

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

Recommendation 5.1: Ramsar sites in the territories of specific Contracting Parties

WELCOMING the increase in the number of wetlands designated for the Ramsar “List of wetlands of international importance”;

PAYING SPECIAL TRIBUTE to Japan for designating five new wetlands in its territory for the Ramsar List, and for its strong statements of commitment to its obligations under the Convention, in particular in relation to maintaining the ecological character of its listed sites;

NOTING WITH PLEASURE the statements made (in Plenary Session or national reports) by other delegations, in particular Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Guinea, Hungary, Islamic Republic of Iran, Malta, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United Kingdom (including Hong Kong), Uruguay and Zambia, concerning the designation, or intended designation, of further sites for the List;

TAKING NOTE of the statements made by the Governments of Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Jordan, Poland, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, the United States of America, and Viet Nam about measures taken pursuant to Recommendation REC. C.4.9 and the associated Recommendations REC. C.4.9.1, 4.9.2, 4.9.3, 4.9.4 and 4.9.5, approved at the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in Montreux, on the subject of Ramsar sites in their territories;

FURTHER NOTING the statements made at the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, or in national reports, about actual or potential change in ecological character at listed wetlands in their territories by the delegations of Germany, Greece, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Netherlands, Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela and the Lower Danube Basin states;

GIVING PARTICULAR WEIGHT to statements made by the delegations of numerous developing countries about the need for much greater financial support for institutional development, capacity building, and training of staff, if additional wetlands in developing countries are to be designated for the List and managed appropriately;

RECALLING Montreux Recommendations REC. C.4.4, which called for networks of reserves to be established, and 4.12, which instructed the Bureau to assist Contracting Parties in identifying appropriate wetlands for listing based on the 1% criterion, as well as the Report of the 1992 Asian Regional Meeting in Islamabad, which called for the designation of additional Ramsar sites covering a representative range of wetlands, including intertidal wetlands;

(IN RELATION TO STATEMENTS ON RECOMMENDATION REC. C.4.9 AND ASSOCIATED RECOMMENDATIONS):

NOTES the compensatory measures being taken at Leybucht (Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer mit Dollart) by the German authorities, following the decision of the European Court of Justice that dyke construction within the site was legal;

WELCOMES the decision by Hungary to enable year-round protection to be given to Old Lake Tata and trusts that similar measures may soon be taken at Lake Balaton, so that both may be given year-round Ramsar status;

EXPRESSES ITS SATISFACTION at the measures taken by Iceland at its two Ramsar sites which enable them to be removed from the Montreux Record;

EXPRESSES ITS APPRECIATION of the funding provided by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the restoration and management of the Azraq wetland in Jordan following support from the Ramsar Convention;

REITERATES its appeal in Recommendation REC. C.4.9 to the Government of Poland to protect the middle reaches of the River Vistula, one of the last unregulated rivers in Europe, by establishment of a Landscape Park and designation for the Ramsar List;

LOOKS FORWARD to early designation of 28 new Ramsar sites in the Russian Federation;

RECONFIRMS ITS GRAVE CONCERN at the potential impact on the South African Ramsar site of St Lucia System of mining for titanium and other heavy metals, and calls on the Government of South Africa to give serious consideration to the recommendations in the Ramsar Monitoring Procedure Report No. 28;

WELCOMES the report by the Spanish delegation on measures taken with respect to Recommendation REC. C.4.9.1, in particular the significant decrease in water consumption for agriculture and the definitive rejection of new tourist complexes in the surrounding area, and trusts that funds will rapidly be made available to support the “Strategies for sustainable socio-economic development in the area around Doñana”;

NOTES WITH SATISFACTION the information provided by the United States of America on measures towards restoring the water regime and functional values of the Everglades, and emphasizes the need to continue remedial measures;

REITERATES its call at the Montreux Meeting to the Government of Viet Nam to designate at least one Ramsar site in the Mekong Delta for the Ramsar List, instructs the Bureau to remain in contact with the Vietnamese authorities on this matter, and requests the Government of Viet Nam to complete as soon as possible all necessary arrangements for inclusion of the Tien Hai part of the Red River Estuary in the Ramsar List;

(IN RELATION TO SPECIFIC STATEMENTS AT THE FIFTH MEETING):

EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN about the effects on the Ostfriesisches Wattenmeer mit Dollart in Germany of the Statoil pipeline, of the construction of a new harbour at Emden and of low-flying military aircraft;

ALSO EXPRESSES ITS CONCERN at possible new gas exploitation in the Netherlands sector of the Wadden Sea;

CALLS ON the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to ensure that the route of the inter-Maghreb highway does not pass through, or adversely affect, the Banc d'Arguin National Park;

EMPHASIZES the need to avoid further wetland clearance at Nariva Swamp in eastern Trinidad, Trinidad & Tobago, and the need for the Convention Bureau to assist the Government of Trinidad & Tobago in developing strategies and mechanisms to reverse the conditions which presently contribute to the deterioration of this Ramsar site, if appropriate through operation of the Monitoring Procedure;

REQUESTS the Governments of Greece, Venezuela and the Lower Danube states respectively to take action as specified in the Recommendations 5.1.1 to 5.1.3;

(IN RELATION TO GENERAL STATEMENTS AT THE FIFTH MEETING):

CALLS FOR increased funding to be made available to developing countries to support institutional development, capacity building, and training of staff, so that additional wetlands in developing countries may be designated for the Ramsar List and that their ecological character may be maintained through appropriate management; and

CALLS ON Contracting Parties along the East Asia flyway to designate additional wetlands for the Ramsar List, and in particular to designate additional intertidal wetlands in view of their vital role in sustaining migratory waterfowl, as well as their value for biodiversity and support of fisheries.