

### **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

### Inputs to the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

### Preparation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

In November 2018, at its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) launched the process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (decision 14/34). In decision 14/30 (para 12), COP requested the organization of a workshop to facilitate discussions among Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to explore ways in which the conventions can contribute to the elaboration of the post-2020 framework and identify specific elements that could be included in the framework.

According to the notes for the workshop provided to Parties, delegates are expected to:

- Identify ways in which the Ramsar Convention can further contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
- Recommend areas of work under the Convention that can be reflected in the framework and contribute to its implementation, in order to maximize its common relevance and applicability as a 'global' framework.
- Identify specific elements that could be included in the framework, based on the respective mandate, strategy and vision of the Convention.

In line with the above, the purpose of this document is to provide some elements for Contracting Parties and the Secretariat from the Convention perspective that can contribute to the post-2020 framework.

#### Background

#### The Ramsar Convention and the Global Biodiversity Framework 2011-2020

The Ramsar Convention contributed to the preparations of the Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and strived to ensure that the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 and current Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 targets were fully aligned or compatible with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable

Development Goals, particularly **6 "Clean Water and Sanitation**", **15 "Life on Land**", **14 "Life below Water**" and **13 "Climate Action**". Also, Parties have been requested to include in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, the specific priorities under each Convention to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The post-2020 framework needs to go beyond CBD, to reflect the priorities and contributions of the other biodiversity conventions such as the Ramsar Convention. It also needs to seek as wide an ownership as possible from many sectors and interests; public and private for its successful implementation.

In the Global Implementation Report of the Secretary General to the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties, besides assessing the progress in implementation of the Strategic Plan in the last triennium, the report presents the main contributions of the Convention to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). See in Annex 1 *How the Ramsar Strategic Plan contributes to Aichi Targets* and a summary of the links between the different goals.

### CBD Inland Biodiversity Work Programme and Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity

CBD Inland Biodiversity Work Programme

CBD COP 3 decided to invite the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands to co-operate as a lead partner in the implementation of activities under the Convention related to wetlands. It requested the Executive Secretary to seek inputs from the Ramsar Convention in preparation of documentation concerning the status and trends of inland water ecosystems for consideration by the COP 4 (decision III/21, paragraph 7(a)(ii)). The Secretariat has signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the CBD which has been endorsed by the CBD COP (decision III/21, paragraph 2).

COP 4 of the CBD adopted a work programme on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (decision IV/4, paragraph 1).

In decision VI/2 the COP emphasized the importance of review and elaboration of the programme of work on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems and of the implementation of activity 11 of the programme of work on the Global Taxonomy Initiative. As part of this process a review was undertaken of the status and trends of the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (CBD Technical Series No. 11) with contributions from the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

At its seventh meeting (2004) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the COP adopted a revised and elaborated programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (decision VII/4 – the annex to which contains the detailed work programme).

In annex II of decision CBD VIII/10, the COP decided to undertake the in-depth review of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity at its 10th meeting. Accordingly, SBSTTA considered the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity at its 14th meeting, in Nairobi, Kenya (10 - 21 May 2010). The review was considered by the Conference of the Parties during its 10th meeting, in Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010, resulting in decision X/28.

The Ramsar Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands provided inputs into the in-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems.

COP-10 subsequently recognized water as the primary global natural resource challenge and a key natural resource link between the various Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). COP-10 also noted that water is the key mechanism through which the impacts of climate change on ecosystems, and people, are felt and therefore the key link between biodiversity, climate change and desertification. SBSTTA determined that these linkages provided a clear scientific and technical basis to strengthen attention to water across all relevant interests and programmes of work of the Convention. COP-10 responded by incorporating water more explicitly in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, noting in particular the paramount importance of water with regards to target 14.

Joint Work Plan between the Ramsar Convention and the Convention on Biological Diversity

The 5th CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan covers the time-period of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and operates in the context of the Ramsar Convention's lead implementation role for wetlands for the CBD (through CBD decision III/21) and the CBD-Ramsar Memorandum of Cooperation (1996; renewed 2011).

The goal of the Joint Work Plan is the conservation, sustainable and wise use of biodiversity especially in wetlands, helping to assure the full achievement of the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Mission, Goals and Strategies of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 and Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

The main achievements and contribution of the Convention to the Inland Biodiversity Work Programme and the 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Work Programme in the triennium 2015-2018 are reflected in Annex 1 and CBD Decisions:

- V/2 Progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (implementation of decision IV/4)
- VI/2 Biological diversity of inland waters
- VII/4 Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems
- VIII/20 Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems: reporting processes, improving the review of implementation and addressing threats
- IX/19 Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems
- X/28 Inland waters biodiversity

As part of the joint work of the Ramsar and CBD Secretariats, the following CBD Technical Series and Ramsar Technical Reports were produced:

- CBD Technical Series No. 22 / Ramsar Technical Report No. 1: Guidelines for the Rapid Ecological Assessment of Biodiversity in Inland Water, Coastal and Marine Areas
- CBD Technical Series No. 27 / Ramsar Technical Report No. 3: Valuing wetlands Guidance for Valuing the Benefits Derived from Wetland Ecosystem Services

The Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands have provided key information on the status and trends of inland water biodiversity and drivers of change through their national reports.

The Ramsar and CBD Secretariats have started the discussions to review the Joint Work Plan for its renewal in 2021 taking in consideration the discussions of the Post- 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the progress of the mid-term review of Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

### Status of wetlands

Wetlands are among the most diverse and productive ecosystems

- They provide essential services and supply all of our fresh water.
- They are invaluable in supporting: climate change mitigation and adaption, disaster risk reduction, supporting production systems such as agriculture as well as livelihoods, local development and poverty eradication.

Wetlands are the most threatened ecosystems

- In spite of these many wetlands benefits and contributions to SDGs, up to 87% of the global wetland resource has been lost since 1700. Wetlands are being lost three times faster than any other ecosystem.

- Since 1970, 81% of populations of freshwater species have declined globally, a much greater decline than those of species depending on any other ecosystem.

## Which elements of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 are particularly useful for the Convention process and what has been missing

As indicated above the Ramsar Strategic Plan is fully aligned with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 under the CBD. This alignment is useful and important for Parties reporting under both Conventions but also for reporting on achievement of the SDGs.

The in-depth review of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity at its 10th meeting in 2010 concluded that it remains a good framework for implementation of relevant activities but that implementation needs to be significantly enhanced through:

- a) better coherence between land-use and water-use policies and activities,
- b) better incorporation of water issues into other programmes of work of the Convention, including with regards to water use and the management of riparian zones and habitats,
- c) improved recognition of the relevance of inland water ecosystem services to human health, poverty reduction, sustainable development and climate change.

COP10 incorporated water more explicitly in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and is Aichi Biodiversity Targets, emphasis was made in the importance of water with regards to target 14 "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". However, the specific reference of inland and/or coastal wetlands is only included in four of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets so water and wetlands are missing in most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The implementation, monitoring, review and evaluation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity mentions that the thematic programmes of work of the Convention such as biodiversity of inland waters and marine and coastal biodiversity among others provide detailed guidance on implementation of the Strategic Plan, and could also contribute to development and poverty

reduction. They are key tools to be considered in the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. However, in the evaluation of progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan there is not clear linkages to these programmes and their progress or its linkages to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Therefore, the conservation, sustainable and wise use of biodiversity of wetlands seems to be missing from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and must be addressed more clearly in the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Ways to address the biodiversity of inland waters and marine and coastal biodiversity

As a principle is important to use existing mechanisms to achieve the post 2020 framework, enhancing effectiveness and synergies and avoiding duplication and the aligning with relevant Sustainable Development Indicators.

Other ways could be:

- a) making specific reference to them in the review/adjustment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- b) include some key elements of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity and the CBD and Ramsar Joint Work Programme (see below).
- c) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity post 2020 should place greater and more explicit emphasis on water, wetlands and water-related ecosystem services
- d) make cross reference of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to the thematic programmes of work of the Convention
- e) Include indicators of the SDGs such as Goal 6, indicator 6.6.1 "change over time of water related ecosystems" for which Ramsar and UNEP are co-custodian and relevant biodiversity indicators for Goals 14 and 15.
- f) Cross reference to targets of Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

There may also be elements of the Joint Work Programme (2011-2020) that should be captured in the revision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity such as:

- a) The Ramsar Convention acts as the lead partner for wetlands in implementing the CBD but is important to stress the need to not only focus on inland wetlands, but also on marine coastal and man-made wetlands and their biodiversity.
- b) Supporting complementary and/or harmonised national reporting, including the role of CBD and Ramsar national reports in measuring the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity post 2020.
- c) Wetlands occur in all biomes and are potentially influenced by all sectors' activities, and the appropriate management of land and water, using the ecosystem approach of the CBD, is required to achieve the goal of the convention: consequently, the Strategic Plan for biodiversity should work through all relevant thematic programmes and cross-cutting issues of the CBD, and support implementation of all relevant Resolutions made under the Ramsar Convention.

### Annex 1

# *How the Ramsar Strategic Plan contributes to Aichi Targets* and a summary of the links between the different goals.

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024 Goal 1: Addressing the drivers of wetland loss and degradation		COP13 Global Implementation Report	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
			Aichi Target 5	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.
Target 1	Wetlands benefits are features in national/ local policy strategies and plans relating to key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture, fisheries at the national and local level	Most Contracting Parties have incorporated wetlands in their national biodiversity strategies and action plans drawn up under the CBD (83% of the Parties that submitted their national report in 2018) and in national policies or strategies for wetland management (62% of Parties).	Aichi Target 2	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.
Target 2	Water use respects wetland ecosystem needs for them to fulfil their	Nearly a third of the Parties (31%) confirm	Aichi Target 7	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
	functions and provide services at the appropriate scale inter alia at the basin level or along a coastal zone.	that the sustainability of water use has improved at their Ramsar Sites, in the context of the ecosystem requirements in the corresponding water catchment areas	Aichi Target 8	By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.
Target 3	The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply guidelines and good	46% of Parties report that the private sector is undertaking activities for the	Aichi Target 4	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.

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		COP13 Global Implementation Report	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020		
	practices for the wise use of water and wetlands.	conservation, wise use and management of Ramsar Sites and 37% of Parties have taken actions to remove perverse incentive measures that discourage conservation and wise use of wetlands. 40% of Contracting Parties have a national inventory on invasive alien species and 26% have established or reviewed national policies or guidelines on invasive wetland	Aichi Target 3	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.	
			Aichi Target 7	same as above	
			Aichi Target 8	same as above	
Target 4	Invasive alien species and pathways of introduction and expansion are identified and prioritized, priority invasive alien species are controlled or eradicated, and management responses are prepared and implemented to prevent their introduction and establishment.		Aichi Target 9	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.	
Goal 2: Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site network		species.	Aichi Target 11	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.	
Target 5	Ramsar Sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated managementof Rams has sup at least countrie achieve national under T48% of t current designar	The designation of Ramsar Sites has supported at least 57 countries in the achievement of national targets under Target 11	Aichi Target 11	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.	
		48% of the current 2,315 designated Ramsar Sites	Aichi Target 12	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.	

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		COP13 Global Implementation Report	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
		(1,120) have a management plan, and it is reported as effectively implemented at 37% (860) of the Sites.	Aichi Target 6	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.
Target 6	There is a significant increase in area, numbers	The designation of Ramsar Sites	Aichi Target 11	same as above
	and ecological connectivity in the Ramsar Site network in particular underrepresented types of wetlands including in underrepresented ecoregions and transboundary sites	has supported at least 57 countries in the achievement of national targetS under Target 11	Aichi Target 10	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.
Target 7	Sites that are at risk of change of ecological	Same as above	Aichi Target 12	Same as above
	character have threats addressed.		Aichi Target 5	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.
			Aichi Target 7	same as above
			Aichi Target 11	same as above
Goal 3: Wi	Goal 3: Wisely using all wetlands			

Target 8	inventories have beenContractingeither initiated, completedParties haveor updated andcompleted	Contracting Parties have completed national wetland	Aichi Target 14	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.
	conservation and effective management of all wetlands.		Aichi Target 18	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.
			Aichi Target 19	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.
			Aichi Target 12	same as above

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		COP13 Global Implementation Report	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
Target 9	The wise use of wetlands is strengthened through integrated resource management at the appropriate scale, <i>inter</i> <i>alia</i> , within a river basin or along a coastal zone.	63% of the Parties report that wetlands are considered as natural water infrastructure, integrated in water resource management at river-basin scale.	Aichi Target 4 Aichi Target 6	same as above 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.
		42% of Parties report having established policies or guidelines for enhancing the role of wetlands in mitigating or adapting to climate change	Aichi Target 10	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.
Target 10	The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities relevant for the wise use of wetlands and their customary use of wetland resources, are documented, respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with a full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities at all relevant levels.	36% of Parties have taken into account the guiding principles on cultural values of wetlands, including traditional knowledge and 45% of Parties have included socio-economic and cultural values of wetlands in the management planning for Ramsar Sites and other wetlands	Aichi Target 18	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.
Target 11	and benefits are widely Contracting	Contracting Parties reporting to COP13 have made an assessment of the ecosystem	Aichi Target 13	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.
		services of Ramsar Sites and other wetlands	Aichi Target 1 Aichi Target 2	By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps taken to conserve and use it sustainably. same as above

Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024		COP13 Global Implementation Report	Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020	
			Aichi Target 14	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.
Target 12	in degraded wetlands, with priority to wetlands that have identifi		Aichi Target 15	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.
	change mitigation and adaptation		Aichi Target 14	same as above
Target 13	<ul> <li>key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture, tourism, urban</li> <li>development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries, agriculture and</li> <li>report taking actions to enhance the sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining</li> </ul>	report taking actions to enhance the sustainability of key sectors such as water, energy, mining, agriculture,	Aichi Target 6	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.
	they affect wetlands, contributing to biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods	tourism, urban development, infrastructure, industry, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries when they affect wetlands.	Aichi Target 7	By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.
Operation	al Goal		•	
Goal 4: Enl	nancing Implementation			
Target 14	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		Aichi Target 19	same as above
Target 15	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 16	Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed	24% Parties have a plan at	Aichi Target 1	same as above

Ram	Ramsar Goals and Targets 2016-2024			Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2010 – 2020
	through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.	national level for wetland CEPA, 16% at subnational level, 15% at the catchment level, and 37% at the local/site level	Aichi Target 18	same as above
Target 17	Financial and other resources for effectively implementing the fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2024 from all sources are made available	19% of Parties have made a voluntary contribution to non-core activities during the triennium. 28% have received funding support for in- country wetland conservation and management from development assistance agencies.	Aichi Target 20	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.
Target 18	International cooperation is strengthened at all levels			
Target 19		Aichi Target 17	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.	
	– 2024 is enhanced.	and wise-use issues in formal education programmes; 44% of Contracting Parties report that 160 training opportunities have been offered for wetland site managers at Ramsar Sites.	Aichi Target 1	same as above