



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

From the Secretary General

To the participants in the Mediterranean Workshop on
an integrated approach to the natural and cultural values of wetlands
c/o Mr Thymio Papayannis
Senior Advisor on Mediterranean Wetlands
to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Gland, 22 September 2009

Dear participants

As you know, the Ramsar Convention has adopted an active attitude to the incorporation of cultural values in the management of wetlands, encouraging thus stronger links between human beings and wetlands. This is expressed through two Resolutions of the Conference of the Parties, the work of the Ramsar Culture Working Group and the 'Ramsar guidance document on Culture and Wetlands'.

We believe that the process of incorporation of cultural values is best served by endogenous initiatives and the promotion of examples of best practice. That is why we consider as highly important the Mediterranean Workshop to be held in Prespa on 23-27 September 2009, with the theme 'Towards an integrated approach to the natural and cultural values of wetlands', organised by Med-INA in collaboration with MedWet and the Society for the Protection of Prespa, and with the financial support of the MAVA Foundation.

We are convinced that your contributions during the workshop will help in a better understanding of the intimate relations between people and wetlands and in promoting a joint approach to their natural and cultural heritage, for the benefit of both and we look forward to learning the conclusions of the Workshop.

We are also pleased that the Prespa Workshop will give the opportunity of discussions among you of a closer collaboration in the Mediterranean on culture and wetlands in the framework of the MedWet Culture Network, in which we encourage all of you to participate actively, thus providing a strong incentive for other regions of the world.

With warm regards

Anada Tiéga