

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 6.17.1: GREEK RAMSAR SITES

1. RECALLING Recommendation 5.1.1 which requested the Greek Government to take urgent measures to submit definitive maps, to prepare management plans and to ensure wise use of Greek Ramsar sites, and which urged the Greek authorities to consider all possible ways of averting negative impacts from water management projects upon the Messolonghi Lagoons Ramsar site;
2. EXPRESSING satisfaction at the adoption of Ministerial Decisions for the protection of three Greek Ramsar sites;
3. NOTING that Greek Ramsar sites presently lack the protection of Presidential Decrees and management plans;
4. RECOGNIZING the vital importance of ensuring the wise use of Greek wetlands;
5. AWARE of the Greek Government's decision to press ahead with the construction of an Acheloos River diversion scheme in its original dimensions, but also to reduce the quantity of the Acheloos diversion in the proposed scheme from 1.1 billion to 600 million m³ per year; and
6. FURTHER AWARE of continuing concern over the river diversion issue amongst academic and nature conservation organizations and, in particular, of their concern that the diversion of Evinos River has already begun;

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7. CONGRATULATES the Greek Government on the progress made since the last meeting of the Conference to improve the condition of the Greek Ramsar sites, in particular by producing final delineation maps for seven of the sites, and by consulting widely, including with NGOs;
8. URGES the Greek Government to put in place Presidential Decrees for the protection of all Greek Ramsar sites as a matter of urgency;
9. FURTHER URGES the Greek Government to complete mapping of these sites and submit full documentation by April 1997;
10. REQUESTS the Greek authorities to prepare management plans for the sites and to ensure wise use, including the enforcement of already existing regulations;
11. REQUESTS that the Greek Government reconsider the Acheloos diversion project, and consider commissioning a study of the hydrology and management of freshwater resources of the Thessaly Plain and the Aetoloakarnania region; and

12. REQUESTS the Bureau to contact the Greek Government with a view to providing assistance in conservation and wise use of Greek wetlands, if appropriate, through implementation of the Management Guidance Procedure, thus facilitating their removal from the Montreux Record.