

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

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

**DOC. SC25-27**

**Agenda item 22.6**

**The use of the OECD/DAC list for Ramsar assistance to attend meetings and eligibility to Ramsar funding under the SGF, WFF and other projects**

**Action requested:** The Standing Committee is invited to consider the action proposed by the Bureau in this document and to take a decision on this matter.

1. COP6 Resolution VI.6 on the Small Grants Fund stipulated that “all countries on the List of Aid Recipients established by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) shall be eligible for receiving assistance from the Ramsar SGF.”
2. Since then, the Convention has extrapolated this decision concerning eligibility for the SGF to eligibility for all other types of assistance, including sponsorship for attending Ramsar meetings.
3. The Convention has been applying to the letter the COP6 resolution and considers as eligible for assistance all countries in the DAC List. This means that the poorest countries are competing for the scarce resources that the Convention has at its disposal with countries that are about to join the European Union and become donor countries, and with countries that are at the threshold for World Bank Loan Eligibility (per capita GNP \$5280 in 1998). This practice has caused concern to some donors.
4. As shown in the attachment, the DAC list is divided in Part I and Part II. In Part I are countries eligible to receive Official Development Assistance (ODA) and are divided in five categories, going from the Least Developed Countries up to the High Income Countries and Territories. In Part II are countries that are eligible for Official Aid but not ODA, divided into two categories.
5. The Standing Committee may wish to review the DAC List and consider if the Convention should continue to apply COP6 resolution to the letter, making all countries in the List eligible for assistance, or establish a distinction between countries in Part I and II of the List, and also between the countries in the different categories in Parts I and II.