

What is the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands?

The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that has been established for the conservation of wetlands and the promotion of their wise use.



A long time ago...

Many civilizations flourished along rivers and other wetlands.



Since the Industrial Revolution...

Rivers have gradually been dammed up and developed for human use. Homes and factories soon took over the once untouched river banks.



What a terrible turn of events!!!
Something just had to be done...

And then...

Rivers were polluted. The aquatic life decreased.



In February of 1972,

In the Iranian city of Ramsar, on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea, 18 countries convened to establish 'The Convention for Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat'. In 1980, Japan signed on to the Ramsar Convention.

Conservation and Restoration

Wetlands function not only as critical habitats for waterbirds, but also as an important ecosystem that supports the natural environment of mankind. We call upon everyone to work together to conserve and restore all kinds of wetlands.

The Ramsar concept of 'Wise Use'

In order to promote a more balanced and sustainable relationship between the lives of local people and industry, we advocate the wise use of wetlands. The 'wise use' of wetlands as defined by the Convention refers to the 'sustainable utilization for the benefit of mankind in a way compatible with the maintenance of the natural properties of the ecosystem'.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA)

As part of the Ramsar Convention, the CEPA Resolution was adopted to encourage the conservation and wise use of the wetlands.

Ramsar Convention Contracting Parties



152 Contracting Parties

1,608 wetland sites

Totaling: 140,123,652 hectares

**An area approximately 3.5 times larger than Japan, 9000 times larger than Shinji-ko and Nakaumi combined.

(As of June 13, 2006)