



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL
MINISTÈRE DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT
ET DU DÉVELOPPEMENT DURABLE
Autorité Administrative Ramsar



African Regional Preparatory Meeting for 13th Session of the Conference of Parties of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Dakar, Senegal

26 February to 2 March 2018

Daily Reports

April 2018

African Pre-COP Meeting –26-02-2018-Day 1

Chaired by Kenya

Co-Chair: Mali

Reporters: Ramsar Secretariat, DPN Senegal

Day 1 agenda items as follows:

Issues	Notes
<p>Opening ceremony:</p>	<p>The Opening ceremony was marked by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome address by Director of National Parks, Senegal • Speech address by Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention • Opening address by Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal <p>Official opening with the present of 45 Contracting Parties and observers. Paul OUEDRAOGO, Senior Advisor for Africa in Ramsar secretariat ensured moderation</p>
<p>Introduction of the meeting agenda Discussion & Clarifications</p>	<p>Amendment of the meeting Agenda :</p> <p>Benin requested an amendment for exchanges between the parties SG. Contracting parties and the Ramsar Secretariat.</p> <p>⇒ CPs to meet and exchange with the Ramsar Secretariat.</p> <p>South Africa requested delegates to meet for closed session just after lunchtime.</p> <p>AEWA representative asked whether registered observers could attend the working groups on Drafts resolution.</p> <p>Gambia: Did not find any problems for observers to participate to the working groups.</p> <p>South Africa: Reminded that in Uruguay observers could not allowed to attend to discussions on political matters but the following day they took part.</p> <p>Djibouti: For efficiency reasons, it is better not allowed observers to join Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Gabon: Accepted that observers attend the discussions.</p> <p>Senegal invited CPs to read again the Ramsar Convention Rules of Procedures and explained that observers could be present during technical discussions but delegates have to take decisions, in political area it should be in a closed session.</p> <p>Cameroon: Agreed with Gabon and Senegal because observers the presence will not changes the sovereignty rights of parties to take decisions.</p> <p>Uganda: For technical perspectives, we should accept observers to guide countries. But when it is decisions CPs will use sovereignty rights. Also, remind that countries did not formally admit them as observers.</p> <p>Niger: presence of observers is necessary to enlighten on some points, they still are partners with them.</p>

	<p>South Africa: They are not blocking observers if all delegates accept them</p> <p>Consensus decision allowed observers to participate with delegates in the working Group.</p> <p>Kenya: Observers are automatically admitted</p> <p>Ramsar SG clarified to CPs (about Rules of Procedures-Rules 6, 7) that observers are not allowed to take part to discussion if 1/3 of contracting Parties are objecting. CPs agreed to hold a closed session after lunchtime.</p>
Closed Session	Meeting between representatives of CPs to agree on issues to be discussed with the Secretariat on Ramsar Convention.
Brief introduction of submitted Draft Resolutions for COP13:	<p>The SRA for Africa introduced 6 of 16 Draft resolutions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DR on the Rapid Assessment of Wetland Ecosystem services • DR on cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands • DR on conservation and management of small and micro wetlands • DR on Ramsar Advisory Missions • DR on agriculture in wetlands • DR On peace and the sustainable management of biodiversity in Ramsar Sites
1. Side Event	<p>Side event presented by JOP / SWOS & Wetland-Africa on “Satellite based Wetland Observation – the wetland community Portal and free available tools for wetland monitoring, Ramsar / SDG reporting and wetland management guidance”</p> <p><i>It was attended by 27 countries and Partners (Globwetland Africa, WWF, Wetland, AEWA and Wetlands International)</i></p> <p>Three thematic were presented with focused on earth observation and opportunities and wetland management presented by ESA</p>

African Pre-COP Meeting - 27-02-2017- Day 2

Chair: Tunisia

Co-Chair: Congo

Reporters: Ramsar Secretariat, DPN Senegal

Day 2 agenda items as follows:

Issues	Notes
<p>Presentations By Globwetland AfricaTeam Project on Wetlands inventory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing and Monitoring National Wetland Inventories Wetland Inventory and SDG Target 6.6.1
<p>Exchanges Between Contracting Parties and Ramsar Secretary General</p>	<p>South Africa on behalf of Africa Expressed the pleasure to have the SG in the Pre-COP 13</p> <p>Said about the Documentation for the Pre-COP, some Documents are missing or were posted very late like financial Documents. We get the Draft Resolution late and we did not have time to consult at national level.</p> <p>Also shared their concern on the High-level segment (HLS) during Ramsar COP 13. Lack of communication from the Secretariat to Parties on the status of preparations for the HLS so that Parties can facilitate reservation of the dates and brief the high-level delegates accordingly. It is understood that it is the responsibility of the host country but the Secretariat is expected to play a key role in following up and providing guidance and support to the host country and allocate a staff member to coordinate with the host country</p> <p>Benin on behalf of Africa: Noted that the technical support to the CPs is one of the missions of the Secretariat. We think that Technical support is very important coming from the Secretariat. The region was surprised when they received an email (dated 29 January) saying that the Secretariat will not edit any Draft resolution received from a Contracting Party.</p> <p>Sierra Leone on behalf of Africa: stressed that the Ramsar Secretariat needs to increase its profile. The preference always goes to those countries who have done. The respond we received from secretariat is quite slow. There are many challenges on Ramsar Site, the presence of someone from the secretariat to those meeting to convince on the importance of wetland makes a lot of difference. Technical and Policy support is very required in Africa.</p> <p>Gambia on behalf of Africa: Asked from the secretariat possibilities to find additional funding to assist the African delegates to attend Ramsar COP 13 in the UAE and whether the voluntary contribution from African countries can be used</p>

to supplement any funds to support the participation of the Contracting Parties from Africa to COP 13. Additional delegates from Africa to COP13 will assist in strengthening and balancing negotiations in COP 13.

Senegal on behalf of Africa: Reminded the importance of transparency according to the previous COP in Uruguay. The main aim of the Secretariat is to support the Parties. African countries are marked by underdevelopment, degradation of wetlands, so they strongly need technical support from the secretariat. The need for the post of a Regional Officer for Africa is very critical and hence we would like to see it reinstated as a matter of priority.

Kenya on behalf of Africa: Asked to secretary general what is she doing for the performance evaluation of the Secretariat to its staff? What is the Secretariat plan to guaranty the Performance Evaluation Staff? The Group further wanted confirmation as to when, like it has been conducted to other SGs is it planned to happen. A question of the importance of 360-degree evaluation was also raised as an important evaluation to enhance performance of the SG.

South Africa on behalf of Africa: Agreed with Senegal and Benin about technical support from Ramsar Secretariat. We are not all in the same level of development in the regions. During COP 12, it was approved to provide Regional officers for various regions starting from Africa. When that post was filled, we saw a lot of improvement on various issues, *inter alia*, we have seen the improvement in RSIS. We have just observed during the secretariat's introduction that the officer originally recruited as the Regional Officer for Africa has to our surprise changed the title to Regional Officer for capacity building and not only for Africa in the title and we require clarity what that means, is the terms of reference still the same? Does that mean reduced and/or no more support for Africa as initially intended?

Secretary General: Expressed her thanks for the opportunity to exchange views and to respond to any questions from the Contracting Parties. It was important to provide relevant context and, especially, that the Standing Committee had established a Facilitation Working Group (FWG) to consider issues related to the Secretariat and the relationship with IUCN. The FWG included two African representatives present in the group, who could provide further information.

The FWG had facilitated discussions among Parties and with the Secretary General, which included some of the questions raised. The FWG had met in Gland in February 2017 and sent a report to the SC with a request that this report be circulated by Regional Representatives to all CPs. The FWG subsequently met on the sides of the SC53 in May 2017 and presented a report to the SC53, which had been approved in Decision SC53-23, which also (the SG read): took note of "the confidence they had expressed in the Secretary General, and the work and changes made to foster strengthened implementation of the Convention, and that as a result of this high confidence and full support, the FWG was stepping back from its closer-than-usual facilitation role". She encouraged participants to

read the FWG report, as well as the SG's reports submitted to SC53 and 54, to get a more complete picture of the ongoing work, under the guidance and direction of the SC. She offered to make available the FWG report.

She further provided a summary of the situation she found when she took office and expectations expressed by CPs, the consultation carried out and the areas that were identified to strengthen the Secretariat's work to better serve the CPs. These included the need to:

- better serve the governing and subsidiary bodies with accountability to COP and SC;
- enhance effectiveness of the Secretariat (including management of finances, enhanced whole-of-Secretariat approaches and performance);
- improved support for implementation with enhanced enabling role of the Secretariat;
- strengthen policy engagement in key processes with links to science; and increased visibility.

For the Documents, they are late and this relates to broader issues that the Secretariat has indicated to the Executive Team, FWG and SC. There is a problem with timeline and deadlines for submission of Documents from the Secretariat and Drafts Resolutions by Parties, which result in multiples meetings and fundraising expectations on the same year, notably in 2018: STRP in January, 5 regional meetings in Feb-March, SC54 in April and COP in October, to which other tasks are added: World Wetlands Day, deadline from National Reports and Ramsar Award and Audit, all in the first three months of the year. The Secretariat indicated that the deadline for DRs was 22 February with regional meetings starting on 26 February. Although CPs were encouraged to submit DRs Prior to this date, the majority of DRs were submitted on the deadline. She noted that the revision of DRs by pre-COPs was not part of the Rules of Procedures but the Secretariat tried its best to respond to this wish of CPs, including making all efforts to get translations in the three days in between submission and pre-COPs. Overcoming the challenges to have Documents in time will require to continue to put in place the necessary systems and capacities in the Secretariat (which takes time), but also, a review of the deadlines and requests made on the Secretariat, in line with those of other Conventions.

Regarding the COP13 High-level segment, UAE has confirmed that such event is to take place and although the Secretariat had been liaising with the CBD regarding its COP and HLS, and has been seeking confirmation from the host, the date is still to be confirmed by UAE. The likely date is 20 October (to be confirmed).

Regarding editing of Documents, the SG explained that the process to handle Draft Resolution was confusing with some early drafts received from non NFPs or AAs, several versions circulating and diverse processes started with CPs. The Secretariat clarified the process in its first communication and then in the date mentioned to streamline the process and ensure that it used in an effective way

	<p>its limited capacities. To help CPs the Secretariat developed detailed guidance and a template for DRs. The last message clarified who was to submit the DRs and the role of the Secretariat: it would format the DRs, coordinate translation and publish them, but it could not edit or engage in drafting with CPs, in line with the practice of other conventions and the fact that this is a CP-led process and that there is not mandate for such work. For technical advice, the STRP had a process to review the DRs and provide scientific and technical advice.</p> <p>On policy engagement, the SG confirmed that this had been a priority and the team and herself had substantially enhanced this engagement including in MEAs as well as in the UN, including on the CBD, UNFCCC, SDG process, UN Oceans. Further details were available on the SC Document on this matter, which included some specific achievements. She also underscored the need to address also relevant regional policy processes.</p> <p>Regarding fund additional delegates using the African voluntary contribution: this is a decision from Parties and the Secretariat had, in the financial Documents for SC54 (available in the website) identified the balance and invited the SC to take a decision. The Secretariat had indeed suggested that this could be used to support delegates to the COP, so the African Group could confirm the suggestion made by Gambia.</p> <p>Given that the last questions regarded human resource issues she asked that such discussion took place in a closed session between CPs and her.</p> <p>Fund additional delegates using the voluntary contribution: this needs to be decided by Standing Committee.</p>
<p>2- Closed Session</p>	<p>A Closed session is held around 1h30mn.</p>
<p>4- Working Group</p>	<p>Group Work on Draft Resolutions for COP13 (SC53 21.1 – 21.6) Groups: Eastern Africa; Western Africa; Central Africa; Northern Africa; Southern Africa & Indian Ocean</p>
<p>5- Reporting back from working Group (Plenary)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CENTRAL AFRICA</p> <hr/> <p>CENTRAL AFRICA group explained that they have based their analyse on 2 points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevance of the Draft Resolution - Form of the Draft Resolution <p><u>Doc.SC54-21.1: Draft Resolution on Rapid Assessment of Wetlands Ecosystem Service</u> Para 7: The group suggested to delete “values”. Para 8: The group suggested to review the formulation the paragraph.</p> <p><u>Doc.SC54-21.2: Draft Resolution on Cultural Values, local Communities and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands</u> The group recommended rewording on the title.</p>

Para 9 (3rd line): To replace “Cost-effective” with “efficient”.

Para 10: To replace “climate change mitigation and adaptation” with “climate change effects mitigation and adaptation”.

Para 14 (3rd line): To replace “designated Ramsar Sites” with “list of designated Ramsar Sites as wetlands of international importance”.

Para 14 (4th line): To replace “contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation” with “contribute to climate change effects mitigation and adaptation”.

Para 15: To replace “application” with “implementation” on the French version.

Doc.SC54-21.3: Draft Resolution on Conservation and management of small and micro wetlands

The group requested more precision on the scale of conservation to be considered.

Para 1 (penultimate line): To replace “wetlands included in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance” with “list of designated Ramsar Sites as wetlands of international importance”.

Doc.SC54-21.4: Draft Resolution 21.4 on Ramsar Advisory Missions

The group said it is relevant draft resolution.

Para 7 (penultimate line): To precise the date of the *Briefing Note* and *Policy Brief on Ramsar Advisory Missions*.

Para 13: To replace “URGES” with “REQUESTS”

Para 15 (1st line): To replace “URGES” with “REQUESTS” and to replace “recommendations made in RAM” with “recommendations of RAM”

Para 15 (2nd line): To replace “and by the Secretariat” with “and ENCOURAGES Secretariat”.

Para 18: To replace “INSTRUCTS” with “CALLS UPON”

Para 21: To replace “INSTRUCTS” with “REQUESTS”

Doc.SC54-21.5: Draft resolution on Agriculture in Wetlands

Para 3: To replace “poverty alleviation” with “poverty reduction”

Para 6: To replace “Paris-Pact” with “Paris Agreement”

Doc.SC54-21.6: Draft resolution on Peace and sustainable management of Biodiversity in Ramsar Sites

The group said being confused on the nature of the Document and asked whether it is a project paper or draft resolution.

EASTERN AFRICA

Doc.SC54-21.1: Draft resolution on Rapid Assessment of Wetlands Ecosystem Service

- There is duplication on para.12 and para.13

-Para.12 -13 need to be merged starting with para 12 line 3...ENCOURAGES contracting parties that do not already.....

Doc.SC54-21.2: Draft resolution on Cultural Values, local Communities and Climate Change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

-Title: The resolution is looking at two different aspects which need to be separated:

- Cultural Values, local Communities
- Climate Change mitigation and adaptation

-Para. 10-11. Focus on climate change targets which are under UNFCCC mandate, and out of Ramsar Convention mandate

-Para.12. (Request to SRTP) Is not clear about what they want to say

- Para. 13-15 They are encouraging to do many things (on tourism, poverty reduction, among others) **difficult to be implemented**

-Para. 14.: replace suitable ecotourism by sustainable income generating activities

- They should include a paragraph on capacity building.

Doc.SC54-21.3: Draft resolution on conservation and management of small and micro wetlands

Title: The definition of wetlands within the resolution (here based on wetland size) is not in line with Ramsar definition (which is based on wetland character)

Para. 2-16 all proposed requests on small and micro-wetlands are not aligned with Ramsar guidelines

Doc.SC54-21.4: Draft resolution on Ramsar Advisory Mission

No Comments. The draft resolution is well done

Doc.SC54-21.5: Draft resolution on Agriculture in Wetlands

Para. 15 line 2**preserving** should be replaced by **.....conserving**

Para. 16. Needs to be edited to focus on agriculture because it brings out many issues (such as hydrology, climate change mitigation, among others)

Para 16.-18: idem. the proposal should focus on agriculture

Para. 20 : the requested actions are not clear (what, how and where?)

The request should be based on smart agriculture, and wise use of wetlands in line with Ramsar guidelines.

Doc.SC54-21.6: Draft resolution on Peace and sustainable management of Biodiversity in Ramsar Sites

The table "financial implication" should not be part of the resolution

The whole draft resolution look like a personal proposal for Central African Republic

Para. 4 Urges the SECRETARIAT **to reduce** the financial package?? To be replaced by **.....to increase.....**

NORTHERN AFRICA

Doc.SC54-21.1: Draft resolution on the rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services

Draft Resolution to be adopted

Doc.SC54-21.2: Draft resolution on cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

Title: To be reworded as follow: Cultural values, local populations around the wetland areas and climate change mitigation.

Para 9 : To replace « local communities » with « local population »

Para 14 : To add the mention of « green economy” before “ecotourism”

Doc.SC54- 21.3: Draft resolution on Conservation and management of small and micro wetlands

Title: To define clearly what are micro and small wetlands and insert footnotes.

Para 2: To review the threshold value of 8 ha as it is not common for all CPs.

Para 5: To replace « villages and towns » with “rural and urban areas”.

SC54 21.4 on Ramsar Advisory Missions

Para 14 of the Annex: To translate the « Executive Summary” in the national language.

Doc.SC54- 21.5: Draft resolution on agriculture in wetlands

Para 4 : To be deleted or to be reworded

To replace in the French version of the Draft Resolution « Secrétariat Ramsar » with « Secrétariat de Ramsar ».

Doc.SC54-21.6: Draft resolution on peace and the sustainable management of biodiversity in Ramsar Sites

Draft Resolution to be reviewed

SOUTERN AFRICA AND INDIAN OCEAN

General Comment

The resolutions should come with information Documents to understand the thoughts behind these resolutions. This would assist in understanding the DRs in depth and to analyse them eventually.

Doc.SC54-21.1: Draft resolution on the rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services.

Considering the fact that 17% of the Contracting Parties have reported on National Inventories the group is also concerned and are requesting the addition of a paragraph requesting the secretariat to find out the reason for poor reporting and call an expert meeting on capacity building and funding.

Institutionalisation of the tools whereby regions can take initiative for capacity building? E.g. Southern Africa has an organisation called SASCAL head quartered in Namibia; this can be harnessed to strengthen capacity building within the Ramsar context.

THE GROUP CONSENT THAT all tools introduced should be subjected to capacity building.

Doc.SC54-21.2: Draft resolution on cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

The group have the following comments on the above DR 21. 2.

The Convention and Partners of UNFCCC to push for the capping of global temperatures to 1.5 degrees in order for efforts to mitigate climate change to be successful. Text is too much biased towards mitigation while Para 5 article 7 of the Paris Agreement reaffirms the need for adaptation. The resolutions talk about climate change but do not bring any action. Strengthen partnerships with Wetlands International, AEWA and other parties already working on wetlands and climate change.

Doc.SC54-21.3: Draft resolution on conservation and management of small and micro wetlands.

The group after going through the resolution 21.3 have to submit the following comments:

It is puzzling that the convention has some components of this draft resolution but the information behind this resolution should be availed in order to understand the context. The definition of small and micro wetlands in the context of Africa needs to be elaborated so that it's not ambiguous. We recommend that catchments of these small micro wetlands can be defined for easy implementation of inventories. Concern is that some of these small wetlands are seasonal and disappear in some seasons, In this regard small wetlands of strategic importance can be identified and designated to make the process more practical. Addition of a paragraph on the addition of simple guidelines on assessing these micro wetlands.

A paragraph requesting, Parties, Other governments, IOPs, finance institutions and other partners to offer technical and financial resources.

Also to add on the same, the group the para 15 be amended as follows:

INVITES the Contracting Parties, with the support, as appropriate, of the Ramsar Secretariat, to:

- further promote the importance of small and micro wetlands to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) *particularly through its Agreement on the conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)*, and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, as well as other relevant international institutions, through existing mechanisms, or, through effective communication, by dissemination of best practices and case studies;
- Either make specific reference to AEWA after the mention of CMS or just

make direct reference to AEWA.

It was also suggested to consider the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

The resolution on reviewing designation of Ramsar sites can be combined with draft resolution on conservation and management of small and micro wetlands otherwise it becomes redundant since some its components are covered in other resolutions.

Other RIO Conventions eg UNCCD, CBD have landscape and biodiversity components that include wetlands. There is an opportunity for including wetlands in these conventions.

Doc.SC54-21.4: Draft resolution on Ramsar advisory missions

Section 20 to be removed

Doc.SC54-21.5 : Draft resolution on agriculture in wetlands

WESTERN AFRICA

Doc.SC54-21.1: Draft resolution on the rapid assessment of wetland ecosystem services.

Para 4: Delete the reference: 2 persons; and line 3, take off half day, instead a few days.

Para 9, line 3: Remove the mention 2 hours and put in place a few days.

Para 9, Line 8 -9: Specify where this decision has been widely applied particularly in Africa.

Para 11: add the wetland status section (legal, traditional, etc.)

Table 3: Line 3, Remove the term "Pair" and replace by "evaluators".

Doc.SC54-21.2: Draft resolution on cultural values, local communities and climate change mitigation and adaptation in wetlands

Para 4, L 1: Recommends to clarify the traditional term for a less equivocal term and to put a footnote to the assertion made in this first line (80% of the world's biodiversity is found in traditional lands and waters. "

Paragraph 8: delete the entire paragraph finding that it is not necessary.

African Pre-COP Meeting – 28-02-2017- Day 3

Reporters: Ramsar Secretariat, DPN Senegal

Day 3 agenda items as follows:

- 7:30 to 16:00: Field visits in parallel of three wetland sites
- 19:00: Cocktail and dinner with Minister of Environment of Senegal

Issues	Notes
Field Visits	<p>VISIT TO THREE WETLANDS</p> <p>The Government of Senegal invited the delegates to PreCOP to visit three sites :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Réserve naturelle d'intérêt communautaire de la Somone (Ramsar Site n°2327) • Technopôle de Dakar (Urban Wetland) • Lac Rose <p style="text-align: center;">1. Presentation of SOMONE (Ramsar Site n°2327)</p> <p>Somone is a New Ramsar Site recently designated in 2017. It is located around 45 kilometres to Dakar, and has the particularity to be a community natural reserve with a specific co-management plan. Somone is also a protected area was created at 1997 to promote the socio-economic development of local populations and to preserve the integrity of ecosystem lagoons.</p> <p>The Site Manager presented the site to the Ramsar Secretary General and the delegates. He focused the explanation on the site management plan. This protected area is located in Thiès Region, and covers 700 ha. The sites is characterized by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich and diverse Mangrove (predominance of Rhizophora); • Presence of heronries; • Nesting area for sea turtles; • High diversity of birds (more than 52 species counted); • Ten (10) mammal species identified; • Several species of fish; • Several species of Reptiles; <p>The eco touristic values are marked by :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautiful landscapes (terrestrial environment and amphibian environment); • Beautiful beach at the estuary; • Lagoon ride inside the mangrove; • Hiking on the ecological trail; • Birdwatching.

After the presentation, some questions raised from participants focused on socio-economic issues in relation with the ecological value of the site. Site managers explained by giving more details on management plan implemented in collaboration with populations.

In addition, they are private (hotels, enterprise) located in the wetland and they still contribute to the site management. There is a strong collaboration between the population sites managers and privates. About found revolving, there is a very effective strategy to allow the population to implement their projects.

Following these fruitful exchanges, the delegation is brought to visit the Somone lagoon with a beautiful crossing on the mangrove. This visit was also an opportunity to observe some birds on the site.

Brief tasting on sea fruits followed with the two main actors of the exploitation, the private enterprise (with oysters of which the species is imported) and the groups of women with the local oysters.

The visit ended around 3 pm, with a meal in a hotel in the square.

2. Presentation of the Technopole site by Pr. Paul Ndiaye

The *Technopôle* site is located at the golf where the association « *Nature Communauté Développement* (NCD) » is installed.

There is a high biodiversity potential and the site provides numerous ecosystem services to the local population. It is important for the recreation assets.

It's a space dedicated for environmental education, bird watching and monitoring. It covers a surface area of 300ha and is composed of basins, water surfaces both natural and artificial. Some of these basins are very deep and the presence of some species there indicates the depth of basins.

Its original name is the "Grande Niayes de Pikine" Niayes ale meaning bas fond.

It's one of the main Important Bird Area (IBA). It is located on the migration path between Europe and Africa. The site is the third stage for migratory birds after the Banc d'Arguin of Mauritania.

The origin of the water is ground water and rainwater. But at some basin, there is saline water infiltration. Thus, the waters of the south basins are saline. During raining season, water covers most of the surface area.

There are about 221 species bird at the site including:

- Audouin's Gull and other gull species,
- Black-winged Stilt,
- Cormorant,
- Pelican,
- Terns species,
- black-tailed barge,
- ducks,

- sandpipers,
- King fisher.

Bird watching

After the brief presentation of the site, participants went for a bird watching and identification.

Activities in and around the site

Market gardening, fishing, grass gathering, mechanics and there are about 600 horticulturists, florists and market gardeners.

The drivers of the site degradation are the following:

- Rapid extension of the town,
- Dune serves as a dumping area,
- Infrastructure installed in and around the site,
- Backfilling and installation of garage.

The group found themselves for an exchange on the future of the site, the threats that weigh on him and the need to give him a protection status.

Discussions

The Representative of Senghor university made some suggestions for the site to receive some students from his university to work on biodiversity inventory and on the governance of the wetland. He also suggested that the site be made a Ramsar site.

The representative of IUCN promised to work with NCD to help them with funding opportunities through the integration of their project or part of it into his planned activities.

The WWF representative stressed the urgency and value for Senegal of preparing the designation of the *Technopôle* as a Ramsar Site, so that it can officially announce it at COP13, which will focus on wetlands and sustainable urban planning

The SRA for Africa highlighted the fact that during the whole week Dakar will be the capital of Wetlands in Africa where 45 Country member states of Africa met. He pointed out that there is the necessity to relate the *Technopôle* site to all the debates related to the 2030 Agenda.

Design a project to enhance the potential of the site as an ecotourist site, a wetland education site where the water cycle, the carbon cycle will be highlighted.

At the end of these exchange discussion it came out that one of the recommendation of the 45 Contracting Parties of Africa Pre COP will be the designation of the Technopole site as a Ramsar Site of International Importance.

The visit ended with lunch and signing of the Golden Book of "*Nature Communauté Développement*" with warm thanks from the group to the volunteers of the associations for their welcome and congratulations for their commitment to the wetlands

3. Visit to Lac rose

Description of the Site “Lac Rose”

The Group arrived at Hotel Restaurant “*Arc en Ciel*” for a short break (drinks and light snacks).

Guides: During break, welcomed delegates and gave a quick description (with drawing) of the Lac Rose (meaning Pink Lake). The lake is separated from the Atlantic Ocean only by a narrow corridor of dunes. Also, they explained that pink waters are caused by algae from the surrounding dune. The lake is known for its high salt content, up to 40% in some areas.

The discussions between delegates and guides focused on the casuarina plantation serving to stabilise the sand dune, the main economic activities generating local income and the management plan of the site.

Tour of Lac Rose

Delegates saw by themselves the growing pressure (the surface reduced from 30km² in 1970s to 8km² actually) around the lake and the environmental and economic stakes of the Lake Rose as second most visited touristic site after Gorée island. Also took note on the importance of preserving this natural resource in order to sustain local benefits and livelihood.

An official from the Ministry of Environment said that despite the site is not a protected area, there is a “Plan Communal de Developpement” at the Commune level to help dealing with the land use conflict and growing pressure around the Lac Rose.

COCKTAIL

A cocktail party, offered by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal closes the day with the presence of the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal and the Ramsar Secretary General.

African Pre-COP Meeting – 01-03-2018- Day 4

Chair: D. R. Congo

Co-Chair: Burkina Faso

Rapporteurs: Ramsar Secretariat, DPN Senegal

Day 4 agenda items as follow:

Issues	Notes
<p>Short Plenary</p>	<p>Discussions as majority of CPs requested more time allocated for Draft resolutions working group.</p> <p>⇒ The final decision was to continue with sub regional working groups on the remaining Draft Resolutions until 4pm.</p> <p>Ramsar Secretary General: Emphasized that consideration of DRs was a Contracting Parties' process and that the Secretariat could provide an overview and linkages between proposals that could help Parties' discussions. In this context, after hearing that participants were going to consider the DR on "Improving the Efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention" submitted by Switzerland (SC54-21.8), the Secretariat drew the attention to document SC54.9 which contained a DR prepared by the Facilitation Working Group on Enhancing the effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention", as Parties could wish to consider the two DRs dealing with the same subject.</p> <p>Senegal: Shared following clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st that all Draft Resolutions are available on the Ramsar Website as the meeting should be paperless (no paper) as much as possible. • 2nd It is not the role of the Secretariat to tell at which Draft Resolutions we should look. • 3rd It is up to the Contracting Parties to decide which Draft Resolutions are pertinent for Africa, for their sub regions, and for their countries. • 4th we have to finish our work on Draft Resolution before the end of the pre-COP meeting as it is in our interest to get a common position on the documents before SC54 and before the COP13.
<p>Working Group</p>	<p>Delegates joined their respective Working Group to continue on the remaining Draft Resolutions (from Draft Resolution DOC54-21.7 until DOC54-21.16).</p> <p>Working Groups are as follow: Central Africa; Eastern Africa; Northern Africa; Southern Africa & Indian Ocean African SIDS; Western Africa; Northern Africa</p>

<p>Reporting back from working Group (Plenary)</p>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">CENTRAL AFRICA</h2>
	<p><u>Doc. SC54-21.7</u> : Draft Resolution on wetlands in West Asia (Submitted by Iraq) The Central African Group considered this Draft Resolution is irrelevant for their region. Para 1: To replace “generosity” with “hospitality”</p> <p><u>Doc. SC54-21.8</u> : Draft Resolution on improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention (Submitted by Switzerland)</p> <p>Para 3 (Line 1): To replace (only in the French Version) “realisation” with “mise en oeuvre” Para 7 (Line 4): To replace “size and working structure of the Standing Committee have changed” with “size and working structure of the Standing Committee changed”. Para 23 (page 6): To correct in the French version and to replace “Mandate” with “Mandat”. Para 23 (c) Line 2: To put “legal and institutional” instead of “legal, institutional”. Para 23 (f): To replace (only in the French version) “Prepare” with “Preparer” Para 32: on "eligible delegates" the group requested clarification on the term "eligible"</p> <p><u>Doc. SC54-21.9:</u> Draft Resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems (Submitted by Australia) Para 19: To add a subparagraph on the financial mechanisms available for African States that could help the implementation of policies described here.</p> <p><u>Doc. SC54-21.10:</u> (English version not available) Projet de résolution sur le renforcement de la protection et de la gestion des zones de reproduction, d'alimentation et de croissance des tortues marines, et sur la désignation au titre de Ramsar des sites à enjeux majeurs (Présenté par la France et le Sénégal) Group said this is Relevant resolution. Group requested to review the order of presentation of the Ramsar regions in alphabetical order and remove the “authors” names from the document.</p> <p><u>Doc. SC54-21.11:</u> Draft Resolution on World Wetlands Day (Submitted by UAE) The Group recommended that World Wetlands Day celebrations take on a special character every 25 years. Para 1: To give the names of 18 founding countries Para 4, L4: To replace “bigger and bigger” with “increasing”.</p>

Doc. SC54-21.12: Draft Resolution on urbanization, climate change and sustainable wetlands Submitted by United Arab Emirates

Group adopted this Draft resolution as it stands.

Para 16, L2: The Group put a reserve on Countries ability to regulate the effects of climate change.

Doc. SC54-21.13: Draft resolution on promoting the conservation and wise-use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats (Submitted by the Philippines)

Group noted a number of "Reminders" which appear in the preamble, appear as solutions to the problems raised. This made confusion.

Para 32 L 2: To delete "urgently"

Doc. SC54-21.14: Draft Resolution on wetlands in polar and subpolar regions (Submitted by Sweden)

The Group noted the interest of the Polar States in this Draft Resolution and took note of it.

Doc. SC54-21.15: Draft resolution on wetlands, peace and security (Submitted by Senegal)

The Group noted the relevance and the similarity of the concerns arising from the draft Resolution presented by the CAR in the previous draft resolution.

Doc. SC54-21.16: Draft resolution on gender and wetlands (Submitted by Colombia)

Group took note of this draft resolution and made no major comments.

Para 11: To replace "Application" with "Implementation"

EASTERN AFRICA

DOC SC54-21.7 : Draft Resolution on wetlands in West Asia (Submitted by Iraq)

Well drafted, no comments.

DOC SC54-21.8 : Draft Resolution on improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention (Submitted by Switzerland)

Skipped

DOC SC54-21.9 : Draft Resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems (Submitted by Australia)

- No comment
- the table for financial implication should not be part of draft resolution

DOC SC54-21.10 : (English version not available) Projet de résolution sur le renforcement de la protection et de la gestion des zones de reproduction, d'alimentation et de croissance des tortues marines, et sur la désignation au titre de Ramsar des sites à enjeux majeurs (Présenté par la France et le Sénégal)

Not yet translated in English

DOC SC54-21.11 : Draft Resolution on World Wetlands Day (Submitted by UAE)

Draft resolution on World Wetlands Day

Para5: replace 'congratulate 90%' by 'congratulate all Contacting parties that have celebrated World Wetlands Day.

DOC SC54-21.12 : Draft Resolution on urbanization, climate change and sustainable wetlands Submitted by United Arab Emirates

General comment: the distinction of natural urban wetlands and constructed wetlands should come out the resolution.

Par 3-5 : should be merged and strengthened so the they reflect the title resolution

Para 6: should be deleted because it was covered in para 3-4

Para. 11: to delete the word "analytical "

Para.16: translation in English for " loss of Biodiversity " different from French version "Appauvrissement de la Biodiversité"

Para. 18:

- a) the phrase " using hydrogeomorphic methods " should be replaced by "" using different methods "
- a-c : the word 'Ramsar wetlands' to be replaced by 'all wetlands'
- b): to delete the word "treatment "And keep 'constructed wetlands '.
- d) should be deleted because Ramsar convention is already promoting to conduct inventory for all wetlands
- e) is not clear, thus it should be deleted
- f) the word 'Protection' should be replaced by 'conservation'

Para 20.

"Ramsar bodies" should be replaced by 'Ramsar Convention'

DOC SC54-21.13: Draft resolution on promoting the conservation and wise-use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats (Submitted by the Philippines)

In general, the draft resolution is well written.

Para 5 line 3:

(.....SDGs will be seriously impaired....) Should be replaced by
(.....SDGs will be seriously affected)

Para 34 : last line should be deleted

(.....protected via World Heritage and/or the Ramsar Convention Global (including exchange of experience between sites);

Replaced by (.....protected through Ramsar Convention)

Para 36:

- 'Scientific Council' should be replaced by 'STRP'
- We bracket (...) the Para. 36 until we get more clarifications on "working coastal habitat

Para 37:

Line 4 : remove the words "economics of ecological services and identification of biodiversity needs can be" completed;

Replaced by "until a full assessment is completed"

Para 40:

Remove the word 'especially with conservation evidence.com'

Para 44

We (...) it. Let the global forum first work before creating other global initiatives.

Para 46-47

Should be deleted since they are not in line with the preamble and title

Annex1-X: All annexes which content were not reflected in the preamble should be removed.

DOC SC54-21.14: Draft Resolution on wetlands in polar and subpolar regions

The introduction is not needed since the draft resolution start with a preamble.

Para 34

No need of ad-hoc working group to work on Polar and Sub-Polar wetlands. Use the existing groups

DOC SC54- 21.15: Draft resolution on wetlands, peace and security

General Comment:

- The resolution is articulating issues related to peace and security. However, there is a need to come out clearly in the preamble statement.
- Where there is word 'peace' , they should add also 'security'

Para. 4

Remove the examples (inner Niger, Delta, Lake Chad, ...)

Para. 5-6

Remove the words 'poverty, ecosystem approach,) because they are not relevant with the resolution title

Para. 5-8

Should be removed because they are not related to the subject

Para. 11: Keep only SDGs 6 & SDGs 16 addressing water , peace and security

Para. 12-13 : Should be removed because they are not related to the subject

Para. 16: 'Replace 'Wetlands Hotspots' by Wetlands Security Hotspots'

Para. 17:

-'Replace 'Guidance by guideline

-Remove 'Partners for resilience

-Drawing experience of major program in peace and **Security**

Para. 18: Add '**Security**' on last line

Para. 19 :Add 'Wetland Security Hotspots'

Para. 22-23: Need to be removed

Para. 25: Remove mention of specific Conventions and stay with "relevant organizations'

Para. 26: Remove mention of specific Conventions

Para. 27: should be linked with resolution title

Para. 29: Remove 'if this work is approved'

Remove annex 1

DOC SC54-21.16.: Draft resolution on gender and wetlands

General Comment:

- The introduction should not be part of the resolution
- The preamble Part should reflect in totality 'gender and wetlands' not only women
- The resolution's title is different from its content.

DOC SC54-23: Draft resolution on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021

Well documented

No comments

However, annexes should not be part of the resolution

DOC SC54-24: Draft Resolution on guidance on identifying Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteria

Well done

No comments

NORTHERN AFRICA

Doc. SC54-21.7 : Draft Resolution on wetlands in West Asia (Submitted by Iraq)

Para. 1: proposal to eliminate this Para. (subjectivity)

Para. 2: To eliminate "the unique term" this type of ZH also exists in North Africa
Suggestion to add other types of ZH (Saharan)

Para. 4: To eliminate because of subjectivity of the content

To merge Para.5 and 6

To change "to provide water for the environment" by "to supply the population with water"

Doc. SC54-21.8 : Draft Resolution on improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention (Submitted by Switzerland)

The time available for us to consider this resolution is insufficient.

Doc. SC54-9 Draft Resolution on Enhancing the effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention, submitted by Facilitation Working Group.

Doc. SC54-21.10 : (English version not available) Projet de résolution sur le renforcement de la protection et de la gestion des zones de reproduction, d'alimentation et de croissance des tortues marines, et sur la désignation au titre de Ramsar des sites à enjeux majeurs (Présenté par la France et le Sénégal)

Proposal to add two Ramsar sites to the list Annex 1 to this resolution;

1- Site n° 1026 : Ain El Shakika

2- Site n° 1027 : Ain El Zarga

DOC.SC54-12 : Draft Resolution on urbanization, climate change and sustainable wetlands Submitted by United Arab Emirates

Para. 1: Change the word "indigenous" to "local population"

Doc. SC54-21.13 : Draft resolution on promoting the conservation and wise-use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats

Para. 22: Line 6 change "indigenous populations and local populations" to "local populations"

Line 1: delete "subject to available funds"

-**Para. 37:** To clear

Para. 38

Doc. SC54-21.15 : Draft resolution on wetlands, peace and security

Objective of this resolution?

Risk of exceeding the prerogatives the convention:

-**Para. 4:** Avoid giving examples of countries

-**Para. 10:** Conflict exacerbates environmental degradation and climate change

-**Para. 23:** To remove national security plans

-**Para. 28:** does not fall within the remit of the Ramsar Scientific Committee

Doc.SC54-21.16: Draft resolution on gender and wetlands

Draft resolution on gender equality in the context of Wetlands

Complete the actions and the financial impact

Doc. SC54-23 : Draft resolution on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021

No objection or comments

Doc. SC54-24 : Draft Resolution on guidance on identifying Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites) for global climate change regulation as an additional argument to existing Ramsar criteria

No objection or comments

Doc. SC54-25 : Draft resolution on restoration of degraded peatlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change and enhance biodiversity

The reason for devoting two resolutions to a single category of Wetland

Why only one example?

SOUTERN AFRICA

General Comment

The resolutions should come with information documents to understand the thoughts behind these resolutions.

Doc. SC54-21.7 : Draft Resolution on wetlands in West Asia (Submitted by Iraq)

We support the draft resolution

Doc. SC54-21.8 : Draft Resolution on improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention (Submitted by Switzerland)

Clarification is required on approval of documents by the Standing committee. The draft resolution has structural implications on the governing body and may include the input of contracting parties' Foreign Affairs Departments.

Doc SC54-21.9 : Draft Resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems (Submitted by Australia)

The draft resolution come with a lot of obligations as such our emphasis is on financial capacity

Doc. SC54-21.11 : Draft Resolution on World Wetlands Day (Submitted by UAE)

The group is in support of this draft resolution. However Para. 2 talks of the convention being signed on 3 February but is commemorated on 2 February. An addition to Para. 6 'welcome and encourages' governments and parties to support the initiative.

Doc. SC54-21.12 : Draft Resolution on urbanization, climate change and sustainable wetlands Submitted by United Arab Emirates

Emphasis is on urbanisation as such there is need to look into previous relevant resolutions that have been adopted. Substitution of activities in Para. 16 instead of processes.

Doc. SC54-21.13 : Draft resolution on promoting the conservation and wise-use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats

The group finds it as a very long and repetitive draft resolution. The Draft resolution does not come with back ground information.

Doc.SC54-21.14 : Draft Resolution on wetlands in polar and subpolar regions

The SA & SIDS have No comments

Doc. SC54-21.16 : Draft resolution on gender and wetlands

Typos in Para. 2 "Request the Scientific and Technical Review Panel to developed guidance on how to integrate'. An open consideration to the gender consideration

(age, sex and roles) is required instead of inclination towards women. If the aim of this draft resolution is to do with women empowerment then the title can thus be changed to gender, women empowerment.

Doc. SC54-23 : Draft resolution on future implementation of scientific and technical aspects of the Convention for 2019-2021

Question to ask at the plenary

Doc.SC54-21.4: Draft resolution on Ramsar advisory missions

Invasion by Invasive alien plants is a form of degradation that should be included in the document. The UNCCD argument is missing in the draft resolution. If guidance for the small micro catchments are considered, then peatlands can be included too.

Doc.SC54-21.5 : Draft resolution on agriculture in wetlands

Para. 13: "AWARE that wetlands provide ample resources that can be used for human and animal nutrition, as building materials and for energy production"

- Additional consideration in relation to preambular Para. 13 which concerns wetlands resources: Taking into consideration the threats posed to wetlands resources, including large scale poisoning of migratory water birds which depend on agricultural wetlands, which in turn has an impact on human health and well-being;
- An additional suggestion in the operative Para. 5 should refer to strengthening collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and its relevant instruments, particularly in the framework of the CMS Working Group for the Prevention of Poisoning of Migratory Birds.

Doc SC 54-9 : Draft Resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems (Submitted by Australia) and SC54-21.8

If the facilitation-working group can shed light, as to why there were two submissions on the same topic. Contracting parties have no mandate of comments from relevant department

WESTERN AFRICA

Doc SC 54 21.7 : Draft Resolution on wetlands in West Asia (Submitted by Iraq)

Para 1 line 1: Replace with offered by accepted

Para 4 Line 5: Correcting the Mesopotamia

Para 8: Correct Rapid

Para 11: Very relevant. See how to take this part into account in the resolution

"Wetlands, peace and security"

Para 10-12: Always add West Asia

Para 12: Request a correction and Expert Knowledge

Doc. SC 54 21.9 : Draft Resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems (Submitted by Australia)

Comments: very important resolution for Africa. A provision must be introduced to financially support Africa for its implementation.

Reformulate the title in French: promotion of blue carbon in the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal ecosystems.

The numbering goes from 10 to 12 (we jumped on the 11th).

Line 10: Specify the support site or channel used to make the information visible

Doc. SC54-21.10 : (English version not available) Projet de résolution sur le renforcement de la protection et de la gestion des zones de reproduction, d'alimentation et de croissance des tortues marines, et sur la désignation au titre de Ramsar des sites à enjeux majeurs (Présenté par la France et le Sénégal)

Para 7: Replace with "breeding, feeding and growing areas"

Para 18: Start with "ENCOURAGE" then REMIND

Para 12: The format of this resolution does not conform to the usual format

Doc.SC54-21.11 : Draft Resolution on World Wetlands Day (Submitted by UAE)

Para 5: Accompany the National Correspondents with physical material for the celebration of this day.

Doc. SC54-21.12 Draft Resolution on urbanization, climate change and sustainable wetlands

Para 19: Remove the sign + on the following sentence and add "s" on sector:

19. ENCOURAGE Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to consider taking the following actions

c. Involve local stakeholders, including government, private+ sectors, NGOs, research centres,

Doc. SC54-21.13 : Draft resolution on promoting the conservation and wise-use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats

Para 12. : Comma after turtles

NOTING the inherent ecological connectivity of coastal areas at various scales, notably through their support of migratory species such as waterbirds, turtles sea cows, dolphins and porpoises, and the role as source spawning areas for coastal fish

stocks

Comments : the format of this resolution does not conform to the usual format

Doc. SC54-21.14 Draft Resolution on wetlands in polar and subpolar regions

Para 6: Remove The in the last sentence “the those”

RECOGNIZING that the polar and subpolar wetland ecosystems are very sensitive and vulnerable, for example oil spills may cause more severe impact due to dark midwinters and lower temperatures than in other regions, and that these regions are also among the those

African Pre-COP Meeting – 02-03-2018- Day 5

Chair: Seychelles

Co-chair: Gabon

Reporter : Secrétariat de Ramsar, DPN Sénégal

Day 5 agenda items as follow:

Issues	Notes
<p>Short Plenary</p>	<p>The meeting began with a request from some contracting countries, through the senior advisor, to ask for recommendations at the end of the PreCOP meeting. After some discussions with particularly Cameroon, there has not any decision about formulation of recommendations. Northern Africa and Western Africa have requested to hold a working group to finish their negotiations on Draft Resolutions.</p>
<p>Working Group</p>	<p>The different group held working group to nominate their representatives and alternates to SC.</p>
<p>Reporting back from working Group (Plenary)</p>	<p>Both group of countries return back with their comments about Draft Resolution.</p> <p>West Africa: Western Africa group agreed with resolution submitted by Switzerland because established bodies allowed to approach the previous bodies and to establish mainly a regional balance. With this new institutional change, 6 countries will be represented instead of 3, the participation become largest. They appreciate the Science-Policy Interface, the enhancing version of GEST, it is a good initiative. It is bodies more opened and allow getting scientific interface in politics and field planning.</p> <p>Northern Africa: <u>Doc. SC54-21.8 : Draft Resolution on improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention (Submitted by Switzerland)</u></p> <p>About resolution 8 as we said yesterday the majority of the group is new focal point and we don't have a good back ground on the situation in Ramsar convention during last years according that we will send our comment with our presented in stander commute in April. They cannot take any decision with Egypt missing. So they will report they decision until they find a common decision with Egypt which is not attended to this meeting.</p> <p><u>Doc.SC54-21.9: Draft resolution on promoting conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coastal blue carbon ecosystems Submitted by Australia</u> The resolution is well prepared just remove the table from second page</p>

	<p><u>Doc. SC54-21.10</u> : (English version not available) Projet de résolution sur le renforcement de la protection et de la gestion des zones de reproduction, d'alimentation et de croissance des tortues marines, et sur la désignation au titre de Ramsar des sites à enjeux majeurs (Présenté par la France et le Sénégal)</p> <p>We will wait the English version to comment on it</p> <p><u>Doc. SC54-21.11</u> : Draft Resolution on World Wetlands Day (Submitted by UAE)</p> <p>Para 5 replace 90% by all contracting party</p> <p><u>Doc.SC54-21.12</u> : Draft Resolution on urbanization, climate change and sustainable wetlands Submitted by United Arab Emirates</p> <p>This resolution will a benefit on convention in general by the collaborating with other conventions</p> <p>Para 5 convention of climate change Is missing</p> <p><u>Doc. SC54-21.13</u>: Draft resolution on promoting the conservation and wise-use of intertidal wetlands and ecologically-associated habitats (Submitted by the Philippines)</p> <p>Para 38 Be aware not fully implement its internal decision</p> <p>Nomination of the members :</p> <p>After concertation, regional group of contracting parties appoint Standing Committee Representatives. Regarding normal procedures, each work group finally validated following countries and its alternates (1 for each other plus an alternate)</p> <p>Eastern Africa : Uganda and Rwanda (alternate)</p> <p>Western Africa: Gambia / Senegal (Alternate)</p> <p>Central Africa: Republic of Congo / Chad (Alternate)</p> <p>Northern Africa : To be decided</p> <p>Tunisia will continue to take part into standing Committee until the COP in October. After, they ensure to change a new representative.</p> <p>Southern Africa & Indian Ocean: Zambia/ Lesotho (Alternate)</p> <p>Eastern Africa: Uganda/ Rwanda (Alternate)</p>
<p>Plenary (continues)</p>	<p>Opportunity for engagement on the Community of Ocean Action on Mangroves</p> <p>The Ramsar Secretary General of Ramsar Convention informed participants of an opportunity to build momentum for the conservation of mangroves and more broadly, coastal and marine ecosystems, through the Communities of Ocean Action established to supporting implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14</p> <p>Background: In June 2017, at The Ocean Conference, 193 Member States of the</p>

United Nations committed to:

- Set of ambitious measures that will begin the reversal of the decline of the ocean's health.
- The Conference outcome Document *Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action*, together with close to 1,400 voluntary commitments for concrete action to advance implementation of SDG Goal 14.

The Ramsar SG has been appointed to lead focal point on the Community of Ocean Action on Mangroves. This is an opportunity to engage Contracting Parties's work under the Convention in this initiative.

Mangrove-related commitments: A total of 91 voluntary commitments In Africa, the countries with Voluntary Commitments related to Mangroves are Mozambique and Nigeria

The SG encouraged Contracting Parties to make commitments from their ongoing work under the Convention to mobilize action for mangroves. . COP13 in Dubai will be an opportunity to convene the mangrove community, address progress and encourage more commitments. The Secretariat will circulate the details on how to engage in the Oceans Community of Action.

Plenary discussion – Enhancing the effectiveness of the Convention

South Africa: requested for clarity on the difference between Document SC54-9 (Draft Resolution on Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention – submitted by the Standing Committee Facilitation Working Group) and SC54-21.8 (Draft Resolution on improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention- submitted by Switzerland) because they seem to be addressing the same topic and Switzerland is a member of the Group that submitted SC54-9.

Kenya commented that the draft resolution proposed by Switzerland on improving the efficiency of structures and processes of the Convention is a state party proposal and not the proposal of the Facilitation Working Group. The document of the FWG and the draft resolution are two different documents.

The work of the Facilitation Working Group was clear and basically about the management effectiveness.

The FWG strongly commended the work of the secretariat and expressed confidence with the secretariat under the new SG. We have trust and we are confident that Ramsar is doing for much better and we expect a well-organized COP, more effective secretariat. However, we need to support and motivate each other and especially the Secretariat. It is up to us to get the outcomes we need in conservation and wise use of Wetlands.

	<p>The Senior Advisor for Africa presented the status of annual contribution</p> <p>Senior Advisor for Africa presented annual and volunteer contributions status of all parties with distinction between Contracting Parties.</p> <p>Cameroon: Assure haven paid all about the contributions, then Senior advisor for Africa clarify that Ramsar Secretariat didn't received any new contribution from Cameroon. He stated that during the Pre-COP in Hammamet Cameroon made the same statement but the Secretariat never received the contribution despite having shipped the banks details to Cameroon</p> <p>Ramsar Secretary General: referred to Document SC54.7.2 on Status of annual contributions, which has the exact data that we have in the system.</p> <p>Senegal asked about the status of the African Voluntary Contributions.</p> <p>The Secretary General referred to Document SC44-7.1. on the report on financial matters for 2016-2018 and provided a summary of the status and proposals, including discussions of SC53 and its Sub-group on Finance.</p> <p>Senegal turn back previous financial status to make a situation of total Voluntary Contribution of African parties and the main question was what is the actual situation of the Voluntary Contribution? If there the Voluntary Contribution is allocated to some expenses, it will be suit that the Ramsar Secretariat give more details and clarifications.</p> <p>Cameroon request to not hold on this kind of question as this was not a suitable moment and such discussions were to be held at the standing Committee. He also requested to stop the mode of interrogation of the Secretary General and focus on technical matters. .</p> <p>Presentation : Alert System RIS</p> <p>This presentation was an attempt to address the global situation of updating Ramsar Sites. It has been a question to show the alert system evolution, in order to encourage the parties to finalize the update of their sites. The example of Algeria is presented to have updated all the 47 sites of the country.</p> <p>The master of ceremony took this opportunity to congratulate the previous assistant for the work done, with very good result (32 updates on 2 years).</p>
<p>Closing of the ceremony</p>	<p>Ramsar SG Closing remarks:</p> <p>She thanked Government of Senegal and particularly the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Senegal for hosting this meeting. She thanked Contracting Parties for the excellent work achieved and partner organizations for</p>

their engagement in the meeting and contributions to the Convention's work. This work would contribute to ensuring that the experiences and needs of African Contracting Parties were represented in the coming COP13.

She stressed that her visit had been also a wonderful opportunity to discuss with participants, to learn about the commitment and ongoing work in Africa and how the Secretariat can support in the best possible way their efforts. She thanked the expressions of support received and invited participants to redouble efforts to use the potential of the Convention to collectively raise the visibility and mobilize action for the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Closing remarks SG of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development:

In his closing remarks, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development thanked all the participants for having attended this meeting in Dakar.

He reiterated the commitment of the Government of Senegal to apply the Ramsar Strategic Plan through the wise use of wetlands. He expressed his deep thanks to the partners who greatly contributed to the success of the event, Canada and Switzerland.

Before ending the Pre-COP Meeting he wished all participants a safe trip back home.