



## 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

*“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”*

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

### Resolution IX.5

#### **Synergies with other international organizations dealing with biological diversity; including collaboration on, and harmonization of, national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and agreements**

1. AWARE that at their 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, in 2004, the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted Decision VII/26, which, *inter alia*,

*Urged* further enhanced cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing cooperative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programs, within existing resources;

*Requested* in this context, the Executive Secretary, to invite the secretariats of the other four biodiversity conventions (CITES, Ramsar, CMS and World Heritage Convention) to form a liaison group to enhance coherence and cooperation in their implementation, and to report on progress made to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties; and

*Requested* the Executive Secretary, drawing on the experience gained in the exercise mentioned above, and in close collaboration with relevant conventions, organizations and bodies, to examine options for a flexible framework between all relevant actors, such as a global partnership on biodiversity, in order to enhance implementation through improved cooperation, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighth meeting on possible ways forward;

2. NOTING Resolution VIII.3 on *Climate change and wetlands: impacts, adaptation and mitigation* and the associated need to strengthen cooperation with the UNFCCC;
3. FURTHER AWARE that the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) held a consultative workshop on the issue of Harmonized National Reporting (Haasrode, Belgium, September 2004), that this issue has also been discussed by the Biodiversity Liaison Group established under CBD Decision VII/26, and that this workshop specifically noted seven key issues concerned with the harmonization of national reporting (COP DOC. 32);
4. RECALLING that Ramsar COP8 Resolution VIII.5 *inter alia*:

URGED Contracting Parties, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the Standing Committee, and the Bureau, in cooperation with the governing and subsidiary bodies and the secretariats of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), the International Organization Partners, and other collaborators, to implement fully the actions contained in Operational Objective 13 of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 on 'Collaboration with other institutions'; and

FURTHER URGED Contracting Parties to make renewed efforts to increase collaboration at the national level between the institutions and focal points responsible for the implementation of MEAs, including through ensuring their participation in National Ramsar Committees, so as to foster synergies and harmonisation;

5. RECOGNISING that a number of Contracting Parties have found difficulties in completing their National Reports for the triennium 2003-2005, due to the length and complexity of the National Report Format; and
6. AWARE of the decision 23/1 of the 23<sup>rd</sup> UNEP Governing Council requesting the Executive Director of UNEP to intensify efforts to support implementation by parties to MEAs of their obligations under such agreements;

#### THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue to be fully involved in proceedings of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) established under the *aegis* of the CBD and to report regularly to Standing Committee on progress achieved by this group;
8. ALSO REQUESTS the Secretary General to cooperate closely with relevant conventions, including through the Joint Liaison Group for the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD and UNCCD), with UN agencies such as UNEP, UNESCO and FAO, and with other relevant intergovernmental organizations such as the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), UNEP-WCMC, and the CGIAR networks, and to seek to reduce duplicative activities;
9. FURTHER REQUESTS the Secretary General, in consultation with Standing Committee, to consider how best to simplify and reduce duplication in reporting required and/or requested in relevant Resolutions adopted by previous COPs, to make further recommendations on streamlining and simplifying reporting requirements, and to develop a simpler and less duplicative reporting format (taking into account the implementation of COP9 Resolutions IX.1 Annex D and IX.8);
10. ADDITIONALLY REQUESTS the Secretary General to continue working with UNEP's Division of Environmental Conventions and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions and agreements concerning more effective convention implementation. Topics could include, *inter alia*, and as appropriate, the development and implementation of issue-based modules and harmonization of national reporting requirements subject to the mandate of each individual convention bearing in mind their Contracting Parties; and

11. URGES Contracting Parties to develop ways and means at national level of improving liaison between Ramsar Convention Administrative Authorities and focal points for related conventions and agreements, and to communicate with the Secretariat on their progress with respect to harmonizing information management and reporting for the biodiversity-related conventions.