



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION
Between
The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands
and
The Japan International Cooperation Agency

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On the memorable occasion of the 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretariat”) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereinafter referred to as “JICA”) hereby establish a framework for institutional cooperation between the Secretariat and JICA as a means to facilitate exchanging technical expertise and information for capacity development related to the wetlands / biodiversity conservation projects. The Secretariat and JICA (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “participants” or individually as a “participant”) seek to formalize a joint decision for a productive collaboration as follows.

1. Background

The Convention on Wetlands focuses on three pillars of (1) promoting wise use of wetlands, (2) developing international cooperation, and (3) developing a network of Wetland Sites of International Importance.

The vision of the 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2021 is to “Prevent, stop and reverse the degradation and loss of wetlands and use them wisely”. It calls for actions to be undertaken to enhance cooperation, bringing together site and other managers, key private and public stakeholders, to promote mainstreaming of wetland values (supporting, provisioning, regulating and cultural) within water and biodiversity management and public and private investments.

In order to realize its Vision of “Inclusive and Dynamic Development”, JICA devotes itself to its four Missions: (1) addressing the global agenda, including climate change, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources; (2) reducing poverty through equitable growth; (3) improving governance; and (4) achieving human security.

One of JICA’s strategies for practical implementation of the international cooperation is “Promoting Development Partnerships”, which reaffirms JICA’s

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interest in strengthening partnerships with international organizations and other donor institutions, leading to the creation of a broad framework for development assistance in the global community.

A framework for institutional collaboration between the Secretariat and JICA will enhance assistance to governments and other targeted beneficiaries for the wise use of wetland resources and ecosystem conservation.

2. Purpose of the Cooperation

The purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation is to establish a framework for institutional cooperation between the Secretariat and JICA as a means to facilitate exchanging technical expertise and information for capacity development related to the wetlands / biodiversity conservation projects assisted by both participants.

3. Scope of the Cooperation

Each participant will seek to identify opportunities to conduct joint activities, including such activities in the following areas as priority:

(1) Information sharing

For the smooth development and implementation of projects, and effective conservation and wise use of wetlands, the participants will periodically exchange technical information. In particular, JICA will share information from wetland related projects, including information on their progress, achievements and evaluation reports. The Secretariat will share related information including regional and national data on wetlands and wetlands of international importance, relevant reports and other documents produced by the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (hereinafter referred to as the "STRP") and Contracting Participant focal points of the Convention.

Both participants will inform related bodies, partners and members about this collaboration and cooperation. The participants are cognizant that

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shared documents are the intellectual property of each respective participant and confirm that materials exchanged will not be used for purposes beyond the sharing of information in accordance with this Memorandum of Cooperation, except with prior written consent of the participants concerned. The participants will take special care in handling the shared information and will not disclose confidential information, if any, without prior written consent of the other participant.

(2) Effective cooperation through the provision of international and national experts on the management of Ramsar sites and other wetland areas

Both participants recognize the importance of galvanizing each other's professional expertise so as to enhance the management of Ramsar Sites, ensure the sustainability of site management and to identify new potential sites. It will be mutually beneficial to invite a pool of experts to provide appropriate support, as resources permit, such as Secretariat experts and members of STRP, including scientific, technical, policy and legal experts, for JICA's projects (e.g. meetings and on the ground activities, etc.) and to invite JICA experts to support or participate in the Secretariat activities.

(3) Seminars / symposiums / side events and other activities

The participants will organize joint seminars and/or symposia, particularly through projects on the conservation and wise use of wetlands worldwide. For the benefit of stakeholders at a wider scale, joint side events will be organized for knowledge sharing and information dissemination at relevant international meetings, including the Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands and other multilateral environmental agreements and other regional or sub-regional meetings.

(4) Capacity development

The participants recognize the importance of capacity development for wetland managers, decision makers and other relevant stakeholders particularly in developing countries, and to this end, JICA may request

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support from the STRP and from other experts, including scientific, technical, policy and legal experts, through the Secretariat.

(5) Knowledge formalization

For better knowledge management, the participants will analyze good practices and draw lessons learnt jointly from wetland conservation and wise use projects and other activities such as Ramsar Advisory Missions and Ramsar Regional Initiatives.

(6) Personnel exchange

The participants will consider the possibility of organizing personnel exchange to further mutual understanding of their respective work as well as to strengthen their collaboration.

4. Visibility

The participants recognize that the cooperative arrangements and joint activities will be result-oriented and visible to the public. As such, the participants will duly acknowledge each other's roles and contributions in all public information and documentation relating to their cooperation. The participants may use each other's organization name and logo in accordance with their current policies and subject to prior written consent.

5. Focal Points

For the purpose of this Memorandum of Cooperation, the focal points between the Secretariat and JICA will be the Secretary General of the Secretariat and the Director General of Global Environment Department, JICA. Both participants may designate other focal points to facilitate regular communication and cooperation and notify the other participant in writing if such focal points are designated.

6. Review

The participants to this Memorandum of Cooperation confirm to meet in person or via teleconference or video conference, at least one time per year, to review its



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implementation, to share information and work implemented that is mutually beneficial and helps to promote the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands.

7. Commencement and duration

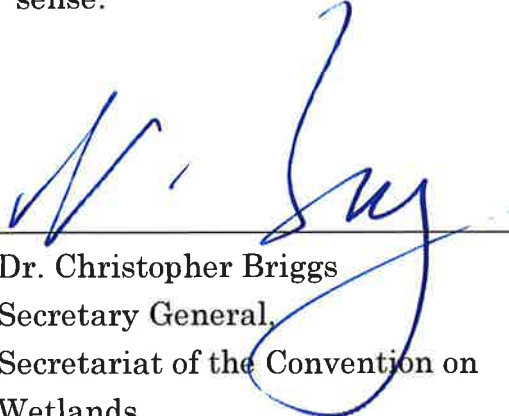
The duration of this Memorandum of Cooperation is from 3 June 2015 to 31 December 2020. Thereafter, the Memorandum of Cooperation shall remain in force for further periods of five (5) years each unless terminated by written notice of termination to be sent to the other participant at least sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the initial period or any extended period.

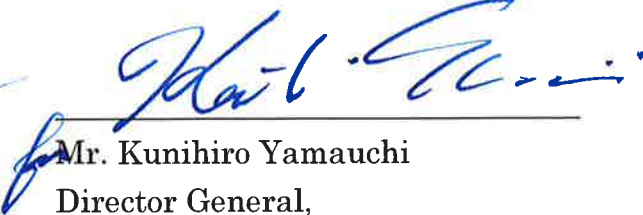
8. Disclaimer

This Memorandum of Cooperation constitutes an expression of shared decision towards the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. However, each participant's actions will be considered to be that participant's sole and separate action, and neither participant will claim to be acting on behalf of, or as an agent for the other participant to this Memorandum.

JICA, as an incorporated administrative agency of Japan, does not constitute a part of the Government of Japan (hereinafter referred to as the "GOJ") and does not legally represent the GOJ. Any intention, statement or proposal of JICA contained herein or made related hereto should not be construed as the same of the GOJ nor will create any liabilities, duties or obligations of the GOJ in any sense.

Uruguay, 3 June 2015


Dr. Christopher Briggs
Secretary General,
Secretariat of the Convention on
Wetlands


Mr. Kunihiro Yamauchi
Director General,
Global Environment Department,
Japan International Cooperation Agency