

# 40<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee

## Agenda item 14.2: Report of the STRP Chair, and Draft STRP Work Plan



# Overview



- Review of STRP participation in COP10
- STRP15 meeting in March 2009
  - STRP Support Service
  - GlobWetlands II
  - UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair in Wise Use of Wetlands
- Draft work plan for 2009-2012
- Prioritisation of tasks and budget

# STRP participation in COP10



- At COP10:
  - 10 STRP members and invited experts were present for the full COP.
  - STRP presented technical briefing sessions at COP10 on key technical resolutions.
  - Assistance to Parties in negotiations on technical resolutions during COP10.
- Suggestions for COP11:
  - Technical briefings on specific resolutions before COP (SC and regional meetings) and during COP.
  - More time during COP for consideration of technical resolutions.
  - Plan and budget for lead STRP persons to assist Parties on specific resolutions
  - Office space for STRP at COP11
- STRP will plan ahead for support to Parties and STRP participation in COP11
- STRP should communicate closely with SC Subgroup on COP11

# STRP Support Service



- Designed and hosted by Wetlands International.
- Essential service to facilitate STRP work.
- Recent problems with maintenance and functionality.
- Recommendation:
  - STRP Support Service be redeveloped and located within the Secretariat, maintained by the S&T support officer.
  - Cost estimate for IT consultant and software: CHF 35 000

# GlobWetland II: European Space Agency



- Background
  - European Space Agency project to follow on from GlobWetland I
  - Regional-scale earth observation techniques for wetland assessment, inventory and management
  - Contributes to STRP efforts to establish a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS)
  - Focus area will be Mediterranean wetlands, to 100km from the coast, including African, Asian and European Parties
- Current activities
  - GWII user workshop held at Tour du Valat in March 2009
  - Technical work to begin in late 2009.
  - Letter of invitation sent this week to Ramsar Admin Authorities in the project area
  - **Urgent for AAs to respond to this letter in May 2009, and to identify user organisations within their country to work with ESA**

# UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair in Wise Use of Wetlands



- Proposal from UNESCO-IHE to establish Ramsar Chair
- Discussed at STRP15 and endorsed by STRP
- Collaboration with universities and research organisations provides significant assistance in:
  - delivering STRP work programme;
  - Raising profile of the Convention.
- SC invited to also endorse this initiative

# Draft work plan 2009-2012



- 10 thematic work areas.
- Tasks derived primarily from Res X.10, also other COP10 resolutions.
  - High priority tasks – require specialist work, funded from STRP core budget
  - Lower priority tasks – funded from core budget, donor contributions or advanced through *pro bono* work.
- Products from STRP:
  - Technical guidance documents, for adoption by Parties
  - Ramsar Technical Reports, for use by Parties
  - Briefing notes and scoping reviews, for information of Parties
  - Reviews and peer-reviewed articles for external processes (e.g. IPCC) or to support Ramsar Convention implementation
  - Draft technical Resolutions

## TWA1: Regional networking



- Led by STRP vice-chair
- Focus on developing STRP NFP network, in order to provide regional inputs to STRP work.
- Facilitate NFPs participation in STRP work and Convention implementation.
- Important to encourage meetings of NFPs in each region.



# TWA2: Strategic, emerging and ongoing issues



- Led by STRP Chair
- Essential STRP tasks:
  - Strategic scientific & technical advice and leadership for the Convention
  - Provide scientific advice as needed to Parties (queries, RAMs, Standing Comm)
  - Review draft technical Resolutions
- Prioritised STRP tasks within this TWA
  - Keep a watching brief on emerging issues relevant to wetlands, and provide advice as needed on these issues.
  - Keep under review the need for sectoral guidance on wise use of wetlands.
    - Current priorities include extractive industries, tourism, energy, economic sector

# TWA3: Wetland inventory, assessment, monitoring and reporting



- Key supporting area for Convention implementation.
- Addresses core information needs and information flow for the Convention and for Parties.
- Includes development of indicators of Convention effectiveness (see agenda item 14.3)
- Under Ramsar-CBD joint work programme, provides information for review of inland waters programme, and 2010 biodiversity indicators

## TWA4: Wetlands and human health



- Initiated in previous triennium
- Provided technical material to support COP10 theme.
- Focus on further development of guidance in collaboration with health sector.

## TWA5: Wetlands and climate change



- Started work during previous triennium
- Two main focus areas:
  - Supporting Ramsar Parties with guidance and information on monitoring, mitigation and adaptation.
  - Collaborating with other international organisations and processes to ensure wetlands are adequately addressed.
- STRP hoping to participate fully in IPCC 5<sup>th</sup> Assessment Report.

# TWA7: Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)



- Also a critical supporting area for Convention implementation.
- Focus areas are:
  - Strategic – scientific support for development of the “Ramsar list”
  - Practical – site level guidance for applying Ramsar criteria, and wetland management.

# TWA8: Wetland management: restoration, mitigation and compensation



- New TWA in this triennium
- Review and develop new guidance for wetland restoration in context of site management.
- Develop guidance for mitigation and compensation.
- Role of restoration in climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
- TWA members participate in expert panel to advise Danone-Ramsar-IUCN partnership on wetland restoration for carbon sequestration.

## TWA9: Wetlands and agriculture



- Work with GAWI in previous triennium.
- Continuing work on developing guidance for wetlands and agriculture.
- Other tasks include:
  - Review and possible guidance on wetlands & biofuels
  - Rice paddy biodiversity

### Focus on CEPA for STRP work:

- Presentation and delivery of scientific products for uptake by Parties.
- Capacity building needs for implementing technical guidance.
- Promoting awareness and understanding of STRP work programme.
- Planning STRP participation in COP11.



# STRP 2009-2012 budget



Work programme has been divided into 4 categories:

- Lower priority tasks not requiring funding in this triennium (Annex 2).
- Lower priority tasks requiring funding in this triennium (Annex 1: B).
- Higher priority tasks requiring funding in this triennium (Annex 1: A).
- Top priority tasks requiring funding in 2009 in order to meet COP11 and other critical deadlines (Annex 1: C).

# STRP budget for 2009-2012



- STRP15 refined terms of reference and estimated costs for all tasks in the STRP 2009-2012 work programme **that require funding**
  - High Priority total for 2009-12 (at STRP15) CHF 742 500
  - High Priority (now updated to reflect UK contributions) CHF 687 500
  - Lower Priority total for 2009-12 CHF108 000
  - Total funds needed for **2009-2012** **CHF 795 500**
- The STRP core budget is still not sufficient to fund all the remaining High Priority tasks in this triennium.
- Most tasks can be initiated as funds become available.
- STRP15 identified Top Priority tasks which need to be started in 2009 in order to meet COP11 or other critical deadlines
  - Top Priority total for **2009** CHF 162 750
  - 2009 total incl UK contribution for 9.1 **CHF 142 750**

# STRP budget: Funding needed in 2009 to begin Top Priority tasks



	Total funds needed 2009
STRP Support Service redevelopment	35 000
2.10: Wetland-dependent wildlife diseases review	10 000
4.8: Further development and application of indicators of effectiveness	38 000
5.1: Human health technical report workshops	5 250
6.1: Publish review paper on wetlands & carbon cycle	5 000
7.4/7.x: Water quality guidance & water sector strategy	20 000
8.4/8.5/8.3: Review & revision of <i>Strategic Framework</i> guidance	15 000
9.1: Guidance on mitigation and compensation	UK: GBP 12 000
6.3: Biofuels review	2 000
10.3/1.4: CEPA participation in STRP guidance development	12 500
Total estimated funds needed in 2009 for Top Priority tasks	142 750
Core funding remaining for 2009	47 985

## In summary:



Standing Committee is requested to:

1. Approve the draft STRP work plan for 2009-2012;
2. Urge Parties to consider voluntary contributions and seek donor funding to support STRP's remaining unfunded high priority tasks;
3. Consider ways for STRP to work more closely with the COP11 subgroup;
4. Highlight the importance of Ramsar AAs responses to the GlobWetland II invitation, especially Parties in the North African region;
5. Consider endorsing the UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair in Wise Use of Wetlands.