

Notification 2008 / 6

Annual Contributions 2009

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 Convention budget for 2009 will be adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its meeting in Changwon, Republic of Korea, from 28 October to 4 November 2008.

Since annual contributions are due by 1 January of each calendar year, it is Ramsar Secretariat practice to issue invoices during the preceding year. Consequently the Secretariat has prepared the attached provisional invoice for the payment of contributions for the year 2009.

Following past practice for invoicing annual contributions in the final year of the triennium before the budget for the next triennium has been approved, the 2009 annual contributions are based upon the 2008 budget, using the United Nations scale applicable to 2009. After the approval of the 2009 budget by the Conference of the Contracting Parties in November 2008, if the difference to be paid by a Contracting Party compared with the amount shown in the provisional invoice is more than 10% (upwards or downwards), a final revised invoice will be issued in early 2009. If the difference is less than 10%, the adjustment will be shown in the statement accompanying the 2010 invoice, and final invoices will only be sent out if requested.

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 United Nations budget. The Contracting Parties concerned are invited to note that in paragraph 13 of Resolution VII.28 the Conference of the Parties established the minimum annual contribution at 1,000 Swiss francs.

As in the past, and according to the decision of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the invoices have been prepared in Swiss francs. Reflecting Decision 17.5 of the Standing Committee, Contracting Parties are therefore urged, whenever possible, to pay in Swiss francs. In accordance with Ramsar rules, Contracting Parties are invited to pay the attached invoice by 1 January 2009.

As mentioned above, the next meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties will take place later this year. The Ramsar Secretariat encourages all Parties to arrive at the Conference with their dues, including any arrears, paid in full as a clear demonstration of their commitment to the Convention.

Details of the Convention bank account and information about payment are given in the accompanying invoice. **Contracting Parties are requested to transfer contributions to the Beneficiary name of Ramsar/IUCN.**

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, 16 July 2008

Encl: Provisional invoice 2009
Statement of contributions