



13th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

“Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future”
Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 21-29 October 2018

Resolution XIII.7

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

1. RECALLING that Resolution XI.1, on *Institutional hosting of the Ramsar Secretariat*, in paragraphs 17 and 18, instructs the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties to develop strategies that explore the accommodation of UN languages into the Convention, the elevation of the Convention’s visibility and stature, including *inter alia* through enhancing high-level political engagement in its work at national, regional, and global levels, the enhancement of synergies with multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other international entities including through regional initiatives, and the increased involvement in the initiatives of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP);
2. FURTHER RECALLING that Resolution 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* instructs the Secretariat to report to the Standing Committee annually on progress in implementing Resolution XI.6 on *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*;
3. NOTING that Resolution XII.3 requests that the Secretary General report at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on the opportunities for the Convention to further strengthen its contribution to the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as they relate to wetlands;
4. FURTHER NOTING that Resolution XII.3 instructs the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Heritage Outlook, UNEP, UNEP-GRID, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), regional economic commissions of the United Nations, the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and others, and report on progress to the Standing Committee and the Contracting Parties on a regular basis;
5. 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;

6. NOTING that Resolution XII.7 on *Resource Mobilization and Partnership Framework of the Ramsar Convention* requests that the Secretariat strengthen partnerships with other MEAs such as, *inter alia*, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), in order to enhance synergies and sharing of resources, avoid duplication and enhance implementation, respecting the mandate of each Convention;
7. 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;
8. NOTING the interest of all Contracting Parties in enhancing the visibility and stature of the Convention and increasing synergies with other MEAs and with UNEP;
9. NOTING the project undertaken by UNEP on “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies” and its tools for enhancing synergies at national level, and also the 2020 Biodiversity Strategic Planning Timeline for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework¹;
10. RECOGNIZING, in the context of the ongoing work on synergies, the importance of the linkages between the Ramsar Strategic Plan and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and any follow-up, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development² and the SDGs, and related reporting and indicators;
11. ALSO NOTING Decisions XII/30 and XIII/21 of the CBD on the financial mechanism, and 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 made by the MEAs including the Ramsar Convention;
12. FURTHER NOTING the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) contained in *The future we want*³;
13. 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;
14. NOTING that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes 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”;

¹ <https://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources-and-data/biodiversitysynergies>; <https://post2020.unep-wcmc.org/>

² [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, annex.

³ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E

15. ALSO NOTING 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”;
16. ADDITIONALLY NOTING SDG 15, “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, and Target 15.1, “By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements”;
17. FURTHER NOTING that other SDGs that are relevant to the Convention are: SDG 1, “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”; SDG 2, “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”; SDG 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”; SDG 11, “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”; and SDG 13, “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”;
18. NOTING the decision of the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) at its 7th meeting to reclassify Indicator 6.6.1, “Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time” and to approve two reporting lines 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 for Indicator 6.6.1, and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands will contribute data from the National Reports based on Ramsar definitions and requirements; and
19. FURTHER NOTING 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;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

Concerning visibility and stature, and increasing synergies

20. INVITES the Secretariat, Contracting Parties, International Organization Partners (IOPs) and others to work to raise the visibility of the Convention at the national, subnational, regional and international levels as appropriate, including some focus on the 50th anniversary of the Convention, which will be celebrated in 2021;
21. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties 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 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;
22. URGES the Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs and others to take urgent action 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;

23. REQUESTS the Secretariat to present, at the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, a plan to strengthen synergies with other MEAs and contributions to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
24. 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;
25. FURTHER ENCOURAGES National Focal Points to strengthen 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;
26. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to continue to develop and activate networking mechanisms, including Ramsar National Wetlands Committees or similar bodies, to ensure collaboration with national ministries, departments and agencies;
27. INVITES Contracting Parties to identify opportunities 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);
28. FURTHER INVITES Contracting Parties to work 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;
29. ALSO INVITES Contracting Parties to continue to take into account the results of the project “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies” through, *inter alia*, the *Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels*, undertaken by UNEP; and ENCOURAGES the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to implement its recommendations to promote synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related MEAs;
30. 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;

⁴ Turkey has registered a reservation concerning the content of paragraph 30, which refers to *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention* (Resolution VII.19) and which was accepted at COP7 with Turkey’s reservation. The declaration by the Turkish Delegation appears in the Conference Report.

31. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress in implementing the present Resolution and Resolution XI.6 on *Partnerships and synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other institutions*;
32. 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;
33. WELCOMES the continued collaboration between the Secretariat and 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 REQUESTS the Secretary General to include in future reports information on the results of existing cooperation with other Conventions, international organizations and partnerships and on the exploration of new activities with possible partners;
34. WELCOMES Decision XIII.24, on *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations*, adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and REQUESTS that the Secretariat provide inputs to the synergy process as appropriate and in particular on matters that are relevant to the Ramsar Convention and report to the Standing Committee;
35. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to continue working to strengthen collaboration with UN agencies, in particular UNEP, UNDP, FAO, the World Bank, 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;
36. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to consider their national circumstances and ecosystem-based approaches when preparing or updating their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as applicable and where appropriate, and pursuing domestic climate action under the Paris Agreement, taking into account the importance of safeguarding and restoring wetlands;
37. 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;
38. REQUESTS the Secretariat to foster and enhance cross-cutting subject matter expertise within the Secretariat team as a means to maximize use of existing resources and avoid duplication of efforts, foster a whole-of-Secretariat approach to providing equitable and consistent support to Parties' efforts to implement the Convention, and advance synergies and contributions across the MEAs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

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

39. 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 wetland extent;

40. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretariat to continue working with Contracting Parties on the completion of national wetland inventories and wetland extent to report on SDG Indicator 6.6.1;
41. 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 Targets 14.2 and 15.1 in international fora;
42. FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to support Contracting Parties as appropriate in mainstreaming and raising the relevance of wetlands and the Convention in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and in the work of MEAs and other international instruments, including *inter alia* through collaboration with 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;
43. 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 wetland extent (indicator 6.6.1);
44. 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;
45. 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

46. REQUESTS the Secretariat, in response to the invitation to the Convention found in paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of CBD Decision XII/30, to present to the Standing Committee for its consideration at its 58th meeting elements of advice for the GEF concerning the funding to support the objectives and priorities of the Convention, consistent with the mandates of the GEF, and to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD at its 15th meeting, consistent with CBD Decision XIII/21; and

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

47. 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.