

## CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

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

### RECOMMENDATION 6.8: STRATEGIC PLANNING IN COASTAL ZONES

1. NOTING that an estimated 60% of the world's population and many development activities are concentrated along the coastal strip which extends from shoreline to less than 60 km inland, and that increasing population and development are posing immense pressure on coastal wetlands in terms of depletion of living resources, pollution loads, reclamation, land fill, and other uncoordinated development, all of which impact on biological diversity;
2. FURTHER NOTING that coastal wetlands need increased consideration in land-use plans in relation to the protection of overall water resources and cumulative impacts of human activity;
3. NOTING that coastal zone planning should incorporate all types of wetlands and associated shorebird and other waterbird roosting areas including, *inter alia*, associated freshwater wetland systems, coastal lagoons, bays, ocean inlets, mangrove swamps, perched lakes, kelp forests, freshwater swamps, and estuaries, as well as inter- and sub-tidal areas up to six metres deep at zero reference tide mark;
4. ACKNOWLEDGING the economic, ecological, cultural and recreational importance of coastal zones, especially for Small Island Developing States and other countries;
5. NOTING the issues raised in Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 regarding integrated coastal zone management and the work of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme to support ecologically sustainable development of the coastal zone as well as Decision II/10 on conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity, taken by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
6. RECOGNIZING the existence of important linkages between catchment management and coastal zone management;
7. RECALLING the recommendation adopted by the Policy Conference on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in East Africa including the Island States held in Arusha, Tanzania, in 1993, on the need for including the coastal zone in the national physical planning process, as well as the need for coordinated legislation governing activities with the potential of impacting negatively on coastal wetlands; and
8. FURTHER RECALLING Resolution 5.6 which adopted Additional Guidance on Wise Use of Wetlands, involving the application of a holistic and integrative management strategy for wetlands;

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9. CALLS on the Contracting Parties to adopt and apply strategic planning and integrated coastal zone management principles to assist sound decision-making on the conservation and wise use of coastal wetlands and other key environmental components; and
10. REQUESTS all Contracting Parties to seek appropriate means to ensure that strategic planning in the coastal zone as well as environmental impact assessments are carried out competently and in a timely fashion so as to ensure that use of wetlands and related environmental components will be wisely managed.