

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
4th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Montreux, Switzerland
27 June – 4 July 1990

Resolution 4.1: Interpretation of Article 10 *bis* paragraph 6 of the Convention*

RECALLING that amendments to Articles 6 and 7 of the Convention were adopted on 28 May 1987 in Regina, Canada;

BEING AWARE that Article 10 *bis* paragraph 6 of the Convention provides that an amendment adopted shall enter into force for the Contracting Parties which have accepted it on the first day of the fourth month following the date on which two-thirds of the Contracting Parties have deposited an instrument of acceptance with the Depositary;

CONSIDERING that there is a need to dispel any ambiguity as to the date on which amendments enter into force;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

DECIDES that in order to determine the date of the entry into force of any amendment to the Convention, the expression “two-thirds of the Contracting Parties” in paragraph 6 of Article 10 *bis* shall be interpreted as meaning two-thirds of the Contracting Parties at the time of the adoption of that amendment.

* The operative part of this resolution is based on the corresponding paragraph of CITES Resolution Conf.4.27 and is intended to serve the same purpose.

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Resolution 4.2: Working languages of the Conference of the Contracting Parties

NOTING that a growing number of Latin American countries are becoming Contracting Parties to the Convention;

REALIZING the need to enhance communication with and participation of Latin American and other Contracting Parties and Observers;

CONSIDERING that it is indispensable for the effectiveness of the Convention to increase the number of Contracting Parties;

CONVINCED that the addition of Spanish as a working language through the provision of interpretation at Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties would facilitate the accession of Latin American and other States to the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

DECIDES that Spanish shall be a working language of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

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Resolution 4.3: A Wetland Conservation Fund

RECOGNISING that measures necessary to assure the conservation and wise use of wetlands may often require resources beyond those available to developing countries;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

DECIDES to establish a Wetland Conservation Fund (the Fund), which shall operate according to the following principles:

- (a) the Fund shall be administered by the Bureau under the supervision of the Standing Committee, pursuant to the Terms of Reference for the Financial Administration of the Convention;
- (b) the Fund shall include such revenues as may be allocated in the budget approved by the Contracting Parties, and any additional revenues received as voluntary contributions;
- (c) the Fund shall be used only to provide assistance to developing countries, upon official request from a competent national authority, for activities in furtherance of the purposes of the Convention;
- (d) all applications for allocations from the Fund shall be reviewed and decided by the Standing Committee, under such procedures as it may prescribe;
- (e) any developing country that is a Contracting Party may apply for an allocation from the Fund to support wetland conservation activities, including:
 - i) activities that will improve management of listed sites, such as inventories, monitoring, investigation of threats, preparation of management plans, training of site managers, and public education programmes;
 - ii) activities required for the designation of sites, such as surveys, boundary delineation, evaluation of hydrological factors, and identification of threats; and
 - iii) activities that will promote "wise use" of wetlands, such as providing seed money for preparation of proposals to be submitted to development assistance agencies and multilateral development banks; and
- (f) any developing country that is seeking to accede to the Convention may apply for a grant from the Fund to support activities necessary for the identification, delineation, and mapping of a site to be included on the List of Wetlands of International Importance.

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Resolution 4.4: Implementation of Article 5 of the Convention

RECALLING that Article 5 of the Convention requires Contracting Parties to “consult with each other about implementing obligations arising from the Convention especially in the case of a wetland extending over the territories of more than one Contracting Party or where a water system is shared by Contracting Parties. They shall at the same time endeavour to coordinate and support present and future policies and regulations concerning the conservation of wetlands and their flora and fauna”;

BEING AWARE that several initiatives have been taken by Contracting Parties to establish consultations and coordination endeavours for shared wetlands, water systems and migratory species dependent upon these habitats;

NOTING that the promotion of further such initiatives could be facilitated with the assistance of the Convention Bureau;

RECOGNISING that for the purpose of such consultations and cooperation endeavours priority should be given to shared wetlands and water systems which contain sites included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance, and to such shared migratory species that may be identified as requiring mutually agreed upon conservation measures;

RECOGNISING, further, that the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), among other multilateral and bilateral agreements, provides a mechanism for agreements for this purpose;

CONSIDERING that there is a need for a procedure to implement the obligations to consult and to endeavour to coordinate laid down in Article 5;

CONSIDERING, however, that before any such procedure can be developed, there is a need to gather sufficient information on wetlands, water systems and migratory species shared by two or several Contracting Parties and to obtain the views of Contracting Parties on such a procedure;

CONSIDERING, further, that one of the several ways in which Article 5 could be implemented could be by the means of bilateral or multilateral arrangements in respect of wetlands included in the List and situated along the same flyway;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

INSTRUCTS the Bureau

- (a) to gather, as appropriate, information on wetlands and water systems that are shared between two or more Contracting Parties where such wetlands or water systems contain at least one wetland included in the List of Wetlands of International Importance;

- (b) to draw up, where appropriate, and in cooperation with relevant organizations, a list of boundary water treaties to which Contracting Parties are a Party and to consult with such Contracting Parties with a view to establishing the relevance of such treaties for the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention;
- (c) to review, in consultation with the CMS and other appropriate secretariats, relevant information with a view to identifying shared migratory animal populations which may require conservation measures agreed upon by two or more Contracting Parties, and where possible to take actions under existing mechanisms such as agreements under the CMS;
- (d) to explore the possibility of promoting, under the Convention, bilateral or multilateral arrangements in respect of wetlands situated within the territory of different Contracting Parties along the same flyway and to consult Contracting Parties for that purpose;
- (e) to consult with Contracting Parties on other appropriate procedures in the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention; and
- (f) to report to the next meeting of the Conference on the result of these activities; and

RECOMMENDS that Contracting Parties provide the Bureau with all available information that it may require to carry out the instructions set forth in this recommendation.

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Resolution 4.5: Accession requirements

DESIROUS to facilitate accession to the Convention by an increasing number of States and, therefore, to simplify accession formalities;

NOTING, however, that a unique feature of the Ramsar Convention is that under Art. 2.4 it requires from Contracting Parties that they designate at least one wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance when they sign the Convention or deposit their instrument of ratification or accession;

BEING AWARE that the Convention in Art. 2.1 also lays down the obligation to describe precisely and delimit on a map the boundaries of the wetlands designated for inclusion in the List;

RECOGNISING that there have been uncertainties concerning the status as Contracting Parties of States which have not provided the Depositary with such a precise description and map of the boundaries of the wetland or wetlands they have designated when signing the Convention or depositing their instrument of ratification or accession;

CONSIDERING, however, that nothing in the Convention makes it a requirement to provide this information at the same time as that of the designation;

CONSIDERING, therefore, that the only condition laid down by the Convention for becoming a Contracting Party is the designation of at least one wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance;

CONSCIOUS, however, that precise descriptions and maps of the boundaries of all wetlands designated for inclusion in the List are essential for the implementation of the Convention and that such information, when it is not possible to provide it at the time of the designation of a wetland for inclusion in the List, should be made available as early as possible thereafter;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

RECOMMENDS that any State which has designated at least one wetland for inclusion in the List of Wetlands of International Importance when signing the Convention without reservation as to ratification, or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession, be regarded as having fulfilled the conditions for becoming a Contracting Party; and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that any Contracting Party that has not, when signing the Convention without reservation as to ratification, or when depositing its instrument of ratification or accession, provided the Depositary with a precise description and map of the boundaries of the wetland or wetlands so designated, provide such documentation to the Bureau as early as possible thereafter.

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Annex to DOC. C.4.12: Resolution on the Framework for the implementation of the Convention and priorities for attention 1991-1993

RECOGNISING the desirability of adopting a “Framework for the implementation of the Convention” from which a general triennial programme of priority activities for the Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee and the Bureau would derive;

RECOGNISING that the implementation of the Convention is a partnership between the Contracting Parties, their Standing Committee and the Bureau;

RECALLING the function of the Standing Committee to supervise the conduct of the Bureau’s programmes;

NOTING that the Standing Committee has hitherto implemented this function through an annual review and adoption of annual work plans by the Bureau;

CONSIDERING the Standing Committee’s proposal that the Bureau’s annual work plans should be based upon a permanent framework of action to implement the Convention;

EMPHASIZING the importance of linking specifically the triennial programme of activities of the Bureau to the triennial budget;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. TAKES NOTE of the “Framework for the Implementation of the Convention” annexed as Attachment 1 as the basis for determining Convention activities;
2. ACCEPTS the document “A Partnership Approach for the 1990s” annexed as Attachment 1, Addendum 1, as a useful guide to the way in which the business of wetland conservation can be promoted and implemented;
3. ADOPTS the “Priorities for attention 1991-93” and the “Programme Overview for the Bureau 1991-1993” annexed as Attachment 2; and
4. DIRECTS the Bureau to prepare for each year of the triennium 1991-1993 for adoption by the Standing Committee a detailed annual work plan, based upon the approved general programme for the triennium.

FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

1. INTRODUCTION

What is the Convention?

The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971) is an inter-governmental agreement which provides for the conservation and wise use of wetlands within the territory of each Contracting Party. It is the principal instrument for inter-governmental co-operation on global conservation and wise use of wetlands. It provides a mechanism by which Parties who share a wetland resource can consult on its conservation, and so organize their planning and development processes that a use of the wetland by either party will not have an adverse effect on its character or be detrimental to the inhabitants, whether human, fauna or flora, of either side of the territorial boundary. Training of personnel in wetland management and conservation is one of its prime objectives.

The elements of the Convention

The Convention has three distinct elements. These are:

- (a) The Conference of the Contracting Parties
These meetings of the governmental representatives take place every three years and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) accredited by the Contracting Parties are allowed to participate as non-voting observers. This is the policy-making organ of the Convention, and enables wide-ranging discussion on grass-roots implementation of the Convention and permits the Contracting Parties to adopt decisions, resolutions or recommendations to improve the way that the Convention works. The Budgetary arrangements for the three yearly programme of activities by the permanent Bureau is also settled here.
- (b) The Standing Committee
This Committee consists of representatives of the Contracting Parties from each of the seven regions of the world, plus the host countries of the present and next meetings of the Conference, and is responsible for the follow-up and the application of the Convention between Conferences and oversees the activities of the permanent Bureau.
- (c) The Ramsar Bureau
This is the permanent secretariat for the Convention, which carries out the day-to-day co-ordination of the Convention's activities. It is staffed by a small team of professionals whose operations are designed to have a catalytic effect either by working through consultants, rather than being directly responsible for a large programme of projects, or by influencing the activities of other partner organizations.

Working with other organizations

Wherever possible, the Ramsar Convention works through other international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations to achieve its objectives. Two of the

founding organizations, which provided the Bureau facilities for many years and still play a very large part in providing the administrative and scientific back-up to the Convention, are the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), and the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB). They also provide the premises in which the two parts of the Bureau are located, in Gland, Switzerland and in Slimbridge, UK.

Who are the members of the Convention?

All members of the United Nations are welcome to become members of the Convention, but present membership is unevenly scattered throughout the seven regions. The main emphasis of Convention activities in the future will be to recruit membership from the developing countries of Africa, Asia and the Neotropics (which includes South and Central America and the Caribbean).

What does the Convention do for its Members?

By accepting the commitments inherent in the terms of the Convention, a Contracting Party indicates its wish to conserve its wetlands and to make “wise use” of them. The experience of existing members has been drawn together to produce a set of criteria by which the wetlands in any country can be assessed, not only to enable them to be added to the List of Wetlands of International Importance if this is merited, but also to allow the application of a set of complementary guidelines for the “wise use” of those wetlands and their resources in an sustainable way.

The accumulated experience of other members can be drawn upon to help solve those intractable problems which arise from the multiple use of wetlands by humans, as well as animals, birds, fish and plants. Where this involves a wetland serving more than one country there is an obligation to consult on any proposal which may change the character of the wetland, and in cases of difficulty, the Convention has mechanisms which can help to resolve these issues.

Training of personnel and exchange of information are also areas where the Convention can assist in finding sources of expertise or funds. This means that Ramsar can provide direct, concrete advantages for Contracting Parties by helping them to conserve biodiversity in wetlands and to plan the “wise use” of their wetland resources. By setting international standards for wetland conservation and providing an international forum for discussion of long term global issues, such as the effects of climatic change, Ramsar permits a continuous flow of information on wetland matters between Contracting Parties.

2. COMMITMENTS BY THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

The commitments of the Contracting Parties, as derived from the text of the Convention and from decisions, resolutions and recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, are set out below under the appropriate headings:

(a) Conservation of wetlands

I To designate wetlands for the List of Wetlands of International Importance (Article 2.1), to formulate and implement planning so as to promote conservation of listed sites (Article 3.1) and to advise the Bureau of any change in their ecological character (Article 3.2), to compensate for any loss of wetland resources if a listed wetland is deleted or restricted (Article 4.2), to use criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance and to

establish national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites (Recommendations Cagliari 1.4, Groningen 2.3, Regina 3.1, Montreux REC. C.4.2 and C.4.6).

- II To formulate and implement planning so as to promote the wise use of wetlands (Article 3.1), to make environmental impact assessments before transformations of wetlands (Recommendations Cagliari 1.6, Groningen 2.3, Regina 3.1, Montreux REC. C.4.10), and to make national wetland inventories (Recommendations Cagliari 1.5, Groningen 2.3, Regina 3.1, Montreux REC. C.4.10).
- III To establish nature reserves on wetlands and provide adequately for their wardening (Article 4.1), and through management to increase waterfowl populations on appropriate wetlands. (Article 4.4).
- IV To train personnel competent in wetland research, management and wardening (Art. 4.5).
- (b) Promotion of international cooperation in wetland conservation
- V To promote conservation of wetlands by combining far-sighted national policies with co-ordinated international action (Preamble to Convention text), to consult with other Contracting Parties about implementing obligations arising from the Convention, especially about shared wetlands and water systems (Article 5).
- VI To promote wetland conservation concerns with development aid agencies (Recommendations Cagliari 1.6, Groningen 2.3, Regina 3.4 and 3.5, Montreux REC. C.4.13).
- (c) Fostering communications about wetland conservation
- VII To encourage research and exchange of data (Article 4.3).
- VIII To produce national reports for Conferences of the Parties (Recommendations Groningen 2.1, Montreux REC. C.4.3).
- IX To increase the number of Contracting Parties (Recommendations Cagliari 1.1, Groningen 2.3, Regina 3.6, 3.7 and 3.10).
- (d) Supporting the work of the Convention
- X To convene and attend Conferences of the Parties (Article 6.1).
- XI To adopt the Paris Protocol (Recommendations Cagliari 1.7, Groningen 2.2) and Regina amendments (Recommendation Cagliari 1.8, Regina Resolution).
- XII To make financial contributions (Recommendations Cagliari 1.10, Groningen 2.4, Regina Resolution).

3. THE STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee was established by the Regina Conference, following recommendations from the Task Force established at the Groningen Conference. Its tasks, as set out in the Regina

Resolution on the establishment of a Standing Committee and confirmed in the corresponding Montreux Resolution, are:

- to carry out interim activity between Conferences on matters previously approved by Conference;
- to make recommendations for consideration at the next Conference;
- to supervise implementation of policy by the Bureau, execution of the Bureau's budget and conduct of the Bureau's programmes and personnel matters;
- to guide and advise the Bureau;
- to promote regional cooperation for the conservation of wetlands;
- to act as the Conference Steering Committee;
- to report on its activities to the Conference; and
- to perform any other functions entrusted to it.

The Standing Committee is made up of not more than nine Contracting Parties, nominated by the Conference. Seven represent regions [Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Neotropics (including Central America and the Caribbean region), Northern America, Oceania, and Western Europe]; the other two are the host countries of the present and next meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Contracting Parties which host the Bureau are invited to participate as observers. Any other Contracting Party may, at its request, participate as an observer. The Director General of IUCN and the Director of IWRB (or their representatives) are invited to participate in an advisory capacity at meetings of the Standing Committee. Other observers may be invited to participate in all or part of the meeting.

The Standing Committee should at a minimum meet on an annual basis, normally at the seat of the Convention Bureau.

4. THE BUREAU

Article 8.1 provides that IUCN "shall perform the continuing bureau duties under this Convention until such time as another organization or government is appointed by a majority of two thirds of all Contracting Parties". The Regina Resolution on Secretariat matters, also acknowledging the services provided by IWRB, established a permanent Bureau. The functions of the Bureau, as articulated in Article 8 and the Regina Resolution, are as follows:

- to assist in convening and organizing Conferences;
- to maintain the List and be informed of any changes to the List;
- to inform Parties of any changes in the ecological character of listed sites;
- to make known the decisions, resolutions and recommendations of the Conference; and
- to provide administrative, scientific and technical support.

Several other resolutions and recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties have assigned numerous specific duties for the Bureau in promoting the implementation of the Convention by the Contracting Parties.

The Conference of the Contracting Parties establishes a triennial budget linked to the programmes of the Bureau. The Standing Committee guides and advises the Bureau on the execution of its programmes and its formulation of three annual plans between Conferences.

5. FRAMEWORK FOR BUREAU ACTIVITIES

A detailed outline of the permanent work of the Bureau follows:

**OBJECTIVE 1: TO ASSIST CONTRACTING PARTIES TO MEET THEIR
OBLIGATIONS TO CONSERVE WETLANDS**

Activities

- I List of Wetlands of International Importance:
 - (a) maintaining the List and the relevant information base;
 - (b) promotion of increased numbers of sites on the List;
 - (c) operation of the Monitoring Procedure, both to monitor change in ecological character of listed sites, and to provide Contracting Parties with assistance (notably through development aid) when needs are identified; and
 - (d) development of concepts and promotion of measures for the conservation and management of listed sites.

- II Wise use of wetlands:
 - (a) assisting in the formulation of the concept of wise use, notably by providing examples within the principles and recommendations of the Convention; and
 - (b) assisting in implementation of wise use in line with the Ramsar guidelines, incorporating improved institutional and organizational arrangements, review of legislation and existing policies, improved knowledge and awareness of wetland values, review of the status of all wetlands in a national context and action at particular wetlands.

- III Establishment of nature reserves:
 - (a) assisting in formulation of the concept of nature reserves for wetlands and promoting the establishment of such reserves; and
 - (b) promoting the provision of adequate wardening and management measures at wetland reserves, including action to increase waterfowl populations (not only in reserves but also at all appropriate wetlands).

- IV Training of land-use planners, conservation personnel, wetland managers and staff:
 - (a) promotion of training through institutions and bodies which organize training courses and through fund-raising;
 - (b) participation in training courses and provision of documents and information; and
 - (c) encouraging the incorporation of training as an integral part of projects concerning wetlands.

OBJECTIVE 2: TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN WETLAND CONSERVATION

Activities

- I Focal point:
- (a) provision of a focal point for contacts between Contracting Parties on international wetland conservation;
 - (b) promotion of cooperation among Contracting Parties concerning shared wetlands, species dependent upon wetlands and flyway networks; and
 - (c) support for further training of selected individuals in countries other than their own.
- II Development assistance:
- (a) initiation, in collaboration with other conservation organizations, of contacts with multilateral and bilateral development aid agencies, in order to sensitize them to the need for wetland conservation; and
 - (b) promotion of an enhanced contribution from international development assistance for the environmentally sound management of wetlands, by assisting in the elaboration and realization of requests (e.g. on wetland management or restoration, educational facilities, training, twinning opportunities or development aid).
- III International coordination:
- (a) liaison with international Convention secretariats and other governmental and non-governmental bodies active in wetland conservation; and
 - (b) organization, between meetings of the Conference of the Parties, of regional meetings of Contracting Parties and their experts.

OBJECTIVE 3: TO FOSTER COMMUNICATION ABOUT WETLAND CONSERVATION

Activities

- I Promotion of the Convention:
- (a) production of Convention documents (notably Ramsar List, brochure, Newsletter and annual report), products (notably certificates and plaques) and publicity materials (notably slide shows, films and pins);
 - (b) preparation and delivery of lectures and articles; and
 - (c) contributions to literature of other wetland organizations.
- II Increasing the number of Contracting Parties:

- (a) efforts, with the guidance of the Standing Committee, to gain more Contracting Parties, notably in Africa, Asia and the Neotropics, initially using opportunities (notably visits) arising from the Bureau's other work; and
- (b) encouragement of efforts to recruit more Contracting Parties made by other wetland organizations (both governmental and non-governmental) which have specific regional programmes or operations in non-Party states.

III Dissemination of information about wetland conservation:

- (a) dissemination of documentation on wetland conservation (including research results) through Convention publications, and by publicizing documents provided by Parties and other bodies; and
- (b) exchange of information with other Convention Secretariats and bodies involved in wetland conservation.

OBJECTIVE 4: TO ADMINISTER THE CONVENTION

Activities

I Administration:

- (a) communications with Contracting Parties, via Bureau notifications, and by visits to Contracting Parties;
- (b) servicing the work of the Standing Committee;
- (c) maintaining contacts with governments and organizations which host the Bureau, and with Unesco (Depositary);
- (d) contacts with international Convention Secretariats and organizations involved in wetland conservation to coordinate programmes and to harmonize timing of, and participation in, meetings; and
- (e) management of Convention funds.

II Conference of the Contracting Parties:

- (a) liaison with host country and development of logistic arrangements;
- (b) development, with guidance of Standing Committee, of programme and structure, and preparation of documents;
- (c) search for financial support;
- (d) provision of secretariat services; and
- (e) preparation of Proceedings.

A PARTNERSHIP APPROACH FOR THE 1990'S

I Reasons for proposing the Partnership Approach

In order to accelerate the pace of implementing wetland conservation globally, there is a need to:

- encourage a sense of family in Ramsar, particularly with respect to developed countries helping developing countries;
- encourage more Parties to take a leadership/proactive role in promoting more collective action with a variety of partners than has occurred in the past;
- encourage Parties to take a bigger role in promoting Ramsar because, while the Bureau is the "administrative centre" for the Convention, reality dictates that budgets will always constrain its ability to deliver on many fronts; and
- deliver more on-the-ground wetland projects, thereby demonstrating to non-Party States, particularly in Asia, South America and Africa, that it is to their benefit to join Ramsar.

Assumptions

1. The aims of the Convention are worthwhile achieving.
2. There is goodwill amongst Parties to help one another achieve wetland conservation.
3. If Parties move on wetland conservation at the same pace in the 1990's as was done in the 1970's and the 1980's, major wetland resources may be lost forever.
4. The Parties "own" the Convention and therefore must lead to achieve the vision.

II The Vision

That by the year 2000:

- 75% of countries with wetlands of international importance are Parties to Ramsar;
- 90% of all wetlands of international importance are designated under Ramsar; and
- conservation (wise use) of wetlands is being practised extensively throughout the world.

III Why The Vision?

The Ramsar Convention is one important mechanism to deliver Sustainable Development

The Ramsar Convention is one important mechanism to deliver Sustainable Development, in that the wise use of wetlands and associated resources safeguards essential ecological functions, and provides human benefits for both today and long into the future. Therefore, if the Parties

are serious about Sustainable Development in a global sense, the Ramsar Convention must be useful in helping to deliver this goal.

IV How to achieve The Vision?

A deliberate and proactive strategy to demonstrate the benefits of Ramsar and thereby increase the number of Parties

The Parties should take action to demonstrate clearly the usefulness of the Convention, particularly in terms of on-the-ground conservation benefits, thereby showing non-Parties that it is advantageous to become members of the Ramsar Family.

V What can Parties do to achieve The Vision?

Practise what you preach

Each Party is to implement the obligations of the Convention in its own territory.

Help developing countries

Under the Ramsar umbrella and using a "twinning mechanism", Parties which are considered as developed countries should be proactive and show leadership by seeking partnerships with Parties and non-Parties which are developing, and which need help to develop and implement their own wetland conservation programmes. Developed countries are to promote the twinning mechanism with their own Aid Agencies and other multilateral Aid Agencies and draw them into the Partnership Strategy.

Draw NGOs (large and small) into the Ramsar family/ partnership

Parties should avail themselves of the tremendous amount of goodwill, enthusiasm and common ground in the NGO-community (international, national, regional, local) which are helping to make the objectives/ vision of Ramsar a reality. Parties should proactively seek partnerships with NGOs, where appropriate, to deliver results within an appropriate framework.

Develop and use local expertise

Parties must encourage the use of appropriate local expertise in delivering wetland conservation projects and where this expertise is not available, the partnership programmes must include components which develop such expertise over the short and medium term, in particular training programmes.

Use the Ramsar Bureau to help deliver The Vision

Where Parties need help, they should use the Ramsar Bureau in whatever way is appropriate, and within the capability of the Bureau to deliver (as set out in the Framework for Bureau Activities). Parties should keep the Bureau informed of all significant developments, partnerships and projects.

VI Conclusion

That the Conference of the Parties accept this “Partnership Approach for the 1990’s” as a useful guide to the way in which the business of wetland conservation can be promoted and implemented.

Attachment 2

PRIORITIES FOR ATTENTION 1991-93

Membership of the “family” of Ramsar Contracting Parties brings with it an extensive range of commitments, as can be seen from the “Framework” document DOC. C.4.12 Attachment 1. It will be obvious from even a casual glance at the list of commitments that any attempt to tackle all of them in equal measure at the same time would require almost unlimited resources of finance and personnel. The Standing Committee recognises that each individual “family member” has the task of implementing the Convention by appropriate national means, but in addition, it is the collective task of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to set the programme of activities of the Bureau.

The Standing Committee therefore suggests that the Contracting Parties should agree upon a few items of top priority to be tackled within the next triennium. A reserve list of items, which although of importance have a lesser priority, should also be agreed so that if additional resources were to become available, the Bureau would have guidance as to how they should be used.

The proposed list of items to be treated as top priority includes the following three areas for attention by the Contracting Parties during 1991-93:

- conservation and management measures for wetland sites;
- development assistance and international co-operation for shared water resources and shared species; and
- formulation and implementation of the concept of “wise use of wetlands”.

In all of these areas opportunities should actively be sought to include provision for research and training of wetland personnel as a matter of course rather than as an optional extra.

The Bureau’s 1991-93 programme of activities, as proposed by the Standing Committee and approved by the Montreux Conference, is set out in the following Section II. It is based upon the three top priority areas identified above and the “Framework for Bureau Activities” at Section 5 of document DOC. C.4.12, Attachment 1. Since the Bureau’s role is to act as a secretariat which carries out the day-to-day coordination of the Convention’s activities, the Standing Committee has assembled the programme with a separation into two main categories:

“essential activities” without which the Convention would face serious difficulties in functioning as a collaborative international organization, and

“desirable activities” which include the various Bureau activities requested by the Conferences of the Contracting Parties.

The group of activities in the “desirable” category are quite extensive and, in order to establish priorities for undertaking them, the Standing Committee has sub-divided the category into three priority levels : high, medium and low. This does not mean that the items in the “high” priority

level are of any greater importance than those in the “medium” or “low” priority levels, only that there is a more pressing need for activity on them in the 1991-93 triennium.

NOTE: In reviewing this programme, the Standing Committee has determined that sufficient support in funding, or in kind, should be provided to allow the Bureau to at least undertake the “essential” and certain “highly desirable” categories of activity and has prepared the budget for the 1991-93 triennium accordingly. This approach was endorsed by the Montreux Conference. Contracting Parties are encouraged to make additional voluntary contributions to enable the remaining items of the “highly desirable” category to be undertaken in this triennium. If the full amount of extra funding should not be available, the Bureau staff will endeavour to cover these activities, as far as possible, in the course of other work.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW FOR THE BUREAU 1991-93

A. Essential Activities

(References are to items in the full Framework document)

1.I (a) Maintaining the List

The Ramsar Bureau will work to maintain the formal List of Wetlands of International Importance, to prepare detailed information sheets on all Ramsar sites and to enter data on Ramsar sites onto the Ramsar database which will be used in the various conservation activities of the Bureau.

1.I (d) Development of concepts and promotion of measures for the conservation and management of listed sites

The Bureau, in cooperation with partner organizations such as IUCN and IWRB, will undertake studies to develop general guidelines on conservation and management of listed sites (as recommended in Annex II of the report of the Working Group on Criteria and Wise use). Thereafter, the Bureau will promote the application of these concepts in cooperation with Contracting Parties and with appropriate technical bodies, in particular in the context of Monitoring Procedure activities.

1.II (a) Assisting in formulation of the wise use concept

The Bureau will pursue the recommendations on Wise Use of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, by working with Contracting Parties to refine and develop the concept of wise use. The aim will be to promote sustainable activities for wetland conservation.

1.III (a) Assisting in the formulation of the concept of nature reserves for wetlands and promoting the establishment of such reserves

The Bureau will work with Contracting Parties and with IUCN’s Commission on National Parks and Protected Areas in formulating the concept of nature reserves on wetlands, given the wide range of possible interpretations of the term. On the basis of the concepts formulated, the Bureau will work to promote the establishment of wetland reserves by Contracting Parties.

2.I (a) Providing a focal point for communication

One of the chief activities for the Bureau will be to serve as the focal point for the Contracting Parties and non-party States for communication about wetland conservation. Previous experience suggests that the Bureau will continually receive requests for information on subjects such as the status of listed wetlands, methodologies, publicity materials and documentation.

2.II (a) Sensitizing development agencies

The Bureau will maintain contact with multilateral development agencies such as the World Bank, the EEC, the OECD and regional development banks, in order to bring them to take full account of wetland conservation requirements in their lending policies. Similar contacts will be maintained with selected development agencies in order to persuade them to take account of wetland conservation obligations accepted under Ramsar by providing bilateral assistance for wetland conservation in developing countries.

2.III (a) Liaison with other convention secretariats/organizations

The Bureau will work in close cooperation with convention secretariats and partner organizations. This will include: at least annual meetings of all global conservation convention secretariats; bilateral consultations with individual secretariats (e.g. Migratory Species, CITES, World Heritage, Bern); cooperative activities with some intergovernmental bodies (e.g. Unesco, UNEP, FAO, EEC, OECD, Council of Europe); and regular programme consultations with non-governmental partner organizations (e.g. IUCN, IWRB, WWF, ICBP).

3.II (a) Promoting new Ramsar Parties

In line with the guidance of the Standing Committee, the Bureau will devote considerable attention to promoting the accession of additional States, especially in the African, Asian and Neotropical regions.

4.I (a)

to

4.I (e) Administering the Convention

The major task of the Bureau is the administration of the Convention. This work entails formal communications and visits to Contracting Parties, servicing the work of the Standing Committee, maintaining contacts with host governments and the Depositary, and managing Convention funds.

4.II (a)

to

4.II (e) Convening and organizing the Conference of the Parties

The Bureau has considerable responsibility for the preparation and servicing of the triennial Conference of the Contracting Parties. This work entails liaison with the host country and development of logistic arrangements, development of the programme and preparation of documents, organization of finances, servicing the meeting and production of proceedings.

NOTE: As indicated above, the proposed triennial budget has been based upon the Bureau having the capacity to undertake “Essential” and some “Highly Desirable” activities.

If the items listed below are to be carried out in full, then extra funding will be required. If the full amount of extra funding should not be available, Bureau staff will endeavour to cover these activities, as far as possible, in the course of other work.

B. Desirable Activities

B1) High Priority:

1.I (c) Operating the Monitoring Procedure

The Monitoring Procedure adopted by the Standing Committee in 1988 has proved to be an effective mechanism for assisting Contracting Parties in the conservation of listed sites. The Bureau will work with 7 to 10 countries each year in identifying specific requirements for Ramsar sites in particular need of external support or assistance. Cooperation will also be sought with the relevant non-governmental organizations such as WWF, IWRB and IUCN for this work.

1.II (b) Assisting in implementation of the wise use concept

The Bureau, in cooperation with Parties and with partner organizations such as IUCN and IWRB, will assist Contracting Parties to promote implementation of the wise use concept. This will include organization of national workshops to prepare national strategies, support of pilot projects exemplifying wise use, scientific/management studies (eg on inventories) and legal/policy studies on legislative and institutional requirements.

1.IV (a) Promoting training

The Bureau will work in close cooperation with Contracting Parties (inter alia India and USA) and partner organizations (such as ICBP, IUCN and its regional offices, IWRB and the Asian Wetland Bureau) to promote the training of wetland managers.

2.I (b) Promoting cooperation on shared wetlands and species

The Bureau will promote cooperation among Contracting Parties which share a trans-border wetland complex or an international river course. It will promote the conservation of wetland species, particularly waterfowl, which depend on wetlands in different countries, and will support the establishment of international flyway networks.

2.II (b) Assisting in submitting requests to development agencies

As a specific application of its work to sensitize development agencies, the Bureau will facilitate the elaboration of appropriate wetland conservation projects to be carried out in developing countries with financial support from multilateral and bilateral agencies. The Bureau will assist in submitting such applications to appropriate agencies, and in certain cases assist in implementation, though this latter task will normally be left to partner organizations.

3.I (a) Producing Ramsar documentation

The Bureau will produce the Ramsar List, other regular Convention documents including the quarterly Ramsar "Newsletter", Convention brochures and other promotional materials.

3.III (a) Disseminating information and research via Convention publications

The Bureau receives extensive documentation from Contracting Parties and other sources on important developments in wetland conservation and new research findings. Such documentation will be disseminated as widely as possible, either through Notifications to Parties, through the Newsletter or through the Proceedings of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties or of regional meetings.

B2) Medium Priority:

1.I (b) Promoting the designation of more sites on the Ramsar List

The Bureau will, as appropriate, assist Contracting Parties in identifying wetlands for the List (through application of the Ramsar Criteria), in extending the network of listed sites (through reference to national scientific inventories of potential Ramsar sites and regional inventories) and in carrying out the formalities for new designations

1.III (b) Promoting wardening and management measures at reserves

As an extension of its work on formulating the concept of wetland reserves and assisting Contracting Parties to establish them, the Bureau will help Contracting Parties to ensure such reserves have adequate wardening and management arrangements. This will include help with training [see 1.IV (a)] and management measures [see 1.I (d)] as well as advice on action to increase waterfowl populations.

1.IV (b) Taking part in training projects

As well as cooperating in the planning and organizing of training courses, Bureau staff will, as far as possible, participate in courses, especially in developing countries, by delivering lectures, directing fieldwork and providing documentation.

2.III (b) Convening and organizing regional meetings

The Bureau will, when the opportunity arises, organize regional meetings where Contracting Parties can exchange experiences on application of the Convention, and where countries which are not yet Contracting Parties can learn about the benefits of membership.

3.I (b) Preparing lectures

As part of their work to promote the Convention, Bureau staff will prepare and deliver lectures to appropriate audiences, using slides and other audio-visual techniques. Such lectures will often focus on a specific Contracting Party, illustrating its implementation of the Convention against an international background. Where appropriate, such lectures may be published.

B3) Low Priority:

1.IV (c) Promoting training elements in projects

In addition to promoting and occasionally taking part in training courses, the Bureau will promote the concept that training should be an integral element in any wetland project. This would apply both to projects developed by the Bureau, and to wetland projects developed by others.

2.I (c) Promoting support for overseas training

Organization of training courses (see 1. IV (a) and 1. IV (b)) will identify individuals who would benefit from further, possibly long-term instruction in another country, in a practical attachment or an academic course. The Bureau will use its contacts with other Contracting Parties to find suitable training opportunities for such individuals.

3.I (c) Contributing to external publications

As part of their promotional work, Bureau staff will prepare articles on the Ramsar Convention for publication in conservation journals published by other wetland organizations.

3.II (b) Helping other organizations to recruit new Contracting Parties

Many wetland organizations have programmes concentrating on specific countries or regions. Through their local contacts they may have increased opportunities to promote the Convention and recruit new Parties. The Bureau will provide background information and documentation to such organizations.

3.III (b) Exchanging information with other secretariats and organizations

As part of its liaison work [see 2.III (a)] the Bureau will ensure there is a full exchange of documentation with other conservation secretariats and wetland organizations.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
4th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Montreux, Switzerland
27 June – 4 July 1990

Annex to DOC. C.4.13: Resolution on financial and budgetary matters

RECALLING the amendments to Article 6 of the Convention which provide that:

- "5. The Conference of the Contracting Parties shall establish and keep under review the financial regulations of this Convention. At each of its ordinary meetings, it shall adopt the budget for the next financial period by a two-thirds majority of the Contracting Parties present and voting;"
- "6. Each Contracting Party shall contribute to the budget according to a scale of contributions adopted by unanimity of the Contracting Parties;"

ACKNOWLEDGING with appreciation the financial support provided under the Convention since the Regina meeting by contributions from several of the Contracting Parties;

FURTHER NOTING with gratitude the financial support provided since the Regina meeting for the work of the Bureau by several non-governmental bodies;

RECOGNISING the urgency there is to provide financial support to the Convention Bureau each year with minimum delay;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. APPROVES the budget for 1991-93 annexed as Attachment 1;
2. AGREES to the scale of contributions of the Contracting Parties to the Convention as listed in Attachment 2;
3. DIRECTS the Secretary General to administer the Convention funds in accordance with the approved terms of reference in Attachment 3 to this resolution;
4. EMPHASIZES to the Contracting Parties the importance of making their contributions to the Bureau's separate account promptly by the beginning of the respective calendar year or financial period to which the contributions apply or, if this is not possible, as soon thereafter as possible;
5. REMINDS all Contracting Parties of Recommendations 3.4 and 4.13 to include the wise use concept and conservation of wetlands in development assistance programmes;
6. URGES all Contracting Parties that are in a position to do so, to make additional voluntary payments to the Convention budget to cover programme items as identified by the Standing Committee and to the Wetland Conservation Fund;
7. URGES all Contracting Parties to deposit as soon as possible an instrument of acceptance of the amendment of 28 May 1987;

8. INVITES states not Party to the Convention, other governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other sources to consider contributing to the Bureau's separate account for the operating budget and to the Wetland Conservation Fund; and
9. INSTRUCTS the Secretary General, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to seek external sources of support for programme priorities, and in particular, to ensure a complement of at least 5 professional staff and 3 support staff as the personnel of the Bureau for the triennium of 1991-1993.

BUDGET 1991-1993
Costs in SFr 000's

<u>Budget/Programme Position</u>	1991	1992	1993
1. <u>Staff Costs</u>			
(a) Professional Staff			
4 x 12 person months (salary)	385	412	441
(social charges)	65	70	75
(b) Support Staff			
2 x 12 person months (salary)	96	103	110
(social charges)	20	22	24
(c) Staff hiring costs	25	--	--
2. <u>Expert Services</u>			
(a) Scientific work by IWRB: scientific studies, work on management guidelines for wetlands and wetland species	40	40	40
(b) Other scientific work	0	0	0
(c) Monitoring Procedure:* consultancies/travel support for assisting Contracting Parties with management of particular sites on the Ramsar List	30	30	30
(d) Legal support: drafting service, advice on Convention interpretation, development of studies on legal and policy requirements for wetland conservation	10	10	10
(e) Data and Information: maintenance of Ramsar data base	25	25	25
3. <u>Travel on Official Business</u>	30	30	30
Secretariat travel: consultations with Contracting Parties, participation in relevant international meetings, promotional visits to non-Party States, advisory visits to appropriate wetlands upon request			
4. <u>Purchase of Equipment</u>	10	10	10
Office equipment and furniture			

* To be augmented by substantial voluntary contributions.

<u>Budget/Programme Position</u>	1991	1992	1993
5. <u>IUCN Administrative Services</u> Includes office facilities, finances: accounting, auditing, etc. personnel administration, maintenance of facilities, reception services, mail services library, technicians, computer equipment, software and services:			
Personnel/General services	87	87	122
EDP services	18	18	21
Financial services	28	30	32
6. <u>Telecommunications</u> Telephone, telefax, telex, postage	25	25	25
7. <u>Reporting</u>			
(a) Publications (lists, reports, brochures)	20	20	20
(b) Quarterly Newsletter (design, production printing)	0	0	0
(c) Translation services	20	20	20
(d) Outside typing services	20	20	20
(e) Dissemination of information	20	20	20
8. <u>Support to Delegates for Meeting Participation</u> Delegates' travel: participation by delegations from developing countries, notably from Contracting Parties, in Meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and other meetings held under the Convention, the former held every three years	30	30	30
9. <u>Miscellaneous</u> Miscellaneous office supplies, hospitality, etc.	10	10	10
10. <u>Contingency Fund</u> Required to cover unexpected events; can be carried over from one year to another	30	30	30
SUB-TOTAL Operating Budget	1,044	1,062	1,145
11. <u>Wetland Conservation Fund*</u>	10	10	10
TOTAL	1,054	1,072	1,155
	=====	=====	=====

Total for the triennium: SFr 3,281,000
SFr 1,094,000/year

* To be augmented by substantial voluntary contributions.

Notes:

1. (a) Professional Staff

In 1990, this includes the Secretary General in Gland and Conservation Coordinator in Slimbridge. For 1991, this includes those two posts plus a Technical Officer and the Administrator, all based in Gland, and for 1991 includes cost of living and increment increases as applicable to civil service based posts.

(b) Support Staff

In 1990, this includes the Administrator in Gland and an Administrative Assistant in Slimbridge. In 1991, this includes two secretarial posts and for 1991 includes cost of living and increment increases as applicable to civil service based posts.

2. Expert Services

The major differences between the 1990 and the 1991 budgets are a provision for scientific support from IWRB and support for the Monitoring Procedure (covered in 1990 by project funding of some SFr 100,000). The data and information line has been increased in light of the establishment of the Ramsar database and a large increase in the number of listed sites.

3. Travel

This budget line has not increased from 1990 to 1991 despite an increase in staff and activities since expenditure for inter-office travel would no longer be required.

4. Purchase of Equipment

A modest budget amount which is being increased due to office expansion. Office furnishings are provided by IUCN, but special equipment such as computer screens must be purchased by the Bureau.

5. Administrative Services

Set in 1990 at a level of 24% of salary costs for staff in Gland and Slimbridge, these services have been reassessed for 1991. Costs are based on per capita occupancy with IUCN in Gland as well as actual use of certain services. For comparison purposes, the 1991 costs are approximately 22.5% of budget line 1.

6. Telecommunications

This line has been increased from 1990 to 1991 in view of expenditure over the past triennium. Expenditure during the triennium has greatly exceeded the budgetary allocation

with the result that significant allocation has needed to be made to specific projects. While justified, and agreed with project donors, this situation should not continue.

7. Reporting

A similar situation as with budget item 6. Increased activity has mandated increased expenditure for communication (including translation) with the Contracting Parties.

The line for dissemination of information is a new budget element in consequence of the determination that this is an "essential" aspect of the 1991-93 programme.

No core funding is being envisaged for the Newsletter in the 1991-93 budget. The Bureau estimates that some SFr 65,000 would be required to continue to produce the quarterly publication in three language versions should the Canadian government and NGOs and US NGOs cease their support for this work and if no other in-kind supporters are found.

8. Support to delegates

A slight decrease from 1990 to 1991 in view of success over the triennium in securing additional funds for this purpose from external sources.

9. Miscellaneous

A modest budget amount, increased from 1990 to 1991 in view of additional staff and activities. Covers purchase of supplies, hospitality, etc.

10. Contingency Fund

Not applied in 1990 due to the need to reallocate funds between budget lines. Amount proposed for 1991 is a lower amount than that originally calculated for 1990 (SFr 52,000).

11. Wetland Conservation Fund

A new budget line placed after the sub-total for the Operating Budget. Substantial voluntary contributions are expected for this fund.

SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

Contracting Parties Annual (as of 4 July 1990) SFr	share SFr	1991-93 share*
Algeria	5,360	1,787
Australia	56,101	18,700
Austria	26,442	8,814
Belgium	41,808	13,936
Bolivia	357	119
Bulgaria	5,360	1,787
Burkina Faso	357	119
Canada	110,415	36,805
Chad	357	119
Czechoslovakia	23,584	7,861
Chile	2,859	953
Denmark	24,656	8,219
Egypt	2,501	834
Finland	18,224	6,075
France	223,331	74,444
Gabon	1,072	357
German Democratic Republic	45,738	15,246
Germany, Federal Republic of	288,722	96,241
Ghana	357	119
Greece	14,293	4,764
Guatemala	715	238
Guinea-Bissau	357	119
Hungary	7,504	2,501
Iceland	1,072	357
India	13,221	4,407
Iran, Islamic Republic of	24,656	8,219
Ireland	6,432	2,144
Italy	142,574	47,525
Japan	406,641	135,547
Jordan	357	119
Kenya	357	119
Mali	357	119
Malta	357	119
Mauritania	357	119
Mexico	33,589	11,196
Morocco	1,429	476
Nepal	357	119
Netherlands	58,959	19,653
New Zealand	8,576	2,859
Niger	357	119
Norway	19,653	6,551

Pakistan	2,144	715
Poland	20,010	6,670
Portugal	6,432	2,144
Senegal	357	119
South Africa	16,080	5,360
Spain	69,679	23,226
Sri Lanka	357	119
Suriname	357	119
Sweden	43,237	14,412
Switzerland	38,592	12,864
Tunisia	1,072	357
Uganda	357	119
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	356,972	118,991
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	173,662	57,887
United States of America	**	**
Uruguay	1,429	476
Venezuela	20,368	6,789
Vietnam	357	119
Yugoslavia	16,437	5,479
Other contributions ***	893,330	297,777
 TOTAL	 3,281,000	 1,093,666
=====	=====	

Notes:

- * The annual share has been calculated in accordance with international practice based upon the United Nations scale, which is attached for reference.
- ** The United States contribution is not included on this list because of its declaration at the Extraordinary Conference (Regina, 1987) on Article 6, paragraph 6 of the Financial Amendment to the Convention.
- *** This figure of SFr 297,777.- per year represents the minimum amount necessary to complete funding of the approved budget. "Other contributions" include: the voluntary contribution of the United States of America, and any other voluntary contribution paid by any other State, or governmental or non-governmental international or national organization.

PRESENT SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS - UNITED NATIONS
 (UN.GA.RES.43/223)

<u>Member State</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Afghanistan.....	0.01
Albania.....	0.01
Algeria.....	0.15
Angola.....	0.01
Antigua and Barbuda.....	0.01
Argentina.....	0.66
Australia.....	1.57
Austria.....	0.74
Bahamas.....	0.02
Bahrain.....	0.02
Bangladesh.....	0.01
Barbados.....	0.01
Belgium.....	1.17
Belize.....	0.01
Benin.....	0.01
Bhutan.....	0.01
Botswana.....	0.01
Brazil.....	1.45
Brunei Darussalem.....	0.04
Bulgaria.....	0.15
Burkina Faso.....	0.01
Burma.....	0.01
Burundi.....	0.01
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic.....	0.33
Cameroon.....	0.01
Canada.....	3.09
Cape Verde.....	0.01
Central African Republic.....	0.01
Chad.....	0.01
Chile.....	0.08
China.....	0.79
Colombia.....	0.14
Comoros.....	0.01
Congo.....	0.01
Costa Rica.....	0.02
Côte d'Ivoire.....	0.02
Cuba.....	0.09
Cyprus.....	0.02
Czechoslovakia.....	0.66
Democratic Kampuchea.....	0.01
Democratic Yemen.....	0.01
Denmark.....	0.69
Djibouti.....	0.01

Dominica.....	0.01
Dominican Republic.....	0.03
Ecuador.....	0.03
Egypt.....	0.07
El Salvador.....	0.01
Equatorial Guinea.....	0.01
Ethiopia.....	0.01
Fiji.....	0.01
Finland.....	0.51
France.....	6.25
Gabon.....	0.03
Gambia.....	0.01
German Democratic Republic.....	1.28
Germany, Federal Republic of.....	8.08
Ghana.....	0.01
Greece.....	0.40
Grenada.....	0.01
Guatemala.....	0.02
Guinea.....	0.01
Guinea-Bissau.....	0.01
Guyana.....	0.01
Haiti.....	0.01
Honduras.....	0.01
Hungary.....	0.21
Iceland.....	0.03
India.....	0.37
Indonesia.....	0.15
Iran (Islamic Republic of).....	0.69
Iraq.....	0.12
Ireland.....	0.18
Israel.....	0.21
Italy.....	3.99
Jamaica.....	0.01
Japan.....	11.38
Jordan.....	0.01
Kenya.....	0.01
Kuwait.....	0.29
Lao People's Democratic Republic.....	0.01
Lebanon.....	0.01
Lesotho.....	0.01
Liberia.....	0.01
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.....	0.28
Luxembourg.....	0.06
Madagascar.....	0.01
Malawi.....	0.01
Malaysia.....	0.11
Maldives.....	0.01
Mali.....	0.01
Malta.....	0.01
Mauritania.....	0.01
Mauritius.....	0.01

Mexico.....	0.94
Mongolia.....	0.01
Morocco.....	0.04
Mozambique.....	0.01
Nepal.....	0.01
Netherlands.....	1.65
New Zealand.....	0.24
Nicaragua.....	0.01
Niger.....	0.01
Nigeria.....	0.20
Norway.....	0.55
Oman.....	0.02
Pakistan.....	0.06
Panama.....	0.02
Papua New Guinea.....	0.01
Paraguay.....	0.03
Peru.....	0.06
Philippines.....	0.09
Poland.....	0.56
Portugal.....	0.18
Qatar.....	0.05
Romania.....	0.19
Rwanda.....	0.01
Saint Kitts and Nevis.....	0.01
Saint Lucia.....	0.01
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	0.01
Samoa.....	0.01
Sao Tome and Principe.....	0.01
Saudi Arabia.....	1.02
Senegal.....	0.01
Seychelles.....	0.01
Sierra Leone.....	0.01
Singapore.....	0.11
Solomon Islands.....	0.01
Somalia.....	0.01
South Africa.....	0.45
Spain.....	1.95
Sri Lanka.....	0.01
Sudan.....	0.01
Suriname.....	0.01
Swaziland.....	0.01
Sweden.....	1.21
Syrian Arab Republic.....	0.04
Thailand.....	0.10
Togo.....	0.01
Trinidad and Tobago.....	0.05
Tunisia.....	0.03
Turkey.....	0.32
Uganda.....	0.01
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic.....	1.25
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.....	9.99

United Arab Emirates.....	0.19
United Kingdom of Great Britain + Northern Ireland.....	4.86
United Republic of Tanzania.....	0.01
United States of America.....	25.00
Uruguay.....	0.04
Vanuatu.....	0.01
Venezuela.....	0.57
Viet Nam.....	0.01
Yemen.....	0.01
Yugoslavia.....	0.46
Zaire.....	0.01
Zambia.....	0.01
Zimbabwe.....	0.02

100.00

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Non-member State

Per Cent

Democratic People's Republic of Korea.....	0.05
Holy See.....	0.01
Liechtenstein.....	0.01
Monaco.....	0.01
Nauru.....	0.01
Republic of Korea.....	0.22
San Marino.....	0.01
Switzerland.....	1.08
Tonga.....	0.01
Tuvalu.....	0.01

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION
OF THE CONVENTION ON WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE
ESPECIALLY AS WATERFOWL HABITAT**

1. A separate account has been established by the Director General of IUCN on behalf of the Bureau of the Convention to administer the finances of the Convention. The Secretary General is responsible for the administration of Convention funds with all expenditure from this account requiring his approval.
2. The financial period shall be for three calendar years beginning 1 January 1991, and ending 31 December 1993. The appropriations of the account for the financial period shall be financed from:
 - (a) the contributions made by the Contracting Parties by reference to the table in Attachment 2, including contributions from any new Contracting Parties which are to be added to this table;
 - (b) subject to the approval of the Standing Committee, contributions from States not Party to the Convention, other governmental, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations and other sources; and
 - (c) any uncommitted and unexpended appropriations from the financial period 1988-90.
3. The budget estimates, prepared in the currency of the country in which the seat of the Bureau is located, covering the income and expenditure of each of the three calendar years constituting the financial period to which they relate, shall be submitted to each ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention.
4. The estimates of each of the calendar years covered by the financial period shall be divided into sections; shall be specified according to budget lines; shall include references to the programmes of work to which they relate; and shall be accompanied by such information as may be required by, or on behalf of, the contributors, and such further information as the Standing Committee may deem useful and advisable.
5. The proposed budget shall be dispatched by the Bureau to all Contracting Parties at least ninety days before the date fixed for the opening of the ordinary Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.
6. The budget shall be adopted by a 2/3 majority of the Contracting Parties present and voting at the ordinary Meeting, pursuant to the terms of Article 6, paragraph 5 of the Convention, as amended by the Extraordinary Conference of the Contracting Parties held at Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada from 28 May to 3 June 1987.
7. In the event that the Secretary General anticipates that there might be a shortfall in resources, over any calendar year as a whole, he shall seek the approval of the Standing Committee as to its priorities for expenditure.

8. After seeking the approval of the Standing Committee, the Secretary General shall be empowered to make transfers from one budget line to another. At the end of the first and the second calendar years of a financial period, the Secretary General may proceed to transfer any uncommitted/unexpended balance of appropriations to the next calendar year, provided that the total budget approved by the Conference of the Contracting Parties shall not be exceeded unless this is specifically sanctioned in writing by the Standing Committee
9. All contributions shall be paid in convertible currencies. Contributions from States which become Contracting Parties after the beginning of the financial period should be made on a pro-rata basis for the balance of the year.
10. As soon as practicable at the end of each calendar year of a financial period, the Secretary General shall submit, as soon as practicable, the audited accounts for the year. He shall also submit, as soon as practicable, the audited accounts for the financial period.
11. These Terms of Reference shall be effective for the financial period of 1 January 1991 to 31 December 1993.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
4th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Montreux, Switzerland
27 June – 4 July 1990

Annex to DOC. C.4.14: Resolution on the Standing Committee

CONSIDERING the usefulness of a small permanent committee for matters relating to the organization of meetings and for the continuous implementation of the Convention,

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. DECIDES to establish a Standing Committee of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, which, within the policy agreed by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, shall
 - (a) carry out, between ordinary meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, such interim activity on behalf of the Conference as may be necessary, such activity being limited to matters on which the Conference has previously recorded its approval;
 - (b) make recommendations for consideration at the next meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
 - (c) supervise, as a representative of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, the implementation of policy by the Bureau, the execution of the Bureau's budget, the conduct of the Bureau's programmes and Bureau personnel matters;
 - (d) provide guidance and advice to the Bureau on the implementation of the Convention, on the preparation of meetings, and on any other matters relating to the exercise of its functions brought to it by the Bureau;
 - (e) promote regional cooperation for the conservation of wetlands;
 - (f) Act as the Conference Steering Committee at meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties with the general duty of forwarding the business of the meeting;
 - (g) report to the Conference of the Contracting Parties on the activities it has carried out between ordinary meetings of the Conference; and
 - (h) perform any other functions as may be entrusted to it by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and
2. DETERMINES the following principles for the composition of and procedures to be followed by the Standing Committee:
 - (a) the Committee shall consist of not more than nine Contracting Parties, who shall be nominated by the Conference of the Contracting Parties. For at least seven of these members, nomination shall be based upon the principle of proper geographical distribution with due regard for a proper representation of developing countries.* Alternate representatives shall be nominated by the Conference of the Contracting

Parties for each of these seven regions. The remaining two members shall be comprised of the host country of the present meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and the host country for the next meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. The Contracting Parties which are host countries for IUCN and IWRB shall be invited to participate as observers in the work of the Committee;

- (b) if an extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties is held between two ordinary meetings, the host Party of that meeting shall participate as an observer in the work of the Committee on matters related to the organization of the meeting;
- (c) Contracting Parties which are not members of the Standing Committee may upon their request participate as observers in meetings of the Standing Committee. The Director General of IUCN or his representative and the Director of IWRB or his representative shall be invited to participate in an advisory capacity in meetings of the Standing Committee. In addition, the Committee may invite observers to attend meetings or attend particular meetings or attend meetings for particular agenda items;
- (d) the Committee should at a minimum meet on an annual basis, normally at the seat of the Convention Bureau;
- (e) the membership of the Committee shall be reviewed at each ordinary meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the meeting. In electing members to the Standing Committee, due regard shall be paid to ensuring some continuity of membership on the Committee through the appointment of alternate regional representatives. Members may serve on the Committee for a maximum of two consecutive terms, however to provide for needed continuity, the Conference of the Contracting Parties may elect a member to no more than a third consecutive term;
- (f) the Standing Committee working through the Regional Representatives may establish regional Ramsar groups of Contracting Parties for the purpose of promoting regional cooperation among Parties, non-Party states and non-governmental organizations;
- (g) the Committee shall, by consensus, establish its own rules of procedure; and
- (h) the Secretary for the Committee shall be provided by the Convention Bureau.

* “Geographical distribution” reflects the following seven regions listed at the Third Meeting, and slightly revised at the Fourth Meeting, of the Conference of the Contracting Parties as Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, Neotropics, Northern America, Oceania and Western Europe. This distribution is to be reviewed by the Standing Committee with a view to presenting a proposal for changes to the Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. The Standing Committee shall give special consideration in its future discussions, of the consensus of this Conference that the establishment of separate Eastern and Western European regions had been politically, and not geographically motivated.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
4th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Montreux, Switzerland
27 June – 4 July 1990

Annex to DOC. C.4.15: Resolution on Secretariat matters

RECALLING Article 8 of the Convention which provides that IUCN shall perform the continuing Bureau duties under the Convention;

FURTHER RECALLING the Resolution on Secretariat Matters adopted at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties which formalized cooperation between IUCN and IWRB for the provision of these Bureau duties;

RECOGNISING that, at the time of the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, IUCN and IWRB entered into a Memorandum of Agreement relating to the contribution to be made by IWRB to the services provided by the Bureau as well as to the payments to be made by the Bureau, from the Convention budget, in remuneration of the services provided by IWRB;

NOTING that the Standing Committee has determined that the effective functioning of the Bureau for the implementation of programme priorities will require a change in Bureau arrangements involving an augmentation of Bureau personnel and a consolidation of the two sections of the Bureau in Switzerland;

BEING CONVINCED that the contribution of the IWRB to the scientific and technical work of the Convention must be maintained;

ACKNOWLEDGING with appreciation the decision of IUCN and IWRB to modify their agreement to accommodate this change in Bureau arrangements, while ensuring the continued formal role of IWRB in the provision of scientific and technical support to the Bureau;

NOTING that the entry into force of such a modification to the IUCN/IWRB agreement is contingent upon its acceptance by the Conference of the Contracting Parties;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. APPROVES the provision of a permanent structure for administrative, scientific and technical support by the Bureau under the Convention in the following terms:
 - (a) a Convention Bureau shall be established, and co-located with the Headquarters of IUCN, as an independent unit which is funded from the Convention budget and which performs all the tasks required by the Conference of the Contracting Parties;
 - (b) on behalf of the Standing Committee IUCN shall be requested to enter into a cooperative agreement with IWRB for the provision of scientific and technical advisory services for the Bureau;

- (c) the policy to be followed by the Bureau shall be determined by the Conference of the Contracting Parties and applied under the supervision of the Standing Committee;
 - (d) the Bureau of the Convention shall be comprised of the Secretary General, appointed by the Director General of IUCN in consultation with, and on the basis of a proposal from the Standing Committee, and other staff members appointed by the Director General of IUCN in consultation with and upon the proposal of the Secretary General;
 - (e) the Secretary General shall be responsible to the Conference of the Contracting Parties, and between meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, to the Standing Committee for all matters under the Convention except for those requiring the exercise of legal personality on behalf of the Convention (e.g. establishment of the separate bank account, formal personnel and contract administration, etc.). Formal responsibility to the Conference of the Contracting Parties for these latter matters shall rest with the Director General of IUCN;
 - (f) the IUCN salary scale (based on the Swiss civil service scale) along with IUCN personnel provisions shall apply to Bureau personnel, subject to the approval of the Standing Committee;
 - (g) the Convention budget, as approved by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, shall be administered by the Secretary General. Funds shall be disbursed according to budgetary provisions and instructions given by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, or as appropriate, by the Standing Committee; and
 - (h) IUCN shall keep a separate bank account for all income received and expenditures incurred in the performance of Bureau duties under the Convention. Annual audits shall be carried out in accordance with procedures mandated by the Conference of the Contracting Parties; and
2. APPROVES the modified Memorandum of Agreement concluded between IUCN and IWRB as attached to this Resolution.

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

between
the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
(IUCN)

and

the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB)

with regard to the performance of Bureau duties under the Ramsar Convention.

WHEREAS IUCN is designated by Article 8 of the Convention as the organization entrusted with the task of performing Bureau duties;

CONSIDERING the Resolution on Secretariat Matters adopted at the Third Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties and the Memorandum of Agreement between IUCN and IWRB with regard to Bureau duties under the Ramsar Convention concluded at that time;

RECALLING IWRB's long involvement in the promotion of the Convention and the continuous assistance it has provided to IUCN in the performance of its Bureau duties;

FURTHER RECALLING the close links between IUCN and IWRB and, in particular, the fact that IWRB is a member of IUCN and that IUCN is represented on the Executive Board of IWRB;

RECOGNISING the determination of the Standing Committee that Bureau arrangements should be modified to enable the Bureau to meet effectively its obligations under the programme of the Convention;

FURTHER RECOGNISING the determination of the Ramsar Standing Committee and the IWRB Executive Board that programmatic links between IWRB and the Ramsar Convention should be maintained and enhanced;

NOTING that the Conference of the Parties has endorsed this recommendation and has approved the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement as modified.

IUCN and IWRB have agreed as follows:

1. IWRB shall continue to cooperate with IUCN to guarantee the provision of Bureau services.
2. IWRB shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Ramsar List database, and for analyses of these data as requested by the Ramsar Bureau. IWRB shall receive each year from the Convention's budget as adopted by the Conference of the Parties, a sum provided in a budget line earmarked for that specific purpose.
3. IWRB shall provide some additional technical support to the Convention, through appropriate scientific and technical studies. The tasks of IWRB in providing these services shall be determined according to the budget as adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
4. IWRB may be invited to contribute to the implementation of projects financed outside the regular (core) budget of the Convention. Any projects shall be determined each year by mutual agreement between the Secretary General of the Ramsar Bureau and IWRB.
5. IWRB shall maintain a separate account for all income received and expenditures incurred pursuant to this Agreement. It shall submit a financial report on this income and expenditures to the Secretary General of the Convention at the end of each year. Annual audits shall be carried out in accordance with procedures mandated by the Conference of the Parties.
6. This Memorandum of Agreement shall apply for an initial period of three years and shall continue to apply thereafter for successive periods of three years unless either organization gives notice to the other of its intention to terminate it at least one hundred and eighty days before the expiry of any such period of three years. When such notice of the intention to terminate has been given, this Memorandum of Agreement shall cease to apply at the expiry of such a period of three years.

7. This Memorandum of Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by IUCN and IWRB. It may be amended at any time by mutual agreement, subject to the approval of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

For and on behalf of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Director General, IUCN
Date

For and on behalf of the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau

President, IWRB
Date