

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

Recommendation 5.13: The promotion and strengthening of the Ramsar Neotropical region

CONSIDERING that the Neotropical Region hosts a significant proportion of the most diverse, large and productive wetland ecosystems in the world;

RECOGNIZING the great contribution of wetlands to the quality of life and to the local and national economies of the Neotropical Region and the importance of a proper appreciation of their value, in order to promote their wise use and effective protection;

AWARE of the importance of carrying out actions aimed at the sustainable development and protection of wetlands;

NOTING the substantial progress made in the application of the Convention and the welcome increase in the number of Contracting Parties in the Neotropical Region since the Fourth Meeting of the Conference;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the success and positive reception of the three Ramsar regional meetings held in Caracas, La Paz and Cayenne in 1992 and 1993, in which the representatives of the Neotropical Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention submitted proposals for cooperation and defined regional priorities for action, in order to optimize the wise management of wetlands of international importance in the region, in collaboration with other international organizations such as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB) and Wetlands for the Americas;

NOTING the invaluable support provided to the Contracting Parties of the region by the Ramsar Bureau towards the development of intra-regional coordination mechanisms, which have led to the promotion of joint action;

RECOGNIZING that the management of Ramsar sites and wetlands in general in the Region is not yet supported by sufficient resources of all types to achieve their conservation and wise use;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

RECOMMENDS that the Ramsar Bureau carry out the necessary action to continue to promote and support the intra-regional coordination process and thus facilitate cooperation between the Contracting Parties in the region, and between Contracting Parties and the Ramsar Bureau, in close collaboration with partner organizations, especially BirdLife International, IUCN, IWRB, Wetlands for the Americas and WWF, and in particular that a Technical Officer continues to have responsibility for Neotropical regional coordination in the Ramsar Bureau;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that the necessary funds be provided so as to continue the intra-regional coordination process and the promotion of the Convention, especially for holding periodic regional meetings for the purpose of consultation, promotion of joint action and technical training;

REQUESTS the Bureau to take the necessary steps in order that funds be provided to strengthen the capacity of the Region and of each Contracting Party to promote the protection, management and wise use of Ramsar sites;

URGES all Contracting Parties in the Region to develop coordinated mechanisms to monitor the status of their wetlands, whether or not these wetlands are Ramsar sites; and

URGES all Contracting Parties concerned to act in pursuance of the objectives of Agenda 21 and relevant international agreements, inter alia CITES and the Convention on Biological Diversity, regarding trade of natural products obtained from the wise use of wetlands in the Neotropical Region.