



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



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

between

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

and

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

ACKNOWLEDGING that the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, is the leading international organization in the field of tourism serving as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a practical source of tourism knowledge;

NOTING that UNWTO plays a central and decisive role in promoting the development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, paying particular attention to the interests of developing countries;

CONSIDERING that UNWTO recognizes the general objectives and principles of the Ramsar Convention about the conservation and wise use of Wetlands;

RECOGNISING the interdependence between the sustainable tourism and the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands, including coastal areas, freshwater ecosystems and their biodiversity;

RECOGNISING the ecosystem services that wetlands supply to tourism such as water, food, water purification and erosion control services as well as recreation, aesthetic and spiritual services;

CONSIDERING that wetlands and their biodiversity are among the main resources supporting sustainable tourism in the UNWTO Member States, hence have to be conserved for the health and wealth of ecosystems and people for now and for the future;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the sustainable development of tourism can contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, particularly poverty alleviation, gender equity and environmental sustainability;

THEREFORE, THE WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION (UNWTO) AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE RAMSAR CONVENTION (HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE PARTIES) HAVE DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1: Wise use of all Wetlands and Sustainable Tourism

The parties will seek to reinforce the role of wetlands and their biodiversity ecosystems for sustainable tourism development through demonstration of integrated management approaches.

The parties will conduct a brief scoping review of needs, options and opportunities for development of advice on scientific and technical aspects of tourism, sustainable tourism, ecotourism and related recreational activities in relation to wetlands, also taking into account the effects of tourism-related hunting and harvesting in wetlands.

The parties will enhance the institutional development at national level aimed at coordinating all stakeholders concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands and sustainable tourism development.

The parties will support formulation of guidelines for wise use of wetlands through information sharing, inventories, and develop wetland policies based on sound scientific findings for the promotion of sustainable tourism.

The parties will cooperate in efforts to increase awareness and education about wetlands and biodiversity conservation for sustainable tourism, including the production of education and awareness materials.

Article 2: Designation and Management of Wetlands of International Importance.

The parties will share information and expertise concerning the management of Ramsar sites and will promote regional collaboration of managers, experts and researchers who produce data to manage the sites for the purpose of sustainable tourism development. Periodic meetings shall be used as avenues for sharing information on wetlands biodiversity, ecology and hydrology for the cooperative management of shared wetlands and their dependent species and discuss the potential for sustainable tourism development.

The parties will work together on the development of project proposals, within the Sustainable Tourism - Eliminating Poverty (ST-EP) framework, in designated Ramsar sites where the potential exists.

Article 3: Regional and International Cooperation

The parties will cooperate on fundraising efforts for achieving common objectives of managing and restoring vital degraded wetlands to promote sustainable tourism.

The parties will work toward enhancing the functioning of a global coordination mechanism that shall promote cooperation and flow of information between ministries responsible for wetlands and biodiversity management and those responsible for tourism development.

The parties will jointly participate in relevant meetings that would facilitate the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation.

Article 4: Consultation, Reporting and Further Guidance

The Ramsar Secretariat and the UNWTO Secretariat shall institute measures to consult on the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation. They will report accordingly to their respective governing as well as advisory bodies and seek further guidance on new areas of cooperation and action.

Article 5: Exchange of Experience and Information

The Ramsar Secretariat and UNWTO shall regularly exchange information of mutual interest and shall establish links between their respective web sites.

Article 6: Obligation, Resources, Review and Termination

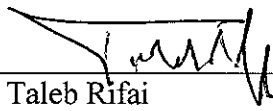
This Memorandum of Cooperation constitutes an expression of a shared objective and vision. However, each party's actions will be considered to be that party's sole and separate action, for all purposes, and neither party shall claim to be acting on behalf of, or as agent for the other party to this Memorandum of Cooperation.

The extent to which the collaborative programme and the joint activities are implemented will be subject to the availability of resources.

This Memorandum of Cooperation shall not be deemed to constitute financial obligation to either of the Parties.

The term for this Memorandum of Cooperation is three years. The agreement may be reviewed at the request of either party and may be terminated by either party by giving six months notice in writing.

Signed on behalf of
World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)



Mr. Taleb Rifai
Secretary-General

Signed on behalf of
The Ramsar Convention Secretariat



Mr. Anada Tiega
Secretary-General

On this 2nd day of February2010.

