



**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**  
**Between**  
**The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands**  
**and**  
**The Japan International Cooperation Agency**

---

**1. Preamble**

On the memorable occasion of the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (hereafter referred to as “the Secretariat”) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereafter referred to as “JICA”) seek to formalize a joint decision for a productive collaboration;

***Recalling*** that the Convention on Wetlands is founded on three pillars of (1) promoting wise use of wetlands, (2) developing international cooperation, and (3) developing a network of Wetland Sites of International Importance;

***Recognizing*** that Resolution X.1 on The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009 – 2015 states that “to achieve wetland conservation and wise use, a broader and multisectoral approach to wetland conservation and sustainable development is needed, especially in relation *inter alia* to poverty eradication and food and water security, integrated approaches to water management, climate change and its predicted impacts, increasing globalization of trade and reducing of trade barriers, the increasing role of the private sector, and the increasing influence of development banks and international development agencies”;

***Recalling*** the Vision of JICA, “Inclusive and Dynamic Development”, and its four Missions: (1) addressing the global agenda, including climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources; (2) reducing poverty through equitable growth; (3) improving governance; and (4) achieving human security;



***Further recalling*** that one of the JICA's strategies for practical implementation of the international cooperation is "Promoting Development Partnerships", which reaffirms JICA's interest in strengthening partnerships with international organizations and other donor institutions, leading to the creation of a broad framework for development assistance in the global community; and

***Noting*** that a framework for institutional collaboration between the Secretariat and JICA will enhance assistance to governments and other targeted beneficiaries for the wise use of wetland resources and ecosystem conservation.

The Secretariat and JICA confirm that

## **2. Purpose of the Cooperation**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation is to establish a framework for institutional cooperation between the Secretariat and JICA as a means to facilitate exchanging technical expertise and information for capacity development related to the wetlands / biodiversity conservation projects assisted by both participants.

## **3. Scope of the Cooperation**

Each participant will seek to identify opportunities to conduct joint activities, including such activities in the following areas as priority:

### **(1) Information sharing**

For the smooth implementation of projects and in the further formulation of new projects and effective conservation of wetlands, participants will periodically exchange technical information. In particular, JICA will share information from wetland related projects such as those listed in the Annex of this Memorandum, including information on their progress, achievements and evaluation reports.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized letter 'f' or similar.

A handwritten mark in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'W' or similar shape.



The Secretariat will share related information including regional and national data on wetlands, relevant reports and other documents produced by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (hereafter referred to as the “STRP”) and Contracting Party focal points of the Convention.

Both participants will inform related bodies, partners and members about this collaboration and cooperation on information. The participants are cognizant that shared documents are the intellectual property of each respective participant and confirm that the use of documents will be for no other purpose than for sharing information in accordance with this Memorandum of Cooperation. The participants will take special care in handling the shared documents and will not disclose confidential information, if any, without prior written consent of the other participant.

**(2) Effective cooperation through the provision of international and national experts on the management of Ramsar sites and other wetland areas**

Both participants recognize the importance of using each other’s professional expertise so as to enhance the management of Ramsar Sites, ensure the sustainability of site management and identify new potential sites. It will be mutually beneficial to invite a pool of experts to provide appropriate support, as resources permit, such as Secretariat experts and members of STRP to JICA’s projects (e.g. meetings and on the ground activities, etc.) and invite JICA experts to support or participate in the Secretariat activities.

**(3) Seminars / symposiums / side events and other activities**

The participants will organize joint seminars and/or symposia, particularly through projects (e.g. those listed in the Annex of this Memorandum) on the conservation and wise use of wetlands worldwide. For the benefit of stakeholders at a wider scale, joint side events will be

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized letter 'f'.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized signature.



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



organized for knowledge sharing and information dissemination at relevant international meetings, including Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Wetlands and other multi-lateral environmental agreements and other regional or sub-regional meetings.

#### **(4) Capacity development**

Both participants recognize the importance of capacity development for wetland managers, decision makers and other relevant stakeholders particularly in developing countries, and to this end, JICA may request support from the STRP and other experts through the Secretariat.

#### **(5) Knowledge formalization**

For better knowledge management, both participants will analyze good practices and draw lessons learnt jointly from wetland conservation projects and other activities such as Ramsar Advisory Missions.

#### **(6) Personnel exchange**

Both participants will consider the possibility of developing and introducing a personnel exchange program to further mutual understanding of their respective work as well as for strengthening their collaboration.

### **4. Visibility**

Both participants recognize that the cooperative arrangements and joint activities would be result-oriented and visible to the public and will duly acknowledge each other's roles and contributions in all public information and documentation relating to their cooperation. The participants may use each other's organization name and logo in accordance with their current policies and subject to prior written consent.

### **5. Focal Points**

For the purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation, the focal points between the Secretariat and JICA will be the Secretary General of the

A handwritten signature in blue ink, located in the bottom left corner of the page.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page.



Secretariat and the Director General of Global Environment Department, JICA. Both participants may designate other focal points to facilitate regular communication and cooperation and should notify the other participant in writing if such focal points are designated.

#### **6. Review**

The participants to this Memorandum of Cooperation confirm to meet in person or via teleconference or video conference, at least one time per year, to review the implementation of the Memorandum and any Annexes, to share information and work implemented that is mutually beneficial and helps to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

#### **7. Commencement and duration**

This Memorandum of Cooperation will commence on the date of its signing by both participants until 31 December 2015. The Memorandum may be modified, renewed for extension, or terminated at any time by mutual written intention by both participants.

#### **8. Disclaimer**

This Memorandum of Cooperation constitutes an expression of shared decision towards the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. However, each participant's actions will be considered to be that participant's sole and separate action, and neither participant will claim to be acting on behalf of, or as agent for the other participant to this Memorandum.

IN WITNESS WHERE OF, the undersigned, the duly authorized representatives of the participants have signed the present Memorandum of Cooperation in English in two copies.

Bucharest, 7 July 2012

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'f' or similar character.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'f' or similar character.



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS  
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "ATiéga", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Anada Tiéga  
Secretary General,  
Secretariat of the Convention on  
Wetlands

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fuwa Masami", written over a horizontal line.

Mr. Masami Fuwa  
Director General,  
Global Environment Department,  
Japan International Cooperation  
Agency

**Annex:**

List of JICA's Projects implemented in Ramsar Sites

Annex: List of JICA's Projects implemented in Ramsar Sites

As of July 2012

No.	Country	Project Name	Project Sites	Cooperation Duration	Ramsar Sites			
					Site No.	Site Name	area (ha)	Designation Date
1	Malaysia	Programme for Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation (BBEC) Phase 2	Crocker Range Park, Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Wetlands	Oct 2007 - Sep 2012	1849	Lower Kinabatangan-Segama Wetlands	78,803	28 October 2008
2	Malaysia	To be confirmed (succeeding BBEC Phase 2)		Early 2013 -				
3	Viet Nam	Project for Development of National Biodiversity Database System	Xuan Thuy National Park	Nov 2011 - Mar 2015	409	Xuan Thuy Natural Wetland Reserve	12,000	20 September 1988
4	Mongolia	River Basin Management Model Project for the Conservation of Wetland and Ecosystem and its Sustainable Use	Ogii Nuur	May 2005 - Mar 2010	955	Ogii Nuur	2,510	6 July 1998
5	Iran	Anzali Wetland Ecological Management Project	Anzali Mordab Complex	Feb 2007 - Sep 2012	40	Anzali Mordab Complex	15,000	23 June 1975
6	Albania	Project for conservation and sustainable use of Divjake-Karavasta National Park with participation of local governments and stakeholders	Divjake-Karavasta National Park	Mar 2012 - Mar 2014	781	Karavasta Lagoon	20,000	29 November 1995
7	Mexico	Coastal Wetland Conservation in Yucatan Peninsula	Reserva de la Biosfera Ria Celestún	Mar 2003 - Feb 2010	1333	Reserva de la Biosfera Ri a Celestún	81,482	2 February 2004
8	Costa Rica	Participatory Management of Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge Project	Barra del Colorado National Wildlife Refuge	Oct 2008 - Oct 2011	811	Humedal Caribe Noreste	75,310	20 March 1996
9	Uganda	National Wetlands Management Project	Lake Bisina Wetland System	Mar 2012 - Mar 2017	1633	Lake Bisina Wetland System	54,229	15 September 2006
			Lake Opera Wetland System		1636	Lake Opera Wetland System	68,912	15 September 2006
10	Mali	The Study on the Conservation of Central Niger Delta through Wise Use of Natural Resources in Mopti Prefecture	Inner Niger Delta	Mar 2010 - Mar 2014	1365	Inner Niger Delta	4,119,500	31 January 2004