Report of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee

Presented to the 10th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands on 28th October 2008, Changwon, Republic of Korea

« Healthy wetlands, healthy people »
SC Composition for 2006-2008 Triennium
Africa: Benin, Gabon, Kenya and Malawi
Asia: China, Islamic Republic of Iran and Thailand
Europe: Austria, Czech Republic, Georgia and Slovenia
Neotropics: Bahamas, Ecuador and El Salvador
North America: United States of America
Oceania: Samoa
COP9 Host Country, Uganda and COP10 host country, Republic of Korea
Report of the Chair of the Standing Committee (2006-2008)

- Report of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee
- Permanent Observers
- Switzerland-host country for IUCN, which hosts the Convention’s secretariat
- Netherlands-host country for wetlands international, strongly linked to the Convention’s inception and host of the Ramsar database.
- International Organization Partners (invited under the terms of resolution V11.1 to participate as observers in meetings of the standing Committee)
- Bird life international
- International Water management Institute (IWMI)
- IUCN
- Wetlands International, and
- WWF International

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- Subsidiary bodies of the standing Committee, 2006-2008
- Sub-group on Finance (established by Decision SC 16-1, 1995)
- Sub-group on CDP 10 (Decision SC34-6)
- Subgroup on the Strategic Plan (Decision SC34-5)
- Management Working Group (Resolution IX.24, Decision SC34-3)
- CEPA Oversight Panel (Resolution IX.18, Decision SC 34-12)
- STRP Oversight Committee (Resolution IX.11)
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- Standing Committee meetings during the Triennium
- 34th Meeting: 10 -13 April 2006, in Gland, Switzerland
- 35th Meeting: 14 -16 February 2007, in Gland Switzerland
- 36th Meeting: 27 -19 February 2007, in Gland, Switzerland
- 37th Meeting: 2 -6 June 2008, in Gland, Switzerland
- 38th Meeting: 27th October 2008, in Changwon, Korea

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Focus of SC meetings

- Review of the audited accounts of the previous years
- Review of the financial situation of the current year and forecast of the income and expenditure until the year’s end, and adoption of the budget for the following year
- Review of the work of the Secretariat
- Review of the reports on the implementation of the work programmes of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and the CEPA Oversight Panel and recommendations for their future work
- Consideration of the projects submitted under the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) and approval of projects to be funded
- Review of the financial and implementation status of other projects undertaken by the Secretariat
SC 33 OUTCOMES

- Uganda (Represented by Paul Mafabi) elected as SC Chair and Bahamas (represented by John Bowleg) as Vice Chair
- USA elected as Chair of Sub-group on Finance. Members – Benin (Africa), China (Asia), Czech Republic (Europe) Ecuador (Neotropics) USA (North America) and Samoa (Oceania)
- Agreed on Transition meeting to be held immediately prior to SC34
SC 34 OUTCOMES

- Four sub-committees established
  - Management Working Group
  - COP 10
  - CEPA Oversight Panel
  - STRP Oversight Panel
- Endorsed the Joint Work Plan with CBD
- Agreed process for the election of New Secretary General
- Elected Mr. Anada Tiega as SG in May 2007
Report of the Chair of the Standing Committee (2006-2008)

SC 35 OUTCOMES

• Agreed financial allocations for regional initiatives for 2007
• Proposed formal establishment of a transition committee (DR)
• Established procedure for resolving grievances at the Secretariat
• Agreed national report format and process
• Approved 4th joint work plan with CBD
Report of the Chair of the Standing Committee (2006-2008)

SC 36 OUTCOMES

• Approved procedures and principals for submitting draft Resolutions for COP 10
• Welcomed the report of the Chair of the STRP on the final products of COP10
• Discussed future staffing needs for the Secretariat
• Approved allocations to regional Initiatives for 2008
• Agreed need for continued dialogue on legal status of the Ramsar Secretariat
• Reviewed preparations for COP 10
SC 37 OUTCOMES

- Focused on debates on draft resolutions for COP 10
- Called for more information on legal status of the Secretariat
- Reviewed nomination
SC 38 OUTCOMES

- Approval of draft Changwon Declaration
- Approval of SGF Grants for 2008
Conclusion

• Active and constructive for the Standing Committee and its Sub-groups
• Recognize the clear mandates established at COP9
• COP10 should set a clear agenda for the way forward which is achievable within the agreed budget, and carefully targeted towards issues of strategic importance to the Convention
• Need for more focused implementation of the Convention at national level
• Concern about the declining funding for Small Grants fund
• Need for a more stable and sustainable funding mechanism including but not limited to establishment of a wetland fund as stipulated in Resolution IX.10
Report of the Chair of the Standing Committee (2006-2008)

Emerging Issues

- Legal status of the Secretariat
- Long term financing for the Convention at all levels
- Active engagement with other international instruments which are mutually beneficial
- Addressing wetland conservation and wise use from a broader perspective
- Strengthening implementation capacity of Contracting Parties
Report of the Chair of the Standing Committee (2006-2008)

Thanks