

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

**Recommendation 5.6: The role of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
in the Ramsar Convention**

RECALLING the instrumental role that international Non Governmental Organizations including IUCN, IWRB, ICBP (now “BirdLife International”) and WWF have played in the creation of the Ramsar Convention;

AWARE that these organizations have continued to make important technical, promotional and financial contributions to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention, and to support the Ramsar Bureau;

AWARE that national environmental NGOs can represent influential movements in society and that - through their expertise - they can play an active role in the promotion of wise use, management and conservation of wetlands;

CONSCIOUS that in some countries environmental NGOs require further strengthening and development;

NOTING that Article 6.2 of the Convention envisages expert contributions to the work of the Convention by concerned organizations;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

RECOMMENDS that the Contracting Parties strongly support and give particular attention to the development and functioning of national and international NGOs that aim for conservation and wise use of wetlands; and

ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to consult NGOs, provide them with relevant information and offer them ample opportunities to contribute to the formulation and implementation of governmental wetland policy.