

Invitation

Collaborative Workshop of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives together with the Convention Secretariat
22 November 2015 – Ramsar Convention Secretariat, Gland, Switzerland

Dear Heads of Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Dear Members and Permanent Observers of the Ramsar Standing Committee

You are warmly invited to attend a collaborative workshop on the day before the 51st meeting of Ramsar's Standing Committee in Gland (23-27 November 2015). Please see the Agenda attached.

This workshop responds to Resolution XII.8 adopted by COP12 in Punta del Este, and the proposals expressed by representatives of Ramsar Regional Initiatives during a meeting held on the same occasion, requesting that Regional Initiatives maintain active and regular contact with the Ramsar Secretariat, to ensure that the Ramsar Operational Guidelines are applied and that the strategic and operational objectives of Regional Initiatives are in full harmony with the Convention's Strategic Plan. Furthermore, the Resolution requested the Ramsar Secretariat to support and advise Regional Initiatives, according to its means, to reinforce their capacity and effectiveness (Resolution XII.8 paragraph 19).

We hope that each of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives will be represented by its head or another knowledgeable person. We anticipate that your travel and subsistence costs can be accommodated in the budget of your initiative. If not, please check the relevant box on the Registration Form.

In addition to the heads of the 16 Ramsar Regional Initiatives, members and permanent observers of Standing Committee, who will be travelling to Gland for its 51st meeting, are also invited to take part in the workshop, in order to increase the ownership and engagement of Administrative Authorities in their respective Regional Initiatives. Together with the relevant Secretariat staff, we anticipate a maximum of 30 participants, which will allow the workshop to proceed in a collaborative and interactive way. The workshop languages will be English, French and Spanish, with simultaneous interpretation in plenary sessions.

Please note that we need to receive the completed Questionnaire regarding the operations of your Regional Initiative by **14 September** at the latest, in order to be able to prepare the workshop in time. Many thanks for your cooperation; this should not take more than 15-20 minutes.

We look forward receiving your registration for the workshop in due course. Please contact us, should you require further information.

Yours collaboratively,



Dr Ania Grobicki
Deputy Secretary General