

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.10: COOPERATION WITH THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) AND ITS IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: THE WORLD BANK, UNDP AND UNEP

1. NOTING that the four focal areas of the Operational Strategy of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) adopted in 1995 are: biological diversity, climate change, international waters and ozone layer depletion, the first three of which have a direct bearing on wetlands;
2. WELCOMING the reference in the chapter of the GEF's Operational Strategy on International Waters to the possibility of cooperation with the Ramsar Convention, and noting that, in contrast to the other three focal areas, there is no global convention dealing specifically with international waters issues as defined by the GEF Strategy;
3. CONSCIOUS of the need to obtain funds for developing countries and countries whose economies are in transition, so that they can fulfil their obligations under the Ramsar Convention, and therefore welcoming the principle of appointing a Ramsar Bureau Development Assistance Officer, whose main role will be to liaise with the GEF and other funding agencies, in order to assist such countries in the search for funds;
4. WELCOMING the links already established by the Ramsar Bureau with the GEF Secretariat and the GEF implementing agencies, the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP;
5. REFERRING to Action 7.4.3 of the Ramsar Convention's Strategic Plan 1997-2002 which calls on the Ramsar Bureau to "maintain close working relations with multilateral development assistance agencies relating to project screening, development, and evaluation, notably the World Bank, UNDP, and UNEP, in particular as partners in the Global Environment Facility (GEF)";
6. TAKING ACCOUNT of the discussions on cooperation between Ramsar and the GEF implementing agencies at Technical Session C of the present Meeting; and
7. NOTING WITH APPROVAL the willingness of the GEF, expressed in Technical Session C, to consider funding projects related to conservation and wise use of wetlands, submitted by eligible Contracting Parties in the relevant GEF focal areas;

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8. INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Bureau to extend and deepen its ongoing cooperation with the GEF Secretariat and the GEF implementing agencies: the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP;
9. DIRECTS the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), under the guidance of the Standing Committee, to exchange information and cooperate with the GEF's Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) and to report on the results of such actions, through the Standing Committee, to the Conference of the Parties;

10. INVITES Contracting Parties at national level to coordinate their approach to Ramsar and GEF; and
11. CALLS upon the GEF to provide direct support to eligible Ramsar Contracting Parties, in order to assist them in the implementation, in their own territories, of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002.