



World Association of Zoos
and Aquariums | **WAZA**
United for Conservation



Memorandum of Cooperation

between

**The Convention on Wetlands
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**

and the

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)

Preamble

Since its inception in 1971, the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) has provided the single most important intergovernmental forum on wetland conservation issues. According to the Convention's mission statement, the Contracting Parties agree to "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

The Convention is founded on three pillars of:

- promoting wise use of wetlands,
- developing international cooperation, and
- developing a network of Wetland sites of International Importance.

The conservation and wise management of wetlands through the designation of wetlands for the Ramsar List of Wetlands of International Importance, especially the obligation to maintain the ecological character of designated sites, deserves special recognition. This obligation recognizes the importance of wetlands for the maintenance of healthy and productive inland freshwater and coastal systems. In the context of water and wetlands, the Convention on Wetlands thus addresses issues which guide its Contracting Parties on ways to achieve sustainable development.

Within the general obligations set out by the treaty, Contracting Parties, meeting as the Conference of the Parties (COP) identify priorities for action through a Strategic Plan.

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Implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation will be through joint actions within the framework of the Strategic Plan, detailed in the attached annex.

WAZA and wetlands as part of biodiversity conservation

Biodiversity conservation and conservation education are central elements of WAZA's mission. WAZA, the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, promotes the link between ex-situ and in-situ conservation and encourages its members to be engaged in field conservation projects. WAZA is in the unique position to be the only global voice of zoos and aquariums, the latter focusing on freshwater and marine species.

Via the unique possibility to have live animals in human care, to be engaged in conservation breeding programmes worldwide and to support field conservation, WAZA and its members have a focus on environmental education and public awareness work (CEPA).

Zoos and aquariums are occupied with wetland related species as part of their exhibits, education work as well as field conservation projects. The international community of zoos and aquariums recognises not only that water resources are scarce throughout the world, but also that wetlands are important water storages for all life supporting systems.

To achieve conservation WAZA is partnering with international organisations and treaties like IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources), CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity), CMS (Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals).

Therefore, the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and WAZA agree the following:

Article 1. Mechanisms for Programme Cooperation

A - The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and WAZA will develop a collaborative action plan in order to support sustainable wetland and water resource conservation and management

B - The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and WAZA will inform their focal points at national and regional levels of their cooperative activities.

C - The primary contact points (see Article 3, D), or their assigned delegates, shall meet once a year (or communicate in another way as appropriate) to assess the implementation of this Memorandum, exchange documents and review on-going activities.

Article 2. Joint Activities

A - Common areas for joint conservation activities, relate clearly to the Ramsar Strategic Plan, as annexed to this Memorandum of Cooperation and also to the WAZA - World Zoo and Aquarium Conservation Strategy.

B - Support establishment of liaison between WAZA members and Ramsar national focal points (especially CEPA), in order to support, and assist in implementing at all levels, where appropriate, the Convention's Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Programme (Resolution X.8) for promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands through communication, education, participation, and awareness (CEPA), and work towards

wider awareness of the Convention's goals, mechanisms, and key findings.

C- Raise awareness for wetland conservation and wise use by promoting sustainability.

D- Promote World Wetlands Day (2nd February). The Secretariat will disseminate information about World Wetlands Day to WAZA members and provide promotional material upon request.

E- Promote the establishment of partnerships in wetland projects of WAZA members.

Article 3, Implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation

A- No party to this Memorandum will make any commitments or take any positions on behalf of the other party without that organisation's written consent.

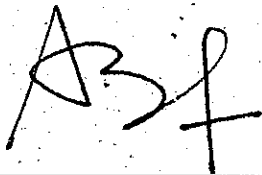
B- Written use of Ramsar's or WAZA's name and logo by the other party must be approved in advance.

C- Nothing in this Memorandum will create or imply a financial obligation of either party to this Memorandum.

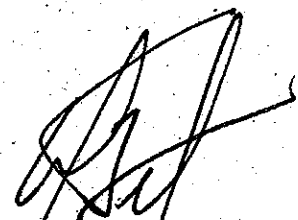
D- The primary contact point for the Ramsar Secretariat on matters covered by this Memorandum is the Secretary General and on behalf of WAZA is the Executive Director.

E- This MoU shall become effective on the date of signature by both Parties and shall remain in effect indefinitely until and unless terminated by either Party. Either Party may terminate this Memorandum by giving the other Party six (6) months' advance written notice of termination.

F- This MoU may be amended only in writing.



Anada Tiega
Secretary General
Ramsar Convention



Gerald Dick
Executive Director
WAZA

Gland, 17 June 2009

Annex

Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2009-2015

WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE? – OUR GOALS

Implementing the Convention

GOAL 1. Wise Use. To work towards achieving the wise use of all wetlands by ensuring that all Contracting Parties develop, adopt and use the necessary and appropriate instruments and measures, with the participation of the local indigenous and non-indigenous population and making use of traditional knowledge, while at the same time ensuring that conservation and wise use of wetlands contribute to poverty eradication, mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, as well as prevention of disease and of natural disasters.
Delivers Articles 3.1, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5 of the Convention.

OUTCOME SOUGHT:

The wise use of all wetlands being achieved in all Parties, including more participative management of wetlands, and conservation decisions being made with an awareness of the importance of the ecosystem services provided by wetlands.

GOAL 2. Wetlands of International Importance. To develop and maintain an international network of wetlands that are important for the conservation of global biological diversity, including waterbird flyways and fish populations and for sustaining human life, by ensuring that all Contracting Parties appropriately implement the *Strategic Framework and guidelines for the future development of the List of Wetlands of International Importance* and by appropriate management and wise

use of those internationally important wetlands that are not yet formally designated as Ramsar sites but have been identified as qualifying through domestic application of the *Strategic Framework* or an equivalent process.

Delivers Articles 2.1, 2.2, 2.5, 2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1 and 4.2 of the Convention.

OUTCOME SOUGHT:

Parties designating and managing Ramsar sites within their territories with a view to supporting an international network of Wetlands of International Importance, fully implementing their reporting commitments under Articles 3 and 8.2, and using the Montreux Record as part of the Convention's governance process, as appropriate.

GOAL 3. International cooperation. To enhance the conservation and wise use of wetlands using effective international cooperation, through *inter alia* the active application of the *Guidelines for international cooperation under the Ramsar Convention*.

Delivers Article 5 of the Convention.

OUTCOME SOUGHT:

Parties developing their coherent national approaches to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in such a way as to benefit from developing effective partnerships with related conventions and international agencies and with other Parties to the Convention on Wetlands.

Managing the Convention

GOAL 4. Institutional capacity and effectiveness. To progress towards fulfillment of the Convention's mission by ensuring that it has the required mechanisms, resources, and capacity to

do so.

Delivers Articles 6, 7, and 8 of the Convention.

OUTCOME SOUGHT:

Increasing success of the Convention in achieving the conservation and wise use of wetlands, as measured by agreed effectiveness indicators, and increased recognition of the Convention's achievements by other sectors of governments and civil society.

GOAL 5. Membership. To progress towards universal membership of the Convention.

Delivers Articles 2, 4 and 9 of the Convention.

OUTCOME SOUGHT:

All countries eligible for accession to have joined the Ramsar Convention by 2015.