

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

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of the progress in implementing Resolution XIII.7 on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions*; and
- ii. take note of the document SC58 Doc.18 and provide guidance to the Secretariat on the plan to strengthen synergies with other MEAs and contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework according to Resolution XIII.7;
- iii. take note of the review of the fifth joint Work Plan 2011-2020 (document SC59 Doc.16.1) between the Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands and the Convention on Biological Diversity that informs the preparation of an updated joint work plan; and
- iv. review the annexed draft resolution on enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other MEAs and other international institutions, for consideration by the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Background

1. Resolution XIII.7 on *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* instructed the Secretariat to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress in implementing this Resolution and Resolution XI.6 on *Partnership and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*.
2. The Secretariat prepared document SC58-18¹ *Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions* with the progress in the implementation of Resolution XIII.7, however, this document was not addressed at the intersessional process of Standing Committee 58 in 2020.

¹ <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc58-doc18-enhancing-the-conventions-visibility-and-synergies-with-other-multilateral>

3. The Secretariat, Contracting Parties, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others are urged in paragraph 22 of Resolution XIII.7 to enhance synergies, coherence and effective cooperation among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to strengthen the contribution of these instruments to a post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the realization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
4. Paragraph 23 of Resolution XIII.7 requests the Secretariat to present at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC58) a plan to strengthen synergies with other MEAs and contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
5. Paragraph 35 of the Resolution instructs the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with UN agencies, in particular the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and other regional economic commissions of the UN, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), MEAs such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (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.
6. The Secretariat is instructed in paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Resolution to continue working actively with the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and Contracting Parties on the completion of national wetland inventories and wetland extent to report on SDG Indicator 6.6.1 “Change in the extent of water related ecosystems over time”.
7. Paragraph 41 of the Resolution 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 14 and 15 and SDG Targets 14.2 and 15.1 in international fora.
8. Accordingly, this report covers the main activities undertaken since SC58 in accordance with Resolutions XIII.7 and XI.6, and specifically the activities related to the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), and the progress made with SDGs, MEAs, UNEP and other institutions. It also provides in Annex 1 of Document SC58-18 the plan to strength synergies with other MEAs and contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for Standing Committee consideration.

Work under the Biodiversity Liaison Group

9. The Secretariat has continued to participate in the meetings and joint actions of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) according to the Group’s Plan for Joint Activities. The Secretariat participated in the virtual meetings of the BLG in April and December 2020. These meetings focused on sharing experiences on how BLG members are coping under the COVID-19 lockdown, including postponement of meetings and preparation for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework under the new timeline. Issues covered included: lessons learnt from virtual meetings, as well as new initiatives launched in response to the pandemic, inputs and perspectives of the eight biodiversity-related Conventions on the post-2020 framework,

including joint input to meetings of the Conventions and the preparation of the Bern II workshop. The BLG was also briefed by UNEP on the ongoing work under the UN Secretary-General's Chief Executives Board (CEB) High-level Committee on Policy (HLCP) towards a common approach of the UN system on biodiversity and nature-based solutions. The BLG also held conference calls with the co-chairs of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) to share views of BLG members regarding the importance and unique role of the biodiversity-related Conventions in relation to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process. Each Convention also provided more specific input as instructed by their governing bodies. The BLG in addition delivered a joint statement at the UN Biodiversity Summit.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

10. The Secretariat sent a notification in February 2021 to Contracting Parties, as well as STRP National Focal Points and IOPs, inviting them to participate in various IPBES processes including the review of summary for policymakers of the values assessment. The STRP Chair participated in the 16th Meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP) held virtually from 2 February to 2 March 2021 and presented the Convention's work related to IPBES assessment, in particular the Global Wetland Outlook (GWO).

Cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements

11. The Secretariat continues to collaborate actively with other MEAs, and has concentrated its efforts in accordance with paragraph 44 of Resolution XII.3 on cooperation and synergies with the biodiversity-related Conventions. More specific areas of cooperation are being implemented with these MEAs within the existing memoranda in particular with the CBD, the CMS, and the WHC as well as with the UNCCD.
12. In accordance with Paragraph 23 of Resolution XIII.7, a plan to strengthen synergies with other MEAs, and the Convention's contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, are presented in Annex 1 of document SC58-18 for the consideration and advice of the Standing Committee as mentioned above.

Convention on Biological Diversity

13. The Secretariat has continued to work to strengthen collaboration with the CBD, providing inputs to different processes mainly on the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In this regard, the Chair of the Standing Committee, the six Standing Committee representatives appointed by the Standing Committee for Bern II, the second MEA Bern consultation workshop on the post-2020, and the Secretariat participated in the online briefings in March and September 2020 and the virtual meeting held from 18 January to 2 February 2021. The Standing Committee representatives and the Secretary General highlighted the Convention's critical role in the implementation of the framework by leading and contributing to specific goals and targets within its mandates, in a similar manner to its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. In addition, the Secretariat provided inputs to the peer review of draft documents for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24) and participated in the informal sessions in preparation of SBSTTA 24 and SBI3 during 2020 and in February and March 2021.
14. The Secretary General delivered a joint statement of the BLG on 30 July at the webinar Conference "Building Back Better: protecting biodiversity, combating land degradation and mitigating climate change to reduce the risks of future pandemics, and the importance of a

coherent approach” jointly organized by Egypt and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

15. The Secretary General delivered a video record statement at the UN Biodiversity Summit on 30 September 2020 highlighting the importance of wetlands for nature-based solutions to address the current threats to biodiversity loss and the relevance to use existing instruments more effectively and enhance cooperation among them, including the biodiversity-related Conventions such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands that is working for the conservation of freshwater, marine and coastal ecosystems.
16. The Secretariat has continued the discussions with the CBD Secretariat on the renewal of the Joint Work Plan. As part of the review of the fifth joint work plan 2011-2020, a joint Notification of both Secretariats was sent on 2 November 2020 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 review prepared by the Secretariats of the two conventions provides an overview of progress in its implementation, identifies lessons learned and informs the preparation of an updated joint work plan for consideration of the Standing Committee. The review is published as document SC59 Doc.16.1².

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals – Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

17. The Secretariat participated in the 16th Technical Committee meeting of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) from 15 to 29 January 2021 hosted virtually by the Czech Republic. The Committee reviewed and approved a revised delineation of biogeographic populations of the common eider, the conservation status report (8th edition) and amendments to the Agreement and its Annexes. It also approved the AEWA international species Action Plans and management plans, the draft monitoring framework for the AEWA flyway site network, the draft monitoring priorities for waterbird species and populations of AEWA and the draft waterbird monitoring synergies with other frameworks.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

18. The Secretary General participated in CITES World Wildlife Day on 3 March 2020, under the theme: “Sustaining All Life on Earth”. The Secretary General highlighted that the conservation and wise use of wetlands can support both wildlife and the livelihoods of people, importantly local communities, and that healthy and diverse wildlife depends on wetlands. She also stressed that greater action for the conservation and wise use of wetlands is foundational to ensuring healthy and diverse wildlife populations that will benefit humankind.

Convention Concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage

19. Regular interactions with the World Heritage Centre continued, mainly through the mutual exchange of updated information on new designations of shared Wetlands of International Importance and World Heritage properties. In February 2020 the Secretariat carried out a joint advisory mission with UNESCO to Doñana Ramsar Site.

² <https://www.ramsar.org/document/sc59-doc161-review-of-the-fifth-joint-work-plan-between-the-convention-on-biological>

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

20. The Secretariat continues to focus efforts with the UNFCCC on processes to promote the relationship between climate change and wetlands in the context of mitigation and adaptation measures. In this regard, the Secretariat continued collaborating with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to identify and support countries where nature-based solutions, and wetlands in particular, can be included in Nationally Determined Contributions. In addition, the Secretariat and UNDP organized in December 2020 the webinar “Wetlands as Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)” to enhance the knowledge of wetlands for climate change and to create linkages and synergies between the Convention on Wetlands’ National Focal Points and the NDCs process.
21. The Secretary General participated in the Race to Zero Water Day on 20 November 2020 “Vision of a zero-carbon, resilient future through water” organized by SIWI and partners organizations. Water Day was opened by the United Nations High-Level Champions on Climate Change, from Chile and from the United Kingdom, who emphasized the crucial role of water for climate action. The Secretary General highlighted the largely untapped potential of water-related ecosystems which could achieve one third of the emissions reductions needed to achieve two degrees Celsius. She added that wetlands will also be increasingly important to protect us from the impacts of climate change since they reduce the risks of droughts and floods while also cleaning and recharging water.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

22. The Secretariat will continue exploring with the UNCCD Secretariat mechanisms to strengthen collaboration in key priority areas, as mentioned in Annex 1 of SC58-18.

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

23. The Secretariat participated in the Task Force on Water and Climate of the UNECE Water Convention from 30 September to 2 October 2020, highlighting the importance of wetlands as an effective tool for the delivery of Nationally Determined Contributions to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement, with a specific focus on long-term carbon storage in wetlands and the potential of wetland restoration to reduce GHG emissions.

Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)

24. The Secretary General of the Convention on Wetlands and the Secretary *pro tempore* of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles signed on 6 November 2020 the renewal of their Memorandum of Understanding, to continue the collaborative work to protect sea turtle species and their habitats such as wetlands on which they depend and are crucial for their development and survival.

Carpathian Convention

25. The Secretariat participated in COP6 on 25 November 2020 and provided a statement of support to the Carpathian Wetland Ramsar Regional Initiative for their submission of their project proposal to the European Climate Initiative on wetlands as nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation.

Sustainable Development Goals

26. In accordance with Decision SC53-17 and Resolution XIII.7, the Secretariat continues its engagement in ongoing work on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including in the meetings of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs).
27. In this context, the Secretariat participated in the eleventh meeting of the IAEG-SDGs, which took place virtually from 3 to 5 November 2020. At the eleventh meeting, the main outcomes were: i) review of the tier classification of indicators and update on missing data submissions ii) review the refinement proposals of the global SDG framework and iii) discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and SDG indicators implementation. The IAEG also discussed its work plan from November 2020 to February 2022 focusing on the implementation of the indicator framework, including integration of geospatial information and statistics; share experiences and best practices on monitoring the SDGs among others. With the data provided by Contracting Parties on their National Reports to COP14 on Indicator 6.6.1, the Secretariat prepared a joint storyline with UNEP for the UN Secretary General Report on SDGs for the High Level Political Forum in July 2021. A detail description of the progress on the Convention Acceleration Action on SDGs “Wetland inventories to support Contracting Parties to achieve Indicator 6.6.1” under SDG 6 “Water and Sanitation” is described in documents SC58-9 and SC59-9 and on the Acceleration Actions page of the SDGs Knowledge Platform³.
28. Regarding the achievement of SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”, the Secretary General participated in the virtual High-Level Dialogue Source-to-Sea on 22 April 2020, organized by the Government of the Netherlands, the Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Management and the UN Secretary General’s Special Envoy for the Ocean, H.E. Peter Thomson. She highlighted the importance of restoration of mangroves as carbon sinks and the importance of using all the existing mechanisms to achieve Goal 14.
29. At the invitation of the Ministers of State and Foreign Affairs and of Maritime Affairs of Portugal as co-organizers with Kenya of the UN Ocean Conference, the Secretary General delivered a video statement on 6 June 2020 on Dialogue 3 “managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems” for the Interactive Dialogues to maintain the momentum of the UN Ocean Conference.
30. As part of the high-level week of the UN General Assembly and the UN Summit on Biodiversity, the Secretary General participated in the round table “Build Back Bluer of ocean champions” on 30 September 2020 convened by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Fiji, Kenya, Norway, Palau, Portugal, and Sweden as co-hosts of the recent and incoming hosts of the world’s three largest ocean conference series: the UN Ocean conference, Our Ocean, and the World Ocean Summit. The event aimed to build momentum toward ambitious near-term outcomes for ocean health, notably a new global target of conserving 30% of the oceans by 2030.
31. The Secretary General is co-focal point with IUCN of the Community of Ocean Action on Mangroves. The Secretary General participated in the “Keeping the Momentum for Ocean Action” Webinar series for 2021 “Implementing SDG 14 with the Communities of Ocean Action” on 30th March 2021 organized by UN DESA. She called for scaled-up efforts to stop the loss and restore mangroves to achieve SDG14, the Paris Agreement and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgactions>

Actions to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme and other international institutions

32. As noted in previous reports to the Standing Committee, the Secretariat is continuing to work to strengthen collaboration with the United Nations agencies and other international institutions.

Environment Management Group

33. The Secretariat continues its engagement in ongoing work of the Environment Management Group. The Secretary General participated in the 26th Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) held virtually on 28 October 2020, which decided to extend the Consultative Process on Biodiversity in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Secretary General expressed support for the Global Biodiversity Agenda and stated that the EMG has significant value in building a common narrative for “Building Back Better” with an environmental focus. The Secretariat also contributed to the preparation of the report of the task force on marine litter and micro-plastics.

Collaboration with UNEP

34. The Secretariat and UNEP have been developing cooperative activities to promote synergies and improve the implementation of the Convention and actions are underway to renew the Memorandum of Understanding.
35. The Secretary General delivered a video recorded message to the Leadership Dialogue “Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world” at the fifth session of the 2021 United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) on 22 February 2021. She emphasized the main role of the Convention in addressing habitat lost through the protection and restoration of wetlands and their relevance for a successful green post-COVID recovery.
36. The Convention on Wetlands as co-custodian with UNEP of SDG Indicator 6.6.1 “Change in the extent of water related ecosystems over time” prepared a joint storyline with UNEP for the UN Secretary General Report on SDGs for the High Level Political Forum in July 2021. Efforts will continue to promote more collaboration in the preparation of joint reports.
37. The Secretariat continued to participate in the synergies project “Realizing Synergies for Biodiversity” led by UNEP and with the participation of the other biodiversity-related Conventions. The project consists of five outputs, which respond to UNEA Resolution 2/17. It is designed to support countries in implementing environmental treaties and improve international environmental governance in order to achieve the SDGs.
38. The Secretariat continued to contribute to the InforMEA initiative and participated in the 11th meeting of the InforMEA Steering Committee that took place virtually on 26 November 2020. Among other inputs, the Secretariat acted as the co-chair of the technical group and, after liaising with different MEAs regarding the implementation of the application programming interface which enables selected content to be exposed on the InforMEA website, presented the group’s recommendations during the meeting.
39. The Secretariat participated actively in 2020 in the development of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and in the task force of the aquatic and transitional ecosystems’

monitoring and evaluation framework. These engagements informed the consideration of Sustainable Development Goal 6 indicator 6.6.1 “change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time” for which the Convention is co-custodian and various targets of the Convention’s 4th Strategic Plan as priority indicators of the UN Decade’s Monitoring Framework. In February 2021, the Secretariat was appointed as Global Partner of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

40. The Secretariat, as part of the Global Peatlands Initiative, provided support to the preparation of its main project funded by the German Climate Initiative (IKI) which started in full with a focus on global peatland mapping and country programmes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Republic of the Congo, Indonesia and Peru.

Collaboration with International Organizations Partners

41. The Secretariat continues to engage with the IOPs to support implementation of the Convention. Again, IOPs were important partners in raising awareness for wetlands on World Wetlands Day through utilizing the Convention’s communications resources and hosting events and activities with their networks and constituents. Additional noteworthy activities during this reporting period include the production by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT) of a wetlands-themed video for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) in the United Kingdom and hosting of the Blue Recovery Plan event calling for the creation of 100,000 hectares of wetlands across the United Kingdom to help tackle today’s climate, nature and wellbeing emergencies, and to build back better after COVID-19. The Secretariat in partnership with WWF and Danone has created an online learning module titled “Sustainable use and management of wetlands: How to facilitate public and private sector engagement to assist both the public and private sectors in developing and implementing better water resource management plans”. IUCN has been collaborating with the Secretariat and IOPs to take collective action in increasing the visibility and inclusion of wetlands in the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.

Collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature

42. As previously reported the Secretariat continues to collaborate closely with IUCN through the annual meetings of the IUCN/Secretariat Liaison Group, to support the operations of the Secretariat under the service agreement between the Convention and IUCN. Regular meetings and alignment of processes and policies continue in the different areas under the service agreement, such as finance and accounting, information technology, facility management and human resources.

European Commission

43. The Secretariat participated in the European Commission Green Week in October 2020 to promote wetlands as natural solutions as part of the new EU Biodiversity Strategy and the EU New Green Deal.

Collaboration with the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC)

44. The Secretariat engaged actively with the IPBC, contributing to the review of its strategic plan, activity plan for 2021 and needs assessment survey in line with Resolution XIII.14 on *Promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue-carbon ecosystems* and the task of the STRP on blue carbon.

Annex 1

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**⁴ 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 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

⁴ 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.

the increased involvement in the initiatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);

8. 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;
9. 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;
10. 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;
11. 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/**⁵ ;
12. 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;
13. 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 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”;
14. 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

⁵ To be updated on the final decision the Conference of the Parties of the CBD at its fifteenth meeting.

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;

15. 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;
16. 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;
17. 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;
18. 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;
19. 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
20. 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

21. 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*;
22. 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;
23. 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;

24. 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;
25. 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;
26. 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;
27. 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;
28. 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;
29. 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);
30. 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;
31. 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;
32. 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
33. 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;

34. 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 strengthen Contracting Parties capacities in wetlands restoration through training opportunities and other means.
35. 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;
36. 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;
37. 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;
38. 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 Agreement⁶ and their national action programmes, respectively, and to also consider, where appropriate, ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, aiming to reduce human vulnerability to climate change;
39. 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

40. 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;

41. 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;
42. 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

43. INSTRUCES 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;
44. 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;
45. 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);
46. INSTRUCES 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;
47. FURTHER INSTRUCES 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;
48. 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;

49. 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

50. 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;
51. 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;
52. 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

53. 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;
54. CONFIRMS that the present Resolution and its annexes supersede those adopted as Resolution XIII.7, which is replaced by the present Resolution.