



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
52nd Meeting of the Standing Committee Gland, Switzerland, 13 – 17 June 2016
and meeting of Regional Initiatives, Sunday 12 June 2016

INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Documents:

Meeting documents are available on the Ramsar web site in English, French and Spanish, at: (<http://www.ramsar.org/event/52nd-meeting-of-the-standing-committee>). Please note that paper copies will not be distributed. Delegates are requested to kindly bring their own set of documents.

Visas:

Please check if you need a visa for Switzerland, or a transit visa for any country where you might have to stop or change planes en route to Switzerland.

For information on visa requirements for Switzerland, go to:

https://www.bfm.admin.ch/bfm/en/home/themen/einreise/merkblatt_einreise.html. Switzerland is part of the Schengen area and information on entry into the Schengen area can also be found on this web site. **Please note that it takes three to four weeks to obtain a visa**, and contact your nearest Swiss representation early enough.

If you need an official invitation letter, please check the relevant box on the registration form.

Arrival airport: Geneva Cointrin

The airport closest to the Secretariat Headquarters is Geneva Cointrin Airport. It is connected to Geneva City and the towns of Nyon and Gland by regular train service.

Hotels:

A few hotels are available in the neighbouring town of Nyon, a short distance from the Secretariat, and approximately 25 km from Geneva. One hotel is available in the town of Gland where the Secretariat Headquarters is located.

Sponsored delegates will receive a hotel booking form. Please complete and return this to the Secretariat, together with the registration form, by 13 April 2016.

Non-sponsored participants are requested to book their accommodation directly. Information on hotels near the Secretariat is attached. Participants are advised to book their accommodation in good time, or else run the risk of having to find a room in another, more expensive hotel, in Nyon or in Geneva. **Hotel des Alpes in Nyon and Hotel Glanis in Gland will give reduced rates if you mention that you come for Ramsar SC52 at IUCN.**

IUCN-Ramsar HQ:

The Secretariat's offices (shared with IUCN at Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland) are approximately 10 minutes' walk from Gland station.

Currency & exchange:

The currency used in Switzerland is *Swiss francs* (CHF). Participants are advised to ensure they have cash with them or to change money at the airport. Exchange services are not available at the week-end in Nyon or Gland.

From Geneva Airport to your hotel

A direct train service links Geneva Airport with Nyon. On arrival at the Airport, go through Customs and into the Arrivals Hall. Turn left and walk down to the end of the Hall. Continue through the revolving doors into the ticket hall of the railway station.

You can buy your one-way ticket at this machine:



with Swiss francs or credit card, or at a counter. Currently, a one-way 2nd class ticket costs CHF16.

You will see the indicator board showing the times of the trains and escalators leading down to the platforms. Make sure that you take a train that stops at Nyon. Direct trains for Nyon (without changing at GVA Cornavin) run at 21 and 51 minutes past every hour, arriving at Nyon 20 minutes later.

To arrive at Gland, it is easiest to take a train to Nyon and then take the next train onwards to Gland. These trains leave Nyon at 05 and 35 minutes past every hour.

Swiss railway webpage in English: <http://fahrplan.sbb.ch/bin/query.exe/en>

From Nyon to the Ramsar Secretariat/IUCN Headquarters in Gland: participants are requested to make their own arrangements to travel to Gland and back. Please note that participants are expected to cover the costs of transport to the Secretariat and back.

- **Taxi:** It is suggested that participants share taxis from Nyon to Gland and back. The Ramsar Secretariat has a special arrangement with «AMG Taxi – Tel: +41 (0)22 364 05 05»; a trip from Nyon-Gland or Gland-Nyon costs approx. CHF25.
- **Taxi to Geneva airport** – Taxi phone Juan Parra Tel.: +41 (0)22 364 10 00. A trip from Gland to Geneva airport costs approx. CHF100.
- **Train:** Nyon to Gland and back (four-minute train ride). Trains leave Nyon in the mornings at 05 and 35 minutes past every hour. In the evenings, trains leave Gland at 20 and 50 minutes past the hour.

Meals:

Lunch is available in the IUCN/Ramsar cafeteria and in several nearby restaurants. Each participant is requested to buy his/her own lunch. You will be free to make your own dinner arrangements each evening.

Weather:

You may wish to check the weather in Switzerland before your trip on: www.meteoswiss.ch.

Medical/accident insurance:

The Ramsar Secretariat will provide sponsored delegates with insurance covering emergency medical treatment and accident. This insurance does not cover treatment for medical conditions existing before the period of the travel to Gland. Other participants are requested to make sure that their medical and accident insurance covers their travel and stay in Switzerland.

Wishing you a pleasant trip to Switzerland and looking forward to seeing you.

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