



**11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the  
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

*“Wetlands: home and destination”*

**Bucharest, Romania, 6-13 July 2012**

**Ramsar COP11 DOC. 18 add. 1**

**English only**

**Strategic Framework for Ramsar partnerships:**

**Annex 4: Status of Ramsar partnership agreements and  
memoranda**

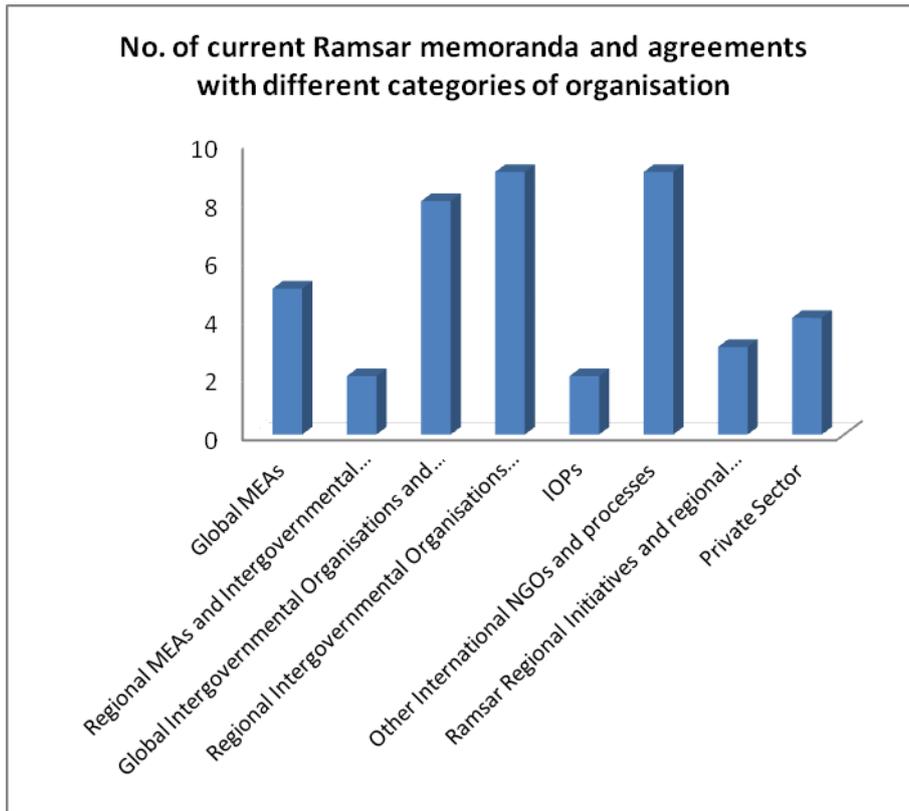
**I. Introduction and context**

1. This annex to COP11 DOC. 18 summarizes partnership agreements, their status, history, validity, objectives and achievements. There are 41 agreements listed, organized by category of organization or process, in eight categories:
  - i) Global MEAs
  - ii) Regional MEAs and intergovernmental agreements
  - iii) Global intergovernmental organizations and processes
  - iv) Regional intergovernmental organizations and processes
  - v) International Organization Partners (IOPs)
  - vi) Other international NGOs and organizations
  - vii) Ramsar Regional Initiatives and regional implementation support
  - viii) Private sector
2. In each section of the tables, the agreements and memoranda are listed in chronological order (earliest first) of their initial signing.
3. Partnership agreements and memoranda concerning collaboration with the Ramsar Convention and its implementation processes serve a range of purposes, in part depending on the type of partner organization concerned. The benefits and value to the Convention of the agreements listed in this annex can include:
  - opening up and strengthening opportunities for joint fundraising to enhance the Convention’s capacity to implement the Strategic Plan as well as mobilizing scientific, technical and informational resources;
  - facilitating increased capacity globally and in-country for the implementation and delivery of the Convention’s Strategic Plan;

- enhancing cooperation, collaboration and synergies to increase the visibility and recognition of the Ramsar Convention in other local, regional, national and international processes and organizations;
  - streamlining implementation support and activities across multilateral environmental agreements;
  - providing a clear and agreed framework for other organizations and their staff and programmes to focus understanding and effort in working with and for the Ramsar Convention, including ensuring that the Ramsar mission and issues are appropriately reflected in the partners' strategic plans and work plans and *vice versa*;
  - increasing the Convention's access to global and regional networks of experts on wetland-related issues;
  - ensuring that the Secretariat and the Convention are in a suitable position to provide input to and influence other processes, business models, initiatives and organizations at the international level; and
  - providing a mechanism for the integration of wetland policy and management into the work of the partner organization or body.
4. While the information in the tables provides a summary of the status and objectives, all activities and outcomes are not comprehensively listed as they are normally multi-year agreements with a dynamic process. For instance, framework agreements provide for interaction between the partner and the Ramsar Convention. The outcomes are not listed in detail as they include invitations to meetings, representation at meetings, requests to review documents, or integration of wetland policy and management into the programme or mechanism.

## II. Analysis of the status of current agreements

5. There are a total of 41 memoranda and agreements currently in force. A further five memoranda are included in the tables below because, though listed as 'out-of-date' (i.e., their agreed end-date has now passed), they are presently under discussion for potential renewal.
6. By category, the largest numbers of current agreements and memoranda (ten each) are with regional intergovernmental organizations and processes, and with international NGOs and processes (excluding the IOPs); nine agreements are with global intergovernmental organizations and processes (see chart 1).
7. Of the 41 current memoranda and agreements, 30 (71%) are actively being implemented, three (7%) are being partially implemented, and the remaining nine (22%) are considered by the Secretariat to be currently inactive. Each of these nine inactive agreements needs further review and assessment to establish whether they should be continued or not.



## A. Global Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	<p>Memorandum of Cooperation (1996; renewed 2011)</p> <p>Four Joint Work Plans (JWPs)(1998 to 2010)</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> Joint Work Plan (2011-2020) (see COP11 DOC. 20)</p>	<p>Open-ended</p> <p>2020</p>	<p>Active on scientific, technical and policy matters</p>	<p>Ramsar Convention has been recognized since CBD COP3 (Decision III/21) as 'lead implementation partner on wetlands', with the objective of ensuring synergies &amp; streamlined, consistent national implementation. Active collaboration including joint adoption and joint development of scientific and technical guidance (e.g., on EIA/SEA) and joint publication of Technical Reports.</p> <p>Review of achievements under 4<sup>th</sup> JWP provided to CBD COP10 [UNEP/CBD/COP/10/INF/38: <i>The Joint Work Programme (JWP) Between The CBD and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971): Progress with Implementation and Development of the Fifth Joint Work Programme (2011 Onwards)</i>]</p> <p>Current/recent collaborations include CBD/Ramsar/ STRP review &amp; development of key messages for decision-makers on the role of biodiversity (including wetlands) in the global water cycle, funded through CBD Secretariat, &amp; review of Ramsar Site designation criteria for global biodiversity applicability, &amp; inputs to CBD regional workshops on NBSAPs and protected areas.</p>

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)	<p>Memorandum of Understanding (1997; renewed as Memorandum of Cooperation 2012)</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> Joint Work Plan (2003-2005 – trilateral with AEWA – see below)</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Work Plan (2012-2014) (COP11 DOC. 19)</p>	<p>Open-ended</p> <p>2014</p>	Active, on scientific, technical and policy matters	<p><b>Objective</b> of ensuring synergies &amp; streamlined, consistent national implementation. <b>Outcome:</b> Active on common issues of drivers of change to status of wetlands &amp; migratory species, including inputs to Ramsar STRP and CMS Scientific Council &amp; joint Advisory Missions. Recent areas of collaborative implementation activity summarised in UNEP/CMS/StC38/Doc.5.</p> <p>Renewed MOC makes provision for all relevant CMS daughter agreements &amp; memoranda to develop bilateral Joint Work Plans with Ramsar.</p>
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Memorandum of Cooperation (1998)	Open-ended	Currently inactive	<p><b>Objective</b> of ensuring synergies &amp; streamlined, consistent national implementation. <b>Outcome:</b> Some areas of collaboration explored, particularly for Africa. Further opportunities for collaboration in relation to lower priority STRP task on ‘wetlands in drylands’.</p>
World Heritage Convention (WHC)	Memorandum of Understanding (1999)	Open-ended	Partly active	<p><b>Objective</b> of enabling the Contracting Parties to the Conventions to identify &amp; strengthen conservation of those sites of international importance which are recognized by both Conventions. <b>Outcome:</b> Collaboration through Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) &amp; Chairs of Scientific Subsidiary Bodies (CSAB). Ramsar Secretariat advises, as appropriate, on WH Site nominations concerning wetlands. List of joint World Heritage/Ramsar Sites maintained.</p> <p>Opportunities for enhanced collaboration currently being explored within a broader UNESCO/Ramsar synergies review.</p>

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
Memorandum of Cooperation between International Agencies and Organizations and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets	Memorandum of Cooperation (September 2011)	2020	Active	<b>Objective:</b> Provide affirmation of over-arching agreement to contribute to the <i>Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020</i> (adopted at CBD COP10 in 2010) & the achievement of its 20 Aichi Targets.

#### B. Regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	Memorandum of Cooperation (2000, renewed 2005)	6 years (to June 2011)	Out-of-date	<b>Objective</b> of developing collaborative actions for sustainable wetland & water resource conservation & management by increasing consultation & cooperation in the Caribbean. <b>Outcome:</b> The Cartagena Convention has participated actively in the development of the Caribbean Ramsar Regional initiative. A joint training session for marine protected site managers & Ramsar site managers in the Caribbean is under discussion, as is the renewal of the agreement.
The Coordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)	Memorandum of Cooperation (2001, renewed 2006)	6 years (to February 2012)	Out-of-date	<b>Objective:</b> to develop a collaborative programme for sustainable wetland & water resource conservation & management by increasing current consultation & cooperation in the Mediterranean. Renewal expected in order to continue to have a framework for cooperation & joint actions for Convention implementation through MedWet.

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)	<p>Joint Work Plan 2003-2005 (tripartite with CMS)</p> <p>“Wings over Wetlands Partnership” Agreement (2010)</p>	<p>Open-ended</p> <p>June 2013</p>	Active	<p><b>Objective</b> of ensuring synergies &amp; streamlined, consistent national implementation on migratory waterbird flyways &amp; their wetland habitats. <b>Outcome:</b> A number of significant collaborative scientific &amp; technical activities undertaken since end of formal JWP, notably on extractive industries &amp; through the “Wings over Wetlands” (WOW) African-Eurasian Flyways GEF project, including the issuing of its Flyway Training Kit &amp; the Critical Site Network Tool (CSN) which provides web-portal access to <i>inter alia</i> waterbird &amp; Ramsar Site spatial information in support of Ramsar Site designations; &amp; the agreement in 2010 of a “WOW Partnership” (Ramsar, AEWA, BirdLife &amp; Wetlands International) to progress further flyway collaborations in the region.</p> <p>New JWP under development (under Ramsar-CMS MOC), in light of Resolutions concerning Ramsar-AEWA future cooperation adopted at AEWA MOP5 in May 2012.</p>
Carpathian Convention	Memorandum of Cooperation (December 2006)	6 years (to December 2012)	Active	<p><b>Objective:</b> ensuring synergies &amp; streamlined, consistent national implementation. Provides mutual recognition &amp; a framework for cooperation &amp; joint actions operating through the Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI) Ramsar Regional Initiative. <b>Outcome:</b> Facilitates the Regional Initiative, funding to projects such as the tourism protocol, provides a mechanism to cooperate more formally &amp; effectively on all levels.</p> <p>Expected to be renewed through the CWI in consultation with the Secretariat.</p>

**C. Global intergovernmental organizations and processes (IGOs)**

<b>Organization/process</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Validity</b>	<b>Current status</b>	<b>Objectives &amp; achievements</b>
UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme	Joint Programme of Work (2002)	Initially covered 2002-2003	Out-of-date	<p><b>Objective:</b> to undertake joint activities of the Ramsar Convention &amp; the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) particularly in the areas of the identification &amp; designation of Ramsar Sites and Biosphere Reserves, site management planning, assessment &amp; monitoring, &amp; communication, education &amp; public awareness. <b>Outcome:</b> Maintenance of list of joint Ramsar Sites/Biosphere Reserves. Detailed review of ongoing &amp; potential areas of collaboration undertaken in 2004, but largely not progressed. Future opportunities covered in recent draft 'UNESCO/ Ramsar' white paper.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Anticipated, as recognized in the JWP, that in future joint Ramsar/MAB activities would operate under a broader Ramsar-UNESCO MOC also covering World Heritage, International Hydrological Programme, and other relevant programmes, currently under development.</p>
UNCTAD – BIOTRADE Initiative	Memorandum of Understanding (September 2002)	Open-ended	Inactive	<p><b>Objective:</b> to collaborate on issues related to trade &amp; sustainable use of wetland resources. Potential for updating considered in mid-2000s, but not progressed.</p>
FAO-GTOS (Global Terrestrial Observing System)	Memorandum of Cooperation (June 2006)	6 years (to June 2012)	Inactive	<p>No recent activity from GTOS, but MOC objectives of sharing global change monitoring data &amp; information relevant to wetlands are now largely subsumed within the Global Earth Observation (GEO) system &amp; its Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO-BON) &amp; the planned links to a Global Wetland Observing System (G-WOS) currently under development..</p>

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)	Memorandum of Cooperation (October 2006)	5 years (to October 2011)	Inactive, but under redevelopment	<b>Objective:</b> to develop a collaborative programme for sustainable wetland & water resource conservation & management, & the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities by increasing current consultation & cooperation. Changes in GPA led to limited action to date. The MOC is now being considered for redevelopment so as to provide enhanced support to wise use implementation from the mountains to the sea.
Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Agreement on Interface Procedures (January 2007)	6 years (to January 2013)	Partly active	<b>Objective:</b> to identify areas of potential mutual assistance & possible actions related to the notification & reporting, mobilization of resources & response to environmental emergencies & natural disasters with major environmental impacts affecting or involving wetlands, & to share information & advice on such incidents. <b>Outcome:</b> UNEP/OCHA has shared with Ramsar information on a number of emergency & disaster incidents relating to wetlands, but none has been reported to the Secretariat recently.

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
World Bank (International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, International Development Association)	Memorandum of Understanding (2010)	June 2015	Active	<p><b>Objective:</b> to establish a framework of cooperation for scientific &amp; technical exchange including technical expertise &amp; capacity building relating to development &amp; implementation of wetland climate change projects under the World Bank-financed climate change portfolio. <b>Outcome:</b> Initial focus on specific climate change mitigation coastal &amp; inland wetland projects in Neotropics. Two projects were approved in 2011: Impacts of climate change in the Gulf of Mexico &amp; in Nariva Swamp in Trinidad and Tobago. A joint March 2012 workshop on wetlands &amp; climate change disseminated information on climate change activities in wetlands in Latin America &amp; the Caribbean; shared information on how to measure impacts of climate change on wetland ecosystems; &amp; identified new cooperation opportunities for wetland projects. A second workshop is being planned. Collaboration with Ramsar/STRP on approaches to wetland ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change is being developed during 2012.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> A broader memorandum with the World Bank Group is being pursued..</p>
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)	Memorandum of Cooperation (February 2010)	3 years (to February 2013)	Active	<p><b>Objective:</b> to reinforce the role of wetlands &amp; their biodiversity for sustainable tourism development through demonstration of integrated management approaches; sharing information &amp; expertise concerning management of Ramsar Sites for sustainable tourism; cooperating on fund-raising efforts for achieving common objectives of managing &amp; restoring vital degraded wetlands to promote sustainable tourism. <b>Outcome:</b> Collaboration on the preparation of COP11 DR7 on 'Tourism &amp; wetlands' &amp; on the preparation, publication, and launch of the wetlands &amp; sustainable tourism brochure at COP11.</p>

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
UNEP-WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre)	Memorandum of Cooperation (June 2010)	December 2012, renewable for a further 3 years	Active	<b>Objective:</b> to provide a flexible framework for collaboration, mobilizing UNEP-WCMC's technical & capacity-building expertise for improved implementation of Ramsar. <b>Outcome:</b> improved integration of datasets in World Database on Protected Areas and Ramsar Sites Information Service; role of wetlands in climate change mitigation & adaptation & climate change impacts on wetlands; threats to wetlands; further development of Ramsar indicators of effectiveness & links with post-2010 biodiversity indicators (including through Biodiversity Indicators Partnership); Ramsar data and information needs; harmonization & on-line national reporting. Recent activity includes preparation of a Ramsar Sites data sharing protocol & creation of a demonstration model for future on-line submission of Ramsar Site Information Sheets, with potential utility of software platform to also support streamlining future national reporting by Parties.
World Health Organization (WHO)	Memorandum of Cooperation (18 February 2011)	To 2012 report publication and dissemination	Largely completed	<b>Objective:</b> Specifically agreed to cover procedures for the joint preparation, publication & dissemination of the Ramsar Technical Report "Healthy wetlands, healthy people", published in April 2012.

#### D. Regional intergovernmental organizations and processes (IGOs)

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
ICPDR – International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, on observer status of Ramsar Convention at DRP Convention	Agreement on Observer Status (November 2000)	Open-ended	Active	Agreement provides Ramsar with official observer status at the Danube River Protection Convention, thus setting the frame for regular information on & invitation to ICPDR meetings & events. <b>Outcome:</b> Joint working on specific issues occurs on an <i>ad hoc</i> basis.

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
South Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP)	Memoranda of Cooperation (2002, 2006, 2009)	4 years (to November 2013)	Active	<b>Objectives:</b> broad collaboration to strengthen Convention members & Strategic Plan implementation support & capacity in the Pacific Island States. <b>Result:</b> SPREP hosts the outposted Ramsar Secretariat Oceania support officer, who regularly reports on progress & achievements. Further updated MOC currently being discussed.
NBA – Niger Basin Authority	Memoranda of Cooperation (November 2002)	Open-ended	Inactive	<b>Objectives:</b> to reinforce the role of wetland ecosystems for sustainable development through the provision of clean water & a variety of wetland products that can be derived from the demonstration of integrated management approaches [in the Niger Basin]. <b>Outcomes:</b> raised awareness & disseminated information about projects for wetland conservation & wise use; provided framework for a special focus on the key role of wetlands for biodiversity conservation & poverty alleviation; helped to start work on a coherent national & regional network of Ramsar Sites at the basin level; integrated wise use & Convention principles into the activities of the Authority at basin scale. Reduced recent activity, despite Secretariat contacts, & cooperation may in future be better delivered through the ‘NigerWet’ Ramsar Regional Initiative.
Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC)	Memorandum of Cooperation (November 2002)	Open-ended	Inactive	<b>Objective:</b> as for the Niger Basin Authority MOC above, so for the Lake Chad Basin. <b>Outcome:</b> Development of a GEF project plan & integration of the Convention principles into the activities of the LCBC. Provided influence over policy making by the Commission to include wetland management & policies. Little activity recently, but an opportunity now to revitalise, and LCBC is keen to re-engage.

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
European Environment Agency	Memorandum of Cooperation (February 2006)	6 years (to February 2012)	Out-of-date	<b>Objective:</b> to develop a collaborative programme for sustainable wetland & water resource conservation & management by increasing current consultation & cooperation, with a focus on sharing data & analyses, particularly spatial data & GIS boundaries of Ramsar Sites, to facilitate data sharing between EEA, Wetlands International, & Ramsar Secretariat. <b>Outcome:</b> Little direct activity during MOC period involving Secretariat. Potential utility of renewal needs further discussion – current data & information access may not now need a renewal.
Commission internationale du Bassin Congo-Oubangui-Sangha (CICOS)	Memorandum of Cooperation (March 2006)	6 years (to March 2012)	Partially active	<b>Objective:</b> to develop a collaborative programme for sustainable wetland & water resource conservation & management by increasing current consultation & cooperation. Ramsar has provided advice concerning fundraising for strategic plan development & collaborated on development of a specific wetland programme.
UNEP – GRASP (Great Apes Survival Project) Partnership	Exchange of letters ( February 2007)	Ongoing	Active	<b>Objective:</b> to collaborate in supporting implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan & the UNEP & GRASP programmes of work up to 2008 – continuing, with regular reporting on activities from GRASP.
European Space Agency (ESA) – STRP-ESA agreement on GlobWetland-II	Letters of Cooperation Agreement (2009)	2 years (to end of 2011)	Out-of-date, but actively continuing	<b>Objective:</b> ESA support to Ramsar inventory & assessment & STRP indicators work through Earth Observation, with delivery linked to the Mediterranean Wetlands Observatory (MWO) as a pilot regional contribution to development of a Global Wetland Observing System (G-WOS). <b>Outcome:</b> Project now extended to late 2012. Initial results providing time-series area & land-use change trends for 200 wetlands in North Africa and Middle East. A Globwetland-III Ramsar support project is currently being scoped for priorities for Ramsar needs, possibly for sub-Saharan Africa.

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
Organization of American States (OAS)	Memorandum of Cooperation (February 2010)	6 years (to January 2016)		<b>Objective:</b> to establish a framework for collaboration between the GS/OAS & Ramsar to further common goals on sharing data, information & knowledge on wetlands within the Americas. <b>Outcome:</b> Initial activities have focused on developing a GEF project (submitted May 2012) on valuation of ecosystem services of High Andes wetlands, supporting implementation of the High Andean Ramsar Regional Initiative. OAS has also contributed to other Regional Initiatives, including for the Caribbean.
JAXA – The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency	Memorandum of Cooperation (October 2010)	2 years (to October 2012), renewable through an exchange of letters	Becoming active	<b>Objective:</b> to make JAXA earth observation satellite imagery for Ramsar Sites available to STRP & Parties, particularly for change assessment & monitoring. <b>Outcome:</b> STRP has provided advice to JAXA on imagery priorities & needs: response awaited.
The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity	Memorandum of Cooperation (November 2011)	Open-ended	Active	<b>Objective:</b> supporting implementation of the Convention in the Contracting Parties of the ASEAN region (Southeast Asia). Next step is the development of a Joint Work Plan, which is being considered at the ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity in June 2012.

### E. International Organization Partners (IOPs)

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
IOPs (BirdLife, IUCN, IWMI, Wetlands International, WWF International)	Memorandum of Cooperation (May 2011)	6 years (to May 2017)	Active	The joint MOC signed between Ramsar and all five IOPs replaces previous separate bilateral Memoranda. <b>Objective:</b> to reaffirm & formalize the ongoing partnership between Ramsar & the IOPs in supporting and collaborating on Convention implementation at global scientific & technical & within-country levels. Bilateral joint work plans setting out IOP activities in relation to the Ramsar Strategic Plan are currently being finalized as annexes to the MOC.
Wings over Wetlands (WOW) Partnership (AEWA, Ramsar, BirdLife International, Wetlands International)	Memorandum of Cooperation (June 2010)	3 years, 14 June 2013	Active	<b>Objective:</b> to continue partnership collaboration (involving two IOPs) to build on the successful “Wings over Wetlands” African-Eurasian Waterbird Flyways GEF project & its tools, including the Critical Site Network Tool and Flyway Training Kit. Several follow-up projects are underway or in planning.

### F. Other international NGOs and organizations

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS)	Memorandum of Cooperation (1999, 2004, July 2011)	6 years (to July 2017)	Active	<b>Objective:</b> to continue to progress a collaborative programme on sustainable wetland & water resource conservation & management through increasing access to SWS members’ technical & practical expertise. <b>Outcome:</b> To facilitate network access & information sharing, in 2010 SWS established an SWS “Ramsar Section” through which collaborative links are maintained & an annual Ramsar Wise Use student research project award. SWS has recently led STRP work on developing principles & guidelines for wetlands & urban planning, & on restoration & avoidance of wetlands losses guidance.

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Memorandum of Cooperation (September 2000)	Open-ended	Active	<p>Redevelopment and updating of September 2000 MOC is underway for re-signing in July 2012. <b>Objective</b> of original MOC to establish partnership cooperation for wetland conservation &amp; wise use &amp; to use TNC's networks of partners, representatives, associate organizations &amp; individual experts to assist the work of the Ramsar Convention, including on Ramsar Site status &amp; designations &amp; on awareness-raising.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> TNC in recent years has contributed to a range of Convention processes &amp; to aspects of STRP's work, including on coastal nature-based adaptation to climate change, on river basin &amp; water allocations guidance, &amp; most recently on identification &amp; designation of shellfish reefs as a threatened wetland type.</p>
International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA)	Memorandum of Understanding (June 2001)	Open-ended	Inactive	<p><b>Objective:</b> to support improving the use &amp; application of impact assessment tools in the conservation &amp; wise use of wetlands, through IAIA's network of impact assessment practitioners &amp; tools &amp; guidance materials. Significant initial contributions from IAIA in relation to CBD/Ramsar guidelines on EIA &amp; SEA, but less activity recently. Recent discussion with IAIA on potential for updating &amp; re-activating the MOC.</p>

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
Ducks Unlimited (DU)	Memorandum of Cooperation (July 2001; February 2012)	Open-ended	Re-activated	Original 2001 MOC revised & updated in 2012. Overall <b>objective</b> to jointly promote & support the Ramsar Convention & DU missions & objectives through development of a framework for common action on a range of implementation activities, including i) sharing of training or workshop modules & materials for wetland managers, habitat conservation or on other related topics, ii) communication & outreach materials targeted for raising public awareness of wetland values, iii) wetland education tools, projects or programmes, iv) identifying programmes & projects for cooperation centered on the conservation & sustainable use of highest priority wetlands, v) sharing information & data, including monitoring & evaluation results of wetland areas, trends, issues & other emerging topics, & vi) promoting & supporting designation of Ramsar Sites as well as shared fundraising.
Global Nature Fund	Memorandum of Cooperation (September 2004)	6 years (to September 2010)	Out-of-date	Not re-activated. <b>Objective</b> concerned cooperation on conservation & management of lakes & other wetlands, in particular through the GNF's Living Lakes network, a global initiative for the restoration of the health of the world's lakes & wetlands. <b>Outcome:</b> Little activity recorded on MOC implementation.
IOI – International Ocean Institute (IOI)	Memorandum of Cooperation (October 2006)	6 years (to October 2012)	Inactive	<b>Objective:</b> to develop a collaborative programme for sustainable wetland, coastal zones, & marine resource conservation & management by increasing current consultation & cooperation through a range of activities listed in the annex to the MoC. <b>Outcome:</b> No responses to invitations made in this triennium for IOI to participate in relevant Ramsar regional processes. New contact needed to establish if there is merit in continuing the partnership.

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)	Memorandum of Cooperation (17 June 2009)	Open-ended	Active	<b>Objective:</b> to develop a collaborative action plan to support wetlands & water resource conservation & management, particularly through CEPA activities by WAZA members including World Wetlands Day celebrations. <b>Outcome:</b> regularly participate in World Wetlands Day activities & communication through WAZA network.
Stetson University College of Law (SUCOL)	Memorandum of Cooperation (February 2010)	6 years (to February 2016)	Active	<b>Objective:</b> to develop a collaborative law & policy programme for sustainable wetland & water resource management. <b>Outcome:</b> Implementation through SUCOL faculty & students conducting research on wetland law & policy; contributing to & advising Ramsar Regional Initiatives in the western hemisphere; research visits to the Secretariat as part of SUCOL summer abroad & spring break programmes. SUCOL faculty & students have made significant contributions in the last triennium to scientific & policy advice to the Convention, including preparing a review of National Ramsar Committees, guidance on avoiding, mitigating & compensating for wetland losses, & wetland restoration; & the publication of a Ramsar 40 <sup>th</sup> special issue of the <i>Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy</i> .

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust (WWT)	<p>Memorandum of Cooperation – Wetland Link International (WLI) (November 2005)</p> <p>Memorandum of Cooperation - WWT(November 2011)</p>	3 years (to November 2014)	Active	<p>The 2011 MOC incorporates collaboration on WLI, which was the subject of a previous MOC. <b>Objective:</b> to provide a flexible framework for collaboration, mobilizing WWT’s technical &amp; capacity-building expertise for improved implementation of the Convention. Initial focus is on: expanding the Wetland Link International (WLI) network of wetland centres &amp; promoting them as key places of learning &amp; training about wetlands &amp; wetland-related CEPA; aiding the harmonization of wetland conservation policies across MEAs (Ramsar, CMS, AEWA, CBD, EAAFP), the UN &amp; other international partners, especially those relating to disease threats to wetlands; aiding the development of policy &amp; technical/scientific instruments largely through the STRP. <b>Outcome:</b> Recent significant support for Ramsar implementation includes lead preparation of the <i>Ramsar Wildlife Diseases Manual</i> 2012 Ramsar Technical Report &amp; contributions to the 2012 RTR on wetlands and human-health interactions.</p>
Society for Ecological Restoration (SER)	Memorandum of Cooperation (January 2012)	6 years (to January 2018)	Active	<p><b>Objective:</b> to develop a collaborative work programme on wetland restoration &amp; related issues by increasing current consultation &amp; cooperation, in order to increase Ramsar access to SER’s restoration expertise &amp; network of wetland restoration practitioners. <b>Outcome:</b> Recent SER contributions to Ramsar issues have included working with the CSAB (Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies of the biodiversity MEAs) to develop a joint programme on ecological restoration, &amp; a major contribution to STRP’s recent review &amp; advice on wetland restoration guidelines (<i>Scientific &amp; Technical Briefing Note</i> no. 4).</p>

### G. Ramsar Regional Initiatives and regional implementation support

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
<p>Panama – The government of the Republic of Panama (Regional Center in the Western Hemisphere)</p> <p>Aide-Mémoire between the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, the Environment Authority of Panama, and the Permanent Mission of Panama to the United Nations in Geneva (regarding implementation of the agreement on CREHO)</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding (February 2003)</p> <p>Aide-Memoire (March 2011)</p>	<p>10 years (to February 2013) – and “can be extended for a similar period if agreed upon...”</p>	<p>Active</p>	<p><b>Objective:</b> creation &amp; functioning in Panama of the Regional Ramsar Center for training &amp; research on wetlands in the Western Hemisphere. <b>Outcome:</b> In the framework of the MOU and as a member of the Board of Directors, the Secretariat has participated actively in the board meetings. As part of administrative problems in the Center, the Secretariat has provided advice with the support of a legal adviser &amp; agreed with the government of Panama on concrete actions to improve the operation of the Center thorough a aide-mémoire in March 2011.</p>
<p>United States of America, “Wetlands for the Future” Initiative (2009-2014)</p>	<p>Memorandum of Agreement (June 2009)</p>	<p>5 years (to June 2014)</p>	<p>Currently inactive: previously active</p>	<p><b>Objective:</b> managing the Wetlands for the Future Initiative for Latin America &amp; the Caribbean. <b>Outcome:</b> 12 further projects were funded in 2009 &amp; the publication <i>Wetland for the Future Fund: benefiting the conservation and management of wetlands in Latin America and the Caribbean</i>, summarising the long-term achievements under the initiative, was launched in February 2011 during the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention. Currently unfunded, but efforts are underway to find ways to continue financial support to the Initiative.</p>

## H. Private sector

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
<p>Danone – Evian group (Action Programme for Water Resource and Water Quality Protection in Wetlands of International Importance)</p> <p>Renewed for 2011-2015 as the Fonds Danone-Evian pour l'Eau, Protocole d'accord (see below)</p>	<p>Memorandum of Understanding (1998)</p>	<p>Initially 3 years (1998-2000), aspects renewed subsequently</p>	<p>Largely completed (see below for 2011-2015 activities)</p>	<p><b>Objective:</b> to provide funding for several aspects of Ramsar support. Funds can be used for: <i>1. Transfer of know-how</i> - establishment of experimental biogeographical networks of twinned Ramsar sites for the purposes of technical exchanges on the subject of water resources &amp; water quality as a component of management plans; <i>2. Training</i> - Technical capacity-building for wetland managers, <i>3. Water and health</i> - pilot projects involving the participation of local communities in the wise use of water &amp; the maintenance of water quality for the health of the indigenous population. <i>4. The Evian meetings</i> - Working sessions at Evian on wetland conservation policies with the aim of raising awareness among decision makers from countries located in priority conservation regions. <i>5. Ramsar communications</i> - Development of information technology tools in order to strengthen capacity &amp; facilities for liaison through the Internet &amp; electronic mail, for organizations that require them in Contracting Parties; &amp; improvement of Convention's capacity to produce the publications &amp; technical documents distributed by the Secretariat. <i>6. Special Evian prize for the Ramsar Award</i> – a cash prize to accompany the three Ramsar Wise Use Awards presented at each COP since COP7 (1999). <i>7. the Pré-Curieux information centre at Evian</i> - an information &amp; communication centre at Pré-Curieux (Evian-Publier), the location of the Conservatoire du Littoral, with the aim of enhancing &amp; promoting the action programme. <b>Outcome:</b> Currently continues to support Secretariat communications work (notably World Wetlands Day materials) and the Ramsar Awards Special Evian Prize.</p>

Organization/process	History	Validity	Current status	Objectives & achievements
Fonds Danone-Evian pour l'Eau, Protocole d'accord 2011-2015 (16.2.2011)	Memorandum of Agreement (February 2011)	4 years (to 31 December 2015)	Active	<p><b>Outcome:</b> The main deliverables in 2011 have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A teaser video "Ondia &amp; the 7 Wonder Wetlands", with the the film's production depending on future committed investments</li> <li>- WWD 2011 activities &amp; WWD 2012 materials</li> <li>- development of digital communication vehicles: Facebook page &amp; 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary website (including ongoing photo-gallery)</li> <li>- collaboration with Danone subsidiaries Argentina &amp; Indonesia (including sponsoring)</li> </ul> <p>Annual Report 2011 to be published in 2012.</p>
DFN: Fonds Danone pour la Nature (Danone and IUCN : Protocole d'accord « Agir avec la nature pour lutter contre le changement climatique, la perte de biodiversité et la pauvreté »)	Memorandum of Agreement (October 2008)	3 years (to October 2011 – being extended to October 2012)	Active	<p><b>Objective:</b> to develop a programme of carbon offsets projects with a focus on mangrove restoration. <b>Outcome:</b> initiation of mangrove replanting projects &amp; the approval by the UNFCCC Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of a first large-scale methodology for carbon offsets from mangrove replanting. 2009 technical workshop &amp; report (led by Ramsar) available.</p>
Biosphere Connections (Star Alliance with IUCN / UNESCO MAB / Ramsar)	Memorandum of Agreement (2007, 2010)	3 years (to December 2012)	Active	The agreement provides 25,000 Euros' worth of flights on Star Alliance air carriers for participation of wetland experts in Ramsar-related meetings, etc.