

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.22: CONSIDERATION OF OVERALL COST REDUCTION AND IN PARTICULAR OF POSSIBLE RELOCATION OF THE RAMSAR BUREAU AND ITS OPERATIONS

1. RECOGNIZING and appreciating the contribution and support given by Switzerland, the host country for the Ramsar Bureau, since the 3rd Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Regina, Canada, 1987);
2. APPRECIATING the extremely close relationship and positive support provided by IUCN - The World Conservation Union in delivering services to the Bureau;
3. CONCERNED at the increase in operational and staff costs of Bureau activities which are needed to ensure the adequate implementation of the Convention and the difficulties for the Contracting Parties to respond financially to meet these budgetary needs;
4. MINDFUL of the instruction given to the Bureau over the last three triennia by the Ramsar Standing Committee and the Contracting Parties to institute budgetary efficiencies to maximize the effectiveness of the Convention; and
5. NOTING the considerable and successful efforts by the Secretary General and the Bureau in recent months to identify and exploit opportunities for operational cost efficiencies and, wherever possible, cost reductions in the core budget operations of the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

6. DIRECTS the Standing Committee to undertake a general analysis of the ways and means by which overall Ramsar Bureau costs could be reduced, or extra-budgetary permanent contributions received; and
7. FURTHER DIRECTS the Standing Committee, with the assistance of the Bureau, and in close conjunction with IUCN, to undertake a specific analysis of any potential cost savings associated with possible relocation of the Ramsar Bureau, and to report on the results of both analyses at the next meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.