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8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Ramsar COP8) Valencia, Spain, 18-26 November 2002

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

The Ramsar Bureau is pleased to enclose a first group of documents as per the attached "List of Documents for Ramsar COP8". A copy of this mailing is being addressed to the Ramsar Administrative Authority in each country. Additional copies will be dispatched to delegates registering before 30 October 2002, provided that they request this on their registration forms.

The Bureau calls the attention of Contracting Parties to the fact that registration forms and information on hotel reservations, exhibitions and other practical information related to COP8 have already been distributed under Diplomatic Note 2002/6 dated 10 May 2002, with copy to the Administrative Authority in each country. This information is also available on the Ramsar Web Site at http://ramsar.org/cop8_reg_index_e.htm.

The draft resolutions included in this mailing are those proposed by the Standing Committee. The Bureau takes this opportunity to remind Contracting Parties that, according to the Rules of Procedure, the deadline for submission of draft resolutions and recommendations by Contracting Parties is 16 September 2002. The Bureau will accept as valid all draft proposals received by post, fax or e-mail until 9 a.m. local time in Switzerland on 17 September 2002.

The second and final mailing of Ramsar COP8 documents will be done on 16 October 2002. This mailing will include all draft proposals received as per the previous paragraph.

Contracting Parties are invited to note that the present mailing contains the **invitation to submit** candidates for election to serve on the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP). The candidatures should arrive at the Ramsar Bureau not later than 16 October 2002.

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, 16 August 2002

Encls.