

Agenda item 15.3

World Wetlands Day themes for 2011 and 2012

Action requested: The Standing Committee is invited to approve the suggested theme for WWD 2011 and to consider the theme for WWD 2012

1. Decision SC37-42 recorded that “The Standing Committee determined that the theme for World Wetlands Day 2010 will be *Wetlands, Biodiversity, and Climate Change* and the theme for 2011, subject to confirmation, will be *Wetlands and Forests*,” recognizing that 2011 has been declared the UN International Year of Forests. It should also be noted that 2011 will be the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Convention and that some recognition should be given to this in the WWD materials.
2. The suggested theme for WWD 2012 will have to be aligned with the COP12 theme but at this early stage the Secretariat suggests that a theme on *Wetlands and Tourism* is worthy of consideration, given the significant interest within the Convention in this aspect of wetland management. There is evidence of the value of developing sustainable tourism within and near wetlands as a means both of alleviating poverty and of raising awareness about the value of wetlands, but equally there is evidence of the potential for developing unsustainable tourism that has adverse effects on wetland ecosystems. As a thematic area for WWD 2012, this merits further consideration by Standing Committee.