



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

Notification 2016/9 World Wetlands Day 2017

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

The Standing Committee decided in 1996 that 2 February, the date on which the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971, should be designated as World Wetlands Day, in order to raise public awareness of the importance of wetlands. World Wetlands Day was celebrated for the first time in 1997 and every year since then it has been recognized and celebrated by Contracting Parties.

The theme for World Wetlands Day in 2017, "Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction", was approved by Standing Committee through Decision SC52-15. The theme was selected to highlight the role of wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events such as floods, droughts and cyclones on communities and in helping to build resilience.

Contracting Parties are thus encouraged to celebrate World Wetlands Day on 2 February and to organize public awareness events around this theme. The Secretariat has produced supporting information materials, which are available to download from the World Wetlands Day website www.worldwetlandsday.org.

The Convention Secretariat is also pleased to enclose some of these information materials, including posters, handouts and a guide for World Wetlands Day.

Contracting Parties are further encouraged to report their World Wetlands Day events to the Convention's Secretariat through the **online map of events** available on the World Wetlands Day website at www.worldwetlandsday.org/map.

The Secretariat recognizes the generous support of the Evian project of the Danone Group, which has financially supported the production and distribution of information materials for World Wetlands Day since 1997.

The Secretariat would be grateful for Contracting Parties' assistance in conveying information to relevant institutions in order to encourage the widest possible celebration of World Wetlands Day in 2017.

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 ... the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 12 December 2016

Encl: Information materials World Wetlands Day 2017

