

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Proceedings of the 6TH Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Brisbane, Australia, 19-27 March 1996)

RESOLUTION VI.9: COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

1. RECALLING the terms of the Kushiro Statement approved under Resolution 5.1, which notes that “it will be natural for the Ramsar Convention to work closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity and to continue to play the leading role in the conservation of wetland biodiversity”, and calls for active cooperation between the Secretariats of the two Conventions;
2. EMPHASIZING that wetland diversity is an important element of global biological diversity;
3. REAFFIRMING the need to make best use of scarce resources by promoting synergy between the work of environment-related conventions, and to avoid duplication of work;
4. WELCOMING the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ramsar Convention Bureau and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity signed on 19 January 1996;
5. NOTING WITH APPRECIATION the growing tendency for states which are Contracting Parties to both the Wetland and Biological Diversity Conventions to coordinate their implementation of both conventions and their positions at meetings of the Conference of the Parties of the two Conventions;
6. TAKING NOTE of Decision II/13 of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on “Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions” which invites “the governing bodies of such conventions and other international legal instruments related to biological diversity to consider at their next meetings their possible contribution to the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Convention”;
7. REFERRING to Action 7.2.3 of the Ramsar Convention’s Strategic Plan 1997-2002 which calls on Contracting Parties, the Ramsar Bureau and partner organizations to “strengthen cooperation and synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular as regards inclusion of wetland concerns in national biodiversity strategies, and planning and execution of projects affecting wetlands”; and
8. TAKING ACCOUNT of the discussions on cooperation between the Wetland and Biological Diversity Conventions at Technical Session C of the present meeting;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

9. REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau to give priority in its programme of work to the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

10. ENCOURAGES the Administrative Authorities of the Ramsar Convention in each Contracting Party to contribute actively to achieving the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity by ensuring that wetland biodiversity components are included into the plans, programmes or strategies, and specific projects elaborated at the national level in response to the requirements of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
11. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to exchange information, cooperate and coordinate activities with the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), and to report, through the Standing Committee, to the Conference of the Parties on the results of such actions;
12. WELCOMES the invitation to consider the Ramsar Convention's contribution to the implementation of the goals and objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
13. INVITES Contracting Parties to strengthen coordination of their approach to the two Conventions, so that Ramsar can contribute in the field of wetlands to the Convention on Biological Diversity's broader work on conservation of global biological diversity; and
14. INVITES the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Argentina from 4 to 15 November 1996, to include in its agenda a report (by the Standing Committee or Bureau) on progress achieved and problems encountered in implementation of the Ramsar Convention for conservation of wetland biodiversity, thus noting the complementarity of interests of the two Conventions.