

6.1 Overview of the STRP work plan, priorities and process



1st Workshop of the STRP African National Focal Points and other Wetland Experts in the region.

Johannesburg, South Africa, 30 November-2 December 2010

Outline

1. How the STRP functions
2. How STRP work priorities are decided
3. Current work plan
4. Emerging future priorities
5. Process leading to COP11
6. Role of STRP National Focal Points
7. Science-policy interfaces in the Convention

How does the STRP function?



- Core STRP members are appointed in their individual capacity:
 - Internationally recognized wetland experts;
 - *Do not represent a single country;
 - Appointed for their expertise in a thematic work area or regional knowledge.
- STRP reports to COP:
 - Expected to provide independent, objective scientific advice to the Convention and the Contracting Parties.
- STRP meetings:
 - Fairly informal and lively (limited protocol);
 - Observer organizations are active participants in STRP working groups;
 - Collaboration is encouraged, to leverage our limited funds.

STRP role in the Convention



Four primary aspects:

1. Respond to ad hoc requests for scientific information and advice:
 - Contracting Parties, international organizations, Ramsar site managers
 - Ramsar Advisory Missions
2. Provide advice and guidance to Parties on aspects of Convention implementation
 - Resolutions, Ramsar Technical Reports, Ramsar handbooks series
 - Indicators of Convention effectiveness
3. Provide proactive advice on emerging and strategic issues of relevance to the Convention.
4. Provide scientific information on wetlands to various international processes:
 - CBD Inland Waters program (Ramsar is implementing agent)
 - Millennium Assessment, IPCC, WWDR, GEO, GBO etc.

How STRP work priorities are decided



- Various sources:
 - STRP ongoing tasks that extend over more than one triennium
 - STRP emerging issues (“blue sky” list)
 - Contracting Parties or IOPs within one or more regions
 - Requests from COP for specific guidance/products
 - International policy and/or assessment processes
- Prioritized and consolidated into a Draft Resolution to COP “Future scientific and technical priorities”
- STRP reviews and agrees on final work plan for a triennium at its first meeting of that triennium.
 - Core budget allocation committed for top priority tasks
 - Voluntary contributions or external funding sought for high priority tasks
 - Collaboration or in-kind contributions sought to advance other tasks.

Priorities/products for 2009-2012



- Likely draft resolutions from STRP
 - STRP future priorities (work plan for next triennium)
 - Strategic Framework and RIS restructuring
 - Wetland restoration (mitigation/compensation guidance)
 - Urban wetlands
 - Wetlands and energy issuesWetlands and climate change - updated issues and considerations for the Ramsar Convention
 - *Role of wetlands in poverty reduction [possible]*
 - *Wetlands and water resource storage [possible]*
 - *Developing guidance on wetland ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change*
- COP information papers and STRP briefing notes
- Ramsar Technical Reports
- Other:
 - Articles for peer-reviewed journals (esp. “wet-carbon”)
 - Various informative & summary documents
 - Special issue of IJWLP for Ramsar 40th anniversary.
 - State of the World’s Wetlands (SoWW)

Some likely future priorities

- IPBES (Inter-governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services)
- Wetlands and climate change: engagement in IPCC 5th Assessment Report process
- Economics of wetland ecosystem services
- Water storage trends in relation to climate change adaptation
- Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS)

Priority tasks for discussion at this meeting

1. Wetland restoration tasks
2. Restructuring of Ramsar Information Sheet and Strategic Framework
3. Urban wetlands (work session)
4. Wetlands and extractive industries (work session)
5. STRP regional networking (work session)



Process leading to COP11

- **February 2011:**
 - STRP16 meeting will consider and sign off on Draft Resolutions and other products for delivery to COP11
 - *NFPs provide specific inputs to developing and draft documents*
- **May 2011:**
 - Standing Committee 42 considers STRP draft documents and recommendations.
 - Available draft products circulated to Parties for national and regional preparatory discussions.
 - *NFPs participate in regional preparatory meetings 2011-2012 to assist Parties?*
- **Late 2011/early 2012:**
 - Last Standing Committee (43?) before COP11 where draft scientific & technical resolutions could be considered.
- **Early 2012:**
 - Plan STRP support role at COP11 (technical briefings, special sessions, contact groups)
- **COP11 (around May 2012):**
 - *NFPs join country delegations where possible*

Role of NFPs and scientific networks



- Linking current and new wetlands research with STRP work priorities.
- Identifying emerging global and regional issues and trends that could affect conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- Providing credible, peer-reviewed information on status & trends of wetlands and drivers of change.
- Building future wetland science capacity, for both research and application.



Science-policy interfaces in Ramsar



- **Science-practice**
 - Supporting our parties on the ground with implementation.
 - Ad hoc advice, technical guidance
- **Science-policy (inwards)**
 - Providing strategic advice and guidance to Parties on Convention implementation.
 - Bringing the best international science into the Convention implementation processes.
 - Identifying emerging issues and sectoral trends that might affect conservation wise use of wetlands.
- **Science-policy (outwards)**
 - Providing strategic information on wetlands to other sectoral policy processes (water, energy, agriculture, climate change).
 - Providing wetlands-specific information for global environmental assessments and policy making.
- **The STRP is not the “cutting edge” of wetland science:**
 - But we must make cutting edge science available and applicable for implementation of the Convention.

Questions.....?