



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

**11th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**



Ministerul Mediului
și Pădurilor

“Wetlands: home and destination”

PRESS RELEASE

**Lifetime commitment to wetland conservation and management rewarded
during COP11 Opening Ceremony**

Nothing better illustrates in practical terms the Convention’s mission and values in wetland conservation than the achievements of our five laureates of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards. These laureates from five different countries each received the Ramsar trophy during COP11 Opening Ceremony as recognition of their contributions towards promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands worldwide.

Bucharest, Romania | 6 July 2012. The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards were established in 1996 in order to recognize and honour the contributions of individuals, organizations, and governments around the world in promoting the conservation and wise use of wetlands. Presented at COP events since 1999, this year’s edition were given in three categories: Education to the Wisconsin Wetlands Association, Management to Ms Augusta Henriques and Science to Prof. Tatsuichi Tsujii. The jury has also conferred a Recognition of Achievement Award to Mr Thymio Papayannis. Finally, as 2011 marked the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Convention, the Standing Committee decided to honour one of the founding fathers of the treaty, Dr Luc Hoffmann, with a 40th Anniversary Honorary Ramsar Award.

COP11 National Romanian Coordinator, Mr Cozmanciuc, was pleased to see the awards went to individuals and an organization whose commitments are fundamental in advancing wetland education, as well as the value of sustainable tourism development in wetlands.

As in previous editions, the three 2012 awards for Education, Management and Science were complemented by the Evian Special Prize, a cash award of USD 10,000 to each laureate, generously donated by the DANONE Group, which was represented by Mr Emmanuel Faber, Vice Chairman of the Board.

“The Evian Special Prize is a fundamental part of the DANONE/Evian Fund for Water in support of the Ramsar Convention”, said Mr Anada Tiéga, Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention. “The DANONE/Evian Fund for Water is a valued partnership between the Ramsar Convention and the

DANONE Group since 1998 for the purpose of supporting the Convention in taking action for the wise use of water resources and wetland conservation.”

COP11 is a unique opportunity for all wetland ambassadors. Several hundred delegates representing most of Ramsar’s 162 Contracting Parties attended the Opening Ceremony, in addition to representatives from NGOs and observers from around the world. During the next several days the COP11 meeting will cover several topical issues such as sustainable wetland tourism, urban wetlands, climate change, poverty eradication, avoiding further wetland losses, and energy issues.

Useful links:

COP11 information: www.ramsar.org/cop11-news

Interviews of the winners of the Ramsar Wetland Conservation Award and Evian Special Prize for 2012: www.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-activities-awards-2012/main/ramsar/1-63-67-519_4000_0

Ramsar Convention and tourism: www.ramsar.org/tourism

Contact:

Direcția de Comunicare Ministerul Mediului și Pădurilor: Andrei Sfirloagă
Tel. 0745 089 065
andrei_sfirloaga@yahoo.com

Communications Officer: Ms Oana Barsin
Ramsar Convention Secretariat
Tel (mobile/Romania): (+40) 74 921 25 22
barsin@ramsar.org

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (www.ramsar.org)

The Ramsar Convention is a global intergovernmental treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. Signed in the Iranian town of Ramsar in 1971, the Convention established the basis for the management and sustainable use of wetlands. To date, it remains the only environmental agreement in the world devoted to a particular ecosystem.

Under this treaty, the member States, also known as “Contracting Parties”, undertake to protect and sustainably use all the wetlands on their territory by implementing the necessary local measures as well as through national and international cooperation. As part of their commitment, the countries actively collaborate to maintain the ecological characteristics of wetlands, including through the inclusion of wetland conservation in their national land-use and management plans.