

**Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

**26th Meeting of the Standing Committee,  
Gland, Switzerland, 3-7 December 2001**

**DOC. SC26-19**

Agenda item 21 (a)

### **Ramsar's presence at the 2005 World Exposition, Aichi, Japan**

**Action requested.** The Standing Committee is requested to consider the proposal of the Secretary General to have a Ramsar presence at this World Exposition.

1. The Ramsar Bureau received an invitation from the Government of Japan to participate in the 2005 World Exposition to be held in lands of Seto City, Nagakute Town and Toyota City, Aichi Prefecture, from 25 March - 25 September of that year.
2. Considering that the theme of the Exposition will be "Nature's Vision" and will focus on questions related to the "environment, energy, natural resources, population, the aging society, and issues which will open new possibilities in the new era, such as information technology revolution and bio-science", the Secretary General responded to the invitation indicating that Ramsar would be interested in being present at the Exposition.
3. In a subsequent visit to Japan last September, the Secretary General visited the Secretariat of the Exposition in Tokyo and reiterated the interest of Ramsar to be present at the event. In discussions with the national government, the Mayor of Nagoya city, and NGOs, and in interviews with the press, the SG indicated that a Ramsar presence would depend on the feasibility of establishing a partnership with the Japanese Government, local NGOs and the private sector, both in terms of the financial resources that will be needed to mount a Ramsar stand at the Exposition and of the human resources that will be required to ensure a presence at the Ramsar stand during the six months that the Exposition will be open to the public.
4. A presence at the Aichi Exposition would represent an important promotion for the Convention, particularly in a year when Ramsar will be holding its 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The SG invites the Standing Committee to consider approving in principle the participation of the Convention at this World Exposition.

NOTE: more details about the Exposition can be found in the web at [www.expo2005.or.jp](http://www.expo2005.or.jp)