

**CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

**26<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee  
Gland, Switzerland, 3-7 December 2001**

**DOC. SC26-1**  
Revision of 4 December 2001

## **Draft Agenda and Programme**

### **Subgroup meetings**

#### **Monday 3 December**

**09.00 – 13.00 and 15.00 – 18.00**

- **Meeting of the Subgroup on COP8:** Australia, Costa Rica, France, India, Mexico, Spain (Chair), and Togo. Observers: Slovenia, USA.

To discuss all issues under agenda item 12 and prepare recommendations to the Standing Committee.

#### **Tuesday 4 December**

**09.30 – 13.00**

- **Meeting of the Subgroup on Finance:** Algeria, Argentina, Armenia (Chair), Japan and Mexico

To discuss and prepare recommendations to the Standing Committee on all financial issues under agenda item 14.

- **Meeting of the Subgroup on the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP):** Armenia, France, Japan, Uganda, BirdLife International, the Chair of STRP, and the USA as Observer, the Deputy Secretary General (*ex officio*), and the past Chair of STRP

To discuss agenda item 12.3 (k): Proposed changes in the *modus operandi* of the Scientific and Technical and Review Panel (STRP) (DOC. SC26/COP8-23), and prepare recommendations to the Standing Committee.

**14.30 – 17.30**

- **Meeting of the Subgroup on the Strategic Plan 2003-2008:** Algeria, Australia, Japan, Slovak Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda (Chair), and USA, plus the STRP Chair, representatives of the International Organization Partners, and the Secretary General (*ex officio*).

To discuss the fourth (final) draft of the Plan and prepare recommendations to the Standing Committee (DOC. SC26/COP8-25).

18.00 – 19.30

- **Meetings of Regional Representatives with the Ramsar Bureau Regional Coordinators** to review the Bureau Work Plan 2002 (Decision SC24-11)

## Plenary meetings of the Standing Committee

### Wednesday 5 December

09.30 – 13.00 and 15.00 – 18.00

1. Opening statements
  - Chairman of the Standing Committee, Stephen Hunter, Australia
  - Director-General of IUCN, Achim Steiner
  - Secretary General, Delmar Blasco
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Admission of Observers
4. Statements by International Organization Partners
  - BirdLife International
  - Wetlands International
  - World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
5. Report of the Secretary General (DOC. SC26-2)
6. Brief reports of Standing Committee members on their implementation of Decision SC24-9 of the Standing Committee concerning the role of Regional Representatives
7. Report from the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, STRP (Gland, 25-29 June 2001) (DOC. SC26-3)
8. Report and analysis on issues related to Resolution VII.12: “Sites in the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance: official descriptions, conservation status, and management plans, including the situation of particular sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties” and application of Articles 3.2 and 8.2(d) of the Convention<sup>1</sup> (DOC. SC26-4)
9. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Work Plan with the Convention on Biological Diversity (DOC. SC26-5)
10. Ramsar’s participation in:
  - a) the implementation of UNEP GC Decision 21/21 on International Environmental Governance (IEG) (DOC. SC26-6(a));

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<sup>1</sup> ARTICLE 3.2. Each Contracting Party shall arrange to be informed at the earliest possible time if the ecological character of any wetland in its territory and included in the List has changed, is changing or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. Information on such changes shall be passed without delay to the organization or government responsible for the continuing bureau duties specified in Article 8.

ARTICLE 8.2 The continuing bureau duties shall be, *inter alia*: ...

d. to forward notification of any alterations to the List, or changes in character of wetlands included therein, to all Contracting Parties and to arrange for these matters to be discussed at the next Conference;

- b) the preparatory process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (DOC. SC26-6(b));
  - c) the Environment Management Group (EGM) and its Issue Management Groups (IMGs) (DOC. SC26-6(c)); and
  - d) harmonization of national reporting – information paper from UNEP (DOC. SC26-6 (d))
  - e) implementing the clustering strategy for Multilateral Environmental Agreements – information paper from UNEP (DOC. SC26-6 (e))
11. Progress with the implementation of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (DOC. SC26-7)

**18.15 – 19.30 Reception, IUCN entrance hall**

**20.00 – 22.00 Group dinner**

### **Thursday 6 December**

**09.30 – 13.00 and 15.00 – 18.00**

12. 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP8)
- 12.1 Report from the host country and the Bureau on practical preparations
  - 12.2 Report on Ramsar regional meetings (DOC. SC26-18)
  - 12.3 Standing Committee consideration of the following COP8 draft working papers:
    - a)
      - i) COP8 Agenda item X a): Interpretation of Articles 2.5 and 4.2 of the Convention: draft resolution and guidelines (DOC. SC26/COP8-1)
      - ii) Proposed procedure for the review of Ramsar site boundaries for reasons other than urgent national interest, without prejudice to other international obligations (DOC. SC26/COP8-2)
    - b) Revised content of COP8 Technical Session 1: Wetlands: major challenges and emerging opportunities in the new century
      - i) STRP proposed Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions (DOC. SC26/COP8-3)
      - ii) STRP proposal on Climate Change & Wetlands: Impacts & Mitigation (DOC. SC26/COP8-4)
      - iii) STRP proposal on Principles and Guidelines on integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) (DOC. SC26/COP8-5)
      - iv) Draft resolution on synergies with other conventions (DOC. SC26/COP8-6)
    - c) Revised content of COP8 Technical Session 2: Wetland inventory and assessment
      - i) STRP proposal for a Ramsar framework for wetland inventory (DOC. SC26/COP8-7)

- ii) (Possible) STRP proposal on Gaps and harmonization of Ramsar guidance on ecological character (DOC. SC26/COP8-8)
  - iii) Proposed guidance to Contracting Parties concerning their identification and reporting of change and likely change in ecological character, in full accordance with Article 3.2 of the Convention, and options for response to reported change, or likely change, in ecological character, including the modus operandi of the Montreux Record, the National Planning Tool [for the Convention], and other mechanisms (DOC. SC26/COP8-9)
  - iv) Impact Assessment: CBD guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into EIA legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment, and their relevance to Ramsar (DOC. SC26/COP8-10)
- d)** Revised content of COP8 Technical Session 3: Practical steps for applying the Vision for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance
- i) Lessons learnt in the implementation of the of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List (Resolution VII.11) [A report based on the analysis of the National Reports and a draft resolution for future action] (DOC. SC26-25)
  - ii) STRP proposals for Guidelines for designation as Wetlands of International Importance of: a) peatlands; b) mangroves; c) coral reefs and d) sea grass beds (DOC. SC26/COP8-11)
  - iii) Proposal on Guidelines for the designation of mountain wetlands as Wetlands of International Importance (DOC. SC26/COP8-12)
  - iv) The Ramsar Sites Database, including the nature and extent of data holdings and relationship between “official” and “unofficial” data on Ramsar sites (DOC. SC26/COP8-13)
  - v) The Ramsar Data Gateway: a demonstration of its capacities and potential
- e)** Revised content of COP8 Technical Session 4: Managing wetlands for sustainable use: lessons learned and new perspectives
- i) STRP proposal for new Ramsar Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (DOC. SC26/COP8-14)
  - ii) STRP proposal concerning the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (DOC. SC26/COP8-15)
  - iii) STRP proposal for a draft resolution, including guidance for the Parties, on the Report of the World Commission on Dams (DOC. SC26/COP8-16)
  - iv) STRP proposal for a draft resolution, including guidance for the Parties, on invasive species (DOC. SC26/COP8-17)
- f)** Revised content of COP8 Technical Session 5: Cultural aspects of wetlands as a tool for their conservation and sustainable use

- i) Guiding principles on the cultural aspects of wetlands (DOC. SC26/COP8-18)
- g) STRP proposal for a resolution and Guiding Principles on Wetlands Restoration (DOC. SC26/COP8-19)
- h) STRP proposal for a resolution on incentive measures (DOC. SC26/COP8-20)
- i) (Possible) STRP proposal for changes in the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) (DOC. SC26/COP8-21)
- j) STRP proposal on the San José Record of well-managed Ramsar sites (DOC. SC26/COP8-22)
- k) Proposed changes in the *modus operandi* of the Scientific Technical and Review Panel (STRP) (DOC. SC26/COP8-23)
- l) Draft resolution on unpaid Contracting Party contributions (DOC. SC26/COP8-24)
- m) Draft Ramsar's Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (DOC. SC26/COP8-25)
- n) COP8 Agenda item XII: The Convention's Work Plan 2003-2005 (DOC. SC26/COP8-26)

13. Work Plan 2002 of the Ramsar Bureau (DOC. SC26-8)

### **Friday 7 December**

**09.30 – 13.00 and 14.30 – 18.00**

14. Report and recommendations from the Subgroup on Finance

14.1 Audited accounts for FY 2000 and status of the Reserve Fund (DOC. SC26-9)

14.2 Review of 2001 core and projects income and expenditure (DOC. SC26-10)

14.3 Small Grants Fund:

i) approval of project proposals (DOC. SC26-11)

ii) Proposal to establish a Ramsar Trust Fund to resource the SGF (DOC. SC26-12)

14.4 Report on the regulations and practice applied by other environment-related conventions for providing funding to delegates to their meetings, and recommendations to COP8. See Standing Committee Decision 25.28 c). (DOC. SC26-13)

14.5 Ramsar Bureau Budget 2002 (DOC. SC26-14)

- 14.6 Proposed budget for the triennium 2003-2008 for recommendation to COP8 (DOC. SC26-15)
15. Procedure and timetable for the selection of the new Secretary General (DOC. 26-16)
16. World Wetlands Day 2002 (DOC. 26-17)
17. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award: status of nominations
18. Meeting of the Standing Committee Subgroup on COP8: 6-8 May 2002 – Issues on its agenda
19. 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee: Valencia, Spain, Sunday, 17 November 2002
20. Adoption of the report of the meeting
21. Any other business
  - a) Ramsar's presence at the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan (DOC. SC26-19)
  - b) World Wetlands Day 2003: International Year of Freshwater (DOC. SC26-20)
  - c) Requests for International Organization Partner status (DOC. SC26-22)
  - d) Programme of joint work between the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) (DOC. SC26-23)
22. Closing remarks