.3 ensures

optimised benefits for biodiversity in flood risk management planning and drainage schemes by encouraging the use of catchment wide, non-structural flood relief management measures to minimise the impact of arterial drainage on biodiversity, particularly in wetlands. A catchment and flood risk approach to flood management has been taken instead of hard engineering approaches in order to restore the functioning of natural habitats and minimize the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

90. In **North Macedonia**, there is legislation that regulates issues concerning the management, protection and conservation of waters, shore land and wetlands. The goal of this Law on Waters to provide protection, conservation and permanent improvement of available water resources, improvement of the status of riverine land, aquatic ecosystems and water dependent ecosystems, protection and improvement of aquatic environment through rational and sustainable use of waters, as well as progressive reduction of harmful discharges and gradual elimination of emissions of dangerous matters and substances into waters.

*(b) Reports to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*

91. **Botswana** considers wetlands as natural water infrastructure integrated in water resource management and is reflected in the Okavango River Basin Transboundary Diagnostic Assessment, the Botswana National Water Master Plan 2006, the Okavango Delta Management Plan 2007 and the Botswana Integrated Water Resources management & Water Efficiency Plan 2013.

92. In **Canada**, wetlands are recognized as natural water infrastructure at the scale of river basins through existing legislation, policy and integrated watershed planning frameworks. For example, in Ontario, Conservation Authorities use a permitting process to regulate proposed development including the control of interference with natural storage areas such as wetlands for flood attenuation and for shoreline erosion prevention/mitigation. Canada and the United States are signatories to the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, whereas both countries recognize the importance of wetlands to the maintenance of the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the waters of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. In other provinces, independent watershed management groups designated by the provincial management authority assess watershed conditions and prepare management plans (e.g. Alberta's Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils, Quebec's Watershed Organizations and Saskatchewan's Watershed Advisory Committees). Provinces and Territories that treat wetlands as natural water infrastructure include British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic Canada.

93. **Estonia** has been implementing the Water Framework Directive and water management plans for river basin districts, established in 2009. In 2011, the methodology for integrating wetlands with the Water Framework Directive in Estonia was compiled by the order of the Ministry of Environment.

94. In **Jamaica**, a draft Water Sector Policy has been developed and is being refined based on consultations with stakeholders. The policy articulates watershed management as a major strategy (including for floodwater control) and will elaborate aspects related to wetland conservation and rehabilitation as a means of ensuring water management, availability and security.

95. In **Japan**, matters concerning wetlands, including rivers, are addressed in the topic of water resource management in river corridor improvement plans. Irrigation water around rice paddies is essential water infrastructure for neighbouring water-resource management, while also contributing to landscape formation and ecosystem conservation.

96. In **Lebanon**, all wetlands and Ramsar sites are considered as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basins when it is applicable, and especially recently through the application of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the National Water Sector Strategy, which is being reviewed.

97. In **Switzerland**, the Guiding Principles for Integrated Management of Water have been developed by the network of stakeholders in Swiss water management called Water Agenda 21, and are therefore

widely supported. They can provide the impetus for modern water management which covers both protection and user interests. The Guiding Principles serve as a policy framework for the water management stakeholders in cantons, regions and communes. Protection, conservation and restoration of the ecological, landscape and social functions of the water bodies is one of the main objectives.

(c) *Submissions to the Online Survey*

98. Questions 17 and 18 of the online survey asked Parties to report on how they have promoted wetlands and biodiversity through the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, as solutions to pressing water-related management and development problems at global, regional, national and subnational scales, and to elaborate on any challenges they may have experienced. Examples of submissions from Parties can be found below.

99. In **Albania**, the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their biodiversity are promoted through regular activities and several donors' projects. However, the country indicated the need to include protection of wetland areas in policies and institutions responsible for natural resources. Despite the country having an established environmental impact assessment process, the country also indicated the need to strengthen the role of local stakeholders and civil society organisations in decision making processes.

100. In the **Republic of Armenia**, identified challenges include minimizing illegal fishing during breeding seasons, illegal logging, poor conditions of irrigation systems that lead to water quantity loss and degradation of natural spawning areas in rivers, and the absence and/or depleted wastewater purification systems that lead to water pollution and a decrease in water quality and quantity.

101. **Australia** has promoted wetlands and biodiversity by allowing the Strategic Plans of the two Conventions to provide the framework for how water can be returned to the environment and to reintroduce some natural variability in river flows to reconnect rivers, floodplains and wetlands. Wetland conservation and identification of wetland benefits are comprehensively incorporated into planning processes for Australia's water resources and strategies for the sustainable use of those resources. The country's National Water Initiative commits the country to integrated water management to achieve a sustainable level of output from water systems using statutory water plans and entitlement systems. The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder manages a portfolio of water entitlements with annual allocations that are acquired through the Government's investment in water-saving infrastructure and strategic water purchasing throughout the irrigation districts. The country also identified challenges, as rivers, floodplains and wetland systems are under pressure, where the natural movement, distribution, and quality of water has been altered due to river regulation and infrastructure that was built to support growing communities and agricultural production. In addition to changing rainfall patterns and availability of water due to climate change, further constraints exist that reduce the ability to deliver water for the environment, such as low lying bridges, crossings or private land and river operating rules and practices. Regional governments for the country's five Basin states recognize the importance of close operational working relationships between the public and private water holders and water resource managers, and are working with communities to design and implement projects to address the constraints mentioned above.

102. **Brazil** has incorporated planning and implementation actions for pressing water-related management from the Strategic Plans for both Conventions, however these actions have not been implemented at all regional, national and local scales. The River Basin Plans for the Right Bank of the Amazon River and the Brazilian region of the Upper Paraguay Basin are examples of interrelated actions aimed at integrating the conservation of wetland ecosystems and water management within the scope of water resources management. The country's legislation that protects and promotes the sustainable use of wetlands and biodiversity also considers water resource management instruments, such as water efficiency plans, the National Water Security Plan, the National Coastal Management Policy and National Coastal Management Plan, and national plans of action for pollution control and management.

103. **Colombia** has developed actions for the conservation and wise use of wetlands in order to obtain and maintain ecological, economic and socio-cultural benefits, consistent with the guidance outlined in the Strategic Plans for both Conventions. These actions consider the recovery, rehabilitation and/or restoration of ecosystems and the promotion of their sustainable use and exploitation of the ecosystem services they provide, while involving the communities and other wetland stakeholders in these actions has made it possible to generate water governance processes, within the framework of the importance of this resource for the integral development of the communities. The country also identified two challenges in wetland management processes: (1) slow or ineffective inter-institutional coordination may lead to delays, generate distrust among communities and require high technical and economic efforts; and (2) it is challenging to incorporate commitments from the private and productive sectors to generate transformational change that allows for real changes in production and consumption patterns and avoids processes that affect the quality and quantity of water resources and the loss of biodiversity.

104. In **Ecuador**, many tools are used to manage wetlands and biodiversity at all levels. For example, Territorial Development Plans (TDP) allow the country to account for wetlands and biodiversity in new national environmental laws and in all territory-based initiatives. The country identified that one of the main challenges is in the unsustainable use of wetlands in activities such as natural resource management, agriculture and aquaculture, among others, as most human activities around wetlands are extraction-based.

105. **El Salvador** has promoted the restoration, conservation and management of biodiversity and key ecosystems through their National Biodiversity Strategy, National Plan for the Improvement of Wetlands and National Program for the Restoration of Ecosystems and Landscapes. The implementation of these strategies and programmes aid to reduce and control pollution by agrochemicals, solid waste, domestic and industrial discharges, and recover and maintain the permanent provision of critical ecosystem services for the territories, including the provision of water for different uses. In particular, under the National Plan for the Improvement of Wetlands, each Ramsar site has been characterized by updating the physical, chemical, biological and socio-environmental conditions, among others. One challenge identified within the country was the direct control of invasive species. Invasive species such as the Water Hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*) have detrimental impacts that affect water circulation, fishing, water evaporation, water quality, decrease the amount of dissolved oxygen and alter the diversity of native aquatic flora and fauna. Existing actions for the integrated control of the Water Hyacinth in Ramsar wetlands include the restoration of vegetation cover around wetlands and biological control, among other economic and agricultural alternatives.

106. The **Islamic Republic of Iran** identified several factors that have led to the drying of wetlands and extensive biodiversity loss, such as drought, climate change, unsustainable management of water resources in agricultural practices, transboundary flows of water resources, unsustainable approaches to infrastructure development and a public disengagement from issues relating to natural resource management due to increasing urbanization, among others.

107. **Madagascar** has promoted the implementation of wetlands and biodiversity under the Strategic Plans of both Conventions through integrating Ramsar sites into protected area conservation measures. However, several challenges to implementation were addressed by the country, such as the difficulty in integrating a multi-sectoral approach to protected area management, particularly for extractive sectors, reducing land clearing practices that lead to soil loss and silting around wetlands and sustainably using wetlands for agricultural purposes.

108. **Malaysia's** National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025 (NPBD) provides the direction and framework for the country to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and includes targets related to wetland protection and restoration. The Twelfth Malaysia Plan for the 2020 to 2025 period highlights the importance of ecosystems to provide nature-based solutions for flood and climate mitigation and adaptation efforts. The Plan also proposes to conduct more pilot initiatives to showcase the feasibility and benefits of nature-based solutions including mangrove replanting to protect coastal areas. The country faces several challenges in promoting wetlands and biodiversity, including a lack of financial mechanisms for Ramsar

sites to be adequately managed, a lack of designation of authority over Ramsar sites, limited capacity for effective monitoring and enforcement, land-use conflicts between wetland conservation and pressures from rapid development, increasing coastal erosion at Ramsar sites and a lack of mainstreaming of wetland conservation in multi-sectoral planning and development.

109. In **Mexico**, the Strategic Plans of both Conventions offer opportunities for collaboration between different agencies. For example, the National Wetlands Committee developed a mechanism to evaluate wetlands proposed to be designated for their international importance and includes relevant biodiversity-related information generated by the National System of Information on Biodiversity in order to monitor the progress on national biodiversity target 14. While these synergies exist, challenges also exist in establishing common goals due to irregular levels of enforcement between both Conventions. For example, there may be different levels of political commitment over time which can result in the lack of allocation of adequate funds, resources and capacity.

110. In **Panama**, the National Wetlands Committee informs the work for both Conventions on issues related to wetlands at the national level, while incorporating other entities and NGOs. Some challenges in promoting wetland and biodiversity through the two Conventions include: the lack of efficient coordination mechanisms between national agencies such, e.g. between the National Wetlands Committee and the National Water Council, resulting in duplication of efforts; the lack of financial resources to fund management plans for protected areas; and the lack of legal mechanisms to enforce environmental regulations and compensation for those affected by damages.

111. **Peru** has promoted wetlands and biodiversity through the implementation of the Strategic Plans of both Conventions and addresses water-related management through the development of a national wetland inventory, jointly with the National Water Authority. Some of the most important challenges identified by the country are to achieve multi-sectoral implementation and regional and local commitment for implementation, as well as the empowerment of local and community organizations to achieve results.

112. One major challenge identified by **Poland** that inhibits implementation at a large scale is the activities related to water resource and habitat protection, as they are still only implemented at local scales which does not contribute enough water storage across the landscape.

113. In **Senegal**, a collaborative management approach has been taken with neighbouring countries in order to protect and promote wetlands and biodiversity, in which the country has established transboundary biosphere reserves with the Gambia and Mauritania. Realizing the transboundary nature of water resources, transboundary management of resources was identified as a challenge for the country.

114. One challenge in promoting wetlands and biodiversity in **Thailand** results from the separation of responsible agencies, where the national authority responsible for wetlands prioritizes providing water resources and is less involved in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

115. Similarly, **Trinidad and Tobago** indicated a challenge in coordinating efforts and prioritizing activities, whereas it was noted that the Ministry of Planning and Development is no longer the focal point for the Convention on Wetlands and is now held responsible under the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.

116. In the **Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**, the Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands as tools to solve water-related management and development problems are being implemented mainly through the application of key regulations such as the Water Law and its Regulations, which establish the provisions governing integrated water management and the guidelines to be followed by the Venezuelan State for the conservation and rational use of all forms of water resources, including the watersheds that contain them. Above all, it is established in the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2000) that marine coasts are assets of the public

domain and that the State must guarantee that the population can develop in a protected environment free of pollution. Challenges addressed by the country include: permanent implementation of the Environmental Education, Citizen Participation and Training Programmes; the ability to get political actors interested and actively involved in the integrated management process; permanent recognition and appreciation of the importance of wetlands as water supply ecosystems and conservation and management processes; maintenance of intra- and inter-institutional coordination processes and integration of communities to address solutions to management and development problems related to wetlands and access to water; maintenance of technical and operational teams for the management of aquatic ecosystems; the generation and allocation of international, national and local financial resources for wetland, water and biodiversity management; and the processes of dissemination and recognition at national level of the scope of the Strategic Plans and Programmes of the different Conventions on biological diversity and wetlands.

*Activity (v). Promoting the synergistic implementation of both conventions – including the CBD programme of work on protected areas and the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance*

*(a) Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

117. In **Finland**, a national working group for wetlands was established in 2013 in order to enhance the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The working group aims to develop a complete list of Ramsar sites, update inventory data, enhance surveys of ecosystem services and enhance communication through the Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness (CEPA) Programme. Working groups such as this allow for a high level of synergistic implementation between both Conventions.

118. In **Hungary**, 29 sites have been designated as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. 71.5% of the country's wetlands are part of the Natura 2000 network, which based on its objectives under the Nature Conservation Directives and the Water Framework Directive, requires Hungary to maintain healthy water ecosystems and to create balance between water management and the protection and sustainable use of nature, as well as the utilization of natural resources, including wetlands.

**Natura 2000** is the largest coordinated network of protected areas in the world, stretching across 27 European Union countries, both on land and at sea. The network covers over 18% of the EU's land area and more than 8% of its marine territory. For more information and online tools such as the Natura 2000 Viewer, [click here](#).

119. In **Lao People's Democratic Republic**, several sites have been identified under the CBD programme of work on protected areas and the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, however the country has reported that opportunities exist in ensuring the synergistic implementation of both Conventions. At the national level, the management of wetlands is divided by two departments; whereas the Department of Water Resources takes responsibility for all wetlands that are not Ramsar sites, while the Department of Environmental Quality Promotion takes responsibility for the wetlands under Ramsar. The country has reported on this opportunity for effective coordination for nationwide wetland management and protection at the policy level, as well as the difficulty in developing a National Wetlands Strategy and a national policy that carries specific actions for wetland conservation.

120. In **Malawi**, the country designated its second Ramsar Wetland of International Importance in order to reduce pressure on the region's biodiversity. The wetland is one of the most productive ecosystems in the country and contributes to the livelihoods of thousands of households. However despite the designation as a Ramsar site, the wetland does not necessarily qualify as a protected area, thereby creating a vacuum in its management as a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). This, coupled with the absence of legislation on wetlands, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the wetland may be a challenge.

121. In **Myanmar**, the recognition of Ramsar sites promote wise-use principles in management in both policy and practice and is essential for the successful management of wetland ecosystems, which are under



pressure from significant human use. While Ramsar sites focus on the wise and sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, they do not necessarily provide strict protection. Despite this, the country reported that the designation and recognition of Ramsar sites can further support biodiversity conservation by building national pride and attracting international attention, which can raise new funding opportunities, offer training and capacity development opportunities and encourage tourism with economic benefits for local communities and service providers.

(b) *Reports to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands*

122. In **Brazil**, the national identification and prioritization of conservation units to be designated as Ramsar sites is provided by the recommendation of the National Wetlands Committee. The recommendations are based on biome representation criteria; the representation of inland aquatic ecoregions of inland waters and marine ecoregions; the biological importance of priority areas for conservation, sustainable use and sharing of the benefits of Brazilian biodiversity; the importance for bird conservation; the percentage of wet areas; and in its location on watersheds with fish species with restricted distribution.

123. In **Cambodia**, Ramsar sites are designated under the National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan 2017-2031. In the Protected Area Strategy, at least 4 new wetlands are proposed to become Ramsar sites by 2021.

124. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, Ramsar sites are designated based on the action plan, resulting from the national strategy on the integrated management of mangroves and other associated wetlands and on the action plan resulting from the strategy for the sustainable management of humid forests transboundary landscapes.

125. **Mexico** has prepared a guidance document for Ramsar site managers that includes guidance for the development and updating of Ramsar Information Sheets based on Annex 2 of Resolution XI.8, the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List, as well as a critical path for the designation of new Ramsar sites, in accordance with the management experiences of the 142 sites designated to date in Mexico. Also, the effective management of the sites has been promoted in the components of knowledge management, planning and adaptive management, regulation framework and strengthening of national cooperation.

126. In **Papua New Guinea**, the Policy on Protected Areas approved in 2014 provided a new approach on the establishment and declaration of various kinds of protected areas, including Ramsar sites. This has also been improved through the development of the new national Protected Areas Bill.

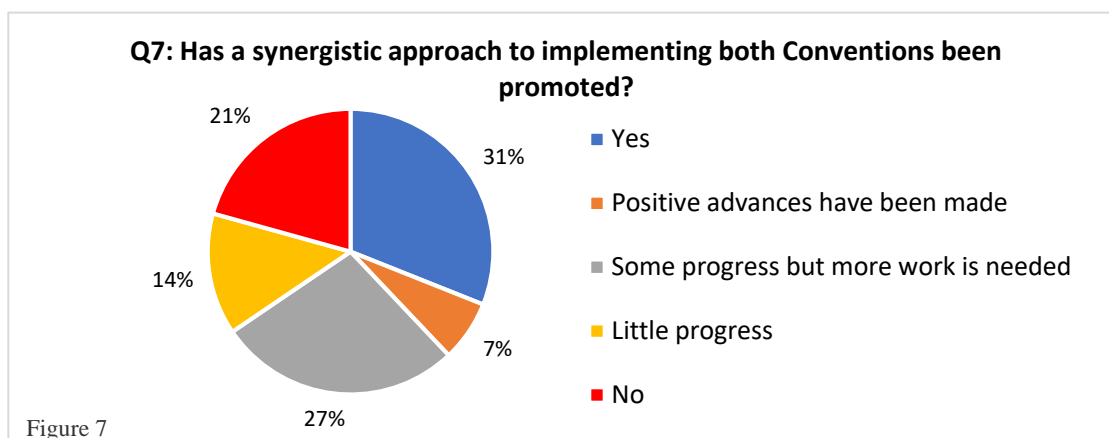
127. In **Spain**, a national methodology exists and is applied, agreed on by the Spanish Wetlands Committee, called the “Protocol for the Inclusion of Spanish Wetlands in the List of the Ramsar Convention” and includes a specific adapted technical Annex; which is based on the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List.

128. In **Ukraine**, the National strategy and priorities for further designation of Ramsar sites are based on the Strategy of Conservation of Ukraine’s Biological Diversity; the Concept on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Azov and the Black Seas and the State Programme on Environmental Protection and Rehabilitation of the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea; the State Programme of Ukraine’s National Environmental Network Development and the State Ecological Policy of Ukraine.

(c) *Submissions to the Online Survey*

129. Questions 7 and 8 of the online survey asked Parties to report whether they have promoted a synergistic approach to implementing both Conventions and to identify any challenges as well as any

lessons learned. The distribution of responses are shown in Figure 7, followed by examples of submissions from Parties.



130. Positive advances have been made in **Andorra**, such as the development of the Action Plan for Wetlands (PAZHA), an instrument for the development of their National Biodiversity Strategy which integrates the objectives of both Conventions.

131. **Armenia** reported little progress in the implementation of both Conventions and identified the following challenges: (1) poverty, leading to illegal fishing, poaching and logging, contributing to biodiversity loss; (2) existing poor conditions of irrigation systems, leading to water quantity loss and degradation of natural spawning areas in rivers; (3) poor water purification systems, resulting in water pollution and a decrease in water quality; and (4) challenges such as other conflicts and frequent changes in personnel.

132. **Brazil** reported some progress but that more work was needed to implement both Conventions synergistically. It was reported that dialog and accessible information increased the synergistic implementation between Conventions and was facilitated when the technical teams leading the national processes of each Convention work under the same national authority or Ministry. In Brazil, these teams have contributed jointly to the National Reports of CBD and Ramsar and have implemented projects that share benefits for the conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity and wetlands. Efforts have also been made to coordinate and integrate ecosystem mapping and wetland inventories. However, it was also reported that the technical teams that lead the national processes of each Convention have their own planning, targets and councils and are not necessarily integrated in terms of their mandates feeding into each other. The country also reported that planning, implementing and monitoring of both Conventions can be better implemented by closer and more supportive work between these technical teams, such as through joint projects that help achieve goals for both Conventions.

133. Countries such as **Colombia** work under several regional initiatives that contribute to the goals of both Conventions. For example, the Regional Coral and Mangrove Initiative allows for the exchange of experiences and lessons learned in order to strengthen the management and conservation of mangroves and corals at the regional level. Colombia also reported on GEF projects under the 'Focal Area' of biodiversity that also support the processes and actions and contribute to indicators related to Ramsar sites. Colombia also reported that project ownership by communities, which depends on long-term processes that require capacity building and especially confidence building, achieve more effective management of wetland planning processes.

134. **El Salvador** reported on their successful promotion a synergistic approach to implementing both Conventions throughout the period of the fifth joint work plan. Their nationally coordinated and synergistic approach has led to the improvement in the research/generation of knowledge and the protection, management and sustainable use of biodiversity in wetlands. Biodiversity investment and financing have

been concentrated to meet the needs and priorities established in both National Biodiversity and Wetlands Plans. Inventory and ecosystem characterization efforts were improved during this time period by establishing a national inventory of wetlands, identifying important bird and biodiversity areas (IBAs) and identifying critical priority zones for the Restoration and Protection within national Ramsar wetlands. Actions for the protection and conservation of wetland ecosystems were improved by promoting participatory planning and management and implementing the national plan for the improvement of wetlands, which includes updating operational plans and establishing channels and platforms for the participation of local communities and other relevant stakeholders in the conservation and management of wetlands. Additionally, further actions were taken to increase the number of Ramsar sites and to declare wetlands as natural protected areas. El Salvador also adopted a system for monitoring and improving the management and sustainable use of biological resources in wetlands with the development of Local Plans for Sustainable Use. These participatory management plans are a tool for local governance and self-regulation, aimed at promoting the sustainable use of natural resources within a territory with the active participation of local community and institutional actors. One challenge identified by El Salvador included the difficulty in adapting methodologies, approaches and forms of biodiversity management to a specific type of ecosystem (wetlands).

135. In **Finland**, a joint working group was established to implement MEAs at the international biodiversity level, however the country's NBSAP was created separately from the National Wetland Action Plan under the National Wetland Committee. As such, there was no systematic implementation of the fifth joint work plan. The country reported the existence of silos between water-related planning processes and national biodiversity planning processes as a challenge in implementing both Conventions. The country also reported that the concept of the 'ecosystem approach' was difficult to include in biodiversity processes as responsibilities belong to different administration and management personnel and institutions, while the concept of the 'wise use of wetlands' previously lacked support, therefore making it difficult to address management needs and cost implications. Recently, the country has approved the Helmi Programme that aims to strengthen biodiversity and safeguard ecosystem services through protecting and restoring mires, restoring aquatic bird habitats and wetlands, managing semi-natural grasslands, managing woodland habitats and restoring coastal and aquatic environments.

136. A synergistic approach to implementing both Conventions has also been promoted in the **Islamic Republic of Iran**. It was reported that the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 facilitated Iran's ability to find mechanisms and areas of cooperation between the Conventions since the Plan was developed to consider the synergies between the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Ramsar targets. Iran has now ratified the law and by-law for the conservation, restoration and management of wetlands under the National Wetlands Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, which allows for more of an ecosystem approach in integrated wetland management. Iran also identified the following lessons learned while implementing both Conventions: (1) participatory management is a key principle of the ecosystem approach which should be considered at different stages of establishing this approach; (2) sustainable livelihoods and the wise use of the benefits of wetlands can be very effective in protecting wetland biodiversity; (3) identifying the causes of the degradation of wetlands, especially from invasive alien species, is a key to success for keeping wetlands functional; (4) promoting sustainable agriculture is very effective in preserving the biodiversity of wetlands; and (5) establishing a wetlands Geo-portal database to share information is essential.

137. In **Japan**, a synergistic approach to implementing both Conventions has also been promoted by taking measures to ensure the ecosystem approach. Nature-restoration committees were established based on the Law for the Promotion of Nature Restoration. Various stakeholders including officials from relevant ministries and local governments participate in these committees, facilitating decision making among relevant stakeholders on wetland protection. The country reported that for the projects begun by these committees to be implemented smoothly, it is important to build a consensus among various stakeholders in order to achieve a balance between the restoration of nature and its use. It is also important to undertake adaptive management approaches to restoration projects so that they can be monitored, assessed and reflected in project operations accordingly.

138. In **Madagascar**, sustainable wetland management was included in the strategic goals within the national biodiversity strategy and action plan in order to reduce direct pressures on biodiversity and encourage sustainable use, to safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity and to strengthen the benefits derived from biodiversity and ecosystem services. Communities actively participate in the sustainable management and conservation of wetlands through reforestation of degraded mangroves, community control of aquaculture that is compliant with regulations that have led to an increase in fish stocks while reducing pressures.

139. In **Malaysia**, a National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025 (NPBD) was developed in response to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands. The national policy recognizes the framework for implementation of several MEAs and emphasizes the importance of cooperation between federal and state governments and other actors. This coherence between federal and state governments and non-state actors is one of the top lessons learned in order to ensure that conservation goals are met.

140. **Panama** has successfully implemented the two Conventions in a collaborative way, however reported challenges when decisions and approvals needed to administered by more than one authority, such as the integration of a National Water Safety Plan under the National Water Council as well as a National Wetlands Policy under the National Wetlands Committee.

141. In **Peru**, positive advances have been made to implement both Conventions. Peru did not report any challenges since the focal points for both Conventions work within the same Ministry, while capitalizing on the common approaches and principles between the CBD and Ramsar. The establishment and local management of Ramsar sites, together with the management of the country's Natural Protected Areas (NPAs), made it possible to reach around 20% of the national territory under some form of conservation and management, exceeding the national target of 17% and contributing to the Aichi Target 11. A more integrated approach at the local level was reported to add value to productive conservation that provides opportunities for sustainable development.

*Annex III***ONLINE SURVEY****Online Survey for the Review of the 5th CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2011-2020**

The 5th Joint Work Plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands was welcomed by the Conferences of the Parties to both Conventions in 2012, in Decision XI/6 and Resolution XI.6, respectively.

The goal of the Joint Work Plan between the two Conventions is “the conservation, sustainable and wise use of biodiversity especially in wetlands, helping to assure the full achievement of the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Mission and Targets of the Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plans 2009-2015”. The completion of the Joint Work Plan provides an opportunity to review its implementation towards its goal. It will identify lessons learned for continued collaboration and possible follow-up to the Joint Work Plan, in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. It would also contribute to the mid-term review of the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 of the Convention on Wetlands that is currently aligned to the Aichi targets and will be reviewed in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In this regard, we are pleased to invite Parties and request other Governments to complete an online survey to take stock of progress made and inform next steps.

The following online survey is organized in order for Parties to review the implementation of activities (i. – v.) as outlined in the 5th Joint Work Plan (JWP). In addition, please see the following documents for your reference:

- [5th Joint Work Plan 2011-2020](#)
- [CBD Decision XI/6](#)
- [Convention on Wetlands Resolution XI.6](#)

1. First name:
2. Last name:
3. Email address:
4. Government:
5. Position / title:
6. You are submitting this form as a National Focal Point for:
  - a) Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
  - b) Convention on Biological Diversity
  - c) Both Ramsar and CBD (jointly)
  - d) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
7. In the period of the JWP, has a synergistic approach to implementing both conventions been promoted?
  - a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Little progress
  - d) Some progress but more work is needed
  - e) Positive advances have been made

8. If yes or positive advances have been made, can you please provide more information on the following:
- Was the synergistic implementation challenging? Please elaborate (max 500 words)
  - What were the results achieved? Please elaborate (max 500 words)
  - What would you consider to be the top lessons learned? (please list up to 5 lessons in bullet points max 500/800 words)
9. In the JWP, one of the activities to ensure the wise use of wetlands as well as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity includes the use of the Ecosystem Approach\*. Has your country made use of the Ecosystem Approach in planning processes while taking into account the ecosystem goods and services provided by wetlands?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
- \*The term 'Ecosystem Approach' refers to the strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. It is based on the application of appropriate scientific methodologies focused on levels of biological organization which encompass the essential processes, functions and interactions among organisms and their environment. It recognizes that humans, with their cultural diversity, are an integral component of ecosystems.
10. If the answer is yes, at what level has the Ecosystem Approach\* been used?
- a) At national level
  - b) At regional level
  - c) At local level
  - d) Other: \_\_\_\_\_
11. Please provide one or two examples of this from the period of the JWP. (Please use no more than 300/500 words).
12. During the period of the JWP, has your country developed and implemented National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and National Wetland Policies in a consistent and mutually supportive way?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
  - c) Little progress
  - d) Some progress but more work is needed
  - e) Positive advances have been made
13. If yes or positive advances have been made, can you provide an example or more information on how this was done and what were the results? (Please use no more than 500/800 words and list the results in bullet points)
14. In the period of the JWP, has your country identified joint activities to promote the integration of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the wise use of wetlands into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
15. If yes, were these activities implemented?
- a) Yes
  - b) No
16. If yes, can you provide more information on the type of activities implemented and the results achieved? (Please use no more than 500/800 words and list the results in bullet points)

17. How has your country promoted wetlands and biodiversity through the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, as solutions to pressing water-related management and development problems at global, regional, national and subnational scales?
18. Please elaborate on the types of challenges addressed. (Please use no more than 500 words and in bullet points)
19. What would be your main recommendations for the follow-up of the Joint Work Plan in the context of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to enhance synergetic implementation of both Conventions regarding wetlands and biodiversity of inland and coastal wetlands?

*Annex IV*

**PARTICIPANTS FOR THE ONLINE SURVEY**

Albania	Japan
Andorra	Madagascar
Armenia	Malaysia
Australia	Mexico
Brazil	Oman
Colombia	Panama
Ecuador	Peru
Egypt	Poland
El Salvador	Senegal
Finland	Seychelles
France	Suriname
Greece	Thailand
Guyana	Trinidad and Tobago
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

---