



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

From The Secretary General

To all Ramsar Contracting Parties

January 2011

Dear Colleague,

Request for voluntary funding for Ramsar Regional Meetings 2011/2012

The Standing Committee of the Ramsar Convention has decided that meetings should be held in each of the Ramsar regions to review the current implementation of the Convention and prepare for the 11th Conference of the Parties, to be held from 19-26 June 2012 in Romania. The Secretariat is currently planning regional meetings in the Americas (Jamaica), Asia (Indonesia), Oceania (location to be confirmed), Africa (location to be confirmed), and Europe (Slovakia).

The regional meetings will be working meetings, hosted by a Contracting Party, with the full assistance of the Ramsar Secretariat. Each regional meeting will analyze the major issues and concerns that characterize the expansion of the Convention and its work. There will be opportunities for sharing experiences and for discussions of common problems, of the major achievements, and of the needs for future actions. The Secretariat has supported a lot of activity in the regions and sub regions since the last COP, and this is an opportunity to bring this together and present good regional and sub regional input to COP11.

The Ramsar Core Budget does not provide funding for these meetings. In order for them to take place and be successful we need financial support from Contracting Parties. Host countries can provide a lot of on-the-ground and some financial support, but we need more. Most importantly *we need funding for the travel and per diems of participants from less developed countries*. Without this, full participation cannot be assured.

Full budgets for the meetings are being finalised now. We anticipate the total financial assistance we will require from donor Contracting Parties to be **600,000 Swiss francs**¹. Of this, we have already received a generous pledge of 180,000 Swiss francs from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, for which we are very grateful. Further pledges are invited.

¹ Contributions from the countries hosting the meetings and from the core budget of the Ramsar Secretariat, mostly in the form of staff time, have not been included in this budget. However these are calculated to total approximately the same amount as that being sought from donors.

We know that many of you have many different governmental departments and development agencies which are eager to support the full engagement of all countries in international environmental processes. Many of these have specific objectives which can be closely aligned with those of Ramsar. We are very interested in hearing from any of these departments and working with you to provide tailored proposals to help secure funding.

If you believe that your department or government could help Ramsar secure financial assistance for the 2011 Regional Meetings, please do let the Secretariat know as soon as possible. I or Anna Goodwin (goodwin@ramsar.org; 41 22 999 0149) will be very happy to follow up any leads you might have to propose to us, so please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AT' with a large 'X' or flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Anada TIEGA
tiega@ramsar.org
41 22 999 0180