



4th Meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB)

13 February 2011, Gland, Switzerland

16th meeting of the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP)

14-18 February 2011, Gland, Switzerland

GENERAL INFORMATION

Meeting venue

The 4th meeting of the CSAB and the 16th meeting of the STRP will take place in the headquarters offices of IUCN and the Ramsar Secretariat, Rue Mauverney 28, 1196 Gland, Switzerland. General telephone number: +41 22 999 0170.

For those participants who have not visited the IUCN/Ramsar offices before, Gland is a small town on the northern shore of Lac Lemman (Lake Geneva) about midway between Geneva and Lausanne. Information about local travel to and from the airport, and to and from hotels is provided below. The nearest railway station to the workshop venue is "Gland" and the IUCN/Ramsar offices are about a 10-minute walk (downhill towards the lake) from the railway station.

A map of Gland showing the location of the IUCN/Ramsar offices is available on the Ramsar Web site:

http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-27-418_4000_0

Meeting documentation

Delegates are requested to kindly bring their own sets of documents.

Travel arrangements and visas

If your travel costs for STRP16 participation are to be covered by the Ramsar Secretariat you will be contacted concerning air flight arrangements and itinerary. For your information the nearest airport is **GENEVA (Cointrin)**.

On your Registration Form we have asked you to check if you need a **SCHENGEN VISA FOR SWITZERLAND, and/or A TRANSIT VISA** for any country where you might have to stop or change planes en route to Switzerland. If so, the Ramsar Secretariat will send you an official invitation letter for visa purposes.

Very important: Switzerland is now part of the Schengen area for visa and travel purposes. This means that the visa you obtain from a Swiss consulate will allow you to visit another country of the Schengen area *en route* to or from Switzerland. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST SWISS REPRESENTATION AT LEAST 3 OR 4 WEEKS BEFORE TRAVELLING. Unfortunately, travelers who submit their request too late run the risk of not obtaining a visa.

Hotel Accommodation

We have made a block booking for the CSAB and STRP meetings at Hôtel des Alpes and at Hostellerie du XVI^e Siècle in Nyon. Please do fill in the Hotel booking form and return it together with your Registration form and Dinner form!

Transport from Geneva Airport to Nyon hotels and to Gland

There is a train station at Geneva airport. All trains from the airport go to Geneva main **railway station CORNAVIN**) as their first stop (takes approx. 5 minutes). Train schedules are available from the web site of the SBB/CFF/FFS, the Swiss Railways company: <http://www.sbb.ch/en/index.htm>

From Geneva airport to hotels in Nyon (Hôtel des Alpes or Hostellerie XVIème Siècle)

Direct trains leave the airport train station approximately every 20 minutes and reach Nyon in about 20 minutes. Make sure to board a train that stops in Nyon: some trains do not! A one-way 2nd class ticket costs CHF 13.80. The two Nyon hotels are a short walk from Nyon train station. A map of Nyon showing the location of the two hotels is available on the Ramsar Web site:

http://www.ramsar.org/cda/ramsar/display/main/main.jsp?zn=ramsar&cp=1-27-418_4000_0

From Geneva airport to Gland

There is one direct train an hour from Geneva airport to Gland (which is the next stop after Nyon), departing at 47 minutes past the hour. In between these, take any train to Geneva main railway station (Cornavin) and change trains there: a direct train from Cornavin to Gland departs at 21 minutes past each hour. A one-way 2nd class ticket costs CHF 14.80.

From Nyon to Gland

There are two direct trains each hour from Nyon train station to Gland (departing Nyon at 10 minutes and 37 minutes past each hour), taking 4 minutes. A one-way 2nd class ticket costs CHF 3.40. Alternatively participants may wish to share a taxi (see below).

Taxis

Participants may wish to share taxis from Nyon hotels to the IUCN/Ramsar offices. The Ramsar Secretariat has a special arrangement with «Taxi Phone Gland»: a trip from Nyon-Gland or Gland-Nyon costs CHF 20.00. The phone number is: 0800 88 12 34, or 022 364 10 00. **Please mention «IUCN/Ramsar» when calling a taxi.**

Meals

For CSAB on Sunday 13 February, the Ramsar Secretariat will make arrangements with a restaurant close to the meeting venue. Monday to Friday lunch is available in the IUCN/Ramsar cafeteria and in several nearby restaurants. **Each participant is requested to buy his/her own lunches.**

There will be a **STRP Dinner** on Thursday 17 February 2011 at 19:30 h, in the Hostellerie du XVIe Siecle, Nyon.

Per diems

For STRP16 participants whose costs are being covered by the Ramsar Secretariat you will receive the standard IUCN/Ramsar per diem). This will be paid to you in cash (Swiss francs) at the meeting. The per diem covers hotel accommodation, meals, local transport in Switzerland and all other incidental expenses.

Climate

The weather in Switzerland in February is usually cold to very cold, and often with snow and ice. Please make sure that you bring with you warm clothes and waterproof, solid shoes – especially for the STRP16 ‘working day out’ on Thursday 17 February at Champ-Pittet (see draft Agenda).

We wish you a pleasant trip to Switzerland and look forward to seeing you in Gland.

Catherine Loetscher
Ramsar Convention Secretariat
28, rue Mauverney
CH-1196 Gland
Switzerland

Tel: +41 22 999 01 70
Fax: +41 22 999 01 69

Email: loetscher@ramsar.org