

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



CHANGWON 2008

COP10

« Healthy wetlands, healthy people »



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Report of the Chair of the Standing Committee (2006-2008)



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



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- 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



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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



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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

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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



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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



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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



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SC 37 OUTCOMES

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



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SC 38 OUTCOMES

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



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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



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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

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Thanks



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