

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 6.6: APPOINTMENT OF REGIONALLY-BASED RAMSAR LIAISON OFFICERS

1. RECALLING that at the 4th and 5th Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the Convention's core budget was increased, in part, to establish Regional Technical Officer positions based at the Convention Bureau;
2. FURTHER RECALLING the "Additional Guidance for the Implementation of the Wise Use Concept" (Annex to Resolution 5.6) which suggests Contracting Parties should cooperate in addressing cross-boundary wetland management issues, including the conservation of migratory species;
3. RECOGNIZING that within Ramsar regions, similar wetland ecosystems with similar management concerns occur, and that increased cooperation at the regional level could result in more effective implementation of the Convention;
4. AWARE that countries which are potentially interested in becoming Contracting Parties to the Convention could be further assisted in this regard with expertise available within their region; and
5. NOTING that, in order to facilitate expansion of the Convention's membership and enhance the level of general support available for Ramsar activities being undertaken in Africa, Asia, the Neotropics and Oceania, regionally-based staff, in addition to those already funded from the core budget, are highly desirable;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

6. URGES Contracting Parties to consider contributing ongoing resources under a special sponsorship arrangement to allow the establishment and maintenance of regionally-based Ramsar Liaison Officers;
7. DIRECTS the Convention Bureau to seek support for such Ramsar Liaison Officers as a way to increase further the effectiveness of implementation, especially in the regions indicated above;
8. CALLS ON partner organizations to examine ways in which they may facilitate this initiative, either through co-location of these staff within their regional premises, or through closer cooperation in terms of their day-to-day activities; and
9. ENCOURAGES the Standing Committee to support this initiative and to examine mechanisms by which Ramsar's capacity to provide regionally-based support and advice could be advanced.