

**CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**  
**36th Meeting of the Standing Committee**  
**Gland, Switzerland, 27-29 February 2008**

**DOC. SC36-5**

Agenda item 7

**Report of the Culture Working Group**

**Action requested:** The Standing Committee is invited to comment on the text of the guidance prepared by the Culture Working Group, thank the Working Group for its work, and endorse the Secretary General's proposal for how this matter could be taken forwards.

1. The Standing Committee will recall that at its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2007, the participants reviewed a report from the Culture Working Group established by the Secretary General, including its development of further guidance on the cultural values of wetlands, and decided the following:  
  

**“Decision SC35-1:** The Standing Committee urged the Culture Working Group to continue its work on a draft Resolution and guidance on the cultural values of wetlands, taking account of the comments made in this meeting, and to propose new drafts of both documents in time for consultation at the regional meetings. The drafts will be circulated to the SC if possible but presented at SC36 at the latest.”
2. Following SC35, the Culture Working Group has undertaken further work to develop this guidance, and the latest draft is attached to this note. The Secretariat thanks Mr Thymio Papayannis and other members of the Working Group for their efforts in developing this guidance.
3. Following further discussions with members of the Culture Working Group, the Secretary General now recommends that:
  - i) a draft Resolution should not be developed for COP10 consideration; and
  - ii) the guidance prepared by the Cultural Working Group should be made available through the Convention's Web site as a technical resource material to use by Parties and others as appropriate.
4. The Standing Committee may wish to consider whether it would be appropriate to consult the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) concerning the guidance prepared by the Culture Working Group, in order to seek the STRP's view about issuing the guidance in the form of a Ramsar Technical Report (RTR). The Committee will recall that all such Ramsar Technical Reports are required to undergo a peer-review process by the STRP before their approval and finalization, and that all RTRs are published through the Ramsar Web site in downloadable PDF format.

**Note:** There are some problems with the footnoting in appended document, which will be sorted out at the next stage of drafting.