

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Kushiro, Japan
9-16 June 1993

Resolution 5.4: The Record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur (Montreux Record)

RECALLING that Contracting Parties ‘designate suitable wetlands within (their) territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance’ (Article 2.1), ‘formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of wetlands included in the List’ (Article 3.1), and inform the Convention Bureau ‘if the ecological character of any wetland in (their) territory and included in the List has changed, is changing, or is likely to change as the result of technological development, pollution, or other human interference’ (Article 3.2);

FURTHER RECALLING that Recommendation 4.8 adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties instructed the Convention Bureau, in consultation with each Contracting Party concerned, ‘to maintain a record of Ramsar sites where such changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur’;

RECOGNIZING the value of such a record in identifying priorities for the Monitoring Procedure, the Wetland Conservation Fund, and other financial mechanisms;

DRAWING ATTENTION to Resolution RES. C.5.5 (‘Establishment of a Scientific and Technical Review Panel’);

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

DECIDES that the record established by Recommendation 4.8. should generally be referred to as the ‘Montreux Record’, although its full title (‘Record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur’) should be retained as a subheading for use in formal documents;

DETERMINES that the purpose of the Montreux Record is to identify priority sites for positive national and international conservation attention, to guide implementation of the Monitoring Procedure, and to guide allocation of resources available under financial mechanisms;

INSTRUCTS the Convention Bureau to maintain the Montreux Record as part of the Ramsar database and in accordance with the guidelines appended in the annex to the present Resolution; and

CHARGES the Convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel, established by Resolution RES. C.5.5, with providing advice on the maintenance of the Montreux Record, and other matters relating to the conservation of Ramsar sites included in the Montreux Record.

Annex

MONTREUX RECORD

(Record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur')

1. The Convention Bureau shall draw up the Montreux Record initially on the basis of sites listed in paragraph 224 of document INF. C.4.18, prepared from National Reports submitted to the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. Sites that have come to the attention of the Convention Bureau subsequently shall be included in the Montreux Record subject to the procedure outlined below (points 2-4).
2. It comes to the attention of the Convention Bureau that the ecological character of a Ramsar site may have changed, may be changing, or may be likely to change as a result of technological development, pollution, or other human interference.
3. If relevant consultations are not already in progress, the Convention Bureau shall contact the Contracting Party concerned, requesting additional information on the status of the site.
4. When, following such consultations, it is confirmed that the site has undergone, is undergoing, or is likely to undergo change in ecological character, the Convention Bureau, in agreement with the Contracting Party concerned, and in consultation with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, shall add the site to the Montreux Record.
5. The Montreux Record shall indicate those sites where the Monitoring Procedure has been or is being implemented, as well as those sites where a Contracting Party has already identified and/or begun to implement remedial actions. Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Convention Bureau on the conservation situation at sites included on the Montreux Record.
6. The Convention Bureau, in agreement with the Contracting Party concerned, and in consultation with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, shall remove a site from the Montreux Record upon receipt of documents detailing either the remedial actions implemented successfully at the site, or the reasons why the ecological character of a site is no longer likely to change.
7. The Montreux Record shall be maintained as part of the Ramsar database and shall be subject to continuous review. Copies of the Record shall be available to Contracting Parties and other interested bodies upon request, but shall in any case be included with the regular circulation of the List.