

## **17.41 RAMSAR CONVENTION AND WETLAND CONSERVATION LAW**

RECOGNIZING the important achievements of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), held at Regina, Canada, in May/June 1987, and in particular the establishment of a Standing Committee, Bureau and Budget;

WELCOMING the increase in the number of Contracting Parties, designated wetlands, and concern for wise use of wetlands;

EMPHASIZING the relevance of the Convention to developing countries;

NOTING that wetland conservation may more readily be achieved where adequate legal instruments for wetland conservation are available at the national level;

TAKING NOTE of the results of the Symposium, organized jointly by IUCN and the Société Française pour le droit de l'environnement, on Legal Aspects of the Conservation of Wetlands, held in Lyon, France, in September 1987;

The General Assembly of IUCN, at its 17th Session in San Jose, Costa Rica, 1-10 February 1988:

### **1. CALLS UPON:**

- a. Contracting Parties to take immediate action on the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Regina Conference, and States that have not yet done so to become Contracting Parties;
- b. All members of IUCN to support the Ramsar Convention and to urge their governments to participate actively in the Convention.

### **2. URGES the Director General of IUCN to:**

- a. Maintain IUCN's strong support for the Ramsar Convention, and in particular to continue the Agreement with the International Waterfowl and Wetlands Research Bureau (IWRB) on the Ramsar Bureau ;

Pursue IUCN's efforts in cooperation with national centres and institutions active in the field of wetlands conservation law; and, in particular.

Seek funding to permit the Environmental Law Programme of IUCN to take the lead in a global networking effort in this field, with a view to providing assistance to the Bureau of the Ramsar Convention concerning the wise use of wetlands.

