



# Ramsar COP11

6-13 July 2012  
Bucharest, Romania

MEDIA ADVISORY

**COP 11 Media Advisory | 3 May 2012**

## About COP11 — Key facts and thematic focus

### What is the COP?

The Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP) is the policy-making organ of the Ramsar Convention. Government representatives from each of the Contracting Parties meet every three years to receive national reports on the preceding triennium, approve the work programme and budgetary arrangements for the next three years, and adopt guidance for the Parties on a range of ongoing and emerging environmental issues.

### Why tourism and wetlands?

Ensuring well-managed tourism practices in and around wetlands and educating tourists on the value of wetlands contributes to the health of the world's wetlands and the long-term benefits that wetlands provide to people, wildlife, economics, and biodiversity. To date, the Ramsar Convention has not had a specific focus on wetlands, tourism and recreation and its member states decided to focus COP11 on this topical issue, with the slogan: "Wetlands, home and destination".

**Other key issues to be debated:** urban wetlands, climate change, poverty eradication, avoiding further wetland losses, energy issues.

### Press conferences:

**Friday 6 July, 15:00—16:00.** "The Ramsar Wetland Conservation Awards 2012". (Media advisory available). Followed by the Opening Ceremony and Ramsar Award prize giving at 17:00 in the Plenary Hall.

**Monday 9 July, 13:30—14:30.** "Launch of a booklet on tourism and wetlands". (Media advisory available).

**Friday 13 July, 16:00—17:00.** "Closing Q&A session".

- Event:** The 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (COP11). Weblink: [www.ramsar.org/COP11](http://www.ramsar.org/COP11)
- Who:** Official delegations from Ramsar Contracting Parties, International Organization Partners (such as WWF), delegations from the governments of non-Party states, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, of recognized non-governmental organizations that are working in the field of wetland conservation and sustainable use, and of government agencies that are not part of their country's official delegation.
- What:** Ramsar Contracting Parties, or member states, will gather to assess the progress of the Convention and the sustainable use of wetlands to date, share knowledge and experience on technical issues, and plan their own and the Secretariat's work for the next triennium.
- Dates:** 6 to 13 July 2012. See the attached agenda for more details.
- Location:** Palace of the Parliament, Bucharest, Romania.
- Questions:** For more information on the event or interview requests, contact Ms Oana Barsin, Communications Officer, Ramsar Secretariat at [barsin@ramsar.org](mailto:barsin@ramsar.org); +41 (0)22 999 03 31.



COP11 delegates and other participants will gather in the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, Romania.