

WWN Pre-COP online meeting preparation April 2025

Item	Notes & excerpts	WWN Pre-COP priority draft
Freshwater restoration COP15 Doc.23.15 SC64 Doc.29.2 Rev.1 Proposed draft resolution on restoration of degraded freshwater ecosystems to support ecological character biodiversity and ecosystem services sc64_29_2_Rev1_DR_freshwater_ecosystem_restoration_TRACKED.pdf	Consolidates other water DRs; supports OECMs DR. <i>‘...seeks to enable stronger action on freshwater ecosystem restoration, as a component of ecosystem conservation, alongside sustainable management and use, as well as area-based and non-area-based protection, including for rivers and lakes, and to raise awareness of the Freshwater Challenge¹ as an initiative that can support Contracting Parties in restoring and protecting freshwater ecosystems.’</i> Civil society relevance: <i>‘ACKNOWLEDGING that restoration of freshwater ecosystems... contributes to the implementation of multiple obligations or commitments under different multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)’</i> WWN relevance: <i>WELCOMING the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework provisions relating to wetland restoration...</i> <i>ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to include in their priorities, the restoration of degraded freshwater ecosystems within and connected to Wetlands of International Importance, and other conservation areas, with a focus on restoration and effective management activities that would improve ecological character and ability to sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services, including though changing climatic and hydrologic conditions;</i> <i>ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to adopt common restoration indicators for freshwater ecosystems and including policy measures in strategies, action plans and reporting across other MEAs and frameworks;</i>	Medium

	<i>ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to include quantifiable targets for restoration and protection of freshwater ecosystems in national policies and plans ... and to report on progress in implementing river, lake and other freshwater wetland restoration and protection in National Reports for the Convention on Wetlands... among other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs);</i>	
Traditional knowledge and new technology COP15 Doc.23.172 Proposed draft resolution on promoting incorporation of new technology and traditional knowledge in wetland conservation, restoration, management, and wise use https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/sc64_29_4_Rev2_D_R_technology_and_knowledge_CLEAN.docx	WWN relevance: World Wetlands Survey; community involvement & free, prior, informed consent Submitted by China, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Gabon, Libya, Madagascar, and Panama. <i>13. URGES Contracting Parties, respecting free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, to promote the development of science, technology, and innovation in benefit of wetland conservation, as well as of the welfare of wetland-based local communities;</i> <i>14. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to share technology and knowledge relevant to wetland conservation and management, [on voluntary and mutually agreed terms] as appropriate, for promotion of integrative development of new technologies and traditional knowledge at regional and global levels through multiple mechanisms, including Ramsar Regional Initiatives, thematic fora for addressing cross cutting issues such as the World Coastal Forum, other MEA programmes and IOP-led initiatives;</i> <i>15. FURTHER ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties, respecting free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, to promote the incorporation and integration of new technology and traditional knowledge, [on voluntary basis and mutually agreed terms] as appropriate, in wetland conservation, restoration, management, and wise use, while respecting their national circumstances and within available resources, and to share economic or other</i>	Medium. Doesn't mention WWS and WWN has not been involved, but potential for both to be relevant.

	<i>benefits from work undertaken on wetlands with the holders of traditional knowledges;</i> <i>15bis ENCOURAGES efforts to respect ownership of knowledge and maintain consistency with existing international agreements on intellectual property and principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) regarding access to technology and knowledge and that should include protections around its dissemination according to the wishes of the participants;</i> <i>17. INVITES those Contracting Parties incorporating and integrating new technology and traditional knowledge to share their good practices, experiences and lessons in wetland conservation, management, and wise use [on voluntary bases];</i>	
OECMs COP15 Doc.23.18 Draft resolution on achieving the equitable governance and effective conservation of wetlands as protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) sc64_29_5_rev1_DR_wetlands_as_PAs_and_OECMs_e_TRACKED.pdf	<i>Several Contracting Parties voiced support for the draft resolution, highlighting the relevance of creating synergies with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the potentially added value for implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Several Parties provided suggestions for amendments, including adding reference to the definition and criteria for identifying other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) adopted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).</i>	High
Youth	There are at least 39 Youth Focal Points now.	High

COP15 Doc.23.19 Draft resolution on youth empowerment and integration: driving engagement in and the longevity of the Convention on Wetlands sc64_29_8_rev1_DR_youth_empowerment_engagement_e_TRACKED.pdf	Madagascar commented, need to find out their direction and whether WWT Madagascar can influence. Resolution's objective is to further prop youth engagement up while also thinking about a way to attain sustainability through time by re-instating the YWG for the next triennium. (There is a lot of work that the YWG has started and the youth workplan has further objectives that still need to be developed.) WWN and civil society relevance: <i>"INVITES the Secretariat to [call for voluntary financial contributions,] inform the Youth Working Group of available funding opportunities, and establish connections with potential donor partners who can offer financial support to the group, as appropriate, to facilitate the Working Group and youth engagement and projects more broadly, including professional secondments to support the employment of a youth advisor(...)" and " INVITES the IOPs to strengthen youth involvement in their programmes and outreach including by participating in, and providing financial [contributions] / [opportunities] to, the Youth Working Group, aligning youth activities with the Youth Workplan, and including youth in key governance and decision-making processes and positions."</i> <i>Members of the civil society can assist in finding financing options to increase youth participation as well as strengthening youth presence in their programmes.</i> <i>Although not in the current draft resolution, making the YWG a body of the convention could be a discussion to start at the COP. As well as longterm funding strategies.</i> <i>Might need accountability measures within the resolution to strengthen the CPs commitments, as seen not all countries have determined a youth focal point yet...</i>	
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Culture COP15 Doc.23.14 Strengthening action on culture and wetlands sc64_29_1_rev1_DR_culture_and_wetlands_e_TRACKED.pdf	Kenya on behalf of Uganda. WWN has members in both countries. On the suggested participation of Indigenous Peoples, a member emphasized that participation must be in accordance with national legislation of each Party. WWN members are supporting the related side-event application. <i>DESIRING to revitalise the position of the Convention on Wetlands as a key contributor to global approaches for wetland conservation and wise use that effectively integrate multiple systems of knowledge and values, including the contribution of traditional and contemporary human culture</i> <i>INVITES the Secretariat, in conjunction with the Ramsar Culture Network and with advice from the Scientific and Technical Review Panel as appropriate, to investigate options for developing a targeted programme of culture-related work in support of relevant objectives defined in the Convention's fifth Strategic Plan;</i> <i>2. ENCOURAGES Parties to include representation of individuals or groups with cultural expertise, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, in the membership of Ramsar National Committees; and</i> <i>ENCOURAGES Parties and others to ensure the greatest possible success of World Wetlands Day in 2026 on its agreed theme of "Wetlands and traditional knowledge: celebrating cultural heritage", by contributing case studies, promoting public awareness, highlighting Wetlands of International Importance with important cultural values, launching wetland cultural heritage conservation initiatives, and other forms of supportive activity</i>	Medium
CEPA COP15 Doc.23.6	WWN committee members are on CEPA Oversight Panel so have been involved.	High

Draft resolution on CEPA sc64 15.2 dr CEPA e .pdf	<i>While it is the task of each Contracting Party to determine the precise roles and responsibilities for their nominated CEPA NGO Focal Points (NFPs). General responsibilities may include to:</i> <i>• give a voice to the NGO community in the development and implementation of a wetland CEPA action plan at an appropriate level (national, subnational, local);</i> <i>• Serve as a point of contact between the Government CEPA Focal Point and the NGO community;</i> <i>• assist in mobilizing the NGO community in supporting wetland CEPA including support of World Wetlands Day</i> <i>Goals include:</i> <i>Appropriately experienced people to fill the roles of Government and Non-governmental Organization CEPA National Focal Points (see Appendix 2) nominated by Contracting Parties and communicated to the Convention Secretariat. {AA , CSO}</i> <i>Wetland communication (CEPA) plans developed at the appropriate level by Parties (national, basin or site) to support implementers of the Convention. {AA, YFP, NRC, CSO}</i> <i>Appropriate guidance materials that support and encourage the wise use of wetlands produced for use at Wetlands of International Importance and other wetlands and by wetland networks. {Sec, STRP, IOPs, CSO}</i> <i>Appropriate Wetlands of International Importance and other wetlands to be celebrated as “demonstration sites” for the wise use principle, and these sites suitably equipped in terms of capacity, signage, and interpretive materials. {AA, CEPA, IOPs, CSO, STRP NFPs}</i> <i>Collaboration on CEPA with other Conventions, IOPs, NGOs, UN agencies and others through sharing of CEPA experiences and the encouragement of synergies. {Sec, IOPs, CSO, AA, YFP, CEPA}</i>	
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	<i>Site managers supported to incorporate communication, education, participation and awareness elements into their management plans. {Sec, STRP, AA, CEPA, SM, RRCs, CSO, STRP NFP}</i> <i>Resources provided to produce wetland management training and capacity building materials and carry out training and capacity building. {Sec, AA, CEPA, STRP, SM, RRCs, CSO, STRP NFP}</i> <i>Partnerships with tertiary education institutions and other relevant organisations are developed to support the production and delivery of wetland management training and capacity building materials and programmes. {Sec, STRP, RRCs, CSO, PS, AA, CEPA, STRP NFP}</i> <i>Participation of major stakeholders and others as an effective process for selection of new Wetlands of International Importance and management of all wetlands. {AA, YFP, SM, CEPA, CSO, STRP NFP}</i> <i>Participation in wetland management of stakeholder groups with cultural, spiritual, customary, traditional, historical and socio-economic links to wetlands or those communities who depend on wetlands for their livelihoods is given a high priority. {AA, YFP, SM, CEPA, CSO, RRI}</i> <i>Encourage community participation in wetlands through volunteer programmes which support the delivery of management objectives. {AA, YFP, SM, CSO}</i> <i>Wide-reaching programmes, projects and campaigns, including World Wetlands Day, undertaken with diverse partners to raise awareness, build community support, and SC64 Doc.15.2 10 promote stewardship approaches and attitudes towards wetlands, in particular through the use of social media. {Sec, AA, YFP, NRC, CEPA, SM, IOPs, RRCs, PS, CSO}</i> <i>The membership of the [CEPA Oversight] Panel should include:</i>	
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	... <i>iii. Two CEPA NGO Focal Points...</i> <i>v. One representative of the International Organization Partners, who is selected to act as the liaison between the Panel and the six IOPs;</i> <i>vi. A youth representative;</i> <i>vii. A representative of Indigenous Peoples</i>	
Draft Resolution on Enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions sc64 14 synergies D R report e.pdf	Mentions 'The Water Convention', Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Helsinki, 17 March 1992. https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=xxvii-5&chapter=27&clang=en	Medium
Update of the Secretariat on the implementation of Resolution XIV.20 (Russia/Ukraine) SC64 28 implementation ResXIV20 e.pdf	WWN relevance (WWS): To ensure a high degree of confidence in the data gathered by the consultancy team throughout the field mission, field data has been corroborated and triangulated with Earth observations and data gathered through the completion of the initial desk study.	Medium
Draft resolution on RIS updating for COP15	REQUESTS the Standing Committee to establish, at its 66th meeting, a working group on RIS Updating ... to conduct the following work in the 2025-2028 triennium for adoption at ... COP16	Medium

SC64_26_Rev2_RIS_Updating_WG_eTRACKED.pdf	a. Conduct a Party-led prioritization of the essential data required for RIS updates, and subsequent update to the RIS format, with the aim of [reducing the administrative and technical burden on the Parties and] enabling the timely submission of data and information; b. Based on the outcomes of the prioritization exercise and subsequent update of the RIS format, conduct an update of the relevant sections of the Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance c. Provide guidance on completeness of data to be submitted for an RIS update and provide context for how the submitted information will be utilized;	
Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) Updating COP15 Doc.23.13 Report of the Working Group on Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) Updating. Chaired by Australia.	Perhaps potential for WWN to ask for civil society input.	
Strategic Plan 5 DR SC64_11_SPWG_report_e.pdf	Worth also noting Strategic Plan 4 as it may be brought forward The Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 The Convention on Wetlands, The Convention on Wetlands.	Med

Draft resolution on the application of Criteria 6 and 9 to new and existing Wetlands of International Importance sc64 21 DR application criteria 6 9 e 0.pdf	<i>15. REQUESTS the Secretariat, in cooperation with the STRP and relevant stakeholders, to develop capacity-building initiatives aimed at improving Contracting Parties' ability to apply Criteria 6 and 9;</i> <i>17. URGES Contracting Parties to mobilize financial resources for the conservation and management of wetlands, particularly for Wetlands of International Importance designated under Criteria 6 or 9.</i>	Low
Draft resolution on the Status of Sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance SC64 25 DR Status of Sites e.pdf	<i>Contracting Party called for developing modalities for the provision of relevant technical support, in particular to Least Developed Countries.</i> <i>12. An International Organization Partner (IOP) welcomed the draft resolution, stressing that IOPs are ready to provide support and highlighting the Red Alert System developed by the Mediterranean Alliance for Wetlands.</i>	Medium
COP15 Doc.23.11 Draft resolution on the establishment of the Waterbird Estimates Partnership (WEP) and the delivery of the 2027 edition of Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE2027) sc64 20 dr waterbird population estimates e .pdf	Led by Wetlands International, some support from BirdLife International. <i>This draft resolution addresses: 1) the urgent need for an update to WPE of both resident and migratory waterbird populations, through delivery of a 2027 edition (WPE2027); and 2) the establishment of the proposed WEP, to be launched at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) in July 2025, to provide the necessary ongoing support by the international partnership (the WEP) to coordinate and enable continued updates.</i> <i>DECIDES to establish the "Waterbird Estimates Partnership" (WEP) to ensure that high quality, up-to-date information on the sizes and trends of waterbird populations are available to Contracting Parties of the Convention on Wetlands and other</i>	Medium

	<i>stakeholders in support of the collective mission to conserve and wisely use wetlands, as outlined in Annex 1 of the present Resolution;</i> <i>14. REQUESTS Contracting Parties, and invites relevant multilateral environmental agreements, flyway agreements, partnerships and initiatives, the International Organization Partners of the Convention, and other stakeholders to engage collaboratively and proactively in the WEP to support future updates of WPE;</i> <i>8. The structure for the WEP will be based on two key aspects:</i> <i>• Partnership Governance: A [Global Coordination Committee – name and composition to be determined] will be established to oversee and manage the activities of the WEP. This committee will meet at least annually, develop terms of reference, and maintain a network of data providers and users.</i> <i>• Secretariat Support: A dedicated WEP secretariat, [delivered by Wetlands International as host of the Waterbird Populations Portal (WPP),] will support the Partnership’s operations, including convening meetings and preparing reports</i>	
Consolidated Resolution on inventories (document COP15 Doc.22.3 sc64_10_National_wetl_and_inventories_e.pdf)	<i>Actions requested:</i> <i>The Standing Committee is invited to:</i> <i>i. note the progress of the Secretariat in providing a support mechanism to Contracting Parties for the completion of national wetland inventories; and</i> <i>ii. request the Secretariat to further expand the national wetland inventories support mechanism, including through the mobilization of resources and partnerships, to offer further training and technical support.</i>	
Not a Draft Resolution Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards in three categories, announced and to be recognised at COP15. Grassroots action to	Laura Gonzalez, Executive Director of Marea Verde in Panama, recognized with the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Innovation; Iman Ebrahimi, CEO and Founder, Avaye Boom Bird Conservation Society, Islamic Republic of Iran, recognized with the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award for Young Wetland Champions;	

global impact celebrated as 2025 Ramsar Wetland Awardees are named The Convention on Wetlands, The Convention on Wetlands	Dayana Blanco Quiroga, Co-Founder Uru Uru Team and indigenous leader in Bolivia, recognized with the Ramsar Wetland Indigenous Peoples Conservation and Wise Use Award.	
Not a Draft Resolution. Rights of Nature in Wetlands sc64 29 7 DR rights of nature e.pdf	<i>Several Contracting Parties opposed forwarding the draft resolution to COP15, noting that consideration of rights of nature in wetlands is beyond the Convention's scope and expressing concern over the draft's incompatibility with international law, including potential conflicts with Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration on States' sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and with the rights of local populations depending on wetland ecosystems for their livelihoods.</i>	

Official handbook on participation [COP15 Participant Guide_E \(21 x 29.7 cm\)](#)

Secretariat landing page [15th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties | The Convention on Wetlands, The Convention on Wetlands](#)

Secretariat Diplomatic Note on COP15 [Notification | Convention on Wetlands Contacts Database](#)

Official reports on Standing Committee [64th meeting of the Standing Committee | The Convention on Wetlands, The Convention on Wetlands](#)