

RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CONSERVATION OF WETLANDS AND WATERFOWL

At Ramsar, Iran, on 3 February 1971

POLLUTION

Recommendation 6. Oil Pollution.

The Conference,

Noting with anxiety the accelerated frequency of oil pollution of the sea by drosses and by oil discharge from ships which do not respect the International Convention for the Prevention of the Pollution of the Sea by Oil;

Recommends to the appropriate States and International Organisations that they bring to the attention of competent authorities the primary importance of:

- (a) Ensuring strict supervision on coastal waters, especially in the Caspian Sea, the Baltic Sea, the Kattegat, the North Sea and the Channel;
- (b) Accelerating research into combatting oil pollution; and
- (c) Applying promptly and rigorously the statutory punishments.

Recommendation 7. Pesticides.

The Conference,

Noting with concern the grave danger to wetlands and their flora and fauna represented by the use of persistent pesticides, such as chlorinated hydrocarbons, due to run off, discharge of waste products and deliberate application.

Deploring an apparent tendency for such pesticides although often banned or restricted in the countries of manufacture, to be exported in quantity and even offered for sale at reduced prices to less developed countries, which may lead to the degradation of natural areas including wetlands of international importance.

Recommends that governments both of countries from which such pesticides originate and of those in which their use is not yet fully controlled take all necessary measures to curtail, and wherever possible, ban or severely restrict the sale and use of persistent pesticides.

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION

Recommendation 8. Promotion of wetlands research.

The Conference,

Being aware of the serious and deteriorating situation facing waterfowl in many parts of the Palaearctic Region;

Realising the need for improving scientific information for the correct assessment of wetlands for the proposed Wetlands Convention;

Recommends that Governments and all appropriate departments and institutions concerned with natural resources should assist and facilitate wetland research at all levels, and in particular:

- (a) that all countries which do not already carry out regular waterfowl counts on important wetlands should endeavour to do so at least twice a year on dates advised by The International Wildfowl Research Bureau;
- (b) that all countries should assess their wetlands in respect of the need to provide a chain of effective refuges, these being selected for their value for waterfowl as well as permanence despite varying conditions of rainfall in arid areas; and
- (c) that if countries are unable to undertake this work from their own resources they should seek assistance from appropriate international organisations.

Recommendation 9. Promotion of Hunting Research.

The Conference,

Recommends that waterfowl research organisations in different countries should undertake:

- (a) to make every effort to obtain data on the breeding success and productivity of the main species involved;
- (b) to produce general mortality data based on recovery of ringed birds to be compared with other measures of productivity; and
- (c) to carry out special studies on the effect of hunting on wildfowl populations, by means of ringing data and the use and development of realistic hunting kill or capture statistics;

and further recommends that international and national hunters' organisations should:

- (a) encourage sportsmanlike methods in hunting, and stop actions which obviously lead to mass destruction or loss of waterfowl;
- (b) intensify educational measures to improve hunters' knowledge of different species of waterfowl; and
- (c) make hunters aware of their responsibilities for conservation and wise use of waterfowl resources through proper hunting practices.

Recommendation 11. Wetlands and the Man and the Biosphere.

The Conference,

Noting with satisfaction UNESCO'S new programme on "Man and the Biosphere" (MAB) involving the planning of world-wide research into, and the monitoring of, the role and productivity of various ecosystems or major habitats, as a basis for conservation, management, wise utilisation and sustained yield;

Recommends that wetlands in all parts of the world should be brought within the scope of the MAB programme.