

Recommendation 7.3



"People and Wetlands: The Vital Link"
7th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971),
San José, Costa Rica, 10-18 May 1999

Multilateral cooperation on the conservation of migratory waterbirds in the Asia-Pacific region

1. RECALLING Article 5 of the Ramsar Convention, which calls for international consultation and coordination in the conservation and management of shared wetland resources;
2. NOTING Recommendation 4.4, which calls for networks of wetland reserves to be established, and Recommendation 4.12, which recognises the flyway concept for the conservation of wetland bird species;
3. NOTING Action 7.2.5 of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002 to "enhance Ramsar's contribution to international cooperation on shared wetland species, notably through cooperative arrangements with the Convention on Migratory Species, flyway agreements, networks and other mechanisms dealing with migratory species";
4. RECALLING the *Kushiro Initiative* of December 1994, which called for enhanced mechanisms for collaborative action to conserve waterbird species in the Asia-Pacific region, establishment of a network of sites critical for waterbird conservation, and sustainable management of waterbirds, which also recommended the development of a regional multilateral waterbird agreement;
5. NOTING that pursuant to Recommendation 6.4 (the *Brisbane Initiative*) of the 6th Conference of the Contracting Parties, an East Asian-Australasian Shorebird Reserve Network has been established and continues to expand;
6. FURTHER NOTING the development of the North East Asian Crane Site Network and the Anatidae Site Network in the East Asian Flyway;
7. RECALLING that the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy 1996-2000* calls for development of an Asia-Pacific multilateral migratory waterbird conservation agreement;
8. NOTING the *Guidelines on international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention*, adopted at this Conference of Contracting Parties (Resolution VII.19);
9. ACKNOWLEDGING that Resolution 5.4 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) lists development of Regional Agreements as a key priority and calls for continued support for the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy 1996-2000*;

10. AWARE of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ramsar Bureau and the CMS Secretariat, through which they have agreed to intensify their cooperation in implementation of both conventions, as well as Agreements concluded under CMS;
11. CONVINCED of the need for a concerted multilateral approach to the conservation of migratory waterbirds within each of the major flyways of the globe;
12. RECOGNISING the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement as a useful model for international cooperation in the conservation of migratory waterbird species; and
13. CONVINCED that the Ramsar Convention, through the cooperative actions of its Contracting Parties along the major flyways, can facilitate the development of a multilateral approach to waterbird conservation in the Asia-Pacific region;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

14. REQUESTS Contracting Parties to extend their support to the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy 1996-2000*, and to work toward having in place a secure and extended framework for international cooperation aimed at the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the Asia-Pacific region beyond 2000;
15. URGES Contracting Parties in the Asia-Pacific region to nominate additional sites to the Networks established under the *Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Strategy* and to participate fully in the Action Plans developed under the *Strategy*
16. COMMENDS the *Strategy* to other parties within the Asia-Pacific region that are not yet Contracting Parties, and urges their full participation in its implementation; and
17. CALLS UPON Contracting Parties to consider actively the development of a multilateral agreement or other arrangement, to provide a long-term conservation framework for migratory waterbirds and their habitats which is inclusive of all Asia-Pacific countries.