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:

**COP9 Documentation**
The Ramsar Secretariat is pleased to advise that a complete set of draft Resolutions for COP9, approved by the Standing Committee, are now available at [http://www.ramsar.org/cop9_docs_index_e.htm#dr](http://www.ramsar.org/cop9_docs_index_e.htm#dr) in English, and progressively in French and Spanish. A CD-ROM containing all these documents and associated information will be despatched to each Contracting Party shortly, following completion of translation of the documents.

The draft Resolutions included in this mailing are those proposed by the Standing Committee. The Secretariat takes this opportunity to remind Contracting Parties that, according to the Rules of Procedure, the absolute and final deadline for submission by Contracting Parties of draft Resolutions and Recommendations is 9 September 2005. The Secretariat will accept as valid all draft proposals received by post, fax or e-mail until 0900hrs European summer time on 10 September 2005.

Contracting Parties are, however, reminded that in Decision SG COP9-2, the Subgroup on COP9, working on the advice of the Subgroup on Resolution VIII.45, decided that the procedure for handling draft Resolutions for COP9 should be as follows: “the Secretariat [to]send a diplomatic notification to the Parties requesting them to submit all draft Resolutions for COP9 to the Standing Committee in advance of its 31st meeting, and the Secretariat to circulate all such draft Resolutions with technical content to the STRP for review and advice for the SC and COP.” This advice was transmitted to all Contracting Parties in Notification 2005/3 of 21 March 2005. In conformity with this advice, therefore, any late draft Resolutions should deal with only the most urgent issues, and not those which could have been considered by Standing Committee at its recent meeting.

The second and final mailing of Ramsar COP9 documents will be on 8 October 2005. This mailing will be also in the form of a CD-ROM, which will also include COP9 Information Papers and any draft Resolutions submitted by Parties in line with the Rules of Procedure noted above.

**Registration for COP9**
The Secretariat calls the attention of Contracting Parties to the fact that COP9 registration forms and initial information on hotel reservations and other practical information related to COP9 have already been distributed under Diplomatic Note 2005/4 of 25 May 2005, with copy to the Administrative Authority in each country. This information, plus further information on, *inter alia*, exhibition space and side events, is also available on the Ramsar Web Site at: [http://www.ramsar.org/index_cop9_e.htm](http://www.ramsar.org/index_cop9_e.htm).
Ministerial Dialogue
Contracting Parties are also invited to note that the Government of Uganda has proposed to hold an informal dialogue among Ministers present at COP9, on 12 November, the day of the Technical Sessions. This dialogue will examine, *inter alia*, the proposed Kampala Declaration, which will also be considered during the Technical Sessions. Any enquiries concerning this proposed dialogue should be directed to the Government of Uganda, mafabip@ugandawetlands.org

International Course on African Wetland Management
Finally, Contracting Parties, especially those in Africa, are advised that the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute is holding its International Course on African Wetland management from 12 October to 22 November 2005. Participants from the course will attend some of COP9 as part of the course. Details are available through www.kws.org.

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, 2 August 2005