

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**  
**between**  
**The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands**  
**and**  
**The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity**

**Preamble**

The Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (hereinafter referred to as "the Ramsar Convention Secretariat") and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (hereinafter referred to as "the ACB");

The Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the ACB shall be hereinafter collectively referred to as "Parties" and singularly as "Party";

**Recalling** that the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971) mission statement provides that 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";

**Recalling** also that the Convention on Wetlands is founded 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;

**Taking note** of Resolution X.1 of The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 stating that "to achieve wetland conservation and wise use, a broader and multisectoral approach to wetland conservation and sustainable development is needed, especially in relation inter alia to poverty eradication and food and water security, integrated approaches to water management, climate change and its prejudiced impacts, increasing globalization of trade and reducing of trade barriers, the increasing role of the private sector, and the increasing influence of development banks and international development agencies";

**Further noting** from the Resolution X.1 that the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) approved the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 as the basis for the future implementation of the Convention on Wetlands;



**Also noting** that the COP invites other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), non-government organizations, scientific academies and research institutions, professional scientific and technical bodies, the donor community, and the private sector to contribute to the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2009-2015;

**Recalling** that the ACB is an intergovernmental regional centre of excellence established through an agreement among the Governments of the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 2005 for the purpose of facilitating cooperation and coordination among the members of ASEAN, and with relevant national governments, regional and international organizations, on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of such biodiversity in the ASEAN region;

**Recognizing** that the ACB will further enhance the collaboration among the ASEAN Member States (AMS), specifically on policy development and coordination, human and institutional capacity development, digital knowledge management and public leadership awareness raising while assisting AMS to fulfill their obligations to relevant treaties on environmental conservation including the Convention on Wetlands;

**Taking note** that the ACB Organizational Strategic Framework was a decision of the ACB Governing Board, **recognizing** the need to develop a strategic plan with medium and long-term perspectives;

**Recognizing further** the vision and mission of the ACB as emphasized in the Strategic Framework as having a "focused direction of providing full service to the needs of AMS in support of meeting their commitment to the global development agreements as embodied in the Millennium Development Goals and the various MEAs";

**Also emphasizing** that biodiversity is protected, conserved, managed and sustainably used, and its benefits are fairly and equitably shared for the social, economic and environmental well-being of AMS, and that ACB champions biodiversity conservation in the region, enhancing its global standing as a centre of excellence for biodiversity conservation;

Respectfully



**Considering** that the Parties mutually recognize the need to enter into a collaborative partnership in areas of mutual interest for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Southeast Asia including, but not limited to, training and capacity building, public education and awareness, exchange of information, policy development and coordination, and technical and scientific cooperation;

The Parties have agreed as follows:

**Article 1 – General Cooperation**

1. The Parties shall cooperate to pursue and promote the goals and objectives of each Party for their mutual benefit and interest, specifically, in strengthening the capacities of the AMS in implementing the objectives of the Convention on Wetlands on the conservation and wise use of wetland biodiversity resources;
2. The Parties shall collaborate and engage to implement a joint work plan, consistent with their respective work plans in the areas of training and capacity building, public education and awareness, exchange of information, policy development and coordination, and technical and scientific cooperation;
3. The Parties shall share counterpart resources on the agreed joint initiatives, which include, inter alia, funds, expert personnel and facilities, as appropriate and subject to availability of resources;
4. The Parties shall share relevant technical information, provide copies of publications and research materials, and allow linking and information sharing in their respective websites; and
5. The Parties shall provide opportunities for staff interaction to further enhance the partnership between the Parties and their joint work plan.

**Article 2 – Focal Points**

The focal points for the purposes of this Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the ACB shall be the Secretary General and the Executive Director, respectively. The Parties, however, may designate other focal points in the case of specific objectives. The focal points shall meet and review the implementation of this Memorandum of Cooperation after each ordinary meeting of the Ramsar COP, or after every three (3) years, to take into account new priorities of the Convention.

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**Article 3 – Responsibilities and Contribution of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat**

1. The Ramsar Convention Secretariat shall invite the ACB to participate in appropriate regional and technical meetings, as well as to provide scientific, technical and policy-making expertise; and
2. The Ramsar Convention Secretariat shall assist in promoting the ACB and facilitate partnership building and networking of the ACB with other relevant bodies, organizations and entities.

**Article 4 – Responsibilities and Contribution of the ACB**

1. The ACB shall assist AMS in complying with their commitments to the Convention on Wetlands in line with the strategies detailed in the Ramsar Strategic Plan; and
2. The ACB shall initiate the preparation of a joint work plan with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to be reviewed and agreed upon by both Parties.

**Article 5 – Joint Work Plan**

1. Common areas for joint activities shall be developed through a joint work plan, which shall relate clearly to the Strategic Plan of each Party. Such joint work plans will be dated and numbered serially, signed by the Parties, and regarded as annexes to this Memorandum of Cooperation;
2. The extent to which the joint activities are implemented will be subject to the availability of resources; and
3. The joint work plan may be reviewed, modified or revised as necessary by mutual consent without the need for revision of this Memorandum of Cooperation.

**Article 6 – Dispute Settlement**

Any dispute between the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the ACB arising out of the interpretation or execution of this Memorandum of Cooperation shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation. If the Parties are unable to reach agreement through such negotiation, 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.

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**Article 7 – Entry into Force, Amendment and Termination (Obligation, Review and Termination)**


1. This Memorandum of Cooperation constitutes an expression of a shared objective and vision. However, actions of each Party shall be considered to be the sole and separate action of the Party, 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. This Memorandum of Cooperation may be amended or modified upon agreement between the Parties by means of a supplemental agreement, and may be extended with the mutual consent of the Parties in writing before the date of expiration;
3. This Memorandum of Cooperation shall enter into force upon signature by the Parties and may be terminated by either Party subject to a prior written notice of six (6) months. Ongoing collaborative activities in the joint work plan, however, shall continue to the extent necessary for the completion of agreed activities.

In witness whereof, the representatives of the Parties hereunto affix their signatures this 17 day of November 2011 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

By:

  
**Anada Tiéga**  
Secretary General  
Ramsar Convention Secretariat

By:

  
**Rodrigo U. Fuentes**  
Executive Director  
ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity