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Annual Contributions 2010 and Invoice

The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) presents its compliments to the Permanent Mission of XXX and has the honour to refer to the following:

With reference to the adoption of the Convention budget for the triennium 2009-2012 by the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Changwon, Republic of Korea, 2008), the Secretariat is pleased to advise the Government of XXX of the annual contribution for the year 2010.

Contracting Parties will be aware that annual contributions to the Ramsar Convention are calculated on the basis of the percentage contributions paid by Member States to the United Nations regular budget, with a minimum annual contribution of CHF 1,000. The UN scale has just been published for the 2010-2012 triennium, and this has been used for assessing 2010 contributions.

Countries of Africa with annual contributions assessed at less than CHF 2,000 have agreed to increase their payments to CHF 2,000 (Resolution X.2, para.23). The difference between CHF 2,000 and the country's assessment is a voluntary contribution specifically earmarked for African Regional Initiatives. This voluntary contribution is included in the invoice and the statement of contributions account attached.

Resolution X.2, para.16, urges all Contracting Parties to pay their contributions promptly by 1 January of each year, or as soon thereafter as that country's budget cycle will permit, and Contracting Parties are requested to make their payments in Swiss francs to the Convention bank account with UBS S.A. in Lausanne, Switzerland, and to the Beneficiary name of Ramsar/IUCN. The Convention's Swiss franc account number/SWIFT, as noted on the invoice, is:

IBAN: CH18 0024 3243 3336 0301 C

SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A.

The Secretariat also takes this opportunity to enclose a current statement of XXX's contributions account, showing arrears of CHF XXX. Resolution X.2, para.17, urges Contracting Parties in arrears in their payments of assessed contributions to make a renewed effort to settle them as expeditiously as possible to ensure the financial sustainability of the Convention. The Ramsar Secretariat encourages Contracting Parties in arrears to request any additional information required and to discuss practical payment options.

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 XXX the assurance of its highest consideration.

Gland, 11 January 2010

Encl: Invoice 2010 and Statement of contributions account