

Ramsar COP8. Valencia, Spain, 18-26 November 2002

Provisional Agenda

The draft Agenda and Programme of the 8th COP

I Opening of the Meeting.

The Conference will be opened by high level representatives of the Kingdom of Spain and its Government and the Chairperson of the Conference Committee, followed by general statements by the Secretary General and invited guests. The opening ceremony will include the presentation of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards 2002.

II General statements

III Adoption of the Agenda

IV Adoption of the Rules of Procedure

V Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and remarks by the Chairperson

VI Appointment of the Credentials Committee and any other committees

VII Admission of Observers

Provisions have always been made for the participation in the Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of international agencies or bodies, and national governmental and non-governmental agencies or bodies, provided the Parties present do not decide otherwise

VIII Report of the Chairperson of the Convention Standing Committee

The Chairperson of the Standing Committee will introduce his report, highlighting the activities of the Standing Committee during the past triennium, with recommendations, if necessary, for the future work of the Committee.

The Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) will introduce his report on the activities of the Panel over the past triennium, with recommendations for the future work of the Panel.

IX Report of the Secretary General

The Secretary General will present a report on the implementation of the Convention's Work Plan 2000-2002 and a general overview of the imple-

mentation of the Convention, based upon the National Reports submitted by Contracting Parties. General discussion.

X Issues arising from Resolutions and Recommendations of previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties



ting Parties

Interpretation of Articles 2.5 and 4.2 of the Convention. Other issues to be identified

XI The Convention Strategic Plan 2003-2008. Introduction and first general discussion

XII The Convention's Work Plan 2003-2005. Introduction and first general discussion

XIII Financial report and proposed budget for the triennium 2003-2005

XIV Consideration of the proposals for Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and the Standing Committee

A COP document will contain the proposals approved by the Standing Committee at its 26th Meeting (3-7 December 2001) for consideration by Ramsar COP8, as well as the proposals submitted by Contracting Parties at least 60 days before the opening of Ramsar COP8 (by 19 September 2002).

In this Plenary Session there will be a first discussion of the proposals, in order to receive suggestions for amendments and to allow the search for consensus to begin before the final drafts of the decisions come up for approval on

the last day of the Conference. (Note: Contracting Parties shall be able to submit new proposals during the meeting to the Conference Committee, provided that those new proposals deal with: a) urgent issues resulting from the debates

during the meeting; and/or b) new developments that it was not possible to foresee in advance.)

XV Report of the Credentials Committee

XVI Reports and recommendations of the Technical Sessions

The rapporteurs of the four regionally-based discussion groups will have prepared a brief consolidated report on the conclusions regarding each one of the topics discussed in the five Technical Sessions. This will be the opportunity to address any major divergences that may have arisen, with a view to build consensus for the preparation of the final draft of the Resolutions and Recommendations to be adopted by Ramsar COP8.

XVII Appointment of the members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel

A document will contain the proposal of the Standing Committee for the appointment of technical experts and scientists who will serve in their personal capacity in the STRP during the period between the close of COP8 and the close of COP9. The Standing Committee will prepare its proposal on the basis of the candidates advanced by

the Contracting Parties by the deadline of 28 February 2002.

XVIII Adoption of Resolutions and Recommendations:

XIX Election of Contracting Parties that will serve on the Standing Committee

XX Date and venue of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

XXI Any other business

XXII Adoption of the report of the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties



XXIII Close of the meeting

Technical Sessions (tentative list)

Technical Session 1: Wetlands: major challenges and emerging opportunities in the new century

- Wetlands and management of surface and ground water, including water allocations: Ramsar and the water management agencies

- Opportunities and limitations for synergy with other Conventions and institutions in the areas of biodiversity, desertification, climate change, migratory species, and protected areas

Technical Session 2: Wetland inventory and assessment

- A "Ramsar System for Wetland Inventory"

- Impact assessment: the results and potential of collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Association of Impact Assessment

- Tools for rapid assessment of wetland functions and biodiversity for decision makers

Technical Session 3: Practical steps for applying the Vision for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance

- Lessons learnt in the implementation of the of the Strategic Framework for the Ramsar List (Resolution VII.11)

- Additional guidance for inclusion in the Ramsar List of mangroves, peatlands, coral reefs, seagrass beds, and soft bottom communities

- The Global Action Plan for Peatlands: from planning to action

- Making Ramsar sites information accessible: the Ramsar Sites Database and Ramsar Data Gateway

Technical Session 4 Managing wetlands for sustainable use: lessons learned and new perspectives

- Case studies and guidelines for inte-

grated coastal zone management: the state of the art

- Case studies and further guidance on management planning and implementation

- The Report of the World Commission on Dams and its relevance for the Ramsar Convention

- Case studies and guidelines on incentive for wetlands conservation and wise use

- Case studies and guidelines on invasive species in wetlands

Technical Session 5 Cultural aspects of wetlands as a tool for their conservation and sustainable use

- Guiding principles on the cultural aspects of wetlands: examples from around the world

- Guidelines for incorporating the cultural dimensions in economic valuations and wetland assessment in general

- Incorporating the social sciences and the arts in public awareness and education campaigns concerning wetlands

The Technical Sessions are an integral part of the programme of the Conference, but, unlike the Plenary Sessions, they do not constitute a formal sitting of the Conference in the sense that all participants, delegates of Contracting Parties and observers, participate in the discussions on an equal basis. The

Technical Sessions are intended to deal with issues of great significance to the Convention from a technical perspective. The Technical Sessions discuss proposals for Resolutions and Recommendations concerning the theme under debate and may propose amendments that are then considered by the Plenary and may be adopted as part of the Conference decisions.

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Ramsar Strategic Plan 2003-2008.

Third draft

To be submitted to the COP8, Valencia, Spain, 18-26 November 2002. Prepared by the Ramsar

Bureau on the basis of comments received from the Standing

Committee Subgroup, 8 March 2001

This third draft has been distributed for comments to all Contracting Parties and to the Convention's partners and collaborators. Comments are also welcome from the Ramsar Web readers (<http://www.ramsar.org>). Concrete proposals for amendments, additions or deletions in the appropriate paragraphs will be preferred over general comments. The deadline to receive comments is 30 May 2001. An electronic version of this document can be requested from Dwight Peck at the Ramsar Bureau (peck@ramsar.org).

CONTENTS

Section I:

1. Introduction.
2. Mission Statement.
3. The role and achievements of the Ramsar Convention.
4. Challenges for the future.
5. Purpose and structure of the Strategic Plan. Using the Strategic Plan.

Section II:

1. General Objectives of the Strategic Plan.
2. Rationale for the General Objectives.

Section III:

Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008: Themes, Operational Objectives, and Actions.

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