

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

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

DOC. SC26-5

Agenda item 9

**The 3rd Joint Work Plan with the Convention on Biological
Diversity**

Action requested. The Standing Committee is invited to note the progress in the preparation of a 3rd Joint Work Plan, and to support its completion.

1. The 2nd CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan, covering the period 2000-2001, has proved invaluable as a mechanism for increasing cooperation between the two conventions, and has been recognised as a model for the development of other bilateral work plans between environment-related conventions.
2. The CBD's SBSITTA6 in March 2001 requested the CBD secretariat and Ramsar Bureau to prepare a review of the achievements under the 2nd Joint Work Plan, and to develop a draft 3rd Joint Work Plan for consideration by CBD COP6 in April 2002.
3. The Bureau and CBD secretariat are currently preparing an achievement report on the 2nd Joint Work Plan, and it is anticipated that the Bureau will table a draft of this report at the 26th meeting of the Standing Committee.
4. The Bureau and CBD secretariat are preparing a draft 3rd Joint Work Plan, and this will be available in early 2002. The Bureau proposes that this draft be circulated to the Standing Committee for approval by correspondence, so that it will have received Ramsar approval before it is considered by CBD COP6 in April 2002.
5. A very significant area of activity that will be included in the 3rd Joint Work Plan will be CBD's review and further development of its programme of work on inland waters biodiversity in preparation for its consideration by CBD's SBSITTA8. Plans are already in progress for initiating this review jointly with Ramsar, its IOPs, and other conventions and organisations through a workshop in early 2002.
6. In addition, other significant topics likely to be addressed in the 3rd Joint Work Plan will include, *inter alia*, rapid assessment methodologies, indicators and ecological character, and protected areas, including criteria for the designation of wetland protected areas.
7. It is also intended that the Plan will identify areas of activity common to other environment-related conventions, and to indicate where joint implementation should involve both CBD, Ramsar, and other conventions such as UNCCD, CMS, and UNFCCC.
8. The Standing Committee may wish to indicate any particular priority topics it considers should also be included in the 3rd Joint Work Plan.