STRP Participation in COP11:
Suggestions for consideration by the Standing Committee Subgroup on COP11

1. During COP10 STRP members and experts provided technical briefings to the plenary, actively supported Parties in the negotiations related to several key scientific and technical Resolutions, led or contributed to working groups, assisted with the drafting of Resolution revisions and in general made themselves available to Contracting Parties for advice.

2. The response from Contracting Parties was very positive and the STRP was commended for its active and visible role in COP10. Based on the experience of COP10, the STRP has prepared a number of suggestions for the Panel’s participation and roles in COP11 in 2012 for consideration by the Standing Committee’s Subgroup on COP 11:

   a) The COP agenda should provide sufficient time for consideration of technically complex Draft Resolutions (DRs). Complex or potentially contentious DRs should be tabled early in the agenda with technical workshops/briefings scheduled at appropriate times in order to prepare CPs for discussing and resolving potential conflicts.

   b) Technical briefings should be offered by STRP members at both pre-COP Regional Meetings and during COP11 to help Parties better understand the elements and implications of specific technical Resolutions before they come to the floor for consideration. This will require additional resources since insufficient funding is available within the STRP core budget.

   c) Consideration should be given to planning STRP involvement in selected side events during COP11, especially where these provide access to information that is critical for the consideration of contentious or complex DRs.

   d) There should be a budgetary provision to have individual STRP experts leading on technical issues and working with Parties as needed on specific DRs, especially where they link directly to STRP Thematic Work Areas.

   e) STRP National Focal Points (NFPs) should, where possible, be invited to attend COPs with their country delegations and be clearly identifiable to allow face-to-face interaction between STRP and the STRP Focal Points during the COP.

   f) Name badges for STRP members should be distinctive in order to help delegates identify them.

   g) Additional dedicated seating in the plenary room should be available for STRP members beyond what was available at COP10 to improve the accessibility and visibility of the STRP members when Parties wish to confer with them on technical matters.

   h) Dedicated office space or an STRP Desk should be provided for STRP at the COP venue to enhance the capacity of the STRP to contribute to the business of the COP.

   i) With the assistance of the STRP Support Officer, a mechanism to facilitate communication between Contracting Parties and the STRP should be made available to improve communication and accessibility during the COP.

3. The STRP is committed to involvement in COP 11 that is effective and constructive. Following discussions with the Subgroup on COP11, strategies will be reviewed at STRP16 for inclusion in an implementation plan for STRP involvement in COP11.