



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**National Wetland Policy and Strategic Actions
(Third Draft)**

2017 May



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Introduction

Wetlands include all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans.

Wetlands provide essential benefits for people including food, water, resources, purification, recycling and buffering extreme weather events etc. and they are also critical habitats for migratory water birds, endangered species and living creatures which are important for human society. Wetlands provide ecosystem services such as climate change mitigation and also continuously supporting several socio-economic benefits such as fishery, aquaculture, agriculture, livestock breeding, transportation and tourism.

The Convention on Wetlands, also called Ramsar Convention, was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar on 2nd, February, 1971. Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty with 169 countries (known as Contracting Parties) that promotes the conservation and wise use of wetlands. The three primary obligations of Contracting Parties are: the wise use of all wetlands within a country's territory; the conservation of Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Sites); and international cooperation over shared water resources and species.

Myanmar entered into Ramsar Convention as a member country on 17th, of March, 2005.

Since that time, the Forest Department under Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has been taking the responsibilities of wetland conservation. The Director General of the Forest Department is designated as Head of Administrative Authority and the Deputy Director General (Policy and Planning) is serving as National Focal Point for Ramsar Convention. Moeyungyi, Indawgyi, Meinmahla Kyun and Gulf of Mottama (Mon State) were designated as Ramsar Site of Myanmar in 2005, 2016, and 2017, respectively.

Benefits Provided by Wetlands

Wetlands play very important role in Myanmar, which mainly depends on the agriculture, as wetlands store water for the agricultural lands, improve soil, purify and recycle waste water, buffer and protect from extreme weather events, regulate and are cooling the climate and ultimately provide habitat for birds and other species that remove the pests.

Climate change is threatening wetlands and their associated species. Climate change affects all ecosystem services including food production, but equally important the cooling effect of wetlands, and is challenging the development of the country. Nowadays, there have been occurring threats and challenges on the biodiversity, which depends on the wetlands, due to climate change. Conservation and wise use of wetlands become the national priority to mitigate climate change and natural disasters. To do so, cooperation among the relevant ministries, non-governmental organizations, local communities and all stakeholders is required.

On 30th August of 2016, the Myanmar National Wetland Committee was formed to enhance coordination of wetland conservation and management by the Notification No. 94/2016 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. This committee is composed of fourteen senior officials from nine governmental departments related to wetland management.

Development of the National Wetland Policy is one of the tasks of the Committee. Formulation of this National Wetland Policy is based upon consultation with stakeholders, linking with existing relevant national legislations, frameworks, strategies, as well as considering the Ramsar Convention, its programme and basic principles to be followed by the member countries. This policy is Myanmar's first policy towards wetlands, and it will assist and facilitate coordination among the relevant departments and organizations for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources for the benefits of human and wildlife.

Chapter 1 Rationale of the Development of National Wetland Policy

Wetlands are one of the most important parts of the natural environment in Myanmar. They play a vital role for the economic development and climate stability of the country. Effective conservation, management and wise use will ensure the natural resources and services received from wetlands for the future generations.

“2004 Wetland Inventory for Myanmar” classified six wetland regions in Myanmar; namely- Ayeyawady/Chindwin River Basin, Thanlwin (Salween) River Basin, Sittaung River Basin, Mekong River Basin, Rakhine Coastal Region and Thaninthayi Coastal Region. These wetland regions include a diverse array of coastal ecosystems - coral reefs, seagrass beds, mud and sand flats, mangroves, bays, estuaries and sandy and rocky shores.

The inland waters of Myanmar associated with freshwater are connected with the major rivers such as Ayeyawady/Chindwin, Thanlwin and Sittoung. These river basins consist of mangroves, mudflat, lakes, riverine wetlands and marshes. Some of the river floodplains are inundated in the rainy season, and that inundated water recharges underground water, which is important source of streams.

These rivers and lakes provide enormous economic and cultural values. The Salween and the Ayeyawady Rivers are some of the most intact major rivers in Asia, providing livelihoods to the people living along their banks and rich with historical and cultural significance. The Chindwin River flows through Hukaung Valley and creates one of the largest seasonally flooded grasslands of the region. Indawgyi Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Myanmar, hosting globally significant aggregations of waterbirds and providing livelihoods for people who fish and grow unique varieties of rice around the lake.

Though wetlands are very valuable, they have been degraded and continued to be deteriorating in Myanmar. The remaining wetlands are suffering from overuse, misuse and environmental pollution. The quality and productivity of the wetlands are decreasing due to weak or an absence of management, result in decreasing living standards of the communities, who depend on resources obtained from the wetlands.

Implementation of developmental activities without comprehensive environmental impact assessment damages wetlands. For instance, the construction of dams for

irrigation and power generation and the conversion of the floodplains to paddy alters the natural hydrology of rivers and their floodplains and impacts on humans through declines in fish stocks and difficulties for river navigation.

Land use changes in the proximity of wetlands also result in impacts. Agriculture, industry, mining and quarry activities degrade the quality of wetlands. For instance, some of the endemic fish species and aquatic plants of Inlay Lake have disappeared due to the excessive use of chemicals in agriculture, and gold mining in the catchment has caused sedimentation and water pollution in Indawgyi Lake. The introduction of invasive alien species (IAS) is also increasingly a problem within many wetlands.

Another factor affecting wetlands is waste disposed by households. Dumping households' waste, without any treatment, directly in to streams and rivers overloads the capacity of purification and damages wetland ecosystems.



Therefore, a very clear wetland policy is needed to develop and implement the measures to conserve wetlands and their ecosystem services, raise their profiles and promote their wise use in Myanmar.

The development and implementation of a wetland policy will identify and address management overlaps by clearly designating responsible government agencies for management, conservation and wise use of wetlands in Myanmar.

This policy is the national framework for sustainable utilization and wise use of wetlands, contributing to climate change mitigation, sustainable development and mainstream wetland conservation across relevant governmental sectors.

Myanmar has reached a crucial turning point in the use of water resources in an effective, efficient and equitable manner. Therefore, the Union Government enacted the National Water Policy to ensure effective management of water resources of Myanmar. At the same time, along with the economic liberalization and reintegration with the global economy, Myanmar is growing rapidly and the inevitably increases pressure on natural resources including water.

The major goals of the National Wetland Policy are to conserve wetlands and to promote wise use of wetland resources to secure their habitats for biodiversity as well as wetland's benefits for human well being. The formulation and implementation of the National Wetland Policy contributes to achieve goals and objectives of the National Water Policy of Myanmar.

Chapter 2 Wetlands and Values

In this policy, the definition of wetland is applied the one defined in paragraph one of the Ramsar Convention. Wetlands mean “areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters”

2-1 Wetlands in Myanmar

Wetlands are vital natural resources in Myanmar, they are an integral component of the country's natural and cultural heritage and play a key role in the economy of Myanmar. The wetlands mainly occurred in Myanmar are mangroves, coastal marshes, lakes, marshes, swamps, Rivers and man-made reservoirs and dams. The major wetlands in coastal areas are mangroves, which are connected with the mud-flat.

As of 2004 there were 55 IBAs identified in Myanmar, of which 35 were qualified to be listed as Ramsar Sites. There are several well-known wetlands which are also important bird areas (IBAs) of Myanmar including Indawgyi, Inlay, Moeyungyi and Mottama and Meinmahla Kyun. Mostly, the natural lakes and ponds in Myanmar are connecting with the rivers and streams. Ponds and lakes close to the four major rivers; Ayeyawady, Chindwin, Sittaung and Thanlwin are recharged by floods in the rainy season which sustain them through the dry season when water levels recede. Such ponds and lakes are very important for fisheries and for providing breeding sites for water birds.

The survey jointly conducted by Forest Department and Wild Bird Society of Japan, financed by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan and result published in 2004 revealed that there are at least 99 wetlands in Myanmar, 85 in Ayeyawady and Chindwin River Basin, six in Thanlwin River Basin, five in Sittaung River Basin and three in Rakhine Coastal Region. The number of wetlands well exceeds 99 considering recent surveys, especially along the coastal areas of Myanmar. Inventory on wetlands in Myanmar will be made, and published.

2-2 Ecosystem services provided by wetlands

Wetlands in Myanmar provide commercially valuable natural resources as well as ecosystem services, which are very important for ecology and economy. However, in Myanmar, the large percentage of wetlands and mangroves have been lost or degraded because of ignoring their services and values in land use and development plans for several years.

The freshwater wetlands, rivers and their networks are very important for breeding sites of freshwater fish, transportation and freshwater supply. If such important wetland ecosystems lost, fish production, food security and export earning, would largely be decreased.

Wetlands provide important habitats for residential as well as the migratory birds. Birds migrating from the far northern of Russia to the south of Australian depend on Myanmar's wetlands. Wetland habitats along the flyway are crucial for migratory birds in order for them to take on board enough food which they need to sustain them on their migration and to provide safe resting sites as they fly from the breeding sites in the north to the winter sites in the south.

Wetlands, such as mangrove forests are very highly productive, and maintain food webs for living creatures and supply important organic matter to rivers and the sea as well. These resources are critically important of the food web, for the sustainability of coral reefs and the maintenance of coastal fisheries. Another important factor is that mangroves and coastal wetlands provide breeding sites for the aquatic species, and offer safe places for the young of fish, shrimps and crabs and juveniles.

Wetlands in Myanmar directly provide a substantial proportion of natural resources to a large economic market, as well as to local subsistence livelihoods. Such natural resources include fish, crab, shrimps, nipah pal, and timber, etc. The majority of fish production in Myanmar comes from inland and coastal wetlands. Most of the crops including rice are also produced by wetlands. Certain resources can only be obtained from wetlands and the degradation of wetlands reduces value of such resources and consequently causes economically disadvantages.

The forests in coastal regions provide valuable resources such as aquatic products, forest products and medicinal plants, as well as providing crucial fish and shrimp

breeding grounds and important protection from storm surges. The freshwater fish from inland wetlands are the main sources for nutrients to the substantial population of Myanmar.

Fishing license, introduced in the colonial period, was issued to the highest bidder, rather than based on long term fisheries management that led to the privatization of wetlands and unsustainable fishing.

Wetlands can contribute to regulating floods and the impacts of storms. Wetlands also help in erosion control and sediment transport, thereby contributing to land formation and increasing resilience to storms. Wetlands are playing important role in water-related disaster risk reduction. For example, transformations of floodplains to paddy fields in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions have resulted in severe and frequent floods, and damage to economy and livelihoods.

Mangroves can protect against natural disaster such as storms and floods. Moreover, these forests also serve as natural shield to protect from the intrusion of salty water to agricultural land and from coastal and riverine erosion.

Many wetlands in Myanmar have special cultural, spiritual or historical values associated with them. Many wetlands including Inlay Lake and Indawgyi Lake have very famous pagodas inside them, and they are receiving several thousands of pilgrims each year. Some wetlands have played an important part in civil and archeological development, for example several ancient Royal cities including Bagan are located along the bank of Ayeyawady River. Wetlands are also attracting people for recreational activities including boating, bird watching and photography.



Mangrove Forest in Lampi Marine National Park

Threats to Wetlands

The wetlands are mainly threatened by human activities, and result in degradation or loss of resources and services provided from wetlands. The threats can be characterized as a direct drivers of change and underlying indirect drivers of change.

The direct driver of change of wetlands of Myanmar can be summarized as below.

- Introducing Invasive species
- Over-fishing
- Silt deposition
- Desiccation & Salinity
- Drainage & Reclamation
- Overgrazing
- Agricultural land expansion
- Intrusion of salty water
- Trapping & poisoning of birds
- Destructive or illegal fishing
- Eutrophication
- Over harvesting
- Illegal settlement
- Fish and shrimp ponds expansion
- Pollution
- Mining
- Hunting
- Deforestation in catchment
- Erosion
- Development Activities
- Damming of pristine rivers for energy or irrigation



Gold Mining around the Indawgi Lake and siltation [Gold panning also a major and increasing issue on the Ayeyawady river gravel and sandbanks, whose habitat for waterbirds are altered by an increasing population of gold panning people converting the sandbanks in each dry season]

The underlying causes of the drivers of change are:

- increasing demand on resources and resource utilization due to population growth and rapid economic growth
- limited capacity, weakness of environmental safeguards
- climate change
- limited awareness at each levels
- weakness of coordination and lack of multilateral assessment for development activities
- high proportion of poor people who extremely rely on the natural resources for their livelihoods

Wetlands' healthiness may be damaged by land clearing, modifying drainages, changes of water ways and over-extraction of underground water. Unsuitable grazing and huge animal population damage soil and natural plants and result in reducing wetlands' healthiness.

Chapter 3 Wetland Policy and Strategic Actions

Conservation, management and wise use of wetlands and associated resources are focused to sustain wetlands, as well as to receive ecological & socio-economical values and functions of wetlands in sustainable manner.

3-1 Wetland policies

Six wetland policy imperatives are adopted to fulfill the obligations to the Ramsar Convention, as well as to enhance effective coordination among the organizations in wetlands management and conservation.

1. Protection

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar will protect wetlands of the country by conservation measures including establishment of protected areas.

2. Wise use

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar will strengthen wise use of resources and services obtained from wetlands to contribute sustainable development, to mitigate climate change and to reduce risks of natural disasters.

3. Mainstreaming wetlands values in development plans

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar will encourage mainstreaming values of resources and services provided by wetlands in development planning.

4. Participation

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar will enhance participation from the governmental departments, non-governmental organizations, local communities and private sector in conservation, management and wise use of wetlands.

5. Raising Awareness

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar will raise awareness and well understanding towards the importance of wetlands and there resources for sustainable development of the ountry.

6. Collaborating international and regional wetlands programmes

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar will practice wise use and conservation of wetlands in line with the Ramsar Convention and will collaborate in international and regional wetlands programmes.

3-2 Policy measures and strategic actions

3-2-1 Conservation of wetlands

OBJECTIVE 1: To identify wetlands of nationally significant

ACTIVITIES:

- 1.1 Develop criteria to identify wetlands of national significance.
- 1.2 Train staff for survey and evaluation of wetlands.
- 1.3 Revise the wetland inventory.
- 1.4 List priority sites and identify wetlands of national and global significance.

OBJECTIVE 2: To sustain wetlands of national significance

ACTIVITIES:

- 2.1 Identify wetland which should be included in protected areas or managed in other protection forms.
- 2.2 Establish protected areas in the areas with high vulnerability, among the wetlands of nationally significant.
- 2.3 At least 10 per cent of the ecologically representative of nationally significant wetlands are managed through effective measures including protected areas.
- 2.4 Define catchment area of wetlands watershed.
- 2.5 Establish monitoring system on regular drainage of the reservoirs and lakes.

- 2.6 Establish integrated water resource management committees at important wetland sites that are currently under particular stress by various stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 3: To provide opportunities for community based organizations (CBOs) and other related organizations to participate in wetlands management

ACTIVITIES:

- 3.1 Encourage participation of the public and CBOs in wetland related awareness activities.
- 3.2 Prepare and implement programme that persuade the public and CBOs to participate in wetlands conservation and develop guidelines.
- 3.3 Create appropriate means to receive public's suggestions and comments towards the wetlands conservation.
- 3.4 Build a nationwide network/networks with regular meetings for exchange of information related to wetlands.

3-2-2 Wise use of wetlands

OBJECTIVE 4: Wise use of resources and services provided by wetlands

ACTIVITIES:

- 4.1 Prepare guidelines for wise use of resources and services obtained from wetlands.
- 4.2 Practise models demonstrating wise use of resources in wetlands of nationally significant.
- 4.3 Include sustainability of wetlands in watershed area management.
- 4.4 Practise payment for ecosystem services for the organizations which get benefits from services provided by wetlands, and use part of the payment for wetland conservation.
- 4.5 Promote ecotourism in wetlands to receive fund for conservation, as well as to get income and job opportunities for local communities.

- 4.6 Ensure that the multiple values of wetlands are recognized, considered and protected or enhanced through land use planning and management.
- 4.7 Promote agricultural practices which have the least impact to the environment and ecosystems.
- 4.8 Manage the wetlands systematically for the development of agricultural sector.

3-2-3 Restore degraded wetlands

OBJECTIVE 5: To carry out initiatives for restoration and enhancement of wetland

ACTIVITIES:

- 5.1 Identify priority wetlands for restoration and enhancement initiatives.
- 5.2 Formulate the activities related to wetlands restoration and enhancement.
- 5.3 Undertake preliminary feasibility studies in wetlands where restoration and enhancement works will be conducted.
- 5.4 Encourage to practise land and resource uses with less impact to the environment in wetlands than can have natural recovery.
- 5.5 Use the most appropriate management and restoration methods to restore original quality in wetlands which can not be comeback naturally.
- 5.6 Coordinate among relevant departments and local people to reduce or eliminate land uses and livelihoods which damage environment in watershed areas of important wetlands.

3-2-4 Implementation of policy

OBJECTIVE 6: To identify a lead agency and include in other relevant sectors

ACTIVITIES:

- 6.1 Identify a lead agency for overseeing implementation of the Policy, and state term of references.

- 6.2 Mainstream the policy measures in plans of the relevant Departments and prepare and adopt appropriate legal and regulatory framework.
- 6.3 Designate a focal person and an additional focal person at relevant departments to coordinate in implementing policy measures.
- 6.4 Establish Region/State wetlands management committees.

OBJECTIVE 7: To minimize government programmes with negative effect on wetland conservation

ACTIVITY:

- 7.1 Provide cross-government planning agencies with guidelines on minimizing conflict with the government wetland conservation programme.
- 7.2 Eliminate perverse incentives (eg, subsidies) that encourage wetland loss and degradation.

OBJECTIVE 8: To implement, review and monitor the National Wetland Policy

ACTIVITIES:

- 8.1 Estimate expenditure required to implement policy measures.
- 8.2 Include the required fund in planned expenditure of each relevant department for the respective works and seek domestic and international supports.
- 8.3 Set up the quality standards, indicators and targets to achieve the objectives of the policy.
- 8.4 Monitor implementation of the policy, and submit progress report to the Union Government by National Wetland Committee at every three years.
- 8.5 Revise this policy by National Wetland Committee at every ten years.

3-2-5 Capacity building

OBJECTIVE 9: To raise capacity for wetland management and conservation and policy implementation

ACTIVITIES:

- 9.1 Undertake capacity needs assessment across relevant government agencies with responsibilities of implementing the policy.
- 9.2 Develop and conduct capacity building program and trainings.
- 9.3 In the long run, establish a training center to train staff, as well as to share experience regarding the wetland management.

3-2-6 Research and inventory

OBJECTIVE 10: To encourage research which is directed towards advancing wetland conservation and wise use of resources and to include the results of such research in the formulation of the conservation and development plans

ACTIVITIES:

- 10.1 Through an updated wetland inventory, identify wetlands with information gaps of different regions and sites as well as those with facing problems.
- 10.2 Establish a wetland research team with experts from the relevant departments to conduct research in wetlands and provides requirements research.
- 10.3 Develop and implement a research programme by the wetland research team to support addressing the critical issues in wetlands, as well as implementing the wetland policy.
- 10.4 Produce manuals on research and monitoring in national language.
- 10.5 Organize workshops and symposia regularly for wetland managers.

OBJECTIVE 11: To record wetlands

ACTIVITY:

- 11.1 Assess and update the national wetland inventory at every ten year with the aim of assessing and comparing trends in wetland loss or degradation and biodiversity loss to address mitigating measures in restoration.

3-2-7 Environmental impact assessment and monitoring

OBJECTIVE 12: To establish national standards and guidelines for assessing extent and quality of wetlands

ACTIVITIES:

- 12.1 Determine acceptable limits of acceptable change from human impact on wetlands.
- 12.2 Determine environmental standards required for wetlands sustainability.
- 12.3 Determine the size of wetland habitat required to maintain ecological integrity and critical species.
- 12.4 Prepare an assessment method, which includes guidelines for achieving standards.

OBJECTIVE 13: To monitor extent and quality of wetlands, and threatened activities using standards and guidelines

ACTIVITIES:

- 13.1 Encourage to undertake environmental impact assessment for all projects to be conducted in wetlands or related watershed areas.
- 13.2 Establish a monitoring capability (field personnel, laboratory analysis) in relevant activities.
- 13.3 Set up a review panel to ensure the quality of data from monitoring processes.
- 13.4 Publish information of quality and extent of the important wetlands to the public.
- 13.5 Compensate the cost to conduct restoration by individual or organization that is responsible for degradation, environmental and ecosystem damage in wetlands.

- 13.6 Set up regular monitoring programme to monitor species and changes of the environment at Flyway Network Sites, Ramsar Sites and other important sites (such as KBAs).

3-2-8 Awareness raising

OBJECTIVE 14: Promote awareness activities to understand values of wetlands

ACTIVITIES:

- 14.1 Develop and implement national awareness campaign for all levels using all aspects of media (audio-visual, radio, print, music and drama) in collaboration among concerned organizations.
- 14.2 Commemorating World Wetlands Day on 2nd February across the country.
- 14.3 Determine values of wetlands and communicate these to appropriate audiences.
- 14.4 Highlight, in collaboration with environmental management authority, environmental pollution problems in wetlands due to disposal of waste.
- 14.5 Organize bird festivals such as shorebird festival to engage local communities in conservation.
- 14.6 Publish education material on wetland conservation in Myanmar.

OBJECTIVE 15: To prepare and disseminate wetlands status report which can be easily understood by general public

ACTIVITIES:

- 15.1 Publish state of wetlands report of the country in simple form at every three year by National Wetland Committee.
- 15.2 Disseminate the state of wetland report of the country status report to the public widely by using all forms of media.

OBJECTIVE 16: To provide information of wise use of wetlands to the stakeholders

ACTIVITIES:

- 16.1 Prepare and share a report or documentation summarizing technique and information of wise use of wetlands for users of wetland resources including government agencies, farmers, private sector, fishermen, industry, universities, community groups and tourism.
- 16.2 Develop education centres at key wetlands to assist in raising awareness among multi-stakeholders.

OBJECTIVE 17: To promote wetland conservation in the formal education system

ACTIVITIES:

- 17.1 Include wetlands and their values in primary and middle school curriculum.

3-2-9 Collaborating international and regional wetlands programmes

OBJECTIVE 18: To participate in regional and international wetland conservation programme

ACTIVITIES:

- 18.1 Implement fully obligations under the Convention on Wetlands –Ramsar Convention.
- 18.2 Participate in Indo-Burma Regional Ramsar Initiative (IBRRI).
- 18.3 Participate in East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP).
- 18.4 Participate in Arctic Migratory Birds Initiative.
- 18.5 Work on designation of Ramsar Sites.
- 18.6 Collaborate with countries that share the same population of waterbirds or similar habitats such as Thailand, Malaysia and Bangladesh.

Annex 1 National Wetland Committee

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
 Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
 Union Minister Office
 Notification No. (94/2016)
 The 12th Waning of Wakaung, 1378 ME.
 (30th August 2016)

Establishment of National Wetland Committee

To effectively implement Ramsar Convention, to which Myanmar is a member country, as well as to implement the wetland related activities of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2015-2020), National Wetland Committee is formed as below:

a. National Wetland Committee

- | | | |
|------|---|--------|
| i | Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation | Chair |
| ii | Director General
Irrigation and Water Resource Management Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | Member |
| iii | Director General
Department of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | Member |
| iv | Director General
Department of Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | Member |
| v | Director General
Agricultural Land Administration and Statistics Department
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation | Member |
| vi | Director General
General Administration Department
Ministry of Home Affairs | Member |
| vii | Director General
Directorate of Hotels and Tourism
Ministry of Hotels and Tourism | Member |
| viii | Director General
Environmental Conservation Department
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation | Member |

ix	Director Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division, Forest Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Member
x	Director Training and Research Development Division, Forest Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Member
xi	Director Watershed Area Management Division, Forest Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Member
xii	Director Forest Research Institute, Forest Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Member
xiii	Director General Forest Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Secretary
xiv	Deputy Director General (Policy and Planning) Forest Department Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation	Joint Secretary

b. The responsibilities of the National Wetland Committee are as described below:

- (i) To guide implementation of the Ramsar Convention and it's goals in Myanmar,
- (ii) To guide the implementation of conservation and wise use of wetland in compatible with the country's conditions based on goals and strategic actions of the Ramsar Convention,
- (iii) To guide development of National Wetland Policy and submit it to the State,
- (iv) To guide the formation of scientific Advisory Team to support management and sustainability of wetlands,
- (v) To coordinate wetlands conservation and management activities among the line ministries,

- (vi) To guide the development of guidance and regulations for the wetland management
- (vii) To guide to organize meetings for implementation of wetland conservation projects and communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA) programme.

(Sd) Ohn Win
Union Minister
Ministry of Natural Resource and Environmental
Conservation

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Annex 2 Relevant Legal Framework

Underground Water Resources Law (1930)

Aquacluture Law (1989)

Forest Law (1992)

Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Law (1994)

Fertilizer Law (2002)

Water Resources and Rivers Conservation Law (2007)

Environmental Conservation Law (2012)

Regions/States Fresh Water Fishery Law (2015)

Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures (2015)

Pesticide Law (2016)

[Embankment Act \(1909\)](#)

[Mineral Law \(??\)](#)

Annex 3 Obligations of Contracting Parties of Ramsar Convention

Resolution VII.6 (adopted by the 7th Conference of the Contracting Parties, San José, Costa Rica, 1999)

Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies

1. RECALLING Article 3.1 of the Convention, which states that Contracting Parties “shall formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List, and as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory”;
2. FURTHER RECALLING Recommendation 4.10 and Resolution 5.6, and their annexes, which provide Guidelines for the implementation of the wise use concept and Additional guidance for the implementation of the wise use concept respectively, and, in particular, urged Contracting Parties to develop and apply National Wetland Policies as an important step towards achieving the wise use of wetlands;
3. AWARE that Recommendation 6.9 called for the production of a framework for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies and an analysis of the status of wetland policies worldwide;
4. ALSO AWARE that Operational Objective 2.1, Action 2.1.2, of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002 urged Contracting Parties, the Ramsar Bureau, and Partner Organizations to “promote much greater efforts to develop national wetland policies, either separately or as a clearly identifiable component of other national conservation planning initiatives”;
5. NOTING WITH PLEASURE the advice given in the National Reports to this Conference of the Contracting Parties that 77 Parties have National Wetland Policies or Strategies in place or under development;
6. FURTHER NOTING that Technical Session II of this Conference, on National Planning for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use, had presented to it and considered in detail the annex to this decision entitled Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies;
7. RECOGNIZING that the development of policies and related initiatives may require efforts to build capacity where human, technical and financial resources need to be augmented; and

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

8. ADOPTS as guidance for the Contracting Parties the annex to this Resolution entitled Guidelines for developing and implementing National Wetland Policies and URGES those Parties that have yet to develop such Policies to give this activity their highest attention;

9. URGES Contracting Parties to note and apply with equal vigour the related guidance provided as an annex to Resolution VII.7, Guidelines for reviewing laws and institutions to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands, aware of the close relationship between policy instruments and legislation;

10. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to recognise the benefits of incorporating into National Wetland Policies appropriate measures to ensure that wetland restoration is given priority consideration in the administration of programmes and government expenditure, and in the promotion of local actions to rehabilitate degraded wetlands;

11. ALSO ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to integrate into their National Wetland Policies, wherever possible, the elements of the other guidance adopted under the Convention such the Guidelines for the implementation of the wise use concept (Recommendation 4.10) and Additional guidance for the implementation of the wise use concept (Resolution 5.6), the Guidelines for management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (Resolution 5.7), the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (Resolution VII.19), and the Convention's Outreach Programme (Resolution VII.9), having regard also to Resolutions VII.16 on impact assessment and VII.15 on incentives; and

12. FURTHER URGES, in accordance with the Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention (Resolution VII.19), Contracting Parties with experience in the development and implementation of National Wetland Policies to promote opportunities for the sharing of this knowledge and experience with other Ramsar Parties initiating such a process.

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