

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
4th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Montreux, Switzerland
27 June – 4 July 1990

Recommendation 4.8: Change in ecological character of Ramsar sites

RECALLING that Contracting Parties “designate suitable wetlands within their territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance” (Article 2.1), “formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of the wetlands included in the List” (Article 3.1) and inform the Bureau “if the ecological character of any wetland in (their) territory and included in the List has changed, is changing, or is likely to change as the result of technological developments, pollution or other human interference” (Article 3.2);

EMPHASIZING the fundamental importance of maintaining ecological character of listed sites;

REFERRING to Conference document DOC. C.3.6 of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties which identifies Ramsar sites that have incurred damage, and Recommendation 3.9 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties which calls upon the Contracting Parties concerned to report to the Bureau on actions taken to safeguard these sites;

NOTING the information on Ramsar sites whose ecological character has changed, is changing or is likely to change, as provided by Contracting Parties to the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, and summarized in document DOC. C.4.18;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

REQUESTS that Contracting Parties, in whose territory are located sites which have incurred or are being threatened by change in ecological character, to take swift and effective action to prevent or remedy such changes;

INSTRUCTS the Convention Bureau, in consultation with the Contracting Party concerned, to maintain a record of Ramsar sites where such changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring or are likely to occur, and to distinguish between sites where preventive or remedial action has not as yet been identified, and those where the Contracting Party has indicated its intention to take preventive or remedial action or has already initiated such action; and

FURTHER INSTRUCTS the Convention Bureau to give priority to application of the Ramsar Monitoring Procedure, within the limits of budgetary constraints, at sites included in this record.