

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Proceedings of the 6TH Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Brisbane, Australia, 19-27 March 1996)

RESOLUTION VI.7: THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL

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 acting on an individual basis and not as representatives of their country of origin;
2. NOTING that, at its 14th Meeting in Gland, Switzerland, in October 1993, the Ramsar Standing Committee, on the basis of proposals from Contracting Parties and with due regard for equitable representation of each region, appointed the seven members of the STRP to advise the COP, the Standing Committee, and the Bureau for the period up to the end of the 6th Meeting of the COP;
3. FURTHER NOTING that the Standing Committee, after review of the tasks enumerated in Resolution 5.5, requested the STRP to concentrate on three specific items, namely:
 - a) review of the Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance and especially the establishment of criteria and guidelines on the importance of wetlands for fishes, both as regards biodiversity and fishery yields, as called for in Recommendation 5.9;
 - b) definition of “ecological character” and “change in ecological character” in relation to wetlands designated for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, as called for in Recommendation 5.2; and
 - c) review of the application of the Montreux Record, as called for in Resolution 5.4;
4. THANKING the members of the STRP for their contributions since the 5th Meeting of the COP on the above three subjects and on other scientific and technical issues important for implementation of the Ramsar Convention; and
5. TAKING NOTE of the views of outgoing members of the STRP, expressed in the STRP report, on the tasks which the Panel might perform for the Convention, notably in relation to technical review of projects submitted to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (Ramsar SGF), continuing review of the Criteria for the Identification of Wetlands of International Importance, and operation of the Montreux Record and Management Guidance Procedure;

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6. REAFFIRMS the terms of Resolution 5.5 with the following modifications:
 - a) alternate members shall be appointed from each region by the same process as for STRP members, in order to ensure that the views of each region are expressed at each meeting of the STRP should the member from that region be unavailable.

Alternate members shall only attend meetings if the appointed member is unable to attend in person, but shall be consulted on all STRP matters and receive copies of all relevant correspondence and STRP mailings;

- b) the STRP will be supported by a network that shall provide inputs, as requested. This network shall include experts proposed by the Contracting Parties and will work through correspondence (including fax and E-mail);
7. 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 Bureau to do their utmost to secure any additional funding which might be necessary;
 8. REQUESTS the Standing Committee, at its annual meeting, to define the principal tasks 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;
 9. INVITES the STRP to establish close working relations with the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other similar bodies which advise other environment-related conventions; and
 10. DECIDES that the members and alternate members of the STRP from the close of the 6th Meeting of the COP until the end of the 7th Meeting of the COP shall be those recommended by the Standing Committee on the basis of proposals submitted by Contracting Parties to its 16th Meeting in Brisbane in September 1995, as follows:

Members

Africa:	Yaa NTIAMOA-BAIDU (Ghana)
Asia:	Makoto KOMODA (Japan)
Eastern Europe:	Mihály VEGH (Hungary)
Neotropics:	Roberto SCHLATTER (Chile)
North America:	Allan SMITH (Canada)
Oceania:	Keith THOMPSON (New Zealand)
Western Europe:	François LETOURNEUX (France)

Alternate Members

Africa:	Aboubacar AWAISS (Niger)
Asia:	Chaman Lai TRISAL (India)
Eastern Europe:	Mikulas LISICKY (Slovakia)
Neotropics:	Peter BACON (Trinidad and Tobago)
North America:	Mauricio CERVANTES ABREGO (Mexico)
Oceania:	Max FINLAYSON (Australia)
Western Europe:	Palle Uhd JEPSEN (Denmark)