

Report of the STRP Chair



Nick Davidson on behalf of Heather MacKay, STRP Chair

41st Meeting of the Standing Committee Kobuleti,
Georgia, 26 April – 1 May 2010

Outline of the presentation

- Overview of progress
- STRP mid-term meetings
- Priority issues arising from mid-term meetings
- Proposed products for 2009-2012 cycle
- Overview of budget: status and potential problems

Overview of progress

- **Substantial progress for tasks that are currently funded or have resources available:**
 - Indicators of effectiveness
 - Wetlands and extractive industries
 - Urban wetlands
 - Wetlands and human health
 - Strategic Framework, criteria, guidance
 - Wetland restoration
- **Voluntary contributions received during 2009-2010**
 - Finland, Norway, Tanzania, United Kingdom.
- **STRP mid-term workshops February 2010**
- **STRP quarterly newsletters**

Overview of progress

- **STRP represented in a number of external processes and meetings:**
 - CSAB
 - UN-WATER
 - In depth review of CBD program of work on Inland Waters
 - CBD and UNEP: development of post-2010 biodiversity targets and indicators
 - IPBES consultations.
- **We gratefully acknowledge the voluntary contributions from CPs mentioned above; and**
- **the efforts of our DSG and STRP Support Officer; and the Secretariat support for logistics.**
- **We could not function without this support.**

STRP mid-term workshops

- Attended by all Panel members, IOPs, range of invited experts and observers.
- Intensive work on current tasks.
- Further clarification of terms of reference for tasks not yet initiated, and
- discussion of whether and how some of these could be delivered if resources are not available.
- Latest STRP quarterly newsletter also provides summary of mid-term workshops.



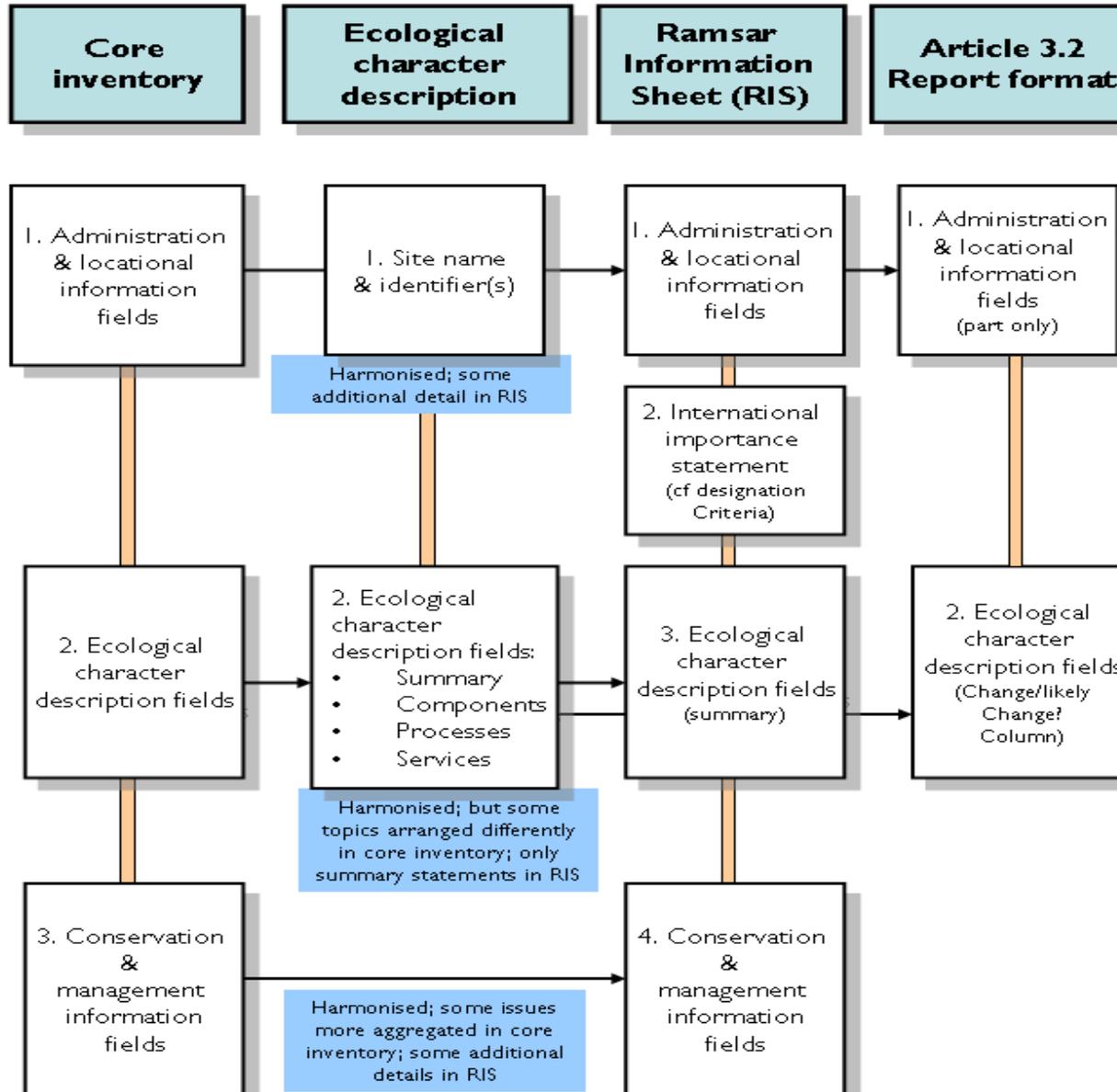
Priority issues arising from the mid-term workshops (1)

Strategic Framework & RIS, guidance for selection and designation of Ramsar sites

- **Large body of work associated with this task, has been in development for several years.**
- **Substantial overhaul of guidance and processes:**
 - Update, consolidate and clarify currently fragmented and inconsistent guidance for Ramsar site selection and designation;
 - Revise RIS to support harmonized reporting for multiple purposes within the Convention;
 - Refine requirements for description of ecological character, to support Parties in reporting at designation and assessment of change thereafter.
- **Should significantly strengthen and clarify core Convention processes.**
- **Should make reporting simpler, but Parties will need to understand:**
 - What is encompassed by the revisions;
 - How the revisions and new guidance will be phased in, to dovetail with ongoing designation and reporting efforts by Parties.

Relationships between the sections of Core (baseline) inventory, Ecological character description, Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS) & Article 3.2 report format

Note. For the RIS, this scheme is based on a re-organization of all existing RIS fields into four sections



Priority issues arising from the mid-term workshops (2)

Climate change (TWA5)

- **“Wet-carbon” paper – significant contribution to state of knowledge related to role of wetlands in the global carbon cycle.**
- **Nomination of authors for IPCC 5AR**
 - Finlayson, Lloyd, McCartney
 - Important opportunity and considered top priority for STRP efforts
 - Seeking voluntary contributions to support travel costs for Ramsar author(s)
- **Review of wetlands-related information in IPCC 4AR:**
 - Synthesize information in 4AR documents for information of Parties
 - Provide direction for development of inputs to 5AR
 - Seeking voluntary contributions, in-kind or financial, to support this review.
- **Review of outcomes of Copenhagen UNFCCC COP, and their implications for Ramsar and wetlands.**
 - Seeking voluntary contributions, in-kind or financial, to support this review.

Priority issues arising from the mid-term workshops (3)



- **Tools for assessing and addressing maintenance of wetlands globally**
 - *“Global Wetland Outlook”*
 - *“State of the World’s Wetlands and their benefits to people”* (SoWW) &
 - a Global Wetlands Observing System (G-WOS)
- **1st edition of SoWW – using available information – ‘flagship’ Ramsar report for COP11**
 - will need additional resourcing

Priority issues arising from the mid-term workshops (4)

Redevelopment of the STRP Support Service website

- Critical for ongoing support of STRP activities and discussions.
- Needs to address document management and archival of key internal STRP working documents.
- Needs to incorporate ways to increase transparency of STRP processes, including clarification of editorial and peer review policies.
- Working group during 2010: will provide recommendations to STRP16.
- Voluntary contributions needed to assist with the design and software installation (2011).

Priority issues arising from the mid-term workshops (5)

Support for STRP participation in national and regional meetings

Importance of support and contributions from Parties for:

- **STRP National Focal Points'** participation in STRP regional and core meetings
 - Builds capacity at national and regional levels to support CPs in implementation.
- **STRP NFPs'** participation in national meetings (e.g. Wetlands Committee, COP preparation)
- **STRP panel members'** participation in regional COP preparatory meetings:
 - Particularly important given significant package of draft guidance related to Strategic Framework and RIS.
 - Highlighted by SRAs during the mid-term workshops

Proposed products for 2009-2012 cycle (Annex 3)

- **Draft resolutions**
 - without guidance but probably with STRP briefing note or COP information paper;
 - with substantive technical guidance annexed;
 - for submission to Standing Committee spring 2011 meeting.
- **COP information papers and STRP briefing notes (stand-alone):**
 - Depends on available resources and energy.
- **Ramsar Technical Reports**
 - Those with task funding planned for delivery before COP11 if resources are made available to the Secretariat for the publication process;
 - Those without task funding – as and when possible.
- **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)**

STRP participation in COP11

- Annex 5 of STRP report
- Input to COP11 Subgroup discussions
- Note importance of providing sufficient resources for STRP members to be available for duration of COP11, and at the regional preparatory meetings:
 - Consider providing assistance for travel costs, or
 - Include STRP members in national delegations.

Resources and budget: task delivery

	CHF	CHF
Re-estimated cost 2009-2012 for all tasks in STRP work plan	619,500	
<i>Of which - for High Priority tasks</i>	548,700	
Total available funds for STRP work plan 2009-2012	155,709	
<i>Available from core budget 2009-12 (anticipated)</i>	72,985	
<i>Available from voluntary contributions 2009-2012</i>	82,724	
Total additional funds required 2010-2012		531,500
<i>High priority tasks</i>		460,700
<i>Lower priority tasks</i>		70,800
Additional funds required in 2010 to progress high priority tasks		104,300

Resourcing implications ...

- **Technical tasks most at risk are:**
 - Climate change;
 - G-WOS design and scoping
 - Poverty eradication
 - TWA3 tasks on ecological character, detecting and responding to change etc.
- **Priorities for further voluntary contributions would be (including those above):**
 - STRP Support Service redevelopment;
 - IPCC and Copenhagen outcome reviews;
 - SoWW
 - Regional networking and participation in regional meetings and COP

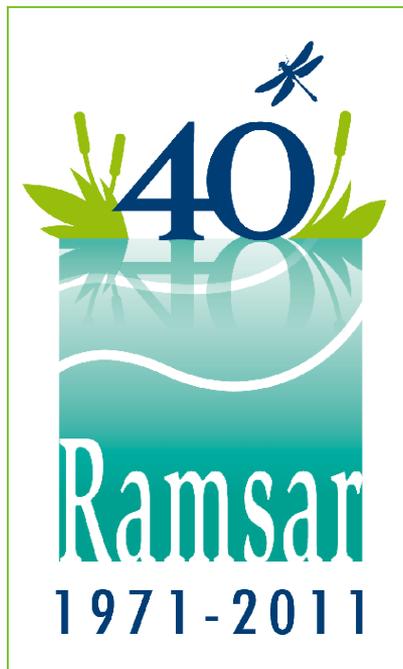
Standing Committee 41 action requested



- **Note** the report of the Chair of the STRP;
- **Endorse** the updated STRP 2009-2012 Work Plan (DOC. SC41-16 Add. 1); and
- **Advise** on ways and means of funding those STRP priority tasks for which sufficient resources are not yet available

Thank you....

(and apologies from the STRP Chair who could not be here in person)



Join us in celebrating the 40th Anniversary
of the Ramsar Convention!

www.ramsar.org