



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



**Memorandum of Cooperation
Between
The Ramsar Convention Secretariat
And the
Pacific Regional Environmental Programme
(SPREP)**

Preamble

Since its inception in 1971, the Convention on Wetlands has provided the most important intergovernmental forum on wetland conservation issues.

According to the Convention's mission statement, the Contracting Parties commit to "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

The Convention is founded on three pillars: promoting wise use of wetlands, developing a network of Wetland sites of International Importance and developing international cooperation.

The Pacific Regional Environment Programme (known hereinafter as 'SPREP'), is an intergovernmental organisation having the mandate to promote cooperation in the Pacific region and to provide assistance in order to protect and improve its environment and to ensure sustainable development for present and future generations.

SPREP has the roles of secretariat for the Convention for the Protection of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region and related protocols 1986 (the SPREP Convention) and secretariat for the Convention on Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific 1976 (The Apia Convention).

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme share similar conservation and management goals and positive cooperation between the two institutions to date has been expressed through mutual recognition by our respective governing bodies.

SPREP and the Ramsar Convention have actively collaborated since their first Memorandum of Cooperation and associated Joint Work Plans, particularly in the areas of promoting the wise use of

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Article 1
Policy Compatibility

- 1) The Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP will cooperate to the extent practicable in the preparation of mutually relevant documents for each other's major meetings, such as the Ramsar Conference of the Parties or the Meeting of the SPREP Governing Council and their subsidiary bodies.
- 2) The Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP will liaise on key issues to promote the compatibility of their respective policy decisions, particularly in relation to other MEAs, IGOs and NGOs.
- 3) The Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP will coordinate on matters relevant to their administrative and programmatic relationships with relevant agencies of the United Nations.

Article 2
Institutional Cooperation

- 1) The Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP will maintain a collaborative programme for sustainable wetland and water resource conservation and management by continuing to increase current consultation and cooperation between their organisations.
- 2) The Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP will inform their National Focal Points at the regional and national levels of their cooperative activities.
- 3) In cases where the Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP have different National Focal Points, they will seek to promote consultation and cooperation between these focal points.
- 4) For general matters, the focal points for the Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP are respectively the Secretary General and the Director General, or their assigned delegates.

Article 3
Joint Activities

- 1) Common areas for joint conservation activities shall contribute to achievement of the *Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009 – 2015*, the *SPREP Strategic Plan 2011 – 2015*, *The Regional Wetlands Action Plan for the Pacific Islands 2011-2013* and Ramsar Resolution VIII.42 on 'Small Island Developing States in the Oceania Region' approved at COP8 (2002) of the Ramsar Convention.
- 2) The Ramsar Secretariat will communicate agreement on common areas within their respective networks, and SPREP will endeavour to mobilise the expertise available on wetlands and water resources within its organisation in support of these activities.
- 3) The Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP will provide each other with details of their annual work programmes to ensure harmonisation of activities at global, regional and country levels.
- 4) SPREP will promote accession to the Ramsar Convention and seek to promote implementation of the Convention among its member countries.



5) The Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP will endeavour to coordinate their activities in research, training and public awareness.

6) The extent to which the collaborative programme and the joint conservation activities are implemented will be subject to the availability of resources.

Article 4
Consultation, Reporting and Further Guidance

1) The Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP shall institute measures to consult on the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation. They will report accordingly to their respective governing as well as advisory bodies and seek further guidance on new areas of cooperation and action.

Article 5
Exchange of Experience and Information

1) The Ramsar Secretariat and SPREP will regularly exchange information of mutual interest.

2) The Secretariats shall maintain links between their respective Internet sites.

Article 6
Obligation, Review and Termination

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, neither party shall claim to be acting on behalf of, or as agent for the other party.

2) The term for this Memorandum of Cooperation will extend until 31 December 2015. The agreement may be reviewed at the request of either party (usually annually) and may be terminated by either party by giving six months notice in writing.



Anada Tiega
Secretary General
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, 1971)



David Sheppard
Director General
Pacific Regional Environment Programme

19-11-2012

Date

28-11-2012

Date