

Resolution XIV.xx

Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

1. NOTING that Resolutions XIII.7 on Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other institutions, XII.7 on *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention* and XII.3 on Enhancing the languages of the Convention and its visibility and stature, and increasing synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions request and instructs the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with UN agencies, UNECE and other regional economic commissions of the UN, GEF, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), MEAs such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the biodiversity related conventions, in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation, respecting the mandate of each Convention and to report progress to the Standing Committee on a regular basis;
2. RECALLING that the Secretariat is also requested by Resolution XII.3 to continue its work with the Biodiversity Liaison Group to enhance coherence and cooperation and to continue efforts to improve efficiency and reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related Conventions;
3. NOTING **Decision XV.xx**¹ on Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
4. FURTHER NOTING the the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework adopted by the Convention of Biological Diversity at its 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
5. EMPHASIZE the importance of cooperation among all relevant conventions, organizations and initiatives to achieve the objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
6. RECALLING that Resolution XII.3 invites all Contracting Parties that are considering hosting a meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) to consider including a high-level

¹ The final decision number will be updated once the Decision on Cooperation is approved by the CBD's 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

ministerial segment during the meeting addressing clearly defined topics in support of the agenda of the COP;

7. NOTING that Resolution XI.1, on *Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat*, instructs the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties to increase the Convention's visibility and stature, including *inter alia* through enhancing high-level political engagement in its work at national, regional, and global levels, the enhancement of synergies with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other international entities including through regional initiatives, and the increased involvement in the initiatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
8. RECOGNIZING the previous work carried out on the matters of the legal status of the Secretariat and on the Observer Status of the Secretariat;
9. FURTHER NOTING that the work of the Working Group on the Observer Status of the Secretariat has brought forward new legal and financial information that warrants further discussions and deliberations;
10. FURTHER NOTING the endorsement by SC59 of the continuity of the discussions held by the Observer Status Working Group;
11. CONVINCED of the significant potential of increasing cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related Conventions to enhance coherent national-level implementation of each of the Conventions;
12. RECOGNIZING, in the context of the ongoing work on synergies, the importance of the linkages between the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan and the post 2020 global biodiversity framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and the Sustainable Development Goals, and related reporting and indicators;
13. NOTING the strategic guidance prepared for the eighth replenishment of the GEF by the governing bodies of the Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture for consideration by the CBD Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;
14. FURTHER NOTING the four-year outcome-oriented framework of programme priorities for the eighth replenishment period (July 2022 to June 2026) of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, aligned with the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework, contained in annex II of the **CBD Decision XV/**² ;
15. RECALLING the United Nations General Assembly document *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which stresses the importance of enhancing programmatic synergies among relevant biodiversity-related Conventions and recognizes the significant contributions to sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals made by the MEAs including the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands;
16. NOTING the relevance for the Convention to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG 6, "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all", and

² To be updated on the final decision the Conference of the Parties of the CBD at its fifteenth meeting.

Target 6.6, “By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes”, SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, and Target 14.2, “By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans” and SDG 15, “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, and Target 15.1, “By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements”;

17. RECALLING Resolution XIII.7 that notes the decision of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) at its 7th meeting to approve two reporting lines for Indicator 6.6.1, “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time” to the global SDG database hosted by the UN Statistics Division, such that UNEP will be responsible for the internationally comparable methodology with national data, regional and global aggregations and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands will contribute data from the National Reports based on Ramsar definitions and requirements; and FURTHER RECALLING that the Convention and UNEP, as co-custodians for SDG Indicator 6.6.1, will be responsible for their respective reporting lines and will jointly contribute to the SDG target 6.6 storyline;
18. NOTING the progress of the Contracting Parties on the preparation on National Wetlands Inventories and reporting data on Indicator 6.6.1 in their National Reports to the 14th Conference of the Contracting Parties;
19. RECALLING Resolution XIII.7 that INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working actively with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as well as with other relevant UN agencies, on water-related indicators, and in particular SDG Indicator 6.6.1 on extent of water related ecosystems;
20. NOTING that the Conference of the Contracting Parties thorough recommendations 4.1 and Resolutions VII.17, VIII.16, XII.11 has recognized the importance and benefits of wetland restoration;
21. FURTHER NOTING that Contracting Parties to the Convention have prioritized restoration of degraded wetlands in Target 12 of the Convention’s Strategic Plan, with priority given to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods, and climate change mitigation and adaptation;
22. RECALLING General Assembly Resolution 73/284, which proclaims 2021–2030 to be the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, with the primary aim being to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide; and
23. NOTING the United Nations Environment Assembly Resolution UNEP/EA.4/Res10 that REQUEST the Executive Director to continue to collaborate with UN Agencies and the MEAs as the Convention on Wetlands to foster innovative ways to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and the degradation of soil, land and ecosystems in an integrated manner;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Concerning visibility and stature, and increasing synergies

24. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee on progress in implementing this Resolution and Resolutions XIII.7 and XI.6 on *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*;
25. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the SC to create an Open-Ended Working Group with regionally balanced representation for the analysis on the international legal status of the Ramsar Secretariat to address the Secretariat's participation in international fora, visibility priorities and management.
26. The Open-Ended Working Group will be composed by, at a minimum, 2 regional representatives from each region, who will be tasked with reporting regularly on the progress of its work. All other contracting parties not designated as regional representatives may participate in equal conditions in the sessions of the OEWG.
27. The Working group on the international legal status of the Ramsar Secretariat will:
 - a. explore in depth the three options identified by the Observer Status Working Group related to the current legal status of the Ramsar Secretariat and its financial implications, so they can be presented to the Parties;
 - b. select at least one scenario to be presented at COP15 through a draft resolution, which addresses the Secretariat's legal status, participation in international fora and visibility priorities, difficulties in project management related to legal capacity and limited competitiveness in terms of recruitment of staff; while considering the implications on legal, procedural and financial matters; and
 - c. create draft resolution annexes that summarize previous efforts and map out a possible roadmap to reach the objective of the draft resolution.
28. REAFFIRMS the importance of enhancing cooperation and synergies in the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands and other multilateral environmental agreements, including biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions at the global, regional and national levels;
29. REQUESTS the Secretariat to report at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on the opportunities for the Convention to further strengthen its contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as they relate to wetlands;
30. INVITES the Secretariat, Contracting Parties, UN Agencies, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others stakeholders to work to raise the visibility of the Convention at the national, subnational, regional and international levels as appropriate;
31. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to continue to establish or strengthen, at the national level, mechanisms to enhance effective coordination between relevant national and subnational authorities, and to support the mainstreaming of wetland ecosystem functions and the ecosystem services they provide to people and nature in national development plans, other

sectors' strategies, plans and regulations, and especially in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in the National Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to increase the synergies in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, nature and especially wetland based solutions;

32. ENCOURAGES all Ramsar National Focal Points to continue to increase their efforts to coordinate with their national counterparts for other MEAs as well as with institutions and agencies working to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs;
33. FURTHER ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to continue strengthening coordination with all wetland practitioners including Ramsar Site managers, to inform them of Ramsar activities and be informed by them about processes and issues of common interest;
34. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to continue to develop and activate cooperation and networking mechanisms, including Ramsar National Wetlands Committees or similar bodies, to ensure collaboration with national ministries, departments and agencies;
35. INVITES Contracting Parties to enhance synergies and cooperation at the local and regional levels, including with respect to Wetland City accreditation and sites with multiple international designations (such as Wetlands of International Importance that are also Biosphere Reserves or World Heritage sites);
36. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to continue working with global and regional bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and other regional economic commissions of the UN, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to enhance the wise use of wetlands;
37. REQUESTS that Contracting Parties continue to implement the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19), including by establishing cooperative mechanisms for the management of shared wetlands and hydrological basins to enhance transboundary cooperation and establishment of transboundary Ramsar Sites⁴;
38. WELCOMES the UN Decade on Restoration and the Convention on Wetlands as Global Partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and REQUEST the Secretariat to continue working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, UNEP and the biodiversity-related conventions in the implementation of the Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
39. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to apply the Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration contained in Resolution VIII.16 in their National Wetlands Policies and plans and in undertaking national wetlands inventories applying the Convention toolkit for wetlands inventory to identify priority sites for restoration relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods, and climate change mitigation and adaptation and to report their progress on these matters in their triennial National Reports to the COP as contribution to the Convention Strategic Plan and the UN Decade on Restoration;
40. REQUESTS the Secretariat to assess the progress on wetlands restoration and report to COP15 and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat subject to the availability of resources to strength

Contracting Parties capacities in wetlands restoration through training opportunities and other means.

41. REAFFIRMS the invitation in Resolution XII.3 to Parties considering hosting a meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, to consider including a high-level ministerial segment during the meeting, addressing clearly defined topics in support of the agenda of the meeting;
42. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue the collaboration with the secretariats of other biodiversity-related Conventions through the Biodiversity Liaison Group and through the implementation of joint work plans and activities of common interest and further REQUESTS the Secretariat to provide inputs to the synergy process as appropriate and in particular on matters that are relevant to the Convention on Wetlands and to report to the Standing Committee on this result and on the results of existing cooperation with other Conventions, international organizations and partnerships and on the exploration of new activities with possible partners;
43. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with the World Bank and UN agencies, in particular UNEP, UNDP, FAO, WHO, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNECE and other regional economic commissions of the UN, GEF, MEAs such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the CBD, the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and others, and to report progress to the Standing Committee on a regular basis;
44. ENCOURAGES Parties to the Convention that are also Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification to consider, as appropriate, the relevance of their actions to implement the Convention on Wetlands taking into account the importance of safeguarding and restoring wetlands including in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, of their nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement³ and their national action programmes, respectively, and to also consider, where appropriate, **[nature-based solutions]** **[ecosystem-based approaches]** to adaptation, aiming to reduce human vulnerability to climate change;
45. WELCOMES the Secretariat's progress in the implementation of the memorandum of understanding with UNEP to enhance collaboration on areas of common interest; and REQUESTS that the Secretariat report to the Standing Committee on the progress of the activities concerned;

Implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework

46. URGES the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to take urgent action to enhance synergies, coherence and effective cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen the contribution of these instruments to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda;
47. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties that are also Parties to the CBD to actively contribute to the implementation of an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that ensures wetlands and the ecosystems services they provide are adequately covered and the role of the Convention on Wetlands for its implementation and monitoring strengthened;

48. FURTHER WELCOMES the Memorandum of Understanding and the 6th joint work plan between the Convention of Wetlands and the Convention on Biological Diversity to enhance the conservation, sustainable and wise use of biodiversity especially in wetlands, helping to ensure the full achievement of the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Mission and Targets of the Convention on Wetlands Strategic Plan 2016-2024;

Concerning Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals - indicator for wetland extent

49. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working actively with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), as well as with other relevant UN agencies, on water-related indicators, and in particular SDG Indicator 6.6.1 on extent of water related ecosystems and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to collaborate with UNEP as co-custodian of Indicator of Indicator 6.6.1 in line with Resolution XIII.7;
50. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen their efforts to complete their national wetland inventories and to report on wetland extent to report on SDG indicator 6.6.1; and FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue working with Contracting Parties to actively support these efforts;
51. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to strengthen their mechanisms to enhance effective coordination among national and subnational statistical authorities responsible for reporting on the SDGs and in particular those related to wetlands and extent of water related ecosystems (indicator 6.6.1);
52. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to participate as appropriate in relevant international efforts to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs, including the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and the discussion of SDGs 6, 14 and 15 and Targets 14.2 “By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts” and 15.1 “By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements” in international relevant and related events;
53. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support Contracting Parties as appropriate in mainstreaming and raising the relevance of wetlands and the Convention to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and to the work of MEAs and other international instruments, including *inter alia* through collaboration with UN Agencies, intergovernmental organizations, IOPs and other partners in the public and private sectors for the development of guidance and tools, capacity building and identification of opportunities to access resources;
54. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to elevate the importance of wetlands and the Convention to address the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs and to strengthen mainstreaming efforts at national and subnational levels;
55. INVITES the Contracting Parties that are also Parties to other MEAs to consider further measures to promote national level synergies so as to foster policy coherence, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance cooperation, coordination and synergies among MEAs and other partners as a means to enhance coherent national implementation of the Convention;

Concerning the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund

56. INVITES the Global Environmental Facility to continue to support projects in the Biodiversity Focal Area that mainstream wetlands and its biodiversity across sectors, landscapes – including inland waters – and seascapes; to address direct drivers to protect wetland habitats and species, including through protected areas systems such as the Wetlands of International Importance designated by Contracting Parties under the Convention on Wetlands; and to further develop biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks, including policy making and review, monitoring, spatial planning, incentives, and strategic establishment of protected areas, and protected areas management and restoration;
57. FURTHER INVITES the Global Environment Facility Trust fund under the International Waters Focal Area, to continue the support to projects and activities to sustain healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and to enhance regional and national cooperation on shared freshwater surface and groundwater basins and to continue to undertake further projects on Multifocal Areas Programmes on wetlands, which address the critical importance of wetlands for the multiple benefits these ecosystems deliver to nature and people, and cost effectiveness of investments that achieve biodiversity, water, climate and livelihoods objectives, while addressing systematic inclusion of gender equality, which Parties to the Convention are mainstreaming in accordance with Resolution XIII.18;
58. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties in the projects submitted to the GEF to enhance support towards the integration of wetlands in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and other national development plans, national budgets and priorities;

Concerning the relationship with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources and the work of the Secretariat

59. REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue the cooperation efforts with the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) through the IUCN/Ramsar Liaison Group to support the operations of the Secretariat under the Service Agreement between the Convention on Wetlands and IUCN;
60. CONFIRMS that the present Resolution and its annexes supersede those adopted as Resolution XIII.7, which is replaced by the present Resolution.