



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

Ms. Debbie Maurer  
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Natural Resource Division  
Department of Planning, Conservation and Development  
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Libertyville, Illinois, 60080

Gland, 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Ref: Designation of Ramsar Site 2243

Dear Ms. Maurer,

The Ramsar Convention Secretariat is very pleased to inform you that the Ramsar Site Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain designated on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 has been added to the List of Wetlands of International Importance. It has been announced on the Convention's Web site and listed as site number 2243. This Ramsar Site is part of an international network in which the conservation and wise use of resources contribute to human development and the conservation of our natural heritage. Please see the enclosed copy of a letter sent to the Administrative Authority (the government department responsible for implementing the Convention in your country) for more detailed information on this designation.

The Ramsar Convention, adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in February 1971, is the oldest global environmental agreement. It promotes the wise use and conservation of water and wetland resources through national action and international cooperation.

We have sent three Ramsar Site Certificates for this new site to the Ramsar Administrative Authority in your country. We attach herewith our general information pack and some examples of World Wetlands Day material (posters and brochures) from previous years' celebrations – see information about World Wetlands Day below.

As a Wetland of International Importance, your site should be clearly identified with the Ramsar logo, in accordance with the Ramsar Convention's Communication Strategy and Guidelines. Please contact the Communications Officer ([ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)) for details on how to use the Ramsar logo or request the necessary files.

If your wetland has a Web site, please feel free also to use the Ramsar logo and send your link to [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org) for inclusion on our list of links to individual Ramsar Sites.

If you would like more information about Ramsar and related wetland activities and publications, please visit the Convention's Web site [www.ramsar.org](http://www.ramsar.org), where *inter alia* you will find the following information:


- **What's new?**  
News of Ramsar and wetland issues: <http://www.ramsar.org> > **News**
- **Ramsar Sites Information Service**  
The Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS) provides online information on wetlands of international importance. This site features a searchable Ramsar Sites Database where you can see the description of your site with its Ramsar Information Sheet, map, and supplementary information. <https://rsis.ramsar.org/>
- **2 February each year is World Wetlands Day**  
Commemorating the signature of the Convention in 1971, the day is aimed at action at all levels (government, NGO as well as at local community level) to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits in general, and the Ramsar Convention in particular. There is a different wetland theme each year. We hope that a celebration can be organised in your locality on or around the 2<sup>nd</sup> February. More information here: <http://www.worldwetlandsday.org/>
- **CEPA Programme (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness)**  
The Convention's CEPA Programme aims to develop communication, education, participation and awareness as a critical tool of the Convention. An electronic mailing list in English, French or Spanish for CEPA covers news, CEPA tools, useful Web links etc. More information here: <http://www.ramsar.org> > **Activities > The Ramsar CEPA Programme**
- **The Ramsar Convention Handbooks for the Conservation and Wise Use of Wetlands** with issues focusing amongst others on the *Wise use of wetlands, River basin and coastal management, Participatory skills, Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness, Managing wetlands, Ramsar Site designations, Wetlands inventory, Impact assessment, Water allocation and management* are available for download at: <http://www.ramsar.org> > **Library > Ramsar Handbooks**

**You are welcome also to join the Ramsar Forum** - an electronic mailing list devoted to the wide range of news, announcements, opinion, information requests and replies concerning the conservation and sustainable use of wetland resources. To join this mailing list, please send an email message to [ramsar@ramsar.org](mailto:ramsar@ramsar.org)

The Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain Ramsar Site was designated applying the criteria especially dedicated to the conservation of the biological diversity (1, 2, and 4). This is clearly contributing to the implementation of all five biodiversity-related Conventions, which are cooperating through the Biodiversity Liaison Group. Therefore we would encourage you to see your work also in relation to the implementation of appropriate Conventions in this group (CMS, CITES, CBD, WHC), and to find mutual benefits from the different activities undertaken and the exchange with the other focal points to improve the management and value of new Ramsar Sites.

Wishing you all success in the management of this Wetland of International Importance, we remain at your disposal should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Maria Rivera  
Senior Advisor for the Americas  
Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Encl.: A copy of the article published on the Convention's web-page about the new designation.  
Copy of the letter addressed to the USA Ramsar Administrative Authority.  
General information pack and some World Wetlands Day material.

C.C.: Permanent Mission of the United States of America for the United Nations in Geneva.