

Agenda item 5

Report of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

Action requested: The Standing Committee is invited to note the progress of the work of the Panel during 2007 and to respond as appropriate to issues raised by the STRP Chair.

Introduction

1. This report covers the second year of the work of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) under its 2006-2008 Work Plan.
2. The Panel continues to work intersessionally largely electronically through the STRP Support Service (SuSe) Web site. During this period, however, the Panel and its Working Groups have also held several face-to-face meetings and workshops to progress their priority tasks. These have included:
 - i) The mid-term working meeting of all STRP Working Groups, 26-30 March 2007 in Gland, Switzerland;
 - ii) A joint STRP and CBD and Ramsar Secretariats' expert meeting in Gland in March 2007 on "Wetlands, water, biodiversity and climate change" (for further information see DOC. SC36-12);
 - iii) A meeting of European STRP-NFPs held in Austria from 17-19 September 2007; and
 - iv) An intersessional scientific and technical meeting on "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People" in Changwon, Republic of Korea, in November 2007, to address the review and development of the Panel's Wetlands and Human Health technical report and guidance on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).
3. The last three of these meetings were made possible through the generosity respectively of Canada (through the CBD Secretariat), Austria, and the Republic of Korea, which the Panel gratefully acknowledges.
4. In addition, various smaller technical working meetings were held during 2007 by task groups in relation to individual tasks in the STRP work programme.
5. The 14th plenary meeting of the STRP will be held in Gland from 28 January to 1 February 2008.

Work Plan progress and further implementation

6. A summary of the progress to December 2007 and anticipated outputs for each of the STRP's Immediate, High and Lower Priority tasks in the current work plan is provided in the Annex to this paper. A list of anticipated STRP scientific and technical products for COP10 consideration and other products from its work plan is provided in DOC. SC36-08.
7. Funding and resources have been sufficient to enable all of the Immediate Priority tasks in the Work Plan to be initiated in this triennium, along with several of the High Priority tasks, as indicated in the Annex. The STRP is particularly grateful to the government of Sweden for its financial support to this work. In addition, aspects of this progress, including on some Lower Priority tasks, have been made possible through a significant amount of task-related work being undertaken by Panel members, IOPs and observers on a *pro bono* basis.
8. Further work to complete a number of current STRP tasks will continue after STRP14, both to finalise those to be submitted to SC37 and COP10, and throughout the year on a number of *Ramsar Technical Reports*.

Evaluation of the utility of the Convention's scientific and technical guidance (Resolutions & Handbooks)

9. One particularly significant aspect of the STRP's current work is proving to be the evaluation of the use, utility and availability of Ramsar's scientific and technical guidance (STRP task 3). This work speaks to aspects of Resolution VIII.45 as well as contributing intelligence to several other of STRP's current tasks, notably task 52 on data and information needs review. A detailed draft report from the STRP's expert consultant, based on a questionnaire survey of Convention national focal points, IOPs, wetland managers and others, is now in hand and will be considered in-depth during STRP14.
10. The draft report identifies a number of important issues for the Convention concerning who knows about and uses the guidance and which guidance they find most (and least) useful. The report's findings will help shape STRP's recommendations to Standing Committee and COP concerning the type and style of any further guidances it may be asked to prepare.
11. The report also reveals that not all those in the Ramsar family who should be aware of, and be using, the suite of Wise Use guidance appear to be so, and also that the guidance is apparently not generally being widely circulated by focal points to other user groups such as wetland managers who should be utilizing it. In addition it is of concern that the response rate to this survey from Administrative Authority contact points and CEPA and STRP National Focal Points, requested as a high priority by Parties at COP9, was poor – only 10% of STRP NFPs responded. Furthermore, the questionnaire failed to reach 9% of Convention's contacts and focal points because of non-functional email addresses.

Regional networking – engaging involvement of STRP National Focal Points

12. The STRP is continuing to place high priority on this aspect of its work through the efforts of its Working Group 9 on regional networking. In this respect, the meeting of

European STRP NFPs hosted by Austria was most valuable, and consideration is being given to holding similar such meetings, resources permitting, in other regions. The recommendations of the European meeting will be considered by Working Group 9 during STRP14. Although an increasing number of STRP NFPs are in contact with the appointed regional network members of the Panel and are engaging in aspects of the Panel's work, it nevertheless remains a concern that regional network members are continuing to find it hard to even establish communication with a significant number of such NFPs.

Issues concerning the operations of the Panel under its revised COP9 *modus operandi*

13. The Panel, observers, and IOPs continue to work closely together, with valuable contributions from all involved, and the STRP Oversight Committee continues to be a most helpful aspect of the Panel's *modus operandi*. The revised *modus operandi* adopted by COP9 continues to serve us very well, providing clarity regarding priority tasks as well as the flexibility to address new issues as they emerge, depending on available resources. Some possible minor adjustments to the current *modus operandi* will be discussed at STRP14 for recommendation to Standing Committee and COP10. These are not anticipated to be substantive changes, but rather will be aimed at further optimizing the efficiency and administration of STRP processes.

Emerging scientific and technical issues

14. One of the key roles of the Panel under its current *modus operandi* is to keep under review and identify emerging issues that it considers should be addressed by the Convention. Discussion at STRP13 on such matters focused on the recognition that there have been significant new developments since Ramsar COP8 regarding wetlands and climate change and the adoption of Resolution VIII.3, and the Panel has recommended that the issue be brought back onto the Convention's agenda in the near future. This and other emerging issues were further considered during the mid-term workshops. More detailed advice will be provided on these issues following further discussions and updates at STRP14, but some brief comments are provided below.
15. Progress on some specific on-going and emerging issues in 2007 includes:
 - 15.1 **Earth Observation and wetlands.** The Panel has continued to take a keen interest in the actual and potential role of Earth Observation (EO, remote sensing) to support various aspects of Convention implementation, from supporting managers at the site scale to providing global scale wetland status and trend information. The conclusions of the "GlobWetland Symposium" jointly held in late 2006 by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Ramsar were finalized. A symposium proceedings volume has been produced by ESA, and selected papers from the Symposium are being published in the scientific journal *Journal of Environmental Management*. This includes an overview paper drawing on the results and recommendations of the Symposium, jointly authored by STRP members and observers Heather MacKay, Max Finlayson, Dave Pritchard, Lisa Rebelo (ESA), and Ramsar's Deputy Secretary General.

The conclusions support the increasing recognition of the interconnectedness of multi-scalar wetland inventory, EO and climate change in the light of the findings of

the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA). In addition, calls for collaboration with other conventions and MEAs are increasing the need for global and regional scale wetland-related information. This has led to increased emphasis within the STRP on global and regional-scale inventory and monitoring efforts, which will be discussed in a special session during STRP14 concerning “global wetland observing systems”, which will involve experts from a number of space agencies and existing observing system initiatives.

- 15.2 **Climate change and wetlands.** An additional thematic work area has been established by the Panel on “Wetlands and Climate Change” led by the STRP Chair, in recognition of the major developments which have taken place in this field since COP8 and the adoption of Resolution VIII.3. Some initial work is being undertaken for discussion at STRP14, and the Panel will be developing the scope, terms of reference, and priority tasks for this work area, in preparation for proposing a more comprehensive suite of activities in the coming triennium. Further information on this topic is provided in DOC. SC36-12.
- 15.3 **Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).** The intersessional technical meeting in Changwon, Republic of Korea, in November 2007 brought together key experts on HPAI, wetlands and waterbirds, and this has allowed the Panel to make substantial progress on, amongst other issues, developing further technical guidance related to highly pathogenic avian influenza in relation to its task 62 on “Responding to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza”. Further information on this work, and what the Panel anticipates bring forward to SC37 for COP10 consideration, is provided in DOC. SC36-09.
- 15.4 **Wetlands and mining/extractive industries.** This topic was raised as an emerging issue at STRP’s mid-term workshops, in the light of an increasing number of requests for advice on such matters being received from Parties by the Secretariat. A briefing paper was prepared for the STRP on wetlands and mining/extractive industries – this was presented at the Africa regional meeting, in order to support discussion of this topic by African Parties, and will be further considered at STRP14. Further information on this issue is provided in DOC. SC36-13.
16. In conclusion, the Panel will continue to keep such issues under review, and will seek to respond, as appropriate, to other emerging issues.

Annex

STRP Work Plan 2006-2008 – progress review, December 2007

STRP 2006-2008 task progress and products: a progress summary, December 2007

Notes.

1. STRP 2006-8 Lower Priority tasks are included in this listing only if STRP has determined that it can make progress on such a task without the need for additional capacity or resources.
2. References to “SuSe” are to the STRP Support Service website.
3. A list of anticipated STRP products (COP10 guidances, draft resolutions and information papers, *Ramsar Technical Reports* and other products) is provided in the Annex at the end of this paper.

WORKING GROUP 1: INVENTORY, ASSESSMENT, MONITORING & INDICATORS

Thematic lead STRP member: **Teresita Borges**. Co-leads: Max Finlayson, Dave Pritchard

| Task No. short title & task lead(s) | Priority | Expected products | Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines | Other Comments |
|--|-----------|--|---|--|
| 52: Review of Ramsar Sites information needs, data management, official reporting and the necessary tools (Teresita Borges; Max Finlayson; Dave Pritchard) | Immediate | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. COP10 guidance for “Describing wetland ecological character” (+ supporting COP10 Information paper); 2. COP10 overall harmonized guidance on data needs and formats for core inventory, ecological character, and RIS for Ramsar site designation. 3. [possible] Proposals to COP10 (draft Resolution) (if necessary, following review of products 1 & 2) for restructuring of RIS. 4. COP10 Information paper: Data & information needs | <p>In recognition of the complexity of this task and links with other tasks, STRP’s mid-term workshops undertook a significant review and redevelopment of the approach to delivery of task 52, and have linked it directly with task 54 & 56 (see below).</p> <p>Products 1 & 2: 1st draft rationale and background paper prepared by Dave Pritchard August 2007 and posted on SuSe (inventory & assessment WG forum) for comment.</p> <p>Products 3 & 4: drafts to be prepared late 2007 for STRP14 consideration.</p> | <p>There are a number of inter-related sub-tasks within this complex task (see STRP Work Plan), and also close links with other STRP tasks.</p> <p>The approach to delivery is now step-wise, with a key aspect of the task needed before other aspects can be progressed being the description of wetland ecological character.</p> |

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| | | and management for Ramsar sites and other wetlands. | | |
| Tasks No. 54 & 56: Process of detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character; Redesign of the Montreux Record questionnaire (Dave Pritchard) | High | 1. COP10 guidance for "detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character" (+ supporting COP10 Information paper) | Discussion paper, prepared by Dave Pritchard, posted on SuSe August 2007 – will form basis of COP10 Information paper. Further work on draft overall framework guidance underway September 2007. | 1. Guidance will include an Article 3.2 reporting format, derived from task 52 product 2 structure. 2. Any redesign of Montreux Record questionnaire will now be a subsequent step, and will need to be closely linked with structure of Article 3.2 reporting format. |
| Task No. 59: Indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention (Dave Pritchard) | Immediate | 1. COP10 Guidance for the implementation and reporting of indicators of effectiveness. 2. [possible] COP10 Information paper: examples of effectiveness indicator assessments. | Phase 1 report on further development of indicators and pro-formas completed early 2007; posted on SuSe forum. Phase 2 work to further identify indicator contributors and assessment inputs underway (UNEP-WCMC) – reporting to STRP14 | Work is closely linked with GEF 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) project, initiated in Sept 2007. |
| Task No. 53: Wetland delineation and mapping (IWMI/ESA) | High | 1. COP10 guidance for delineation and mapping of wetlands | Discussion paper on delineation and mapping using earth observation (European Space Agency) on SuSe, for comment | |
| Task No. 60: Additional indicators of effectiveness of implementation of the Convention (Dave Pritchard) | High | | | Deferred for implementation, pending completion of task 59 work on initial tranche of effectiveness indicators |
| 49: Wetland classification | Lower | | | Will develop a hydro-geomorphic classification, to |

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| | | | | complement the existing "habitat-based" Ramsar Wetland Type classification, and elaborating the hydro-geomorphic classification approve in groundwater guidelines by COP9. |
| 51: Review of wetland inventory – GRoWI-2 | Lower | | Initial work reviewing and updating national information in GRoWI-1 (1999) underway by IWMI | |
| 62: Responding to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza H5N1 (David Stroud) | Lower | 1. COP10 guidance on responding to future HPAI scenarios for wetlands and waterbirds. 2. [possible] COP10 Information paper: update on global situation concerning HPAI. | Workshop November 2007 (S Korea) to develop scenarios and guidance. For COP10, a draft Resolution, and a guidance document on preparation and response scenarios, with a 'guide to the available guidance' is envisages. | |

WORKING GROUP 2: WISE USE & ECOLOGICAL CHARACTER OF WETLANDS

Thematic lead STRP member: **Randy Milton**. Co-leads: Rebecca D'Cruz, Maria Rivera

| Task No. short title & task lead(s) | Priority | Expected products | Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines | Other Comments |
|--|----------|--|---|--|
| 14: Wise Use Case Studies – review (Randy Milton) | High | <i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> Update on status of wetland wise use for the wetlands in original wise use case studies Ramsar report. | Work (consultancy – TJEnvironmental) initiated in late 2007; first progress report anticipated for STRP14 | Will update original case studies, and add a small number of additional studies, from Ramsar Award winners, and Montreux Record sites. |
| 15: Harmonization of Terms and Definitions re ecosystem services | High | 1. COP10 Information paper on global use of terminologies concerning | Review paper (Stetson University) posted for comment on SuSe spring 2007; further consideration | |

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| (Royal Gardner) | | ecosystem services. | at STRP14 | |
| 13: MA Conceptual Framework, wise use responses, and Ramsar guidance (Rebecca D' Cruz) | High | 1. COP10 Information paper on relevance of MA response options for implementation of the Ramsar Convention 2. [possible] COP10 guidance on the application of MA responses within the Ramsar Wise Use Toolkit | Initial review of MA responses in relation to current Wise Use Handbooks provided to mid-term workshops; further work underway to identify responses relevant, and complementary, to Handbooks in progress, reporting to STRP14 | MA guidances may be a) supplementary to existing Handbooks guidance themes; or b) covering additional themes; or c) consistent with existing Ramsar guidance. The precise form of any proposals to COP10 on additional guidance will depend on further assessment of guidance in these categories. |

WORKING GROUP 3: RAMSAR SITE DESIGNATION AND MANAGEMENT

Thematic lead STRP member: David Stroud.

| Task No. short title & task lead(s) | Priority | Expected products | Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines | Other Comments |
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| 109: Making Criterion 9 operational (IUCN-SSC) | Immediate | <i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> "Population estimates and 1% thresholds for the application of Criterion 9 for Ramsar site designation" | 1 st draft update of initial tabulation prepared by STRP in 2005 completed by IUCN Species Programme (August 2008). Consultation draft to be posted on SuSe autumn 2007. Publication anticipated spring 2008 | |
| 104: Interpretation of the term 'under-represented' wetland type (IWMI) | High | 1. <i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> "Biogeographic regionalisation, and distribution and gaps in Ramsar site designations for wetland types" 2. [possible] COP10 supplementary guidance [for Strategic Framework | Initial MEOW assessment of Ramsar site coverage completed and published (<i>MEOW Bioscience</i> paper posted on SuSe summer 2007). Further analysis and draft report (IWMI) for STRP14 consideration. | Tasks 104 & 105 are now being addressed together, with work being undertaken by IWMI, in particular assessing the utility of the recently published "Marine Ecosystems of the World" (MEOW) which provides a global coastal/near-shore bio-regionalisation scheme relevant |

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| | | for Ramsar site designation] on the application of biogeographic regionalization schemes for Ramsar site designation. | | to Ramsar site selection and designation; with similar work testing utility of 'terrestrial' schemes. |
| 112: Ramsar site-selection criterion ongoing review (David Stroud) | High | <p>1. [possible] COP10 Information paper on effectiveness of application of fish Criteria</p> <p>2. [possible] COP10 Information paper: Needs for restructuring the <i>Strategic framework and guidelines for Ramsar site designation</i></p> | Initial review of fish Criterion application being initiated by Secretariat for STRP autumn 2007, for reporting to STRP14. | <p>Recent assessment of formulation of Criteria, targets and guidelines for site designation, by Secretariat and Dave Pritchard, has identified a number of inconsistencies and mismatches, and that several sets of related guidance for site designation are not fully consolidated. It is anticipated that a discussion paper on these issues (in relation to task 52 ecological character description work) will be prepared for STRP14 consideration.</p> <p>It is unlikely that time then will be any sufficient to prepare substantive revised RIS guidance for COP10 consideration, but that if it considers the issue significant the STRP may propose to COP10 that it received an Immediate priority mandate for 2009-2011 to fully address this matter.</p> |

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| 105: Determining an optimal biogeographic regionalisation scheme (IWMI) | Lower | [see task 104 above] | | |
| 106: Revised RIS (David Stroud) | Lower | [possible] Revised RIS structure for COP10 adoption. | Any proposed revisions to RIS structure and/or content will be developed subsequent to outcomes of ecological character description work under task 52/54 above | Now forms part of task 52 above. |
| 110: Review effectiveness of Ramsar fish criteria (David Stroud/Secretariat) | Lower | [see task 112 above] | | Initial review now part of task 112 above |
| Completion of Ramsar field guide for wetland management planning (Archana Chatterjee – WWF) | Carried over from 2003-5 work plan | "A field guide for wetland managers" – WWF publication | Draft fully revised by STRP Working Group – April 2007 Final design and publication underway. WWF publication (English only) – expected September 2007 | |

WORKING GROUP 4: WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Thematic lead STRP member: Mike Acreman. Co-leads: Rebecca Tharme, Heather MacKay

| Task No. short title & task lead(s) | Priority | Expected products | Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines | Other Comments |
|--|-----------|--|--|--|
| 81, 82 and 83: RBM/critical path guidance – elaboration & consolidation (Heather MacKay) | Immediate | 1. COP10 guidance: "Consolidated guidelines for wetlands and river basin management" 2. <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "River basin | Working Group writing workshop July 2007 developed scope and approach for COP10 guidance; consolidation work underway. Compilation of river basin management case studies | Consolidated guidance will fully merge existing COP7 and COP9 guidelines, plus including additional guidance on environmental water requirements and use of CEPA |

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| | | management critical path application case studies" | assessing application of the COP9 "critical path" approach undertaken (Lucia Scodanibbio) – being finalized by Secretariat (Edgar Kaeslin) for publication early 2008. | tools and approaches. |
| 91: Wetlands and water quality (Mike Acreman) | Immediate | <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "Wetlands and water quality" | 2 nd draft report (consultant Jos Verhoven, univ of Utrecht) posted on SuSe and under STRP review. | |
| 89: Implementation of environmental water requirements (Rebecca Tharme) | Immediate | <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "Environmental flow determination and implementation" | Drafting underway by consultant (Bill Rowlston), for STRP consultation December 2008. | Will include an annex of case studies on environmental flow implementation |
| 85: Integrated Coastal Zone Management | High | | Deferred by mid-term workshops, pending further needs and scope assessment | |
| 90: Groundwater management | High | <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "Groundwater management" | Work deferred pending outcome of discussions with World Bank on global groundwater initiative, and sourcing additional funding | <i>RTR</i> will support COP9 guidelines. |
| 87: Review of water & environmental law with respect to environmental flows (Royal Gardner) | Lower | [possible] COP10 Information paper (and/or <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "Environmental flows and water law" | Initial work undertaken led by Stetson University; discussion underway on SuSe. | |
| Supplementary guidance for the determination of environmental water requirements for wetlands | Carried over from 2003-5 work plan | [now incorporated into task 89 above] | | |
| Determination of | Carried | <i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> | Draft for STRP review, October | |

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| environmental water requirements for estuaries, coastal and near-shore wetlands | over from 2003-5 work plan | "Determination of environmental water requirements for estuaries, coastal and near-shore wetlands" | 2007 | |
| Determination of environmental water requirements for rivers | Carried over from 2003-5 work plan | <i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> "Determination of environmental water requirements for rivers" | Draft for STRP review, late January 2008 | |
| Determination of environmental water requirements for palustrine wetlands | Carried over from 2003-5 work plan | [<i>Ramsar Technical Report:</i> "Determination of environmental water requirements for palustrine wetlands"] | Progress delayed pending completion of estuaries and rivers <i>RTRs</i> | |

WORKING GROUP 5: WETLANDS AND AGRICULTURE

Thematic lead STRP member: Max Finlayson.

| Task No. short title & task lead(s) | Priority | Expected products | Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines | Other Comments |
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| 150: Guidelines on agriculture and wetlands (Max Finlayson) | Immediate | 1. <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> "CA findings on wetlands, water and agriculture" 2. COP10 Information paper: "Progress in developing a framework and guidelines for wetlands and agriculture- the work of the GAWI partnership" | Draft <i>RTR</i> for STRP review. October 2007 (being prepared by IWMI) GAWI expert workshop October 2007; draft progress report to STRP14. At GAWI meeting, a COP10 draft Resolution (updating Res. VIII.34) and an Inf paper with summary of Strategy for guidelines is envisaged. | STRP lead member and Ramsar Secretariat are providing input to the GAWI work. |

WORKING GROUP 6: WETLANDS AND HUMAN HEALTH

Thematic lead STRP members: Secretariat (DSG) & STRP Chair.

| Task No. short title & task lead(s) | Priority | Expected products | Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines | Other Comments |
|--|-----------|--|---|---|
| 163: Wetlands and Human Health – review (Phil Weinstein & Max Finlayson) | Immediate | 1. <i>Ramsar Technical Report</i> “Wetlands and human health” 2. COP10 draft Resolution “Wetlands and Human Health” | 1 st draft report (coordinating authors Philip Weinstein & Max Finlayson) October 2007, for review at Korea workshop in November 2007; revised draft for STRP14 review December 2007 – following major re-organisation of structure agreed at Korea workshops. | WG1’s HPAI work (task 152) will link into this task |

WORKING GROUP 7: RESOLUTION VIII.45 AND ONGOING ISSUES

Thematic lead STRP member: Heather MacKay

| Task No. short title & task lead(s) | Priority | Expected products | Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines | Other Comments |
|--|-----------|---|--|--|
| 2: STRP review and advice functions (ongoing) (Heather MacKay) | Immediate | | Ongoing, and covered through other tasks | |
| 3: Scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP resolutions (ongoing) (Heather MacKay & Dave Pritchard) | Immediate | 1. Paper to SC36 (Feb 2008) – thematic example of retirement/ consolidation options for past COP decisions 2. STRP contribution to any COP10 draft Resolution on this matter | 1 st stage covered by Standing Committee task to review all COP Resolutions/Recommendations (Res. IX.17) done (Dave Pritchard); follow-up work in late 2007 for reporting to SC36. Main task 3 work concerning | Further steps dependent on outcomes of task 3 review (see WG8 below) |

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| | | | utility of current scientific and technical guidance is being carried out by WG8 (CEPA) – see below. | |
| 5: Review and repackage Ramsar technical guidance where appropriate (Heather MacKay) | High | | | Dependent on outcomes of task 3 review |
| [New task] wetlands and climate change | | 1. COP10 Draft Resolution: "Wetlands and climate change" 2. <i>Ramsar Technical Report: "Wetlands, water, biodiversity and climate change"</i> | Joint Ramsar/CBD workshop on "wetlands, water, biodiversity & climate change", March 2007, outcomes discussed at STRP mid-term workshops. Workshop provisional report issued (on CBD & Ramsar websites) May 2007; now being prepared for publication as joint <i>Ramsar Technical Report/ CBD Technical Series</i> report (publication 2008) | At mid-term workshops, STRP recognized that climate change issues, especially concerning adaptation, need further urgent attention, in follow-up to COP8 debates. |
| [New task] Wetlands and extractive industries | | [possible] Draft COP10 Resolution: "Wetlands and extractive industries". | Initial discussions on scope and range of issues, and likely future scenarios, underway on SuSe forum; issues have been further discussed at Africa COP10 regional preparatory meeting in December 2007. | At mid-term workshops, STRP recognized that pressures on wetlands from extractive industries activities was become an increasing and urgent issue for Convention attention, in the light of requests for assistance received from a number of Contracting Parties |
| 161: Strategy for | Lower | | Initial consideration on strategy | Outcomes of task 3 review will |

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| sector-based guidance and emerging issues (ongoing) | | | at mid-term workshops; to be further developed at STRP14 | inform further development of this task. |
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WORKING GROUP 8: COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC AWARENESS (CEPA)

Thematic lead STRP member: Christine Prietto

| Task No. short title & task lead(s) | Priority | Expected products | Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines | Other Comments |
|---|---------------|---|--|---|
| 3: Review and assessment of scientific and technical aspects of implementation of COP resolutions (Christine Prietto/Secretariat) | Immediate | 1. COP10 Information paper: "Review of utility of COP scientific and technical resolutions and their availability." 2. [possible] COP10 draft Resolution: "Ensuring future utility and availability of Ramsar scientific and technical guidance" | Questionnaire survey undertaken April/May 2007 by consultant (Gwen van Boven); survey analysis currently underway – draft report posted 3 December 2007 on SuSe for STRP review. | Questionnaire response rate was poor from AA focal points and STRP and CEPA NFPs – STRP will transmit its issues and recommendations concerning this to Standing Committee. |
| 152: CEPA aspects of technical guidance/products prepared by STRP | Cross-cutting | | Immediate priority attention on input to WG4 tasks 80/81/82 delivered: CEPA input to writing workshop July 2007 | |
| 153: Preparation of relevant CEPA outreach materials | Cross-cutting | | Priority identified as contributions to tasks 168 (see Working group 9) and 13 (see Working group 2); contributions underway | |

WORKING GROUP 9: REGIONAL NETWORKING

Thematic lead STRP member: Rebecca D'Cruz. Co-lead: Heather MacKay

| Task No. short title & task lead(s) | Priority | Expected products | Progress (Sept 2007) & timelines | Other Comments |
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| 168: Promoting the role of National STRP Focal Points (Philippe Gerbeaux/Christine Prietto/Secretariat) | Immediate | Promotional Leaflet: "The Ramsar Convention in your country" | Leaflet produced in three Convention languages September 2007; now being circulated | |
| 169: Establishing and strengthening the role and participation of STRP NFPs in STRP processes (Heather MacKay + other regional STRP members) | Immediate/ cross-cutting | | Contacts (also through task 3) being sought by STRP regional network members. Contacted NFPs now being subscribed to SuSe to establish fuller involvement. The government of Austria has called an important meeting of European STRP NFPs for September 2007: outcomes will be reported to STRP14. | To facilitate STRP NFPs involvement in reviewing draft STRP materials, new forums will be established shortly on the SuSe. |