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Briefing for Contracting Parties

Wetlands International positions on Draft Resolutions to be considered at Ramsar Convention on Wetlands COP 13

In this document, we highlight resolutions of particular importance to Wetlands International and propose improvements to the draft resolutions where warranted. We hope for your support on these issues. For more information and to view our schedule of side events and supporting materials: <https://www.wetlands.org/event/wetlands-international-ramsar-cop-13/>

Please contact us with any questions on resolutions. Experts from our global network are attending the COP and will be available to provide advice on Resolutions and relevant information on our work around the world.

For each Resolution below we have allocated a Focal Point, please see Annex 1 to this paper for the contact details of these focal points together with those of all participating members of Wetlands International's network

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Resolutions Focal Point
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COP13 Doc.18.12 Draft resolution on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021.

Wetlands International Focal Point: Ritesh Kumar

- ▶ Add in Goal 2 Target 5: “through assessment of environmental health”
- ▶ Add in Goal 2 Target 7: Sites that are at risk of loss of ecological character have threats “identified and” addressed “at various levels”

On priorities

- ▶ Amend as follows: “ Provide guidance “and technical support” to Contracting Parties relating to the national reporting on wetland inventories, which will contribute to reporting under Sustainable Development Goals indicator 6.6.1;”
- ▶ Replace “Provide advice on applying integrated and landscape management approaches;” with “Provide advice to support national planning to incorporate integrated ecosystem-based landscape approaches to achieve sustainable wetland management, including addressing climate change adaptation needs”

Add an additional priority: “Prepare an inventory of traditional agricultural practices in wetlands and provide guidance and technical support to sustain the practices from developmental threats”

COP13 Doc.18.14 Draft resolution on restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity

Wetlands International Focal Point: Tatiana Minayeva

Wetlands International finds this a very timely and important resolution.

Paragraph 25

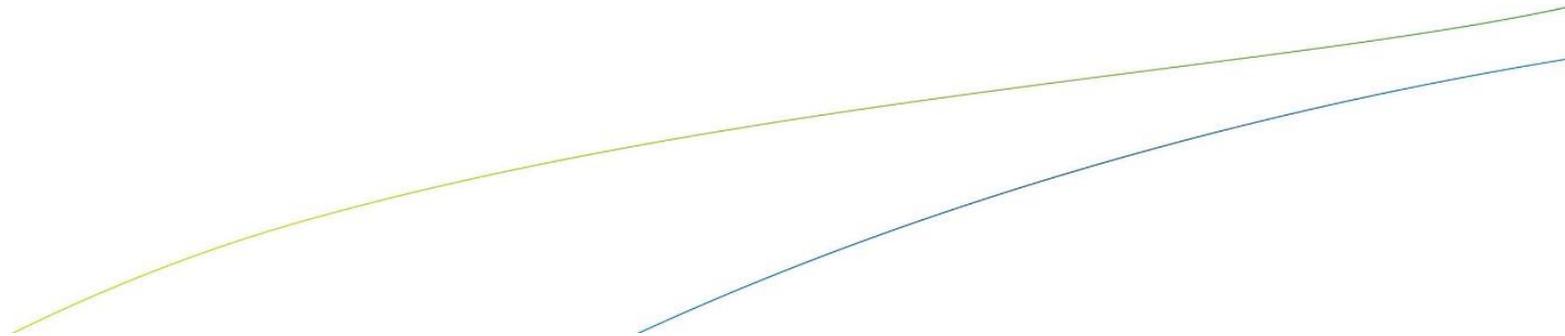
- ▶ Add ‘and improve national inventories of peatland status and extent’

COP13 Doc.18.15 Draft resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems

Wetlands International Focal Point: Yus Rusila Noor and Jane Madgwick

Paragraph 6

- ▶ Replace the end of the paragraph reading “and that current dredging and land reclamation practices are negatively impacting blue carbon ecosystems”, with:
“and that current hydraulic engineering practices (dredging, land reclamation, etc.) may have far reaching yet unaccounted for negative impacts on GHG emissions from carbon rich soils.”



Insert an additional paragraph after paragraph 12:

► Requests the Contracting Parties use regional cooperation mechanisms as Locally Managed Marine Areas in Pacific and Coral Triangle Initiative to support conservation of coastal blue carbon ecosystems.

Insert an additional paragraph after Paragraph 13

► Further encourages Contracting Parties to work especially closely with the water engineering and marine construction sectors to enable i) approaches which maintain and restore blue carbon ecosystems alongside infrastructure, and ii) approaches to dredging, land-reclamation and coastal infrastructure development which avoid, minimise and compensate emissions from soils and ecosystems.

Paragraph 14

Add an additional sub-paragraph a. iii:

“Collate values of coastal blue carbon, using the Ramsar and IPBES multiple wetlands values framework, to enable consideration of the same in sectoral planning and decision making.”

► Add the following sub-paragraph:

c) Mapping of carbon emissions from soils as a result of land reclamation, dredging operations and other engineering measures in blue carbon ecosystems, including near-shore carbon rich sediment deposits.

COP13 Doc.18.16 Draft resolution on cultural values, indigenous peoples and local communities, and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

Wetlands International Focal Point: Rafaela Nicola

Wetlands International finds this a very timely and important resolution.

Add an additional paragraph after paragraph 17:

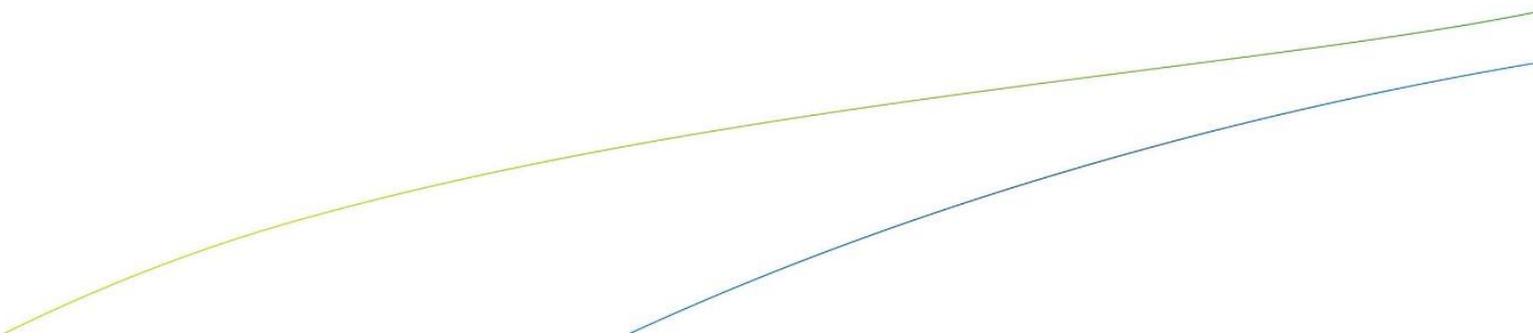
► Requests STRP to add additional elements to the method for ‘integrating multiple values of wetlands in decision making’ to support recognition and evaluation of cultural services.

COP13 Doc.18.17 Draft resolution on sustainable urbanization, climate change and wetlands

Wetlands International Focal Point: Ritesh Kumar

Paragraph 19

► Add to the following words to sub-paragraph 19.b:



"Developing technical guidelines for constructed urban and peri-urban water treatment "and storage" wetlands, which would include ensuring water quality, "flood protection" and the provision of wildlife habitat based on best available standards for the siting, design, construction, operation, maintenance and monitoring of constructed treatment wetlands, and bioremediation;"

Add the following additional sub-paragraph after 19 c:

► "Encourages use of rapid assessment techniques to assess the full range of ecosystem services provided by urban wetlands;"

Add the following additional sub-paragraph after 19 c:

► "Develop national inventory and within these, have specific focus on the status and trends of urban wetlands;"

Paragraph 20.

► Add an additional bullet between sub-paragraph 20.b and 20.c:

Incorporate the conservation of urban and peri-urban wetlands and consider to be constructed wetlands as measures to mitigate flood and drought risks in local and national planning, as part of climate change adaptation and urban resilience strategies, thereby implementing the Sendai Framework, New Urban Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities.

Implementing constructed urban and peri-urban wetland habitat enhancement by integrating treatment systems that use natural processes involving wetland vegetation, soils, and their associated microbial assemblages to improve water quality; undertaking in situ and/or ex situ bioremediation of wetlands;

Paragraph 20 (a)

► Add the following words: Developing and implementing wise-use management plans for "the stakeholders and" urban and peri-urban wetlands and periodically monitoring changes in wetlands; sharing these plans with urban planning authorities; and encouraging the embedding of urban wetland protection and creation goals in municipal and national planning programmes

COP13 Doc.18.18 Draft resolution on the rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services

Wetlands International Focal Point: Ritesh Kumar

Add the following paragraphs after Paragraph 17:

► "Requests STRP to develop a framework for linking rapid assessment of ecosystem services to method for management planning for Ramsar Sites."

Further requests STRP to outline a method for using rapid assessment of ecosystem services to determine medium and long term changes in ecosystem services, consequences for the objective of maintenance of ecological character, and management needs emanating from such assessment.

Table 2:

- ▶ Consider adding river basin or coastal zone as an additional scale.

COP13 Doc.18.19 Draft resolution on the importance of wetlands for peace and security

Wetlands International Focal Point: Joyce Kortlandt

Wetlands International has played a strong role in supporting the Senegalese and Central African Republic Contracting Parties to develop and prepare this Resolution.

Wetlands International finds this a very timely and important Resolution. The role of wetland degradation as a root cause of human instability leading to migration and conflict has been increasingly recognized over the last triennium. For instance, this year the situation around Lake Chad and the Inner Niger Delta have been part of discussions at the UN Security Council. Recognition of this issue and a agreeing on a series of actions to be taken by Contracting Parties, within the mandate of the Convention, will help anchor this issue and the solutions that are available to help reduce wetland degradation and restore them to health.

Paragraph 2

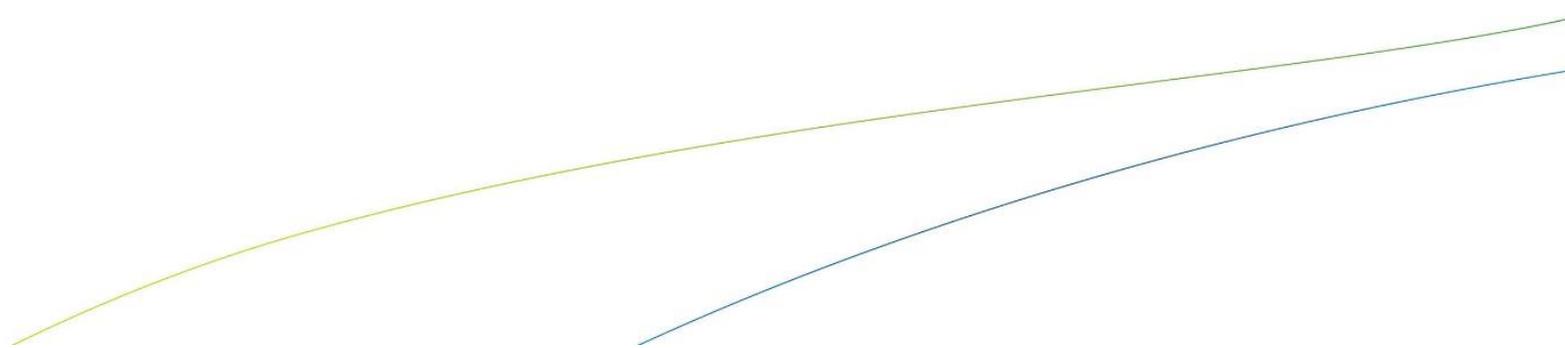
- ▶ Add at the end of the paragraph: "by providing ecosystem services associated with water, as reflected in Resolution IX.1 Annex C, Integrated Framework for Ramsar Guidelines on Water". (This framework says: "Wetland ecosystems are integral parts of the water cycle and play a critical role in regulating the quantity, quality and reliability of water. water "(# 1)," to provide the world's population, in a sustainable way, with water and the ecosystem benefits / services associated with water, water resources must be managed and protected by recognizing that they are an integral part of the complex ecosystems that ensure their sustainability. "(# 8,13)

Insert an additional paragraph after paragraph 4

- ▶ "Noting furthermore that the majority of conflicts are conflicts within states, and that the primary responsibility for preventive action is the responsibility of States (as indicated in the report of the United Nations and the World Bank 2018). "

Paragraph 7

- ▶ In order to strengthen the relationship to Ramsar's mandate with a more recent reference Add the following text and reference: "...and the Introduction to the Ramsar Manuals (2016) subseries i: Handbook 1 International Cooperation for Wetlands in which it is noted that "Wetland degradation is undermining access to safe water, human health, food production, economic development and geopolitical stability. "



Paragraph 14

► Reflecting the fact that there is wider interdependency between the SDGs than currently indicated and that the review of the SDG16 is of most specific importance and relevance to this Resolution, replace the existing Paragraph 14 with the following:

ACKNOWLEDGING the interdependency between the Sustainable Development Goals and NOTING that SDGs 16 will be reviewed in depth during the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2019 providing an opportunity to review the role of wetlands in peace and security;

COP13 Doc.18.20 Draft resolution on gender and wetlands

Wetlands International Focal Point: Rafaela Nicola

After Paragraph 17, include the following paragraphs:

- "REQUESTS the STRP to prepare an inventory of gender tools that be used for enhancing gender consideration in management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands;"
- "ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to felicitate women who contribute significantly towards wetlands conservation"

COP13 Doc.18.21 Draft resolution on agriculture in wetlands

Wetlands International Focal Point: Tatiana Minaeva

Paragraph 3

Add "fisheries" after "notably in terms of small-scale subsistence agriculture,..."

After Paragraph 9, add the following paragraphs:

"Aware of the outcomes of the FAO Report "Scoping Agriculture and Wetland Interactions (2008), which recommended developing guidance for good practices in economically revitalizing regulating and cultural services and ways to address socio-economic impacts through diversified livelihood responses."

Aware of the outcomes of Global Land Outlook which calls for land degradation neutrality and for effective response pathways for the way land is valued and managed, striving to balance biological and economic productivity.

Add the following paragraph after paragraph 12

- "Recalling findings of the FAO reports on peatland (Mitigation of climate change in agriculture (MICCA) series issues 5 (2012) and 9 (2014), and recent overview by FAO MICCA program of cases of peatland management practices stress that many of unsustainable

agriculture uses including drainage, overgrazing especially in arid and semiarid climate and permafrost areas lead to the massive losses of organic soils and cause strong feedback to a climate change and adaptive capacity of local communities.”

Paragraph 13

Add “and intensifying” after “CONCERNED that expanding”

Paragraph 15

Add “as well as overgrazing in arid and semiarid climates” after the “...natural resource exploitation...”

Paragraph 18

Add to the end of the paragraph “recognizing that impacts of agriculture on wetlands can manifest in-situ as well as ex-situ through altered basin level water and nutrient management”

Paragraph 19

► Add after “sphagnum-moss cultivation” “other paludiculture practices”

After Para 20

Add ‘encourages Contracting Parties to prohibit further conversion and modification of wetlands catchment area to agriculture use and thereby facilitate the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Add a further sub-paragraph g and h to Paragraph 21

► “g. To make agriculture related stakeholders aware of the negative impact of perverse economic incentives supporting unsustainable agriculture on wetlands, including the potential transformation and losses of the peatland ecosystem functions and services as a result of unsustainable agriculture practices on wetlands, potential strong feedback to the climate change and increasing poverty.

► “h. Widely disseminate examples of the best practices of wetland use in agriculture and options for impact mitigation”

Add to Paragraph 23

► Insert after words “including the integrity of wetlands”, “feedback to climate change,”

Paragraph 25

► Add to the end of the paragraph:

“taking into account the FAO Report “Scoping Agriculture and Wetland Interactions (2008) which provides a database and analysis of 90 cases of interactions between agriculture and wetlands”

COP13 Doc.18.22 Draft resolution on promoting the conservation and wise use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically associated habitats

Wetlands International Focal Point: Annadel Cabanban

This Resolution has been led by the Philippines government with support from Wetlands International. Suggested amendments are to further strengthen the linkage of the Resolution to waterbird monitoring following organisation of a regional meeting in UAE and related existing conservation initiatives.

Add a new paragraph after paragraph 8:

► WELCOMING (Further Noting, Acknowledging) the recommended actions for coasts in the Declaration of the Global Flyway Summit held in Abu Dhabi in April 2018: *A multi-stakeholder Global 'Caring for Coasts' Forum, mandated by the relevant MEAs, should be established to bring together relevant stakeholders, to advance sustainable approaches to coastal ecosystem protection, management and restoration for migratory species and ecosystem services including climate change resilience. It should support existing partnerships and mechanisms for flyway- scale conservation, such as flyway site networks, and be underpinned by regional situation analyses of coastal habitat status and trends (e.g. for the Arabian region);*"

Add to the end of paragraph 26 "and support for Parties to prioritise areas of their coast for ecosystem restoration, including in the light of sea level rise;"

Update paragraph 28:

► WELCOMING the Arctic Council's Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI), established in 2015, [which prioritizes support from Arctic Council member and observer countries for intertidal wetlands and thus has potential to support the efforts of Ramsar Parties towards the conservation of intertidal wetlands, which are vital to arctic breeding waterbirds] along the world's flyways;

Insert a new paragraph after paragraph 30

► WELCOMING the draft "Strategy for monitoring coastal waterbird populations and their habitats on the Arabian Peninsula" developed as an outcome of a regional workshop in the United Arab Emirates, hosted by Sharjah's Environment and Protected Areas Authority in association with Wetlands International and BirdLife International in September 2018, which aims to assist the conservation of migratory and resident waterbird populations and their coastal habitats in the region, including the development of a network of experts in waterbird monitoring;

Paragraph 32

- Add "to be called the Caring for Coasts Forum (C4CF) to" after "global Coastal Forum to"
- Replace "conservation, management" with "conservation, management and restoration"

Add to the end of paragraph 34:

▶ ; further INVITES Contracting Parties along the West Asia / East Africa flyway to enhance efforts and collaboration to improve population size estimates for waterbird populations in this flyway enabling the identification and designation of intertidal wetlands of international importance along this flyway;

Insert a new paragraph after paragraph 39

▶ URGES Contracting Parties and other range states of the Arabian Peninsula, and surrounding areas, possibly extended later to include other areas of relevance in the West Asian-East African flyway, which is known to be the part of the range of the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement where bird population declines are most severe, to support and participate in an assessment of the state of the region's coastal wetlands taking into consideration the experience gained by IUCN's 2012 situation analysis of the Yellow Sea and East Asian - Australasian Flyway which stimulated policy initiatives at various scales;

Simply paragraph 44

▶ ENCOURAGES [Contracting Parties and other stakeholders to make publicly available information about their practical experiences with coastal conservation interventions, including via conservationevidence.com

Insert a new paragraph after paragraph 48

▶ Urges the creation of a network of experts in waterbird and wetland monitoring in the Arabian Peninsula that could be called on by all countries in the region to help with surveys, training and capacity building, experience sharing and responding to on site/species conservation issues of urgent importance, and encourages the sharing of lessons-learned in order that the network could be expanded to other areas along the West Asian - East African flyway;

[COP13 Doc.18.24](#) Draft resolution on wetlands in West Asia

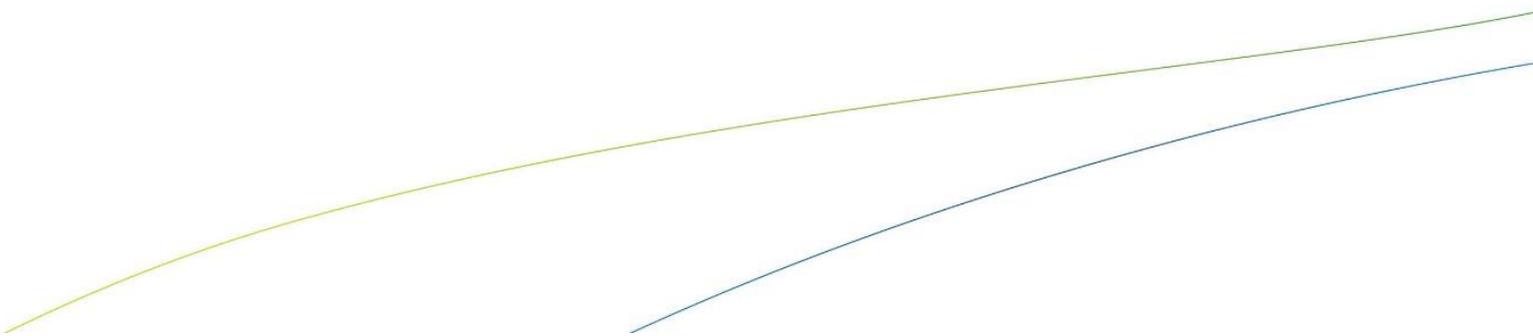
Wetlands International Focal Point: Taej Mundkur

Wetlands International finds this a very timely and important Resolution. Particularly in an arid region, management of water resources for the benefit of people and biodiversity requires an integrated ecosystem-based landscape-scale planning process. Rising threats to coastal regions, including intertidal and coastal wetlands and predicted sea-level increases highlights the need for additional attention on these habitats.

Paragraph 9

▶ add "intertidal and" before "coastal wetlands"

▶ Add cross reference to [COP13 Doc.18.22](#)



COP13 Doc.18.25 Draft resolution on wetlands in polar and subpolar regions

Wetlands International Focal Point: Tatiana Minayeva

Add to Paragraph 23:

Add text to the end of the paragraph:

► “and explore linkages to other existing network of Ramsar sites with high importance for migratory waterbirds such as the East Asian - Australasian Flyway Network, West/Central Asian Site Network for Cranes and other Waterbirds and Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.”

Paragraph 33

► Insert at the end of the paragraph “and consider peatlands in NDC and other relevant Climate Change mitigation and adaptation mechanisms”

Paragraph 34

Embed the following text “call to IPCC to include in the accounting and develop emission factors for permafrost related polar and subpolar wetlands especially peatlands”

Paragraph 36

► Add Arctic Council / CAFF to the list of organisations included in the ad hoc working group

Annex 1 Members of Wetlands International's network attending the Conference of Parties

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