

## ACUERDOS BILATERALES

Clasificación: 09-2010

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Nombre del Acuerdo: Memorandum of Cooperation between The Secretariat of The Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR, Irán, 1971) and The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States through its Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the GS/OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development

Materia:

Partes: GS/OAS & The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR, Iran)

Referencia: The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR, Iran)

Fecha de Firma: 17 de febrero de 2010

Fecha de Inicio:

Fecha de Terminación:

Lugar de Firma:

Unidad Encargada: Department of Sustainable Development (DSD)

Persona Encargada: Cletus I. Springer

Original:

Claves:

Cierre del proceso:

Notas adicionales:



Organization of  
American States

**Memorandum of Cooperation  
Between  
The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR, Irán, 1971) and  
The General secretariat of the Organization of American States**

This Memorandum of Cooperation is entered into by and between the Secretariat of the **Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR, Irán, 1971)** (hereinafter "RAMSAR") and the **General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS)**, through its **Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the GS/OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development**,

**Preamble**

Whereas:

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:

1. Promoting wise use of wetlands,
2. Developing international cooperation, and
3. 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;

In the strategic plan of the Convention 2009-2015 it is clearly stated the importance of 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* under which, work as partners with international and regional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and other intergovernmental agencies (IGOs) is part of the relevant strategies;

The Americas hemisphere encompassing 35 nations addresses issues from several mandates, endorsements and resolutions by the countries in the Western Hemisphere, including the 1940 Western Hemisphere Convention;

Initiative 31 of the Plan of Action of the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in December 1996, called on the governments of the Hemisphere to take actions for the *“Conservation and utilization, in a sustainable manner, of inland, coastal, and marine water resources, including wetlands, in the region”* ; and that Initiative 50 of said plan called for the promotion of hemispheric cooperation at all levels, including through the use of existing transboundary agreements and initiatives, in the conservation, management, and sustainable use of water resources and biological diversity and the exchange of information and experiences on issues related to inland watersheds, river basins, and sub-basins.

The Convention on Wetlands and the GS/OAS share similar conservation and management goals and the positive cooperation between the two institutions to date has been expressed through mutual recognition.

Recognizing that the GS/OAS is the central and permanent organ of the OAS and has the power to establish and foster ties of cooperation, under Article 112 (h) of the OAS Charter and General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 57 (I-O/71).

Therefore the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and the GS/OAS through its DSD, recognizing the need to cooperate in areas of mutual interest and in order to promote coordination and collaboration towards the goal of pursuing their respective mandates, agree to the following principles and mechanisms of cooperation.

#### Article 1 Objective

The objective of this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter “MOU”) is to establish a framework for collaboration between the GS/OAS through its DSD and RAMSAR to further common goals.

#### Article 2 Joint activities

Joint activities undertaken within the parameters of this Memorandum include sharing data, knowledge and information relevant to biodiversity conservation of wetlands and sustainable management within the Americas and development and execution of joint projects related to RAMSAR Strategic Plan and the DSD mandates, such as the proposed UNEP implemented, DSD executed, GEF funded project, titled “Valuation of Ecosystem Services,” which is part of the RAMSAR Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands referred to in Annex I.

Upon identification of specific projects or programs such as the one included in Annex I to be executed jointly, the Parties shall give consideration to developing special cooperation relations for this purpose through supplementary agreements, memoranda of understanding or an exchange of letters containing the applicable conditions for each program, project and/or activity.

#### Article 3 Responsibilities of GS/OAS through its DSD:

The DSD shall:

1. Collaborate with RAMSAR to enable the sharing of valuation of ecosystems services data through open-access standards between Pan American sources and RAMSAR, and vice-versa;
2. Collaborate with RAMSAR to promote adoption of RAMSAR guidelines relevant to wetlands biodiversity conservation within the Americas;
3. Collaborate, as appropriate, with RAMSAR in the implementation of programs pertaining to the promotion and use of biodiversity information and management tools and capacity building to develop Valuation of Ecological Services (VES) programs (RAMSAR regional initiatives e.g. Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands, Annex I and others as appropriate);
4. Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by RAMSAR to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues and other concerns of mutual interest to OAS-DSD and RAMSAR;
5. Promote relevant cooperative research, training activities, technical exchange of specialists and other opportunities for professional interaction among participants concerned with wetlands biodiversity information exchange;
6. Share with RAMSAR, within the limits of available resources, expertise pertaining to best practices and lesson learned in valuation of ecosystems services methodologies;
7. Promote awareness of RAMSAR by making information about RAMSAR activities, technical guidelines, and information resources available, as appropriate, through the GS/OAS political bodies, networks such as the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and its Council as well as other mechanisms;
8. Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of a RAMSAR designate in the management of joint activities developed under this Memorandum of Cooperation.

#### Article 4

#### Responsibilities of RAMSAR

RAMSAR shall:

1. Collaborate with the DSD to promote the adoption of interoperability standards for the exchange of data and technical information relevant to biodiversity conservation within the Americas;
2. Collaborate, as appropriate, with the DSD and IABIN Council in the implementation of activities pertaining to the promotion and use of wetlands, in particular the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands, Mangrove Initiative, and in capacity building to develop Valuation of Ecological Services (VES) programs;
3. Collaborate with the DSD in the promotion of the integration of biodiversity and geospatial data in the development of value-added decision making tools within the Americas;

4. Participate, as appropriate, in workshops, working groups, and other activities organized by the DSD to address capacity-building, technical approaches, policy issues and other concerns of mutual interest to the DSD and RAMSAR;
5. Facilitate the effective participation of DSD in RAMSAR activities by inviting the DSD to participate in RAMSAR meetings as appropriate;
6. Facilitate, as appropriate, the effective participation of a DSD designate in the management of joint activities developed under this Memorandum of Cooperation.

#### Article 5

##### Coordination and Notice

1. Within the DSD, the dependency responsible for coordinating DSD activities under this MOU is the Biodiversity and Sustainable Land Management Section and the Coordinator is Mr. Richard Huber, Section Chief.
2. The dependency responsible within RAMSAR for coordinating the activities under this Agreement is Ms. Maria Rivera, Senior Advisor for the Americas RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands (RAMSAR, Iran, 1971) RAMSAR Secretariat.
3. Either Party may change the responsible dependency, the designated Coordinator, the address, telephone, fax or electronic mail indicated by notifying the other Party in writing.

#### Article 6

##### Privileges and Immunities

1. Nothing in this Agreement constitutes an express or implied waiver of the privileges and immunities of the Parties, their personnel, and their assets, by virtue of their respective charters, relevant agreements, applicable national law, or the general principles and practices of international law.

#### Article 7

##### Settlement of Disputes

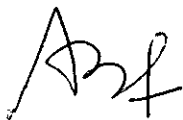
1. Any dispute between RAMSAR and GS/OAS arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum shall be settled by negotiation. If the Parties to this MOU are unable to reach agreement, the dispute shall be settled through arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Rules of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) as at present in force.

#### Article 8

##### General Provisions

1. 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.
2. Nothing in this Memorandum shall constitute a legal or financial obligation of either Party.

3. This Memorandum may be reviewed at the request of either Party. Any amendment to this Memorandum will be effected only on the basis of written consent of RAMSAR and GS/OAS by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties. The instruments in which the modifications are set out shall be attached as annexes to this Agreement and shall form part of it.
4. This Memorandum of Cooperation shall enter into force upon signature of both Parties. The term for this Memorandum of Cooperation is six (6) years.
5. This Agreement may be terminated by mutual consent or by either of the Parties by written six (6) months notice.
6. Notwithstanding the termination of this Agreement, any supplementary agreements, memoranda of understanding and letters referred to in Article 2 that the Parties have signed and that have been duly financed shall be continued to completion unless the Parties mutually decide otherwise.
7. Articles 6 and 7 shall survive the expiry or the termination of this Agreement.
8. Annex I titled "Nota Conceptual sobre Proyecto de Valoración de Servicios Ambientales en el marco de la Estrategia Regional de Conservación y Uso Sostenible de Humedales Altoandinos" is incorporated by reference to this MOU and is integral to this MOU.



Anada Tiega  
Secretary General  
Convention on Wetlands  
(RAMSAR, Iran, 1971)

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Cletus Springer  
Director  
DSD  
Secretariat for Integral  
Development

17-02-10

## **Anexo 1. Nota Conceptual sobre Proyecto de Valoración de Servicios Ambientales en el marco de la Estrategia Regional de Conservación y Uso Sostenible de Humedales Altoandinos**

### **Antecedentes**

En el VI Taller de la Estrategia Regional de Conservación y Uso Sostenible de Humedales Altoandinos realizado en La Paz, Bolivia del 21-24 de Septiembre los países miembros de la Convención RAMSAR y partes de la Estrategia discutieron la posibilidad de avanzar en la formulación de un proyecto sobre valoración de servicios ambientales.

En el anterior sentido se acordó que se enviaría por parte de la OEA y la Secretaría de RAMSAR un corto resumen sobre la importancia de implementar un proyecto en el tema de valoración de servicios ambientales y estudiar los potenciales mecanismos de soporte con instrumentos económicos y el enfoque que tendría, a fin que los representantes de los países parte de la Estrategia, puedan realizar las consultas internas en cada uno de sus países sobre la viabilidad de trabajar en este tema.

### **Perfil del proyecto**

El proyecto de Valoración de Servicios Ambientales se enmarca dentro del marco de la implementación de la Estrategia Regional para la Conservación y Uso de Humedales Altoandinos a ser entregado al GEF 5 en Marzo de 2010.

En el objetivo 2. **Completar y mejorar el conocimiento científico y técnico de los humedales Altoandinos y otros ecosistemas funcionalmente asociados para apoyar su conservación y uso sostenible** de la Estrategia Regional para la Conservación y Uso Racional de Humedales Altoandinos, se contemplan entre las actividades a desarrollar: el diagnóstico, evaluación y valoración de las características biofísicas y sociales de los humedales Altoandinos (2.1).

Igualmente, en el objetivo 3. **Promover la conservación, manejo y uso sostenible de los recursos naturales y culturales de los humedales Altoandinos, los bienes y servicios asociados a estos**, se incluye el desarrollo de acciones para la promoción de ejercicios de valoración económica de los servicios ambientales de los humedales (3.3.4).

Bajo este marco, este proyecto trabajará con la aplicación de la ciencia en la toma de decisiones económicas a través del reconocimiento del valor intrínseco de los ecosistemas y los servicios que prestan entre los que se encuentran la regulación del clima, el secuestro de carbono a escala global, la formación del suelo, la producción de agua, componentes de la biodiversidad y el ciclo de nutrientes e hidrológico a escala local y regional

El proyecto incorporará la participación comunitaria en el diseño de las estrategias de conservación y en el desarrollo de la región. Se vinculará la literatura más actualizada sobre valoración y se utilizarán herramientas SIG, que servirá para la creación de modelos y mediciones de los ecosistemas de su salud y su sostenibilidad, y el vínculo con las dinámicas de desarrollo económico de la región en determinados sitios de humedales Alto-Andinos en los países participantes.

Un componente del proyecto incluirá el desarrollo de estrategias de financiamiento sostenibles para los servicios ambientales de los humedales mediante el uso de instrumentos de política, legales y económicos donde se podrán explorar opciones como: los acuerdos de reciprocidad por servicios ambientales, mercados de carbono, y esquemas de intercambio de nutrientes y compensaciones *–offset–* por degradación de humedales entre otros.

El proyecto a formular tendría una duración de cuatro años, sería presentado en marzo del 2010 y contemplaría entre otros los siguientes componentes:

1. Valoración económica y ecológica de los ecosistemas para los medios de vida locales, y para poblaciones a nivel nacional e internacional
2. Análisis de las políticas e incentivos que afectan la provisión de Servicios Ambientales en los humedales.
3. Identificación y análisis de actores involucrados incluyendo agentes proveedores de servicios ambientales y beneficiarios, y de organizaciones de soporte
4. Identificar y diagnosticar los elementos del paisaje de humedales Alto Andinos que realcen la provisión de servicios ambientales considerando los beneficiarios y los elementos identificados en la valoración.
5. Establecer y ejecutar propuestas económicas y de financiamiento basadas en la provisión de servicios ambientales como estrategia de sostenibilidad financiera para la conservación
6. Investigar y adoptar prácticas sostenibles agrícolas, ganaderas y de otros sectores, que puedan ayudar con el propósito de conservar los SA mejorando a su vez los medios de vida de poblaciones locales
7. Proveer soporte técnico en la implementación de mejores prácticas productivas de conservación de los Servicios Ambientales, y en el diseño de herramientas de conservación
8. Sistematización de la experiencia, recomendaciones de política, legales y del uso de instrumentos económicos en paisajes de humedales, y mejores prácticas y lecciones aprendidas.





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Organization of American States

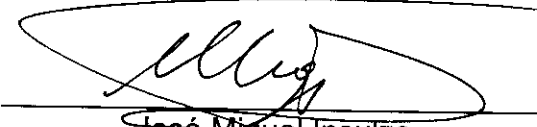
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## DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

Memorandum of Cooperation  
Between  
The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Irán, 1971) and  
The General secretariat of the Organization of American States

I, José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General of the Organization of American States ("OAS"), hereby authorize Mr. Cletus I. Springer, Director of the Department of Sustainable Development, to sign the above-referenced Agreement on behalf of the General Secretariat of the OAS.

This delegation of authority expires on the 18 day of February 2010.



Handwritten signature of José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, enclosed in a large oval. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

José Miguel Insulza  
Secretary General

Place: Washington, DC.

Date: