**Review of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024**

**Template for Contracting Parties to evaluate their implementation efforts**

***Introduction***

COP13 (2018) adopted Resolution XIII.5 on the *Review of the fourth Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention* with Annex 1 providing *Scope and modalities* for the review. Standing Committee 56 established a Strategic Plan Working Group to prepare and guide the review process, composed of Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Benin, Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Oman, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, Uganda, and the United States of America.

Paragraph 8 of Annex 1 states that “Contracting Parties and the Secretariat are requested to evaluate their efforts in relation to the implementation of the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, and to submit their evaluations explaining their achievements and challenges experienced to the Secretariat for delivery to the Standing Committee’s Strategic Plan working Group according to a format and template provided by the Working Group”.

***General principles***

* The questionnaire below is simple and targeted, and is intended to require not more than 30 minutes to fill in responses to be general/broad in nature.
* The survey builds on, rather than duplicating existing information (e.g., already provided in National Reports to COP12 and COP13).
* It enables Parties to reflect on their own experience and priorities, rather than just box ticking.
* It focuses on the achievements and challenges Parties have experienced in implementing the Strategic Plan and reporting on their progress.
* Please provide short narrative answers ( …….. ) to the questions formulated below.

**Ramsar Priorities**

1. Was the Strategic Plan effective in identifying key priorities for implementing the Convention in your country? If not, what other key priorities should there be?

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1. How and to what extent did the Strategic Plan help you in carrying out your Ramsar obligations?

……..

**Achievements and challenges**

1. Which area/goal of the Strategic Plan has your country focussed the most on? Why?

……..

1. What have been your key achievements in implementing the Strategic Plan?

……..

1. What have been your challenges in implementing the Strategic Plan?

……..

**Implementation**

1. Do you have processes in place in your country to deliver on the goals and targets of the Strategic Plan?

……..

1. Has a Ramsar Regional Initiative helped you to implement the Strategic Plan for:

* Goal 1 ……..
* Goal 2 ……..
* Goal 3 ……..
* Goal 4 ……..

**Coordination and synergies with national policies** (*Resolution XIII.5, requests in paragraphs 13-18*)

1. How and to what extent is your implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan harmonized with implementation of national biodiversity targets (Aichi Targets) or your National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)?

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1. How are Ramsar National Focal Points engaging their counterparts responsible for updating NBSAPs, to take into account indicators for the Ramsar Strategic Plan, and to ensure that they are taken into account in the national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process?

……..

1. How and to what extent is your implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan harmonized with implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals?

……..

1. How are you strengthening effective coordination among statistical authorities responsible for reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular those related to wetlands?

……..

1. Have you allocated financial resources for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2021 and/or for preparation of the National Report to be provided to COP14?

………

**Improvements**

1. Are the targets of the Strategic Plan written in a way that makes it clear what actions or activities should be undertaken by your country for:

* Goal 1 ……..
* Goal 2 ……..
* Goal 3 ……..
* Goal 4 ……..

1. Would you suggest any improvements to the current indicators?

……..

1. How would you improve the targets (for instance: shorter, clearer, targets focussed on thematic areas rather than all-encompassing, plan applying over a shorter time period, ideas to make targets more agile?):

……..

1. What do you think should be included in the Strategic Plan to make it more meaningful to your country? To address the drivers of wetland loss more clearly? To have a greater impact on wise use of wetlands more broadly? What changes should be made?

……..

1. Do you have any other advice to assist with the review of the Strategic Plan that has not been covered in the questions above?

………