



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

From the Secretary General

Mr Achim Steiner  
United Nations Under-Secretary-General  
Executive Director  
United Nations Environment Programme  
Nairobi  
Kenya

Gland, 6 February 2007

Dear Mr Steiner,

Since 2005, the GRASP Partnership and the Ramsar Convention have been in contact, and the Ramsar Convention has, as a result, been admitted into the GRASP Partnership as a "Category D" Partner.

In order to further enhance cooperation between the two institutions, I should like to propose a set of activities, outlined below, which could form the basis for future cooperative programmes. Joint activities refer to the broader framework of the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan and are in support of the implementation of the *UNEP Programme of Work 2006-2007 and 2007-2008* and the *GRASP Programme of Action 2006-2007*.

Should you be in agreement with the activities described below, I look forward to receiving from you a letter to this effect.

#### **Mechanisms for Programme Co-operation**

The Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands and GRASP will seek to develop collaborative opportunities for sustainable wetland and water resource conservation and management within the framework of their existing strategic plans. Such items include:

- The Ramsar and GRASP Secretariats will cooperate to provide assistance for the elaboration of management plans in Ramsar sites with great apes. Candidate sites include: Iles Tristao and Niger-Mafou Ramsar sites in Guinea; and the Lac Télé/Likouala-aux-Herbes site in the Republic of Congo; as well as Danau Sentarum Ramsar Site in Indonesia.

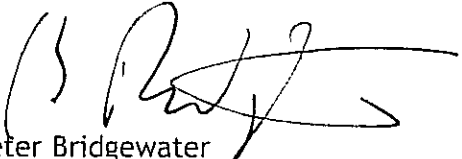
- The GRASP Secretariat will contribute to, and assist with documentation and processes towards the designation of new Ramsar Sites with great apes habitat, notably in the Congo Basin region (Central African Republic, Cameroon, Gabon) and in Indonesia.
- When feasible, the Ramsar and GRASP Secretariats will identify and contribute to/carry out projects in or around transboundary sites with great apes habitat.
- When feasible, the Ramsar and GRASP Secretariats will cooperate towards capacity development of Ramsar and GRASP focal points and site managers, in relevant countries, on great apes and wetland management.
- Resources permitting, GRASP will contribute to the development and production of information material on Ramsar Sites important for great apes.
- The Ramsar and GRASP Secretariats will inform their respective constituencies of their collaboration, notably through links on their web sites.

Additionally, the Secretariats of the Convention on Wetlands and GRASP will inform their focal points at regional and national levels of their co-operative activities. For general matters, the focal points for the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands and GRASP are respectively the Secretary General and the GRASP Programme Officer, or their assigned delegates.

The focal points, or their assigned delegates, may meet from time to time to assess the implementation of this Memorandum, exchange documents and review on-going activities.

I believe this approach will lead to increased effectiveness of both the Convention on Wetlands and GRASP, in areas of mutual activity.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Bridgewater