

Draft Resolution on:
“Creating legal indicators to measure the effectivity of the Ramsar Convention”

- Action requested: The Standing Committee is invited to review and approve the attached Draft Resolution for consideration by the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties

Introduction

Financial implications of implementation

Paragraph	Action	Cost (CHF)
14. Development of legal indicators	Hiring by the Secretariat of a consultant to assist it in the development of legal indicators	18,000
18. Follow-up action	Support for the design of legal indicators by the Effectiveness Working Group and the Standing Committee	Off-budget (<i>pour memoire</i>)

Draft Resolution XIV-xx

Creating legal indicators to measure the effectivity of the Ramsar Convention

1. RECALLING that:
 - i) Resolution VII-7, providing guidelines for the review of laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands, calls for the use of the proposed criteria to assess the effectiveness of existing legal and institutional measures collected by the Parties pursuant to this same Resolution, and to update and supplement these criteria;
 - ii) Since Resolution VIII-26, para. 14, the Contracting Parties have called for precise indicators for the status of, and progress in implementation of the Ramsar Convention;
 - iii) Resolution IX-1, Annex D, on ecological indicators takes outcomes into account for assessing implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention;
 - iv) Para. 10 of Resolution X-1 requests the Standing Committee to assess progress and any difficulties in implementing the Strategic Plan;
 - v) Para. 18 of Resolution XII-2 on the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 reiterated this request;
 - vi) Para. 13 of Resolution XIII-5 urges Parties to continuously monitor progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and to communicate progress as well as any difficulties in implementing it in their national reports, and requests the Standing Committee to assess progress and any implementation difficulties;

- vii) Para. 17 of Resolution XIII-5 encourages Contracting Parties and their National Focal Points to ensure that the indicators for the Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are taken into account in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process;
- viii) Para. 27 of Resolution XIII-19 encourages Parties, in their National Reports, to assess the effectiveness and comprehensiveness of relevant domestic legislative, regulatory and wetland protection policy frameworks, to ensure that wetlands located in highly intensive agricultural landscapes have the necessary and adequate protection in place;

2. NOTING that each Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention regularly provides National Reports and REAFFIRMING the important role of such reports to understand the modalities of effective implementation of the Convention;

3. DETERMINED to strengthen the effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and wise use of wetlands;

4. RECOGNIZING the efforts made by the Contracting Parties to implement the Convention and comply with the national reporting model;

5. DESIRING to make it easier for each Contracting Party to assess its successes and also the obstacles encountered and any setbacks by having an appropriate methodology to analyze the conditions of application of the Convention;

6. CONSIDERING that the effective implementation of the 2016-2024 Strategic Plan and of the SDGs for which the Secretariat of the Convention has been mandated as co-depositary is closely linked to the legal and institutional arrangements for the effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention;

7. RECALLING that the Strategic Goals and Operational Goal set out in the Strategic Plan represent the priority areas of focus for the Ramsar Convention in 2016-2024, as well as the table in Annex 1 which specifies the tools, main actors, baselines and indicators for those Goals;

8. RECALLING FURTHER that paras. 1, 2 and 4 of the “Monitoring and Evaluation” objective of the Strategic Plan provided for the establishment for each of the targets identified of precise indicators monitored by the Parties as appropriate, for a review of their implementation by the Standing Committee, as well as for the development of global indicators that take into account, in particular, the need for indicators to address outcomes and effectiveness, and to be capable of practical implementation;

9. CONSIDERING that it is important to complement the monitoring and evaluation indicators that serve as a basis for implementing the Strategic Plan and the Convention, as contained in Goal 4 of the 2016-2024 Strategic Plan as well as in the table in Annex 1 “Ramsar Goals and Targets with Relevant Tools, Actors, Baselines and Indicators”, by legal indicators to measure the effectivity of the Ramsar Convention;

11. DESIRING, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Ramsar Convention, to be able to better assess the progress to be made in order to implement the Ramsar Convention satisfactorily through a modern and relevant assessment tool;

12. CONSIDERING that in complementarity with existing indicators, legal indicators can help to strengthen the framework of a dynamic and permanent process, constantly revised and adjusted to take into account the outcomes of monitoring processes, changing priorities and emerging issues in the planning and management of wetlands, including small wetlands and urban and peri-urban wetlands;

13. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the request of the 2021 IUCN World Conservation Congress addressed to Parties to global environmental conventions to introduce legal indicators to facilitate the assessment of State reports, stemming from the adoption of motion 060 "Measuring the effectiveness of environmental law using legal indicators";

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

14. INSTRUCTS the Secretariat to carry out as soon as possible, with the assistance of an independent consultant, the work necessary for the development of legal indicators for effective national implementation of the Ramsar Convention so as to have an appropriate method for measuring such effectivity with a view to making it available to all Contracting Parties;

15. REQUESTS to take into account for the design of those legal indicators of effectivity: the questions raised in National Reports and analyzed by the Secretariat and that lead to statistical reports on implementation of the Convention, as well as the data produced by the Ramsar Regional Initiatives;

16. REQUESTS FURTHER that the legal indicators take into account both the implementation of the Convention and its Resolutions, as well as of the Fourth Strategic Plan and the Ramsar Regional Initiatives;

17. URGES the Contracting Parties and their National Focal Points to collaborate in the creation of appropriate legal indicators;

18. REQUESTS the Effectiveness Working Group and the Standing Committee to monitor and evaluate the work related to the development of legal indicators.