



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

From the Secretary General

To all Heads of Administrative Authorities
To all National Focal Points
To all Missions to the UN in Geneva

Gland, 3 October 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Fundraising Appeal for Sponsored Delegates to the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar COP11), Romania, 19-26 June 2012

Preparations for Ramsar COP11 are already well advanced, both in Romania, where the event is generating tremendous enthusiasm, and at the Ramsar Secretariat.

The theme of COP11, “Wetlands and Tourism,” was chosen by the Standing Committee because of the enormous importance, even the urgency, of this issue for ensuring the sustainability of all wetlands, all over the world. The potential benefits of tourism, and especially ecotourism, for wetlands and their surrounding communities are generally well known, but they bring with them the potential, if developers and wetland managers do not proceed cautiously and knowledgeably, for great damage to wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide for all of us. COP11 presentations, discussions, and events will explore these benefits, dangers, and best practices throughout the eight days in Bucharest.

COP11 will also provide opportunities for informative presentations and discussions, and in some cases earnest negotiations, on other matters of great significance for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources around the world, and for the future of the Ramsar Convention. Resolutions and guidance on wetlands will be considered and debated in relation to such timely issues as climate change, human health, livelihoods and poverty alleviation, renewable energy, urban planning, and the effects of pesticides. The triennial meetings of the Ramsar COP have a well-deserved reputation for their success in informing and energizing the Parties’ delegations and frequently their colleagues back home.

Contracting Parties and the Secretariat are hugely appreciative of Romania’s generosity in hosting this meeting of the Ramsar Conference of the Parties and for funding by the Government of Romania for all the administrative costs of the Conference, including the Conference venue and its facilities and such services as the translation of documents and simultaneous interpretation in the three official languages of the Convention. This funding and the Convention’s Core budget do not, however, include any allocation for supporting the travel and subsistence costs of official delegates from developing countries.

The success of COP 11 requires the **full participation of all Contracting Parties**, covering all regions of the world. The Secretariat is anticipating requests for financial assistance from 117 Member States which are on the OECD/DAC list of aid recipients. In order to participate fully in the meeting, each delegation should ideally have at least two participants. We are therefore looking for funds to cover the participation of some 234 individuals. Fund-raising for OECD/DAC listed Contracting Parties will be our priority. In addition, we expect a number of requests from non-Member States and a few key non-governmental organisations that play an important role in the implementation of the Convention. We have included these in our fundraising target, taking our total to 278 individuals.

Our calculations indicate that an economy-class air ticket and 9 days' per diem in Romania will cost, on average, CHF 3,272 (or EUR 2,517/US\$ 3,636 per person). We have thus set a **fund-raising target of CHF 900,000/EUR 700,000/US\$ 1million**. More detail, including OECD/DAC listed Parties and non-Contracting Party observers, is attached in Annex 1.

We recognise that finances are extremely tight, for so many organisations and governments, but are contacting you now to ask you to dig deep to find financial resources to help.

If you are able to only consider country or region-specific financial contributions, or have access to funds earmarked for subject matter under discussion during the COP, we can help.

The need to align your priorities and our needs is well understood, and we look forward to working together to find solutions.

We are also aware that for this type of assistance it may be necessary to approach other agencies within your Government that have specific resources targeted at development assistance. If this is the case, we should be happy to approach them and we trust we may count on your guidance in this endeavour.

The Secretariat has a strong track record of managing its resources effectively and economically. As Secretary General, I am proud of this, and I give you my assurance that this will be the case with regard to the funds received for COP11 participants.

As you review this request and the funds your Government may be able to make available, I urge you to take into consideration the importance of the outcomes of the Conference and the consequent need to provide for the presence of key players from developing countries if we are to guarantee its success.

I, the Ramsar Senior Regional Advisors and our Finance Officer, Anna Goodwin (goodwin@ramsar.org; 41 22 999 0149) would be happy to go over the details of this request with you and remain at your entire disposal to provide further information as necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Anada Tiéga

