

**Memorandum of Cooperation
Between**

**The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)
and
The Nature Conservancy**

(for the period 2012-2018)

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;

Also recalling that a Memorandum of Cooperation between the then Bureau (now Secretariat) of the Convention on Wetlands (hereafter “the Ramsar Convention”) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was first signed in 2000;

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 The Nature Conservancy is making internationally regarding sustainable use of natural resources and implementation of multilateral environmental agreements;

Recognising that the conservation aims of The Nature Conservancy 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;


Viewing with appreciation the long and beneficial relationship between The Nature Conservancy and the Ramsar Convention through The Nature Conservancy’s observer status to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), the subsidiary scientific advisory body of the Ramsar Convention; and

Desiring to renew 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 The Nature Conservancy therefore decide as follows:

1. The Nature Conservancy will endeavor to use its network of Partners, representatives, associate Organizations and individual experts to assist and further the work of the Ramsar Convention, in line with the Convention's Strategic Plan 2009–2015.
2. The Nature Conservancy will incorporate promotion of the wetland conservation and wise use agenda of the Ramsar Convention in its programmes of work at international, regional, national and local levels, as appropriate.
3. The Nature Conservancy will, in particular, promote a high level of recognition, where relevant, of the status of sites included in the List of Wetlands of International importance, or candidate sites for listing, in programmes relating, for example, to identification and conservation of Important Bird Areas.
4. The Nature Conservancy will promote enhanced awareness and understanding of all aspects of the Ramsar Convention through its networks, and will provide support, in appropriate ways, to the promotion of increased general public awareness of, and sympathy for, the Convention and its aims.
5. The Nature Conservancy will seek to use its good offices to encourage efficient and effective synergy and cooperation among the group of Ramsar partner organizations.
6. The Ramsar Secretariat acknowledges the independent right of The Nature Conservancy 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.
7. The Nature Conservancy and the Ramsar Secretariat will further explore the scope for specific initiatives to further cooperation, such as exchanges of staff, joint projects and publications and the potential for The Nature Conservancy to seek recognition by the Ramsar Convention as an International Organisation Partner (IOP), in relation to the areas of thematic cooperation identified in the Annex to this Memorandum.
8. The Nature Conservancy and the Ramsar Secretariat will ensure regular exchanges of information about their respective activities, by appropriate means and using all possible avenues.
9. As much as is feasible, The Nature Conservancy 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 as well as plans, programmes and activities of Ramsar's partner organizations.
10. The parties to this Memorandum will institute consultations to review its implementation, reporting accordingly to their respective governing bodies and inviting further guidance on possible areas of cooperation.

11. This agreement may be reviewed at the request of either party and will be terminated by either party giving one month's written notice.


Anada Tiéga
Secretary General
Convention on Wetlands


Glenn Prickett
Chief External Affairs Officer
The Nature Conservancy

Date: 7/7/2012

Date: 6/25/2012

Annex

The following list identifies areas of cooperation between Ramsar Convention Secretariat and The Nature Conservancy. The list is not exclusive and can be extended or amended at any time.

1. Demonstrate the role wetlands can play in climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction and mitigation.
2. Collaborate in case studies and analyses that showcase the valuation of ecosystem services provided by wetlands, and how they relate to human well-being.
3. Spearhead projects and draw lessons learned from private sector involvement in the wise use and management of wetlands.
4. Promote ecosystem-based approaches to policy and decision-making processes that affect the wise use of wetlands and their integrity.
5. Promote ways and means to help resolve water supply/security issues through improved inland waters management.
6. Promote integrated water resource management/integrated river basin management, and catalyze, improve, and disseminate best practices on integrated river basin management.
7. Contribute to the data and information needs of the Ramsar Convention that would increase Ramsar's own effectiveness as well as its influence on other conventions and international policy processes such as the Convention on Biological Diversity.
8. Wherever possible, seek and facilitate the Listing as Ramsar Sites under the Convention of under-represented types of wetland as well as of high conservation value freshwater and coastal/ marine wetlands.
9. Facilitate restoration of degraded wetlands Listed under the Convention.

10. Conduct long-term monitoring around clearly-articulated conservation objectives to build a strong case for wetlands and generate the political will to support their conservation/ restoration/ wise use (at significant scales).
11. Provide scientific knowledge on thematic areas of work of the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) including, but not limited to, climate change, wetland restoration, river basin management, and ecosystem valuation.