

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Kushiro, Japan
9-16 June 1993

Resolution 5.1: The Kushiro Statement and the framework for the implementation of the Convention

CONVINCED of the need for the Convention to respond positively to global environmental challenges and to the decisions of other international fora, in particular the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 1992;

CONSIDERING that, in relation to the implementation in the immediate future of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention can and should play the leading role in the conservation of wetland biodiversity and that projects related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in wetlands should benefit from the new sources of finance envisaged for the Convention on Biological Diversity;

NOTING further that the Resolution on International Cooperation attached to the final Act of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Articles 23(4) and 24(1) of the said Convention call for full cooperation between the managing bodies of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the secretariats or executive bodies of major national and international environmental conventions, agreements and organizations dealing with matters covered by that Convention;

RECOGNIZING the value of the 'Framework for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention', adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention held at Montreux, Switzerland in 1990, as a basis from which a general triennial programme of priority activities for the Contracting Parties, the Standing Committee, and the Bureau derives;

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

RECALLING the function of the Standing Committee to supervise the conduct of the Bureau's programmes, which should be based upon a permanent framework of action to implement the Convention;

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

NOTING the need to update the Framework in the light of decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

1. ADOPTS the Kushiro Statement attached as Annex 1 as the basis for the Contracting Parties' priorities in the 1994-1996 triennium;

2. TAKES NOTE of the “Framework for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention” attached as Annex 2 as the basis for determining Convention activities;
3. ADOPTS the “Programme Overview for the Bureau 1994-1996” attached as Annex 3;
4. DIRECTS the Bureau to transmit to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development a copy of the Kushiro Statement and appropriate information on the Ramsar Convention; and
5. DIRECTS the Bureau to prepare for each year of the 1994-1996 triennium, for adoption by the Standing Committee, a detailed annual work plan, based upon the approved general programme for the triennium.

Annex 1: The Kushiro Statement

Annex 2: Framework for the Implementation of the Ramsar Convention

Annex 3: Programme Overview for the Bureau 1994-1996

Annex 1

THE KUSHIRO STATEMENT

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was the first modern global treaty on conservation and wise use of natural resources and habitats. Since its adoption in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, it has provided the framework for intergovernmental co-operation on wetlands.

Wetlands are important for the biological diversity they support - the characteristic flora and fauna found in the rich and varied habitats covered by Ramsar's definition of wetlands: 'areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish, or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres'. From the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 (Chapter 18.39) suggests that all States could set participation in Ramsar as a target. It will be natural for the Ramsar Convention to work closely with the Convention on Biological Diversity and to continue to play the leading role in conservation of wetland biodiversity.

Yet Ramsar has recognized from its earliest days that the importance of wetlands goes beyond the need for conservation of specific sites for their intrinsic value and diversity. The sustainability of wetlands is crucial to human life. Ramsar's 'Guidelines for the Implementation of the Wise Use Concept' show the benefits and values of wetlands for 'sediment and erosion control; flood control; maintenance of water quality and abatement of pollution; maintenance of surface and underground water supply; support for fisheries, grazing, and agriculture; outdoor recreation and education for human society; and contribution to climatic stability'.

Despite the successes achieved by Ramsar since 1971 - notably in raising consciousness of the importance of wetlands - loss, destruction, degradation, and misuse of wetlands continue in many areas of the world. The Dublin Statement, made by the 1992 International Conference on Water and the Environment (which in Section 4.15 calls on Ramsar Contracting Parties to support its recommendations), states that the fulfilment of Ramsar's objectives 'can only be brought about through political commitment and involvement from the highest levels of government to the smallest communities. Commitment will need to be backed by substantial and immediate investments, public awareness campaigns, legislative and institutional changes, technology development, and capacity building programmes'.

In response to Agenda 21 and to the challenge of promoting conservation of biological diversity and the wise use of wetlands, and in the interests of the immediate application of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention will in the coming triennium reinforce these fundamental principles in pursuit of global environmental solutions.

In the next triennium the Contracting Parties will aim to meet their commitments under the Convention through the following actions:

1. Conservation and management of wetlands of international importance

- establish coherent national networks of Ramsar sites;
- monitor the status of these sites and adopt measures to maintain their ecological character;
- establish and apply methodologies to manage these sites, incorporating consideration of their catchments; and

- restore degraded wetlands and compensate for lost wetlands.
2. **Formulation and implementation of planning so as to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands**
- develop national and regional wetland policies, as provided in the Ramsar 'Guidelines for the Implementation of the Wise Use Concept' adopted at Montreux;
 - manage wetlands in accordance with wise use principles;
 - take account of wetland functions and values in developing and applying other national policies.
3. **Promotion of international cooperation through development assistance and management of shared wetland ecosystems, water resources, and species**
- promote cooperation with other global and regional conventions and organizations, inter alia by the active cooperation of the Bureau of the Ramsar Convention with the Interim Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, with a view to enabling this secretariat to fulfil its tasks;
 - review the impact of current development assistance on wetlands in order that it contributes to their conservation and wise use;
 - generate support from bilateral and multilateral funding agencies;
 - strengthen regional coordination on wetland issues of common concern; and
 - establish international networks of wetlands with significant ecological or hydrological links, which require coherent management, and develop joint management programmes for shared wetlands.
4. **Increasing awareness of the Convention and promotion of its aims**
- promote understanding of wetland functions and values;
 - increase opportunities for the training of appropriate staff in disciplines essential for wetland conservation; and
 - prepare educational and information materials to publicize the Convention at regional, national and local levels.

Annex 2

FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

What is the Convention?

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

Elements of the Convention

The Convention has three distinct elements. These are:

(a) Conference of the Contracting Parties

Meetings of the governmental representatives take place every three years and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) accredited by the Contracting Parties may participate as non-voting observers. The Conference is the policy-making organ of the Convention, which enables the Contracting Parties to hold wide-ranging discussions of grass-roots implementation of the Convention and to adopt decisions, resolutions, or recommendations to improve the way in which the Convention works. The Conference approves the Convention's budgetary arrangements for the coming triennial programme of activities.

(b) Standing Committee

This Committee consists of representatives of the Contracting Parties from each of the Ramsar regions, plus the host countries of the present and next meetings of the Conference. It is responsible for the follow-up and application of the Conference's decisions between Conferences and for supervision of the activities of the Ramsar Bureau.

(c) Bureau

This is the permanent secretariat for the Convention, which carries out the day-to-day coordination 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 with other international, intergovernmental, and nongovernmental 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 IUCN - the World Conservation Union and IWRB (International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau). Programme cooperation is pursued with many other organizations, as well as with the secretariats of other conventions dealing with conservation and wise use of natural resources, to achieve a strategic alliance for wetland conservation.

Who are the Members of the Convention?

All members of the United Nations or its specialized agencies may join the Convention, but present membership is unevenly scattered throughout the Ramsar regions. One of the main emphases of Convention activities is to recruit membership from countries of Africa, Asia, the Neotropics (including South and Central America, and the Caribbean), and Oceania, and to complete the network of members in Europe.

What does the Convention do for its Members?

As the major international legal instrument for intergovernmental cooperation in the field of conservation and wise use of wetlands, the Convention provides a unique framework and a mechanism for preventing loss of wetland resources. It provides opportunities for international cooperation through the Ramsar Bureau and the Convention's Wetland Conservation Fund. Mechanisms for encouraging bilateral cooperation, both North-South and South-South cooperation, are being developed.

By accepting the commitments 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 wetlands of international importance can be identified for designation for the 'List of wetlands of international importance'. The Convention has also adopted guidelines for the wise use of wetlands and their resources.

The Convention is developing standardized international methods of describing and classifying wetlands and of approaching their conservation and management. The accumulated experience of members may be drawn upon to help solve the 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 ecological character of the wetland, and in cases of difficulty, the Convention has mechanisms - such as the Monitoring Procedure and the Montreux Record - which may help to resolve these issues. Training of personnel and exchange of information are also areas where the Convention assists 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.

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Fund was established at the Montreux Conference in 1990 to provide developing countries with financial support in acceding to the Convention, or in executing their commitments, in particular in the fields of designation and management of listed sites, and the wise use of wetlands. In relation to Central and Eastern European countries with economies in transition and undergoing a privatization process, it is recognized that there is a need for financial support for wetland projects, either through bilateral arrangements, multilateral agencies or other mechanisms.

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, the Ramsar Convention permits a continuous flow of information on wetland matters between Contracting Parties.

SECTION 2. COMMITMENTS BY 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:

(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); 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 Ramsar criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance (Recommendations Cagliari 1.4, Groningen 2.3, Regina 3.1, and Montreux 4.2 and Resolutions Kushiro 5.3 and 5.9); to use the Ramsar datasheet and classification system for describing listed sites (Recommendation Montreux 4.7 and Resolution Kushiro 5.3); to consider appropriate management measures after designation (Recommendation Montreux 4.2, Annex II and Resolution Kushiro 5.7); and where appropriate, to use the Montreux Record and Monitoring Procedure (Montreux Recommendations 4.7 and 4.8 and Resolution Kushiro 5.4);
- II to formulate and implement planning so as to promote the wise use of wetlands (Article 3.1); to adopt and apply the Guidelines for Implementation of the Wise Use Concept, notably as regards elaboration and implementation of national wetland policies (Recommendation Montreux 4.10, Annex), and the Additional Guidance on Wise Use (Resolution Kushiro 5.6); to make environmental and impact assessments before transformations of wetlands (Recommendations Cagliari 1.6, Groningen 2.3, Regina 3.1, and Montreux 4.10; Resolution Kushiro 5.6);
- III to establish nature reserves on wetlands and provide adequately for their wardening (Article 4.1); to increase waterfowl populations through management of appropriate wetlands (Article 4.4); and to make national wetland inventories (Recommendations Cagliari 1.5, Groningen 2.3, Regina 3.1, Montreux 4.6, and 4.10) which will identify major sites for wetland biodiversity;
- IV to train personnel competent in wetland research, management, and wardening (Article 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 the Convention text); and to consult with other Contracting Parties about implementing obligations arising from the Convention, especially about shared wetlands and water systems and shared species (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, and Montreux 4.13);
- VII to establish wetland restoration projects (Montreux Recommendation 4.1).
- (c) **Fostering communications about wetland conservation**
- VIII To encourage research and exchange of data (Article 4.3);
- IX to produce national reports for Conferences of the Parties (Recommendations Groningen 2.1, Montreux 4.3);
- X to increase the number of Contracting Parties (Recommendations Cagliari 1.1, Groningen 2.3, and Regina 3.6, 3.7, and 3.10).
- (d) **Supporting the work of the Convention**
- XI To convene and attend Conferences of the Parties (Article 6.1);
- XII to adopt the Paris Protocol (Recommendations Cagliari 1.7 and Groningen 2.2) and Regina amendments (Recommendation Cagliari 1.8 and Regina Resolution);
- XIII to make financial contributions to the Convention budget (Recommendations Cagliari 1.10 and Groningen 2.4, Resolutions Regina and Montreux) and to the Wetland Conservation Fund (Resolution Montreux 4.3).

SECTION 3. STANDING COMMITTEE

The Standing Committee was established by the Regina Meeting of the Conference following recommendations from the Task Force established at the Groningen Meeting. 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 Meetings of the Conference on matters previously approved by the 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 review and decide upon applications for allocations from the Wetland Conservation Fund;
- 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, namely 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.

SECTION 4. 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, the Regina Resolution, and the Montreux Resolution on secretariat matters are as follows:

- to assist in convening and organizing Conferences;
- to maintain the List and be informed of any changes to the List;
- to be informed by 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 work plans between Conferences.

SECTION 5. FRAMEWORK FOR BUREAU ACTIVITIES

A detailed outline of the permanent work of the Bureau follows. Each activity is marked with asterisks according to whether it is considered by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to be 'essential' (three asterisks), of 'high priority' (two asterisks), of 'medium' priority (one asterisk), or 'low' priority (no asterisk).

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, including the Montreux Record;

- * (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 implementation of the wise use concept, in line with the principles, recommendations, guidelines and additional guidance of the Convention, in particular as regards the formulation and implementation of national wetland policies, 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 the formulation of the concept of nature reserves for wetlands and promoting the establishment of such reserves;
- * (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); and
- * (c) promoting the establishment of national wetland inventories.

IV Training of land-use planners, conservation personnel, wetland managers, and staff:

- ** (a) promotion of training through institutions and bodies which organize training courses, through fund-raising, and through the Wetland Conservation Fund;
- * (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;
- ** (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 (for example on wetland management or restoration, educational facilities, training, twinning opportunities, or development aid); and
- ** (c) promotion of the Convention's Wetland Conservation Fund.

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 the Ramsar List, Montreux Record, brochure, Newsletter, and Annual Report), products (especially certificates and plaques), and publicity materials (particularly 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, the Neotropics, and Oceania as well as among the States of Europe which are not yet Parties, 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 the timing of and participation in meetings; and
- *** (e) management of Convention funds, including those of the Wetland Conservation Fund.

II Conference of the Contracting Parties:

- *** (a) liaison with the host country and development of logistic arrangements;
- *** (b) development, with the guidance of the 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.

Annex 3

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW FOR THE BUREAU 1994-1996

Introduction

The Kushiro Statement emphasizes the need for the Convention to focus on a limited number of fundamental principles dictated by world-wide environmental challenges. This overview aims to translate these principles into precise actions which the Bureau can implement on behalf of the Contracting Parties in the coming triennium.

The 'Communications Plan' approved by the Standing Committee at its Tenth Meeting in November 1991 sets out the Convention's messages and the communication methods to be used by the Bureau to convey these messages effectively to carefully targeted audiences.

The efficient implementation of the Bureau's programme will be guided by the following operational objectives:

- (a) To make the best use of the Bureau's resources: The Bureau will concentrate its efforts in areas where it can offer the best services and where its abilities are recognized. It will thus give priority to intensifying contacts with the Contracting Parties and will focus upon technical assistance for their activities, in particular by seeking to further application of the Monitoring Procedure and application of the wise use concept.
- (b) To utilize effectively the recognized strengths of its partners: The Bureau will aim to strengthen partnership activities and will develop written agreements with collaborating organizations.
- (c) To strengthen the international effort for wetland conservation: As instructed by the Conference of the Contracting Parties and with the guidance of the Standing Committee, the Bureau will continue to seek funds to support technical projects, in particular under the Wetland Conservation Fund, prepared in close cooperation with the Party or Parties concerned and appropriate partner organizations. The Bureau will seek to extend its own technical competence and to develop the Convention's regional activities by strengthening links with regional representatives, working with partner organizations where appropriate.

Programme of the Bureau 1994-1996

The Bureau's 1994-1996 programme of activities, as reviewed and approved by the Standing Committee, is set out below. It is based upon the priority areas identified in the Kushiro Statement and the 'Framework for Bureau Activities.'

The Standing Committee has identified two categories of activities:

- 'essential activities' without which the Convention would face serious difficulties in functioning;
- 'desirable activities' which include all other work specifically requested by the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

The activities in the 'desirable' category are many and wide-ranging and in order to establish priorities for undertaking them, the Standing Committee has subdivided the category into three priority groups: high, medium, and low. This subdivision aims to identify the most pressing needs for the 1994-1996 triennium.

In developing the programme, the Standing Committee has determined that sufficient financial and other resources should be provided to allow, as a minimum, the Bureau to undertake all of the 'essential' and certain 'highly desirable' activities, and has prepared the budget for the 1994-1996 triennium accordingly. Contracting Parties are encouraged to make additional voluntary contributions to enable the remaining items of the 'highly desirable' category to be undertaken.

Any change in the order of priorities of these activities has budgetary implications; conversely, changes to the proposed budget will affect the priorities outlined below. Thus, granting a higher priority to any activity will lead to an increase in the budget, while any reduction of the budget will lead to lower priority for some of the activities listed below.

A. ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES

Note: References are to items in the full 'Framework for Bureau Activities' document.

1.I (a) Maintaining the List

The Ramsar Bureau will work to maintain the formal 'List of wetlands of international importance', using the datasheets and wetland classification system approved by the Contracting Parties, and to enter data on Ramsar sites on to the Ramsar database, housed at IWRB headquarters in Slimbridge, UK, which will be used in the various conservation activities of the Bureau. The Bureau will also maintain the Montreux Record.

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 seven to ten 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 IUCN, IWRB, and WWF for this work.

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 develop the guidelines approved by the Conference of the Parties for conservation and management of listed sites, and will promote their application, in cooperation with Contracting Parties and with appropriate technical bodies, in particular in the context of the Monitoring Procedure.

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

The Bureau will pursue the recommendations of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on wise use by working with Contracting Parties and partner organizations to apply the concept of wise use. The aim will be to promote sustainable activities for wetland conservation, in particular by encouraging the development of national wetland policies or specific wise use activities through

initiatives such as support of projects exemplifying wise use, scientific/management studies, and legal/policy studies on legislative and institutional requirements.

1.III (a) Promoting the establishment of wetland nature reserves

The Bureau will work with Contracting Parties and with appropriate technical bodies in promoting the establishment of wetland nature reserves on the basis of the concepts formulated by the Conference of the 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 continue its contacts with existing multilateral development agencies such as the World Bank, EEC, OECD, and regional development banks and will develop contacts with any new agencies 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 the Ramsar Convention by providing bilateral assistance for wetland conservation in developing countries. Where appropriate the Bureau will make use of the opportunities offered by the Wetland Conservation Fund to promote this end.

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 (for example Biological Diversity, Migratory Species, CITES, World Heritage, Global Change, and Bern); cooperative activities with some intergovernmental bodies (for example UNESCO, UNEP, FAO, EEC, OECD and the Council of Europe); and regular programme consultations with the Convention's principal partner organizations (IUCN, IWRB, WWF and BirdLife International - formerly 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 countries of the African, Asian, Neotropical, and Oceanian regions, and with states of Europe that are not yet Parties.

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, in particular projects approved under the Wetland Conservation Fund.

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.

B. DESIRABLE ACTIVITIES

Note: As indicated above the proposed triennial budget has been based upon the Bureau having the capacity to undertake 'Essential' and some 'High Priority' 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.

B1) HIGH PRIORITY:

1.IV (a) Promoting training

The Bureau will work in close cooperation with Contracting Parties and partner organizations (such as BirdLife International - formerly ICBP, IUCN and its regional offices, IWRB, Wetlands for the Americas 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 transborder 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, where appropriate with the use of the Wetland Conservation Fund.

The Bureau will assist in submitting such applications to appropriate agencies and may, in certain cases, assist in the implementation.

2.II (c) Promotion of the Convention's Wetland Conservation Fund

The Bureau will seek contributions to the Fund from Contracting Parties, appropriate international sources, and non-governmental organizations. It will promote the Fund among countries eligible to receive financial support from the Fund and, in collaboration with partner organizations, will help Contracting Parties to ensure that projects are of a high technical standard and are well executed.

3.I (a) Producing Ramsar documentation

The Bureau will produce the Ramsar List and Montreux Record, other regular Convention documents including the Ramsar Newsletter and Annual Report, and occasional publications such as Convention brochures, features, and other promotional materials. As appropriate it will issue press releases on news relating to the Convention.

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 through Notifications to Parties, the Newsletter, or 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 preliminary consultations with Parties as decided at Kushiro or 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 in assisting in the establishment of wetland reserves, 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.III (c) Promoting the establishment of wetland inventories

By provision of technical support and by seeking appropriate funding, the Bureau will encourage Contracting Parties to carry out national wetland inventories in execution of Recommendation 4.6, in particular in the case of developing countries which wish to acquire more detailed data than those available in regional inventories.

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, support regional representatives on the Standing Committee in the organization of regional meetings where Contracting Parties can exchange experiences on the 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, videos, 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)
5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Kushiro, Japan
9-16 June 1993

Resolution 5.2: 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 by contributions of the Contracting Parties;

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

RECOGNIZING 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 1994-1996 attached as Annex 1;
2. ADOPTS for the 1994-1996 triennium the scale of contributions of the Contracting Parties to the Convention as listed in Annex 2;
3. INSTRUCTS the Standing Committee to report to the next meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties on alternatives to the use of the United Nations scale of contributions to calculate the contribution of each Party to the Convention budget, taking into consideration the need for an equitable burden sharing among the Parties and the situation in developing countries.
4. DIRECTS the Secretary General to administer the Convention funds in accordance with the approved terms of reference in Annex 3 to this resolution;
5. 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;
6. REMINDS all Contracting Parties of Recommendations 3.4, 4.13, and 5.5 to include the wise use concept and conservation of wetlands in development cooperation programmes;

7. URGES all Contracting Parties that are in a position to do so to make additional voluntary payments to the Convention budget to cover the Monitoring Procedure, Conference of the Parties/delegate travel, and the Wetland Conservation Fund;
8. URGES all Contracting Parties to deposit as soon as possible an instrument of acceptance of the amendment of 28 May 1987;
9. 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;
10. INSTRUCTS the Secretary General, in consultation with the Standing Committee, to seek external sources of support for programme priorities; and
11. DIRECTS the Standing Committee, in consultation with the Secretary General, to develop business plans for the Bureau for each year of the 1994-1996 triennium and to prepare strategic plans for the following two triennia for presentation at the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Annex 1

BUDGET 1994-1996

COSTS IN SWISS FRANCS (000s)								
Budget/Programme Position	1991 Budget	1991 Actual+	1992 Budget	1992 Actual+	1993 Budget	1994 Budget	1995 Budget	1996 Budget
1. STAFF COSTS								
a) Professional Staff ++								
(4) 7x12-person months (salaries)	385	678 #	412	730 #	441	740	792	847
(social charges)	65	122 #	70	130 #	75	140	150	161
b) Support Staff ++								
(2) 3x12-person months (salaries)	96	115	103	180	110	195	209	224
(social charges)	20	18	22	25	24	30	32	34
c) Staff hiring costs	25	10	0	2	0	25	0	0
2. EXPERT SERVICES								
a) Scientific work by IWRB	65	70	65	70	65	100	100	100
b) Other scientific work	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c) Monitoring Procedure *	30	80	30	82	30	80	80	80
d) Legal support	10	3	10	10	10	10	10	10
e) Support for regional representative	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	30
3. TRAVEL ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS	30	120	30	125	30	80	80	80
4. PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT	10	15	10	17	10	20	20	20
5. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES								
a) Personnel/general services	87	123	87	161	122	170	180	190
b) EDP services	18	18	18	37	21	39	41	43
c) Financial services	28	28	30	32	32	34	36	38
6. TELECOMMUNICATIONS	25	35	25	40	25	40	40	40
7. REPORTING								
a) Publications	20	29	20	40	20	40	40	40
b) Quarterly Newsletter	0	40	0	60	0	50	50	50
c) Translation services	20	22	20	30	20	60	60	60
d) Outside typing services	20	31	20	36	20	30	30	30
e) Dissemination of information	20	20	20	20	20	30	30	30
f) Reproduction of material	0	12	0	18	0	15	15	15
g) Acquisition of material	0	3	0	10	0	5	5	5
h) Publicity	0	6	0	10	0	5	5	5
8. CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES **								
a) Cost of Conference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b) Conference delegate support	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c) Standing Committee delegate support	30	62	30	110	30	30	30	30
d) Scientific/technical review panel delegate support	0	0	0	0	0	15	15	15
9. MISCELLANEOUS	10	18	10	20	10	20	20	20
10. CONTINGENCY FUND	30	0	30	0	30	15	15	15
SUB TOTAL operating budget	1044	1678	1062	1995	1145	2048	2115	2212
11. WETLAND CONSERVATION FUND ***	10	266	10	318	10	100	100	100
TOTAL	1054	1944	1072	2313	1155	2148	2215	2312
TOTAL FOR THE 1994-1996 TRIENNIAL: SFR 6675 ie SFR 2225 per year								

Notes:

- + Actual figures reflect core and project expenditure for core-related activities
- ++ 4 professionals/2 support staff covered by 1991-1993 core budget
7 professionals/3 support staff covered by proposed 1994-1996 budget
- # Does not include Asian Technical Officer; post paid directly by the city of Kushiro, Japan

- * To be augmented by substantial voluntary contributions; an additional 5 per cent of the total budget is required for necessary activities under the Monitoring Procedure
- ** To be augmented by substantial voluntary contributions; an additional 15 per cent of the total budget is required for the Conference of the Parties and support to delegates for meeting participation
- *** To be augmented by substantial voluntary contributions; an additional 20 per cent of the total budget is required for necessary activities under the Wetland Conservation Fund

BUDGET 1994-1996: EXPLANATORY NOTES

The budget for the years 1994-1996 has been developed on the basis of the following considerations:

1. Staff Costs

It is proposed that total staff costs, core and project based, remain at approximately the same level as in the 1991-1993 triennium.

However it is proposed that a greater proportion of these costs be included in the core budget rather than be met by external project support. In the 1991-1993 triennium, the core budget only covered the cost of 6 of the 14 Ramsar Bureau staff. For the 1994-1996 triennium, it is proposed that 10 of the Bureau staff be covered by the core budget. The present reliance upon project funding for staff is seen to be both instable and undesirable. While the need for some 15 staff members has been identified for the 1994-1996 triennium, including the recruitment of African and European Technical Officers, it has not been considered possible to propose the coverage of all 15 of these staff under the core budget for this triennium. However the Standing Committee agreed that this should be the aim for the future. [See also the explanatory note attached to document DOC. C.5.15.]

Given the proposal to cover existing staff positions in the core budget, only a minimal figure is proposed for staff hiring costs.

2. Expert Services

(a) Scientific Work by IWRB

A submission was received from the Director of IWRB to expand the services to be provided to the Convention in the areas of scientific studies, management guidelines, and organization and management of the Ramsar database. This was fully endorsed by the Standing Committee.

(b) Other Scientific Work

While recognizing the desirability for additional expert services, the Standing Committee felt that as in the 1991-1993 triennium, the budget should not be expanded to accommodate this item. In this regard, an offer by IUCN to provide certain services without charge was gratefully received by the Standing Committee.

(c) Monitoring Procedure

The Standing Committee determined that this item should be increased from its 1991-1993 level with the proviso that significant additional voluntary contributions are secured (for example 5 per cent of the total budget).

(d) Legal Support

This item is left at its 1991-1993 level.

(e) Support for Regional Representatives

This is a new item proposed to facilitate consultations by representatives of the Standing Committee with colleagues in their respective regions.

3. Travel

An increase is proposed to cover costs more in line with actual expenditure over the 1991-1993 period, given increased membership, demands for Ramsar representation, and travel costs.

4. Purchase of Equipment

A modest increase is proposed in view of an expanded Bureau operation.

5. Administrative Services

An increase is proposed in view of increased costs and corresponding services pertaining to occupancy of the new headquarters facilities.

6. Telecommunications

A modest increase is proposed in view of an expanded Bureau operation.

7. Reporting

All items are in line with actual experience in the 1991-1993 period, but with coverage of most of the costs for the Ramsar Newsletter on the core budget rather than as a project activity and additional support for Spanish translation.

8. Conference of the Contracting Parties and Support to Delegates for Meeting Participation

The Standing Committee proposed leaving this item at its 1991-1993 level with the proviso that significant additional voluntary contributions are secured (for example 15 per cent of the total budget). In this way a fund can be raised to enable the Conference of the Contracting Parties to be held in any part of the world. During the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, it was agreed that this item be slightly amended to accommodate meetings of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel.

9. Miscellaneous

A modest increase in line with current experience is recommended.

10. Contingency Fund

A modest increase in line with current experience was recommended by the Standing Committee, but in order to accommodate the need for the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, this has had to be reduced.

11. Wetland Conservation Fund

The Standing Committee proposed an increase for this item from its 1991-1993 level with the proviso that significant additional voluntary contributions be secured (for example 20 per cent of the total budget).

Annex 2

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS SFR 6,675,000

<u>Member State</u>	<u>1994-1996</u>	<u>Annual *</u>
	<u>Share</u> <u>SFR</u>	<u>Share</u> <u>FR</u>
Algeria	11,348	3,783
Argentina	41,385	13,795
Australia	110,138	36,713
Austria	54,735	18,245
Bangladesh	668	223
Belgium	77,430	25,810
Bolivia	668	223
Brazil	116,145	38,715
Bulgaria	9,345	3,115
Burkina Faso	668	223
Canada	226,950	75,650
Chad	668	223
Chile	6,008	2,003
China	56,070	18,690
Costa Rica	668	223
Croatia	9,345	3,115
Czech Republic	+	+
Denmark	47,393	15,798
Ecuador	2,003	668
Egypt	5,340	1,780
Finland	41,385	13,795
France	437,213	145,738
Gabon	1,335	445
Germany	650,813	216,938
Ghana	668	223
Greece	25,365	8,455
Guatemala	1,335	445
Guinea	668	223
Guinea-Bissau	668	223
Hungary	13,350	4,450
Iceland	2,003	668
India	26,033	8,678
Indonesia	11,348	3,783
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	56,070	18,690
Ireland	13,350	4,450
Italy	312,390	104,130
Japan	907,133	302,378
Jordan	668	223
Kenya	668	223
Liechtenstein	668	223
Mali	668	223
Malta	668	223

Mauritania	668	223
Mexico	64,080	21,360
Morocco	2,003	668
Nepal	668	223
Netherlands	109,470	36,490
New Zealand	17,355	5,785
Niger	668	223
Norway	40,050	13,350
Pakistan	4,673	1,558
Panama	1,335	445
Papua New Guinea	668	223
Peru	4,673	1,558
Poland	34,043	11,348
Portugal	14,685	4,895
Romania	12,683	4,228
Russian Federation	489,278	163,093
Senegal	668	223
Slovak Republic +	+	+
Slovenia	6,675	2,225
South Africa	30,038	10,013
Spain	144,180	48,060
Sri Lanka	668	223
Suriname	668	223
Sweden	80,768	26,923
Switzerland	84,773	28,258
Trinidad and Tobago	3,338	1,113
Tunisia	2,003	668
Uganda	668	223
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	365,790	121,930
United States of America **	**	**
Uruguay	2,670	890
Venezuela	36,045	12,015
Viet Nam	668	223
Yugoslavia	11,348	3,783
Zambia	668	223

Other contributions *** 1,824,922 608,309 ***

6,675,000 2,225,017

Notes:

* The annual share has been calculated in accordance with international practice based upon the United Nations scale (attached for reference)

** The contribution of the United States of America is not included in this list because of the US declaration at the Extraordinary Conference of the Contracting Parties (Regina 1987) on Article 6, paragraph 6 of the Financial Amendment to the Convention

- *** The figure of SFR 608,309 per year represents the minimum amount necessary to complete the funding of the approved budget; 'other contributions' include the voluntary contribution of the United States of America and any other voluntary contributions paid by any other State, or governmental or non-governmental, national or international organization
- + Information on the distribution of the former Czechoslovakia's share of the budget (0.55%) between the Czech Republic and Slovakia is not yet available; a proposal is being made to the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly that the rates of assessment be 0.42% for the Czech Republic and 0.13% for the Slovak Republic

Individual country contributions may need to be revised in the light of new accessions to the Convention after the Kushiro Conference

SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS

PRESENT SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS - UNITED NATIONS

1993 *

(from UN DOC. ST/ADM/SER.B/403)

The United Nations Contributions Section in New York has informed the Bureau that the next update of the scale will be provided in December 1993 for 1994 only; that office hopes to be able to produce a more permanent version at the end of 1994 for the period 1995-1997

<u>Member State</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Afghanistan.....	0.01
Albania.....	0.01
Algeria.....	0.16
Angola.....	0.01
Antigua and Barbuda.....	0.01
Argentina.....	0.57
Armenia.....	0.13
Australia.....	1.51
Austria.....	0.75
Azerbaijan.....	0.22
Bahamas.....	0.02
Bahrain.....	0.03
Bangladesh.....	0.01
Barbados.....	0.01
Belarus.....	0.48
Belgium.....	1.06
Belize.....	0.01
Benin.....	0.01
Bhutan.....	0.01
Bolivia.....	0.01
Bosnia and Herzegovina.....	0.04
Botswana.....	0.01
Brazil.....	1.59
Brunei Darussalam.....	0.03
Bulgaria.....	0.13

Burkina Faso.....	0.01
Burundi.....	0.01
Cambodia.....	0.01
Cameroon.....	0.01
Canada.....	3.11
Cape Verde.....	0.01
Central African Republic.....	0.01
Chad.....	0.01
Chile.....	0.08
China.....	0.77
Colombia.....	0.13
Comoros.....	0.01
Congo.....	0.01
Costa Rica.....	0.01
Côte d'Ivoire.....	0.02
Croatia.....	0.13
Cuba.....	0.09
Cyprus.....	0.02
Democratic People's Republic of Korea.....	0.05
Denmark.....	0.65
Djibouti.....	0.01
Dominica.....	0.01
Dominican Republic.....	0.02
Ecuador.....	0.03
Egypt.....	0.07
El Salvador.....	0.01
Equatorial Guinea.....	0.01
Eritrea.....	0.01
Estonia.....	0.07
Ethiopia.....	0.01
Fiji.....	0.01
Finland.....	0.57
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.....	0.02
France.....	6.00
Gabon.....	0.02
Gambia.....	0.01
Georgia.....	0.21
Germany.....	8.93
Ghana.....	0.01
Greece.....	0.35
Grenada.....	0.01
Guatemala.....	0.02
Guinea.....	0.01
Guinea-Bissau.....	0.01
Guyana.....	0.01
Haiti.....	0.01
Honduras.....	0.01
Hungary.....	0.18
Iceland.....	0.03
India.....	0.36
Indonesia.....	0.16

Iran (Islamic Republic of).....	0.77
Iraq.....	0.13
Ireland.....	0.18
Israel.....	0.23
Italy.....	4.29
Jamaica.....	0.01
Japan.....	12.45
Jordan.....	0.01
Kazakhstan.....	0.35
Kenya.....	0.01
Kuwait.....	0.25
Kyrgyzstan.....	0.06
Lao People's Democratic Republic.....	0.01
Latvia.....	0.13
Lebanon.....	0.01
Lesotho.....	0.01
Liberia.....	0.01
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.....	0.24
Liechtenstein.....	0.01
Lithuania.....	0.15
Luxembourg.....	0.06
Madagascar.....	0.01
Malawi.....	0.01
Malaysia.....	0.12
Maldives.....	0.01
Mali.....	0.01
Malta.....	0.01
Marshall Islands.....	0.01
Mauritania.....	0.01
Mauritius.....	0.01
Mexico.....	0.88
Micronesia (Federated States of).....	0.01
Monaco.....	0.01
Mongolia.....	0.01
Morocco.....	0.03
Mozambique.....	0.01
Myanmar.....	0.01
Namibia.....	0.01
Nepal.....	0.01
Netherlands.....	1.50
New Zealand.....	0.24
Nicaragua.....	0.01
Niger.....	0.01
Nigeria.....	0.20
Norway.....	0.55
Oman.....	0.03
Pakistan.....	0.06
Panama.....	0.02
Papua New Guinea.....	0.01
Paraguay.....	0.02
Peru.....	0.06

Philippines.....	0.07
Poland.....	0.47
Portugal.....	0.20
Qatar.....	0.05
Republic of Korea.....	0.69
Republic of Moldova.....	0.15
Romania.....	0.17
Russian Federation.....	6.71
Rwanda.....	0.01
Saint Kitts and Nevis.....	0.01
Saint Lucia.....	0.01
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.....	0.01
Samoa.....	0.01
San Marino.....	0.01
Sao Tome and Principe.....	0.01
Saudi Arabia.....	0.96
Senegal.....	0.01
Seychelles.....	0.01
Sierra Leone.....	0.01
Singapore.....	0.12
Slovenia.....	0.09
Solomon Islands.....	0.01
Somalia.....	0.01
South Africa.....	0.41
Spain.....	1.98
Sri Lanka.....	0.01
Sudan.....	0.01
Suriname.....	0.01
Swaziland.....	0.01
Sweden.....	1.11
Syrian Arab Republic.....	0.04
Tajikistan.....	0.05
Thailand.....	0.11
Togo.....	0.01
Trinidad and Tobago.....	0.05
Tunisia.....	0.03
Turkey.....	0.27
Turkmenistan.....	0.06
Uganda.....	0.01
Ukraine.....	1.87
United Arab Emirates.....	0.21
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.....	5.02
United Republic of Tanzania.....	0.01
United States of America.....	25.00
Uruguay.....	0.04
Uzbekistan.....	0.26
Vanuatu.....	0.01
Venezuela.....	0.49
Viet Nam.....	0.01
Yemen.....	0.01
Yugoslavia.....	0.16

Zaire.....	0.01
Zambia.....	0.01
Zimbabwe.....	0.01

99.52*

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- * The scale of assessments for 1993 has been reduced from 100.07 to 99.52 due to the dissolution of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic effective 31 December 1992; a proposal is being made to the 48th Session of the United Nations General Assembly that the rates of assessment be 0.42% for the Czech Republic and 0.13% for the Slovak Republic.

<u>Non-member State</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
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Holy See.....	0.01
Nauru.....	0.01
Switzerland.....	1.16
Tonga.....	0.01

Not listed

Kiribati.....	0.01
Tuvalu.....	0.01

Annex 3

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 or that of his designee.
2. The financial period shall be for three calendar years beginning 1 January 1994 and ending 31 December 1996. 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 Annex 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 non-governmental organizations and other sources; and
 - (c) any uncommitted and unexpended appropriations from the financial period 1991-93.
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 90 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 two-thirds 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 will 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 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 1994 to 31 December 1996.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Kushiro, Japan
9-16 June 1993

Resolution 5.3: Procedure for initial designation of sites for the List of Wetlands of International Importance

RECALLING that the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties approved Recommendation 4.2 which established revised criteria for identifying wetlands to be designated for the “List of wetlands of international importance”;

FURTHER RECALLING that a datasheet and classification system for “wetland type”, developed for describing Ramsar sites, were endorsed by Recommendation 4.7, also adopted at the Fourth Meeting of the Conference;

EMPHASIZING the value of the Ramsar criteria, datasheet, and classification system for standardizing collection and analysis of information on wetlands at international level;

AWARE that regional scientific inventories of wetlands have been completed for large areas of the world and that these are being complemented by an increasing number of National Scientific Inventories, prepared officially by Contracting Parties in line with Recommendation 4.6 of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference;

RECOGNIZING that some wetlands were designated for the List before any criteria or information recording system had been developed under the Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

URGES Contracting Parties to ensure that any new sites to be added to the List fulfil one or more of the criteria established by Recommendation 4.2 and in case of doubt, urges Contracting Parties to enter into informal consultations with the Convention Bureau and its technical advisors prior to listing new sites;

FURTHER REQUESTS that, in addition to a map showing definitive site boundaries, a completed Ramsar datasheet be submitted to the Convention Bureau upon designation of a wetland for the List, and that particular attention be given to completing sections 16-17 (conservation measures), 21-24 (functions and values), and 31 (criteria for inclusion);

URGES Contracting Parties to consult existing regional wetland inventories, and relevant expert bodies including non-government organizations, to assist them in the identification of potential Ramsar sites in their territories if no National Scientific Inventory is available;

COMMENDS those Contracting Parties which have established National Scientific Inventories, and encourages those which have not done so to establish them, where appropriate with technical and/or financial support from other Contracting Parties and/or relevant expert bodies including non-government organizations; and

INSTRUCTS the Convention Bureau, in consultation with the Contracting Party concerned and according to the Procedure appended as an annex to the present Resolution, to undertake a review of information submitted to the Ramsar database and, where available information is inadequate, to identify listed sites which may not meet the criteria established by Recommendation 4.2.

REVIEW PROCEDURE FOR LISTED SITES WHICH MAY NOT QUALIFY UNDER ANY OF THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY RECOMMENDATION 4.2

1. The Convention Bureau, in conjunction with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, shall undertake a review of information submitted by the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar database concerning listed sites.
2. The Convention Bureau shall identify any sites which, according to the information available, did not, at the time of designation, qualify under any of the criteria established by Recommendation 4.2 approved by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. Should any such site be identified, the Convention Bureau shall consult the Contracting Party concerned in order to seek more information.
3. When, following consultation between the Convention Bureau and the Contracting Party concerned, it is agreed that the site definitely failed, at the time of designation, to qualify under any of the criteria, steps shall be taken jointly by the Convention Bureau and the Contracting Party to evaluate whether or not any measures can be introduced to extend, enhance, or restore the wetland's functions and values to such a degree that it would qualify for inclusion in the List.
4. When, following consultation between the Convention Bureau and the Contracting Party concerned, it is agreed that a site failed at the time of designation to qualify under any of the criteria, and that there is no possibility of extension, enhancement, or restoration of its functions or values, it shall instruct the Convention Bureau to remove the site from the List and shall apply the provisions for compensation, as provided in Article 4.2 of the Convention.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Kushiro, Japan
9-16 June 1993

Resolution 5.4: The Record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur (Montreux Record)

RECALLING that Contracting Parties ‘designate suitable wetlands within (their) territory for inclusion in a List of Wetlands of International Importance’ (Article 2.1), ‘formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of wetlands included in the List’ (Article 3.1), and inform the Convention Bureau ‘if the ecological character of any wetland in (their) territory and included in the List has changed, is changing, or is likely to change as the result of technological development, pollution, or other human interference’ (Article 3.2);

FURTHER RECALLING that Recommendation 4.8 adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties instructed the Convention Bureau, in consultation with each Contracting Party concerned, ‘to maintain a record of Ramsar sites where such changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur’;

RECOGNIZING the value of such a record in identifying priorities for the Monitoring Procedure, the Wetland Conservation Fund, and other financial mechanisms;

DRAWING ATTENTION to Resolution RES. C.5.5 (‘Establishment of a Scientific and Technical Review Panel’);

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

DECIDES that the record established by Recommendation 4.8. should generally be referred to as the ‘Montreux Record’, although its full title (‘Record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur’) should be retained as a subheading for use in formal documents;

DETERMINES that the purpose of the Montreux Record is to identify priority sites for positive national and international conservation attention, to guide implementation of the Monitoring Procedure, and to guide allocation of resources available under financial mechanisms;

INSTRUCTS the Convention Bureau to maintain the Montreux Record as part of the Ramsar database and in accordance with the guidelines appended in the annex to the present Resolution; and

CHARGES the Convention’s Scientific and Technical Review Panel, established by Resolution RES. C.5.5, with providing advice on the maintenance of the Montreux Record, and other matters relating to the conservation of Ramsar sites included in the Montreux Record.

Annex

MONTREUX RECORD

(‘Record of Ramsar sites where changes in ecological character have occurred, are occurring, or are likely to occur’)

1. The Convention Bureau shall draw up the Montreux Record initially on the basis of sites listed in paragraph 224 of document INF. C.4.18, prepared from National Reports submitted to the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties. Sites that have come to the attention of the Convention Bureau subsequently shall be included in the Montreux Record subject to the procedure outlined below (points 2-4).
2. It comes to the attention of the Convention Bureau that the ecological character of a Ramsar site may have changed, may be changing, or may be likely to change as a result of technological development, pollution, or other human interference.
3. If relevant consultations are not already in progress, the Convention Bureau shall contact the Contracting Party concerned, requesting additional information on the status of the site.
4. When, following such consultations, it is confirmed that the site has undergone, is undergoing, or is likely to undergo change in ecological character, the Convention Bureau, in agreement with the Contracting Party concerned, and in consultation with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, shall add the site to the Montreux Record.
5. The Montreux Record shall indicate those sites where the Monitoring Procedure has been or is being implemented, as well as those sites where a Contracting Party has already identified and/or begun to implement remedial actions. Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Convention Bureau on the conservation situation at sites included on the Montreux Record.
6. The Convention Bureau, in agreement with the Contracting Party concerned, and in consultation with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, shall remove a site from the Montreux Record upon receipt of documents detailing either the remedial actions implemented successfully at the site, or the reasons why the ecological character of a site is no longer likely to change.
7. The Montreux Record shall be maintained as part of the Ramsar database and shall be subject to continuous review. Copies of the Record shall be available to Contracting Parties and other interested bodies upon request, but shall in any case be included with the regular circulation of the List.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Kushiro, Japan
9-16 June 1993

Resolution 5.5: Establishment of a Scientific and Technical Review Panel

WELCOMING the continuing growth in the number of Contracting Parties to the Convention, the increasing number of sites designated for the 'List of wetlands of international importance', the establishment of the Ramsar database, and the growing importance of the Guidelines for the implementation of the wise use concept, the Monitoring Procedure, the Montreux Record, and the Wetland Conservation Fund;

RECOGNIZING that these developments, (with the addition at the present meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties of the 'Additional guidance for the implementation of the wise use concept', the 'Procedure for initial designation of sites for the List of wetlands of international importance', the review of the 'Montreux Record', and 'Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands'), are placing an increasing workload on the Standing Committee and Convention Bureau, who require authoritative scientific and technical advice from the Contracting Parties;

RECALLING that, at its Third Meeting, the Conference of the Contracting Parties established a working group charged not only with advising on the formulation and implementation of the Convention's wise use concept, but also with elaborating criteria and guidelines for identification of wetlands of international importance;

NOTING that the working group was reconstituted by Recommendation 4.10, at the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, as the 'Working Group on Wise Use';

RECOGNIZING the valuable contribution to the Convention's work made by the Working Group on Wise Use;

FURTHER RECALLING Recommendation 4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties which requested the Standing Committee 'to investigate the need for a Convention Scientific Committee';

TAKING NOTE of the deliberations and conclusions of the workshops held at the present meeting, and of the report prepared by the Convention Bureau at the request of the Standing Committee;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

DECIDES that a Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel shall be established to give scientific and technical assistance to the Bureau and the Standing Committee and, through them, to the Conference of the Contracting Parties; and that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel shall perform the scientific and technical review tasks entrusted to it on an annual basis by the Standing Committee, for example:

- Review of the Bureau's annual scientific and technical programme;

- Review of the 'Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance', particularly as regards habitat for fish populations;
- Evaluation of the application of the 'Procedure for initial designation of sites for the List of wetlands of international importance';
- Review of the 'Montreux Record';
- Identification of priorities for application of the 'Monitoring Procedure';
- Review of projects submitted to the Wetland Conservation Fund;
- Evaluation of the application of the 'Guidelines for the implementation of the wise use concept' and of the 'Additional guidance for the implementation of the wise use concept';
- Evaluation of the application of the 'Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands';
- Consideration of a definition of ecological character and of guidelines on monitoring change in ecological character.

FURTHER DECIDES

- that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel shall be made up of seven members with appropriate scientific and technical knowledge, appointed on an individual basis for a three year term by the Conference of the Contracting Parties on the recommendation of the Standing Committee, with due regard for equitable representation of each region;
- that the Standing Committee shall make its recommendations on the membership of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel on the basis of nominations presented to the Bureau by the Contracting Parties, taking account of the need for some continuity in the membership of the Panel;
- that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel may seek specific advice from other scientific and technical experts from Contracting Parties and partner organizations;
- that IUCN and IWRB shall have the status of observer with the Scientific and Technical Review Panel;
- that the Scientific and Technical Review Panel shall meet at least once a year and shall report to the annual meeting of the Standing Committee, which shall include information on the work of the Panel in its triennial report to the Conference of the Parties;
- that the costs of participation in meetings of members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel shall be covered by the authorities of their own country, except that participants from developing countries and countries whose economy is in transition may be met from the Convention's core budget or other appropriate sources;

- that, for the 1994-96 triennium only, the members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel shall be appointed by the Standing Committee on the basis of nominations presented to the Bureau by the Contracting Parties; and

INSTRUCTS the Secretary General to inform the Contracting Parties of the timetable for submission to the Standing Committee of nominations for the membership of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel and to provide information to the Contracting Parties as to the disciplines which should be reflected on the Panel.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
Kushiro, Japan
9-16 June 1993

Resolution 5.6: The wise use of wetlands

RECALLING Article 3.1 of the Convention which stipulates that 'the Contracting Parties shall formulate and implement their planning so as to promote ... as far as possible the wise use of wetlands in their territory';

REFERRING to Recommendation 4.10, adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, which calls on Contracting Parties to:

- adopt and apply the 'Guidelines for the implementation of the wise use concept';
- reconstitute the Wise Use Working Group established by the Third Meeting of the Conference; and
- receive the report of the Working Group at the Fifth Meeting of the Conference;

THANKING the Government of The Netherlands for its generous initiative in providing the Convention Bureau with finance for the coordination of a three-year project on the wise use of wetlands, which has been carried out since the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;

TAKING NOTE of the report of the Wise Use Working Group and the conclusions of the Wise Use project;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

CALLS ON the Contracting Parties to implement in a more systematic and effective manner, and at international, national and local levels, the guidelines on wise use adopted by the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties;

NOTES the 'Additional guidance for the implementation of the wise use concept' contained in the Annex to the present resolution and urges Contracting Parties to implement its applicable provisions;

INVITES the Contracting Parties to strengthen international cooperation between developed countries and developing countries, or those whose economy is in transition, for the implementation of the wise use guidelines and additional guidance, and of appropriate project activities; and

DECIDES that the follow-up to the work of the Wise Use Working Group, and in particular evaluation of the application of the guidelines and additional guidance on wise use, be carried out by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel established at the present meeting.

[Annex: 'Additional guidance for the implementation of the wise use concept', see http://ramsar.org/key_guide_wiseuse_add_e.htm.]

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
5th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
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Resolution 5.7: Management planning for Ramsar sites and other wetlands

RECALLING that Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention designate wetlands within their territory for the 'List of wetlands of international importance', and formulate and implement their planning so as to promote the conservation of listed sites;

AWARE of the need to take appropriate measures after designation so as to promote the conservation of listed sites, as indicated in Annex II to Montreux Recommendation 4.2, which states that 'at each listed wetland, consideration should be given to the need for management' and that 'if management measures are deemed appropriate, a management plan should be developed and put into action';

EMPHASIZING the need for each Ramsar site to have its own management plan;

NOTING that Contracting Parties also establish nature reserves on other wetlands which are not designated for the Ramsar List;

CONSCIOUS that, while wetlands vary enormously throughout the world, a methodology for management planning, both for Ramsar sites and other wetlands can provide guidance for Contracting Parties;

NOTING FURTHERMORE that management planning should aim to achieve a balance between conservation and utilization, and should reinforce the Convention's 'wise use' principle;

WELCOMING the initiatives taken by some Contracting Parties to develop methodologies of general relevance and the efforts already made to test their validity;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

CALLS ON Contracting Parties to develop management plans for each wetland designated for the Ramsar List;

REQUESTS Contracting Parties to send copies of examples of such management plans to the Ramsar Bureau, in particular those that relate to sites on the Montreux Record or which illustrate good practice and successful approaches;

REQUESTS Contracting Parties to establish the appropriate legal and administrative structures for the application of such management plans, and to provide funds for the implementation of the plans and for training of the necessary staff;

FURTHER REQUESTS that, as far as necessary, Contracting Parties apply the 'Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar and other wetland sites', attached as an annex to the present resolution;

CALLS ON Contracting Parties to consider using these guidelines to review and, where necessary, update existing management plans;

REQUESTS the Standing Committee and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, in collaboration with the Convention Bureau and partner organizations, to follow up practical application of these guidelines at specific sites and to consider the need for refinement of these guidelines in the light of experience; and

URGES that funds be made available, from multilateral or bilateral aid sources, through non-governmental channels or from the Convention's Wetland Conservation Fund for the preparation of management plans and the application of these guidelines at wetlands in developing countries.

[Annex: 'Guidelines on management planning for Ramsar and other wetland sites', see http://ramsar.org/key_guide_mgt_old_e.htm.]

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
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Resolution 5.8: Future funding and operation of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Fund

RECALLING that Resolution 4.3 of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, held at Montreux, Switzerland in 1990, established the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Fund ('the Fund') 'to provide assistance to developing countries, upon official request from a competent national authority, for activities in furtherance of the purposes of the Convention';

FURTHER RECALLING that the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties decided that a token budgetary allocation of ten thousand Swiss francs (SFR 10,000) should be made to the Fund from the Convention's budget each year in the 1991-1993 triennium and that this allocation was 'to be augmented by substantial voluntary contributions';

EXPRESSING ITS THANKS to those Contracting Parties (Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America), non-governmental organizations (Soroptimist International of Kushiro and WWF), and individuals who have made voluntary contributions to the Fund since the Fourth Meeting;

EXPRESSING FURTHER THANKS to those Contracting Parties (Iceland and Japan), Japanese Non Governmental Organizations and Kushiro organizations (Kushiro Red Cross Volunteer Corps, the Rotor Act Club, and INAX Limited) which have made contributions or pledges of funding at the present meeting;

NOTING that these contributions amounted to approximately SFR 250,000 in 1991 and SFR 310,000 in 1992, and thus permitted the Standing Committee to approve six applications (from Congo, Chile, Kenya, Mauritania, Viet Nam, and - provisionally - Ecuador) at its November 1991 meeting, and twelve applications (from Argentina, China, Guatemala, Indonesia - two applications, Niger, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda) at its October 1992 meeting, as well as projects in Bolivia and Pakistan under the emergency approval procedure;

AWARE of the need to increase the amount of resources available to the Wetland Conservation Fund to at least US\$ 1 million annually;

FURTHER NOTING that the Ramsar Standing Committee and Bureau have sought to identify other sources of funding for the many applications which could not be covered by the Fund;

EMPHASIZING that the Fund, as constituted and financed at present, is able to fund only small projects, up to about SFR 40,000 in value;

CALLING ATTENTION to the special problems of countries whose economy is in transition;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

STATES ITS CONVICTION that, if the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Fund is to fulfil its aims, there is a need for more Contracting Parties to join those Contracting Parties who are already making voluntary contributions to the Fund, and for the latter not merely to maintain, but to make substantial increases to their contributions;

REITERATES THE NEED for major contributions from other outside sources;

RESOLVES

- (a) that developing countries continue to be the main focus of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Fund, as was envisaged in Montreux; and
- (b) that countries whose economy is in transition be assisted and supported through voluntary contributions by developed countries (through bilateral arrangements) or multilateral agencies, and that funds so donated may be channelled through the Ramsar Convention for administrative purposes where appropriate;

EMPHASIZES the need for submission of applications for funding by 1 June each year, so that projects may be properly reviewed by the Standing Committee, the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, the Convention Bureau, and their advisors; and

FURTHER EMPHASIZES the need for Contracting Parties to provide prompt reports on the execution of approved projects, so that the use made of funds may be fully documented.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
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Resolution 5.9: Application of the Ramsar Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance

RECALLING that Recommendation 4.2 of the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, held at Montreux, Switzerland in 1990, adopted "Criteria for identifying wetlands of international importance";

FURTHER RECALLING that Section 2 of these Criteria is entitled "General criteria based on plants or animals", while Section 3 is headed "Specific criteria based on waterfowl" and includes Subsection 3 (c) which indicates that a wetland should be considered internationally important if, "where data on populations are available, it regularly supports 1% of the individuals in a population of one species or subspecies of waterfowl";

TAKING NOTE of the presentation in Workshop D of the present Meeting by the Species Survival Programme of IUCN - The World Conservation Union on populations of wetland species other than waterfowl;

FURTHER NOTING the presentation in Workshop D of the present Meeting by the International Wetlands and Waterfowl Research Bureau (IWRB) on "Global priorities for waterbird conservation";

RECALLING that, while the Ramsar Criteria identify a wetland as a candidate for designation for the Ramsar List, any decision on designation remains the prerogative of the Contracting Party in whose territory the wetland is situated;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

EXPRESSES its thanks to IUCN and IWRB for their presentations;

CALLS ON Contracting Parties to use the concept and examples provided in IUCN's presentation as a basis for application of Section 2 of the Ramsar Criteria;

FURTHER CALLS ON Contracting Parties to use the figures submitted to the present meeting by IWRB as a basis for application of Section 3, and in particular Subsection 3 (c), of the Ramsar Criteria, and encourages them to provide IWRB with comments and regular updates of the figures; and

REQUESTS IUCN and IWRB to update their figures and data in the light of future research and survey findings, and to submit them to future meetings of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
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Recommendation 5.1.1: Greek Ramsar sites

RECALLING Conference Recommendation REC. C.4.9.5, approved at Montreux, which noted that Greece had been the seventh State to become a Contracting Party and had therefore brought the Convention into force in 1975, and called on the Greek Government to provide definitive maps for the eleven Greek Ramsar sites;

NOTING that definitive maps of Amvrakikos Gulf and Mikra Prespa National Park have not as yet been submitted to the Ramsar Bureau as requested in Recommendation 4.9.5;

TAKING ACCOUNT of the statement by the Greek delegation at Kushiro, which indicated that some modifications of the preliminary zoning maps provided in 1987 might occur, mainly with regard to buffer zones;

CONCERNED at reports of damage to the Messolonghi Lagoons and further threats from schemes to divert the Rivers Acheloos and Evinos;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

REQUESTS the Greek Government to take urgent measures to fulfil its obligations under the Ramsar Convention, and in particular by:

- submitting the existing definitive maps for the sites of Amvrakikos Gulf and Mikra Prespa National Park to the Bureau as soon as possible, as well as making definitive delimitations of the other nine Greek Ramsar sites, in accordance with Montreux Recommendation REC. C.4.9.5;
- preparing management plans for these sites in accordance with Kushiro Resolution 5.7;
- ensuring their wise use, in accordance with Montreux Recommendation REC. C.4.10 and Kushiro Resolution RES. C.5.6;

URGES the Greek authorities to consider all possible ways for averting negative impacts from water management projects upon the Messolonghi Lagoons Ramsar Site, and to inform the Ramsar Bureau correspondingly; and

EXPRESSES THE HOPE that, when Turkey becomes a Contracting Party to the Ramsar Convention, the Convention's Article 5 will be applied at the Evros/Meriç Delta transfrontier wetland.

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Recommendation 5.1.3: Lower Danube Basin

NOTING that the River Danube runs through eight states, and includes or is associated with several wetlands of international importance in their own right, including the Ramsar sites of Cicov oxbow lake and Danubian flood plains in the Slovak Republic, Lake Srebarna in Bulgaria and Danube Delta in Romania;

RECALLING that Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention undertake 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;

NOTING the conclusions of the workshop convened under the auspices of the Ramsar and Berne Conventions on Mediterranean type wetlands, and in particular emphasizing the importance of “whole basin” management for the conservation and wise use of such wetlands;

RECALLING that the Donau-March-Auen Ramsar site in Austria was included in the Montreux Record at the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1990;

FURTHER RECALLING that the Monitoring Procedure has been operated at the Donau-March-Auen Ramsar site in Austria and the Srebarna Ramsar site in Bulgaria;

TAKING NOTE of the contribution by the Austrian delegation in Workshop A on the application of the Monitoring Procedure to Donau-March-Auen;

CONCERNED at the threats to the ecological character of the Danube and various of its associated wetlands from routine pollution, the diversion of the river flow for the Gabčíkovo hydroelectric dam in Slovakia, and the risk of deliberate or accidental release of oil by vessels;

CONVINCED that protection, management and administration of the Danube and its associated wetlands require a cooperative international “whole basin” approach, such as that envisaged by the agreement reached by the meeting of Danubian states in 1991 to develop a Danube Basin Ecological Convention;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

CALLS ON the Governments of Slovakia and Hungary to accept as binding the ruling of the International Court of Justice on the Gabčíkovo dam issue, and in any case to work with the international community towards a satisfactory resolution of ecological concerns;

CALLS ON the governments of the riparian states of the Danube to come to an agreement designed to safeguard the best wildlife sites along the Lower Danube within their territories;

RECOMMENDS that the European Economic Community and development assistance agencies provide the financial support requested for the development of an emergency pollution contingency response capability for the Danube in Romania and Bulgaria;

REQUESTS the Convention Bureau to encourage and maintain contact with those developing proposals for a Danube Basin Ecological Convention, with a view to such a Convention, if concluded, taking account of and complementing the Ramsar Convention;

RECOMMENDS that the governments of the riparian states of the Danube consider the need for mandating a Danube Basin Commission or other appropriate body to address the urgent task of establishing a plan for the wise use of the river, including the conservation of its rich wildlife resources and the restoration of natural flood plain features upstream of the delta;

RECOMMENDS that the Government of Romania, as an urgent follow-up to its commitments through accession to the Ramsar, World Heritage and Berne Conventions, create the legal framework to secure the aims and governance of the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve for the wise use of this Ramsar site; and

REQUESTS that the Government of Ukraine initiate official and close cooperation with the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve authorities to ensure in the shortest time possible the application of wise management for the complete Danube Delta wetland system.

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Recommendation 5.7: National Committees

WELCOMING all efforts made by Contracting Parties to coordinate implementation of the Convention at national level;

NOTING that a number of Contracting Parties or organizations within them have sought to achieve such coordination by the voluntary establishment of “national Ramsar committees”;

RECOGNIZING that such committees can take a variety of forms according to local need;

CONSIDERING, nevertheless, that all have in common at least the provision of a permanent national focus for matters concerning the Convention;

CONSIDERING that national committees can provide a useful means within individual Contracting Parties, *inter alia* of facilitating liaison between interested persons, making expert input to national reports, coordinating applications to and use of the Wetland Conservation Fund, and reviewing the implementation of the “Monitoring Procedure” and “Montreux Record” and of resolutions and recommendations adopted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

ENCOURAGES Contracting Parties to establish, or recognize the establishment of, national committees according to the needs of each Contracting Party, to provide a focus at national level for implementation of the Convention;

URGES that, where this is done, the opportunity be provided for an input from both governmental and relevant non-governmental organizations and/or individuals;

REQUESTS that national committees send the Bureau summary information concerning their establishment, updated with reference to their work in subsequent national reports; and

REQUESTS the Bureau to maintain information on national committees, and to respond, to the extent possible, to reasonable requests for advice on the subject.