



## Ramsar COP7 DOC. 1, Rev. 1

*"People and Wetlands: The Vital Link"*  
**7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties  
to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971),  
San José, Costa Rica, 10-18 May 1999**

### Provisional Agenda

This document, originally issued in January 1998, has been revised in line with decisions taken by the Standing Committee at its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting on 19-24 October 1998.

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| I     | Opening of the Meeting  |
| 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  |
| VIII  | Report of the Chairperson of the Convention Standing Committee  |
| IX    | Report of the Secretary General   |
| X     | Review of the implementation of the Convention in each region   |
| XI    | Issues arising from Resolutions and Recommendations of previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties             |
| XII   | The Convention Work Plan and the Ramsar Bureau budget 2000-2002   |
| XIII  | Consideration of the proposals for Resolutions and Recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and/or the Standing Committee |
| XIV   | Report of the Credentials Committee   |
| XV    | Reports and recommendations of the Technical Sessions   |
| XVI   | Appointment of the members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel   |
| XVII  | Adoption of Resolutions and Recommendations   |
| XVIII | Election of Contracting Parties that will serve on the Standing Committee   |
| XIX   | Date and venue of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties  |
| XX    | Any other business  |
| XXI   | Adoption of the report of the 7 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties                                |
| XXII  | Close of the meeting  |

#### Technical Sessions:

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| I   | Ramsar and water   |
| II  | National planning for wetland conservation and wise use                      |
| III | Involving people at all levels in the conservation and wise use of wetlands  |
| IV  | Tools for assessing and recognizing wetland values                           |
| V   | The frameworks for regional and international cooperation regarding wetlands |

# Ramsar COP7

## Annotated Agenda and Programme

(with an indication of the documents that will be available for each agenda item)

See separate announcements in due time of pre-Conference meetings and activities

### Sunday, 9 May 1999

09.00 - 17.00	Meeting of the Standing Committee (from now on the Conference Committee)
09.00 - 18.00	Registration of participants
Evening	Free for informal consultations

### Monday, 10 May 1999 (day 1)

08.00 - 18.00	Registration (continued)
<b>10.00 - 13.00</b>	<b>Plenary Session</b>
I / II	<u>Opening of the Meeting</u> The Conference will be opened by the President of Costa Rica 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. Break – Press Conference <u>Introduction to the Conference procedures and logistics</u>
III	<u>Adoption of the Agenda</u> The Conference will consider document <b>Ramsar COP7 DOC. 1, Rev. 2: Provisional Agenda</b> , and adopt the Agenda for this meeting.
IV	<u>Adoption of the Rules of Procedure</u> The Conference will consider document <b>Ramsar COP7 DOC. 2: Rules of Procedure</b> , which has been reviewed and revised by the Standing Committee as requested by Resolution VI.15, and will adopt the new Rules for the 7th Meeting.
V	<u>Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons</u> Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure, the Conference will elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons for the meeting on the basis of proposals made by the Conference Committee. <u>Remarks by the Chairperson</u>
13.00 - 15.00	Lunch break
<b>15.00 - 18.30</b>	<b>Plenary Session</b>
VI	<u>Appointment of the Credentials Committee and any other committees</u> Pursuant to the Rules of Procedure, the Conference will appoint a Credentials Committee on the basis of proposals made by the Conference Committee, and may establish any other committees necessary to enable the Conference to carry out its functions.
VII	<u>Admission of Observers</u> 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 ( <b>Ramsar COP7 DOC. 3</b> with the list of registered observers will be tabled at the meeting).
VIII	<u>Report of the Chairperson of the Standing Committee</u>

a) The Chairperson of the Standing Committee will introduce her report, highlighting the activities of the Standing Committee during the past triennium (**Ramsar COP7 DOC. 4**).

b) The Chairperson of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) will introduce her report on the activities of the Panel over the past triennium (**Annex to Ramsar COP7 DOC. 4**)

***Key issues in the work of the Convention: A special intervention on "People and wetlands - the vital link" by an invited speaker***

IX **Report of the Secretary General**

The Secretary General will introduce the report on developments under the Convention and on the activities of the Ramsar Bureau, the Convention's secretariat (**Ramsar COP7 DOC. 5**)

**19.30 - 22.30 Welcoming function** hosted by the Government of Costa Rica

**Tuesday, 11 May 1999** (day 2)

08.00 - 09.00 Meeting of the Conference Committee

**09.30 - 13.00 Plenary Session**

X **Review of implementation of the Convention in each region**<sup>1</sup>

Presentation of the regional overviews compiled by the Ramsar Bureau on the basis of the information provided in National Reports reviewing the application of the Convention in each Contracting Party. (In early 1998, the Ramsar Bureau distributed the format for National Reports approved by the Standing Committee, with a deadline for submission of the reports on 30 September 1998. The Reports may be consulted in their original language on the Ramsar Web site.) After the presentation of each regional overview, Contracting Parties and observers will have the opportunity to make interventions to complete and analyze the overview.

**Overview of implementation of the Convention in the Neotropical Region (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 6)**

***Special presentation on wetland conservation and sustainable use in Costa Rica***

**Overview of implementation of the Convention in the North American Region (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 7)**

***Key issues in the work of the Convention: a special intervention by an invited speaker.***

13.00 - 15.00 Lunch break

**15.00 - 18.30 Plenary Session**

X **Review of implementation of the Convention in each region** (continued)

**Overview of implementation of the Convention in the African Region (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 8)**

***Key issues in the work of the Convention: A special intervention by an invited speaker***

**Overview of implementation of the Convention in the Eastern European Region (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 9) and in the Western European Region (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 10)**

19.00 Press briefing

**Wednesday, 12 May 1999** (day 3)

<sup>1</sup> Audio-visual aids and techniques will be used in the presentation of the regional overviews to make them more informative. These presentations should constitute an opportunity to critically review the past, so as to guide future implementation.

- 08.00 - 09.00 Meeting of the Conference Committee
- 09.30 - 13.00** **Plenary Session**
- X Review of implementation of the Convention in each region (continued)  
**Overview of implementation of the Convention in the Oceania Region (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 11)**  
**Overview of implementation of the Convention in the Asian Region (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 12)**  
*The challenges facing the Ramsar Convention in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: A critical review of the implementation of the Convention by an authoritative external reviewer, followed by discussion*
- XI Issues arising from Resolutions and Recommendations of previous meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 13)
- 13.00 - 15.00 Lunch break
- 15.00 - 18.30** **Plenary Session**
- XII Introduction of the Work Plan 2000-2002 and the Ramsar Bureau budget (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 14). This document will contain the proposed work plan for the Convention, prepared by the Ramsar Bureau on the basis of the conclusions of an analysis of the implementation of the Strategic Plan during its first triennium. The Secretary General will introduce the budget for the Ramsar Bureau for the triennium 2000-2002, as recommended by the Standing Committee at its 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting (October 1998). The work plan and budget will be approved under Agenda item XVII (Adoption of Conference decisions).
- XIII ***Special presentation: Wetlands and sustainable development in Central America***  
Consideration of the proposals for resolutions and recommendations submitted by Contracting Parties and/or the Standing Committee (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 15) This document will contain the proposals approved by the Standing Committee at its 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting (October 1998) for consideration by Ramsar COP7, as well as the proposals submitted by Contracting Parties at least 60 days before the opening of Ramsar COP7 (by 30 March 1999). In this Plenary Session there will be a first discussion of the proposals, so as to receive suggestions for amendments and to allow the search for consensus to begin before the final drafts of the decisions come for approval in 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.)
- XIV Report of the Credentials Committee (a Ramsar COP7 document will be tabled at the meeting). As on past occasions, the Credentials Committee will require that the credentials of the delegates of Contracting Parties be presented in English, French or Spanish, on the appropriate letterhead, and be signed by the Head of State or Government and/or the Minister of Foreign Affairs, or by an official legally empowered by the State concerned to accredit representatives at international meetings.
- 19.00 Press briefing

**Thursday, 13 May 1999** (day 4)

- 08.00 - 08.45 Meeting of the Conference Committee
- 09.00 - 13.00** **Regional Meetings to review further the implementation of the Convention in each region, the proposals submitted to the Conference, and the subjects for discussion at Technical Sessions**

13.00 - 15.00            Lunch break

### TECHNICAL SESSIONS

The Technical Sessions during Ramsar COPs 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, as the title indicates, are intended to deal with issues of great significance to the Convention from a technical perspective. The Technical Sessions discuss proposals 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.

#### **15.00 - 19.00            Technical Session I: Ramsar and water (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 16)**

15.00 - 16.30    Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall

- The roles of wetlands in the water cycle
- Integrating wetlands conservation and wise use into river basin management
- Wetlands and National Water Policy formulation
- Defining Ramsar's role in the response to the global water crisis

17.00 - 19.00    Discussion of the theme of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning the topic. This discussion will take place in regionally-based groups but all groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

19.30                Press briefing

#### **Friday, 14 May 1999** (day 5)

08.00 - 08.45            Meeting of the Conference Committee

#### **09.00 - 13.00            Technical Session II: National planning for wetland conservation and wise use (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 17)**

09.00 - 10.30    Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall.

- Taking a more systematic approach to identifying Wetlands of International Importance
- A framework for developing and implementing National Wetland Politics
- Reviewing laws and institutions relevant to wetlands
- Restoration as an element of national planning for wetland conservation and wise use

11.00 - 13.00    Discussion of the theme of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning the topic. This discussion will take place in regionally-based groups but all groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

13.00 - 15.00            Lunch break

#### **15.00 - 19.00            Technical Session III: Involving people at all levels in the conservation and wise use of wetlands (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 18)**

15.00 - 16.30    Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall.

- Participatory processes to involve local communities and indigenous people in the management of wetlands
- Promoting participatory wetland and river basin management through education and understanding
- Incentives to encourage the application of the wise use principles

17.00 - 19.00    Discussion of the theme of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning the topic. This discussion will take place in regionally-based

groups but all groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

19.30 Press briefing

**21.00 - 22.30 Regional meetings to agree on recommendations to the Plenary Session on Contracting Parties to be elected to serve on the Standing Committee**

**Saturday, 15 May 1999** (day 6)

08.00 - 08.45 Meeting of the Conference Committee

**09.00 - 13.00 Technical Session IV: Tools for assessing and recognizing wetland values (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 19)**

09.00 - 10.30 Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall.

- The Ramsar Convention and Impact Assessment - Strategic, Environmental and Social
- Wetland Risk Assessment: A framework and methods for predicting and assessing change in ecological character
- Global review of wetland resources, and priorities for wetland inventory in the future

11.00 - 13.00 Discussion of the theme of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning the topic. This discussion will take place in regionally-based groups but all groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

13.00 - 15.00 Lunch break

**15.00 - 19.00 Technical Session V: The framework for regional and international cooperation regarding wetlands (Ramsar COP7 DOC. 20)**

15.00 - 16.30 Panel presentations by invited experts in the plenary hall.

- Shared wetlands and river basins of the world
- International cooperation through River Basin Commissions
- International cooperation under the Convention - Part I: Shared wetlands, river basins, and species
- International cooperation under the Convention - Part II: Mobilising financial support from bilateral and multilateral donors for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention

17.00 - 19.00 Discussion of the theme of this Technical Session and review of the proposals concerning the topic. This discussion will take place in regionally-based groups but all groups will be open to any participant who wants to participate in them.

19.30 Press briefing

**Sunday, 16 May 1999** (day 7)

FREE FOR EXCURSIONS, ALLOWING THE SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE THE FINAL VERSIONS OF THE PROPOSALS TO BE CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED BY THE CONFERENCE

**Monday, 17 May 1999** (day 8)

08.00 - 09.00 Meeting of the Conference Committee

**09.30 - 13.00 Plenary Session**

XV	<u>Reports and recommendations of the Technical Sessions</u> The rapporteurs of the regionally-based discussion groups will have prepared a brief consolidated report on each one of the five themes analyzed during the Technical Sessions. They will also have prepared one final version of each proposal considered during the Technical Sessions, incorporating the amendments (if any) agreed upon during those sessions.
XVI	<u>Appointment of the members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP)</u> <b>(Ramsar COP7 DOC. 21).</b> This document will contain the proposal of the Conference 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 COP7 and the close of COP8. The Conference Committee will prepare its proposal on the basis of the candidates advanced by the Contracting Parties by the deadline of 31 August 1998.
13.00 - 15.00	Lunch break
<b>15.00 - 19.00</b>	<b>Plenary Session</b>
XVII	<u>Adoption of Conference Resolutions and Recommendations</u>
Evening	Farewell party

**Tuesday, 18 May 1999** (day 9)

08.00 - 09.00	Meeting of the Conference Committee
<b>09.30 - 13.00</b>	<b>Plenary Session</b>
XVII	<u>Adoption of Conference Resolutions and Recommendations</u> (continued)
13.00 - 15.00	Lunch break
<b>15.00 - 17.00</b>	<b>Plenary Session</b>
XVIII	<u>Election of the Contracting Parties that will serve on the Standing Committee.</u> On the basis of the proposals presented by each region, the Conference will elect the countries that will serve on the Standing Committee from the close of the 7th Meeting of the COP until the close of the 8th Meeting. (The new Standing Committee will meet immediately after the close of Ramsar COP7 and, on the basis of the proposed Rules of Procedure, will designate the countries that will act as Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, as well as the countries that will serve on its Subgroup on Finance and any other subgroup that may have been established.)
XIX	<u>Date and venue of the next Ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.</u> The Conference will take a decision on the timing and venue of the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties that in principle should be held in 2002, on the basis of invitations received from Contracting Parties to host the meeting. <b>(Ramsar COP7 DOC. 22)</b>
XX	<u>Any other business</u>
XXI	<u>Adoption of the report of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties</u>
XXII	<u>Close of the meeting.</u> The closing ceremony will include brief interventions by the regional groups, the Secretary General, the representatives of NGOs and possibly of other sectors, and by a representative of the Government of Costa Rica, who will formally close the Conference.