



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

The Secretary General

To Heads and National Focal Points  
of Ramsar Administrative Authorities

Gland, 20 January 2012

Réf. ANT/mik

**Re : Perspectives for the Ramsar Convention for 2012**

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

At the start of a new year it is customary to take some moments to reflect upon and assess the previous year as well as to look forward to the activities of the year that is beginning. I also take this opportunity to thank all Heads of Administrative Authorities and all our National Focal Points for your collaboration with the Ramsar Secretariat, and to congratulate you on progress made to the benefit of wetlands.

2011 saw some significant developments for the future of the Convention, notably in the preparation of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP11) that will take place this summer in Bucharest, Romania, from 6 to 13 July 2012. Four of the five regional meetings in preparation for COP11 have already taken place, giving Contracting Parties a chance to express their opinions and debate their priorities.

At its 43rd Meeting in late 2011 (SC43), the Standing Committee examined questions of great importance to the Convention, notably those relating to financial stability and to administrative reform. In parallel with the year-long celebration of Ramsar's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we initiated reflection upon long-term vision for the Convention.

We hope that 2012 will provide opportunities for our Contracting Parties to deal with all these questions in an efficient way. We also hope that all Contracting Parties will be represented at Ramsar's COP11 and thus support the efforts being made to address the challenges the Convention faces.

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I take this opportunity to remind you of my letter of 15 December requesting that Contracting Parties support financially, according to their means, the vital activities of the Convention. I repeat this request here because it is especially crucial that all Contracting Parties take part in COP11, in spite of current financial problems. Every voluntary contribution is welcome, whatever the amount. And I would like to say thank you in advance to those who can take financial responsibility for their own participation at COP rather than request financial sponsorship from the Convention, and to those who can sponsor participants from other member countries.

Finally, I am looking forward to meeting you all in Bucharest in July, where we will decide the future of the Convention.

With my sincerest wishes for a good year ahead, for you and your families and for the Convention and wetlands.

Yours faithfully,

Anada Tiéga

