

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

25<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee  
Gland, Switzerland: 23- 27 October 2000

DOC. SC25-17

Agenda item 18.4

**Criteria and Procedure for the COP8 Ramsar Wetland  
Conservation Award**

**Actions requested:**

- a) To consider an amendment to paragraph 6 of the Criteria and Procedure.
- b) To receive the generous offer of the Danone Group (France) of three grants of US\$ 10,000 (the Evian Special Prize) to complement the Ramsar Award and to take a decision on whether or not to accept this offer.
- c) To consider and approve the delegation to the Subgroup on COP8 of the task of acting as jury for the Award and preparing a recommendation to the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee.
- d) To consider and approve the proposed calendar for the COP8 Ramsar Award process.

**Background**

1. The Award was established by Ramsar COP6, by Resolution VI.18, as follows:

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

3. DECIDES to establish the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award;
4. REQUESTS the Standing Committee to consider the financial implications of this decision and to investigate the operation of the Award, taking into account the following principles:
  - a) the Award shall be presented every three years on the occasion of each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
  - b) nominations for the Award shall be submitted to the Secretary General and the selection shall be made by the Standing Committee;
  - c) nominees may be individuals, organizations or government agencies; and
5. REQUESTS the Standing Committee, if possible, to arrange for the presentation of the Award for the first time at the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in 1999 or, if this is not possible, to report to the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference.

2. The Award was given for the first time at Ramsar COP7 in 1999, in accordance with the Criteria and Procedure adopted by the Standing Committee at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting in 1997. It was accompanied by the Evian Special Prize (US\$ 10,000 per prize), as decided by Decision SC20-9 of the Standing Committee.
3. At its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Standing Committee decided to bestow the Award to one individual, one government agency and one non-governmental organization. The Award was given accordingly in 1999 to the Pacific Estuary Conservation Program, Canada (government agency); to Mr V. Pulido, Peru, and Prof. V. Krikenko, Russia (sharing the Award in the “individual” category); and to the Society for the Protection of Prespa, Greece, and the Lake Naivasha Riparian Association, Kenya (sharing the Award in the NGO category).

### **COP8 Ramsar Award**

4. The attached document contains the Criteria and Procedures adopted by the Standing Committee at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, updated for the COP8 Award.
5. It is proposed to amend paragraph 6 of the Criteria and Procedure as follows:  
  
Current text: “6. Deadline for nominations shall be 31 July 2001, 31 July 2004, and so on, every three years.”  
  
Proposed new text: “6. Deadline for nominations shall be at least six months before each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention.”
6. As part of the Evian Project, the Danone Group (France) has generously renewed its offer to provide three grants of US\$ 10.000.- each to complement the Ramsar Award under the name of “Evian Special Prize”.
7. With reference to item 4.b) of Resolution VI.18, it is suggested that the Standing Committee delegate the Subgroup on COP8 to serve as a jury for the Wetland Conservation Award, screening the Bureau’s list of nominations and recommendations and presenting a recommendation to the Standing Committee at its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2001.
8. As was done on the previous occasion, the Bureau will publish a brochure (including a nomination form) which will invite nominations and will be widely distributed.
9. Assuming that COP8 will take place in November 2002 and that the COP8 preparations calendar contained in DOC.25-14 is adopted, the following is the proposed calendar for the Ramsar Award process:
  - Distribution of brochure with call for nominations by 20 June 2001, with a deadline for nominations on 31 December 2001
  - Analysis of the candidatures by the Bureau finalized by 31 March 2002
  - Jury (Subgroup on COP8) meets in the first week of May 2002 and transmits its recommendation to the Standing Committee
  - The Award is presented at the opening of Ramsar COP8 on 11 November 2002.

## **Annex I**

### **Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award**

#### **Selection criteria**

1. The Ramsar Award shall be awarded for any one of the following:
  - a) actions – including legislation, strategies, plans, programmes, projects, investments, and campaigns – that have significantly contributed, or have a clear potential of contributing, to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of:
    - i) a particular wetland site;  
and/or
    - ii) a group of wetlands within a country or across two or more countries;  
and/or
    - iii) wetlands ecosystems in general in a province, state, a region within a country, a nation, or a region covering two or more countries;
  - b) contributions to the advancement of wetland sciences in any of their branches.

#### **Periodicity**

2. The Ramsar Award will be awarded every three years on the occasion of the ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), it was given for the first time at the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties in May 1999.
3. A maximum of three laureates will be selected for each occasion.

#### **Eligibility**

4. Institutions and citizens of all nations are invited to nominate individuals<sup>1</sup> or institutions – governmental and non-governmental, including community groups – or private sector enterprises, of any nation.

#### **Nominations Procedure**

5. Nominations should be submitted to the Ramsar Convention Bureau in English, French or Spanish, using the Ramsar Award form available from the Ramsar Bureau in Gland, Switzerland, or at the Ramsar Web site, accompanied by the necessary supporting documentation.
6. Deadline for nominations shall be at least six months before each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention.

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<sup>1</sup> It should be noted that, in the case of individuals, as decided by the Ramsar Standing Committee at its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting (1997), the Award will not be given *in memoriam*.

### **Selection Procedure**

7. The Ramsar Bureau shall process the nominations received and submit them for the consideration of the Ramsar Standing Committee at its regular meeting in the year prior to each meeting of the Ramsar Conference of the Parties. The Standing Committee shall select the laureates. Its decision shall be final.

### **Announcement and Presentation of the Award**

8. The announcement of the laureates on each occasion shall be made through a press release as soon as all of them have confirmed their acceptance of the prize.
9. The Ramsar Award will be presented at the opening ceremony of [or: at a ceremony during] each meeting of the Ramsar Conference of the Contracting Parties, and every effort will be made to ensure the presence of all laureates.

### **Possible cash rewards**

10. On each occasion that the Ramsar Award is given, the Standing Committee may accept a contribution in cash of no less than ten thousand American dollars, offered by a government, non-governmental institution, private sector enterprise or individual, to be presented as a reward attached to the Ramsar Award. In each case winners will be informed at the time of communicating to them the decision of the Standing Committee, if the prize will be accompanied by a cash reward or not, and the name of the sponsor(s) on that particular occasion.
11. If no cash reward were available, recipients shall receive a certificate and letter.