



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

From the Secretary General

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Ref. ANT/mik

Your Excellency ,

I was recently in Hyderabad on the occasion of the CBD COP11 where, regretfully, we did not have the opportunity to meet.

After CBD COP11, I travelled to Orissa to attend the launch of the new management plan for the Chilika Lake Ramsar Site, near Bhubaneswar. Chilika is a model of wetland restoration and sustainable management of natural resources. The Chilika Development Authority (an agency of the Government of Orissa) is exemplary in the way it has involved local populations in these activities. During my visit, I attended workshops and public gatherings, and met with officials of the Government of Orissa.

I was very impressed by this highly successful example of restoration of a very large site, which provides the livelihood for millions of human beings and is also a cradle of biodiversity. The dedication of scientists and experts in charge of such projects is essential, but political support is crucial for their success. I take this opportunity to congratulate you and the Ministry of Environment of India for having fostered such an outstanding example of wetland restoration and management, and I hope that this support will be renewed and continued in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Anada Tiéga