

Notification 2011/10

43rd Meeting of the Ramsar Convention Standing Committee 1-4 November 2011

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 Secretariat is pleased to inform the Contracting Parties that the 43rd Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC43) will be held at Secretariat Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland, from Tuesday 1st November to Friday 4th November 2011. SC43 will be preceded by meetings of the Subgroups on Finance and on COP11 on Monday 31st October. A Draft Agenda and a preliminary programme for the meeting, as well as the lists of voting members of the Standing Committee and the Subgroup members, are enclosed. A fuller, revised version of the Draft Agenda will be posted on the Ramsar Web site in due course.

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 Party members of the Standing Committee and Contracting Parties wishing to attend the meeting as observers, as well as those non-Contracting Party countries seeking observer status at the meeting, would notify their intention to participate, together with the names of their delegates, **by 30 September 2011**. Working documents will be available from the Ramsar Convention Web site (www.ramsar.org/sc43-docs). Registration forms for the 43rd meeting of the Standing Committee are available upon request from: loetscher@ramsar.org or fax no. +41 22 999 0169.

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 on 1-4 November, 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 Standing Committee 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, 28 July 2011

Encls: Draft Agenda & Members lists