

"Wetlands: water, life and culture"

**8th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to
the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

Valencia, Spain, 18-26 November 2002

Resolution VIII.43

A subregional strategy of the Ramsar Convention for South America

1. RECALLING that Article 5 of the Convention stipulates that the Contracting Parties "shall endeavour to coordinate and support present and future policies and regulations concerning the conservation of wetlands";
2. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT General Objective 3 of the Strategic Plan 2003-2008 urges promotion of international cooperation and implementation of the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention*;
3. ALSO TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the conclusions of the first South American Regional Meeting (Buenos Aires, September 2001), at which the participating Contracting Parties decided to develop a subregional strategy for conservation and wise use of wetlands within the framework of the Convention for the countries in South America;
4. KEEPING IN MIND the support expressed for this proposal by the Contracting Parties at the second Pan-American Ramsar Meeting (Guayaquil, July 2002);
5. RECOGNIZING the importance of establishing practical initiatives that support effective implementation of the Convention and its instruments, such as the Strategic Plan and the various guidelines adopted by the Conference of the Parties; and
6. IN ACCORDANCE with the contents of Resolution VIII.30 on *Regional initiatives for the further implementation of the Convention*;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

7. APPROVES the initiative of the Contracting Parties interested in developing a subregional strategy for the Ramsar Convention for South America;
8. URGES the Contracting Parties of that subregion to continue striving to develop this strategy, involving the participation of Ramsar National Committees or equivalent bodies in each country in both the design and implementation phases, within the spirit of Resolution VIII.30 on *Regional initiatives for the further implementation of the Convention* and following the guidelines annexed to that resolution;
9. REQUESTS the Ramsar Bureau and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to provide their support for implementation of this initiative; and

10. ENCOURAGES the Contracting Parties and the International Organization Partners of the Convention and international cooperation agencies to provide support for implementation of this subregional strategy.