

Notification 1999 / 4

Implementation of three COP7 Resolutions

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

The Bureau respectfully invites Contracting Parties to take action, as a matter of priority, on the following three Resolutions adopted at the 7th Conference of the Contracting Parties held in San José, Costa Rica, from 10-18 May 1999, so as to initiate as soon as possible the process of implementing the important decisions adopted by Ramsar COP7:

1) Resolution VII.27 on The Convention Work Plan 2000-2002

The Convention Work Plan adopted by the Conference includes specific targets for the full application of the Ramsar Strategic Plan in the triennium 2000-2002. It is in this direction that paragraph 12 of the Resolution “*INVITES Contracting Parties to consider preparing and adopting by the end of 1999 ‘National targets for the Ramsar Strategic Plan for the period 2000-2002’ on the basis of consultative processes involving National Wetland/Ramsar Committees, or similar bodies, and taking into consideration those targets set in the Convention Work Plan 2000-2002 and the subsequently determined regional targets.*” (see paragraph 11 of the Resolution concerning regional targets).

The Bureau would also like to call the attention of Contracting Parties to paragraph 17 of the same Resolution, which “*FURTHER URGES Contracting Parties, pursuant to Action 8.1.10 of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002, to review their designated national Administrative Authority for the Convention to ensure these have the necessary resources to support the increasing demands being placed upon them by the growing expectations of the Convention.*”

2) Resolution VII.2 on Composition and *modus operandi* of the Convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP).

Paragraph 8 a) “*invites each Contracting Party to nominate by the end of October 1999 a suitably qualified technical expert from that country to act as focal point for STRP matters and, as appropriate, to provide input to the work of the STRP either directly or through liaison with other suitably qualified experts.*” This request does not apply to those Contracting Parties which have a resident member of the STRP in their territory, as indicated in Paragraph 13 of the Resolution.

Contracting Parties are invited to use the attached form for such a nomination and to forward it to the Bureau either directly from the Ramsar Administrative Authority or through diplomatic channels. It should be noted that national focal points for STRP will not be automatically invited to attend STRP meetings, and that their contributions would be made mostly through correspondence or through direct contact with the STRP member(s) from each Ramsar Region.

3) Resolution VII.9 on the Convention's Outreach Programme.

Paragraph 7 *“REQUESTS all Contracting Parties, in accordance with the Outreach Programme, to nominate, by 31 December 1999, suitable Government and Non-Government Focal Points for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) to undertake the functions therein specified.”*

Contracting Parties are invited to use the second attached form for such nominations and to forward them to the Bureau either directly from the Ramsar Administrative Authority or through diplomatic channels. The expectations of these CEPA Focal Points are given in paragraphs 14 and 18 of the Outreach Programme 1999-2002 as annexed to Resolution VII.9.

In addition, the Bureau is pleased to include a list with the composition of the new Standing Committee of the Convention. The 1999 meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled for the week commencing 29 November, at the Ramsar Bureau in Gland, Switzerland. All Contracting Parties may attend the Standing Committee meetings as observers. The agenda for the 1999 meeting will be transmitted to Contracting Parties by the end of September 1999.

The Conference Report and the final text of the rest of the resolutions and recommendations adopted at Ramsar COP7 will be transmitted to Contracting Parties in the very near future. In the meantime, as soon as text is finalized in any of the three official languages, the documents are being posted in the Ramsar Web site: <http://ramsar.org>

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, 28 June 1999

- Encls: 1) Resolutions VII.27, VII.2 and VII.9
2) Attachment 1 – form for nomination of STRP national focal point
3) Attachment 2 – form for nomination of CEPA national focal points
4) Attachment 3 - Composition of Standing Committee list