



Bylaws of the Ramsar Section of the Society of Wetland Scientists



May 2019

Article 1: NAME. The official name of this Section shall be "The Ramsar Section of the Society of Wetland Scientists".

Article 2: PURPOSE. The purpose of this Section shall be to advance research and application in Ramsar fields that regulate wetlands and to:

- Organize symposia on important developments and knowledge-gaps in the Ramsar Convention,
- Propose and fund initiatives that advance Ramsar-related research and education,
- Encourage and support students engaged in Ramsar-related research,
- Interact with other Sections to enhance inter-disciplinary research,
- Provide a communication route between the Society of Wetland Scientists and the Ramsar Convention, particularly through representation on the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel,
- Support governments and others in preparing designations of Ramsar Sites (Wetlands of International Importance),
- and pursue any additional activities that are consistent with the interests of the Section.

Article 3: ORGANIZATION. The Ramsar Section shall be a subdivision of the Society of Wetland Scientists and shall be governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of that Society.

Article 4: MEMBERS. Any member of the Society of Wetland Scientists who wishes to become a member of the Ramsar Section may do so upon payment of the designated dues.

Article 5: OFFICERS. The Executive Committee of the Ramsar Section shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair and Past-Chair. In addition, two ordinary members will form an Advisory Committee and serve in a voting capacity and as advisers to the Chair, Vice-Chair and Past-Chair. All committee members shall serve a term to coincide with the triennial cycle of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel in order to support joint activities in the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran 1971) and the Society of Wetland Scientists. The Chair, Vice-Chair and ordinary members shall be elected by majority vote taken by written and/or electronic ballot of members of the Section. The officers shall be installed at the Section business meeting. Officers

shall govern the Section with due consideration of the needs and expectations of the Section membership.

Article 6: CHAIR. The chairperson shall preside at the business meetings of the Section, authorize expenditures of Section funds, promote the interests of the Section, ensure that a symposium or other activity is organized in advance for the annual SWS meeting and represent the Section on the SWS Board of Directors.

Article 7: PAST-CHAIR. Upon completion of a fixed term (as defined in Article 5), the Chair shall serve as the Past-Chair of the Section and shall serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Section.

Article 8: VICE CHAIR. The Vice Chair shall serve for a fixed term (as defined in Article 5). He/she shall assume the duties of the Chair whenever that person is unable to serve.

Article 9: FINANCES. The necessary expenses of the Section shall be paid from the treasury of the Society and is subject to Society bylaws or standing rules that govern financial transactions. The President of SWS shall review and sign any single contract that involves legal exposure or has financial consequences for SWS in amounts greater than \$2000. Single expenditures with financial consequences greater than 75% of the Section's assets require the SWS President's signature. No officer or member of the Section shall have authority to incur any expense in the name of the Society, except as specified above. In the event that the Section is dissolved, its assets will be transferred to the general funds of the Society of Wetland Scientists.

Article 10: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. In intervals between annual meetings the Executive Committee composed of the Chair, Vice Chair, Past-Chair may act for the Section.

Article 11: MEETINGS. The Section shall hold its business meeting at the annual meeting of the SWS, and the members present shall constitute a quorum for transaction of official business. The Section will also organize Section meetings at other times and places as appropriate.

Article 12: REPORTS. The Chair shall prepare a report for the Secretary General in advance of meetings of the full SWS Board. The report will include past Section activities and plans for future activities.

Article 13: COMMUNICATION. The Section shall maintain and update a webpage and communicate regularly with Section members.

Article 14: AMENDMENTS. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of those members in good standing present and voting at any annual meeting of the Section, provided that notice has been given to all members sixty days in advance, or by a two-thirds majority of members voting in a ballot sent to all Section members.