

**CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

**30<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee  
Gland, Switzerland, 13-16 January 2004**

**DOC. SC30-9**

**Agenda item 9.2**

**Criteria and Procedures for the COP9 Ramsar Wetland  
Conservation Award**

***Actions requested:* The Standing Committee is requested to review the attached document and**

- a) to consider and approve the Criteria and Procedures for the COP9 Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award;**
- b) to receive the generous offer of the Danone Group (France) of three grants of US\$ 10,000 (the Evian Special Prize) to complement the Ramsar Award and to take a decision on whether or not to accept this offer;**
- c) to consider and approve the proposed calendar for the COP9 Ramsar Award process.**

**Background**

1. The Award was established by Ramsar COP6 (1997), by Resolution VI.18, as follows:

“THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

3. DECIDES to establish the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award;
  4. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to consider the financial implications of this decision and to investigate the operation of the Award, taking into account the following principles:
    - a) the Award shall be presented every three years on the occasion of each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
    - b) nominations for the Award shall be submitted to the Secretary General and the selection shall be made by the Standing Committee;
    - c) nominees may be individuals, organizations or government agencies; and
  5. REQUESTS the Standing Committee, if possible, to arrange for the presentation of the Award for the first time at the 7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in 1999 or, if this is not possible, to report to the 7th Meeting of the Conference.”
2. The Award was given for the first time at Ramsar COP7 in 1999, and for the second time at COP8 in 2002, in accordance with the Criteria and Procedures adopted by the Standing Committee at its 20th meeting in 1997 and at its 25th meeting in 2000, respectively. In both instances, it was accompanied by the Evian Special Prize (US\$ 10,000 per prize).

3. At its 20th meeting, the Standing Committee decided to bestow the Award upon one individual, one government agency, and one non-governmental organization. The Award was accordingly given in 1999 to the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program, Canada (government agency); to Mr V. Pulido, Peru, and Prof. V. Krikenko, Russia (sharing the Award in the "individual" category); and to the Society for the Protection of Prespa, Greece, and the Lake Naivasha Riparian Association, Kenya (sharing the Award in the NGO category).
4. In 2002, the Ramsar Award was given to a private company in Australia (Banrock Station Wines), a government agency in India (The Chilika Development Authority), and a consortium of NGOs in Central Europe (The NGO Trinational Initiative for the Morava-Dyje Floodplain).

### **COP9 Ramsar Award**

5. The attached document contains the draft Criteria and Procedures as suggested for the COP9 Award.
6. As part of the Evian Project, the Danone Group (France) has generously renewed its offer to provide three grants of US\$ 10.000.- each to complement the Ramsar Award under the name of "Evian Special Prize".
7. With reference to item 4.b) of Resolution VI.18, it is suggested that the Standing Committee serve as a jury for the Wetland Conservation Award, screening the Secretariat's list of nominations and recommendations and making a decision on the laureates at its 31st meeting.
8. As was done on previous occasions, the Secretariat will distribute widely the Criteria and Procedures (with a nomination form), mainly via its Web site and Ramsar Forum, and on paper when appropriate.
9. The following is the proposed calendar for the Ramsar Award process:
  - Posting and mailing of the call for nominations by 31 May 2004, with a deadline for nominations on 30 October 2004;
  - Analysis of the candidatures by the Secretariat, to be finalized for submission to the Standing Committee in time for its next meeting;
  - Standing Committee acting as the Jury meets and chooses the laureates;
  - The Award is presented at the opening of Ramsar COP9 in November 2005.

# Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award

## Criteria and Procedures

### Selection criteria

1. One Ramsar Award shall be awarded for each of the following areas:
  - a) The “**Ramsar Management Award**” supported by Danone Evian, rewarding actions – including legislation, strategies, plans, programmes, projects, investments, and campaigns – that have significantly contributed, or have a clear potential to contribute, to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, especially as means of alleviating poverty (COP 9 theme);
  - b) The “**Ramsar Science Award**” supported by Danone Evian, rewarding contributions to the advancement of wetland science;
  - c) The “**Ramsar Education Award**” supported by Danone Evian, rewarding the best initiative for communication, education and public awareness on Wetlands of International Importance

### Eligibility

2. Institutions and citizens of all nations are invited to nominate individuals<sup>1</sup> or institutions – governmental and non-governmental, including community groups – or private sector enterprises, of any nation.

### Nominations Procedure

3. Nominations should be submitted to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in English, French or Spanish, using the Ramsar Award form available from the Ramsar Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland, and on the Ramsar Web site ([http://ramsar.org/key\\_award\\_form\\_e.htm](http://ramsar.org/key_award_form_e.htm)), accompanied by the necessary supporting documentation.
4. The deadline for this round of the Ramsar Award was fixed at 30 October 2004. This date shall be final.

### Selection Procedure

5. The Ramsar Secretariat shall process the nominations received and submit them for the consideration of the Ramsar Standing Committee. The Standing Committee shall select the laureates. Its decision shall be final.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that, in the case of individuals, the Ramsar Standing Committee at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting (1997) has decided that the Award will not be given *in memoriam*.

### **Announcement and Presentation of the Award**

6. The announcement of the laureates on each occasion shall be made through a press release as soon as all of them have confirmed their acceptance of the award.
7. The Ramsar Award will be presented at the opening ceremony of the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and every effort will be made to ensure the presence of all laureates.

### **Cash rewards**

8. For the 2005 laureates, each of the Ramsar Awards will be complemented by the Evian Special Prize of US\$ 10.000 kindly offered by the Danone Group for work which contributes to the effectiveness of the Convention on Wetlands.