

**13th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel
Draft Agenda and organization of work**

1. A full Annotated Agenda will be prepared in consultation with the STRP Chair and circulated prior to the 13th meeting of the Panel.
2. The meeting will last for four days (30 May to 2 June 2006) and will work in the English language only.
3. Much of the first morning will be devoted to introductions and an “induction and briefing session” as called for in the revised modus operandi for the STRP adopted at COP9 by Resolution IX.11. This is designed to ensure that all participants, and especially members and observers appointed for the first time, are fully aware of their respective roles and responsibilities in the work of the Panel.
4. As established by its modus operandi, the first meeting of the Panel has a major set of tasks to deliver. The primary objectives of STRP13 are:
 - to discuss and finalise detailed terms of reference, process and mechanisms for delivery for the immediate priority and high priority tasks listed in COP9 Resolution IX.2, and for those lower-priority tasks which can be undertaken within this triennium without additional resources, and to prepare the STRP’s Work Programme 2006-2008 for approval by the Standing Committee;
 - to establish the core membership of the various thematic working groups; to clarify the roles of individuals within these groups, including preparation of guidance, oversight of contracted experts, review and/or comment; and to identify any additional experts to be invited to participate in the work of the groups; and
 - to initiate and develop the network of STRP National Focal Points (STRP NFPs) and establish mechanisms for facilitating the active participation of STRP NFPs in the STRP programme of work for 2006-2008.
5. In undertaking its tasks the Panel will be assisted by advice and support from the Ramsar Secretariat through the STRP Support Service and its Web site.
6. The draft agenda and schedule of work for the meeting is as follows:

Tuesday 30 May 2006

08h30-09h00 **Registration**

09h00-13h00

Agenda item 1. Welcome & opening statements.

Mr Paul Mafabi, Chair of the Standing Committee (or Mr John Bowleg, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee)
Dr Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General, Ramsar Convention
Dr Heather MacKay, STRP Chair

Agenda item 2. Adoption of the Agenda.

Agenda item 3. Admission of additional observers.

Agenda item 4. Brief introductions of members and observers.

Agenda item 5. Induction and briefing session.

Briefing documents will be sent to all members and observers prior to STRP13 for their information. This session will be primarily for clarification of STRP processes and operations.

- 5.1 The Ramsar Convention, its Strategic Plan for 2003-2008, Work Plan 2006-2008, and the Resolutions adopted by COP9 relevant to the STRP.
- 5.2 The role and operations of the STRP, including explanation of the roles of thematic area leads and regional networker leads.
- 5.3 The roles of STRP members and observers, the Ramsar Secretariat, the Standing Committee, and the STRP Oversight Committee.
- 5.4 The role and functioning of the STRP Support Service.
- 5.5 Process of development of and agreement on STRP Work Plan for 2006-2008.
- 5.6 Overview of 2006-2008 work and priorities as approved by COP9:
 - i) Immediate priority tasks
 - ii) High priority tasks
 - iii) Lower priority tasks
 - iv) Additional ongoing tasks
- 5.7 Types of purposes of products prepared by the STRP.
- 5.8 Budgetary issues.

Agenda Item 6. STRP National Focal Points networking.

Issues to be covered will include:

- i) possibilities for regional networking, and roles of the regional networker lead members;
- ii) approaches for responding to the needs of regional STRP networks in implementation of STRP guidance;
- iii) approaches for STRP support and input to regional initiatives;

- iv) discussion of any inputs received from regional leads and focal points on how best to mobilize resources/interest for STRP work, through the regional networker leads; and
- v) identification of particular STRP National Focal Points who can contribute or provide access to expertise in specific thematic areas.

Desired outcomes:

- Clear generic process for two-way communication with STRP National Focal Points.
- Working group membership of STRP NFPs settled, and access to STRP support service and Web site enabled.

13h00-15h00 Lunch

15h00-18h00

Agenda Item 7. Detailed discussion of thematic work areas.

The thematic lead member for each work area will provide a starter/briefing document prior to the meeting, and will present initial recommendations for approaches to the delivery of the immediate, high and low priority tasks, budget, and identification of experts/institutions to assist with work. Discussion will include progress and completion of any tasks yet to be completed from the 2003-2005 work programme.

Desired outcomes:

- Detailed task-based programme, budget, and timelines for completion of tasks, including the need for mid-term and ad hoc workshops/meetings and incorporating cross-linkages between different thematic areas where appropriate. Descriptions of likely outputs and target audiences in each case.
- Established membership for working groups, including core members, reviewers, contracted experts, and external advisers.

7.1 Wise use and ecological character (lead- Mr Randy Milton)

7.2 Wetland inventory, assessment and monitoring (lead- Dr Teresita Borges)

7.3 Water resource management (lead- Dr Mike Acreman)

7.4 Ramsar site designation and management (lead- Mr David Stroud)

7.5 Wetlands and agriculture (lead- Dr Max Finlayson)

7.6 Wetlands and human health (lead- Deputy Secretary General)

7.7 Resolution VIII.45 and “ongoing” functions (lead- Dr Heather MacKay)

7.8 Communication, Education & Public Awareness (lead- Ms Christine Prietto)

Wednesday 31 May 2006

09h00-13h00

Agenda Item 7 (continued from previous day)

13h00-15h00 Lunch

15h00-18h00

Agenda Item 8. Breakout sessions for thematic work groups, if appropriate, or continue on thematic work areas in plenary.

Thursday 1 June 2006

09h00-13h00

Agenda Item 9. Current and emerging issues relevant to aspects of the STRP work programme

A short presentation on each topic from a knowledgeable STRP member, observer, or invited expert if self-funded.

Desired outcomes:

- Statements or recommendations from STRP to Standing Committee regarding possible future actions/guidance needed, or incorporation of issues into STRP work programme where appropriate and necessary.
- Agreed process for identifying and addressing such issues between formal meetings of the STRP.

9.1 Avian influenza (David Stroud)

9.2 ESA GlobWetlands update – remote sensing and wetland assessment and management (Diego Fernandez, European Space Agency)

9.3 CBD COP8 and Inland Waters and harmonized reporting issues (Nick Davidson)

9.4 Issues arising from the 34th meeting of the Standing Committee (e.g. water-related processes; COP10 National Reporting; Strategic Plan 2009-2014, etc.) (Nick Davidson /Heather MacKay)

9.5 Issues arising from COP9 decisions or other Ramsar processes, but not currently included in STRP's 2006-2008 work programme (Nick Davidson /Heather MacKay)

9.6 Systematic conservation planning for aquatic ecosystems (WWF/TNC/CSIR) (HM)

9.7 Any other relevant issues identified prior to STRP13 (please notify Nick Davidson as soon as possible if you wish to add an issue to this agenda item – meeting time is limited so we cannot take too many more issues than we currently have listed.)

15h00-18h00

Agenda Item 10. Ramsar Technical Report Series.

A brief presentation and discussion of the purpose of Ramsar Technical Reports, the role of the STRP and experts in peer review, distribution and electronic access to reports, and summary of reports in the pipeline.

10.1 Reports recently published or ready for publication

10.2 Reports ready for STRP review

10.3 Reports in preparation, and expected for review prior to the next STRP meeting

10.4 Additional reports identified for delivery of STRP 2006-2008 tasks

20h30 STRP Dinner

Friday 2 June 2006

09h00-13h00

Agenda Item 11. Finalisation of detailed STRP work programme and task-based budget.

Agreement on which tasks should be commenced immediately with available resources and which tasks depend on identification of additional capacity/resources; agreement on reporting of STRP Work Programme to the Standing Committee for its approval.

Agenda Item 12. Requirements and schedule for mid-term STRP working group meetings.

Agenda Item 13. Date and venue of the 14th meeting of the STRP.

14h00-17h00

Agenda Item 14. Any other business.

Agenda Item 15. Close of meeting.