

**Memorandum of Understanding on the “Wetlands for the  
Future” Initiative  
Between the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of  
International Importance and the Government of the United  
States of America**

1. RECOGNIZING that the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (hereinafter Ramsar Convention) is the only global conservation treaty dedicated to the sustainable and wise use of wetlands resources;
2. NOTING that this goal is fully compatible with the conservation objectives of the Government of the United States of America, which is party to the Ramsar Convention;
3. CONSIDERING that the Ramsar Convention has already successfully implemented a Western Hemisphere capacity-building initiative entitled “Wetlands for the Future” with funding provided by contributions from the United States of America over the past fourteen years;
4. RECALLING the “Memorandum of Understanding on Ramsar Convention Capacity Building in the Western Hemisphere Between the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance and the Government of the United States of America,” signed November 1994; and
5. REAFFIRMING that the Government of the United States of America considers the activities of the *Wetlands for the Future* initiative beneficial to the future of wetlands in the Western Hemisphere and consonant with the international environmental goals of the Government of the United States of America.
6. The Government of the United States of America and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat declare their intent as follows:
7. The purpose of this Understanding is to continue the partnership between the Government of the United States of America and the Ramsar Secretariat established pursuant to the 1994 Memorandum of Understanding for managing the *Wetlands for the Future* initiative.
8. This initiative is to focus on the Caribbean and Latin American regions. Funds provided by the United States Government are to be disbursed by the Ramsar Secretariat for meritorious proposals that are intended to: 1) develop human resources needed for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands; 2) train wetlands managers in the professional and technical skills needed to pursue the goals of the Ramsar Convention; 3) establish regional technical information networks to support conservation and sustainable management of wetlands; 4) develop local, national, or regional awareness of and support for conservation of wetlands; 5) advance ecologically sound community management; or 6) link this initiative to other programs that share the overall goals of wetlands conservation and sustainable management, including addressing climate change.
9. Subject to availability of funds, the United States Government may make available to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat additional contributions earmarked for *Wetlands for the Future* to continue this initiative. Any earmarked funds are intended exclusively to finance this initiative consistent with already established practice over the last fourteen years.

