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NOV 23 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO : ALL REGIONAL EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

ATTENTION : The Regional Technical Director for Protected Areas,
Wildlife and Coastal Zone (PAWCZMS)

FROM : The Undersecretary for Management and Technical
Services


SUBJECT : **World Wetlands Day (WWD) Celebration 2006**

Every 2nd February of each year is the celebration of the World Wetlands Day (WWD). It also coincides with the celebration of the National Wetland Day, as provided for under Proclamation No. 74 dated 02 February 1999. For WWD 2006 the theme is "**Wetlands as tool in poverty alleviation**" with the slogan "**In the face of poverty . . . wetlands are lifelines**".

As has been the practice for the last 8 years, the Regional Offices are encouraged to conduct activities related to wise use and protection of wetlands and their resources. Attached is the background paper for the occasion for your guidance. For more information, please visit the Ramsar website, <http://ramsar.org>.

The Ramsar Convention Bureau, through the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau wishes to be informed of the planned activities, both before and after WWD 2006.

For your information and guidance of all concerned.


ARMANDO A. DE CASTRO

Nemo 310



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

From the Secretary General

Gland, September 2005

World Wetlands Day 2nd February 2006

'In the face of poverty . . . wetlands are lifelines'

Our suggested theme for World Wetlands Day 2006, '**Wetlands as a tool in poverty alleviation**', is closely linked to the theme of the upcoming Ramsar Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP9), which is 'Wetlands and water – supporting life, sustaining livelihoods'. The Conference will be held in Uganda in November.

Wherever you live, you don't have to look far to see the degradation and loss of wetland ecosystems and the services they provide, yet, if properly managed, wetlands can be a vital lifeline for the poor. This is especially true for the rural poor, who comprise three-quarters of all poor households worldwide. Wetlands are a primary source of rural income, and they can become vitally important when other sources of income fail.

We hope that wherever you are, you will join us in developing this focus in your country for WWD 2006. We have decided this year to produce two posters, each 60 X 40 cm, a format somewhat smaller than in the past but affording us the opportunity to produce two posters instead of one large one. The posters will show images of a paddy field and a floating market – to represent some of the services that wetlands provide that can play a role in the alleviation of poverty.

So we hope you will join with us on 2nd February and celebrate the capacity of wetlands to help in poverty alleviation on a global scale, and here are some additional points for you to consider:

- ✓ **We encourage everyone to consider customising and printing our posters and stickers using the original design files**, which we will be happy to supply to you on CD-ROM. This has many advantages: making the images and text relevant to your own situation; translating the text into your local or national language; printing many, many more copies than we could hope to supply. On our Web site, at: http://www.ramsar.org/outreach_materials_translations4.htm you can see what some people did last year and below you will find the technical details on the design files we will make available. Please write to wwd@ramsar.org if you would like to receive one of the CD-ROMs – and don't forget to include your mailing address. We will be sending the CD-ROMs by early September.
- ✓ **In line with our distribution method last year, we have sent a large number of printed copies of our WWD materials to your country's Ramsar Administrative Authority.** You will find the person in your country to contact at http://ramsar.org/wwd/6/wwd2006_list.htm. If this person is unable to supply further copies should you need them, or if you experience problems in making contact, please write to the Ramsar Secretariat at wwd@ramsar.org.

- ✓ **And very important - please don't forget to tell the Secretariat what you did on WWD for the reports section of our WWD Web pages** – reports from last year can be viewed at http://ramsar.org/wwd/5/wwd2005_reports.htm. We always do our best to include all the reports we receive, but we would really appreciate all reports to be sent to us by May 2006. Photos, text and sample materials are all welcome. Contact ramsar@ramsar.org.

Customising our posters and stickers to suit your needs:

CD-ROM 1: For use with a MAC or PC, this CD includes the poster and stickers in **QuarkXpress Passport 6.0 and 4.11**. With this electronic version you will be able to edit the text (but not the images) to produce a personalised version of the poster and stickers. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU (OR YOUR PRINTER/PUBLISHER) WILL NEED TO HAVE THE APPROPRIATE SOFTWARE TO OPEN THESE FILES.

This CD will also include the poster and stickers as .TIF files, BUT PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO EDIT THESE VERSIONS.

CD-ROM 2: For use with a MAC or PC, this CD will include the poster and stickers as Adobe Photoshop files: **Adobe Photoshop CS (TIF) and Illustrator CS**. This version will allow you to personalise the poster and stickers, changing the text and the images as you wish. Please be aware that these will be very large documents and some computers may not be able to open them.

On this CD there are also Adobe Acrobat PDF versions that will simply allow you to print the materials without being able to edit them. For this you will need **Adobe Acrobat 5.0**.



Peter Bridgewater