

## **Report of the Subgroup on the Strategic Plan**

### **1. Progress report on the COP10 National Reporting Format (DOC.SCSC35/SG Strategic Plan-01)**

The Subgroup noted:

- the progress report on COP10 National Reporting Format
- that the Secretariat has received one National Report to date; and
- a reminder from the Secretariat to all Parties that the deadline for submission of National Reports is 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008.

#### ***Recommendation:***

The Subgroup on the Strategic Plan recommends that the Standing Committee notes the Progress report on the COP10 National Reporting Format.

### **2. Development of the Strategic Plan 2009-2014 (DOC. SC36-07)**

i. The Subgroup on the Strategic Plan agreed that:

- following quite detailed comments from several Parties, incorporation of such comments in the draft to be discussed in the plenary session of this meeting was not possible but would be included in a new draft to be prepared by the Secretariat following SC36 and further debated at SC37; the Secretariat will refer any conflicting changes suggested to the countries concerned and, if necessary, to the Chair and Vice Chair of Standing Committee for resolution;
- a number of general comments should be shared with Parties through this report at the plenary session on the Strategic Plan.

ii. The subgroup noted the following general comments for consideration by Standing Committee:

- the present draft was generally thought to be much improved on the previous version, and the mission, goals and strategies well constructed;
- the introduction was generally thought to be well written but too long;
- under paragraph 3, point (i) of the covering note, it was agreed that, in addition to including the summary of achievements and progress in the period 2002-2006 that will become evident from the National Reports analysis, a summary of the deliverables of STRP in the last two triennia should be included;
- on page 10 of the draft, the bulleted list is 'outward' rather than 'inward-looking': this needs to be edited to better reflect the key aspirations of the Parties;
- slight rewording of the goals necessary to improve their precision e.g. "To work towards the wise use of wetlands by . . ." becomes "The wise use of wetlands is achieved through . . .";
- often several different responsible bodies are identified as implementers of the various strategies in the Plan: it would be helpful to indicate *key* implementers wherever appropriate and possibly to indicate the key implementers under each

KRA; it may also be helpful to indicate different levels at which implementation will take place (such as national, subnational and supranational);

- while the importance of water security, poverty alleviation, food security and coastal regional programmes is not to be underestimated, the Strategic Plan's main focus should be on the primary objectives of the Convention and activities should be prioritised accordingly;
- there is a need for the Secretariat to make every effort to consider the costs involved in carrying out their implementation role in the Strategic Plan. Perhaps we should look at the Convention's available financial resources and then develop a realistic Strategic Plan or should we design the Plan and then look for resources (which may well not be available). We should perhaps look at setting targets in order to arrive at a realistic financial assessment of implementation costs.
- Standing Committee should consider how the regional initiatives can assist in the implementation of the Strategic Plan; should they play the central role rather than the currently designated focal points?

***Recommendation:***

The Subgroup on the Strategic Plan recommends that Standing Committee:

- i. considers the general comments made by the Subgroup; and
- ii. requests the Secretariat to integrate the detailed comments from the Subgroup into the draft Strategic Plan for review by SC37.