



**ADDENDUM TO THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN THE NATURE CONSERVANCY  
AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY,  
THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS:  
COLLABORATING TO ADVANCE THE  
GREAT RIVERS PARTNERSHIP**

**I. INTRODUCTION.** The Department of the Army Civil Works, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and The Nature Conservancy executed a national Memorandum of Understanding (National MOU) on December 14, 2000, in order to facilitate effective and efficient management of important biological resources within the context of the Corps' civil works and regulatory missions, and to meet the objectives outlined in that MOU.

This Addendum to that Memorandum of Understanding (ADDENDUM) is entered into between the Department of the Army, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (hereinafter the Corps), including its International Center for Integrated Water Resources Management (hereinafter ICIWaRM), and The Nature Conservancy (hereinafter TNC), acting through its Great Rivers Partnership (GRP) (hereinafter GRP). The purpose of the ADDENDUM is to advance the mission and strategy of the GRP and is consistent with the goals and missions of the Corps and TNC, and is understood to facilitate interests and objectives within each organization's area of responsibility and interest. The Corps and TNC recognize the need and value of engaging other stakeholders and partners in the efforts outlined below, including other federal and state agencies, Tribes, international organizations, foreign governments and the private sector.

This ADDENDUM incorporates, and is subject to, all of the conditions and terms of the National MOU. In case of a conflict between this ADDENDUM and the National MOU, the National MOU provisions shall control. The geographic scope of this ADDENDUM shall be large working rivers of mutual interest and their tributaries (e.g. the Mississippi River Basin, Yangtze River, Magdalena River).

**II. PURPOSE.** The Corps and TNC seek to deliver enduring and essential water resource solutions related to large working rivers of mutual interest through collaboration with partners and stakeholders, within the context of the Corps civil works and regulatory missions, the mission and goals of the GRP; to the extent authorized by law and Corps and TNC policies. The following objectives are agreed upon within the scope of this ADDENDUM:

- A. Advance economically and ecologically sustainable management of the Mississippi River Basin, including but not limited to the Missouri and Ohio River Basins, and recovery of the Gulf Coast through the development and implementation of a collaborative vision and integrated river basin management strategy.

- B. Support the development of integrated river basin management on other great rivers in United States and globally through technical exchanges and mutual sharing of best practices and experiences.
- C. Exchange knowledge, data, and expertise related to advancing key water management policies and practices as part of integrated river basin management with river basin stakeholders within the United States and globally.
- D. Advance our understanding of the impacts of climate change on great rivers and support development of strategies to address those impacts.

III. **BENEFITS.** The Corps is a world class public engineering organization that works in over 100 countries, providing engineering and construction services, environmental restoration and management services, research and development assistance, management of water and land related natural resources, relief and recovery work, and other management and technical assistance. The Corps, through its Institute for Water Resources, hosts ICIWaRM, a global center under the auspices of UNESCO and focusing on capacity development and the application of practical science and engineering to advance systems-based, sustainable solutions to international water resources problems. TNC is one of the world's leading conservation organizations working worldwide to protect ecologically significant lands and waters for nature and people with a focus on science and non-confrontational solutions. The mission of TNC's Great Rivers Partnership is to bring together diverse partners and sound science to expand options for achieving the sustainable management and development of the world's great river basins. The GRP seeks shared solutions to common land- and water-use dilemmas, recognizing the inescapable linkages between our economy, human well-being and ecosystem sustainability. The GRP views its deep history and leadership role in the Mississippi River Basin as an important regional asset, and a foundation for promoting the global exchange of knowledge and expertise. The GRP is recognized regionally and globally for advancing integrated river basin management on large working rivers.

The Corps and TNC agree that collaboration among stakeholders is a key to achieving a common vision and an integrated approach to resource management. By leveraging the strengths of these organizations through the GRP, the Corps and TNC can provide the input and guidance to river basin commissions and other organizations in moving toward a comprehensive management approach to large working rivers and their tributaries for the benefit of all stakeholders and the natural environment.

**IV. RESPONSIBILITIES.** The parties, to the extent authorized by law and Corps and TNC policies within existing legal authorities, and consistent with the 2009 international agreement between the U.S. Government and UNESCO establishing ICIWaRM, agree as follows in furtherance of the GRP:

- A. The Corps and TNC will work together to convene diverse stakeholders in large working rivers of mutual interest to bring together stakeholder perspectives with best science and practice to support a shared vision, actionable programs, effective policies, and partnerships.

- B. The Corps and TNC will collaborate in support of scientific assessments of large working rivers of mutual interest, to build shared understanding about river health and current/future threats to sustainability in collaboration with key stakeholders in the basin.
- C. The Corps and TNC will collaborate in the development of proof-of-concept projects that demonstrate a systems approach using science-based adaptive management to help inform and solve the most critical management challenges affecting large working rivers of mutual interest.

These projects will focus on key aspects of integrated river basin management, such as:

- restoration and conservation of functional floodplain ecosystems in a manner that contributes to meeting human needs and to protecting the natural biological communities and diversity of floodplain ecosystems;
  - conservation, stabilization, and restoration of functional stream and river channels and river banks in a manner that contributes to meeting human needs and to protecting functional river and stream ecosystems and their native biological diversity;
  - effective management of water resources in a manner that contributes to meeting human needs and to protecting a functional large-floodplain river ecosystem and its native biological diversity.
- D. The Corps and TNC will support efforts to implement effective monitoring on large river systems (such as through the Long-term Resource Monitoring Program on the Mississippi River) and seek to share this knowledge and methodology with other great river stakeholders around the world.
- E. The Corps and TNC will support efforts to communicate as a credible expert voice on pertinent issues to build an informed constituency for the Mississippi River Basin and recognize its value in relationship to other great rivers around the world.
- F. The parties to this ADDENDUM recognize that Corps projects must operate in accordance with authorized project purposes and funding limitations.
- G. For the purposes of this Addendum, the Executive Agents are the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works), the ICIWaRM Director, the TNC President and CEO, and the Executive Director of its GRP.
- H. This ADDENDUM is neither a fiscal nor a funds obligation document. Any endeavor involving reimbursement or contribution of funds between the parties to the ADDENDUM will be handled in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and procedures. Such endeavors, if any, will be outlined in separate agreements that shall be made in writing by representatives of the parties and shall be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This ADDENDUM does not provide such authority. Specifically, this ADDENDUM does not establish authority for the noncompetitive award to the Conservancy of any contract or other agreement.

- I. Nothing in this MOU prohibits the parties from soliciting or receiving advice and assistance in the objectives set forth above from other governmental entities, and private groups or individuals.

**IV. IMPLEMENTATION.** This MOU becomes effective when signed by all signatory parties and remains in effect until modified or terminated by either party. Modifications to the National MOU will also be considered to have modified this ADDENDUM.

**V. COUNTERPARTS.** This ADDENDUM may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which when executed shall be deemed to be an original and all of which when taken together shall constitute one and the same agreement.

*Agreed this 15th day of November, 2011*

Signatures redacted

Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary  
of the Army (Civil Works)

Mark Tercek *WILLIAMS*  
President and CEO  
The Nature Conservancy

*Nov. 15, 2011*

Date

*15 November 2011*

Date

Robert Pietrowsky  
Director  
U.S. Army Institute for Water Resources  
and ICIWaRM

Michael Reuter  
Executive Director  
Great Rivers Partnership,  
The Nature Conservancy

*15 NOV 2011*

Date

*11/15/2011*

Date