

**Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)  
3rd Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties  
Regina, Canada  
27 May - 5 June 1987**

### **Recommendation 3.3: Wise use of wetlands**

RECALLING that Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat “formulate and implement their planning so as to promote . . . the wise use of wetlands in their territory”;

EMPHASIZING the need to develop a definition of wise use, in order to guide Contracting Parties in their implementation of the Convention;

NOTING that Recommendations 1.5 of the First Meeting and 2.3 of the Second Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties referred to the need for national wetland policies in order to promote wise use;

TAKING NOTE of the deliberations and conclusions of the Workshop on Wise Use at the present Meeting;

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

RECOMMENDS that the Contracting Parties adopt the definition of wise use established by the Conference of the Contracting Parties at its Third Meeting, held at Regina, and included in the Annex to the Regina Recommendations;

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that the Contracting Parties give particular attention to the wise use of wetlands by promotion of wetland policies containing elements (a) to (f) from the first part of the Guidelines on wise use included in the Annex to the Regina Recommendations; and

FURTHER RECOMMENDS that, while detailed policies are being established, immediate action be taken to stimulate wise use, including actions (a) to (d) from the second part of the Guidelines on wise use included in the Annex to the Regina Recommendations.

**[Note: the Annex to the Regina Recommendations consisted of three parts. The first was a version of the “Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance” which has been superseded by later versions. The third was an early version of the Guidelines on Wise Use which has also been rendered obsolete by the 1990 Guidelines. The second part of the Annex was the Definition of Wise Use that is included here. ]**

#### **INFORMATION ON WISE USE OF WETLANDS SPECIFIED UNDER ARTICLE 3 OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION**

##### **Definition of wise use:**

“The wise use of wetlands is their sustainable utilization for the benefit of humankind in a way compatible with the maintenance of the natural properties of the ecosystem”.

**Sustainable utilization** is defined as “human use of a wetland so that it may yield the greatest continuous benefit to present generations while maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of future generations”.

**Natural properties of the ecosystem** are defined as “those physical, biological or chemical components, such as soil, water, plants, animals and nutrients, and the interactions between them”.