



Cooperation Agreement

between

**The UNESCO Institute for Water Education
the Netherlands**

and

Charles Sturt University, Australia

and

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands (Ramsar)

on

Establishing an Extraordinary Ramsar Chair in the "Wise Use of Wetlands"

The undersigned, representatives of the UNESCO Institute for Water Education (UNESCO-IHE), Charles Sturt University (Charles Sturt) and the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands Secretariat (Ramsar), hereinafter referred to as the 'Partners'

considering that UNESCO-IHE, Charles Sturt University and Ramsar represent entities that are, each in their proper way and fashion, dedicated to contribute to the development of human resources in the framework of sustainable environmental management,

considering their good relationship through their respective staff,

considering that the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is a global intergovernmental treaty that was signed in 1971 and with currently 168 Contracting Parties and with the mission of "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world",

considering that Charles Sturt University is an institution for education, training and research with the mission to strengthen capacities of regional communities and academic and professional communities in Australia and internationally, and

considering that UNESCO-IHE is an Institute for education, training and research with the mission to strengthen capacities of people and institutions in developing and transition countries for the sustainable development of their water and environmental resources,

agree to establish an UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair in the "Wise Use of Wetlands" that would assist both UNESCO-IHE and the Ramsar Convention's mission of conservation of wetlands and capacity building for wise use of wetlands, and in particular support implementation of Goal 1 on the Wise Use of Wetlands and Goal 4 on Institutional capacity and effectiveness of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 in providing science-based management of wetlands,

agree that the Ramsar Secretariat will provide advice and guidance on the operational elements of the work of the UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair, and

agree on the following operational elements:

Article 1: Education

1.1 The UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair will help align, and contribute teaching to, UNESCO-IHE's modules and short courses.

1.2 The UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair will formulate plans to strengthen and make more financially viable short and online courses important for wetland management and policy development, and assist partner organizations in developing wetland education and training programmes, including on-line courses and capacity-building materials for supporting training in Ramsar implementation by Ramsar national focal points, wetland managers and others.

Article 2: Research

2.1 The UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair will implement ongoing collaborative supervision of PhD and MSc UNESCO-IHE and Charles Sturt University registered students working on wetlands related topics.

2.2 The UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair will jointly develop (research, capacity building and consultancy) projects.

2.3 The UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair will facilitate at least one UNESCO-IHE and Charles Sturt University linked publication per year relevant to wetland research and conservation .

2.4 Research will focus on the sustainable utilization of wetland ecosystem services, with a particular emphasis on global programmes that will complement current research lines at UNESCO-IHE and Charles Sturt University. In particular, the Chair will act as a conduit that can link UNESCO-IHE research in Africa with relevant research in Asia, and research undertaken by Charles Sturt University in Australia and elsewhere, so as to widen the wetland research portfolio.

Article 3: Networking and Collaboration

3.1 The UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair will promote active participation in the Ramsar Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) with expected input on topics covering wetlands and climate change adaptation and mitigation, livelihoods and poverty alleviation, global wetland observation and assessment.

3.2 The UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair will strengthen the links between UNESCO-IHE, Charles Sturt University and the Ramsar Convention by integration of Ramsar guidance into teaching modules; by supporting the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan; and by directing collaboration with the works of the STRP.

3.3 The UNESCO-IHE Ramsar Chair will make a concerted effort to attract funding for collaborative wetlands capacity-building and consultancy projects, particularly in developing countries particularly those which are Ramsar Contracting Parties.

Article 4: Financial arrangements

4.1 UNESCO_IHE and Charles Sturt University will co-operate under the conditions that staff services such as teaching, PhD supervision and research are paid for at fair market prices.

4.2 For specific projects, financial agreements will be made beforehand.

4.3 Core funding for this part-time position is sought through a partnership with the Institute for Land Water and Society of Charles Sturt University, Australia that has complementary links with the Ramsar Convention and its partners.

4.4 Salary for the part-time Chair will be covered by Charles Sturt University. Activities needed to support the Chair such as travel and accommodation will be covered as much as possible through external funds sought together by the partner institutes. If external funds are not available, UNESCO-IHE's Water Science and Engineering Department will provide funds to a maximum of 4000 Euros per year for this cooperation. Fees for desk space at UNESCO-IHE will either be waiver or be covered by the budget of the Water Science and Engineering Department to be decided internally by UNESCO-IHE.

Article 5: External Contacts and Publications

5.1 This co-operation will establish and maintain mutually beneficial contacts and co-operation with national and international organisations and experts, which are active in the same or related fields of expertise. It is anticipated that partners will develop such contacts in consultation with

each other.

- 5.2 Partners to this cooperation agreement will take steps to ensure that relevant data and research findings are published, provided that the rights of authors, of institutions, and copyrights are respected. All publications within the framework of this co-operation shall mention the names and, if appropriate the logos, of all Parties under this collaboration.

Article 6: Organization

- 6.1 Parties will nominate one representative responsible for the organisation and management of this Cooperation agreement. These representatives will meet at least once every year and they will report the activities under this cooperation agreement to the Board of both Parties.
- 6.2 This Cooperation agreement has duration of five years. It will be evaluated in the fifth year on both effectiveness and efficiency and continued if both parties agree.
- 6.3 Each Partner will meet any commitments to the other Partner that are outstanding at the date of termination of this cooperation agreement.

Article 7: Settlement of disputes

- 7.1 The Partners shall use their best efforts to settle amicably all disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or the interpretation thereof.
- 7.2 In case Partners are not in the position to settle the dispute amicably among themselves, a third Party will be appointed whose nomination has the mutual consent of the Partners, and whose decision will be binding.

This agreement is drawn up in three (3) copies, each being equally valid.

Delft, ...10 oct..., 2013

For UNESCO-IHE



Prof. A. Szöllösi-Nagy, DSc, PhD
Rector



...3, November..., 2013

For Charles Sturt University

Professor Susan M Thomas

Name:Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)

Title:**CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY**

...10, October..., 2013

For Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Christopher Briggs
Secretary General

