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;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

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.