



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

The Montreux Record and the Ramsar Advisory Missions

The **Montreux Record** is a register of wetland sites on the List of Wetlands of International Importance where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur as a result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference. It is maintained as part of the Ramsar List.

The Montreux Record was established by Recommendation 4.8 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (1990). Resolution 5.4 of the Conference (1993) determined that the Montreux Record should be employed to identify priority sites for positive national and international conservation attention. As they expressed it in Resolution VIII.8 (2002), the Parties believe that “the voluntary inclusion of a particular site on the Montreux Record is a useful tool available to Contracting Parties in circumstances where:

- 1) demonstrating national commitment to resolve the adverse changes would assist in their resolution; 2) highlighting particularly serious cases would be beneficial at national and/or international level; 3) positive national and international conservation attention would benefit the site; and/or 4) inclusion on the Record would provide guidance in the allocation of resources available under financial mechanisms.”

Resolution VI.1 (1996) established more precise procedures for the use of the Montreux Record mechanism, with guidelines on the steps to be taken for including Ramsar sites on the Record and removing sites from it. Sites may be added to and removed from the Record only with the approval of the Contracting Parties in which they lie. As of September 2007, **59 Ramsar sites are present in the Montreux Record** – 23 sites which had been listed on the Montreux Record have since been removed from it (though one of those has been placed upon it again).

At the request of the Contracting Party concerned, the Secretariat may send a technical mission, known as the “Ramsar Advisory Mission”, to analyze the situation at one or more particular Montreux Record sites, provide advice on the measures to be taken, and assess the desirability of removing a site from the Montreux Record when measures have been implemented successfully.

The Ramsar Advisory Mission

Special attention is given to assisting member States in the management and conservation of listed sites whose ecological character is threatened. This is frequently carried out through the **Ramsar Advisory Mission**, a technical assistance mechanism formally adopted by Recommendation 4.7 in 1990.

The main objective of this mechanism is to provide assistance to developed and developing countries alike in solving the problems or threats that make inclusion in the Montreux Record necessary.

In most cases, the application of this mechanism consists of a visit by a team of two or more experts who will produce a report on their findings and recommendations. Upon receiving a request from a Contracting Party, the Secretariat agrees upon the terms of reference for the mission with the concerned authorities and determines the type of expertise that will be required for the visiting team. The team's draft report is submitted for review to the competent authorities who have requested the mission, and its revised final report then becomes a public document, which can provide the basis for conservation action at the site. In some cases, the recommendations of Ramsar Advisory Mission reports have provided the framework for financial assistance from the Small Grants Fund and external support agencies.

Between 1988 and 2007, the Ramsar Advisory Mission mechanism has been applied at **58 Ramsar sites or groups of sites**. Early missions sometimes consisted of a brief visit by one member of the Secretariat's technical staff, but over the years the missions have tended to become more formal and frequently more detailed, involving multi-disciplinary teams, sometimes in collaboration with other bodies such as the World Heritage Convention, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme.

A complete list of Ramsar Advisory Missions is available on the Ramsar Web site (www.ramsar.org/index_ram.htm). Copies of most of the individual RAM reports can also be obtained from the same address.

**Applications of the Ramsar Advisory Mission mechanism
between 2000 and 2006**

	Site Name	Country	Date
41	Ichkeul*	Tunisia	2000
42	Djoudj, Diawling*	Senegal, Mauritania	2000
43	Ebro Delta	Spain	2000
44	Sumava Peat Bogs	Czech Republic	2001
45	Parc National de la Kéran	Togo	2001
46	Mühlenberger Loch	Germany	2001
47	Lake Srebarna*	Bulgaria	2001
48	Laguna de Llanquanelo	Argentina	2001
49	Ouse Washes	United Kingdom	2001
50	Chilika Lake	India	2001
51	Doñana	Spain	2002
52	La Mare d'Oursi	Burkina Faso	2003
53	Kyliiske Mouth (Danube Delta)**	Ukraine	2003
54	Wetlands of Central Kolkheti	Georgia	2005
55	Kopacki Rit	Croatia	2005
56	Skadarsko Jezero	Serbia & Montenegro	2005
57	Sistema de Humedales de la Bahía Bluefields	Nicaragua	2005
58	Albufera de Valencia	Spain	2006

(* Joint mission with the World Heritage Convention & IUCN)

(** Joint mission with the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme)

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