



Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity



Ref.: SCBD/STTM/DCO/va/65040

25 September 2008

NOTIFICATION

Streamlining and making more explicit the roles of the CBD and Ramsar Convention

Dear Madam/Sir,

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands acts as the CBD's lead implementation partner on wetland issues. This is implemented through the CBD/Ramsar Joint Work Plan. The current (4th) plan was endorsed by the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) -- para 4 of decision IX/19 -- and by the Ramsar Standing Committee, and is available in the annex to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/13/5 at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?mtg=sbstta-13>.

Recommendation XIII/4, paragraph 1, of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the CBD, noting the need for clear expressions of the roles of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Ramsar Convention, in sub-paragraph 1(b), requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention, to collect the views of Parties on ways and means to streamline and make more explicit the roles of the two Conventions, and their respective scientific bodies and Secretariats, and present these as part of the in-depth review of the programme of work on the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems scheduled to occur at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10).

Parties to both, or either Convention, are invited to submit their views, on a voluntary basis, to the Executive Secretary of the CBD (secretariat@cbd.int) as soon as possible, but **no later than 28 February 2009**. Since the submission is on a voluntary basis, Parties may provide information in any format, preferably as electronic copies. Appended herewith is guidance for the submission of the information for your reference.

Please accept, Madam/Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration

Ahmed Djoghlaif
Executive Secretary

To: All CBD National Focal Points



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Appendix:

Guidance on submitting views on streamlining and making more explicit the roles of the CBD and Ramsar Convention

We have Parties to the CBD that are not Parties to the Ramsar Convention (and *vice-versa*). Most are Parties to both. All viewpoints are welcome irrespective of this status.

It may be noted that, although this request originates under the programme of work on inland waters, Ramsar is the lead partner for wetlands which occur in all biomes and are potentially affected by, and relevant to, all CBD programme areas. Therefore, considerations need not necessarily be limited to the programme of work on inland waters alone.

Some of the subjects that Parties may wish to provide their views on might include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Regarding the relationship of the two Conventions at the level of their governing bodies (COPs), for example:
 - a. What bearing do decisions/resolutions of one convention have on the other?
 - b. How should this work?
 - c. Given that the Ramsar Convention is the lead implementation partner for wetlands for the CBD, what should the CBD be for the Ramsar Convention and how?
 - d. Where are the opportunities for the CBD to give added impact to the work done by the Ramsar Convention (and *vice-versa*)?
 - e. Where one convention invites the other to do additional work – how should the additional resources required to undertake the work be shared, generated and allocated? Is this relevant?
 - f. The governing bodies of both conventions have indicated their desire to work together, enhance synergy and co-operate etc., and such co-operation has been regarded as a model. How can this “synergy” work even better?
2. Regarding the relationship of the two conventions in terms of policy development and implementation at national level:
 - a. Are the decisions/resolutions of, or guidance provided by, each convention implemented/used in a coordinated fashion?
 - b. Provide opinions on the extent to which co-ordination between the work of the two conventions at national level is an area in need of improvement; suggest ways and means to do this; and
 - c. Submit case studies where working relations at national level are considered examples of good practice, including details of institutional arrangements which enable this.
3. Provide suggestions as to how the work of the two scientific bodies (STRP/SBSTTA) can be improved through improved clarity in the working relations of the two conventions.
4. Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the two Secretariats in terms of the CBD-Ramsar relationship.

A simplified response detailing your key points regarding the fundamentals of this relationship, if it should be changed or clarified, and how, could be provided.

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