

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.16: ACCESSION PROCEDURES

1. AWARE that Contracting Parties to the Convention “designate suitable wetlands within their territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance” and that “the boundaries of each wetland shall be precisely described and delimited on a map” (Article 2.1);
2. RECALLING that “to facilitate accession to the Convention by an increasing number of States and, therefore, to simplify accession formalities”, Resolution 4.5 recommended that, provided a wetland is designated for the List at the time of signing the Convention without reservation as to ratification, or depositing an instrument of ratification or accession, the map and description of the listed site may be submitted to the Bureau later;
3. NOTING WITH SATISFACTION the increasing number of Contracting Parties to the Convention and the increasing number of additional wetlands designated for the List; and
4. RECALLING that Resolution 5.3 on “A Procedure for Initial Designation of Sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance” urged Contracting Parties to ensure that any new sites to be added to the List fulfill one or more of the criteria established by Recommendation 4.2 and urged Contracting Parties, in case of doubt, to enter into informal consultations with the Convention Bureau and its technical advisors prior to listing new sites; and further requested that, in addition to a map showing definitive site boundaries, a completed Information Sheet for Ramsar Wetlands be submitted to the Convention Bureau upon designation of a wetland for the List, giving particular attention to the sections on conservation measures, functions and values, and criteria for inclusion;

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5. DECIDES that, notwithstanding the provisions of Resolution 4.5, the boundaries of each listed wetland shall be precisely described and also delimited on a map by States at the time of signing the Convention without reservation as to ratification, ratifying, or acceding to the Convention;
6. FURTHER DECIDES that the boundaries of each additional site, designated subsequently by States for the List of Wetlands of International Importance, shall be precisely described and also delimited on a map;
7. INVITES Contracting Parties to provide, at the time of designation of a wetland for the List, a completed Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands, giving particular attention to the subjects mentioned in Resolution 5.3; and
8. REITERATES the invitation to States and Contracting Parties contained in Resolution 5.3 to enter, in case of doubt, into informal consultations with the Bureau and its technical advisors.