



Organization of  
American States

**Press Release February 17, 2010**  
**Secretary General of RAMSAR signs Memorandum of Cooperation with**  
**GS/OAS Today.**

The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands better known as (RAMSAR) and the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS/OAS) today entered into a Memorandum of Understanding committing the two organizations to pursue joint activities that would advance their mutual interests.

At the signing event which was held in the OAS's F Street Building, the signatories to the MOC, Anada Tiega, Secretary General of the Convention and Cletus Springer, Director of the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) acting on behalf of the Secretary-General Jose Miguel Insulza observed that the MOC made sense because their respective institutions share similar conservation and management goals and have enjoyed positive cooperation in the past at an informal level.

Joint activities to be undertaken under the MOC include: sharing data, knowledge and information relevant to biodiversity conservation of wetlands and sustainable management within the Americas; and the 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.

The two Parties have agreed to make the MOC a "living agreement". To this end it will be converted into a 6 year Action Plan with clear milestones.

The RAMSAR Convention has as its objective *"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 Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the GS/OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development is mandated by OAS Member States 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 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.*