



11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

“Wetlands: home and destination”

Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012

Agenda item XV

Ramsar COP11 DR22

Draft Resolution XI.22

Thanks to the host country, Romania

1. HAVING MET for the first time in 10 years in the European region, in Romania (Bucharest);
2. FULLY AWARE of the significant effort required for the organization of a meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), with, on this occasion, more than 800 participants, including delegations from 137 Contracting Parties and 5 observer States;
3. RECOGNIZING Romania's long-term commitment to the conservation and wise use of wetlands through their strong participation in the Ramsar Convention; and
4. NOTING the recent addition of six Romanian Ramsar Sites, including four new Ramsar Sites added to the List on the closing day of this meeting, and the announcement of the designation of eight additional Ramsar Sites to the List in the near future;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

5. RECORDS its thanks to the President, the Alternate President and the Vice-Presidents of COP11 for their commitment to ensuring efficient and effective conduct of the plenary sessions;
6. ALSO RECORDS its thanks and appreciation to Romania, and in particular to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, for their efficient, comprehensive and thorough preparations which ensured the smooth running of the COP and all its associated events, as well as for the secondment of an officer to assist the Secretariat in the preparations for COP11;
7. FEELS INDEBTED to the people of Bucharest for their warm and gracious welcome;
8. EXPRESSES its admiration for and utmost appreciation of the crucial role played by the COP11 volunteers that have contributed to so many aspects of the COP's success;

9. GREATLY APPRECIATES the numerous side events and cultural events that provided a wonderful opportunity for technical and cultural exchanges between delegates and Romanian citizens;
10. COMMENDS Romania's support for the Ramsar Convention and wetland conservation and wise use through:
 - a) its pioneering work for the restoration of the extensive urban wetland complex at the edge of its capital city Bucharest;
 - b) the care taken for the maintenance and restoration of functional sturgeon migration routes in the Danube river basin, and the provision of continued support to these efforts that is needed in the future;
 - c) the planned designation of the four newly listed Ramsar Sites referred to in paragraph 4 above as Transboundary Ramsar Sites with Bulgaria, thereby applying an ecosystem approach and furthering cross-border cooperation between Contracting Parties to the Convention; and
11. LOOKS FORWARD to working ever more closely with the government and people of Romania to harness the interest and energy generated by COP11 for the benefit of wetland conservation locally, nationally, and internationally.