



Memorandum of Cooperation between

The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) ("Ramsar Secretariat")

and

Conservation International Foundation ("Conservation International" or "CI")

for the period 2013-2018

Recalling Resolution VII.3 adopted by the 7th meeting of the Conference of Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP7, San Jose, Costa Rica, 1999) which decided to invite partnership with international organizations working on wetlands conservation;

Taking into account the continuing important role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) generally in the implementation of the Convention, including the support provided by them to the Ramsar Secretariat and countries;

Aware of the strong, active and significant contribution that Conservation International is making internationally regarding sustainable use of natural resources and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;

Recognising that the conservation aims of Conservation International and the aims expressed in the text of the Ramsar Convention as interpreted by a number of decisions of the Conference of the Parties, and in particular in the Strategic Plan 2009–2015 adopted by the 10th Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Ramsar Convention (COP10, Changwon, Republic of Korea, 2008), are fully compatible;

Also recognizing that Conservation International is already working with the Ramsar Convention and its Secretariat and Scientific & Technical Review Panel (STRP) on various aspects of wetland conservation and wise use, and is invited as an observer organization to the STRP, the subsidiary scientific advisory body of the Ramsar Convention; and

Desiring to establish a joint commitment of intent to seek productive and strengthened partnership collaboration in respect of the conservation and wise use of wetlands worldwide;

The Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and Conservation International therefore decide to cooperate on the following initiatives. The list is not exclusive and can be extended or amended at any time.

1. Development of a Global Wetland Observing System (GWOS), also in collaboration with Wetlands International;
2. Development of a global "Watershed Health Index" that would synthesize information from GWOS and other sources, and would contribute towards the planned State of the World's Wetlands reporting;

3. **Sharing of data associated with the development of GWOS and the Watershed Health Index (to the extent that the sharing party owns the rights to the data or has secured the necessary permissions for sub-licensing) to increase the Ramsar Secretariat's and Conservation International's own effectiveness as well as their influence on other international policy processes such as the Convention on Biological Diversity;**
4. **Promote collaboration between The WCPA Freshwater and Protected Area Task Force (chaired by John Matthews, CI) and the Ramsar Secretariat to ensure integration of data and shared objectives for effective conservation of freshwater ecosystems**
5. **Application of information about Ramsar sites (location, spatial extent, ecological characteristics, qualifying criteria) to IUCN/CI assessments of the conservation status of freshwater species, for identification of priority freshwater key biodiversity areas.**
6. **Demonstration of the role wetlands can play in climate change mitigation, nature-based adaptation, and disaster risk reduction and mitigation;**
7. **Collaboration in case studies and analyses that showcase the valuation of ecosystem services provided by wetlands, and how they relate to human well-being;**
8. **Promote ecosystem-based approaches to policy and decision-making processes that affect the wise use of wetlands and their integrity, particularly at the international level.**
9. **Promotion of means to help resolve water supply/security issues through improved inland waters management.**
10. **Provision of scientific knowledge on thematic areas of work of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) including, but not limited to, wetland status assessment, climate change, river basin management, and ecosystem valuation.**
11. **Where appropriate, provide letters of support for grant and funding proposals for projects of mutual interest to the Ramsar Secretariat and Conservation International.**
12. **The Ramsar Secretariat acknowledges the independent right of Conservation International to voice its policy position on any matter within the scope of Convention's work, recognizing that informed and reasoned NGO advocacy is generally a valuable and valid motivating force contributing to the better achievement of the Ramsar Convention's mission.**
13. **Conservation International and the Ramsar Secretariat will explore additional options for specific initiatives to further cooperation, including joint projects and fundraising for them and publications, and the potential for Conservation International to seek recognition by the Ramsar Convention as an International**

Organisation Partner (IOP), in relation to the areas of thematic cooperation identified in this Memorandum of Cooperation.

14. Conservation International and the Ramsar Secretariat will ensure regular exchanges of information about their respective activities in the areas of thematic cooperation identified in this Memorandum, by appropriate means and using all possible avenues.
15. As much as is feasible, Conservation International and the Ramsar Secretariat will each take account of the other's various corporate and strategic planning processes and documents when any of these are being drawn up or reviewed, aiming to enhance synergy among their respective plans, programmes and activities in the areas of thematic cooperation identified in this Memorandum, as well as plans, programmes and activities of Ramsar's partner organizations. Where this includes exchange of information that is considered confidential by the disclosing party ("Confidential Information"), Conservation International and the Ramsar Secretariat will enter into confidentiality agreements prior to the exchange of Confidential Information to ensure the protection of thereof. Notwithstanding the requirement for executing confidentiality agreement prior to the exchange of Confidential Information, each recipient party of confidential information hereby agrees to limit disclosure of Confidential Information to employees with a need to know, to not disclose Confidential Information to a third party without the prior written consent of the disclosing party, to use the same standard of care in safeguarding the Confidential Information as it applies to its own confidential information, and to only use Confidential Information for the purposes for which the disclosing party shared it with the recipient party.
16. The parties to this Memorandum of Collaboration will institute consultations to review its implementation, reporting accordingly to their respective governing bodies and inviting further guidance on possible areas of cooperation.
17. This Memorandum of Collaboration may be reviewed at the request of either party and may be terminated by either party by giving one month's written notice to the other party.
18. The purpose of this Memorandum of Collaboration is to confirm the parties' agreement in principle regarding their proposed cooperation as set out herein. It constitutes an expression of the parties' mutual intent only and (with the exception of Section 15) does not constitute a legally binding obligation or contract to enter into the cooperative projects described herein. No other obligation shall arise prior to the execution and delivery of separate agreements between the parties.

Anada Tiéga
Secretary General
Convention on Wetlands

Date: 10-04-2013

Niels Crone
Chief Operating Officer
Conservation International

Date: 04/09/2013 (April 9, 2013)