

Notification 2007 / 8

**36th Meeting of the Ramsar Convention Standing Committee
25-29 February 2008**

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:

Preparations for the 36th meeting of the Standing Committee

The Secretariat is pleased to inform that the 36th Meeting of the Standing Committee will be held at the Secretariat in Gland, Switzerland, from 25 to 29 February 2008, with meetings of the Subgroups on COP10, Finance, the Strategic Plan, and of the Management Working Group scheduled on 25 and 26 February 2008. A preliminary Programme for the meeting and the lists of voting members of the Standing Committee and the Subgroup members are enclosed.

Contracting Parties that are not members of the Standing Committee are welcome to attend as observers and, as indicated by COP7 Resolution VII.1 (paragraph 13), "countries which are not Contracting Parties but have expressed an interest in joining the Convention may be also admitted as observers".

The Secretariat would be grateful if Contracting Parties wishing to attend the meeting as Observers and those non-Contracting Party countries seeking Observer status at the meeting would notify their intention to participate in that capacity by **15 December 2007** so that working papers may be dispatched (by electronic means) when finalised. Working documents will also be available from the Ramsar Convention Web site (www.ramsar.org/sc/key_sc36_agenda_papers.htm). Registration forms for the 36th meeting of the Standing Committee are available upon request from: loetscher@ramsar.org or fax no. +41 22 999 0169.

The Secretariat would like to draw attention to the fact that, due to the holiday season and ski season in Switzerland, it would be advisable if members and observers would book their flights and their hotel and register **by 15 December 2007**.

It should be noted that, due to financial constraints, the working papers for the Standing Committee, with the exception of the draft agenda and programme, are produced in English only. Simultaneous interpretation in the three official languages (English, French and Spanish) will be provided during the plenary sessions 27-29 February 2008, but not at any Subgroup meetings which may be convened.

Likewise, financial constraints prevent the Secretariat from providing financial support to assist Observer States in attending. Such support can only be offered to one delegate from eligible voting members of the Standing Committee, upon request.

Contracting Parties unable to attend the meeting as Observers are invited to offer views and opinions, as appropriate, to the Representative(s) from their region, or to transmit them directly to the Secretariat.

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, 9 November 2007

Encls: Draft Agenda & Members lists