

**Countries:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan

**Coordination:** The main decision making body of the RRI-CA is a Coordination Committee, including 3 key members and 6 alternative members from Contracting Countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan). Coordination Committee has a Chair and Vice-Chair. A Technical Secretary of the RRI-CA is responsible for facilitating the coordination of day to day activities of the Initiative.

**Main objectives:** RRI-CA aims to promote stronger cooperation and synergies between the members to the RRI-CA to effectively implement the Ramsar Convention and its Strategic Plan 2016-2024 at the national and regional levels.

Operational targets of the RRI-CA are:

**1. Coordination and communication:**

- Support the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in Central Asia;
- Carry out scientific and technical monitoring of the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in Central Asia;
- Facilitate feedback and information flow between the members as well as between the members and the Ramsar Secretariat;
- Ensure synergy and coordination of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Central Asia with other regional and international mechanisms related to water resources, biodiversity, and sustainable development including multilateral environmental agreements;
- Create and maintain a platform for the regular and effective sharing of information related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Central Asia;
- Engage in regional dialogues to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

**2. Designation and management of Ramsar Sites, and the conservation of other important wetlands:**

- Promote the effective conservation and wise use of existing and future Ramsar Sites in the region;
- Make inventories of important wetlands in the region and to establish a regional wetland database; - Develop and apply common monitoring mechanisms for evaluating the status of existing and future Ramsar Sites;
- Develop and apply a common methodology for evaluating ecosystem services generated by wetlands, and assessing their economic values.

**3. Communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA), and capacity building:**

- Identify technical capacity building needs in the region and provide trainings and workshops as required;
- Raise awareness and knowledge of the general public on the importance of wetland ecosystems and the steps needed for their conservation and wise use;
- Raise awareness of decision makers at all levels on the importance of wetland ecosystems and ensure that wetland issues are included in national and regional dialogues on environment;
- Promote continuous transfer of knowledge and experience sharing within Central Asia and with other regions of the world.

#### **4. Project development and management:**

- Initiate and raise funds for projects and programmes in the area of the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Central Asia;
- Provide support in the management of projects and programmes.

**Activities:** The RRI-CA is proposing to develop and implement regional projects along the following priorities in the next triennium (2016-2018).

**First priority area:** Important wetlands of the region, including the future Ramsar Sites, are identified and documented (contribute to the targets 8, 11, 12 and 15 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024).

The activities are:

- Identify, conduct inventories, and map the important wetlands in the region;
- Evaluate the current status of the wetlands, the ecosystem services they provide, threats, and opportunities for improved conservation and wise use;
- Set up and maintain a regional inventory of the important wetlands.

**Second priority area:** Important wetlands of the region, including the existing and future Ramsar Sites are effectively managed so they are conserved and wisely used and continue to contribute to the improved quality of the life of people in the region (contribute to the targets 5, 11, 12, 13 and 15 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024).

The activities are:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the management practices;
- Develop and apply effective and sustainable management plans;
- Carry out valuation of ecosystem services with focus on their contribution to sustainable livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;
- Carry out restoration of the important wetlands as necessary;
- Plan and implement projects focused on creating sustainable livelihoods, and building disaster and climate resilient communities.

**Third priority area:** Awareness and knowledge of the importance of wetlands are improved at all levels (contribute to the targets 15 and 16 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024).

The activities are:

- Develop and implement regional and national plans of CEPA (communication, education, participation and awareness);
- Develop and implement awareness-raising programmes for local communities on the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
- Document and demonstrate services and benefits of wetlands to the general public;
- Deliver training to decision makers at all levels; - Set up wetland information and education centers.

#### **Contact:**

Technical Secretary of the RRI-CA

Zhanel Karina

[zhkarina@carececo.org](mailto:zhkarina@carececo.org)