

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Kushiro, Japan
9-16 June 1993

Recommendation 5.5: The inclusion of conservation and wise use of wetlands in multilateral and bilateral development cooperation programmes

RECALLING that Recommendation REC. C.4.13 of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, held at Montreux, Switzerland in 1990, called on Contracting Parties to pursue Recommendation 3.4 in a more systematic way, and to urge Multilateral Development Banks and Development Agencies to advance conservation and wise use of wetlands through improved technical assistance and consideration of these issues early in the planning process;

AWARE that the Convention on Biological Diversity provides that states have the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other states or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;

BEARING IN MIND the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) concerning international cooperation on environment and development;

WELCOMING the increasing involvement of Multilateral Development Banks and Development Agencies in these issues over the last three years, as noted in presentations at Workshop D of the present meeting;

CONSIDERING however that this involvement could be further increased;

NOTING the considerable influence and impact of bilateral development assistance on conservation and wise use of wetlands;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

CALLS ON Multilateral Development Banks and Development Agencies to give even greater priority to the formulation and adoption of coherent wetland development policies, procedures and practices directed at sustainable utilization, wise management, and conservation of wetlands;

FURTHER CALLS ON Contracting Parties in developed countries to review their development cooperation policies, in the light of the obligations and opportunities presented by Ramsar, to support country-driven projects with a view to assisting developing countries to fulfil their Ramsar obligations;

URGES Contracting Parties in developed countries to strengthen bilateral and multilateral cooperation, also in the field of wetland conservation, with countries whose economy is in transition - with special regard to such future Contracting Parties - as there is a recognized need for financial support for wetland conservation projects in those countries;

RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention consider including representatives of ministries responsible for the granting or receipt of development assistance in their delegations to meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties; and

CALLS ON ministries responsible for environmental issues and/or development assistance, to formulate and coordinate their policies in the light of the present recommendation.