The Resumed session of the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland, 24 – 27 May 2022

Information for Participants

The Meeting

The resumed session of the 59th meeting of the Standing Committee will take place from Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 May 2022, at the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands headquarters in Gland, Switzerland.

The resumed session of the SC59 will be preceded on Monday 23 June by meetings of the Committee’s sub-groups and working groups. Membership of the Standing Committee and its sub-groups and working groups is published on the Convention’s website at https://www.ramsar.org/about/current-standing-committee-2018-2021-members.

Documents:
Meeting documents will be available on the Convention’s web site in English, in due course at: https://www.ramsar.org/event/59th-meeting-of-the-standing-committee. Please note that the Convention on Wetlands is paperless, so hard copies of documents will not be distributed during the meeting. Participants are requested to kindly bring their own set of documents.

Travel

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.eda.admin.ch/countries/usa/en/home/visa/entry-ch.html. Switzerland is part of the Schengen area and information on entry into the Schengen area can also be found on this website. Please note that it can take up to four weeks to obtain a visa, so please contact your nearest Swiss representation early enough.

If you need an official invitation letter, please contact SC@ramsar.org

Medical/accident insurance:
The Secretariat will provide sponsored participants who require a Schengen visa with insurance covering emergency medical treatment and accident. This insurance does not cover treatment for pre-existing medical conditions prior to your arrival in Switzerland. Other participants are
requested to make sure that their medical and accident insurance covers their travel and stay in Switzerland.

COVID-19 information

Entry requirements in Switzerland:
Please note that given the improving epidemiological situation in Switzerland, the Government of Switzerland announced the relaxation of COVID-19 measures as of 17 February 2022.

The following COVID-related information notes are updated regularly and posted on the website of the Mission of Switzerland to the UN in Geneva at https://www.eda.admin.ch/missions/mission-onu-geneve/en/home/manual-regime-privileges-and-immunities/introduction/manual-visas.html, in order to help provide appropriate information for travel to Switzerland:
COVID-19 - Information note for people travelling to Switzerland
COVID-19 - Information note on health measures and border controls
COVID-19 - Information note on Swiss Covid certificate

In case you feel unwell while in Switzerland, please do not come to the meeting and inform the Secretariat at sc@ramsar.org. The closest place to take a PCR test to the Hotel des Alpes is CMCN - Rue de la Morac 9, 1260 Nyon. The hospital closest to the Hostellerie du 16 ème siècle is: GHOL, Hôpital de Nyon - Chemin Monastier 10, 1260 Nyon, Tel: 022 994 6161.

In case you tested positive during the meeting follow the instructions noted in the link below and inform the Secretariat at sc@ramsar.org: https://www.bag.admin.ch/bag/en/home/krankheiten/ausbrueche-epidemien-pandemien/aktuelle-ausbrueche-epidemien/novel-cov/isolation-und-quarantaene.html#1140872486

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

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 following the signs “Gare CFF/SBB”. Continue through the revolving doors into the ticket hall of the railway station.

You can buy your one-way ticket at the ticket machine (see image below) with Swiss francs or a credit card, or at a counter. One way, 2nd class ticket costs CHF 15.00.

You will see the timetables showing the times of the trains and escalators leading down to the platforms. Make sure that you take a train that stops in Nyon. Direct trains for Nyon (without changing at the Geneva Cornavin station) run at 19 and 49 minutes past every hour, arriving in Nyon 24 minutes later.

Timetables are available at: http://www.sbb.ch/en/timetable.html
From Nyon to the Convention on Wetlands/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.

- **Train:** From Nyon to Gland (and back) is a four-minute train ride. Trains leave Nyon (direction Lausanne) in the mornings at 06 and 36 minutes past every hour. In the evenings, trains leave Gland to Nyon (direction Genève) at 21 and 51 minutes past the hour.

- **Taxi:** It is suggested that participants share taxis from Nyon to Gland and back. The Secretariat has a special arrangement with AMG Taxi – Tel: +41 22 364 05 05; a trip from Nyon-Gland or Gland-Nyon costs approx. CHF25. A trip from Gland to **Geneva airport** costs approx. CHF90.

- **Taxi to Geneva airport:** Juan Parra Tel: +41 22 364 10 00. A trip from Gland to Geneva airport costs approx. CHF100.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands Headquarters (IUCN building):
The Secretariat’s office (in the Conservation Centre, Gland shared with IUCN at Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland) is an approximately 10 minutes’ walk from Gland railway station.

**Accommodation**

We have booked rooms in the hotel l’Hostellerie 16ème Siècle for sponsored participants and blocked rooms in the Hotel des Alpes for non-sponsored participants in the neighbouring town of Nyon, a short distance by train from the Secretariat, and approximately 25 km from Geneva (see “train” section).

Non-sponsored participants are requested to book their accommodation directly. Information on hotels near the Secretariat is here-below. Non-sponsored participants are advised to book their accommodation soonest as they may run the risk of having to find a room in another, more expensive hotel, in Nyon or in Geneva.

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

**Preferred Hotel – Hotel Des Alpes in Nyon**
www.alpes-nyon.ch/site/en
Tel: +41 (0)22 994 30 00
Email: info@alpes-nyon.ch

A mid-sized hotel five minutes’ walk from Nyon railway station.
**Rates:** Single rooms with shower and toilet are at CHF120.00 (Double room for single occupancy at CHF 165-185.00). Double rooms for two people are at CHF200.00 /220.00 depending on the room-type. It offers free WiFi. Prices include breakfast and taxes.

**Hotel de Rive in Nyon**
www.hotel-le-rive.ch
Tel: + 41 22 552 20 80
Email: info@hotel-le-rive.ch

A mid-sized hotel in front of the pier in Nyon with stunning views of Lake Geneva and the Alps, located about ten minutes from the Nyon railway station by foot (note that there is a steep hill). It offers free WiFi and has a restaurant.
**Rates:** CHF 215.00 for a single room. Prices include breakfast and taxes.
Glanis is a mid-sized hotel conveniently located across the street from the Gland railway station and only at 10 minutes walking distance from the Secretariat’s offices. It offers free WiFi, room service until 22:00 and 24-hour front desk service. The hotel has a restaurant.

**Rates:** Please visit the hotel’s website to see the current room prices.

**TO BENEFIT FROM PREFERRED PRICES AT THE ABOVE HOTELS, PLEASE CONTACT HOTELS DIRECTLY AND MENTION THAT YOU ARE ATTENDING A RAMSAR CONVENTION ON WETLANDS MEETING.**

For more hotels, please see:

### Further Information

**Meals:**
Lunch will be available in the IUCN/Convention on Wetlands cafeteria. For **sponsored participants**, each participant is requested to use the voucher they are given to enjoy a soup, main dish (vegetarian option available), dessert and drink. A row of tables will be reserved for this meeting. You will be free to make your own dinner arrangements each evening using your DSA. There are numerous **restaurants** in Nyon, too.

**Currency and exchange service:**
The currency used in Switzerland is **Swiss francs** (CHF). **Sponsored participants** will be paid a Daily Substance Allowance on the first day of the meeting. They are, however, advised to ensure they have cash with them or to change money at the airport. Exchange services **are not** available during weekends in Nyon or Gland.

**Weather:**
You may wish to check the weather in Switzerland before your trip on: [www.meteoswiss.ch](http://www.meteoswiss.ch).

**Electric plugs and adapters:**
Please note that in Switzerland the electrical currents are 220 Volts, 50 Hertz. Participants are advised to bring an adapter and/or converter to charge their electric appliances. The types of sockets used in Switzerland are illustrated below:
We wish you a pleasant trip to Switzerland and look forward to seeing you in Gland.

Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands
Rue de Mauverney 28,
1196 Gland
Tel: +41 22 999 0279/0285
Email: sc@ramsar.org