



Media Advisory

1 February 2012

WHO: Ducks Unlimited Chief Operating Officer Dale Hall and Secretary General Anada Tiéga of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

Additional comments by John Newman, president of Ducks Unlimited; John Tomke, president of Ducks Unlimited de Mexico A.C.; Tom Worden, president of Ducks Unlimited Canada; and John Childs, president of Wetlands America Trust

WHAT: Mr. Hall and Mr. Tiéga will sign a renewed Memorandum of Cooperation that reaffirms and formalizes a commitment to work more closely together on the conservation of wetlands, to share scientific information, data, and joint activities. The signing of this important document is on February 2, to honor World Wetlands Day. The Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands will also recognize Ducks Unlimited's 75th anniversary.

WHERE: The Waldorf Astoria Basildon Room, 301 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 2. A cocktail reception will begin at 4:00 p.m., and speakers will begin at 4:30. Mr. Hall, Mr. Tiéga and the other speakers will be available for photos and interviews immediately following. The signing takes place on World Wetlands Day, Ramsar's annual campaign day to raise awareness of wetland values and benefits.

WHY: The Memorandum signed today will be instrumental in building momentum to create a new surge in global activity on the conservation of wetlands and in ecosystem services work, science and technology, public policy and public awareness and training.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Ducks Unlimited's mission is to "conserve, restore and manage wetlands and associated habitats" in North America and echoes the Ramsar Convention's mission that is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".

This year's theme for World Wetlands Day is Wetlands and Tourism, a theme of interest for both organizations as it plays such an important role in conservation issues. The Ramsar Convention on Wetland's interest in tourism will not end with World Wetlands Day. The focus on wetland tourism will continue at the 11th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP11) in July 2012, in Romania, celebrated under the theme *Wetlands, Tourism and Recreation*.

COP 11 will debate an important Resolution on wetlands and tourism, one that will point the way forward and express the Contracting Parties' commitment to sound tourism practices.

Together, Ducks Unlimited and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands work to stem the loss of wetlands and contribute to the conservation of nearly 440 million acres of wetlands worldwide.

Ducks Unlimited is a world leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation, having conserved more than 12 million acres of wetlands and wildlife habitats in North America with the help of more than 1 million supporters.

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands is a global intergovernmental treaty for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. The treaty has been signed by 160 countries, including the United States, with nearly 43 million acres on almost 2,000 Ramsar Sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance.

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