

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
4th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Montreux, Switzerland
27 June – 4 July 1990

Resolution 4.5: Accession requirements

DESIROUS to facilitate accession to the Convention by an increasing number of States and, therefore, to simplify accession formalities;

NOTING, however, that a unique feature of the Ramsar Convention is that under Art. 2.4 it requires from Contracting Parties that they designate at least one wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance when they sign the Convention or deposit their instrument of ratification or accession;

BEING AWARE that the Convention in Art. 2.1 also lays down the obligation to describe precisely and delimit on a map the boundaries of the wetlands designated for inclusion in the List;

RECOGNISING that there have been uncertainties concerning the status as Contracting Parties of States which have not provided the Depositary with such a precise description and map of the boundaries of the wetland or wetlands they have designated when signing the Convention or depositing their instrument of ratification or accession;

CONSIDERING, however, that nothing in the Convention makes it a requirement to provide this information at the same time as that of the designation;

CONSIDERING, therefore, that the only condition laid down by the Convention for becoming a Contracting Party is the designation of at least one wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance;

CONSCIOUS, however, that precise descriptions and maps of the boundaries of all wetlands designated for inclusion in the List are essential for the implementation of the Convention and that such information, when it is not possible to provide it at the time of the designation of a wetland for inclusion in the List, should be made available as early as possible thereafter;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

RECOMMENDS that any State which has designated at least one wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance when signing the Convention without reservation as to ratification, or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession, be regarded as having fulfilled the conditions for becoming a Contracting Party; and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that any Contracting Party that has not, when signing the Convention without reservation as to ratification, or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession, provided the Depositary with a precise description and map of the boundaries of the wetland or wetlands so designated, provide such documentation to the Bureau as early as possible thereafter.