



## 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Punta del Este, Uruguay, 1-9 June 2015

Ramsar COP12 DR2

### Draft Resolution XII.2

#### The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2021

1. RECALLING the adoption of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 by Resolution X.1 as the basis for the implementation of the Convention during the previous two triennia;
2. ACKNOWLEDGING the need for continuing the implementation of the Convention under the direction of a renewed Strategic Plan that reflects the current wetland conservation challenges, and AWARE that indicators of current trends suggest pressures over biodiversity and other wetland services will increase over the next years;
3. RECOGNIZING the important contribution that the Ramsar Convention has made, in implementing the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015, towards the achievement of the “Aichi Biodiversity Targets” of the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
4. FUTHER RECOGNIZING that the implementation by Contracting Parties and other stakeholders of Strategic Plans has facilitated over time a progressive delivery of the goals of the Convention, but ALSO RECOGNIZING that, 44 years after the adoption of the Convention, many increasingly urgent challenges remain, to which the Convention will have to adapt and respond in order to consistently achieve wetland conservation and wise use across a changing world;
5. AWARE of an increasing sense of urgency amongst Contracting Parties in the face of accelerating degradation and loss of wetlands, and RECOGNIZING that more effective responses are needed to prevent, stop and reverse degradation;
6. NOTING that Contracting Parties have identified priority actions for the next six years to prevent, stop and reverse the loss and degradation of wetlands, by addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation, effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network, and the wise use of all wetlands and to foster accomplishment of these actions by further enhancing implementation of the Convention;
7. AWARE that Sustainable Development Goals are currently under discussion within the UN post-2015 Development Agenda and RECOGNIZING that all wetlands including the Ramsar Site network will have a direct relevance to the achievement of any Sustainable Development Goals which are related to water quality and supply, food and water security, adaptation to climate change, energy supply, healthy living, biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainable human settlements, poverty reduction, innovation and the development of appropriate infrastructure;

8. AWARE that National Reports provide the opportunity for Contracting Parties to report on implementation progress and any implementation difficulties, and THANKING all those Contracting Parties that have provided their National Reports to the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties (COP12);
9. NOTING that the Contracting Parties differ substantially in their situations and in their capacity to implement the Convention;
10. FURTHER AWARE of the many challenges that still require urgent attention if the wise use of wetlands is to be achieved under the Convention; and
11. NOTING that the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 has been prepared by the Strategic Plan Working Group of the Standing Committee with the support of the Secretariat through a wide consultative process with Contracting Parties, the Convention's International Organization Partners and other stakeholders, including intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

12. APPROVES the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 (hereafter "the Strategic Plan") as annexed to this Resolution as the basis for the implementation of the Convention during this period, and INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to disseminate it widely to other stakeholders concerned with its implementation;
13. URGES all Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, The CEPA Oversight Panel, the Secretariat, the Convention's International Organization Partners, the regional initiatives to take on the renewed challenge of implementing the Strategic Plan through its goals and targets;
14. INVITES other stakeholders such as, *inter alia*, other multilateral environmental agreements, non-governmental organizations, scientific academies and research institutions, professional scientific and technical bodies, donors, and private companies to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
15. REQUESTS that the Secretariat structure the National Report Format for COP13 in line with the Goals and Targets of the new Ramsar Strategic Plan, and develop global wetland and wise use indicators in cooperation with other MEAs and UNEP agencies (such as UNEP-WCMC and UNEP-GRID) in order to assess its implementation, for Contracting Parties' consideration at the 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC51).
16. URGES Contracting Parties as appropriate to continuously monitor progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and communicate progress as well as any difficulties in implementing the Plan in their National Reports and to their regional representatives in the Standing Committee; and REQUESTS the Standing Committee on the basis of the information provided to assess progress and any difficulties in implementing the Plan at its meetings;
17. ENCOURAGES Parties to allocate from national budgets financial resources for the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan for wetlands and inform as appropriate in the National Report to COP13.

18. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to establish and submit to the Secretariat on or before December 2016 their own national targets in line with the targets set in the Strategic Plan according to their national priorities and capabilities, and to develop their own work plan and consider mechanisms for its implementation;
19. ENCOURAGES the Ramsar regional initiatives, including the Ramsar centres, to develop work plans for assisting the Parties in their respective regions to effectively implement the Strategic Plan.
20. REQUESTS the Standing Committee with the support of the Secretariat to make any adjustments to the Strategic Plan, especially those which may be necessary to align it more closely to the Sustainable Development Goals by COP13; and
21. FURTHER REQUESTS that SC53 in 2018 conclude a mid-term review of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan using Contracting Parties' National Reports and other information sources as available, to adjust the Strategic Plan as appropriate and report its findings at COP13.

## Annex

### 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat – the “Ramsar Convention”

#### **The Mission of the Ramsar Convention**

**Conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.**

To achieve this Mission it is essential that the vital ecosystem services<sup>1</sup>, and especially those related to water and those that wetlands provide to people and nature through their natural infrastructure, are fully recognized, maintained, restored and wisely used.

---

<sup>1</sup> The term "ecosystem services" refers to "provisioning, supporting, regulating and cultural" services (MEA 2005). Ramsar terms are "services", "benefits", "values", "functions", "goods" and "products" (source: Resolution IX.1 Annex A).

## Rationale

### A Vision for the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan

“Prevent, stop and reverse the degradation and loss of wetlands and use them wisely”

### Background

1. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention, the first of which was prepared in 1997<sup>2</sup>. The work of the Convention has since 1997 been organised around three pillars: the wise use of all wetlands through national plans, policies and legislation, management actions and public education; the designation and sustainable management of suitable wetlands for inclusion on the list of Wetlands of International Importance; and international cooperation on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems, shared species and development projects that may affect wetlands.
2. The **wise use of wetlands** is the key concept orienting the work of the Ramsar Convention. “Wise use of wetlands” is defined as “the maintenance of their ecological character, achieved through the implementation of ecosystem approaches, within the context of sustainable development”. Wise use therefore has at its heart the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and their resources, for the benefit of people and nature.

### Importance of Wetlands

3. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the “Ramsar Convention”) is the only ecosystem-focused convention. The Ramsar Sites network constitutes the largest network of officially recognised internationally important areas in the world. This network of wetlands, comprising 2,186 sites covering 208.5<sup>3</sup> million hectares, constitutes the backbone of a global network of wetlands providing life-sustaining services to people and nature. The identification and the management of these wetlands, for conservation and sustainability, is a core purpose of the Convention, essential for the realisation of long-term benefits for biological diversity and people.
4. Wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.
5. Wetlands deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as biodiversity, water supply, water purification, climate regulation, flood regulation, coastal protection, useful fibres, spiritual and cultural inspiration and tourism.
6. Wetlands play a key role in economic activity linked to transportation, food production, water risk management, pollution control, fishing and hunting, leisure and the provision of ecological infrastructure.

---

<sup>2</sup> 1997 – 2014: During which 3 Strategic Plans have been implemented: SP1 (1997 – 2002); SP2 (2003 – 2008); SP 3 (2009 – 2015)

<sup>3</sup> see <http://www.ramsar.org/>

7. Most of the water we collect and use comes from wetlands<sup>4</sup>. However, water is unevenly distributed and today, over 700 million people live without access to safe drinking water. In addition 2.5 billion people lack sanitation impacting further on wetlands<sup>5</sup>.
8. Wetlands are too often equated with wastelands and there is little awareness of the vital services that wetlands bring.

### **Trends in Wetlands**

9. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) identifies four classes of ecosystem services<sup>6</sup>. These are: Supporting, Provisioning, Regulating, and Cultural. These classes<sup>7</sup> will be taken into account, inter alia, for considering ecosystem services within this Strategic Plan, respecting the different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country for the consideration and management of ecosystems functions.
10. At a global level, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment<sup>8</sup> found that inland and coastal wetland ecosystems were (in 2005) being lost at a rate faster than that of any other ecosystem, and the trend towards loss of wetlands resources has not been reversed since. The primary indirect drivers of this degradation and loss are identified as population growth and increasing economic development; the primary direct drivers of degradation and loss are identified as infrastructure development, land conversion, water withdrawal, eutrophication and pollution, overharvesting, overexploitation of wetland resources, and invasive alien species.
11. A recent study<sup>9</sup> of long-term and recent trends in global wetland area, based on a review of 189 reports of change in wetland areas finds that the reported long-term loss of natural wetlands averages between 54 – 57% but that loss may have been as high as 87% since 1700 AD. There has been a much (3.7 times) faster rate of wetland loss during the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, with a loss of 64-71% of wetlands since 1900. The study further notes that conversion of coastal natural wetlands accelerated more than that of inland natural wetlands in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and that conversion and loss is continuing in all parts of the world, and particularly rapidly in Asia.
12. The costs of loss of freshwater wetlands worldwide from 1997 to 2011 has been valued at US\$2.7 trillion per year, the costs of loss of tidal marshes / mangroves has been estimated at US\$7.2 trillion per year and the loss of coral reefs has been estimated at US\$11.9 trillion<sup>10</sup>.
13. The Report “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands”<sup>11</sup> notes that values of inland and coastal ecosystem services are typically higher than for other ecosystem types, that the “nexus” between water, food and energy is one of the most fundamental relationships – and increasing challenges – for societies, that wetlands provide ecological infrastructure that can help to reach a range of policy objectives, that wetland loss

---

<sup>4</sup> Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation, UNICEF, WHO, 2012

<sup>5</sup> See [http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash\\_statistics.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/global/wash_statistics.html)

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.356.aspx.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Further definition is given to these classes in the Common International Classification of Ecosystem Services (CICES) at [www.nottingham.ac.uk/cem](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/cem)

<sup>8</sup> See <http://www.millenniumassessment.org/documents/document.358.aspx.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> N. Davidson, How much wetland has the world lost? Long-term and recent trends in global wetland area, CSIRO Publishing, Marine and Freshwater Research, 2014, **65**, 934 – 942, September 2014

<sup>10</sup> R. Costanza et al., Changes in the Global value of ecosystem services, *Global Environmental Change* 26 (2014) 152 - 158

<sup>11</sup> The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity for Water and Wetlands, IIEP; Ramsar, 2013

can lead to significant loss of human well-being and have negative economic impacts on communities, countries and businesses, and that wetlands-related and water-related ecosystem services need to become an integral part of water management in order to make the transition to a resource-efficient, sustainable economy.

14. The Global Biodiversity Outlook 4<sup>12</sup> also indicates that the trend of wetland loss and degradation is worsening. In contrast to natural wetlands however, it notes that the area of human-made wetlands tends to be increasing. Despite the partly good progress, additional action is required to achieve global Aichi targets for 2020. For achieving the 2050 vision for an end to biodiversity loss in conjunction with key human development goals for climate change, combating desertification and land degradation, requires changes in society including much more efficient use of land, water, energy and materials, rethinking our consumption habits and in particular major transformations of food systems.

### **Global Context**

15. Sustainable Development Goals are currently under discussion. It is anticipated that all wetlands and the Ramsar Site network will have a direct relevance for any Sustainable Development Goals that emerge which are related to water quality and supply, food and water security, adaptation to climate change, energy supply, healthy living, biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainable human settlements, poverty eradication, innovation and the development of appropriate infrastructure
16. The Ramsar Sites network, and the effective management of the 208.5 million hectares of Ramsar sites and more widely of the world's wetlands could make a major contribution to the work of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, including those related to water and / or biodiversity such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Targets, the Convention on Migratory Species, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

### **Review<sup>13</sup> of Progress in the Implementation of the Third Strategic Plan**

17. A review of progress with implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan was made on the basis of National Reports to COP 11 and responses by Contracting Parties and Ramsar partners to a questionnaire on the Strategic Plan in 2014.
18. The main conclusion of the review of implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan was that at an overall, global level, the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan can be characterised as a work in progress. It is noted that a number of core aspects of the Convention, such as identification of potential Ramsar Sites, inventories, preparation of management plans, monitoring of Site status and ecological character, and reporting under the Convention continue to require regular attention and action.
19. The other main finding is that there is an increasing sense of urgency amongst Contracting Parties in the face of accelerating degradation and loss of wetlands and that responding to this requires enhanced engagement with drivers of loss and degradation in order to prevent, stop

---

<sup>12</sup> Report "Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An Assessment of Biodiversity Trends, Policy Scenarios and Key Actions" available at <https://www.cbd.int/gbo4advance>.

<sup>13</sup> A review of the implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Plan has been completed and is available at [http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605\\_4000\\_0](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605_4000_0).

and reverse degradation through a mainstreaming of wetland values in public and private investments and management of wetlands.

#### **Priority Areas of Focus<sup>14</sup> for the Convention in the Next Six Years**

20. This summary of priority concerns of the Ramsar Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Convention in the 2016 – 2021 period is drawn from National Reports to COP 11, from the questionnaire on the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan completed by many Contracting Parties and partners in 2014, and from Regional Consultations held during the Pre-COP regional consultations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe in October and November 2014.
21. **Preventing, stopping and reversing the loss and degradation of wetlands:** The largest changes in loss of wetlands continue to be from unsustainable agriculture and extractive industries, especially oil and gas, the impacts of population growth (including migration and urbanisation) and changes in land use that over-ride environmental considerations. Addressing and engaging the drivers behind these pressures on wetlands is a condition for limiting, adapting to, and mitigating their impacts. Realization of this fact and its consideration in planning and decision-making requires that wetland resources and wetland ecosystem benefits are measured, valued and understood widely within societies.
22. **Science based advice and guidance:** Enhancing the generation and delivery of science based advice and guidance to practitioners and policy makers through the STRP and CEPA processes.
23. **Climate change and wetlands:** Understanding the critical importance of wetlands for mitigating the effects of climate change and adaptation to climate change, in particular for its impacts on small island states<sup>1516</sup>.
24. **Information on wetlands' services and benefits:** The values (support, provision, regulation, cultural) offered by wetlands are still not well understood outside of specialised circles and are not taken account of in planning of public and private investments and initiatives that impact on the ecological character of wetlands. The lack of recognition of wetland values – including for poverty alleviation and in the provision of ecosystem services – is a major factor in both their decline and in the modesty of wetland restoration efforts.
25. **Communicating wetland services and benefits:** Mainstreaming wetland values and enhancing the visibility of the Convention through reaching out with effective communications to decision makers and the wider public. This should contribute to an enhanced understanding of the contribution of wetland values (supporting, provisioning, regulating, cultural) to people's livelihoods and health, economic development and biodiversity and water.

---

<sup>14</sup> Particular challenges and conditions are described for each region in the COP 11 Regional Overviews and in the responses to the Questionnaires to Contracting Parties and partners (see

[http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-strategicplansc47/main/ramsar/1-31-605_4000_0__)

<sup>15</sup> The impacts of climate change induced sea-level rise, changes in hydrology and temperature of water bodies, coral bleaching in turn reduce the capacity of wetlands to mitigate the impacts of climate change, especially in small island states.

<sup>16</sup> Briefing note from the STEP and Secretariat to Contracting parties, UNFCCC Climate Change Meeting, Copenhagen, 7-18 December 2009; STRP Briefing Note No. 5: Evaluating the Risk to Ramsar Sites from climate change and sea level rise.



26. **Enhancing cooperation:** Coordinating / participating in cooperation platforms<sup>17</sup> (site level, city, river basin, national, regional and global levels) bringing together site and other managers, key private and public stakeholders, to promote mainstreaming of wetland values (supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural) within water and biodiversity management and public and private investments.
27. **Implementing the Convention:** Improving compliance with Ramsar provisions concerning Ramsar Site updates, inventories of all wetlands and Wetlands of International Importance, maintenance of ecological character and management of sites especially on the Montreux Record, the preparation of management plans for all Ramsar sites, and implementation of these management plans on the ground through the presence of staff, appropriate infrastructure and other resources.
28. **Invasive alien species:** Acting to limit and eradicate invasive species in wetlands.
29. **Identifying and designating, the most important wetlands as Ramsar Sites,** based on national inventories to ensure their protection for the future and the inclusion of under-represented wetland types in the Ramsar Site network.
30. **Wise use of wetlands:** Wetlands that are providing local, basin-level, national, regional and global benefits, are well and actively managed to ensure that the ecological functions are maintained.
31. **Synergies<sup>18</sup>:** Enhancing efforts to streamline procedures and processes and to facilitate data sharing amongst parties responsible for – or cooperating in – the implementation of this and other MEAs and related agreements. Through cooperation, aim to increase the identification of synergies with collaborating MEAs and agreements at national and global levels.
32. **Financing:** Funding is needed to manage wetlands. Adequate financing is a particular challenge in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and Small Island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition.
33. **River Basin perspective:** Analysing and expressing wetland services and benefits at river basin level, taking into account the connection between upstream water use and downstream water requirements, engaging with the stakeholders is necessary to recognise wetlands as part of a wider water cycle.

#### **Implementing the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan**

34. The 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 calls for actions to be undertaken by the Contracting Parties, supported by the Secretariat, the Ramsar regional initiatives, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the CEPA (Communications, Education, Participation and Awareness) network, and in collaboration with International Organization Partners (IOPs) and partner intergovernmental organisations and MEAs.
35. Contracting Parties promote implementation of the Strategic Plan at national and regional levels by developing National Wetlands policies, strategies, action plans, projects and programmes or other appropriate ways to mobilise action and support for wetlands.

---

<sup>17</sup> National Wetland Committees; biodiversity, water, regional bodies ...

<sup>18</sup> Annex 2 shows convergence between Ramsar Strategic Plan and Aichi targets.

36. It is understood that the Contracting Parties differ substantially in their situations and in their ability to implement the Convention. Each Party is encouraged to establish its own priorities within the Strategic Plan, develop its own work plan for implementing them, and consider its own use of its own resources. When reporting each Party will be requested to explain its results in implementing the Strategic Plan.
37. Contracting Parties may wish to synergize their efforts aimed at implementing the Convention with measures that they take to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, and other regional and global MEAs as they deem appropriate.

### **Enabling Conditions for Implementation**

38. The successful achievement of the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan depends on the commitment and engagement of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders. Based on views expressed by Contracting Parties during the consultative process for the preparation of this Strategic Plan, a certain number of factors that will enable and facilitate implementation have been identified. Contracting Parties and Convention partners are urged to cooperate in the implementation of these measures.

### **Resource Mobilisation**

39. Global and national funds currently committed to the conservation and wise use of wetlands are insufficient to achieve the full suite of goals and targets expressed in this plan. Creative mobilisation of additional resources for wetland conservation and wise use, and for engaging with drivers of wetland degradation and loss, is required at local, national, regional and global levels. This mobilisation can be achieved through the Resource Mobilisation and Partnership Framework and the efforts of Contracting Parties, Ramsar regional initiatives, IOPs and the Secretariat's Partnership Unit.

### **Outreach and Promotion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan**

40. The Secretariat's activities in Communications will be enhanced, including CEPA (communications, education, participation and awareness raising), to enable the Convention to be better known and its brand recognized as well as increasing involvement of the target audience in wetlands issues. These efforts will support the CEPA focal points network and the outreach and promotion activities of Contracting Parties.

### **Partnerships**

41. The wise use of wetlands and their resources will ultimately involve a range of actors well beyond those responsible for the management and maintenance of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands. This holds at local, national, regional and global levels where existing partnerships with Ramsar regional initiatives, IOPs and MEAs should be strengthened and new partnerships with civil society and the business sector forged in order to enhance Convention implementation and reverse the rates of loss and degradation of wetlands.

### **International Cooperation**

42. The Ramsar Convention has put in place a series of arrangements for international cooperation in order to link Ramsar with global debates and processes related to sustainable development

including water, livelihoods, biodiversity, disaster risk reduction, resilience and carbon sinks. These relationships will be consolidated over the coming period.

- The Ramsar Convention is the lead partner in the implementation of the Inland Waters Biodiversity programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- The Parties to the Ramsar Convention have granted IOP status to five leading organisations (Birdlife International, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International, and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)) which are actively contributing in all the regions and on a regular basis to the further development of policies and tools of the Convention and their application at the national and local levels, particularly by assisting Contracting Parties to deliver conservation and wise use on the ground and meet their obligations under the Convention.
- The Ramsar Convention participates in the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) bringing together the heads of the Secretariats of six biodiversity-related conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species and Wild Animals (CMS); the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC); the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)).
- Memorandums of understanding and cooperation have been signed<sup>19</sup> with forty eight partners ranging the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species, to UNESCO, UNCTAD and the World Bank and including the UN World Tourism Organization (WTO), the Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Ramsar International Organization Partners; the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA); the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), the Society of Wetland Scientists, Ducks Unlimited (USA); the Stetson University College of Law (Florida, USA); the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity.

#### Regional Cooperation

43. Regional cooperation, at transboundary and regional levels should be strengthened both for cooperation in the management of shared wetland and water resources and in the development of enabling conditions. Regional Initiatives (Regional Centres and networks) are effective mechanisms for regional cooperation in specific regions or sub-regions. Ramsar's 15 regional initiatives will support regional and transboundary cooperation, capacity-building, technology and knowledge exchanges, wetland related communications and mobilisation of financial resources for on the ground wetland activities.

#### Bilateral Cooperation

44. Bilateral cooperation between Contracting Parties aimed at knowledge and technology sharing, transboundary collaboration in managing shared wetland ecosystems, and in financing wetland conservation and wise use will be promoted and supported by all actors, including the Ramsar Secretariat, Ramsar regional initiatives and IOPs, especially in transboundary wetland basins.

---

<sup>19</sup> The full list of the 48 memorandums of understanding / cooperation signed by the Convention can be found at [http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-mous/main/ramsar/1-31-115\\_4000\\_0\\_\\_](http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-mous/main/ramsar/1-31-115_4000_0__)

## Capacity Building

45. Contracting Parties, Ramsar regional initiatives, IOPs and other partners need to address capacity-building needs of Contracting Parties and other stakeholders in a range of fields, including inventory, wetland management, wetland status monitoring and assessment, communications and promotion of wetlands and wetland values, scientific and technical knowledge and guidance, knowledge and technology exchange.

## Languages

46. The use of additional languages by the Convention may constitute an important means for extending its reach and visibility in regions of the world where understanding of the work and value of the Convention is currently not well known.

## Goals and Targets 2016 – 2021

The Goals of the 4<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan have been formulated in recognition of the fact that a new approach is needed in order to change the negative direction of the trends described in paragraphs 13 – 18 above.

These Goals constitute the four priority areas for the Ramsar Convention for the 2016 – 2021 period. They include three Strategic Goals and one Operational Goal which supports them.

The Table in Annex presents more details about the goals, including the tools, lead actors, indicators, and baselines for the Goals and Targets outlined below.

### *Strategic Goals*

#### **Goal 1: Addressing the Drivers of Wetland Loss And Degradation**

The impacts on wetlands of unsustainable agriculture, changing land use and extractive economic activities, population increase, migration and urbanisation are growing. Influencing the drivers of wetland degradation and loss and the integration of wetland values into planning and decision making require that wetland resources and ecosystem benefits be measured, valued and understood widely within societies. Contracting parties, the Secretariat, Regional Initiatives and IOPs will enhance their engagement with relevant stakeholders in order to diminish threats, influence trends, restore wetlands and communicate good practices.

- Target 1: Wetland benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure at the national and local level
- Target 2: Water use sustainability is improved while respecting ecosystem and basin requirements
- Target 3: Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands

Target 4: Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.

**Goal 2: Effectively Conserving and Managing the Ramsar Site Network**

Ramsar Sites constitute the largest network of officially recognised internationally important areas in the world. This network constitutes the backbone of a larger network of wetlands providing life-sustaining services to people and nature. Parties must recommit themselves to efforts to protecting and effectively managing the existing Ramsar Sites, as well as to expanding the reach of the Convention by continuously working to add more sites and areas of wetlands recognized under the Convention.

Target 5: The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained, through effective planning and management.

Target 6: There is a significant increase in the Ramsar site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands and transboundary sites

Target 7: Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed.

**Goal 3: Wisely Using All Wetlands**

The wise use of all wetlands requires that Parties ensure they are addressing wetlands beyond those currently included in the Ramsar Site network. This work will necessarily occur at the national, subnational, regional, and transboundary levels, including at basin level. Mainstreaming recognition of ecosystem services and benefits into a wide range of sectors and with a broad array of actors will help ensure the success of this effort.

Target 8: National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.

Target 9: The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the scale of the basin.

Target 10: Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented.

Target 11: Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Target 12: Sustainable fishery, agriculture and ecotourism are expanded, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.

***Operational Goal***

**Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation**

It will be vital for the survival of wetlands and the success of the Convention for Parties to enhance their implementation. Various approaches will help strengthen the implementation of the three Strategic Goals, and ultimately of the Convention itself. They involve critical actions to be

undertaken by Contracting Parties themselves, and in partnership with other Parties and other entities, in particular with regard to scientific and technical advice and guidance, resource mobilization, public awareness, visibility and capacity building. The Ramsar Secretariat will also play a vital role in raising awareness and visibility for the Convention, as well as mobilizing resources to support enhancing implementation.

- Target 13: Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language
- Target 14: Ramsar regional initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.
- Target 15: Wetland values are mainstreamed through communications, education, public participation and awareness.
- Target 16: Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 from all sources are substantially increased
- Target 17: International cooperation is strengthened at all levels
- Target 18: Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the 4<sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 is enhanced.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

1. The Table showing Goals, targets, tools, indicators and baseline in Annex 1 can be used as a basis for organising the implementation of the Strategic Plan at national and other levels.
2. Global indicators<sup>20</sup> of wetland status will be developed in cooperation with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements and agencies (e.g. UNEP-WCMC) and wetland research centres. These global indicators will assist Contracting Parties in assessing progress in the achievement of the 3 strategic Goals of this plan.
3. Specific indicators are identified in the accompanying table (Annex 1) for each of the targets identified. These indicators will be monitored by Contracting Parties as appropriate, for example through national targets, and will provide the basis for a revision of the National Reporting format to be used for the 2016 – 2021 period.
4. The Standing Committee will keep the implementation of the Strategic Plan under review, based on regular reports from the Secretariat and the STRP, and based on National Reports prepared for each reporting cycle.
5. A mid-term review to be concluded in 2018 of the implementation of the 4<sup>th</sup> strategic plan will make recommendations for adjustment to be considered in SC53 to be submitted to COP13.

---

<sup>20</sup> It is recalled that COP XI.6 :47 urges the Secretariat to support the STRP in developing biological indicators on the results of the Convention's activities, in collaboration with other biodiversity MEAs so as to achieve a coherent approach to indicator development, so that an evaluation of the effectiveness of Convention implementation can take place at least once in each reporting cycle.

## Annex 1: Ramsar Goals and Targets with Relevant Tools, Actors, Baselines and Indicators

<b>Strategic Goals</b>					
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b>					
<b>No</b>	<b>Targets</b>		<b>Tools</b>	<b>Key Actors</b>	<b>Indicator(s) Baseline</b>
1	Wetland benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure at the national and local level.		Engage with natural resource users at river basin and national level to integrate wetland contributions to water, biodiversity and sustainable development targets of the international community	Contracting Parties, with support of Secretariat, IOPs, key sectors (water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure)	<p><b>Base line</b></p> <p>19% of Contracting Parties have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar sites (National Reports to COP12<sup>21</sup>)</p> <p>70% of Contracting Parties have included wetland issues into national strategies and planning process such as water resource management and water efficiency plans and 47% of Contracting Parties into National Policies or measures on agriculture. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar sites</p> <p>% of national policy strategies and plans from key sectors include considerations of wetlands benefits and ecosystem services</p>
2	Water use sustainability is improved while respecting ecosystem and basin requirements.		Understand the water requirements of wetland ecosystem services, and engage with water users at site and river basin and national level to maintain / restore necessary water allocations.	Contracting Parties, with support of Secretariat, IOPs, productive sectors.	<p><b>Base line:</b> e.g. demands of water from productive sectors.</p> <p>70% of Contracting Parties have included wetland issues into national strategies and planning process such as water resource management and water efficiency plans and 47% in National Policies or measures on agriculture. (National Reports to COP12).</p>

<sup>21</sup> Information based on 131 National Reports received to COP 12.

				<p>70% - Percentage of all withdrawals from surface water and groundwater is used for agricultural purposes. (Comprehensive Assessment of Water Management in Agriculture (2007).</p> <p>Agriculture accounts for 70% of all water withdrawn by the agricultural, municipal and industrial (including energy) sectors. (The United Nations World Water Development Report 4, Volume 1, Unesco 2012)</p> <p>Worldwide industry accounts for 19% of all water withdrawal (The UN World Water Development Report 2014).</p> <p>15% of world's water withdrawal is for energy production (estimation in 2010). (The UN World Water Development Report 2014).</p> <p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have included wetland issues into national strategies and in the planning process for water resource management and water efficiency plans and in National Policies or measures on agriculture and industrial sector.</p>
3	Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands.	Engage with business sector/private sector	Contracting Parties, with support of Secretariat, IOPs, business/public private sector.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>Currently 50% of Parties report actions taken to implement incentive measures that encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>37% of Parties report actions taken to remove perverse incentive measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>45% of CPs have encouraged the private sector to apply the Ramsar wise use principle guidelines in its activities and investments concerning wetlands . (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>62% of CPs report private sector undertaking activities for the wise use and management of Ramsar sites and 60% in wetlands in general. (National Reports to COP12).</p>



				<p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% incentive measures have been implemented to encourage the conservation and wise use of wetlands or remove perverse incentive measures.</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have encouraged the private sector to apply the Ramsar wise use principle guidelines.</p> <p>% of private sector undertaking activities for the wise use and management of Ramsar sites.</p> <p>Pollution levels, including from excess nutrients, waste water, solid waste, have been brought to levels that are not detrimental to delivery of wetland services</p>
4	Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.	<p>Complete inventory for all sites</p> <p>Prepare management response as appropriate (national policies or guidelines).</p> <p>Trends in invasive alien species</p>	Contracting Parties (MEA; IGOs, WCMC)	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>20 % of Contracting Parties have a national inventory of invasive alien species. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>36 % of Contracting Parties have established national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties having a national inventory of invasive alien species that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands.</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have established national policies or guidelines on invasive species control and management.</p> <p>% of invasive species that have been eradicated per country.</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have controlled or eradicated invasive species.</p>

<b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>				
5	The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained, through effective planning and management.	<p>Improved management of Ramsar sites and wetlands through managements plans and enhanced resources</p> <p>The Secretariat will compile a comprehensive database of all relevant contacts including site managers, focal points, administrative authorities, and other sector actors</p>	<p>Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat, IOPs.</p> <p>(cross sectoral committees, NWC, Watershed Committees)</p>	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>Currently 1,107 sites have a management plan and 973 sites have management plans that are being implemented. (National Reports to COP12)</p> <p>27% of Contracting Parties have made assessments of effective management of Ramsar sites. (National Reports to COP12)</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Ramsar sites in the Ramsar Sites network that have management plans under implementation</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have made assessments of effective management of Ramsar sites.</p> <p>% of Ramsar sites that have updated RIS.</p> <p>% red list species loss and % of water birds population estimates and trends.</p>
6	There is a significant increase in the Ramsar site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands and transboundary sites.	<p>Strengthen the list of Ramsar sites with under-represented wetland types or transboundary sites.</p> <p>Wetlands inventories, Red List Index, Living Planet Index, Wild Bird Index.</p>	<p>Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat, IOPs.</p>	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>In current SP: By 2015 at least 2,500 Ramsar sites designated worldwide covering at least 250 million hectares.</p> <p><b>3 Indicators</b></p> <p>Number of Ramsar sites that have been designated</p> <p>Ha of Ramsar sites designated</p> <p>% of underrepresented types of wetlands and transboundary sites.</p>

7	Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed.	<p>Identification and implementation of measures to remove sites from Article 3.2 or Montreux Record.</p> <p>Ramsar Advisory missions.</p>	Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>Currently 2.24 % of Ramsar Sites are in the Montreux Record.</p> <p>21% of Contracting Parties have reported to the Ramsar Secretariat all cases of negative human- induced change or likely change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites pursuant to Article 3.2. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>16% of Contracting Parties have taken actions to address the issues for which Ramsar sites have been listed on the Montreux Record. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>No. of Ramsar Sites listed in the Montreux Record removed.</p> <p>% of parties reporting to secretariat potential risks to ecological character of Ramsar Sites pursuant to Article 3.2.</p> <p>% of Parties responding to secretariat queries regarding potential risks to ecological character of Ramsar Sites</p> <p>Number (%) of Sites listed under Article 3.2 or Montreux Record.</p>
<b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b>				
8	National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	Red List Index, Living Planet Index, Wild Bird Index, Ramsar Handbooks, remote sensing data on wetlands.	Contracting Parties (Secretariat).	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>Currently 47% of Contracting Parties at the global level have a complete national wetlands inventory (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>% of National wetlands inventories that have been completed or updated.</p>
9	The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource	Promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in	Contracting Parties, national and local stakeholders.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>55 % of Contracting Parties have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote wise use of wetlands.</p>

	management at the scale of the basin.	<p>other sectoral policies, plans or strategies</p> <p>Participatory platforms at wetland, river basin, national and other appropriate levels are joined or created to engage with concerned stakeholders</p> <p>Wetland/ wetland related governance platforms at basin level are in place.</p>		<p>(National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>71% of Contracting Parties consider wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of river basin. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of CP with <b>Wetland or wetland-related coordination mechanisms</b> at basin level in place</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have adopted wetland policies or equivalent instruments that promote wise use of wetlands</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that consider wetlands as natural water infrastructure integral to water resource management at the scale of basin.</p>
10	Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented	<p>Promoting wise use, integrated water resources management, and integration of wetlands in other sectoral policies, plans or strategies</p> <p>TEEB report, assessment of ecosystems services.</p> <p>Implementation of programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation.</p>	Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat, IPBES, IOPs.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>19% of Contracting Parties have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar sites. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>39% of Contracting Parties have incorporated wetlands issues into poverty eradication strategies. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>42% of Contracting Parties have implemented programmes or projects that contribute to poverty alleviation objectives or food and water security plans. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have made assessment of ecosystem services of Ramsar sites</p> <p>No. of case studies related to services and benefits of wetlands for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Poverty reduction and livelihoods</li> <li>2. Disaster risk reduction</li> <li>3. Leisure and recreation</li> </ol> <p>are widely demonstrated and documented</p>

11	Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands , with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.	Restoration initiatives taken, projects, programmes implemented.	Contracting Parties (STRP; Secretariat).	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>68% of Contracting Parties have identified priority sites for restoration. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>70% of Contracting Parties have implemented restoration or rehabilitation programmes. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have established priority sites for restoration.</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties that have implemented restoration or rehabilitation projects.</p> <p>No of hectares of wetlands restored.</p>
12	Sustainable fishery, agriculture and ecotourism are expanded, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.	As a new target agreed during SC48, tools, key actors and indicators will be prepared for SC51 consideration.		
<b>Operational Goal</b>				
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>				
13	Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language.	STRP leads with support from Secretariat in producing guidance Guidance is adopted by COP and used by Contracting parties and other stakeholders	STRP	<p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p>% of contracting parties reporting on use of Ramsar guidance.</p> <p>Number of times STRP briefing papers and technical papers referenced in the media</p>

14	Ramsar regional initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.	As a new target agreed during SC48, tools, key actors and indicators will be prepared for SC51 consideration.		
15	Wetland values are mainstreamed through communications, education, public participation and awareness.	<p>The Secretariat's CEPA programme will deliver high profile media and public awareness placements and programs to raise the convention's image.</p> <p>CEPA and capacity development programmes implemented</p>	Contracting Parties with support from Secretariat and IOPs	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>89% of Contracting Parties have branded World Wetlands Day activities. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>27% of Contracting Parties have established action plans for wetland CEPA at the national level (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>636 centres (visitor centres, interpretation centres, education centres) have been established in Ramsar sites and 309 centres at other wetlands. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% of CP recognizing WWD and actively celebrating it, with number of participants and number of activities.</p> <p>Number of mentions in media and press on world wetlands day</p> <p>Number of pledges to support wise use of wetlands on World Wetlands Day</p> <p>% of Contracting Parties implementing CEPA plans.</p> <p>No. of education centers at Ramsar sites and number of people reached (e.g. visitors).</p>
16	Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the 4 <sup>th</sup> Ramsar Strategic Plan	The Secretariat's Partnership team will raise non core funds to fund priority convention activities.	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, development assistance agencies.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p>

	2016 – 2021 from all sources are substantially increased			<p>21% of Contracting Parties have provided additional financial support through voluntary contributions to non-core funded Convention activities (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>40% of Contracting Parties have received funding support from development assistance agencies for national wetlands conservation and management. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>47% of Contracting Parties have received assistance from one or more of the Convention’s IOPs in their implementation of the Convention. (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% increase in international financial resources made available for wetland related activities in particular for developing countries, the least developed countries and small island developing States among them, and countries with economies in transition.</p> <p>No. of Parties reporting an increase in domestic financial resources for the implementation of the Strategic Plan</p> <p>No of Parties reporting an increase in domestic non financial resources for the implementation of the Strategic Plan</p> <p>% increase in non financial resource availability from other sources. (from NR, IOPs, etc)</p> <p>% increase in non core contributions to Ramsar.</p>
17	International cooperation is strengthened at all levels	Regional initiatives, multilateral and bilateral agreements, Memorandums of Understanding.	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, Regional Centres, MEAs.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>35% of Contracting Parties have established networks including twinning arrangements nationally or internationally for knowledge sharing and training for wetlands that share common features (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>33% of Contracting Parties have effective cooperative management in place for shared wetland systems (for example in shared river basins and coastal zones). (National Reports to COP12).</p>

				<p>68% of Contracting Parties have been involved in the development and implementation of a Regional Initiatives under the framework of the Convention (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p>7 Memoranda of Understanding signed with other Global and Regional Conventions. (Ramsar Secretariat).</p> <p>40 Memoranda of Understanding signed with International Organizations, global and regional intergovernmental organisations and processes and with other non-intergovernmental organizations. (Ramsar Secretariat).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>No. of Ramsar sites partnering to share information and experience</p> <p>No. of MEAs collaborating with the Ramsar Convention with practical outputs.</p> <p>No. of partnerships undertaken by the Ramsar Convention with stakeholders and other international organizations and international financial institutions</p> <p>No. of Regional Initiatives successfully implemented.</p> <p>No. of partnership including south-south, north-south and triangular among Ramsar Contracting Parties.</p> <p>No. of new countries becoming Parties to the Ramsar Convention.</p>
18	Capacity building for implementation of the Convention and the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 is enhanced.	<p>Projects, programmes and events that promote wise use of wetlands with the active involvement of wetland managers and users.</p> <p>CEPA plans, World Wetlands Day, training courses.</p>	Ramsar Secretariat, Contracting Parties, IOPs, Regional Initiatives, Regional Centres, wetland managers and users, MEAs.	<p><b>Baseline</b></p> <p>20% of Contracting Parties have made an assessment of national and local training needs for the implementation of the Convention (National Reports to COP12).</p> <p><b>Indicators</b></p> <p>% increase in training activities and educational programmes related to strategic goals 1 and 2 for the implementation of the Convention.</p>



				No. of Parties reporting knowledge and technology transfer activities relating to the strategic goals.
--	--	--	--	--

## Annex 2: Synergies between CBD Aichi Targets and Ramsar Targets

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016 - 2021			Aichi Targets 2010 - 2020
<b>Ramsar Strategic Goals</b>			
<b>Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation</b>		<b>Aichi Target # 5</b>	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
<b>Target 1</b>	Wetlands benefits and ecosystem services feature in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure at the national and local level	<b>Aichi Target # 2</b>	By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.
<b>Target 2</b>	Water use sustainability is improved while respecting ecosystem and basin requirements	<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
		<b>Aichi Target # 8</b>	By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
<b>Target 3</b>	Public and private sectors have taken steps to apply guidelines and good practices for wise use of water and wetlands	<b>Aichi Target # 4</b>	By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.
		<b>Aichi Target # 3</b>	By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.
		<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 8</b>	same as above
<b>Target 4</b>	Invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment	<b>Aichi Target # 9</b>	By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

<b>Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network</b>		<b>Aichi Target # 11</b>	same as above
<b>Target 5</b>	The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained, through effective planning and management	<b>Aichi Target # 11</b>	By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
		<b>Aichi Target # 12</b>	By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.
		<b>Aichi Target # 6</b>	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
<b>Target 6</b>	There is a significant increase in the Ramsar site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands and transboundary sites	<b>Aichi Target # 11</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 10</b>	By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning.
<b>Target 7</b>	Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats addressed.	<b>Aichi Target # 12</b>	Same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 5</b>	By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
		<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 11</b>	same as above

<b>Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands</b>			
<b>Target 8</b>	National wetland inventories have been completed, disseminated and used for promoting the conservation and effective management of all wetlands.	<b>Aichi Target # 14</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 18</b>	By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.
		<b>Aichi Target # 19</b>	By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.
		<b>Aichi Target # 12</b>	same as above
<b>Target 9</b>	The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the scale of the basin.	<b>Aichi Target # 4</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 6</b>	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
		<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	same as above
<b>Target 10</b>	Wetland services and benefits are widely demonstrated and documented	<b>Aichi Target # 13</b>	By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.
		<b>Aichi Target # 1</b>	By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps taken to conserve and use it sustainably.

		<b>Aichi Target # 2</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 14</b>	By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
<b>Target 11</b>	Restoration is in progress or completed in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that are relevant for biodiversity conservation, disaster risk reduction, livelihoods and/or climate change mitigation and adaptation.	<b>Aichi Target # 15</b>	By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
		<b>Aichi Target # 14</b>	same as above
<b>Target 12</b>	Sustainable fishery, agriculture and ecotourism are expanded, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods.	<b>Aichi Target # 6</b>	By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.
		<b>Aichi Target # 7</b>	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
<b>Operational Goal</b>			
<b>Goal 4: Enhancing Implementation</b>			
<b>Target 13</b>	Scientific and technical guidance at global and regional levels is developed on relevant topics and is available to policy makers and practitioners in an appropriate format and language	<b>Aichi Target # 19</b>	same as above
<b>Target 14</b>	Ramsar regional initiatives with the active involvement and support of the Parties in each region are reinforced and developed into effective tools to assist in the full implementation of the Convention.		
<b>Target 15</b>	Wetland values are mainstreamed through communications, educational participation and awareness.	<b>Aichi Target # 1</b>	same as above
		<b>Aichi Target # 18</b>	same as above

<b>Target 16</b>	Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 from all sources are substantially increased	<b>Aichi Target # 20</b>	By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.
<b>Target 17</b>	International cooperation is strengthened at all levels		
<b>Target 18</b>	Capacity building for implementation of the Convention/ fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 is enhanced.	<b>Aichi Target # 17</b>	By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.
		<b>Aichi Target # 1</b>	same as above