

NOTIFICATION 1998 / 7

Next Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee 19 to 24 October 1998

The Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) presents its compliments and has the honour to refer to the following:

The Standing Committee will meet at IUCN Headquarters, seat of the Ramsar Bureau, in Gland, Switzerland, from 19 to 24 October 1998. The primary purpose of this meeting will be to review the preparations for the Seventh Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP7), which will take place in Costa Rica from 10 to 18 May 1999.

In accordance with Decision 20.36 of the 20th Meeting of the Standing Committee, it is planned that one day at least (Monday 19 October) will be dedicated to meetings of the various sub-groups of the Standing Committee. The final agenda of the meeting remains to be confirmed. This document, together with the full programme, will be made available to members and alternates of the Standing Committee, and to those countries which have expressed an interest in attending, as soon as they have been finalised.

Elected members of the Standing Committee are: Germany, Hungary (Chair), Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, the United States, and Uruguay (Vice Chair). The Alternate Members are: Canada, France, the Islamic Republic of Iran, New Zealand, Panama, the Russian Federation, and Uganda. Australia, as host of the last Conference, and Costa Rica, as host of the next Conference, are also voting members. The Netherlands and Switzerland have the status of Permanent Observers. NGO partners (BirdLife International, IUCN, Wetlands International, and WWF International) are also invited to attend.

All other Contracting Parties are entitled to attend as observers. The Bureau will be grateful if Contracting Parties would notify their intention to participate in that capacity by 31 August 1998, so that working papers may be dispatched to them in due time. It should be noted that, due to financial constraints, the deliberations of the Standing Committee are carried out in English only, and that working papers for the Standing Committee are similarly produced in that language only.

The Bureau of the Convention on Wetlands respectfully requests that the content of the present Note be communicated to the competent national authorities and avails itself of this opportunity to renew the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 22 July 1998