

CONVENTION ON WETLANDS (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Proceedings of the 6TH Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (Brisbane, Australia, 19-27 March 1996)

RECOMMENDATION 6.12: CONSERVATION AND WISE USE IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FUNDED ACTIVITIES

1. RECALLING the “Guidelines for the Implementation of the Wise Use Concept” (Annex to Recommendation 4.10) and the “Additional Guidance for the Implementation of the Wise Use Concept” (Annex to Resolution 5.6) which call for actions to address legislation and government policies to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
2. FURTHER RECALLING Recommendation 5.5 on the inclusion of conservation and wise use of wetlands in multilateral and bilateral development cooperation programmes;
3. AWARE that private or public funded activities may have negative effects on wetlands in the state itself or in other states or areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction;
4. FURTHER AWARE that the primary responsibility for the conservation and wise use of wetlands frequently rests with the public authorities, specifically when they direct engineering works and other activities that may negatively affect wetlands;
5. CONVINCED that there are many opportunities, such as by incentives and contractual agreements, to stimulate both the originating and the implementing body to avoid damages and/or to contribute to conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands within the scope of private or public funded operations;
6. NOTING the initiatives taken in the Netherlands to explore these opportunities in a consultation process between public and private sector as well as with NGOs;
7. TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION the results of a comprehensive analysis realized by France about the direct and indirect effects of sectoral policies on wetlands; and
8. FURTHER NOTING the operational objectives of the Strategic Plan 1997-2002 focusing on this problem, especially to integrate conservation and wise use in planning and decision-making by the public sector (Operational Objective 2.2), to encourage involvement of the private sector (2.8), to develop national education and public awareness programmes (3.2) and to ensure the development assistance community and multinational corporations follow improved wetland practices (7.3);

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9. WELCOMES AND SUPPORTS initiatives to start and/or reinforce a process of consultation and knowledge dissemination between public and private sectors as well as with NGOs in order to promote and enhance wetland conservation and wise use in relation to all kinds of private or public funded activities that may negatively affect wetlands; and
10. CALLS on Contracting Parties to start and/or reinforce a process as mentioned above and to report on the progress and results of this process in their National Reports to the Ramsar Convention.