CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

25th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

Gland, Switzerland, 2 to 5 May 2023

**STRP25 Doc.6 Rev.1**

**Draft STRP workplan 2023-2025**

This document contains the draft STRP Work Plan for the 2023-2025 triennium, which has been prepared based on Resolution XIV.14, taking into account the five Thematic Work Areas (TWAs) approved by Contracting Parties at the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP14) (Annex 2, Resolution XIV.14), the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan2016-2024 (Resolution XII.2), and requests by Contracting Parties in COP14 Resolutions.

The draft work plan (Annex 1) has been developed based on the high priority tasks, which were adopted in Resolution XIV.14. Medium and low priority tasks, contained in the report of the STRP Chair to COP14 (Ramsar COP14 Doc.12) have been included in Annex 2, while requests in COP14 Resolutions are included under each TWA and in Annex 3. This document will serve as a template for the development of a final work plan during STRP25.

Note that in addition to the specific tasks outlined under the TWAs in Annex 1, additional calls for ad-hoc functions requested by Contracting Parties have been included after the TWAs.

**Annex 1**

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| **Themati Work Area:** | **1. Wetlands of International Importance, development of the Site network and application of criteria.** |

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| **Thematic Work Area lead(s):** | Lammert Hilarides |
| **Contributing STRP members:** | Brett Sandercock, Hugh Robertson, David Stroud, Stephen Grady, Matthew Simpson, Rodolfo Iturraspe, Megan Eldred, Sonam Choden, Sheila Ashong |
| **Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/other participants]** | Wetlands International, BirdLife, AEWA, IUCN (SSC), |

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| Task | Contri. | Res. | Strat. Plan goal & target | Description | Prio. | Process and outcomes | Output | Audience | Costs CHF | Communication Element |
| 1.1 Further guidance on application of criteria for designating Wetlands of International Importance | *Task lead*:  David Stroud  *Co-task lead*:  *Contri*.:  .: someone from IUCN,  Lammert H, Stephen Grady | Res. XIV.14, Annex 2 | Goal 4, Target 14 | *Task 1.1 (a):*  Further guidance on application of Ramsar Criteria 9 for the designation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites), including advice on sources of technical information and their use, and identification of information gaps that limit the nomination of Sites. | High | Prepare discussion paper giving background and existing guidance and explaining constraints to criterion application, as well as identifying relevant actors, needs, and opportunities.  Proposed update to the handbook  Proposed update Strategic Framework (mandate needed via draft resolution COP15)  Develop and implement engagement plan with key actors (including especially IUCN/SSC SGs, CITES, GBIF, in relation to sources of population estimates including Action Plans and Red List assessment data.  Assess financial implications for future update mechanisms.  Update the existing 1% estimates from 2006  Identify additional/potential data-sources  Include in ToR for consultant a mechanism for future updates | Discussion paper  (annex to chair’s report to SC)  (for SC63) | Contracting Parties (AA’s, compilers), IOPs, other MEAs (CMS, CITES,) | 0 | Online training module for AA’s, compilers |
| *Task lead*: Ward Hagemeijer (WI)  *Co-task lead*:  *Contri*.:  .:  WI, BL (Ian, Vicky?)AEWA, EAAFP, Brett S. CP AUS? | Res. XIV.18, Para. 15 | TBC | *Task 1.1 (b):*  Guidance to facilitate appropriate application of Criterion 6, | Highest (1) | Provision of scientific and technical advice in relation to global waterbird population estimates (WPE) in relation to application of Ramsar Criterion 6.  Prepare guidance, with relevant international actors, on dealing with identified gaps in waterbird population data.  Engagement with relevant IOPs, Flyway Initiatives, CITES | Discussion paper with recommendations for SC63  (supporting 1.1c) | Contracting Parties (AA’s, compilers), Secretariat, Standing Committee IOPs (Wetlands International), other MEAs (Flyway Initiatives CITES) | 0 | Online training module for AA’s, compilers |
| *Task lead*: Ward Hagemeijer  *Co-task lead*: Lammert H  *Contri*.: Hugh R, BL (Ian, Vicky), Brett S, AEWA  potential contrbis:  Cornell, WHSRN, EAAFP, etc.), Stephen Grady | Res. XIV.18, Para. 16, 17 | TBC | *Task 1.1 (c):*  Technical proposal to enable the resourcing and implementing of future timely and comprehensive Waterbird Population Estimates updates  including technical support to CPs in closing identified gaps in waterbird population data and outlining opportunities for capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation, and exchange. | Highest (2) | Formulate in a “layered proposal” providing several options  Proposal + translations ready by SC63  Strengthen the synergies between the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the various waterbird-related flyway initiatives in relation to obtaining the most up to date waterbird population estimates.  Institutionalise resourcing and a partnership amongst the organisations leading relevant (regional or species-group specific) population status assessments.  Opportunities and priorities for capacity building, technical and scientific co-operation and exchange.  Reduce the costs of producing the WPE | Technical proposal for SC63 | COP/Contracting Parties (AA’s), IOPs (Wetlands International, IUCN, BirdLife, CMS subagreements), | 5,000  (allocated by COP) |  |
| 1.2 Global assessment of gaps in the network of Wetlands of International Importance, and synergies with global climate and biodiversity goals | *Task lead*:  *Co-task lead*:  *Contri*.:  Matthew S, Rodolfo, Meghan, Sonam, Sheila  IUCN  possibly WCMC | Res. XII.5, Annex 1  Res. XIV.14, Annex 2  Res. XIV.6, Para. 38 | Goal 4, Target 14 | Global assessment to identify under-represented ecosystem types and the constituent species and habitats across biogeographic regions (including transboundary wetlands), drawing on site details in the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) and other relevant sources. | High | Output should provide recommendations for site designation/prioritisation for wetland types and regions  Determine the assessment approach (typologies, regionalisation)  Undertake analysis of RSIS data on wetland representation of different types in different bioregions within the Ramsar Sites network. Revisit draft RTR from 2010 by Lisa R, Max F.  Bring in KBA/IBA data, shadow lists  Follow a case study approach (IBA shadow list, peatland, mangrove, using NWI for site designation, transboundary)  Assess whether guidance on under-represented wetland types will need to be updated.  Identify synergies, e.g., in terms of how addressing gaps in the network of can contribute towards meeting global biodiversity, SDG (6.6.1) and climate goals | Briefing note  Data may contribute to GWO (pending decision on 5.3b)  Align with Task 2.1 | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | Supported by a consultancy/consortium  25,000 |  |

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| **Thematic Work Area:** | **2. Tools for wetland assessment, mapping and monitoring, and development of inventories.** |

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| **Thematic Work Area lead(s):** | Laurent Durieux |
| **Contributing STRP members:** | Nick Davidson |
| **Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/other participants]** | TBC IUCN |

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| Task | Contri. | Res. | Strat. Plan goal & target | Description | Prio. | Process and outcomes | Output | Audience | Costs CHF |
| 2.1 Wetland mapping and inventories to catalyse greater use of available methodologies for wetland carbon assessments | *Task lead*: Stephan Glatzel  *Co-task lead*:  Esteban Suarez  *Contri*.:  Suelma Silva, Esteban Suarez , Ake Rosenqvist, Line Rochefort, Virni Arifanti, Geoff Hilton, Stephen Grady, Lei Guangchun, Örjan Berglund, laurent durieux, Hans Joosten |  | Goal 3, Target 8 | Guidance to support further development and use of National Wetland Inventories (NWIs) in national greenhouse gas (GHG) accounts, and the inclusion of wetlands actions in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). | High | 2.1.a   * Methodological guidance to produce carbon GHG assessments from NWIs for the different wetland types including:   + Identification of activity data and emission factors for different wetland types and function of different land use   + Definition of specific NWIs items for GHG assessments   + List of data sources, tools and groups that provides the needed products for wetlands GHG assessment   + Technical opportunities and limitations of using NWIS for GHG assessment * Relevant case studies of countries using NWIs for NDCs. Derived information and lessons learned from case studies on national application of methodologies of use of NWIs for wetland carbon assessment in NDC context. * Pursued in liaison or cooperation with IPCC to scope an updated wetlands supplement guidelines for national GHG inventories (based on the 2013 supplement) including production of new emissions factors.   2.1.b   * Wetland mapping and NWIs as tools in enabling and supporting carbon assessment : opportunities and limitations | Technical report (priority 1)  Policy Brief (priority 2) | Contracting Parties, IOPs, MEAs : UNFCCC, UNCCD | 22,600  0,0  2,960 |
| 2.2 Prepare guidance on inventories and monitoring of small wetlands, and their multiple values for biodiversity conservation, especially in the contexts of landscape management and climate change | *Task lead*: Suelma Ribeiro Silva  *Co-task lead*:  Cai Lu  *Contri*.: Sonam Choden, Suelma Silva, Esteban Suarez, Lammert Hilarides, Virni Arifanti, Stephan Glatzel, Line Rochefort,  Stephen Grady, Sheila Ashong, Chaturangi Wickramaratne, laurent durieux  D U (tbc) | Res. XIII.21, Para. 23  Res. XI.8, Para. 2ii  Res. XIV.15, Para. 19  Res. XIV.14., Annex 2 | Goal 3, Targets 8, 11 | Guidance to support improved identification, mapping, monitoring and assessment, and management of small wetlands. | High | Guidance to encompass:  2.2.a Policy brief   * Awareness of the importance of small wetlands for multiple issues : biodiversity conservation (in particular amphibians and threatened species), support wetland habitats connectivity and limit habitat fragmentation, and maintaining river base flows. * Awareness of their fragility and how they are highly impacted by climate change.   2.2.b Technical report   * Information on the extent of small wetlands (conceptual clarification), and implications for estimates of wetland area/extent, loss estimates, contribution to meeting relevant international targets (e.g. protected areas); * Guidance to encompass inventory of small wetlands;   + Synthesis of best available and innovative tools for mapping and monitoring, including Earth observation and citizen science. Identification of local areas where complex of small wetlands can be encountered for inclusion in NWIs. * Importance of small wetlands :   + as habitat for critically endangered species and biodiversity in general;   + as endangered ecosystems;   + for connectivity conservation   + for limitation of fragmentation including as a foundation for restoration;   + to maintain water flows   + for carbon storage and sequestration   + for local and indigenous communities * Case studies illustrating   + national experiences with inventory of small wetlands;   + gaps in taking in account small wetlands for national wetland management plans;   + small wetland conservation and wise use practices. | Policy brief  Technical Report (with guidance) and consultancy report  briefing note | Contracting Parties, IOPs, MEAs: CBD, UNCCD | 2,960 and additional cost for communication (infographics - 2500)  anadditional  22,600  30,600 |

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| **Thematic Work Area:** | **3. Direct and climate-change-related pressures on wetlands, their impacts, and responses.** |

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| **Thematic Work Area lead(s):** | Siobhan Fennessy & Anne van Dam |
| **Contributing STRP members:** | See below, Max Finlayson |
| **Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/other participants]** | TBC- IOPs, NFPs, IPCC, IPS |

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| Task | Contri. | Res. | Strat. Plan goal & target | Description | Prio. | Process and outcomes | Output | Audience | Costs CHF |
| 3.1 Climate change and wetlands – updated information on the current and projected impacts of climate change on the world’s wetlands, and responses | *Task lead*: Max Finlayson [TBC]  *Co-task lead*: [Maria Strack, TBC]  *Contri*.:Ritesh, Siobhan, Salimata, representatives SWS, SER, CAN -Peat, Chaturangi, Anne, Hans, Esteban, Suelma | Res. XIV.14., Annex 2 | Goals 1, 2 & 3 | Synthesis and interpretation of wetland technical information on the current and projected effects of climate change from the IPCC 6th Assessment Report and following on from the GWO Special Edition (2021). | Highest 1 | * Extract and synthesize key wetland information from the recent IPCC assessment report (AR6) to provide guidance on climate change impacts, implications, and responses for wetlands. In this report, information is now spread across multiple chapters. * Information from other relevant global reports will be gathered as appropriate. * This approach to synthesise around wetlands is similar to the approach used for the wetlands report for the MEA. * Report will be forward looking and include adaptation measures, management and policy responses. * May be pursued in liaison or cooperation with IPCC as a joint product. * Organise an author workshop early in project, potentially in collaboration with IPCC to future scope project. * Note links with task 2.1 | Workshop possibly with IPCC.  Technical Report of  Briefing Note | Contracting Parties, IOPs, IPCC, other MEAs | 16,400 |
| *3.2 Blue carbon guidance, data and models, and support for integration of blue carbon in climate change planning frameworks* | *Task lead: Siobhan*  *Co-task lead:*  *Contri.:* [FAO, TBC]  Ake, Lei,  SuelmaDaniel, consultancy | *Res. XII.14, Para. 15 (b-d)*  *Res. XIV.14., Annex 2,* | *Goal 4, Target 14.* | *Task 3.2 (a):*  *Development of guidance on prioritizing coastal blue carbon ecosystems for conservation and restoration.* | Highest | * Continuation of tasks initiated in 2019-2021 * Review and update (as appropriate) existing guidance for the conservation, restoration, and sustainable management of blue carbon ecosystems (BCEs). * Conduct a desktop study covering methods (including rapid methods) and guidance currently in use relevant to the prioritisation of sites for conservation and restoration * BCEs addressed will include mangroves, seagrass beds, salt marshes and may include guidance on intertidal mudflats and other blue carbon ecosystems. Mangrove (including mapping) will be used as a case study) * It may further address the economic cost of restoration. * Note interlinkages/overlaps with TWA 4 & 2 * Draft ToR underway | *Briefing Note.* | *Contracting Parties, IOPs, NFPs, other MEAs* | Note costs were estimated last triennium |
| *Task lead*: Siobhan  *Co-task lead*:  *Contri*.: Geoffry, (WI, Cynthia?), Hans, Lei,  Daniel, Virni, Ake, Suelma | Res. XIV.14., Annex 2 | *Goal 4, Target 14.* | *Task 3.2 (b):*  Compiling and reviewing data and models on carbon stock and fluxes | Highest - underway from last triennium | * Continuation of tasks initiated in 2019-2021 * ToR drafted, underway. Task is to review and analyze regional modelling of carbon stocks, greenhouse gas emissions and carbon dynamics in coastal blue-carbon ecosystems using existing databases. Provide information, as appropriate, to the IPCC to inform future updates to the *Wetlands Supplement*; * May be pursued in liaison or cooperation with IPCC * Note links with TWA 2. * Use GMW as a case study | Technical Report and  Policy Brief | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | Note costs were estimated last triennium |
| 3.3 Agriculture and wetlands: maintaining and restoring the ecological character of wetlands in agricultural settings | *Task lead*: Anne  *Co-task lead*: Amani  *Contri*.: Chaturagi, Geoffrey, Esteban, Orjan, Ritesh, Max, METIS Jessus Karst (TBC), Sevvandi, | Res. XIV.14., Annex 2 | Goal 3, Target 9. | Guidelines for a) maintaining, restoring or creating ecosystem services of wetlands in agricultural landscapes b) responding to drivers of change to enhance the wise use of wetlands and c) to suggest improvements for reporting to the RSIS | Highest 2 | * Work will be based on issues outlined in Briefing Note 13 and GWO Special Edition (2021). The conclusions in the BN13 will be particularly important in structuring development of the guidelines, including identifying categories of agricultural practices and wetland types to be addressed. * Guidelines will be informed by case studies highlighting issues related (for example) to land-use change, water extraction, pollution,etc., all arising from agriculture as key drivers of wetland degradation. * Engage the Ramsar network for information on specific agro-ecosystems/ wetland types. * Derive suggestions for improving reporting of the RSIS. * Early in project, organise an author workshop in collaboration with FAO. | Technical Report (with guidelines),  Policy Brief, workshop | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | [32,600] [+2960 for policy brief] |
| 3.4 The protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystems in addressing climate change | *Task lead*: Esteban  *Co-task lead*:  Line  *Contri*.:  Amani, Chaturangi, IPS | Res. XIV.17, Para. 14 | TBC | Success stories of nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to protecting, conserving, restoring, sustainably using, and managing wetland ecosystems to address climate change and achieve other co-benefits | - Highest 3 | * Develop criteria & structure for case study selection. * Involve other actors (e.g., IUCN). * Invite case studies * Online workshop to select relevant case studies. * Review of [6-12] relevant case studies on the application of NbS to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use, and manage wetland ecosystems (1 or 2 per Ramsar Region) | A living document that of detailing case studies  Briefing Note | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | [11,400] including 1,000CHF for each case study |

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| **Thematic Work Area:** | **4: Wise use, sustainable management, and restoration of wetlands in the wider landscape/seascape.** |

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| **Thematic Work Area lead(s):** | [Ritesh Kumar](mailto:ritesh.kumar@wi-sa.org) |
| **Contributing STRP members:** | Sevvandi Jayakody, Lammert Hilarides, Cai Lyu, Stephan Grady, Daniel Murdiyarso, Raghu Kodali |
| **Contributing organizations: [IOPs/observers/other participants]** | UNEP-WCMC, IUCN-WCPA, IPBES-ILK Task Force (tbc), Birdlife, Geoffery Hilton (WWT), Rudolfo Iturraspe (Wetlands International), World Coastal Forum, FAO, NCSCM, Max Finlayson, Matthew Simpson (SWS) |

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| Task | Contri. | Res. | Strat. Plan goal & target | Description | Prio. | Process and outcomes | Output | Audience | Costs CHF |
| 4.1 OECMs as an opportunity in promoting wetland conservation and wise use  (Linked with TWA 5, Task 5.2) | *Task lead*:  *Co-task lead*: IUCN-WCPA?  *Contri*.: Hugh UNEP-WCMC  IUCN, UNEP-WCMC, CBD, IPBES ILK taskforce, Birdlife (Megan),  Stephan Grady  Sevvandi (propose someone)  Amani (FAO name?)  Cai Lyu | Res. XIV.14., Annex 2 | Goal 3, Target 9. | Synthesise information and provides guidance on wetlands and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs). | High-1 | 4.1.a.   * Guidance on recognizing and effective management of wetlands, including Ramsar Sites as OECMs ( and thus contributing to meet relevant goals and targets including within GBF) (High-Highest). The Guidance would cover inter alea:   + Relevance of wetlands OECMs (especially with reference to GBFs)   + Process for recognition of wetlands OECMs   + Available guidance on OECMs and their relevance for recognition and management of wetlands OECMs   + Guidance on management and assessing management effectiveness of wetland OECMs   + Exemplars of existing and potential wetland OECMs   + Suggested position for the Convention on Ramsar Sites as OECMs   + Amendments needed in RIS to effect recognition of Ramsar Sites as OECMs   4.1.b   * Status, trends, emerging evidence and national approaches for recognizing wetlands OECMs | Briefing Note (with information on b) as supplementary material) | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | CHF 6,400 (BN) (depending on additional material) + drafting workshop (CHF 8,000) |
| 4.2 Develop guidance on the conservation, wise use and management of “working coastal habitats”, including a synthesis of the global pressures on coastal wetlands  (Linked with TWA 3, Task 3.2 (a)) | *Task lead*:  Sevvandi  *Co-task lead*:  (WWT)  *Contri*.:  Sevvandi, Rodolfo IUCN - Nick Murray, Commonwealth Blue Charter  TNC (Sevvandi to share a name?),  GMA (Lammert)  Max Finlayson  Raghu Kodali  Purvaja Ramchandran (NCSCM)  Siobhan  World Coastal Forum (Ward/Taej/Nicola) | Res. XIII.20, Para. 45  Res. XIV.14., Annex 2, | Goal 3, Target 10. | Guidance on the conservation, wise use and management of sustainable “working coastal habitats”. | High 3 | 4.2.a.   * Synthesis of approaches and a framework for conservation, wise use and effective management of coastal habitats. This would include inter alea:   + Developing a framework for ‘working coastal habitat’ including spatial, sectoral and stakeholder linkages and coasts as a social-ecological system   + Reviewing the information in wise-use Handbook 12 and recommending updation   + Different definitions of coastal wetlands (such as IPCC)   + Integrating advancements around Marine Spatial Planning, Blue Economy, Sustainable Aquaculture, SEAs and others   + Economic drivers for ‘working coastal habitats’ and ways of influencing these drivers for wetland wise use   + Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change and impacts   + Potential linkages with tasks on Blue Carbon   4.2.b.   * Synthesis on global pressures on coastal wetlands (High - Medium/possibly could also be taken as a part of State of World’s Coasts Assessment) | Technical Report  Policy Brief  Scoping workshop | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | Consultant, Technical Report, Policy Brief  CHF 55,600 |
| 4.3 Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies  (Linked with TWA 5, Task 5.2, and TWA3 Task 3.4) | *Task lead*: Ritesh Kumar  *Co-task lead*:  *Contri*.:  Lyu Cai,  Daniel, Matthew, Geoffery (WWT) | Res. XIV.16, Para. 21 | TBC | * + Strengthen case studies and development of tools for the integration of national wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development (SD) strategies and to develop technical guidelines | High 2 | 4.3.a.   * Technical guidance on integrating wetland restoration, conservation and wise use in national Sustainable Development strategies. The task would cover inter alia:   + Comprehensive view of wetlands in sustainable development strategies, plans and programmes and not limited to SDGs   + Review incorporation of wetlands in sustainable development strategies for a mix of economies   + Distil the key enablers and underlying enabling conditions which support integration of wetlands in sustainable development strategies   + Review experiences of other MEAs (such as UNCCD with respect to integration of Land in Sustainable Development Strategies)   4.3.b.   * Case studies on the integration of wetland restoration conservation and wise use into national sustainable development strategies. | Briefing Note  Living document hosted on Ramsar website (WWT Learning hub) | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | BN - CHF 6,400 (work inter-sessionally through virtual meetings)  TBC |

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| Thematic Work Area: | 5: Cross-cutting issues, supporting functions, and synergies with other MEAs |

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| Thematic Work Area lead(s): | Hugh Robertson, Sevvandi Jayakody |
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| Task | Contri. | Res. | Strat. Plan goal & target | Description | Prio. | Process and outcomes | Output | Audience | Costs CHF |
| 5.1 GWO 2024  Publish GWO on a specific theme:  Financial costs of wetland loss and degradation, and investment required to maintain and restore wetlands | *Task lead*:  Hugh  *Co-task lead*:  Ritesh  *Contri*.:  TEEB expert (invite), Ake | Res. XIV.14, Annex 2  Res. XIV.6, Para. 45 | Goal 4, Targets 17 & 19 | Synthesize information on the known financial costs to society incurred from the loss of wetlands and their ecosystems services, including consideration of ‘future loss’ based on available projections. | Highest (3) | * Assess the financial cost of wetland loss and degradation. * Identify the scale of financing required (at various scales) to achieve the conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands, and concurrently to achieve the related elements of the goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF, the UNFCCC, and other relevant international commitments. * Review global wetland baseline mapping available to assess scale of wetland loss and degradation * Provide recommendations on investment opportunities and mechanisms for wetland management and restoration, including those which are nature-based solutions. * Contribution towards the UN Decade on Restoration. * Consider synergies with UNCCD and possible activities on wetland protection and restoration in degraded landscapes. | GWO 2024  Release at COP15 | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | 50,000 CHF  15,000 publication  15,000 workshop  20,000 coordinator/GWO data support |
| 5.2 Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework | *Task lead*:  Sevvandi,  *Co-task lead*:  Megan  *Contri*.: Max, Siobhan, , Ritesh, Hugh, Cai, Laurent, Ake, Richard Hern, WCMC, Hans, [Salimata, TBC], Suelma, Stephan, Matthew, Chaturangi, Sonam, Line, John & IPS | Res. XIII.5  Res. XIV.14, Annex 2  Res. XIV.6, Para. 24 & 44 | Goal 4, Target 18 | Provide advice and guidance to support global implementation of GBF for wetlands. | Highest (1) | * Synthesis of urgent NBSAP related actions needed to meet the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets from a wetland perspective * STRP provide technical review to support IOP guidance on GBF actions * Engage with the CBD for the development of an appropriate reflection of wetlands within the indicators and monitoring framework of the post-2020 GBF. * Identify wetland-focused reporting mechanisms (through Ramsar) which can feed into the reporting in / tracking progress of implementation against the post-2020 GBF goals and targets, and taking into considerations the needs and processes for reporting on SDG 6.6.1. * [To discuss further] | Briefing Note  Submission to CBD ad hoc technical working group and to provide support and guidance for Contracting Parties | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | 10,000 CHF |
| 5.3 Global Wetland Outlook | *Task lead*:  Ritesh  *Co-task lead*:  *Contri*.: Lei, , Sonam, Anne, Sevvandi, IPBES  Check online | Res. XIV.14., Annex 2  SC decision (add ref) | Goal 4, Targets 14 & 18 | Develop an approach to deliver future GWOs. | Highest (2) | * Form a Task 5.3 working group that may include representatives from Contracting Parties, IOPs, other Conventions, MEAs and global assessment agencies, with support from the Secretariat. * Define the purpose of the GWO as a flagship production under the Convention on Wetlands, including in relation to the goals of the Strategic Plan other Conventions and MEAs processes. * Develop a planning approach to facilitate the delivery of future GWOs, including methodological considerations, timeframes, communication, resource requirements, including financial, and information sources etc., building on experiences from preparation of the first GWO published in 2018 and the Special Edition prepared under the 2019-21 work plan, as well as other relevant global assessments. Review of information sources and processes also to include SDG 6.6.1 * GWO planning approach to describe the frequency of production, and content elements, including potential for sub-assessments to be published on ad-hoc basis (e.g. mangrove assessment) | Detailed plan and conceptual approach for future GWOs (GWO Terms of Reference) | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | Workshop related costs 10,000  7,000 (translation) |
| 5.4 Review of policy and legal frameworks for wetland conservation and wise use: scoping study | *Task lead*:  TBD  *Co-task lead*:  *Contri*.: Matt, Siobhan, Ritesh,  Royal Gardener, Suelma, Sheila, Richard Hern, [PhD student, TBC] | SC57 Doc.8  Res. XIV.14., Annex 2 | Goal 3, Target 11 | Evaluate how different policy and legal frameworks provide for wetland conservation, restoration and use. | High | * Prepare a discussion paper for SC64 that outlines an approach of how to undertake a review of policy and legal frameworks, including with inputs from CPs, for implementation in the subsequent triennium. * Where appropriate, to build on guidance and information presented in Handbook 3 * Review to include forward looking policy options, innovations, integrative approaches. | Discussion paper | Contracting Parties, IOPs, other MEAs | 5,000 CHF (consultant) |

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| 6. Ongoing activities and ad-hoc requests |

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| Task | Task Lead | Res. | Strat. Plan goal & target | Description | Prio. | Output | Costs CHF (if required) |
| 6.1. Advice and support to Standing Committee | TBC | Res. XIV.2, Para. 13 | TBC | * Chair of the STRP participates as an observer to Standing Committee meetings. | TBC | STRP Chair attends SC63, 64 & 65. | TBC |
| 6.2. Support development of the Fifth Strategic Plan | TBC | Res. XIV.4, Para. 23 | TBC | * STRP to prioritize I ts participation in the development of the fifth Strategic Plan as part of its Workplan for 2022-2024. * CEPA considered when planning STRP products. * STRP experts may be called on for capacity building. | TBC | STRP representative on SPWG | N/A |
| 6.3. Ramsar Regional Initiatives | TBC | Res. XIV.7, Annex 1 | TBC | * STRP may be invited to assist in the review of training modules developed by RRIs. | TBC | TBC | N/A |
| 6.4. The new CEPA approach | TBC | Res. XIV.8, Annex 2-4 | TBC | * STRP representative on the CEPA Oversight Panel. * Continue to develop targeted products (Policy Briefs, Fact Sheets, the Global Wetland Outlook etc.) for sectors * Update information on the valuation of wetland ecosystem services for use in decision-making and engagement with key stakeholders * Better align outputs to support CEPA activities for different stakeholders * Ensure that CEPA aspects are considered when planning and developing | TBC | STRP representative on CEPA Oversight Panel  STRP prepares work plan with products aligned with CEPA activities | TBC |
| 6.5. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards | TBC | Res. XIV.9, Annex 1 | TBC | * Secretariat may seek the advice of STRP members. | TBC | TBC | N/A |
| 6.6. Wetland City Accreditation of the Convention | TBC | Res. XIV.10, Para. 23 & Annex 2 | TBC | * STRP invited to establish permanent cooperation with the Wetland City Network * STRP representative on the Independent Advisory Committee | TBC | STRP contributes to IAC | TBC |

**Annex 2**

**Medium and Low priority tasks, as contained in the Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to COP14** ([Ramsar COP14 Doc.12](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop14_12_strp_chair_e.pdf))

| ***Priority*** | ***STRP task*** | ***Description*** | ***Mandate(s)*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **TWA 1: Wetlands of International Importance, development of the Site network and application of criteria.** | | | |
| Medium | **Assessment of options, including current and emerging technology, to support and enhance updating of Ramsar Sites Information** | * Technical report on means/approaches/technology or other tools needed to facilitate an improvement to the electronic submission of Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) by Contracting Parties e.g. in response to Resolution VIII.13 (para 11) <https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/res/key_res_viii_13_e.pdf> and Resolution XI.8 (para 6) <https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/cop11/res/cop11-res08-e.pdf>. This will aim to provide additional support to Contracting Parties in the updating of their RIS within the Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS), since the RSIS should be the authoritative source of up-to-date information on Ramsar Sites. This is vital for Contracting Parties as well as the STRP's work e.g. for the synthesis of wetland site details at the regional or global level. GWO 2021 noted that “…as information on the state of a large proportion of Wetlands of International Importance is out of date or in the process of being updated, it is not possible to provide a comprehensive, current assessment of their condition”. * Including support to the Secretariat’s task of developing electronic transfer protocols for RIS input by providing technical input as requested.   Output(s)/product(s): Technical Report | Resolution [VIII.13](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/res/key_res_viii_13_e.pdf), ¶ 11) and Resolution [XI.8](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/cop11/res/cop11-res08-e.pdf), ¶ 6).  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 4, Target 18, 19.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Targets 3, 1, 19 (and Implementation support mechanisms). |
| Medium | **Management of transboundary Wetlands of International Importance and other wetlands (effectiveness)** | * Review of management approaches of transboundary wetlands and of relevant associated measures and indicators used therein, including testing the suitability of the Ramsar Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (R-METT) and information provided in the Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS). This should be pursued in collaboration with relevant CPs as well as Ramsar Regional Initiatives. * Recommendations and guidance to support and promote the use of existing tools listed in the international cooperation handbook, as well as tools to evaluate management effectiveness.   Output(s)/product(s): Technical Report (with guidance); Briefing Note | Standing Committee 59, [Doc 10](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/sc59_10_spwg_report_e.pdf).  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 4, Target 18.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Targets 3, 4 1. |
| Low | **Technical guidance for the design of urban and peri-urban Wetlands of International Importance and other wetlands** | * Guidance to design urban and peri-urban wetlands to include their role as nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change and pollution impacts, with a focus on promoting the use of existing tools and publications, such as <https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/good_practices_urban_wetlands_handbook_e.pdf>.   Output(s)/product(s): Technical Report (with guidance) or Briefing Note | Resolution [XIII.16](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/xiii.16_urbanization_e.pdf), ¶ 18a  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 2, Target 5; Goal 3, Target 9.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Targets 12, 8, 11. |
| **TWA 2: Tools for wetland assessment, mapping and monitoring, and development of inventories.** | | | |
| Medium | **Peatland conservation and wise use: Developing templates for national reporting on peatland restoration, and advice to support the global action plan on peatlands and the Global Peatlands Assessment** | * Development of a recommended template for national reporting on peatland restoration (taking into account the relationship of associated reporting in the National Reports), thus providing a mechanism for sharing data/information in a standardized way across Contracting Parties. * Technical input into the Global Peatland Assessment being prepared under the Global Peatlands Initiative, including review/input to draft reports, as required.   Output(s)/product(s): Technical Report (with reporting template); Cross cutting support/collaboration | Resolution [XIII.13](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/xiii.13_peatland_restoration_e.pdf), ¶ 34.  Lower priority in work plan 2019-2021 (tasks 2.4 (a) and (b); 2.3).  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 3, Target 12.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Targets 2, 8, 1, 3. |
| **TWA 3: Direct and climate change related pressures on wetlands, their impacts and responses.** | | | |
| Medium | **Wetlands and water security under a changing climate** | * Synthesize information on changing water cycles, the implications for wetlands and the role of wetlands in water security under projected climate change scenarios. Present technical information on water stress and the effect on wetlands, as well as ensuring water security for human uses. * Relevance to UN decades on ‘Restoration’ and ‘Water’. * Potential synergy/cooperation with IPCC, UNDRR, FAO, AGWA, UN Water.   Output(s)/product(s): Briefing Note; Cross cutting support/collaboration | [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 3, Target 9.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Targets 8, 11. |
| Low | **Sustainable cities and the wise use of wetlands – enhanced data on urban wetlands, and update urban wetland guidance as required** | * Working with Ramsar Accredited Wetland Cities and other leading/innovating cities to gather information on how cities are addressing climate change and other pressures that influence the conservation and wise use of urban wetlands, including urban/peri-urban constructed wetlands. * May include an update of existing guidance <https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/good_practices_urban_wetlands_handbook_e.pdf> * Output(s)/product(s): Briefing Note, updated Technical Report (with guidelines) | Resolution [XIII. 16](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/xiii.16_urbanization_e.pdf), ¶ 18.  Medium priority in work plan 2019-2021 (Task 2.7).  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 3, Targets 9, 11, 13.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Targets 1, 7, 8, 11, 12. |
| Low | **Best practices for developing action plans to manage the negative impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Ramsar Sites and other wetlands** | * Synthesis of information on the status and negative impact of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Ramsar Sites and other wetlands, and responses to address them, including a summary of existing guidance from the Convention and other global and regional fora involved in / with experience in IAS management. * May be pursued in consultation/collaboration with other relevant external entities. To be further contextualized following the adoption of the post-2020 GBF.   Output(s)/product(s): Briefing Note; Cross cutting support/collaboration | [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 1, Target 4.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Target 6. |
| **TWA 4: Wise use, sustainable management and restoration of wetlands in the wider landscape/seascape.** | | | |
| Medium | **Wetland management to reduce the risk of waterborne and aquatic-vector borne disease** | * Update and finalize the draft Policy Brief produced in the 2016-18 triennium, addressing recent developments (e.g. in relation to HPAI, also the current COVID-19 pandemic), and drawing on the existing wetland disease manual and Technical Report <http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/rtr6-health.pdf> and <http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/rtr7-disease.pdf>. * Potential relevance to ongoing IPBES assessments; potential collaboration with WHO and FAO.   Output(s)/product(s): Policy Brief, Cross cutting support/collaboration | [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 4, Target 14.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Target 5. |
| Medium | **Review of the effectiveness of wetland compensation and mitigation in addressing wetland loss and degradation** | * Collating and analysing experiences and best practices relating to wetland compensation and mitigation from different parts of the world and different policy frameworks/jurisdictions. Develop this in further response to the requirements set out in Resolution XI.9 to avoid and minimise wetland loss and degradation.   Output(s)/product(s): Technical Report or Briefing Note | Resolution [XI.9](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop11-res09-e.pdf)  Standing Committee 57 [Doc.8](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/sc57_8_urgent_challenges_e.pdf) – urgent challenges.  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 1, Target 2.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Target 2, 14. |
| Medium | **Industry and wetlands: guidelines to conserve and enhance wetlands and their services for use by the energy, mining infrastructure, manufacturing and processing sectors.** | * Prepare guidance that collates technical information on the wise use of wetlands, tailored for specific sectors, building on the draft reports on extractive industries and on the energy sector from the previous STRP cycle.   Output(s)/product(s): Briefing Note or Policy Brief | [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 3, Target 9.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Targets 1, 2, 7. |
| **TWA 5: Cross cutting issues, supporting functions, and synergies with other MEAs.** | | | |
| Medium | **Indigenous and local knowledge systems to support wetland wise use** | * Synthesis of case studies providing examples of the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge, and values systems, to the conservation and wise use of wetlands, and develop guidance to enhance involvement of indigenous and local communities in wetland management. * Where possible, leverage the body of work in the context of other MEA frameworks. Relevant to IPBES work programme relating to “Enhanced recognition of and work with indigenous and local knowledge systems”.   Output(s)/product(s): Technical Report (including guidelines) or Briefing Note, Cross cutting support/collaboration | Resolution [XIII.8](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/xiii.8_strp_priorities_20192021_e.pdf).  [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 3, Target 10.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Targets 20, 21. |
| Medium | **Review of effectiveness of Ramsar Convention in conserving waterbirds** | Review the effectiveness of past and current initiatives by Ramsar for the conservation of waterbirds, working with flyway initiatives (AEWA, EAAFP, WHSRN and others). This will document, using case studies, the impact of the designation of Ramsar Site networks at a flyway-scale, the role of trans-boundary Ramsar Sites and twinning, and policies for wise-use targeted at waterbirds and their habitats. It will identify the scope for improvements in conservation delivery, in particular the adequacy of representation of wetland types along flyways, and the use of wise use policies to address drivers of change in waterbirds.  Output(s)/product(s): Policy Brief; Cross cutting support/collaboration | [Strategic Plan](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/4th_strategic_plan_2016_2024_e.pdf) Goal 3, Target 11.  [CBD post-2020 GBF first draft](https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/abb5/591f/2e46096d3f0330b08ce87a45/wg2020-03-03-en.pdf) Targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. |

**Annex 3**

**COP14 Resolution Requests to the STRP**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Res.** | **TWA** | **Title** | **Activities / Tasks Required** |
| XIV.1 | N/A | Financial and budgetary matters | * Para. 15. Approves surplus of CHF 15,000 for STRP implementation * Annex 4. 2023-2025 non-core fundraising priorities |
| XIV.2 | N/A | Responsibilities, roles and composition of the Standing Committee and regional categorization of countries under the Convention on Wetlands | * Para. 13. Chair of the STRP will be invited as an observer to Standing Committee meetings as well as other experts and/or institutions |
| XIV.4 | N/A | Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Convention on Wetlands, additions for the period COP14-COP15 and framework for the fifth Strategic Plan | * Para. 23. STRP to prioritize its participation in the development of the fifth Strategic Plan as part of its Workplan for 2022-2024 * Annex 4. Implementing the new CEPA Approach   + CEPA considered when planning STRP products   + STRP experts used for capacity building. |
| XIV.6 | 1 & 5 | Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions | * Para. 24. Report at COP15 on the opportunities to further strengthen its contribution to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and SDGs * Para. 38. Secretariat, in consultation with the STRP, to engage with UNESCO, the CMS family, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and relevant IOPs to contribute to ongoing efforts to improve ecological connectivity of the world’s flyways for migratory birds and potentially of other taxa * Para. 44. STRP to engage with the CBD for the development of an appropriate reflection of wetlands within the indicators and monitoring framework of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework * Para. 45. STRP is tasked to assess the financial cost of wetland loss and degradation, and the investment required to maintain and restore wetlands |
| XIV.7 | N/A | Ramsar Regional Initiatives | * Annex 1, Para. 17. RRIs are encouraged to cooperate with STRP NFPs. * Annex 1, Para. 18. STRP may be invited to assist in the review of training modules developed by RRIs. * Annex 1, Para. 27. RRIs coordination body is encouraged to organize meetings for the purpose of exchanging experiences, which involve STRP NFPs. |
| XIV.8 | N/A | The new CEPA approach | * Annex 3, Para. iv. Advise the Standing Committee and the Secretariat on CEPA work priorities at the national and international levels, including the CEPA priorities of the STRP. * Annex 3, Para. ix. STRP representative on the CEPA Oversight Panel. * STRP to   + Annex 2, Goal 1. Continue to develop targeted products (Policy Briefs, Fact Sheets, the Global Wetland Outlook etc.) for sectors   + Annex 2, Goal 3. Update information on the valuation of wetland ecosystem services for use in decision-making and engagement with key stakeholders   + Annex 2, Goal 4. Better align outputs to support CEPA activities for different stakeholders   + Annex 2, Goal 4. ensure that CEPA aspects are considered when planning and developing   + Annex 2, Goal 4. build an emphasis on capacity building using the expertise of the STRP |
| IV.9 | N/A | The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards | * Annex 1, Para. 4. STRP members cannot be nominated. * Annex 1, Para. 22. Secretariat may seek the advice of STRP members. |
| XIV.10 | N/A | Updating the Wetland City Accreditation of the Convention | * Para. 23. Invites the STRP to establish permanent cooperation with the Wetland City Network * Annex 2, Para. 16. STRP representative on the Independent Advisory Committee |
| XIV.12 | N/A | Strengthening Ramsar connections through youth | * Annex 2. Observer to be nominated to the STRP |
| XIV.13 | N/A | The status of Sites in the List of Wetlands of International Importance | * Annex 1. Rationale for removing the Site from the Montreux Record, including advice given by the STRP |
| XIV.15 | 2 | Enhancing the conservation and management of small wetlands | * Para. 19. Develop guidance on inventories and monitoring of small wetlands and their multiple values for biodiversity conservation * Annex 1, Para. C. Ensure the data collated by the STRP and stored by the Convention Secretariat on small wetlands are easily accessible for the purposes of monitoring, reporting and developing management plans. |
| XIV.16 | 4 | Integrating wetland protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management into national sustainable development strategies | * Para. 21. Strengthen case studies and development of tools for the integration of national wetland conservation and restoration into national sustainable development strategies and to develop technical guidelines |
| XIV.17 | 3 | The protection, conservation, restoration, sustainable use and management of wetland ecosystems in addressing climate change | * Para. 14. Desktop study of success stories of nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches to protecting, conserving, restoring, sustainably using and managing wetland ecosystems to address climate change and achieve other co-benefits |
| XIV.18 | 1 | Waterbird population estimates to support new and existing Ramsar Site designations under Ramsar Criterion 6 – use of alternative estimates | * Para. 15. Include in its work plan for the next triennium the preparation of guidance to facilitate appropriate application of this Resolution * Para. 16. Develop a technical proposal to enable the resourcing and implementing of future timely and comprehensive Waterbird Population Estimates updates. * Para. 17. Develop guidance that provides technical support to Contracting Parties in closing identified gaps in waterbird population data, and outlines opportunities for capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation and exchange. |