

Notification 2004 / 6

Meeting of the Standing Committee Subgroups on COP9 and Finance

The Secretariat 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 decided at its 30th meeting that “the Subgroups may be convened early in 2005 to assess progress and prepare decisions for SC31. In particular, the Standing Committee delegated the Subgroup on Finance to make selections for the 2004 cycle of Small Grants Fund project proposals, based upon comments offered by Standing Committee members following circulation by the Secretariat of the nomination materials” (Decision SC30-20).

After consultation with the Chairpersons of the Standing Committee, the Subgroup on COP9 and the Subgroup on Finance, the Secretariat is pleased to inform Contracting Parties that the Subgroups will be meeting in Gland, Switzerland, from 7 to 10 March 2005. A provisional programme/draft agenda is attached. The Subgroups will meet both separately and jointly during these days, which will allow close interaction on related issues.

Since it was decided that the meeting of the two Subgroups shall be open meetings, except where the Chair decides otherwise, all Contracting Parties are entitled to attend as observers, at their own expense.

The Ramsar Secretariat would be grateful if Contracting Parties wishing to attend the meeting as observers would notify their intention to participate in that capacity **by 20 January 2005**. The working documents will be available on the Ramsar Web site from early February. Paper copies will not be sent.

It should be noted that, due to financial constraints, the working papers for these meetings, with the exception of the draft agendas, will be produced in English only, and that the meeting will be conducted in English.

Likewise, financial constraints prevent the Secretariat from providing financial support to assist states that are not members of the Subgroups to attend.

Those Contracting Parties 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 directly to the Secretary General.

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

Gland, 21 December 2004

Encl: Draft Agenda