



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



**Memorandum of Understanding Between
The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Irán, 1971) and the
Secretariat Pro Tempore of the Inter-American Convention for the
Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles**

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by and between the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Irán, 1971) (hereinafter "Ramsar") and the *Secretariat pro tempore* of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (hereinafter IAC), jointly called "the Parties";

ACKNOWLEDGING, that the objective of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) is to promote the protection, conservation and recovery of sea turtle populations and the habitats on which they depend, based on the best available scientific evidence, taking into account the environmental, socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the IAC Parties;

UNDERSTANDING that, based on the best available scientific data, species of sea turtles in the Americas are threatened or endangered and that some of these species could face an imminent risk of extinction;

AWARE that feeding, and nesting habitats of some sea turtles species coincide with areas that are designated as Ramsar Sites or are associated with places that could be designated as Ramsar Sites, where they can be subjected to anthropogenic impacts, pollution, fishing activities, that could cause an impact in habitat conservation or negatively affect sea turtles from performing their unique role in marine ecosystems;

RECALLING that Article XII of the IAC text states that the IAC Parties shall promote bilateral and multilateral cooperative activities to further the objective of this Convention and, when they deem it appropriate, shall seek the support of relevant international organizations;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the mission of the Ramsar Convention includes international co-operation as a contribution to achieving sustainable development throughout the world;

WHEREAS, the Ramsar Convention maintains the List of Wetlands of International Importance that includes a number of sites which are located in the Americas and are of great importance for endangered sea turtles species nesting and foraging areas; and

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that all IAC Contracting Parties are also Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention;

Considering the desire of both Parties to formalize their relationship for working together to conserve and wisely use wetlands containing habitats vital for sea turtles and to maintain the biodiversity and the health of wetlands, agree to strengthen their co-operation in the spirit of an efficient and effective partnership, and have reached the following understanding:

I. Objective

The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter "Memorandum") is to join efforts in the framework of the Ramsar Convention and the IAC to build capacities of the Parties to both Conventions in order to identify and strengthen conservation and wise use of Ramsar Sites.

II. Areas of Cooperation

The activities to be undertaken under this Memorandum will be set out in a joint work plan elaborated by both Secretariats. The work plan is to be reviewed annually to assess progresses and make adjustments as needed and may, amongst others, include:

(a) Regularly exchange of information on relevant activities and actions of the IAC and the Ramsar Conventions set out in the joint work plan and are of mutual interest and benefit as well as exchange of information, databases, and other materials to enable early detection of threats to sea turtles in Ramsar sites and to facilitate the necessary studies and analyses to identify measures for the mitigation of such threats, issues and needs;

b) Exchange of information and co-operation to support the designation of Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention those sites which meet the criteria for listing and that are important to the nesting, or foraging habitat for sea turtles species under the IAC Convention.

c) Inform Parties about sites shared by more than one Party - transboundary sites and habitats –as they may be critical for the protection of watersheds and catchments and/or home ranges of indigenous sea turtles;

(d) Co-ordination and collaboration in the development of joint programs and projects in effort to strengthen the conservation of selected sites recognized by both Conventions, and work together to mobilize resources for implementing such programs and projects;

(e) Informing, and inviting each other's participation to scheduled meetings, studies, field visits to sites, design, organization and carrying out of training programmes, public awareness, education and information dissemination activities, and other activities to promote the Contracting Parties awareness of the relationships between the application of the two Conventions.

The results of the joint collaborative activities carried out within the framework of this Memorandum may be published or used with the consent of the Parties.

III. Duration, amendments and termination

This Memorandum covers an initial period of 5 years, beginning with the date of signature.

The Memorandum may be reviewed at the request of either signatory. Any amendment must be agreed in writing by both parties.

The Memorandum may be terminated, unilaterally, by Ramsar Convention or IAC upon giving advance notice of 90 days (3 months).

IV. Legal Status

Nothing in this Memorandum shall constitute a legal or financial obligation of either party. Any financial or legal commitments that arise from measures taken to implement this Memorandum will be made on a case-by-case basis and agreed to by both parties.


V. Settlement of Disputes

Both parties express their willingness to resolve, by mutual agreement and negotiation any disputes that may be generated in the interpretation and/or application of this MOU.

VI. Effective Date

This Memorandum is to take effect upon the date of the signatures of the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention and the Pro Tempore Secretary of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles.

In witness the parties sign, in duplicate copies in Spanish and English of equal content and value, in the city of Bucharest, Romania on the 8th July 2012.



Verónica Cáceres Chamorro
Secretary *Pro Tempore* of the
Inter-American Convention for
The Protection and Conservation



Anada Tiega
Secretary General
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

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