



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Notification 2015/5

Call for proposals for New Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2016-2018

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

Regional initiatives under the Ramsar Convention, which include centres for training and capacity building and networks which facilitate cooperation, are intended as operational means to provide effective support for an improved implementation of the Convention and its Strategic Plan in specific geographic regions, through international cooperation on wetland-related issues of common concern.

Resolution XII.8 *Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention* (www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/cop12_res08_regional_initiatives_e.pdf) notes that new regional initiatives will be developed during the 2016-2018 triennium.

Accordingly, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention is pleased to invite Administrative Authorities of Contracting Parties to submit proposals for new regional initiatives to operate within the framework of the Convention during the triennium 2016-2018.

The proposals apply to regional networks and regional centres for training and capacity building, and to be endorsed as operating within the framework of the Convention, must be based on the *Operational Guidelines for regional initiatives* (www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/operational-guidelines-2013-2015.pdf).

Administrative Authorities of Contracting Parties aiming for their new initiative to be formally recognized **as operating within the framework of the Convention during the period 2016-2018** should download and complete the forms for new regional initiatives at www.ramsar.org/activity/ramsar-regional-initiatives and send them by 23 October 2015 to Tobias Salathe, Senior Regional Advisor for Europe (salathe@ramsar.org) with a copy to the respective Senior Regional Advisor at the Secretariat.

The Standing Committee will examine and approve regional initiatives which are in accordance to the *Operational Guidelines* at its 51st meeting between 23 and 27 November 2015.

The Secretariat 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 to the Permanent Mission of ... the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 28 July 2015

