

Notification 1999 / 11

Joint Work Plan 2000-2001 between the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and the Convention on Biological Diversity

The Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) presents its compliments and has the honour to refer to the following:

Notifications 1997/10 and 1998/6 referred to cooperation between the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) and the Convention on Biological Diversity which was pursuant to Resolution VI.9 from the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in 1996. This Resolution endorsed a range of actions to promote cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which were reinforced through Action 7.2.3 of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002 as adopted by Resolution VI.14. At its 3rd Conference of Contracting Parties (COP3), the CBD adopted Decision III/21 which called on Ramsar to act as a “lead partner” of CBD on wetland-related issues.

In accordance with these mandates and the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Convention secretariats signed in 1996, the Ramsar Bureau prepared a Joint Work Plan 1998-99 (JWP) between the Conventions which gained endorsement by the respective COPs of the Ramsar Convention and CBD (Resolution VII.4 and Decision IV/15, respectively).

Recognising that the JWP 1998-99 has now expired, a new JWP for the period 2000-2001 has been prepared by the Ramsar Bureau, with input and consultation from the secretariat of the CBD, the chairs of the respective subsidiary scientific bodies; the Ramsar Convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), and the CBD’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).

The proposed JWP 2000-2001, which was considered by the 24th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention in early December 1999, summarises a wide range of actions to be taken by both conventions in support of one another and through direct collaboration. The actions are presented under the ecosystem themes of CBD, and in particular those work programmes for inland water and marine and coastal ecosystems. The new JWP also considers cooperation and joint actions with respect to the many cross-cutting issues which both CBD and the Ramsar Convention have under consideration. The final section looks at mechanisms for further strengthening institutional cooperation in the areas of linkages between the subsidiary scientific bodies, the national focal points of both conventions and in the area of national reporting. An important further addition in the new JWP is the recognition, in several areas, of opportunities for this JWP between the Ramsar Convention and CBD to include joint actions with other environment-related conventions.

The Administrative Authorities of the Convention on Wetlands, and national Focal Points for the Ramsar STRP, are urged to consult with their counterparts responsible for the implementation of

the CBD to encourage support for the proposed new Joint Work Plan 2000-2001 at the forthcoming meeting of CBD's SBSTTA in Montreal, Canada on 31 January – 4 February 2000, and at the following CBD COP5 in Nairobi, Kenya, on 15-26 May 2000.

The Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands respectfully requests that the content of the present Note be communicated to the competent national authorities and avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 17 December 1999

Encl. Joint Work Plan 2000-2001