

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

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

DOC. SC26-25

Agenda item 12.3 (d) (i)

**Developing convergence between Ramsar and CBD approaches to
the criteria and classification of inland water ecosystems**

Action requested: The Standing Committee is invited to note the attached draft paper from the CBD Secretariat and to advise on ways and means of addressing its recommendations.

1. The Bureau has received the attached request and draft working paper from the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, concerning development of convergence of Ramsar and CBD approaches to criteria for the identification and designation of wetlands of international importance and classification of inland water ecosystems in support of such designation.
2. The working paper was developed from a comparative analysis of Annex 1 to the CBD, the Ramsar Strategic Framework and Vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Resolution VII.11) and the draft Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (DOC. SC26/COP8-7).
3. This issue is an activity identified for joint action under the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan 2000-2001.
4. The CBD Secretariat intends to submit this working paper as an information document at the 6th meeting of its Conference of Parties in April 2002; it intends for this topic to form part of the review and elaboration of the CBD programme of work on the biological diversity of inland waters, which will form a major theme of CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at SBSTTA8 in late 2002 or early 2003.
5. The working paper includes recommendations for joint work between Ramsar and CBD, through the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) and SBSTTA, concerning the background to the existing Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance, and further development of a systematic approach to identification of priority wetlands for the conservation of biological diversity based on the Ramsar Strategic Framework and Vision for the List of Wetlands of International Importance.
6. In relation to this, the working paper identifies that additional criteria or guidance may be needed on a number of biodiversity-related issues covered by the CBD's approach when compared with that of the Ramsar Strategic Framework, notably on wild relatives of domesticated or cultivated species, species or communities/genomes or genes of social, scientific or cultural significance, and wetlands supporting species or communities important for research, including species indicators.

7. The Standing Committee may wish to note the implications of the CBD's working paper for any further review and elaboration of the Ramsar Criteria and guidelines for the Strategic Framework and Vision for the List.