

Notification 2002 / 3

Agendas for the Meetings of the Standing Committee Subgroups on Finance and on COP8

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

Contracting Parties will be aware that the Standing Committee delegated to its Subgroups on COP8 and on Finance the finalization of documentation for the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Subgroups will be meeting in Gland, Switzerland, as follows: the Subgroup on Finance on 15 May 2002 and the Subgroup on COP8 on 15 and 16 May 2002.

Since it was decided that the meeting of the two Subgroups shall be open meetings, all Contracting Parties are entitled to attend as observers.

The Ramsar Bureau would be grateful if Contracting Parties wishing to attend the meeting as Observers would notify their intention to participate in that capacity **by 15 April 2002**, so that working papers may be dispatched when finalised. The working documents can also be consulted on the Ramsar Web site from 15 April 2002.

It should be noted that, due to financial constraints, the working papers for these meetings, with the exception of the draft agendas, are produced in English only. Simultaneous interpretation in the three official languages (English, French and Spanish) will be provided to the meeting of the Subgroup on COP8 thanks to generous support from Spain.

Likewise, financial constraints prevent the Bureau from providing financial support to assist Observer states in attending. Such support can only be offered to the voting members of the Standing Committee from developing countries and those in economic transition.

Those Contracting Parties which are unable to attend the meeting as Observers are invited to note the enclosed Agenda and, as appropriate, offer views and opinions on the issues and matters under discussion to the Regional Representative(s) from their region, or to transmit them to the Ramsar Bureau.

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 to the Permanent Mission of ... the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 12 March 2002

Encl: Draft Agendas