

Agenda item 7

**Criteria and Procedures for the COP11 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 COP11 Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award;
- b) to note the provisional calendar for the COP11 Ramsar Award process.

Background

1. The Award was established by the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP6, 1996) 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, for the second time at COP8 in 2002, for the third time at COP9 in 2005, and for the fourth time at COP10 in 2008. Each time, it was accompanied by the Evian Special Prize (US\$ 10,000 per prize) generously provided by the Danone Group. The Secretariat anticipates that the funding from Danone/Evian for the Evian Special Prize will be renewed for COP11, and the final decision about the renewal will be communicated as soon as a new agreement with Danone/Evian has been signed.
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. Krivenko, 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 Trilateral Initiative for the Morava-Dyje Floodplain). A Recognition of Excellence was bestowed upon Dr Monique Coulet (France) and Dr Max Finlayson (Australia).
5. In 2005, the Ramsar Award was given in the three categories of Management (to Dr Sh.A. Nezami Baloochi, Iran), Science (to Prof. Shuming Cai, China), and Education (to Ms Reiko Nakamura, Japan, and The Wetlands Centre, Australia).
6. In 2008, the Ramsar Award was given in the categories of Management (to Mr Denis Landenbergue, Switzerland), Science (to Mr David Pritchard, United Kingdom), and Education (to Dr Sansanee Choowaew, Thailand), and a Recognition of Excellence was awarded to Dr Jan Květ (Czech Republic).

COP11 Ramsar Award

7. The attached document contains the draft Criteria and Procedures as suggested for the Ramsar Award for the 11th Meeting of the Parties in 2012.
8. The Secretariat proposes that the Award be given once again under the three categories of Management, Science, and Education. The guidelines have been amended to make the nominations as much as possible relevant to the Ramsar Convention, its principles and guidelines.
9. With reference to item 4.b) of Resolution VI.18, it is suggested that the Subgroup on COP11 of the Standing Committee be requested to serve as a jury for the Wetland Conservation Award, screening the Secretariat’s list of nominations and recommendations and making a recommendation on the laureates to be approved by the full Standing Committee.
10. 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.
11. The following is the provisional calendar for the Ramsar Award process:
 - **Posting and mailing of the call for nominations** by January 2011 with a deadline for nominations on 30 April 2011;
 - **Analysis of the candidatures** by the Secretariat, to be finalized for submission to the COP11 Subgroup of Standing Committee at its meeting before SC43 at the end of 2011;
 - **Standing Committee Subgroup on COP11 acting as the Jury meets** and recommends the laureates to the full Standing Committee at SC43; Standing Committee makes the final decisions.

- **The Award is presented** at the opening of Ramsar COP11.

Annex: Criteria and Procedures for the Ramsar Award 2012



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 – such as projects, programmes, plans, policies and strategies – that have significantly contributed to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, at specific wetlands (including Ramsar sites) or through planning and management at a broader scale;
 - b) The “**Ramsar Wetland Science Award**”, supported by Danone Evian, rewarding internationally recognized contributions to the advancement of wetland science;
 - c) The “**Ramsar Education Award**”, supported by Danone Evian, rewarding the best initiative for communication, education, participation and awareness about Wetlands of International Importance, with a focus on initiatives which demonstrate effective participation of local communities and the resulting capacity building outcomes.

Eligibility

2. Institutions and citizens of all nations are invited to nominate individuals¹ or institutions – governmental and non-governmental, including community groups – or private sector enterprises, of any nation.

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

3. The Ramsar Award will be given to individuals or institutions with a proven record of achievements in one or other of the three areas above. Nominees should have contributed significantly to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. Special consideration will be given to those initiatives which might serve as inspirational and practical examples for others, and are replicable.
4. These achievements should relate directly to implementation of the Ramsar Convention, in any of the above areas or at local, provincial, national, regional or global levels.
5. Self nominations cannot be accepted.

Nominations Procedure

6. 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://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-awards/main/ramsar/1-63-67_4000_0__), accompanied by the necessary supporting documentation.
7. Nominations must be accompanied by two letters of recommendation from individuals (not including the nominator) who can assess the nominee's contributions, and who can be contacted by the evaluation panel.
8. The deadline for this round of the Ramsar Award has been fixed at 30 April 2011. This date shall be final.

Selection Procedure

9. The Ramsar Secretariat will evaluate the nominations received and submit recommendations for the consideration of the Ramsar Standing Committee. The Standing Committee will select the laureates, and its decision will be final.
10. In undertaking this evaluation, the Secretariat may seek the advice of, *inter alia*, members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) or the CEPA Oversight Panel, and others, as appropriate.

Announcement and Presentation of the Award

11. The announcement of the laureates will be made through an announcement on the Ramsar Web site as soon as all of them have confirmed their acceptance of the Award.
12. The Ramsar Award will be presented at the opening ceremony of the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (2012) and every effort will be made to ensure the presence of all laureates.

How to obtain a nomination form

The nomination forms for the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award can be downloaded from the Ramsar Web site at the following location: http://www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-awards/main/ramsar/1-63-67_4000_0__, or obtained electronically or in hard copy from

The Ramsar Convention Secretariat
Rue Mauverney 28, CH-1196 Gland, Switzerland
fax: +41 22 999 01 69,
e-mail: award@ramsar.org.

The deadline for receipt of nominations shall be 30 April 2011, preferably by e-mail. Nominations received after this date will not be considered.

Please note that the receipt of nominations will be acknowledged but that no further communication will take place unless further information is requested, or the nominee has been selected to receive the Award.

Announcement of the laureates will be made on the Ramsar Web site in due course.