

- Scenario 2 – STRP and Standing Committee meet with two overlapping days: STRP and Standing Committee meetings scheduled back-to-back at IUCN HQ, with the last two days of the STRP meeting and the first two of the Standing Committee overlapping. The STRP meeting could start on Friday and end the following Tuesday, while the Standing Committee meeting could start on Monday and end the following Friday (see Table 2).

Table 2: Back-to-back meetings with two overlapping days

Meetings	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.
STRP								
SC								

Overarching considerations

3. Any scenario that includes meetings on Saturday or Sunday will require meeting space outside of IUCN HQ. IUCN premises are not available on Saturdays or Sundays due to security and safety requirements. Therefore, arrangements would have to be made to have any weekend meetings in a hotel or other venue in the Gland/Nyon area. Should a joint event between the two bodies for the purpose of facilitating exchange and fostering communication be desired, it would need to be held at a larger facility outside of IUCN.
4. Any scenario that includes meetings on Saturday or Sunday would involve compensating Secretariat staff for overtime in accordance with Swiss law. This added cost is reflected in the table comparing the cost implications of each scenario, which is provided as Annex 1.
5. IUCN HQ does not have a meeting room large enough to accommodate a joint plenary of the STRP and Standing Committee meetings. The IUCN auditorium can hold a maximum of 100 participants. A joint STRP and Standing committee plenary would have between 150 and 170 participants. Two overflow rooms (the largest IUCN meeting room excluding the main plenary hall seats a maximum of 50 people) with a live video from the plenary could be used to accommodate delegates and observers who would not be eligible for priority seating in the main plenary hall. Alternatively, an external venue could be used, which given the capacity needed would probably be in Geneva. Note that using an external venue would result in additional cost and logistical complexity, particularly given that the International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG) facility is not available from 2020 to 2022.
6. Scenarios with back-to-back or overlapping meetings will have implications on the capacity of Secretariat staff to prepare meeting documents in advance of the meetings in order to comply with the Rules of Procedure, manage document revisions and reports during the meetings, and provide follow-up documentation and reports following the meetings, given the volume and concentration of work to be completed in a single period. The current approach of separate meetings allows the Secretariat to provide focused and concentrated support for each meeting.
7. Options for participants in the STRP and Standing Committee to interact if the two meetings overlap is primarily limited to working groups or workshops involving a limited number of participants from the two bodies. Scenario 2, which includes overlapping meetings, leaves less time for each body to address its respective agenda.
8. Any scenario with combined meetings assumes that the STRP Chair is available and willing to commit to from 10 to 12 continuous workdays (including one day of travel at the beginning of

the combined meeting and one day of travel following). The current STRP Chair has indicated his availability and willingness to be available for back-to-back or overlapping meetings.

Evaluation

9. Current approach: The STRP meeting is scheduled three to six months before the Standing Committee meeting. The main implications of this scenario are the following:
 - Paragraph 16 of Resolution XIII.8 suggests a need to enhance opportunities for interaction between the STRP and the Standing Committee, as well as the science and policy interface between the two bodies.
 - The Chair of the STRP participates in the Standing Committee.
 - The current approach enables the STRP as a subsidiary body of the Convention to prepare its work plan and finalize outputs to submit to the Standing Committee meeting for approval.
 - The current approach enables the Secretariat to focus on providing the services that are required for each meeting of the subsidiary bodies and for each body to have five days for its agenda.

10. Scenario 1: STRP and Standing Committee meetings scheduled back-to-back within a two-week period. The main implications of this scenario are the following:
 - A continuing lack of opportunities for interaction between the STRP and Standing Committee given that the STRP meeting will be concluding and STRP members departing on a Friday and Standing Committee commencing on Monday with members arriving over the weekend.
 - In such a case it would be unclear how the science and policy interface between STRP and Standing Committee meetings would increase.
 - In order to allow for interaction, a joint activity could be organized during the weekend. This would require securing a facility outside IUCN and providing Secretariat staff compensation in compliance with Swiss law.
 - Alternatively, a group of participants from each body could participate in the other body's meetings. This would require participants to be available and willing to extend the duration of their trip to Gland and, in the case of sponsored delegates, would result in an increased expenditure for DSA.

11. Scenario 2: STRP and Standing Committee meetings scheduled back-to-back with two overlapping days. The main implications of this scenario are the following:
 - The STRP would need to work outside IUCN premises on Sunday and Saturday in meeting rooms most likely rented from an area hotel or venue. The Secretariat would be required under Swiss law to provide overtime compensation for staff supporting the STRP meeting on Saturday and a Sunday.
 - There would be opportunities for face-to-face interaction between the participants of the two meetings, to foster communication and synergies across the work of the Convention.
 - However, given the size limitation of the main plenary room it would not be possible to organize a plenary joint session of the two bodies in the IUCN main plenary hall. Two additional overflow rooms with video monitors would be required to seat all participants. Space in Geneva could potentially be secured for a joint plenary, subject to the considerations listed above.
 - During overlapping days, the agenda of both meetings could include those items where interaction between the STRP and the Standing Committee would be most beneficial, which would require careful planning.

- During the overlapping days, it would be necessary to book all ten available IUCN meeting rooms for the working groups. This may be difficult based upon IUCN's needs and willingness to make all meeting rooms available exclusively for Ramsar. It is possible that not all the rooms needed would be available.
- There would be a reduction in the duration of the meetings from five to three days to accomplish the specific work of each of the subsidiary bodies, as two days would be allocated to the joint meeting.
- It would not be possible for the STRP to prepare outputs to be presented for Standing Committee's consideration (e.g. at the start of the triennium the preparation of the work plan requires consultation before is submitted to the Standing Committee).

12. The estimated cost implications of Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 are presented in Annex 1.

Annex 1

Scenarios and their cost implications

	The current approach of separate STRP and SC meetings at IUCN HQ		Scenario 1 STRP and SC meetings organized back-to-back over 2 weeks		Scenario 2 STRP and SC meetings organized back-to-back with two overlapping days		
	STRP	Standing Committee	STRP	Standing Committee	STRP	Two joint STRP / SC days	Standing Committee
Cost Implications (CHF)	Travel ¹⁾ - 36,800	Travel ²⁾ - 29,900	Travel ¹⁾ - 36,800	Travel ²⁾ - 29,900	Travel ¹⁾ - 36,800		Travel ²⁾ - 29,900
	Coffee breaks - 2,835	Coffee breaks - 6,825	Coffee breaks - 2,835	Coffee breaks - 6,825	Coffee breaks - 1,701	Coffee breaks - 3,864	Coffee breaks - 4,095
	Technical equipment and assistance - 6,500	Technical equipment and assistance - 9,350	Technical equipment and assistance - 6,500	Technical equipment and assistance - 9,350	Technical equipment and assistance - 2,400	Technical equipment and assistance - 5,800	Technical equipment and assistance - 6,300
		Interpretation - 31,410		Interpretation - 31,410		Interpretation - 12,564	Interpretation - 18,846
		Rapporteur - 5,840		Rapporteur - 5,840		Rapporteur - 2,336	Rapporteur - 3,504
	STRP Chair Travel - 2,052	STRP Chair Travel - 2,052	STRP Chair Travel - 3,262 Joint event to facilitate interaction and exchange (cost TBD)		STRP Chair Travel - 2,778 Rented space and logistics for Saturday & Sunday - 7,992 Staff overtime and compensation for weekend work - 8,700		
	Subtotal STRP: 48,187	Subtotal SC: 85,367	Subtotal STRP: 49,397	Subtotal SC: 83,325	Subtotal STRP: 60,379	Subtotal STRP and SC: 24,564	Subtotal SC: 62,645
	CHF 133,554		CHF 132,722		CHF 147,580		

1) STRP travel: 16 sponsored participants

2) Standing Committee travel: 13 sponsored delegates