



"People and Wetlands: The Vital Link"
7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971),
San José, Costa Rica, 10-18 May 1999

Composition and *modus operandi* of the Convention's Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)

1. RECALLING the establishment by Resolution 5.5 of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), made up of members with appropriate scientific and technical knowledge, appointed by the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), but participating as individuals and not as representatives of their countries of origin;
2. ALSO RECALLING Resolution VI.7 on this matter;
3. THANKING the members and alternates of the STRP for their contributions since COP6, and their expert advice on several scientific and technical issues important for implementation of the Convention;
4. EMPHASIZING THE NEED for establishing a close link between the STRP and the network of scientists and experts in each Contracting Party, so that the Convention may benefit from the array of existing knowledge and experience;
5. RECOGNIZING the importance for the STRP to work in partnership with the equivalent bodies of those Conventions with which a Memorandum of Understanding or Cooperation is in place, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, and the Convention to Combat Desertification; and
6. ALSO RECOGNIZING the desirability of cooperation between the STRP and a number of expert networks, specialist groups and societies which exist, some in association with the official International Organization Partners of the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. REAFFIRMS in general the terms of Resolution 5.5 and repeals Resolution VI.7;
8. DECIDES TO INTRODUCE the following modifications in the *modus operandi* and composition of the STRP:
 - a) invites each Contracting Party to nominate by the end of October 1999 a suitably qualified technical expert from that country to act as a focal point for STRP matters and, as appropriate, to provide input to the work of the STRP either directly or through liaison with other suitably qualified experts;

- b) urges the members of the STRP to establish and maintain contact with these national focal points appointed by each Contracting Party within their respective Ramsar regions, to seek their advice and input as required;
 - c) invites each official International Organization Partner of the Convention to designate a representative to participate as a member of the STRP and to liaise with their relevant expert networks or specialist groups to provide the necessary expertise and advice to STRP in undertaking its work plan;
 - d) invites the following bodies and organizations to participate as observers in the meetings of the STRP and to consider establishing close working cooperative arrangements on matters of common interest:
 - the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity
 - the Scientific Council of the Convention on Migratory Species
 - the Committee on Science and Technology of the Convention to Combat Desertification
 - the Society of Wetland Scientists
 - the International Association of Limnology
 - the Global Wetlands Economics Network
 - the International Mire Conservation Group and
 - the International Peat Society;
9. FURTHER EMPHASIZES the value of participation by STRP members in meetings of the COP and Standing Committee, and requests Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, and the Ramsar Bureau to do their utmost to secure any additional funding which might be necessary for this purpose;
 10. REQUESTS the Standing Committee, at its annual meeting, to define the principal tasks and approve the work plan for the STRP in the coming year, taking into account the views expressed and priorities established by the Contracting Parties at the previous meeting of the COP;
 11. RECOMMENDS that the composition of the STRP reflect the different biogeographical characteristics within each Ramsar region;
 12. DECIDES that the membership of the STRP shall have the same regional structure as the Standing Committee, as established in Resolution VII.1 of this meeting; and that the same proportional system as the Standing Committee will apply for determining its composition;
 13. URGES that, in order to attain equitable representation on the STRP, as of COP8 members of the STRP ought, as far as possible, to come from Contracting Parties different from those Parties elected to the Standing Committee;
 14. DECIDES that for the Oceania and North America regions there shall be one substitute member to ensure regional representation at meetings of the STRP in the event that the single member is unavailable to attend;

15. FURTHER DECIDES that membership of the STRP from the close of COP7 until the end of COP8 shall be those recommended by the Standing Committee on the basis of proposals submitted by Contracting Parties, as follows:

AFRICA

Dr Aboubacar Awaiss, Republic of Niger
Mr Geoff Cowan, South Africa
Dr Harry Chabwela, Zambia

ASIA

Dr Mohammad Rashid Shatanawi, Jordan
Dr Angel C. Alcala, Philippines

EUROPE

Dr Jan Pokorny, Czech Republic
Professor Toomas Saat, Estonia
Dr George Zalidis, Greece
Dr Peter Maitland, United Kingdom

NEOTROPICS

Dr Yara Schaeffer Novelli, Brazil
Dr Jorge Jimenez, Costa Rica

NORTH AMERICA

Dr Arthur Hawkins, USA
Substitute – Dr Randy Milton, Canada

OCEANIA

Dr Max Finlayson, Australia
Substitute – Ms Bronwen Golder, New Zealand