

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

**29th Meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland, 26-28 February 2003**

**DOC. SC29-4
Addendum**

Agenda item 6.1

**Priorities for the STRP Work Plan 2003-2005 and the first
meeting of the STRP:**

**Provisional costings for undertaking STRP's
recommended priority work for 2003-2005**

Action requested: The Standing Committee is requested to note the provisional estimates of costs for undertaking STRP's recommended high priority work, in relation to its determination of the priorities for the work of the STRP for the 2003-2005 triennium.

1. Resolution VIII.28 requested the Standing Committee to “define and estimate costs of the principle tasks and priorities for the work plan of the STRP on the basis of the views expressed and priorities established by the Conference of the Contracting Parties.”
2. As indicated in DOC. SC29-12, the sums available from the core budget for the work of the STRP, which are limited to assistance for member's attendance at meetings, and for the work of the STRP Support Service, will not be sufficient for the STRP to undertake all of its substantive work, notably for hiring consultants to assist in the drafting of key STRP documents, as is envisaged in the *modus operandi* adopted by Resolution VIII.28.
3. Consequently, DOC. SC29-12 proposes that it would seem advisable that, once the Standing Committee has taken its decision on the priorities for the STRP work during the triennium and on the STRP Support Service, the Bureau should prepare a fundraising document covering all the funding needs for the STRP in this period.
4. Paragraph 38 i) of the STRP's *modus operandi* (Annex to Resolution VIII.28) further identifies that part of the role and responsibilities of the Ramsar Bureau is to:

“identify, with the assistance of the STRP Support Service, costs of preparing each substantive task identified for the work of the Panel, and in the light of priorities for tasks established by the COP and Standing Committee, advise the Standing Committee on which tasks cannot be undertaken without additional resources, and seek such resources, as necessary;”
5. Development of precise costings for each element the STRP's work will necessarily depend upon the work which will be undertaken by the Panel at its first meeting to define in detail the scope, content and preparation procedure for each substantive report it will be requested to prepare for consideration by COP9.

6. Nevertheless, in response to Resolution VIII.28 and to assist the Standing Committee in its consideration of the scope and number of priorities for work it will determine for the work of the Panel during 2003-2005, the Bureau has prepared in Annex I a provisional estimate of the costs of the principal tasks of the STRP, concerning the priority areas of work recommended in DOC. SC29-4. This indicates a provisional total estimated cost of CHF 266,000.
7. It must be stressed that this cost is based on all substantive drafting of reports and guidelines being undertaken by a global expert or experts working on a consultancy basis. It should be noted that, depending on the capacity and expertise of the Panel members (once appointed) and observer organizations, it may prove possible for some priority tasks to be undertaken through existing institutional arrangements;
8. It should also be stressed that these costings are limited to those for the priority work areas as recommended in DOC. SC29-4, and do not include any additional costs of delivery of other components of STRP's work, which may include *inter alia*:
 - i) the full development and support to the network of STRP National Focal Points (through the STRP Support Service);
 - ii) other areas of work requested of STRP at a lower priority; or
 - iii) possible additional funding to that available in the core budget for holding mid-term meetings of any Expert Working Groups established by the STRP to conduct its work.
9. The Annex to DOC. SC29-4 provides a recommended priority for each of the STRP's tasks (as defined by actions in COP8 Resolutions) within each recommended high priority area of work. The Standing Committee is invited to note that for some of these areas of work it is recommended that all tasks be afforded a high priority for the 2003-2005 triennium since they would form an linked package of work and products. For other areas of work, it is recommended that only certain tasks be indicated as high priority. Only those tasks recommended as high priority within each area of work are covered by the provisional costings in the Annex to this note.
10. In the Annex of costings, the Bureau has sought to identify as far as possible the specific products which may be anticipated as the outputs from each element of the STRP's work on these matters. However, the Standing Committee should note that, as part of its work at its 11th meeting, planned for 8-11 April 2003, the STRP is required to review in detail each area of its work so as to specify the scope of the tasks and structure and contents of the outputs it will prepare for consideration by the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties at COP9. This information will then be included in the STRP's work plan, which will be provided to the Standing Committee for approval. Therefore the nature and titling of STRP's outputs in each area of work, as listed in the attached Annex of costings, should be regarded as provisional and subject to refinement by the STRP at its first meeting.
11. The information provided in the Annex to this note may also assist the Standing Committee, in line with Resolution VIII.45 (paragraph 14), in making an initial identification of the technical tasks in the STRP's work plan which could lead to draft technical resolutions to be considered by COP9.

ANNEX

Provisional estimated costs of recommended high priority work outputs for the STRP 2003-2005

Note. Provisional costings for most tasks are based on an estimate of an average 15 days' work (at CHF 500 per day) in preparing and revising each output by an expert consultant, plus the consultant's attendance at one two-day working group meeting (2 days @ CHF 500 + average CHF 1,000 travel cost = CHF 2,000): total CHF 9,500. Where a task is anticipated to be more substantive, or involves several sub-tasks or anticipated outputs, a higher estimate is given.

Task/product(s)	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
1. Wetland inventory and assessment	
a) Review and development of further guidance on gaps and disharmonies inventory, assessment, monitoring and management Ramsar guidance, including on:	19,000
i) Ramsar Wetlands Classification System and biogeographic regionalization;	
ii) ecological character determination;	
iii) practical methods for assessment and monitoring, including indicators;	
iv) EIA and SEA within wetland risk assessment;	
v) harmonization of definitions and terms	
b) Integrated framework for inventory, assessment and monitoring	9,500
c) Rapid assessment guidelines for wetland biodiversity	9,500
d) Vulnerability assessment methodologies for change in ecological character	9,500
<i>Sub-total: inventory and assessment</i>	<i>47,500</i>
2. Wise use guidance	
a) Review and development of new tools for implementing wise use principle , including methods and best practice case studies and the ecosystem approach	19,000
<i>Sub-total: wise use guidance</i>	<i>19,000</i>
3. Water resource management	
a) Report on environmental flow methodologies	9,500
b) Guidelines on wetlands and groundwater	19,000
<i>Sub-total: water resource management</i>	<i>28,500</i>
4. CEPA	
a) CEPA input to other guidance being prepared by STRP	-
b) Evaluation of CEPA-related information in COP8 National Reports	9,500
c) Review of existing guidance, and possible preparation of additional guidance on CEPA issues and opportunities	9,500
d) Additional guidance to enhance CEPA in local management action	9,500
e) Review and possible preparation of additional guidance on integrating CEPA into policy and planning approaches	9,500

f) Review Ramsar and other MEAs' CEPA programmes and advise on improved harmonisation	19,000
g) Preparation of ToRs for wetland CEPA pilot projects	9,500
h) Review and report on lessons learnt from current wetland CEPA models and case studies	9,500
<i>Sub-total: water resource management</i>	<i>76,000</i>
5. Ramsar site designation	
a) Report on under-represented wetland type interpretation , and methods for establishing designation targets	9,500
b) Designation criteria: additional Criteria and guidelines for socio-economic and cultural values and functions	9,500
c) RIS development: additional guidance on ecological character and criteria application, changes in structure and content, including additional field for wetland type, harmonization with inventory core data fields, and site boundary field	9,500
d) Further guidance on Ramsar site maps: boundary description, digital maps, data compatibility, data use and copyright/access issues	9,500
e) Review and recommendations on improving harmonization of international supply and reporting of information from multiple sources on Ramsar sites	9,500
<i>Sub-total: Ramsar site designation</i>	<i>47,500</i>
6. Managing and monitoring of Ramsar sites	
a) A field guide for application of new management planning guidelines	9,500
b) Further guidance on zonation in management planning	9,500
c) Consolidated guidance on detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character	9,500
d) Report on status and trends of Ramsar site ecological character , in context of global wetland status and trends	19,000
<i>Sub-total: site management and monitoring</i>	<i>47,500</i>
TOTAL PROVISIONAL ESTIMATED COST	266,000