



## 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 Award ceremony – Introduction (Anada Tiéga)

The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards were established in 1996 by the 6th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties in order to recognise and honour the contributions of individuals, organisations, and governments around the world towards promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

Since 1999, the awards have been given at every meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and today is the fifth Ramsar Awards ceremony. We are very proud of this programme, which has recognized outstanding individuals and organizations in the field of wetland conservation, from all regions of the world.

The Ramsar Awards are given in each of the following three categories, together with the Evian Special Prize, a cash donation generously granted by the DANONE-Evian Group:

- The **Ramsar Education Award**, rewarding the best initiative for communication, education, participation and awareness on Wetlands of International Importance, with a focus on initiatives which demonstrate effective participation of local communities and the resulting capacity building outcomes, the Ramsar Award for Education is given to the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, United States of America.
- The **Ramsar Management Award**, rewarding actions – such as projects, programmes, plans, policies and strategies – that have significantly contributed to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, at specific wetlands (including Ramsar sites) or through planning and management at broader scale; the Ramsar Award for Management is given to Ms Augusta Henriques, of Guinea Bissau.
- The **Ramsar Wetland Science Award**, rewarding internationally recognized contributions to the advancement of wetland science; the Ramsar Award for Wetland Science is given to Prof. Tatsuichi Tsujii, of Japan.

In addition to these three Awards, the Standing Committee has decided to recognize and honour two individuals whose lifelong contribution to wetland conservation remains unmatched, and to confer a **Recognition of Achievement** to Mr Thymio Papayannis, and the **40th Anniversary Honorary Ramsar Award**, to Dr Luc Hoffmann.

This statue has been the symbol of the Ramsar Award since its first edition in 1999, and each winner will receive one.

I have now the pleasure of asking Ms Katie Beilfuss, representing the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, to come onto the stage...

1. Ms Katie Beilfuss, Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Ramsar Award for Education
2. Ms Augusta Henriques, Ramsar Award for Management
3. Professor Tatsuichi Tsujii, Ramsar Award for Wetland Science
4. Mr Thymio Papayannis, Recognition of Achievement
5. Dr Luc Hoffmann, 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Honorary Ramsar Award.