



10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Healthy wetlands, healthy people”

Changwon, Republic of Korea,
28 October-4 November 2008

Agenda item XV

Ramsar COP10 DR 4

Draft Resolution X.4

Establishing a Transition Committee of the Management Working Group

Submitted by the Standing Committee

1. RECALLING that the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), in Resolution IX.24 (2005), established the Management Working Group (MWG) within the Standing Committee to review the various management structures and systems in place within the Convention, and that the MWG is composed of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the previous and the present Standing Committee, the Chairs of the previous and present Standing Committee Subgroup on Finance and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the Secretary General *ex officio*, and any other interested Parties;
2. RECOGNIZING that the Management Working Group has proved to be a valuable instrument for guiding the working relationships between the Standing Committee and the Secretariat, both intersessionally and in association with Standing Committee meetings, and DESIROUS that the MWG should continue to perform that role into the future;
3. EXPRESSING APPRECIATION for the work of the MWG members who have participated in that ongoing review of management structures and in the judicious oversight of Secretariat matters within the Convention; and
4. AWARE of the importance of inherited knowledge in ensuring a smooth transition at the beginning of each triennium from one Standing Committee to the newly-elected one following each meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and CONCERNED to find a low-cost mechanism to ensure the transfer of such knowledge and experience;

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5. REAFFIRMS the establishment of the Management Working Group into the future and ADOPTS the revised text in the annex to this Resolution for the operative paragraphs of Resolution IX.24, in order to remove time-limited language from that Resolution;

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6. ESTABLISHES a Transition Committee of the MWG to meet just prior to the first full business meeting of the new Standing Committee following each COP, with an agreed agenda and for the purpose of allowing the outgoing SC officers to brief the incoming officers on customary practices and outstanding issues;
7. AGREES that the Transition Committee shall be composed of the outgoing and the newly-elected Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Standing Committee and Chairs of the Subgroup on Finance, with the Secretary General and Deputy Secretary General *ex officio*, and that it will be chaired by the incoming Chair of the SC; and
8. URGES the members of the Transition Committee to ensure that any financial implications that may be associated with this briefing session will be as low as possible.

Annex

Revised text of Resolution IX.24 (2005)

The Conference of the Contracting Parties instructs the Secretariat to amend the operative paragraphs of Resolution IX.24 by substituting the following text.

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. ESTABLISHES a Management Working Group to examine and review the various management structures and systems in place within the Convention and to report back to each meeting of the Conference of the Parties with their recommendations on:
 - a) improving the existing terms of reference and/or operating procedures of the Standing Committee, the Subgroup on Finance, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, Regional Meetings, and the Secretariat;
 - b) establishing any new management structures the Working Group concludes may be needed; and
 - c) strengthening linkages between the Contracting Parties and the International Organization Partners;
8. DETERMINES that the Management Working Group comprises:
 - a) the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee of the previous triennium;
 - b) the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee established for the forthcoming triennium;
 - c) the Chairs of the Subgroup on Finance of the previous and forthcoming Standing Committees;
 - d) the Chairs of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel in the previous and forthcoming triennia;
 - e) any other interested Contracting Parties, keeping in mind the desirability of equitable regional participation;
 - f) representatives of the International Organization Partners;

- g) the Secretary General *ex officio*; and
 - h) an appropriate expert on organizational review, as needed, to be determined by the Working Group, subject to there being no implications for the Convention's budget; and
9. INSTRUCTS the Management Working Group to report regularly to the Standing Committee on progress made and to report its findings to each meeting of the COP.