

Agenda item XV Ramsar COP10 DR 12

Draft Resolution X.12

Principles for partnerships between the Ramsar
Convention and the business sector



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« Healthy wetlands, healthy people »



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Rationale



- The proposal is in the spirit of Strategy 1.9 of the Strategic Plan 2009-2014
- Role of globalization and economic growth: sometimes a source of great opportunities
- . But current style of economic growth in our world is also harming the environment and widening the gap between rich and poor.
- Unsustainable business activities and the increasing poverty occurring in various parts of the world are some of the root causes of environmental degradation



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Rationale



- Joint activities that promote wetland conservation and wise use are likely to sustain growth, taking account of environmental and social needs.
- The business sector is not only part of environmental problems but can also be part of the solutions



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Objectives



- To expand the resource base of the Convention and its activities
- To promote the engagement of the private sector directly in the conservation and wise use of wetlands.
- To facilitate dialogue between business and key stakeholders of wetlands to build trust, stimulate and develop concrete partnership activities.



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Objectives



- To increase investments in promoting wetlands.
- Better understanding of the values of wetlands and the mission of the Convention to minimize barriers and negative associations between wetlands and profitable business.
- Intensify the synergy between the ecological requirements for sustainable development and the socio-economic benefits derived from sound wetland management.



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Objectives



- To explore new areas and develop appropriate measures for further cooperation between government and the private sector at national level.
- To identify and apply methodologies for innovative compensation of wetland loss and for offsetting negative impacts on biodiversity and climate change.



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General principles



- The proposed innovation is the definition of a policy that clarifies, upholds and endorses an increasing collaboration between the key stakeholders of the Ramsar Convention and the business sector.



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General principles



- to reach a common vision about wetlands;
- to adopt a shared strategy and a common code of conduct;
- to jointly carry out positive activities;
- to benefit mutually from the outcomes of joint activities.



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Criteria for identifying a potential private partner



- The fundamental criterion is the commitment by the company to strengthen, and in no way to undermine, the integrity and reputation of the Ramsar Convention and its ability to carry out its mission in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.



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Criteria for identifying a potential private partner



- The second criterion is the awareness by the business entering in partnership with Ramsar of the mission of the Convention and the recognition of environmental sustainability as one of the key conditions that sustain life and human health.

Criteria for identifying a potential private partner



- The third criterion is the commitment to develop and adopt new strategies that include environmental conservation, especially wetland conservation and wise use, amongst the main concerns of the company.



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Specific principles



- Secretariat to obtain:
 - a thorough understanding of the company,
 - to assess the appropriateness of possible collaborative efforts,
 - and to understand the potential mutual benefits and possible negative aspects.

Specific principles



- Secretariat to assess the potential partner's activities throughout the world and throughout the breadth of its business strategies, and not only in the immediate area of the proposed relationship, in order to avoid any possible embarrassment to the Convention.



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Specific principles



- Take into account immediate, short-term, and long-term mutual benefits as well as any potential negative aspects.
- Assess any potential negative aspects of a partnership with regard to possible immediate, underlying and root causes of misunderstandings that could damage the integrity of the Convention.

Specific principles



- To avoid partnerships that require exclusivity and prohibit other partnerships of a similar nature.
- To undertake assessment and discussion within the Secretariat, and then with the Standing Committee's Management Working Group.



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Specific principles



- The Secretariat to seek the approval of the Standing Committee for further development of the new partnership relationship.
- The Secretariat should also consult with all applicable Contracting Parties to ensure that the relevant Administrative Authorities are fully involved



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Specific principles



- Technical cooperation and capacity building programmes should be given due consideration in any planned collaborative activities with the business sector.
- A monitoring and evaluation framework should be part of signed agreements with a budget line to provide the necessary resources to carry out that process.



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Conflict resolution



- The key approach is to build trust and add confidence in working together to identify and take actions that meet shared needs.
- When conflict or friction cannot be avoided, it is necessary to take the interests of the Convention as the highest priority in dealing with outside parties, in spite of possible loss of immediate or short-term benefits.



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