

Ramsar Convention

Contents

1	List of parties to the Ramsar Convention	1
1.1	See also	1
1.2	References	1
2	Ramsar Convention	2
2.1	Convention	2
2.2	List of contracting parties	2
2.3	International Organization Partners	2
2.4	See also	2
2.5	References	3
2.6	External links	3
2.7	Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses	4
2.7.1	Text	4
2.7.2	Images	4
2.7.3	Content license	4

Chapter 1

List of parties to the Ramsar Convention



Ramsar logo

This is a **list of parties contracting to the Ramsar Convention**, which is also known as the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international co-operation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world". It calls upon contracting parties to recognize the interdependence of humans and the environment as well as the ecological functions of wetlands, such as **wildlife habitat**, **nutrient cycling**, and **flood control**.

The Ramsar Convention is the oldest multilateral international conservation convention and the only one to deal with one habitat or ecosystem type, wetlands. The Convention's headquarters are in **Gland, Switzerland**, and it works closely with the **International Union for the Conservation of Nature**.^{[1][2][3]}

The Convention was held in the city of **Ramsar, Iran** in February 1971 and was originally contracted by seven countries when it came into force on 21 December 1975. As of May 2015 there are 169 contracting parties and over 2,000 designated sites covering over 200,000,000

hectares (490,000,000 acres). Every contracting country has at least one Ramsar site, and 31 of the contracting countries have only one site. The country with the most sites is the United Kingdom with 170. To become a Ramsar site, a site must be nominated by a contracting country, meet at least one of nine criteria, and undergo scientific review. The Convention was most recently ratified by **Kuwait** on 5 May 2015.

The table lists the countries contracting to the convention, the entry date of each country to the convention, the number of Ramsar sites in each country, and the total area of all Ramsar sites in each country.

1.1 See also

- **List of Ramsar wetlands of international importance**
- **Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type**
- **Ramsar Convention**
- **Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award**

1.2 References

- [1] "A brief history of the Ramsar Convention". The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. 27 October 2011. Archived from the original on 20 February 2013. Retrieved 16 December 2012.
- [2] "Contracting Parties of the Ramsar Convention". Retrieved 19 June 2013.
- [3] Heinen, Joel (20 June 2007). Hite, Kirsten, ed. "Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat". Encyclopedia of Earth. Archived from the original on 20 February 2013. Retrieved 19 December 2012.
- [4] "Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands". The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. 13 February 2013. Archived from the original on 20 February 2013. Retrieved 20 February 2013.
- [5] This is the date the Convention came into force for the state, not the date of the ratification of the treaty.

Chapter 2

Ramsar Convention



Wetland

The **Ramsar Convention** (formally, the **Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat**) is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands,^[1] recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value. It is named after the city of Ramsar in Iran, where the Convention was signed in 1971.

2.1 Convention

The convention was developed and adopted by participating nations at a meeting in Ramsar, Mazandaran, Iran, on February 2, 1971, hosted by the Iranian Department of Environment, and came into force on December 21, 1975.

The Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance now includes 2208 Sites (known as *Ramsar Sites*) covering over 210,734,269.41 ha (520,735,720.3 acres). The country with the highest number of Sites is the United Kingdom at 170 and the country with the greatest area of listed wetlands is Bolivia, with over 140,000 km² (54,000 sq mi).^[2] The Ramsar definition of wetlands is fairly wide, including “areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six meters” as well as fish ponds, rice paddies and salt pans.^[3]

Presently there are 169 contracting parties, up from 21 initial signatory nations in 1971. The state parties meet every three years as the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP), the first held in Cagliari, Italy in 1980.

Amendments to the original convention have been agreed to in Paris (in 1982) and Regina (in 1987).^[4]

There is a standing committee, a scientific review panel, and a secretariat. The headquarters is located in Gland, Switzerland, shared with the IUCN.

2.2 List of contracting parties

Main article: List of Ramsar Convention contracting parties

2.3 International Organization Partners

The Ramsar Convention works closely with five other organisations known as International Organization Partners (IOPs). These are Birdlife International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Wetlands International and WWF International. These support the work of the Convention by providing expert technical advice, helping implement field studies and providing financial support. The IOPs also participate regularly as observers in all meetings of the Conference of the Parties and as full members of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel. For example, at the 2008 Convention of Parties, IWMI scientists contributed directly to a number of resolutions including those relating to wetlands' links to human health, biofuels, poverty reduction, biogeographic regionalization and biodiversity in rice paddies.

2.4 See also

- Ramsar Classification System for Wetland Type
- List of Ramsar wetlands of international importance
- Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award

- Environmental agreements
- Globally Important Agricultural Systems (GIAHS)
- World Wetlands Day
- Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds

2.5 References

- [1] Ramsar official website, retrieved 2011-07-10
- [2] Ramsar Contracting Parties, retrieved 2009-11-07
- [3] Viney, Michael (2013). “We’re a wet country”. *Irish Times*. Retrieved February 9, 2013.
- [4] Ramsar: A brief history, retrieved 2009-11-07

2.6 External links

- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- Ramsar Sites Information Service, web service by a non-profit organisation Wetlands International, providing access to Ramsar database
- United States National Ramsar Committee
- Peace Palace Library, bibliography on Water Resources and International Law.
- Ramsar sites (Wetlands) and Ramsar sites in Brazil - Instituto Socioambiental

2.7 Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses

2.7.1 Text

- **List of parties to the Ramsar Convention** *Source:* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_parties_to_the_Ramsar_Convention?oldid=677538475 *Contributors:* Alan Liefing, Wavelength, Jimp, KirrVlad, Fredlyfish4, DASonnenfeld, Good Olfactory, Yobot, Pipeafer, Irrigator, Cacw and Anonymous: 2
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