

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

**11th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel
Gland, Switzerland, 8-11 April 2003**

DOC. STRP11-6

Agenda item 5.7

**Provisional estimated costs for undertaking STRP's
recommended priority work for 2003-2005**

Action requested: The STRP is requested to note the anticipated outputs of tasks and the provisional estimates of costs for undertaking the Panel's high priority work identified by the Standing Committee.

1. Resolution VIII.28 requested the Standing Committee to “define and estimate costs of the principle tasks and priorities for the work plan of the STRP on the basis of the views expressed and priorities established by the Conference of the Contracting Parties.”
2. The sums available from the core budget for the work of the STRP, which are limited to assistance for member's attendance at meetings and to the STRP Support Service, will not be sufficient for the STRP to undertake all of its substantive work, notably for hiring of any consultants to assist in the drafting of key STRP documents as is envisaged in the *modus operandi* adopted by Resolution VIII.28.
3. Paragraph 38 i) of the STRP's *modus operandi* (Annex to Resolution VIII.28) further indicates that part of the role and responsibilities of the Ramsar Bureau is to:

“identify, with the assistance of the STRP Support Service, costs of preparing each substantive task identified for the work of the Panel, and in the light of priorities for tasks established by the COP and Standing Committee, advise the Standing Committee on which tasks cannot be undertaken without additional resources, and seek such resources, as necessary”.
4. To assist the Standing Committee at its 29th meeting (February 2003) in determining the priorities for STRP's work in 2003-2005, the Ramsar Bureau prepared provisional estimates of costs for undertaking each element of proposed priority work for the Panel. The provisional costings provided in the Annex to this note are a revised version of those provided to the 29th meeting of the Standing Committee, taking into account the Committee's decisions on priorities for STRP's work.
5. Development of precise costings for each element the STRP's work will necessarily depend upon the work which will be undertaken by the STRP during its 11th meeting to define in detail the scope, content and preparation procedure for each substantive report it will be requested to prepare for consideration by COP9.

6. It must be stressed that these are highly provisional cost estimates. They are based on all substantive drafting of reports and guidelines being undertaken by a global expert or experts working on a consultancy basis. However, it should be noted that, depending on the capacity and expertise of the Panel members and observer organizations, it may prove possible for some priority tasks to be undertaken through existing institutional arrangements;
7. It should also be stressed that these costings are limited to those for the priority work areas indicated in DOC. STRP11-5 and do not include any additional costs of delivery of other components of STRP's work, which may include *inter alia*:
 - i) the full development and support to the network of STRP National Focal Points (through the STRP Support Service);
 - ii) other areas of work requested of STRP at a lower priority; or
 - iii) possible additional funding to that available in the core budget for holding mid-term meetings of any Expert Working Groups established by the STRP to conduct its work.
8. The STRP should note that in DOC. STRP11-5 the Standing Committee has indicated that for some priority areas of work all tasks are given a high priority for the 2003-2005 triennium, since they would form an linked package of work and products. For other areas of work, only certain tasks are indicated as high priority. Only those tasks indicated as high priority within each area of work are covered by the provisional costings in the Annex to this note.
10. In the Annex of costings, the Bureau has sought to identify as far as possible the specific products which might be anticipated as the outputs from each element of the STRP's work on these matters. These are provisional, since part of the work of the Panel during its 11th meeting is to review in detail each area of its work and specify the scope of the tasks and structure and contents of the outputs it will prepare for consideration by the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties at COP9. This information will then be included in the STRP's work plan, which will be provided to the Standing Committee for approval. Therefore the nature and titling of STRP's outputs in each area of work, as listed in the attached Annex, are indicative only.
11. Once the Panel has completed scoping its work on each topic and has identified its mechanism for undertaking each task, the Bureau in collaboration with the STRP Support Service will prepare a fundraising document so as to seek the necessary funds for fully undertaking the STRP's substantive work.

ANNEX

Provisional estimated costs of recommended high priority work outputs for the STRP 2003-2005

Note. Provisional costings for most tasks are based on a estimate of an average 15 days' work (at CHF 500 per day) in preparing and revising each output by an expert consultant, plus the consultant's attendance at one two-day working group meeting (2 days @ CHF 500 + average CHF 1,000 travel cost = CHF 2,000): total CHF 9,500. Where a task is anticipated to be more substantive, or involves several sub-tasks or anticipated outputs, a higher estimate is given.

Task/product(s)	Provisional estimated cost (CHF)
1. Wetland inventory and assessment	
a) Review and development of further guidance on gaps and disharmonies inventory, assessment, monitoring and management Ramsar guidance, including on:	19,000
i) Ramsar Wetlands Classification System and biogeographic regionalization;	
ii) ecological character determination;	
iii) practical methods for assessment and monitoring, including indicators;	
iv) EIA and SEA within wetland risk assessment;	
v) harmonization of definitions and terms	
b) Integrated framework for inventory, assessment and monitoring	9,500
c) Rapid assessment guidelines for wetland biodiversity	9,500
d) Vulnerability assessment methodologies for change in ecological character	9,500
<i>Sub-total: inventory and assessment</i>	47,500
2. Wise use guidance	
a) Review and development of new tools for implementing wise use principle , including methods and best practice case studies and the ecosystem approach	19,000
<i>Sub-total: wise use guidance</i>	19,000
3. Water resource management	
a) Report on environmental flow methodologies	9,500
b) Guidelines on wetlands and groundwater	19,000
<i>Sub-total: water resource management</i>	28,500
4. Communication, Education & Public Awareness (CEPA)	
a) CEPA input to other guidance being prepared by STRP	9,500
<i>Sub-total: CEPA</i>	9,500
5. Ramsar site designation	
a) Report on under-represented wetland type interpretation , and methods for establishing designation targets	9,500
b) Designation criteria: additional Criteria and guidelines for socio-economic	9,500

and cultural values and functions	
c) RIS development: additional guidance on ecological character and criteria application, changes in structure and content, including additional field for wetland type, harmonization with inventory core data fields, and site boundary field	9,500
d) Further guidance on Ramsar site maps: boundary description, digital maps, data compatibility, data use and copyright/access issues	9,500
e) Review and recommendations on improving harmonization of international supply and reporting of information from multiple sources on Ramsar sites	9,500
<i>Sub-total: Ramsar site designation</i>	<i>47,500</i>
6. Managing and monitoring of Ramsar sites	
a) A field guide for application of new management planning guidelines	9,500
b) Further guidance on zonation in management planning	9,500
c) Consolidated guidance on detecting, reporting and responding to change in ecological character	9,500
d) Report on status and trends of Ramsar site ecological character , in context of global wetland status and trends	19,000
<i>Sub-total: site management and monitoring</i>	<i>47,500</i>
7. Assessing the effectiveness of implementation of the Convention	
a) Key indicators of the effective implementation of the Convention	9,500
b) Input to the Standing Committee's review of preparation and adoption of Resolutions	-
c) Drafting and consultation on technical Resolutions for COP9	-
<i>Sub-total: Assessing effectiveness</i>	<i>9,500</i>
TOTAL PROVISIONAL ESTIMATED COST	209,000