

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Proceedings of the 6TH Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Brisbane, Australia, 19-27 March 1996)

RECOMMENDATION 6.4: THE “BRISBANE INITIATIVE” ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NETWORK OF LISTED SITES ALONG THE EAST ASIAN-AUSTRALASIAN FLYWAY

1. RECALLING Article 5 of the Convention, which calls for international consultation and coordination in the conservation and management of shared wetland resources;
2. NOTING Recommendations 4.4, which calls for networks of reserves to be established, and 4.12, which recognizes the flyway concept for the conservation of wetland bird species;
3. AWARE of the Kushiro Statement (Resolution 5.1), which calls for the strengthening of regional coordination on wetland issues, cooperation with other conventions and organizations, and the establishment of international networks of wetlands with significant ecological or hydrological links;
4. WELCOMING the proposed development of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ramsar Bureau and the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) as a mechanism to improve international cooperation on the conservation of migratory species;
5. CONVINCED of the need for a concerted multilateral approach involving governments, non-government organizations and local communities to the conservation of migratory waterbirds within each of the major flyways of the globe;
6. FURTHER CONVINCED that such an approach should have as a central feature a network of wetland sites of international importance, as defined by the Ramsar criteria, for the conservation of migratory waterbirds;
7. NOTING the socio-economic and cultural significance of some of these internationally important sites;
8. NOTING the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network, developed in the Americas, as a useful model for international cooperation in the conservation of migratory shorebird species;
9. FURTHER NOTING the recent adoption of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds under CMS;
10. NOTING that participants at the regional technical workshop on the Conservation of Migratory Waterbirds and their Wetland Habitats held in Kushiro, Japan, in December 1994 supported a concerted multilateral approach to the conservation of migratory waterbirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, through the development of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy, and recommended the immediate establishment of an East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network;

11. NOTING that the Delhi Declaration on the Conservation of Wetlands in Asia, adopted at the Ramsar Regional Meeting in March 1995, called for “the support of initiatives to develop frameworks for the coordination of efforts to conserve migratory waterbirds in the Asian flyways”; and
12. CONVINCED that the Ramsar Convention, through the cooperative actions of its Contracting Parties along the major flyways, could facilitate the development of such multilateral approaches to waterbird conservation by supporting the development of networks of wetland sites of international importance for migratory waterbirds;

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13. ADOPTS this Recommendation as the “Brisbane Initiative” which calls for the establishment of a network of Ramsar-listed and other wetlands of international importance for migratory shorebirds along the East Asian-Australasian Flyway, managed to maintain their suitability for migratory shorebirds;
14. ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to consider supporting the implementation of the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy;
15. URGES Contracting Parties within the East Asian-Australasian Flyway to demonstrate their support for an East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network by nominating one or more appropriate sites for inclusion in the Network;
16. COMMENDS the “Brisbane Initiative” to other countries or territories along the Flyway who are not yet Contracting Parties, and urges their full participation in the Brisbane Initiative;
17. FURTHER COMMENDS consideration of the flyway site network approach to other species groups of migratory waterbirds in the Asia-Pacific region and in other flyways; and
18. FURTHER URGES participating countries to work together to maintain and expand such networks in a coordinated manner, and to promote public awareness, training and information exchange and thus contribute to the long-term conservation of migratory shorebirds and their habitats.