

HUMEDALES



**8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Wetlands
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

“Wetlands: water, life, and culture”
Valencia, Spain, 18-26 November 2002

Provisional agenda and programme

Provisional Agenda

- I Opening of the Meeting
- II General statements
- III Adoption of the Agenda
- IV Adoption of the Rules of Procedure
- V Election of the President and Vice-Presidents, and remarks by the President
- VI Appointment of the Credentials Committee and any other committees
- VII Admission of Observers
- VIII Report of the Chairperson of the Convention Standing Committee
- IX Report of the Secretary General and overview of the implementation of the Convention at the global level, based on the National Reports submitted by Contracting Parties
- X Issues arising from Resolutions and Recommendations of previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
- XI The Convention Strategic Plan 2003-2008
- XII The Convention's Work Plan 2003-2005
- XIII Financial report and proposed budget for the triennium 2003-2005
- XIV Consideration of the proposals for Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee
- XV Report of the Credentials Committee
- XVI Reports and recommendations of the Technical Sessions
- XVII Appointment of the members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel
- XVIII Adoption of Resolutions and Recommendations
- XIX Election of Contracting Parties that will serve on the Standing Committee
- XX Date and venue of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
- XXI Any other business
- XXII Adoption of the report of the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
- XXIII Close of the meeting

Technical Sessions:

1. Major challenges and emerging opportunities for wetlands, water and sustainability
2. Baselines for sustainable use: wetland inventory and assessment
3. Global biological diversity and sustenance of human life: the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance
4. Managing wetlands for sustainable use and human well-being
5. Cultural aspects of wetlands as a tool for their conservation and sustainable use

Ramsar COP8 Provisional Annotated Agenda and Programme

Sunday, 17 November 2002

09.00 - 17.00 Meeting of the Standing Committee (henceforward the Conference Committee)
at the Conference venue
09.00 - 20.00 Registration of participants
Evening Free for informal consultations

DAY ONE – Monday, 18 November 2002

07.30 - 18.00 Registration (continued)

**09.30 ALL PARTICIPANTS TO BE SEATED FOR THE ARRIVAL OF
DIGNITARIES**

10.00 Plenary Session

I / II Opening of the Meeting

The Conference will be opened by high level representatives of the Kingdom of Spain and its Government and the Chairperson of the Conference Committee, followed by general statements by the Secretary General and invited guests. The opening ceremony will include the presentation of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards 2002 (http://www.ramsar.org/key_awards2002_report.htm)

Short adjournment, with participants remaining in their seats while the dignitaries leave the room

Reopening of the Plenary Session by the Chairperson of the Conference Committee

III Adoption of the Agenda

The Conference will consider document **Ramsar COP8 DOC. 1 – Rev 3: Provisional Agenda and Programme**, and adopt the Agenda and Programme for this meeting. Note: If need be, a Rev 4 of this document will be distributed at registration.

IV Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

The Conference will consider document **Ramsar COP8 DOC. 2: Rules of Procedure** and will adopt the Rules for the 8th Meeting. Note: The Rules have been adopted by Ramsar COP7 and no changes have been proposed, but procedurally Article 6.4 of the Convention provides that the COP “shall adopt rules of procedure for each of its meetings”.

V Election of the President and Vice-Presidents

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure, the Conference will elect the President and two Vice-Presidents for the meeting on the basis of proposals made by the Conference Committee.

Remarks by the President

Signature of the agreement on the “Danone-Evian Fund for Water , in Support of the Ramsar Convention – Programme 2003-2006” between the President and Director

General of the Danone Group Corporation, Mr Franck Riboud, and the Secretary General of the Convention

Statement from the 17th Session of the Global Biodiversity Forum

Statement from the World Conference of NGOs and Local Communities on Wetlands: "Ramsar, 30 Years Later"

13.00 - 15.00

Lunch break

15.00 - 18.30

Plenary Session

VI Appointment of the Credentials Committee and any other committees

Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure, the Conference will appoint a Credentials Committee on the basis of proposals made by the Conference Committee, and may establish any other committees necessary to enable the Conference to carry out its functions. The COP may establish a Committee on the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and the Work Plan 2003-2005; a Committee on Finances and Budget; and a Committee on content and duration of future Ordinary Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

The proposed schedule of meetings of these Committees, if established, is attached, subject to the approval of the Conference Committee. A definitive schedule will be distributed after the COP decision on this matter.

The Ramsar Bureau is bringing to the consideration of the Conference Committee a proposal to establish a series of Contact Groups to advance consensus building around the following draft resolutions: DR 1; DR 2; DR 3; DR 10; DR 14; DR 15; DR 18; DR 19; and DR 34. If accepted, this proposal should be considered under this agenda item, so that the Contact Groups can start their work on Tuesday, 19 November.

VII Admission of Observers

Provisions have always been made for the participation in the Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of international agencies or bodies, and national governmental and non-governmental agencies or bodies, provided the Parties present do not decide otherwise (a COP document with the list of registered observers will be tabled at the meeting).

Key issues in the work of the Convention - Special intervention by an invited speaker:

**Outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,
by the Hon. Mohammed Valli Moosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs
and Tourism of the Republic of South Africa**

**Sustainable Management of Water Resources: The Need for a Holistic
Ecosystem Approach, by H.E. Mr. Phillip Roch, Secretary of State,
Agency for Environment, Forests and Landscape of Switzerland, the host
country of the Ramsar Bureau**

VIII Report of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee

a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee will introduce his report, highlighting the activities of the Standing Committee during the past triennium,

with recommendations, if necessary, for the future work of the Committee.
(Document COP8 DOC. 3)

b) The Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) will introduce his report on the activities of the Panel over the past triennium, with recommendations for the future work of the Panel. (Document COP8 DOC. 4)

19.00 - 21.30 **Welcoming function for all participants hosted by the Generalitat Valenciana (Government of the Autonomous Community of Valencia)** within the premises of the City of Arts and Sciences, where the Conference venue is located

DAY 2 – Tuesday, 19 November 2002

08.00 - 09.00 Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.30 - 13.00 **Plenary Session**

IX Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General will present a report on the implementation of the Convention's Work Plan 2000-2002 and a general overview of the implementation of the Convention, based upon the National Reports submitted by Contracting Parties. (Document COP8 DOC 5) - General discussion.

X Issues arising from Resolutions and Recommendations of previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties:

Note: all pertinent issues are now covered in the draft resolutions submitted to the COP and consequently will be considered under Agenda Item XIV

Special presentation on wetland conservation and sustainable use in Spain

XI The Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008. Introduction and first general discussion. (Document COP8 – DR 25)

XII The Convention's Work Plan 2003-2005. Introduction and first general discussion. Document COP8 – DR 26 (see note in list of COP8 documents): The implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 during the triennium 2003-2005 and National Reports for Ramsar COP9

Key issues in the work of the Convention: a special intervention by an invited speaker:

The Millennium Ecosystems Assessment and its relevance to the Ramsar Convention, by Dr. Angela Cropper, Co-Chair of the Assessment Panel

Note: This presentation will be followed by a side event on the same subject in the Plenary Hall from 13.15-14.45, with simultaneous interpretation

13.00 - 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 - 18.00 **Plenary Session**

XIII Financial report by the Chairperson of the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee and proposed budget for the triennium 2003-2005 (Document COP8 – DR 27). General discussion.

- XIV Consideration of the proposals for resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee
First discussion of the proposals that will not be considered in the Technical Sessions or elsewhere in the agenda, in order to receive suggestions for amendments and to allow the search for consensus to begin before the final drafts of the decisions come up for approval on the last day of the Conference. The following 22 draft resolutions and recommendations should be introduced under this agenda item: DR 12; DR 20 to DR 24 inclusive; and DR 28/28bis to DR 43 inclusive.
- (Note: Contracting Parties shall be able to submit new proposals during the meeting to the Conference Committee, provided that those new proposals deal with: a) urgent issues resulting from the debates during the meeting; and/or b) new developments that it was not possible to foresee in advance.)

DAY 3 – Wednesday, 20 November 2002

- 08.00 - 09.00 Meeting of the Conference Committee
- 09.30 – 12.30** **Regional Meetings to review further the implementation of the Convention in each region, the proposals submitted to the Conference, and the subjects for discussion at Technical Sessions.** A separate agenda has been prepared for these Regional Meetings:
- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Africa: | Room Arcada 1 |
| The Americas: | Plenary Hall |
| Asia: | Room Arcada 2 |
| Europe: | Auditorio |
| Oceania: | Room Ciencia 1 |
- See documents about regional implementation: COP8 DOC. 25 (Africa); COP8 DOC. 26 (Asia); COP8 DOC. 27 (Europe); COP8 DOC. 28 (Neotropics); COP8 DOC. 29 (North America); and COP8 DOC. 30 (Oceania)
- 12.30 - 15.00 Lunch break

TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The Technical Sessions during Ramsar COPs are an integral part of the programme of the Conference, but, unlike the Plenary Sessions, they do not constitute a formal sitting of the Conference in the sense that all participants, delegates of Contracting Parties and observers, participate in the discussions on an equal basis. The Technical Sessions, as the title indicates, are intended to deal with issues of great significance to the Convention from a technical perspective. The Technical Sessions discuss proposals for Resolutions and Recommendations concerning the theme under debate and may propose amendments that are then considered by the Plenary and may be adopted as part of the Conference decisions.

- 15.00 - 19.00** **Technical Session 1: Major challenges and emerging opportunities for wetlands, water and sustainability**

15.00 - 16.30 Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall:

- 1.1 A contribution to combating the global freshwater crisis: Guidelines for allocation and management of water for maintaining ecological functions (Document COP8 - DR 1)
- 1.2 The Report of the World Commission on Dams and its relevance to Ramsar (Document COP8 – DR 2)
- 1.3 Climate change and wetlands: impacts, adaptation and mitigation (COP8 – DR 3)
- 1.4 Wetland issues in integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) (Document COP8-DR 4)
- 1.5 Partnerships and synergies with multilateral environmental agreements and other institutions (COP8 – DR 5)

17.00 - 19.00 Discussion of the themes of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning each topic. This discussion will take place in four regionally-based groups:

Africa:	Room Arcada 1
The Americas:	Plenary Hall
Asia and Oceania:	Room Arcada 2
Europe:	Auditorio

All groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

20.30 Dinner for Heads of Delegation hosted by the Ministry of Environment of Spain

DAY 4 – Thursday, 21 November 2002

08.00 - 08.45 Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.00 - 13.00 Technical Session 2: Baselines for sustainable use: wetland inventory and assessment

09.00 - 10.30 Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall:

- 2.1 Improving tools for identifying wetland assets: gaps in, and harmonisation of, Ramsar guidance on wetland ecological character, inventory, assessment and monitoring and a Ramsar Framework for Wetland Inventory (Documents COP8 – DR 6; DR 7 and DOC. 16)
- 2.2 Assessing and reporting the status and trends of wetlands, and the implementation of Article 3.2 of the Convention concerning change in the ecological character of Ramsar sites (Document COP8 – DR 8)
- 2.3 Impact Assessment: CBD guidelines for incorporating biodiversity-related issues into EIA legislation and/or processes and in strategic environmental assessment, and their relevance to Ramsar (Document COP8 – DR 9)

11.00 - 13.00 Discussion of the themes of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning each topic. This discussion will take place in four regionally-based groups:

Africa:	Room Arcada 1
The Americas:	Plenary Hall
Asia and Oceania:	Room Arcada 2

Europe: Auditorio

All groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

13.00 - 15.00

Lunch break

15.00 - 19.00

Technical Session 3: Global biological diversity and sustenance of human life: the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance

15.00 - 16.30 Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall:

- 3.1 Developing new approaches to using the Ramsar List as an instrument for sustainable development (Documents COP8 DOC. 31 and COP8 – DR 10)
- 3.2 Guidelines for identification and designation of peatlands, mangroves, coral reefs and wet grasslands as Wetlands of International Importance (Document COP8 – DR 11)
- 3.3 Enhancing the information on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) (Documents COP8 – DR 13 and COP8 DOC. 33)
- 3.4 The Ramsar Data Gateway: its functions and potential (Document COP8 DOC. 34)

17.00 - 19.00 Discussion of the theme of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning the topic. This discussion will take place in four regionally-based groups:

Africa: Room Arcada 1
The Americas: Plenary Hall
Asia and Oceania: Room Arcada 2
Europe: Auditorio

All groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

20.30 - 22.00

Regional meetings to agree on recommendations to the Plenary Session on Contracting Parties to be elected to serve on the Standing Committee:

Africa: Room Arcada 1
Neotropics: Plenary Hall
Asia: Room Arcada 2
Europe: Auditorio
N. America: Room Ciencia 1
Oceania: Room Ciencia 2

DAY 5 – Friday, 22 November 2002

08.00 - 08.45

Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.00 - 13.00

Technical Session 4: Managing wetlands for sustainable use and human well-being

09.00 - 10.30 Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall:

- 4.1 Management planning for effective conservation and wise use: New Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands (Document COP8 - DR 14)
- 4.2 The San José Record of well-managed Ramsar sites (Document COP8 - DR 15)
- 4.3 Principles and guidelines for wetland restoration (Document COP8 - DR 16)
- 4.4 Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (Document COP8 - DR 17)
- 4.5 Invasive species and wetlands (Document: COP8 - DR 18)

11.00 - 13.00 Discussion of the themes of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning each topic. This discussion will take place in four regionally-based groups:

Africa:	Room Arcada 1
The Americas:	Plenary Hall
Asia and Oceania:	Room Arcada 2
Europe:	Auditorio

All groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

13.00 - 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 - 19.00 Technical Session 5: Cultural aspects of wetlands as a tool for their conservation and sustainable use

15.00 - 16.30 Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall:

- 5.1 Guiding principles on the cultural aspects of wetlands (Document COP8 – DR 19)
- 5.2 Different perspectives on culture and wetlands (audio-visual presentation)

17.00 - 19.00 Discussion of the themes of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning each topic. This discussion will take place in four regionally-based groups:

Africa:	Room Arcada 1
The Americas:	Plenary Hall
Asia and Oceania:	Room Arcada 2
Europe:	Auditorio

All groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

DAY 6 – Saturday, 23 November 2002

08.00 - 09.00 Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.30 - 13.00 Plenary Session

- XV Report of the Credentials Committee (a Ramsar COP8 document will be tabled at the meeting). As established by the Rules, the Credentials Committee will require that the credentials of the delegates of Contracting Parties be presented in English,

French or Spanish, on the appropriate letterhead, and be **signed by the Head of State or Government and/or the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or by an official legally empowered by the State concerned to accredit representatives at international meetings.**

Key issues in the work of the Convention: a special intervention by an invited speaker:

***Ramsar designation increases management effectiveness in Wetlands of International Importance*, by Gonzalo Castro, Environment Department, the World Bank (currently Team Leader for Biodiversity, GEF Secretariat)**

- XI, XII, XIII Report on the discussions in the Committee on the Strategic Plan and Work Plan, in the Committee on Finances and Budget, and the Committee on content and duration of future Ramsar COPs (if they have been established). Discussion and consensus building.
- 13.00 - 15.00 Lunch break
- 15.00 - 18.00 Plenary Session**
- XVI Reports and recommendations of the Technical Sessions
The rapporteurs of the four regionally-based discussion groups will have prepared a brief consolidated report on the conclusions regarding each one of the topics discussed in the five Technical Sessions. This will be the opportunity to address any major divergences that may have arisen, with a view to build consensus for the preparation of the final draft of the Resolutions and Recommendations to be adopted by Ramsar COP8.
- XVII Appointment of the members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)
The COP should take a decision, at least in principle, on draft Resolution COP8 – DR 28 and 28 bis on *Modus operandi* of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).
Item XVII.
- 20.30 **Dinner for participants offered by the Municipal Government of the City of Valencia**

DAY 7 – Sunday, 24 November 2002

FREE FOR EXCURSIONS, ALLOWING THE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE THE FINAL VERSIONS OF THE PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

FIVE FULL-DAY EXCURSIONS, INCLUDING LUNCH, ARE KINDLY OFFERED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY OF VALENCIA. (See brief descriptions at http://www.ramsar.org/cop8_reg_index_e.htm)

PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUESTED TO OBTAIN THE TICKET FOR THE PREFERRED EXCURSION AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION FOR THE COP.

DAY 8 – Monday, 25 November 2002

08.00 - 09.00 Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.30 - 13.00 Plenary Session

XVII Appointment of the members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).
The COP should have taken a decision, at least in principle, on draft resolution COP8 – DR 28 and 28 bis. Should the COP have rejected the proposal that STRP members should be designated by the Standing Committee on the basis of the candidates submitted by Contracting Parties, a document will be tabled with the proposal of the Standing Committee for the appointment by the COP of technical experts and scientists who will serve in their personal capacity in the STRP during the period between the close of COP8 and the close of COP9. The Standing Committee will prepare its proposal on the basis of the candidates advanced by the Contracting Parties by the deadline of 18 October 2002.

XVIII Adoption of Conference Resolutions and Recommendations

13.00 - 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 - 19.00 Plenary Session

XVIII Adoption of Conference Resolutions and Recommendations (continued)

DAY 9 – Tuesday, 26 November 2002

08.00 - 09.00 Meeting of the Conference Committee

09.30 - 13.00 Plenary Session

XVIII Adoption of Conference Resolutions and Recommendations (continued)

13.00 - 15.00 Lunch break

15.00 - 17.00 Plenary Session

XIX Election of the Contracting Parties that will serve on the Standing Committee.
On the basis of the proposals presented by the six Ramsar Regions, the Conference will elect the countries that will serve on the Standing Committee from the close of the 8th Meeting of the COP until the close of the 9th Meeting. (The new Standing Committee will meet immediately after the close of Ramsar COP8 in the Auditorio and, on the basis of the Rules of Procedure, will designate the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, as well as the countries that will serve on its Subgroup on Finance and any other subgroup that may have been established.)

XX Date and venue of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. The Conference will take a decision on the timing and venue of the 9th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties which in principle should be held in 2005, on the basis of invitations received from Contracting Parties to host the meeting. (Document COP8 DOC. 13)

XXI Any other business

XXII Adoption of the report of the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

XXIII Close of the meeting

The closing ceremony will include brief interventions by the regional groups, the Secretary General, the representatives of NGOs and possibly of other sectors, and by a representative of the Government of Spain, who will formally close the Conference.

Proposed schedule of meetings of COP Committees, if established

Committee on the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 and the Work Plan 2003-2005

Tuesday, 19 November, 08.00-09.15 (Venue: Arcada 1) and 18.15-22.00 (Venue: Auditorio)

Wednesday, 20 November, 08.00-09.15 (Venue: Arcada 1) and 19.15-22.00 (Venue: Auditorio)

Thursday, 21 November, 08.00-09.14 (Venue: Arcada 1) and 13.15-14.45 (Venue: Auditorio)

Friday, 22 November, 13.15-14.45 and 19.15-22.00 (Venue: Auditorio)

Given the importance of this Committee, the Bureau has arranged simultaneous interpretation facilities for its meetings, according to the proposed schedule.

Committee on Finances and Budget

Tuesday, 19 November, 18.15-22.00 – Venue: Arcada 3B

Wednesday, 20 November, 19.15-22.00 – Venue: Arcada 3B

Other meetings should be agreed by the Committee, if so required.

Committee on content and duration of future Ordinary Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

Tuesday, 19 November, 18.15-22.00 – Venue: Ciencia 2

Other meetings should be agreed by the Committee, if so required.

Proposed schedule of meetings of the Contact Groups, if established

Contact Group on COP8 – DR 1 (water allocation) and COP8 - DR 2 (WCD Report)

Tuesday, 19 November, 08.00 – 09.15 and 13.15 – 14.45

Room Ciencia 2

Contact Group on COP8 – DR 18 (invasive species)

Tuesday, 19 November, 08.00 – 09.15; 13.15 – 14.45; and 18.15 – 22.00

Room Ciencia 4

Contact Group on COP8 – DR 3 Climate change

Tuesday, 19 November, 13.15 – 14.45 and 18.15 – 22.00

Room Ciencia 3

Contact Group on COP8 – DR 14 (management planning) and COP8 – DR 15 (San José Record)

Tuesday, 19 November, 08.00 – 09.15 and 20.15 – 22.30

Room Arcada 1

Contact Group on COP8 DR 28 /28 bis (STRP *modus operandi*)

Tuesday, 19 November, 18.15 – 22.00

Room Arcada 3A

Contact Group on COP8 DR 10 (Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List) and associated draft resolutions

Wednesday, 20 November, 08.00 – 09.15 and 20.15 – 22.00

Room Arcada 2

Contact Group on COP8 DR 19 (cultural issues)

Wednesday, 20 November, 08.00 – 09.15; 13.15 – 14.45; and 18.15 – 22.00

Room Ciencia 4

Contact Group on COP8 DR 34 (agriculture)

Wednesday, 20 November, 08.00 – 09.15 and Thursday, 21 November, 08.00 – 09.15

Room Ciencia 2

All Contact Groups should function in English and this should be the language for drafting, unless the majority of those present at a particular session decides otherwise.