

**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.44**

### **New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Africa**

1. ACKNOWLEDGING the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) by the African Union in 2002 as the programme for sustainable social and economic development in Africa;
2. RECALLING that the international community, in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (September 2002), welcomed and supported the implementation of NEPAD as a regional programme for advancing sustainable development in Africa;
3. APPRECIATING the inclusion of wetland conservation and wise use as a thematic area under the Environment Initiative of NEPAD;
4. WELCOMING the workshop convened in Valencia on 17 November 2002 prior to the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties by the Ramsar Bureau and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on further developing the Plan of Action to implement Africa's Wetland Management Strategy under the Environment Initiative of NEPAD;
5. NOTING the decisions of the African subregional preparatory meetings for COP8 on the need to strengthen the regional implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Africa; and
6. RECOGNIZING the convergence of the objectives of the Convention and NEPAD with respect to the conservation and wise use of wetlands as a means to achieving sustainable development, and the potential of the two to be mutually reinforcing;

#### **THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES**

7. URGES Contracting Parties to provide support for the implementation of actions undertaken through the Environment Initiative of NEPAD;
8. URGES Contracting Parties in the African region to use NEPAD, AMCEN (African Ministerial Conference on Environment) and AMCOW (African Ministerial Conference on Water) to advance the objectives of the Ramsar Convention, mindful of the need to adopt a multi-sectoral approach to the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
9. FURTHER URGES Contracting Parties to pay specific attention to the development and implementation of initiatives with transboundary elements, particularly where these refer to shared river and lake basins, shared wetlands, migratory species and technology transfer;

10. CALLS upon the NEPAD development partners to provide support to African Contracting Parties in the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan, including its communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) component, which is considered an important tool for realising the goals of NEPAD; and
11. DIRECTS the Ramsar Bureau to develop synergies between the implementation of the Convention and NEPAD in Africa.