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Ramsar Convention Draft Strategic Plan 2003-2008

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:

The Ramsar Bureau is pleased to include a copy of a document to be considered at the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Ramsar COP8) to be held in Valencia, Spain, 16-28 November 2002. Document Ramsar COP8 - DR 25 contains the draft Strategic Plan 2003-2008.

As decided by the Standing Committee, and explained in detail in the introductory pages, the document has been printed and is distributed so much in advance of the COP because Contracting Parties are invited to analyse the draft with a view to establishing "Provisional National Targets" for the implementation of the new Strategic Plan in the triennium 2003-2005. These provisional national targets should be submitted to the Ramsar Bureau **by 31 August 2002**, so that the Bureau can use them as the basis to prepare global targets to be included in the Convention's Work Plan 2003-2005, which should be adopted by COP8.

The Ramsar Administrative Authority in each country is being sent five copies of the printed document and can request up to 20 additional copies from the Ramsar Bureau. It is hoped that these copies will be used for distribution to National Ramsar/Wetland Committees, where they exist, and other key stakeholders in each country in a process of wide consultation to establish the Provisional National Targets. If more than 25 copies are required, the Administrative Authority should photocopy the document, or download it from the Ramsar web site at: http://ramsar.org/cop8_docs_index_e.htm

The Ramsar Administrative Authority is also being provided with an electronic form on diskette which lists the Strategic Plan's Operational Objectives and Actions. This is to facilitate transmittal of Provisional National Targets to the Bureau by the deadline of 31 August 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 to the Permanent Mission of ... the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 10 April 2002

Encl: Draft Strategic Plan