

Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

CBD/SBI/2/INF/20
1 June 2018

ENGLISH ONLY

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

Second meeting

Montreal, Canada, 9-13 July 2018

Item 11 of the provisional agenda*

DEVELOPING A NEW GLOBAL INITIATIVE ‘CARING FOR COASTS’ FOR THE RESTORATION OF COASTAL WETLAND

*Note by the Executive Secretary***

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In 2012, decision XI/16 adopted in Hyderabad, India, noted that ecological restoration will play a critical role in achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It urges Parties and encourages other Governments and relevant organizations to make concerted efforts to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets 14 and 15 and to contribute to the achievement of all the other Aichi Biodiversity Targets through ecosystem restoration by a range of activities depending on national circumstances.

2. Decision XII/19 adopted in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, emphasized the critical importance of coastal wetlands for biodiversity, ecosystem function and services, especially in relation to migratory bird species, sustainable livelihoods, climate change mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Parties were invited to give due attention to the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, and, in this context, welcomed the work of the Ramsar Convention and initiatives that support the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, including options to build a “Caring for Coasts” Initiative, as part of a global movement to restore coastal wetlands.

3. Decision XIII/5, adopted in Cancun, Mexico, introduces the Short-term Action plan on Ecosystem Restoration, as a flexible framework adaptable to national circumstances and legislation for immediate action towards achieving the Aichi Targets.

4. The development of the “Caring for Coasts” initiative is led by the Secretariat in partnership with BirdLife International, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership and Wetlands International¹, and with the support of the Government of Canada through Environment Canada. As part of the development of the “Caring for Coasts” initiative, the Secretariat undertook:

- (i) a global review on the conservation status of coastal wetlands around the world;
 - (ii) a consultation of the Parties and other interested non-Party stakeholders on coastal wetland restoration, which was carried out in September-December 2017, in tandem with a side-event at SBSTTA-21;
 - (iii) the development and costing of a draft Plan of Work on coastal wetlands.
5. Full reports for (i) and (ii) can be consulted at www.birdlife.org/content/caring-coasts-initiative.

* [CBD/SBI/2/1](http://www.birdlife.org/content/caring-coasts-initiative).

** Issued without editing.

¹ More background information on the “Caring for Coasts” initiative is available on: <http://www.birdlife.org/content/caring-coasts-initiative>

6. Section II of this report presents the main findings of the global review. Section III summarizes the responses received from parties and non-parties to the survey conducted in 2017. Section IV presents a proposed action plan for a fully-developed Caring for Coasts initiative and linkages with a Global Coastal Forum. Section V presents points for further consideration on this matter.

II. MAIN FINDINGS OF A GLOBAL REVIEW ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF COASTAL WETLANDS

Importance of coastal wetlands

7. Coastal wetlands constitute some of the most important and productive ecosystems on the planet. They support significant biodiversity, including important populations of many species of threatened, migratory waterbirds, turtles and other taxa, as well as providing a large number of invaluable ecosystem services^{2,3}. Through these ecosystem services, coastal wetlands are directly linked to the livelihoods of many coastal communities. Additionally, coastal wetlands and near-shore marine ecosystems form key carbon pools important to global climate change mitigation.

8. Among the most important ecosystem services provided by coastal wetlands are fisheries, flood and erosion control and protection of shorelines from storms⁴ and increasingly, sea level rise⁵. Coastal wetlands such as mangroves, saltmarshes and tidal flats form physical barriers against storm surges and tidal waves which directly threaten human lives and property in the low-lying, often heavily developed or cultivated areas behind coasts. Such vegetated coastal wetlands and seagrass beds play a major role in the global carbon cycle, storing large amounts of ‘blue’ carbon.

Status and trends of coastal wetlands loss and degradation

9. Despite a better understanding of their importance, coastal wetlands are imperilled by land reclamation and other forms of development, pollution, unsustainable fisheries, sea-level rise and increased disaster risk including associated with climate change. This is exacerbated by fragmented governance mechanisms at the global, regional, national and sub-national level, including between separate bodies with responsibilities for terrestrial and marine systems. Extensive re-zoning of coastal development plans due to recognition of the growing problem of rising sea-levels, and broader climate change impacts, poses further threats – as well as opportunities for coastal ecosystems.

10. The global Wetlands Extent Trends Index found that wetlands have declined by 30% between 1970 and 2008⁶, with coastal wetlands having suffered larger declines (38%) than inland wetlands (27%) especially in Europe (50%) and Asia (41%). Another major review of global wetland declines found that coastal wetlands worldwide are declining by nearly one percent per annum, and in recent decades (post-1990), have exceeded the rate of loss of inland wetlands.

11. Across much of East and Southeast Asia, coastal wetlands, especially intertidal mud and sand flats are threatened by rapid development. Some of the most rapid losses of coastal wetlands have occurred on the densely populated Yellow Sea coasts of the People’s Republic of China, the Democratic

² The world’s ecosystems provide a range of services that are critical to human well-being, health, livelihoods, and survival. Currently, the combined value of ecosystem services provided are estimated at \$145 trillion per year, but is being lost at a rate of \$4.3–20.2 trillion/year (Costanza, R. et al. 2014. *Global Environmental Change* 26: 152-158.).

³ The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment classifies ecosystem services into four types: provisioning services, regulating services, cultural services and supporting services (Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. 2005. *Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Synthesis*. Island Press.)

⁴ Ecosystem services provided by the world’s coastal wetlands were valued at \$193,845/ha/year based on 2007 levels (de Groot et al. 2012); this puts coastal wetlands (especially mangroves) as the most valuable biome after coral reefs.

⁵ Sea level rise (SLR) is a well-recognised threat to coastal areas. Based on satellite data, global mean sea levels rise was estimated to be an average of 3.11 mm per annum. Projections of future sea level rise is estimated at 0.3 to 1.8 m by 2100 (e.g. Ablain et al. 2009)

⁶ The WET index provides a robust indicator to measure global change in wetland area. Natural wetlands declined by an average of 30% between 1970 and 2008. Coastal wetlands were found to have declined more on average more than inland wetlands (Dixon et al. 2016. *Biological Conservation* 193: 27-35).

People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea, where tidal flats constitute the dominant coastal ecosystem, fringing c. 4,000 km of coastline. Remote sensing has revealed that 28% of tidal flats documented in the Yellow Sea in the 1980s had been lost by the late 2000s at an estimated rate of 1.2% per year. As much as 65% of tidal flats in the region were estimated to be lost over the past 50 years due to land conversion for urban, industrial and agricultural expansion⁷.

Analysis of status and threats of coastal wetlands recognized at Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas

12. The global review of the conservation status and threats of coastal wetland sites carried out under the Caring for Coasts initiative was based on sites that met the following conditions:

- (i) currently recognised as Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBA) as identified by national experts and corroborated with standardised BirdLife International criteria for IBAs.
- (ii) located partly or wholly within 10 km of the coast, based on a GIS analysis of standard Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) coastal boundaries.

contained IBA-trigger species that have a habitat preference for wetlands, as defined to include 'inland wetland', 'artificial aquatic' and 'coastal wetland' habitat, according to the IUCN Species Red List factsheets.

13. The review identified a total of 3,034 coastal Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) containing coastal wetland ecosystems and/or coastal wetland dependant species. Most sites were in Europe (1,185 sites) and the Americas (751 sites). 152 million hectares of coastal wetland IBAs (covering 56% of the total extent of defined coastal wetland IBAs) currently overlap with at least one protected area⁸.

14. The Americas had the highest overlap in total area with existing coastal wetland IBAs, but the lowest percentage cover of protected areas across all regions compared. In Europe, protected areas cover nearly 30 million hectares of designated coastal wetland IBAs, and form nearly 70% of the total area of these IBAs. Asia's protected area coverage of coastal wetland IBAs fell between that of Europe and the Americas, with about 36% of all coastal wetland IBAs identified overlapping with a protected area.

15. As of the end of 2016, the state of pressures and conservation responses had been assessed for a total of 970 coastal wetland IBAs under the Global Framework for Monitoring Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas⁹. This represents about a third of all coastal wetland IBAs identified by this review. However, that subset is broadly representative of the overall range of coastal wetland ecosystems within the different regions under study.

16. Results of the analysis of pressures and conservation responses shows that most sites (760 sites, 78%) face very high, high and medium pressures, 126 of which face very high pressures. Of 488 coastal wetland IBAs assessed, 56% are in an 'unfavourable' to 'very unfavourable' state, most (188 sites) being very unfavourable. Of 703 sites assessed, the majority of coastal wetland IBAs are considered to have received 'low' (295 sites) or 'negligible' (178 sites) conservation response, with only 63 sites (8.9%) considered to have received a 'high' conservation response.

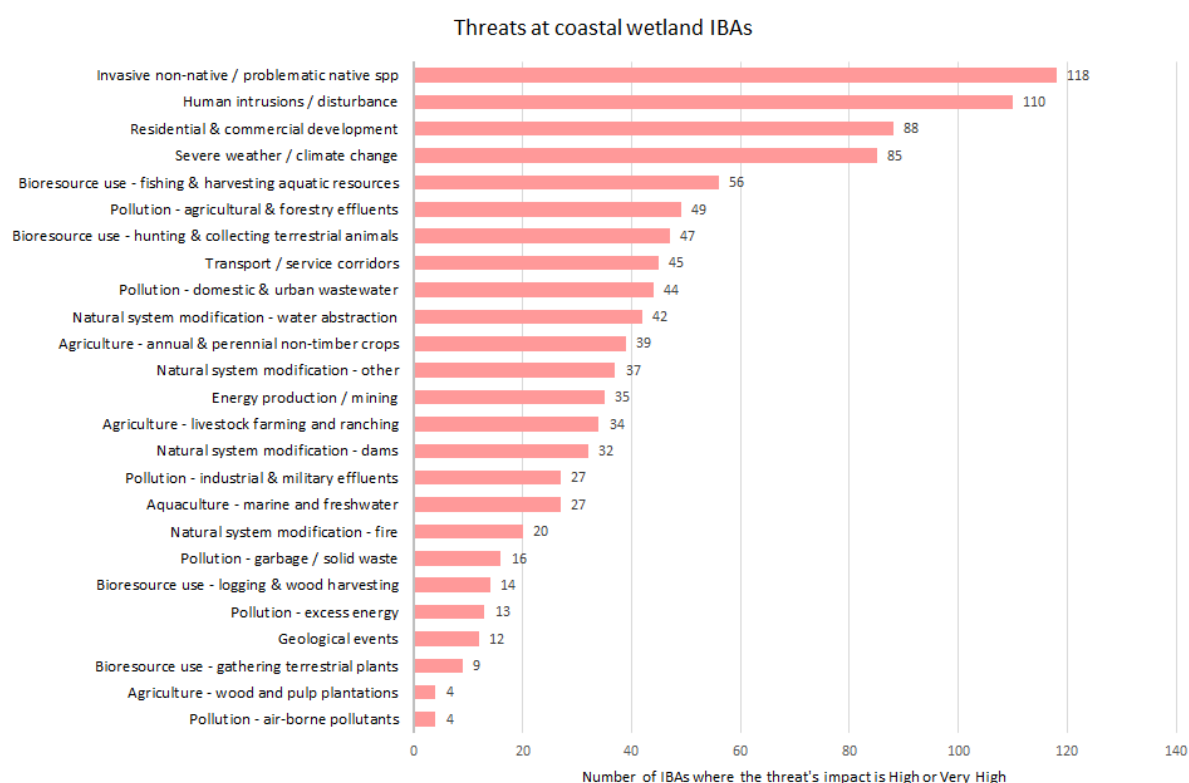
⁷ An analysis of the change in areal extent of tidal flats on the Yellow Sea coast by Murray et al. (2014) showed that only 389,000 ha of the 545,000 ha present in the 1980s remained, which equated to a net loss of 28%, and a mean rate of -1.2% per year. Comparing the three countries in the Yellow Sea region, China has lost the largest area of tidal flats and at a faster rate (-1.8% per year) than either the Republic of Korea (-1.6% per year) or the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (where a net gain in tidal flat area has been documented). In China, tidal zone wetlands have been in continuous decline since 1990 (Niu, Z. et al. 2012. *Chinese Science Bulletin* 57(22): 2813-2823)

⁸ Protected area coverage (total area, percentage) was calculated by overlaying the spatial data on IBA data with data on protected area coverage available from the World Database on Protected Areas (updated to April 2016), available on <https://www.iucn.org/theme/protected-areas/our-work/world-database-protected-areas>

⁹ The Global Framework for Monitoring Important Bird Areas provides a clear process and defined (quantitative) criteria for regular field-based assessments of the state of IBAs, pressures currently faced by IBAs, and the conservation responses undertaken. (http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/IBAs/MonitoringPDFs/IBA_Monitoring_Framework.pdf)

17. The analysis also includes information on the type of threats faced by coastal wetlands. 25 distinct threats were identified, of which 23 were anthropogenic and two natural (e.g. geological events). The most frequently identified threats included invasive species (118 sites), human disturbance (110 sites), residential and commercial development (88 sites), climate change (56 sites) and fisheries and aquatic resources harvesting (49 sites) (See Figure 1). In Asia, encroachment and development emerged as the most important threat. Nearly two thirds of East Asia's coastal wetland IBAs (95 assessed sites) were threatened by one or more forms of encroachment, especially through agricultural expansion, grazing, hunting and poorly regulated harvesting of wetland resources with development immediately threatening about half of the coastal wetland sites in the region, most notably through land reclamation work (e.g. coastal sites on the Yellow Sea coast of China), and the development of various infrastructure (e.g. dykes, bridges) and urban areas.

Figure 1 Number of coastal wetland IBAs where impact of identified threat is rated 'high' or 'very high'



II. OUTCOMES OF A CONSULTATION WITH PARTIES ON THE “CARING FOR COASTS” INITIATIVE

Methods

18. A consultation of Parties and other relevant stakeholders was undertaken to guide the development of the “Caring for Coasts” global coastal wetland restoration initiative. Broadly, the aims of the consultation were to: (i) identify the specific national needs, opportunities and priorities to improve the conservation status, through potential restoration, of coastal wetland ecosystems; (ii) assess interest, capacities and resources to engage in and/or support activities under the Initiative; (iii) identify related initiatives and mechanisms which can offer opportunities for leverage and synergies; (iv) guide the development of a draft Programme of Work for the initiative.

19. To this end, a notification ‘Invitation to consultation process for the “Caring for Coasts Initiative (SCBD/SPS/DC/SBG/CSt/NG/86788)”¹⁰’ was sent to parties by the Secretariat on 5 September 2017 with a deadline of 30 September for nomination of national focal points to participate in the consultation by 31 October. Upon confirmation of the respondent, both online and document versions of the consultation questionnaire was disseminated. *Australia, Benin, Brazil, Egypt, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mali, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Singapore, Sudan, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America*,¹¹ *Uruguay* and *Yemen* nominated representatives to respond to the survey.

Summary of responses with regards to national efforts in coastal wetlands conservation and restoration

20. In relation to the benefits of coastal wetlands, responses showed that their role, and that of wetlands in general, in the context of mitigation and adaptation to climate change is well-recognised by Parties. *Australia* highlighted that it has long recognised the role of coastal wetlands and marine ecosystems in relation to carbon sequestration, and has played a major role in driving international initiatives to protect and restore blue carbon. *Poland, Australia* and the *Philippines* provided clear examples of government strategies and policy recognising the role of wetlands on relation to climate change mitigation. The *Philippines* has passed legislation relevant to climate change, recognising that coastal and marine ecosystems are particularly climate sensitive. In their National Climate Change Action Plan, the strategic priorities identified recognise the rehabilitation of ecosystems and restoration of ecosystem services.

21. Responses to the survey showed that plans are in place to expand and upscale coastal wetland restoration efforts. The *United States of America, Singapore, Poland, Uruguay* and the *Philippines* all listed plans and reports that set out their respective national goals for coastal wetland protection and restoration. *Benin* and *Sudan* highlighted that work is underway to develop national strategies focused on the preservation of wetland ecosystems. Respondents noted a number of ongoing government-led coastal wetland restoration projects in their national context. *Oman, Singapore* and *Malaysia* cited mangrove replanting in degraded coastal wetland sites. *Uruguay* mentioned work to restore coastal sandy dune ecosystems through erosion control measures and controlling eutrophication in coastal lagoons. *Australia* noted work to restore wetland areas along the Great Barrier Reef coastline with a view to building resilience and enhancing reef recovery. Most respondents also acknowledged the role and participation of non-governmental stakeholders in these projects which included depending on the context, local and international non-governmental organisations, academic institutions, the private sector, and the public.

Summary of responses with regards to the challenges faced in restoring coastal wetlands

22. With regards to the challenges faced in restoring coastal wetlands, respondents pointed out how different national contexts led to the different challenges. In *Uruguay* and *Poland*, a large amount of conservation work is carried out on privately-owned land, and thus needs to be reconciled with private interests, often resulting in complex negotiations with private land owners. *Japan* noted that coastal infrastructure development, including land reclamation, was the main challenge faced by efforts in wetland conservation and restoration. The *Philippines* drew a direct link between land-based development, and how poor regulation of land-based development can have direct impacts on coastal conservation efforts. *Benin* and *Sudan* indicated that limited financial resources and poor infrastructure have hampered efforts on conservation of coastal wetlands broadly.

23. Most respondents also indicated infrastructural and residential development to be the main challenges faced in the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, followed by agricultural and industrial development and the lack of support from the government and/or local communities. They also acknowledged that the single most important challenge and impediment faced in the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands is the lack of (high level) political support at the national and sub-national level, and is a clear priority for next steps.

¹⁰ CBD notification available at (<https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2017/ntf-2017-085-ecosystem-en.pdf>)

¹¹ Although not a party, the United States of America provided a response to the survey which are included here for information.

24. At the national level, respondents Lack of (national) policy and scientific capacity were noted as impediments to coastal wetland restoration. *Uruguay* saw the lack of a strong, coherent national policy on coasts as a greater impediment than limitation in scientific and technical capacity. Initiatives for wetland conservation have been developed but are poorly supported by national budgets for their implementation, and further hampered by limited cooperation between different institutions. In *Poland*, the lack of cooperation between the political, scientific and technical sectors has been recognised as a greater impediment than just the simple lack of capacity. The *Philippines* and *Benin* both mentioned scarce technical capacity and stretched resources as a major impediment. In contrast, *Australia* indicated that significant investments have been put into understanding of coastal ecosystems and their management due to strong government support.

25. At the global level, respondents saw an urgent need to strengthen coastal wetland restoration efforts globally but also recognised a number of salient issues. All respondents indicated that the most important next step should involve the securing of stronger commitment on coastal wetland protection and restoration from governments. *Uruguay* acknowledged a lack of clarity on roles and responsibilities in relation to action of coastal wetlands globally, as is the issue of limited resources and inconsistent efforts. *Benin* acknowledged the need for increased capacity building and financing of coastal restoration work. Another impediment highlighted was with regards to the limitations of the Ramsar Convention in binding it parties to fulfil their national obligations.

Summary of responses in relation to priorities for the Caring for Coasts initiative

26. With regards to priorities for a future Caring for Coasts initiative, capacity-building is listed by most respondents as the most important priority action, followed by provision of scientific guidance to support coastal wetland restoration projects, provision of funding to support coastal wetland restoration work and high-level policy guidance.

27. Respondents generally expressed interest and capacity to support a global initiative focused on restoration of coastal wetlands, with the main areas that their countries are likely to support being Communications, education and awareness (CEPA), followed by capacity-building (e.g. training workshops) and the provision of technical and scientific guidance.

28. *Uruguay* outlined its active role in supporting projects involving ecosystem restoration at the regional level (and in bilateral collaborations), and could provide experiences to support ecosystem-based adaption in the context of the initiative. *Uruguay* currently holds the presidency of the Ramsar Convention Standing Committee and is keen to oversee successful implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan. The *Philippines*, *Malaysia*, *Thailand* and *Singapore* expressed interest to support global initiatives focused on the restoration of coastal wetlands and are supportive of opportunities to complement national-level efforts through information-sharing and capacity-building. *Thailand* outlined that its Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP), with support from the United Nations Development Programme, have conceived the ‘Conserving Habitats for Globally Important Flora and Fauna in Production Landscapes’ under the broader GEF-5 focus on biodiversity. At the national level, the project aims to develop a legislative, regulatory and enforcement framework to guide endangered species and critical habitat conservation and management. This project synthesises useful technical and regulatory experience that can be shared with other countries. *Poland* is open to supporting such initiatives, but acknowledged limitation in its capacity to support them.

29. Non-party respondents are broadly supportive of a new inter-government initiative focused on the restoration of coastal wetlands, and expressed an interest in providing capacity building support, strengthening of policy capacity and technical guidance on wetlands.

IV. PROPOSED PLAN OF WORK FOR THE INITIATIVE

30. Addressing the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands directly contributes to achieving the goals of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. This programme of work highlights key goals in coastal wetland restoration in relation to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and how suggested activities under the

programme could directly contribute to meeting these targets. The main purpose of the programme of work is to support the full establishment, operation and maintenance of a global initiative on the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, potentially as part of the ‘Global Coastal Forum’ proposed under CMS (Resolution 12.25 Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and other coastal Habitats for Migratory Species), Ramsar (Resolution XIII.#), inter alia through a global network of CBD Parties and other interested stakeholders; thus supporting CBD decision XII/19.

31. The below table presents a proposed plan of work for a fully developed Caring for Coasts initiative. This plan of work is articulated around 5 goals:

Goal 1. To establish and strengthen global and regional collaborative networks on coastal wetland restoration work, ideally within the framework of the proposed ‘Global Coastal Forum’.

Goal 2. To secure stronger commitments from governments on national-level implementation of coastal wetland restoration.

Goal 3. To develop and adopt best practices and internationally agreed protocols and standards in implementing work on coastal wetland restoration.

Goal 4. To strengthen capacity for the implementation and management of national programmes of work on coastal wetland conservation and restoration and develop national assessments of priorities for coastal wetland restoration.

Goal 5. To strengthen communications, education and public awareness on the value of coastal wetland conservation and the importance (and relevance of restoration).

32. One of the activities in the work plan consists in the creation of ‘Coastal Forum’. This is based in part on Resolution 12.25 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), which requested the CMS Secretariat “...to explore actively with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements, funding permitting, the possibility to set up a global ‘Coastal Forum’, to raise the profile of intertidal wetland and associated coastal habitats conservation and wise-use within relevant programmes of work, share experience and knowledge on solutions related to the conservation and management of these ecosystems, and to encourage stakeholders to support such an initiative”. This request is included in draft Ramsar Resolution XIII.xx.

33. Since then the modalities of such a Forum have been widely discussed including at the Global Flyways Summit held in UAE in April 2018. That Summit concluded that: *“A multi-stakeholder Global ‘Caring for Coasts’ Forum, mandated by the relevant MEAs, should be established to bring together relevant stakeholders, to advance sustainable approaches to coastal ecosystem protection, management and restoration for migratory species and ecosystem services including climate change resilience. It should support existing partnerships and mechanisms for flyway- scale conservation, such as flyway site networks, and be underpinned by regional situation analyses of coastal habitat status and trends (e.g. for the Arabian region).”*

29. The underlying rationale for a Global Coastal Forum (GCF) is an important adjunct to ‘mainstreaming’ – engaging with relevant international sectoral stakeholders to encourage the implementation of best practice in coastal conservation. It will also provide a means for communication between sectors on issues of mutual concern with respect to the sustainable use of coasts. Sectoral representation could include international organisations representing the interests of port and harbour authorities; shipping; dredging; coastal flood defences; tourism; and nature conservation.

Goal 1. To establish and strengthen global and regional collaborative networks on coastal wetland restoration work						
Action		Activities	Verifiable indicator(s)	Key stakeholders and partners	Time frame	Estimated budget
1	Support the work of a project coordinator under the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme for ‘Coasts’ or ‘Forests’.	(a) Hiring of one full-time (fixed term) consultant under CBD Secretariat (b) Hold regular update meetings, organise workshops and symposia and coordinate the implementation of this programme of work; manage membership and participation of steering committee members	- Full-time, fixed term consultant hired. - Quarterly update meetings with steering committee	Project coordinator, Steering committee members, CBD Secretariat	2018-2023	c. USD 60,000 per annum – but TBC
2	Establish relevant mechanisms (including memoranda of understanding where necessary) to form collaborative networks with the scientific community on ecological (coastal) restoration and coastal management, drawing from existing best practices in coastal restoration.	(a) Engage and establish formal frameworks (e.g. MoUs, working groups) to collaborate with key knowledge partners and practitioners such as the Society for Ecological Restoration and the International Blue Carbon Scientific Working Group on technical capacity support and knowledge sharing (b) Engage and establish formal and informal frameworks (e.g. MoUs, working groups) to collaborate with restoration practitioners such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) on Wallasea project developments, and other ecological restoration projects on knowledge sharing and technical support	- Relevant MoUs and working group(s) established with relevant scientific bodies and knowledge partners, with agreed upon terms of reference. - MoUs and working group(s) established with wetland restoration practitioners, with agreed upon terms of reference for operation.	Project coordinator, steering committee, interested stakeholders (e.g. Society for Ecological Restoration, World Wetlands Network, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Wetlands and Wildfowl Trust, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)	2018-2021	NA (captured under coordinator budget)
3	Establish relevant mechanisms and frameworks to synergise collaborations and engagement with the private sector, particularly organisations with a direct stake and impact on the conservation of	(a) Engage and establish a framework for voluntary partnerships (e.g. MoU) with other multi-stakeholder initiatives with similar objectives to synergise collaborative activities and other actions	- Framework for collaboration and partnership (e.g. MoUs) established with other multi-stakeholder initiatives - Framework for collaboration and voluntary actions from the	Project coordinator, Private sector organisations (e.g. Building with Nature, coastal development and shipping	2019-2023	NA (captured under coordinator budget)

	coastal environments such as land claim and coastal development.	(b) Engage and establish a formal framework for voluntary actions and contributions from private sector organisations involved in coastal engineering and coastal development that have clear stakes and impact on coastal wetlands	private sector established, with the option of ‘pledges to action’ and a payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme established	organisations), relevant initiatives (e.g. Blue Carbon Initiative)		
4	Work with interested governments (CBD Parties) and relevant international conventions such as the <i>Convention on Wetlands of International Importance</i> (or Ramsar Convention) and <i>Convention on Migratory Species</i> (or Bonn Convention) to identify synergies between this programme of work and other initiatives relevant to coastal wetlands.	(a) Establish and expand the steering group under existing the coastal restoration initiative ToR to include representation from interested stakeholders in the <i>Convention on Migratory Species</i> and the <i>Convention on Wetlands of International Importance</i> to identify synergies in relation to the broader objectives of the initiative (b) Clarify the role of the coastal restoration initiative in relation to the proposed ‘Global Coastal Forum’ proposed under the <i>Convention on Migratory Species</i> and the <i>Convention on Wetlands of International Importance</i> by the Government of the Philippines, and develop a framework for collaboration and/or operation	- Expanded steering group with representatives from relevant international conventions established, with an updated terms of reference - ‘Crosswalk’ framework document for coordinating work, and implementing programme of work among relevant internal conventions established and functioning	Project coordinator, CBD Secretariat, Representatives from Ramsar Convention, CMS and other relevant organisations (e.g. World Wetlands Network, Western Hemisphere Reserve Network), interested governments party to CBD	2018-2020	NA (captured under coordinator budget)
Goal 2. To secure stronger commitments from governments on national-level implementation of coastal wetland restoration.						
Action		Activities	Verifiable indicator(s)	Key stakeholders and partners	Time frame	Estimated budget

Goal 3. To develop and adopt best-practices and internationally agreed protocol and standards in implementing work on coastal wetland restoration

Action		Activities	Verifiable indicator(s)	Key stakeholders and partners	Time frame	Estimated budget
1	Review the state of coastal wetland restoration activities globally to identify gaps and regions of priority action	(a) Implement a desktop review on coastal wetland restoration activities and their progress globally through the coordinator, with a focus on the identification of best practices and protocols in wetland restoration through relevant case studies (b) Disseminate the findings of the review at workshops and symposia relevant to coastal wetland restoration	- Global review on coastal wetland restoration gaps and priorities completed, and published as a formal report - Presentations and workshops drawing from wetland restoration review delivered	CBD Secretariat and Steering group Society for Ecological Restoration, consultants, ConservationEvidence.com	2018-2020	USD 15,000 – TBC, depending on research arrangement
2	Identify successful case studies in implementation of coastal wetland restoration work, to develop recommendations and best practices in protocols and a framework to guide work on coastal wetland restoration in different coastal wetland types.	(a) Convene workshops and symposia at relevant international meetings on coastal wetland restoration to promote applied research on coastal wetland restoration approaches and best practices, and consult technical experts and organisations (b) Develop a set of robust recommendations and a decision-support framework to strengthen scientific and policy guidance (to interested CBD Parties) in implementation of coastal wetland restoration work and follow-up management (c) Compile and publish an information booklet on internationally-recognised coastal wetland restoration practices, standards and management approaches	- Presentations and workshops drawing from wetland restoration review delivered - Information booklet/handful of coastal wetland restoration case studies compiled and published - Information booklet/handbook of coastal wetland restoration case studies compiled and published	Ramsar Convention?, Society for Ecological Restoration, representatives of Ramsar, consultants	2018-2020	USD 20,000 per annum (USD 40,000 over 2 years)

Goal 4. To strengthen capacity for the implementation and management of national programmes of work on coastal wetland conservation and restoration and develop national assessments of priorities for coastal wetland restoration

Action		Activities	Verifiable indicator(s)	Key stakeholders and partners	Time frame	Estimated budget
1	Identify national and regional gaps and priorities for short-term coastal wetland restoration interventions	(a) Support CBD Parties to develop national assessments of priorities for coastal wetland restoration, including identification of key gaps (b) Support CBD Parties to develop of national programmes of work on coastal wetland restoration and conservation	- National priorities for coastal wetland restorations identified and developed for XX countries - National programmes of work on coastal wetland restoration and conservation developed for XX countries	CBD Secretariat and CBD Parties; collaborating partner NGOs and initiatives (e.g. BirdLife International, Wetlands International, East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership)	2018-2020	NA (captured under coordinator budget)
2	Build and strengthen capacity in the implementation and management of national programmes of work on coastal wetland conservation and restoration	(a) Organise, with interested stakeholders regular workshops on building technical and policy capacity to implement coastal wetland conservation activities	- One regional workshop organised every year - One exchange/knowledge-sharing programme developed	Project coordinator, Representatives of steering group, CBD Secretariat and CBD parties	Annually	USD 80,000 per annum (USD 400,000 over 5 years)

Goal 5. To strengthen communications, education and public awareness on the value of coastal wetland conservation and the importance of restoration

Action		Activities	Verifiable indicator(s)	Key stakeholders and partners	Time frame	Estimated budget
1	Develop an effective communication strategy (possibly as part of the wider <i>Global Coastal Forum</i>) to highlight (1) the value of coastal wetlands, and (2) the need for restoration work to better protect biodiversity and their capacity to provide ecosystem services	(a) Through the coordinator (in consultation with the steering group and other stakeholders), develop a robust communication strategy to reach out to key stakeholders using different media platforms (e.g. mailing lists, social media groups, website and other information packages)	- One communications plan developed - Collaterals published and printed, social media material developed	Project coordinator, Representatives of steering group, CBD Secretariat and CBD Parties	2018-2019	NA (captured under coordinator budget)
2	Monitor the progress in implementation of the communications strategy	(a) Develop a monitoring framework (e.g. scoreboard) to monitor progress in the communications strategy after	- One monitoring scoreboard framework on progress in implementation of communications strategy	Project coordinator, Representatives of steering group, CBD Secretariat and CBD	Annually	NA (captured under coordinator budget)

		adoption of the programme of work (b) Encourage the (voluntary) implementation of the communications strategy on coastal wetlands by CBD parties	developed, with guidance and progress tracking for regional and national-level implementation	Parties		
--	--	---	---	---------	--	--

VI. POINTS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

34. The world's coastal wetlands provide a large number of valuable ecosystem services. As such, they are intrinsically tied to the livelihoods of many coastal communities. In addition, coastal wetlands support significant biodiversity, including important populations of many species of threatened, migratory birds. Yet, coastal ecosystems in many parts of the world remain deeply vulnerable to human-induced pressures, including that from land claim for development, pollution, unsustainable usage and sea level rise.

35. Parties responding to the "Caring for Coasts" consultation, (1) acknowledged and affirmed the roles played by coastal wetlands in climate change and disaster risk mitigation, and livelihood support, (2) recognised that both government and non-government-led coastal wetland restoration work is being implemented, and (3), that infrastructure development, alongside other threats (e.g. agriculture, lack of political support) remain major challenges in relation to coastal wetland work.

36. Parties and non-parties recognised an urgent need to strengthen coastal wetland conservation efforts globally, and identified capacity building, provision of scientific guidance and funding as key priorities. Respondents noted that the strengthening of national government commitments' to coastal wetland restoration remains essential, is limited, and underpins the immediate next-steps to be taken.

37. Parties and non-parties generally expressed interest and commitment towards supporting a global initiative on coastal wetland restoration. Parties listed communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), capacity-building and provision of technical/policy capacity as the main areas they are willing to support but not direct financing. Non-party stakeholders agreed that existing coastal wetland restoration efforts need to be strengthened and up-scaled globally, the most important next step being to secure stronger commitments and high-level political support from governments.

38. Drawing from the strengthened mandate resulting from this consultation, it is recommended that efforts to develop a global initiative focused on coastal wetland conservation be sustained, with the view to synergise delivery and implementation of the initiative through collaboration and cooperation with relevant conventions such as the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and the Convention on Migratory Species. In particular, it is proposed that the global coastal wetland restoration initiative developed by CBD becomes a working component of a more comprehensive Global Coastal Forum that also addresses protection and conservation management of coastal ecosystems as well as promoting wetland restoration.

