

## Notification 2000 / 2

### National planning tool –

### National Report format for the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

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

The Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) entered into force on 21 December 1975. To date, 119 States have become Contracting Parties.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP8) will be held in Spain in the year 2002. In accordance with established practice, all Contracting Parties will be expected to submit a National Report, at least six months in advance of the COP, describing the actions that they have taken to implement the Convention since COP7 (San José, Costa Rica, May 1999).

Resolution VII.27 from COP7 included the following operative paragraph relating to the National Reporting process leading up to COP8: The Conference of the Parties

13. REQUESTS the Standing Committee, at its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, to review the National Report format used for COP7 and to introduce appropriate changes with a view to making the Ramsar COP8 format available in early 2000, so that Contracting Parties wishing to apply this framework can establish and maintain at the earliest opportunity an ongoing record of implementation for national planning and reporting purposes;

At its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in December 1999 the Standing Committee considered this request and subsequently adopted the present format for National Reports for COP8.

The Ramsar Bureau is pleased to attached the approved format in hard copy. The electronic version is being sent directly to the Administrative Authority in the country, except in those cases in which the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acts as Administrative Authority. Consistent with the above operative paragraph from Resolution VII.27, the format is being distributed well in advance of the next COP to allow Contracting Parties the opportunity to use the National Report format **immediately** as an ongoing national planning tool for implementation of the Convention. The background section of the attached document describes this process in more detail, and provides early advice regarding the timing and means for submitting National Reports.

/National Reports....

National Reports are considered as an official status report by each Contracting Party on its implementation of the Ramsar Convention Work Plan 2000-2002, approved by Resolution VII.27. It is therefore desirable that the National Report be prepared in consultation with all relevant government ministries, National Ramsar Committees (or similar bodies) where they exist, and other appropriate institutions and interest groups. They should be submitted to the Ramsar Bureau under the authority of the Minister responsible for Ramsar matters or the Head of the designated Administrative Authority for the Ramsar Convention.

*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, 10 March 2000

Enclosures:

National Planning Tool - Format for COP8 National Reports