

# Ramsar

<b>Official reference</b>	Ramsar list of wetlands of international importance	
<b>Official website</b>	www.ramsar.org	
<b>Relevant dates</b>	Document	2/02/1971
	Entry into force	21/12/1975
	Ratification by Belgium	22/02/1979
<b>Policy level</b>	International	
<b>Type of instrument</b>	Convention	
<b>Geographical reach</b>	Areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres	
<b>International contact point</b>	Ramsar secretariat	
<b>Competent authorities</b>	At sea: Federal authorities; FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment; DG Environment Inland: Flemish authorities; policy domain Environment, Nature and Energy (LNE)	
<b>Federal ratification</b>	Wet van 22 februari 1979 houdende goedkeuring van de Overeenkomst inzake watergebieden die van internationale betekenis zijn in het bijzonder als woongebied voor watervogels, opgemaakt te Ramsar (Iran) op 2 februari 1971	

## // abstract:

The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty that offers a framework for national measures and international cooperation for the protection and well-considered use of wetlands. The convention provides a broad interpretation of the types of wetlands it applies to (see 'geographical reach'). The Contracting Parties agree on implementing the three main pillars of the convention:

- Adding wetlands to the list of wetlands of international importance and ensuring their effective management. The convention offers a few criteria for the designation of these wetlands (based on their ecological, botanical, zoological, limnological or hydrological importance). Water areas of international importance for water birds have a certain priority;
- Aiming at a well-considered use of all the wetlands, by means of national land use planning, a suitable policy and legislation, management measures and public education/awareness raising;
- International cooperation concerning transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems, shared species and development projects that can affect the wetlands.