



NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
AND
PLANNING AGENCY

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands V Pan-American Meeting in Preparation for COP11

The Kingston Declaration to the Ramsar Convention

- 1) The V Pan American meeting held Dec 6-10, 2011 in Kingston, Jamaica discussed topics of regional importance in relation to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the draft resolutions for the 11th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in July 2012 in Bucharest, Romania. During the Pan American Meeting, sub-regional meetings occurred as well. Discussions and relevant recommendations, proposals and suggestions from the plenary meeting and the sub-regional meeting are captured in the meeting summary prepared by the Ramsar Secretariat. The participants decided nevertheless to highlight the following main discussion points.
- 2) The participants at the V Pan American meeting recognize the continued usefulness of cooperation at the regional level through networks and centres for training and capacity building in providing effective support for improved implementation of the objectives and approaches of the Convention. In this respect, the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat need to ensure sufficient funds exist for implementation of the Convention through regional initiatives during the period of 2013 – 2015. The importance of these regional initiatives should be reaffirmed through review and evaluation during the same timeframe.
- 3) The participants recognize that the pillars of the Convention are based on the balance of environmental, social and economic aspects and express their commitment to make all necessary efforts and in all levels to contribute to actions that promote an integrated framework for linking wetland conservation and wise use with poverty eradication.
- 4) The participants recognize the efforts by the Secretariat and the Standing Committee to improve communication with, and transmission to the Parties of the necessary information and documents through the implementation of new technologies to ensure active engagement by all Contracting Parties. In this context, they highlighted the need that the Standing Committee documents and information

be provided in a timely manner in Spanish, one of the three official languages of the Ramsar Convention. To ensure continued exchange of information between Contracting Parties, the participants also agreed on the need for Regional Representatives on Standing Committees to have an alternate representative.

- 5) The participants expressed their gratitude to the Government of Jamaica for the warm hospitality that was extended to them, with a special recognition to the Ministry of Housing, Environment, Water and Local Government.