

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

24th Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee  
Gland, Switzerland: 29 November – 2 December 1999

**4 Monday, 29 November**

**Meeting of the Subgroup on Finance of the Standing Committee**

Subgroup members are: **Algeria, Argentina, Armenia (chair), Japan and Mexico.**

Australia as chair of the Standing Committee will participate as observer.

**4 Tuesday, 30 November**

**1. Opening statements**

- Chairman of the Standing Committee, Stephen Hunter, Australia
- Director-General of IUCN, Maritta von Bieberstein Koch-Weser
- Secretary General of the Convention, Delmar Blasco

**2. Adoption of the agenda (*DOC. SC24-1*)**

**3. Appointment of representatives in the Standing Committee**

**4. Admission of Observers**

**5. Statements by International Organization Partners**

- BirdLife International
- Wetlands International
- WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature

**6. Report of the Secretary General (*DOC. SC24-2*)**

**7. Work Plan of the Ramsar Bureau and personnel and administrative matters**

**7.1 Ramsar Bureau Work Plan for 2000 (*DOC. SC24-3*)**

**7.2 World Wetlands Day/Week 2000 and other key promotional activities (*DOC. SC24-4*)**

**7.3 Staffing issues (*DOC. SC24-5*), including:**

- 7.3.1 New staff chart.
- 7.3.2 Secretary General's contract.
- 7.3.2 Establishment of a Development Assistance Officer post

**8. Report from the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (*DOC. SC24-6*)**

**9. 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP7)**

**9.1 Lessons learnt and review of COP structure and organization (*DOC. SC24-7*)**

**9.2 Issues arising from COP7 requiring action by the Standing Committee**

- i) Tasks of Standing Committee members (*DOC. SC24-8*)
- ii) Revisions to Ramsar sites boundaries, interpretation of Articles 2.5 and 4.2 (*DOC. SC24-9*)
- iii) Criteria and guidelines for compensation of lost wetland areas (*DOC. SC24-10*)
- iv) Regional targets under the Convention Work Plan 2000-2002 (*DOC. SC24-11*)
- v) Format for National Reports to be submitted prior to COP8 (*DOC. SC24-12*)
- vi) Preparation of revised Strategic Plan 2003-2008 (*DOC. SC24-13*)
- vii) Working partnerships (*DOC. SC24-14*)
- viii) Identification of priority actions from the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States (*DOC. SC24-15*)

10. Report and recommendations from the Subgroup on Finance
  - 10.1 Audited accounts for FY 1998 and status of the Reserve Fund  
(DOC. SC24-16)
  - 10.2 Review of 1999 core and projects income and expenditure (DOC. SC24.17)
  - 10.3 Allocations and operations of the Small Grants Fund (DOC. SC24-18)
    - i) 1999 income and project allocations
    - ii) Review of operations
    - iii) Review of the SGF Operational Guidelines for the period 2000-2002
    - iv) Future fundraising for the SGF
  - 10.4 Ramsar Bureau Budget 2000 (DOC. SC24-19), including:
    - i) Elements of the Convention Work Plan funded from the core budget
    - ii) Establishment of a Development Assistance Officer post
    - iii) Fundraising for non-funded elements of the Convention Work Plan,
11. 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP8) (DOC. SC24-20)
  - 11.1 Update on progress in early preparations in Spain
  - 11.2 Preliminary consideration of themes for COP8
12. 2000 meeting of the Standing Committee: dates and anticipated issues for its agenda (DOC. SC24.21)
13. Any other business
  - 13.1 Letter from the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia (DOC. SC24-22)
  - 13.2 Request from Ducks Unlimited, Inc., to be recognized as an International Organization Partner of the Convention (DOC. SC24-23)
  - 13.3 Continuity and turnover in SC and STRP
14. Closing remarks