

THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
59th meeting of the Standing Committee  
Gland, Switzerland, 21-25 June 2021

SC59 Doc.24.2

**Draft Resolution on review of the Ramsar criteria, and delisting of Ramsar Sites located in territories which are not recognized at the UN level as part of the territory of the submitting country**

*Submitted by Algeria*

*Secretariat cover note:*

The DR refers to Recommendation 4.2 and Resolutions V.3, VI.2, VI.13 and VII.12. Reference may also be made to more recent Resolutions IX.22, X.15 and notably Resolution XI.8 and its annexes providing the details of the Ramsar Information Sheet that is currently in use as part of the online Ramsar Sites Information Service, and the most up-to-date version of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List. The DR does not address matters of a scientific or technical nature requiring review by the STRP.

The DR relates to information presented in Document SC59 Doc.23.

**Draft Resolution on review of the Ramsar criteria, and delisting of Ramsar Sites located in territories which are not recognized at the UN level as part of the territory of the submitting country**

1. RECALLING Article 2.1 which states: *“Each Contracting Party shall designate appropriate wetlands within its territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance”* and that *“the boundaries of each wetland shall be precisely described and also delimited on a map”*;
2. ALSO RECALLING that the Contracting Parties, in Resolution 5.3, confirmed that a “Ramsar Information Sheet” and a map of the Site should be provided at the time of designation of a wetland (Ramsar Site) to the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and reaffirmed this in Resolutions VI.13, VI.16 and VII.12;
3. NOTING that the 4th meeting adopted *“Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance”* in Recommendation 4.2;
4. AWARE that Resolution VI.2 of the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties adopts further specific criteria for the identification of Wetlands of International Importance, taking into account fish, and further includes in its annex specific guidelines for the application of these criteria;
5. NOTING Action 6.3.1 of the Strategic Plan, which calls for the criteria to be continually reviewed *“to ensure that they reflect global wetland conservation priorities and values”*;
6. ALSO CONSIDERING that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) has referred to the need for an evaluation of the existing Criteria, even though Recommendation 4.2 calls for the avoidance of further changes to the Criteria as far as possible, in order to facilitate the establishment of a clearly defined basis for the uniform application of the Convention;
7. CONCERNED that the Criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance have so far been of an ecological nature only; and
8. ALSO CONCERNED that some wetlands designated to the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar List) do not form part of the territory of the designating country;

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9. RECOMMENDS that sites proposed for inclusion in the Ramsar List should be genuinely recognized at the UN level as part of the territory of the submitting country;
10. REQUESTS that the STRP review the Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type with a view to including additional aspects and, to facilitate the process, consider creating a section in the Ramsar Information Sheet;
11. REQUESTS that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, in consultation with experts and competent partner organizations and with the assistance of the Ramsar Secretariat, review the existing Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance and guidelines, in the light of including criteria other than those based on environmental aspects;
12. REQUESTS that the results of this review be submitted to the Standing Committee for approval; and

13. FURTHER REQUESTS that the Ramsar Secretariat proceed with the removal from the Ramsar List of Sites located in territories not recognized at the UN level as part of the territory of the submitting country.