

NOTIFICATION 2004 / 5

Annual Contributions 2005

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

With reference to the adoption by the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Valencia, 2002) of the Convention budget and the scale of national contributions, the Secretariat has prepared the invoices for the payment of contributions. Such an invoice for the year 2005 is attached.

Contracting Parties will be aware that annual contributions to the Ramsar budget are calculated on the basis of the percentage contributions paid by Member States to the UN budget.

You may recall that the Secretariat was unable to receive the UN scale of assessments for the year 2004 until December 2003, which for many Contracting Parties was too late in the budget cycle to include the annual contributions to the Secretariat in their respective Departments' budget. The 2003 UN scale of assessment was consequently utilised for the year 2004. Since publication of the UN scale of assessments for 2004, it is clear there are some variations in the rate of contribution from some Contracting Parties, which have caused a reduction or an increase in the percentage used in the 2004 invoice. This difference is now reflected in the attached invoice for the year 2005. Contracting Parties who are also members of MedWet will note that their MedWet contributions are itemised separately, but included in the total assessment.

In accordance with the Ramsar financial rules, the invoices have been prepared in Swiss francs. Reflecting decision 17.5 of the Standing Committee, Contracting Parties are therefore urged, whenever possible, to effect their payments in Swiss francs. In accordance with Ramsar rules, Contracting Parties are invited to pay the attached invoice by 1 January 2005. Contracting Parties in arrears are respectfully requested to settle accounts as quickly as possible, to enable the Convention to discharge its activities effectively.

Contracting Parties are kindly asked to transfer their contributions to the Convention account with the bank UBS in Lausanne, Switzerland:

Ramsar/IUCN Account Nos: 333.603.01.C. (CHF) or 333.603.60.R. (USD) or 333.603.61H (EUR).

The Secretariat 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 «salut» the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 17 June 2004

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