

Notification 1999 / 6

7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties: the Conference Report, Resolutions and Recommendations, actions arising and List of Participants

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

The Ramsar Convention Bureau is pleased to enclose the Conference Report and photocopies of the 30 Resolutions and 4 Recommendations adopted by the 7th Conference of the Contracting Parties held in San José, Costa Rica, from 10-18 May 1999. The official list of participants is also enclosed.

In the near future the Bureau will produce a printed version of the COP7 decisions. Several of these decisions - those containing guidelines and other significant annexes - will be printed as a series of separate handbooks to facilitate their use in the implementation of the Convention.

The Bureau respectfully invites Contracting Parties to take action, as a matter of priority, on the following four Resolutions, which contain specific requests for information to be provided to the Ramsar Bureau.:

1) Resolution VII.14 on Invasive species and wetlands

Paragraph 14 “INVITES Contracting Parties to provide the Ramsar Bureau with information on databases which exist for invasive species, information on invasive species which pose a threat to wetlands and wetland species, and information on the control and eradication of invasive wetland species;” In addition, the Bureau would also like to call the attention of Contracting Parties to paragraph 17 of the same Resolution which *“INVITES Contracting Parties to make voluntary contributions to support the activities of the Ramsar Bureau and STRP outlined in this Resolution, noting that the implementation of this Resolution is subject to the availability of adequate financial and human resources;”*

Contracting Parties are invited to consider these two requests, and to provide appropriate advice to the Bureau by no later than 5 November 1999 so that it may be taken into consideration by the 24th meeting of the Standing Committee in early December when determining priority actions to be undertaken by the Bureau. If possible, the Bureau would prefer to receive such materials in both hard copy and electronic format to facilitate their placement on the World Wide Web site of the Convention.

2) Resolution VII.15 on Incentive measures to encourage the application of the wise use principle

Paragraph 14 “FURTHER CALLS UPON Contracting Parties and others to share their experiences and lessons learned with respect to incentive measures and perverse incentives relating to wetlands, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources generally, by providing these to the Ramsar Bureau for appropriate distribution and to be made available through the Wise Use Resource Centre of the Convention’s Web site;”

Contracting Parties are invited to respond to this request by forwarding to the Bureau by 31 December 1999 any resource materials, guidelines, case studies or similar documentation relating to the application of incentive measures for wetland, biodiversity and sustainable natural resource management. By preference the Bureau would appreciate receiving such materials in both hard copy and electronic format to facilitate its placement on the World Wide Web site of the Convention.

3) Resolution VII.19 on Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention

Paragraph 12 of this Resolution “*INVITES Contracting Parties to provide the resources needed to expand the internship programme of the Ramsar Bureau as a high-priority training tool for the citizens of developing countries and those with economies in transition;*”. This same Resolution, through paragraph 14 “*REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau, with assistance from Contracting Parties and the Convention’s International Organization Partners, to gather and disseminate model Codes of Conduct for the business sector undertaking activities in association with wetlands.*”.

Contracting Parties are invited to consider these two requests, and to provide appropriate advice to the Bureau by no later than 31 December 1999 with respect to both possible support for the internship programme and the provision of model voluntary Codes of Conduct for the business sector. By preference the Bureau would appreciate receiving such model Codes of Conduct in both hard copy and electronic format to facilitate their further dissemination and placement on the World Wide Web site of the Convention.

4) Resolution VII.23 on Issues concerning boundary definitions of Ramsar sites and compensation of wetland habitats

Paragraph 13 of this Resolution “*URGES those Contracting Parties or organizations with experience in issues of urgent national interest or similar determinations and habitat compensation and mitigation issues to provide any relevant information and materials to the Ramsar Bureau for consideration by the Standing Committee by no later than 30 September 1999.*”

Contracting Parties are therefore kindly invited to forward to the Bureau by 30 September 1999 (as specified above) any information or relevant resource materials relating to the issues specified above.

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, 27 July 1999

Encls:

- 1) COP7 Conference Report
- 2) Resolutions and Recommendations
- 3) COP7 Participants List