



**9th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

*“Wetlands and water: supporting life, sustaining livelihoods”*

Kampala, Uganda, 8-15 November 2005

**Resolution IX.1**

**Additional scientific and technical guidance for implementing  
the Ramsar wise use concept**

1. AWARE of the suite of technical and scientific guidelines and other materials prepared by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) to support Contracting Parties in their implementation of wetland conservation and wise use;
2. NOTING that the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP8) instructed the STRP to prepare further advice and guidance for consideration by Contracting Parties at COP9 on topics including, *inter alia*, inventory and assessment, wise use, water resource management, Ramsar site designation and management, and assessing the effectiveness of the implementation of the Convention;
3. THANKING the STRP for its work in preparing the advice and guidance annexed to this Resolution, as well as for the supporting technical reviews and reports being made available to Contracting Parties and others as *Ramsar Technical Reports*; and
4. ALSO THANKING the Government of Sweden and IUCN, WWF, the World Fish Centre, and the Water Research Commission (South Africa), which have provided financial support to the Panel and its Working Groups for the preparation of this advice and guidance and technical reports, and EXPRESSING GREAT APPRECIATION to the many organizations that have provided significant in-kind support to the work of the Panel;

THE CONFERENCE OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES

5. APPROVES the *Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character* (Annex A to this Resolution) and its updated definitions of “wise use” and “ecological character”, and CONFIRMS that these supersede all previous definitions of these terms;
6. ALSO APPROVES the revised *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* (Annex B to this Resolution), INSTRUCTS the Ramsar Secretariat to introduce these changes in the preparation of a new edition of Ramsar Wise Use Handbook 7, including revisions to the Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands (RIS), and URGES all Contracting Parties preparing a RIS for the designation of a new site for the Ramsar List and for updating the RIS for an existing site to submit the information to the Ramsar Secretariat in this revised format;

7. WELCOMES the frameworks, guidelines and other advice provided as annexes C, D, and E to this Resolution and URGES Contracting Parties to make good use of them as appropriate, adapting them as necessary to suit national conditions and circumstances and within the frameworks of existing regional initiatives and commitments and in the context of sustainable development;
8. URGES Contracting Parties to draw these frameworks, guidelines and other advice to the attention of all relevant stakeholders, including *inter alia* government ministries, departments and agencies, water and basin management authorities, non-governmental organizations, and civil society; and FURTHER URGES Contracting Parties to encourage these stakeholders to take these guidelines into account, together with those of the Ramsar 'Toolkit' of Wise Use Handbooks 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, in their decision-making and activities which relate to the delivery of the wise use of wetlands through the maintenance of their ecological character; and
9. INSTRUCITS the Ramsar Secretariat to disseminate widely the frameworks and guidelines annexed to this Resolution, including through amendment and updating of the Ramsar 'Toolkit' of Wise Use Handbooks.

## Annexes

- Annex A**     **A Conceptual Framework for the wise use of wetlands and the maintenance of their ecological character**
- Annex B**     ***Revised Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance***
- Annex C**     **An Integrated Framework for the Ramsar Convention’s water-related guidance**  
Additional guidances annexed, as follows:
- i) *River basin management: additional guidance and framework for analysis of case studies;*
  - ii) *Guidelines for the management of groundwater to maintain wetland ecological character.*
- Annex D**     **Ecological ‘outcome-oriented’ indicators for assessing the implementation effectiveness of the Ramsar Convention**
- Annex E**     **An Integrated Framework for wetland inventory assessment and monitoring (IF-WIAM)**  
Additional guidance annexed, as follows:
- i) *Guidelines for the rapid assessment of inland, coastal and marine wetland biodiversity*