Summary of agreements and current negotiations with IUCN regarding the
Provision of Services, Headquarters Facilities and Delegation of Authority

Currently there are 3 key Agreements:

2005 Services Agreement
1991 Memorandum of Understanding on Headquarters Facilities
1993 Delegation of Authority and its supplementary note

New Letter of Agreement on the provision of Services and Headquarter Facilities
April 2009 – Ramsar (Chair of SC) and IUCN (DG) plan to sign a new framework Letter of
Agreement which consolidates the first of these two agreements. The 2005 Services
Agreement has been terminated. No fundamental changes to the Services most
recently received in the following areas are intended.

- Accounting and Finance
- HR
- Facilities Management
- IT

The main changes are to incorporate explicit changes required by IUCN’s Internal Control
Systems (ICS), required by recent legislative changes in Switzerland, to make the charging for
services more specific and transparent and to embed the COP and SC decisions re 13% cap
on Core budget being spent on Services from IUCN. Also to remove from the agreement
services which we have not in recent years required or received, and for which we do not
want to be charged for.

We have no detailed information from IUCN as to how the current construction of a new
building will impact upon Ramsar, other than verbal assurances that we will not practically or
financially suffer any significant consequence. SG-Ramsar to continue dialogue as IUCN
plans are being finessed. The high level framework of the 1991 Memorandum of
Understanding on Headquarters Facilities has been successfully incorporated into the 2009
Letter of Agreement on the Provision of Services.

Delegation of Authority
Following various COP decisions to have Ramsar hosted by IUCN and establish the
Standing Committee to supervise the activities of the convention, SC and IUCN concluded
the 1993 Delegation of Authority which delegates various authorities to the DG-IUCN and
the SG-Ramsar. Ramsar position, as advised by our legal advisor in his October 08 report, is
that the existing delegation of authority is satisfactory - “clear evidence exists of the
complete and unequivocal transfer of authority to the SC on all financial, budgetary and
financial matters”. and that this vests “sufficient legal personality in the Secretariat.”
Together with the decisions of COP, Ramsar has “sufficient international legal personality”.
However, IUCN have some residual concerns about the delegation of authority in relation to
its special legal relationship and responsibilities with Switzerland and would in due course
like to modify the delegation of authority. We have indicated that we will work with them
when they are ready to do so, but obviously considering the deliberations of the Working
Group on Administrative Reform.