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The 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and Preparation of National Reports

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:

The Ramsar Secretariat is pleased to confirm that the 10th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (Ramsar COP10) will be held in Changwon, Republic of Korea, **from 28 October to 4 November 2008.** The theme of COP10 is "Healthy Wetlands, Healthy People".

The Provisional Agenda for Ramsar COP10 is attached. The Ramsar Secretariat welcomes comments and suggestions on the agenda. The draft agenda will be reviewed by the Standing Committee of the Convention at its 36th Meeting, to be held in Gland, Switzerland, from 25 to 29 February 2008.

The Secretariat draws the attention of Contracting Parties to the Rules of Procedure concerning submission of Draft Resolutions. The deadline for submission is 40 days before the Standing Committee Meeting that can approve such Draft Resolutions. The 37th Meeting of the Standing Committee is scheduled for 2-6 June 2008, and therefore Draft Resolutions should reach the Secretariat by 22 April 2008 at the latest.

National Reports

Following decisions of the Standing Committee, the COP10 National Report Form has been significantly simplified compared with the format used for reporting to COP9 and earlier COPs. The Secretariat is sending a CD-ROM containing the new National Report Form directly to Administrative Authorities of all Contracting Parties. The form can also be downloaded from the Convention Web site at: http://www.ramsar.org/cop10/cop10_nrform_e.doc, or can be requested from the Secretariat.

As has been the practice for previous Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat requests the submission of National Reports from the Contracting Parties concerning their implementation of the Convention. It is important that Parties meet <u>the deadline for submission of the National Reports</u>, which is 31 <u>March 2008</u>, so that the Secretariat can complete its analyses of the status of implementation for circulation to the Parties with the agenda papers in advance of COP10.

Contracting Parties are reminded that the National Reports should be submitted in electronic form, by e-mail or on a CD-ROM.

Finally, the Secretariat reminds the Parties that National Reports are an official status report by each Contracting Party on its implementation of the Ramsar Convention and that these reports will be available to the public.

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, 10 October 2007

Encl: Draft Agenda for Ramsar COP10