



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

**Message from Martha Rojas-Urrego
Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
on the occasion of the International Day for Biological Diversity:
Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity**

On this International Day for Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands joins in worldwide celebrations to mark the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Ramsar Convention promotes the sustainable use of wetlands and their resources. Wetlands are among the most biodiverse ecosystems on earth. Almost all of the world's consumption of freshwater is drawn either directly or indirectly from wetlands.

Water and biodiversity are vital for human survival and today the Ramsar Convention of Wetlands reaffirms its active engagement with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The main activities listed in the 5th Joint Work Plan between the two Conventions ensure the wise use of wetlands as well as the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in all ecosystems, and to promote the contribution of biodiversity and wetlands to human well-being.

The Ramsar Convention also reaffirms its engagement with the Biodiversity Liaison Group. As heads of biodiversity-related conventions working together through development of common strategies is crucial to build on the momentum towards achievement of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and especially SDG 15 on biodiversity and SDG 6 on water.

Given the increasing human population and its dependence on water and wetlands we must work together in a collective, concerted and sustained effort to conserve wetlands for the planet's biodiversity and human well-being.