



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

## Diplomatic Note 2017/6

### Support for pre-COP regional meetings of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of ... and has the honour to refer to the planning of the meetings to be held for each of the six regions of the Convention in preparation for the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP13).

These regional pre-COP meetings will each be hosted by a Contracting Party and organized with the full assistance of the Secretariat of the Convention. Participants are expected to consider the major issues regarding the work of the Convention, and to consider draft resolutions, which will subsequently be reviewed at the 54th meeting of the Standing Committee, in April 2018, for eventual submission to COP13.

Contracting Parties have generously offered to host the meetings for all regions, and the following venues and dates are proposed:

- Africa: Dakar, Senegal, 26 February – 2 March 2018.
- The Americas (Latin America and the Caribbean and North America): San José, Costa Rica, 12 – 16 March 2018.
- Asia: Colombo, Sri Lanka, 26 February – 2 March 2018.
- Europe: Olomouc, Czech Republic, 19 – 23 March 2018.
- Oceania: New Zealand (venue to be confirmed), 12 – 16 March 2018.

The Secretariat would like to thank these Parties and also Canada, which is the only country that has so far expressed its intention to provide funding support. The host countries provide the venue and some additional support, but additional funding is needed to cover all the costs, especially for the travel and per diems of sponsored participants from developing countries.

The estimated total cost of providing this support is CHF 600,000, of which less than CHF 30,000 has been committed to date. Accordingly a shortfall of approximately CHF 570,000 remains to be found if all Contracting Parties are to be able to contribute fully to the discussions on implementation of the Convention up to COP13 and to the development of proposals for the future direction of the Convention.

The Secretariat will be very grateful for any expression of interest to support the participation of developing countries and for any indication of possible sources of financial assistance. It can also provide more detail regarding the expected budget for each region for any government or department that is interested in providing support and requires additional information.

The Secretariat of the Ramsar 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, 20 July 2017

