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 8th meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (DOC. SC24-6)
9. 7th 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. 8th 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