

Annual Report and Workplan

(Please do not change the format)

Annual report for 2023 and workplan for 2024

(6 pages maximum)

Submission deadline: 20 January 2024

NOTE – to complete this template, please refer to the attached explanation

1. General information

a. Name of Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI): Ramsar regional initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA).

b. Have the terms of reference (TORs) or equivalent documents been updated? No
(If yes, please provide the web link to the PDF version for the updated document(s).)

NOTE: Following [Resolution XIV.7 paragraph 12](#), TORs or equivalent documents must be developed, which contain rules of procedure, structure, governance and membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation in the RRI, and which should be consistent with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties.

c. Is the RRI eligible for core funding from the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands? No

2. Work and activities undertaken during 2023

Provide a summary of the work undertaken by listing in the table below the Initiative's activities, the results achieved, verifiable indicators, sources of information to verify achievements, and relevant Goals in the Strategic Plan to analyse tasks in relation to the implementation of the Convention ([Resolution XIII.7 Paragraphs 12.c](#)).

Objectives	Activities	Results/ outcomes	Verifiable indicators	Means of verification / source of information	Relevant Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals
1. RRI-CA members networking	1.1 Meeting of regional steering committee	Completed Outcomes: agreed RRI-CA activities in 2023 for proposal to donor	1	https://carecec.o.org/en/main/news/news/rets-tsa-podderzhivaet-innovatsionnye-idei-v-reshenii-problem-vodno-bolotnykh-ugodiy-tsentralnoy-azii/	Goal №4.15 Reinforce RRI-CA
2. Protecting the most important Wetlands in CA	2.1 Promotion of new wetland area under Ramsar designation	Completed 2.1.1 +1 wetland in Uzbekistan (Sudochoye lake) is included in the List of Ramsar Sites 2.1.2 The Tigrovaya Balka Ramsar Nature Reserve was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site	1	https://carecec.o.org/en/main/news/news/ozero-sudoche-voshlo-v-ramsarskuyu-konventsuyu/	Goal №2.6 Increase wetland area under Ramsar designation
		Not completed 1.1.3 Karakol lake in Kazakhstan is applied for the Ramsar List	1	n/a	
3. Convention on Wetlands is visible in Central Asia	3.1 Updating RRI-CA webpage with relevant news and materials	Completed Outcomes: 11 news related Ramsar Convention and activities in Central Asia are	11	1. On Standing Committee annual planning meeting 2. on World Wetlands Day 3 to 6. on Celebrating the	Goal № 3.11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented

		placed on RRI-CA web-page		World Wetland day in CA countries	and disseminated
4. Resource mobilization for supporting RRI-CA activities	4.1 Identification of potential donor 4.2. Development of project proposal to donor	Completed Outcomes: Project proposal “Innovative approach for sustainable and wise use of wetlands in Central Asia through partnership and collaboration” is prepared and preliminary confirmed by GIZ	1	Project document	Goal №1.3 The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply good practices for the wise use of wetlands Goal №4.15 and 4.17 Reinforce RRI CA and Mobilise resources
5. Effective Conservation and Managing the Ramsar Site and wetlands	5.1 Rejuvenation of tugai ecosystems of the Tigrovaya Balka wetland reserve and the Kairakum reservoir	Completed Two initiatives, funded by WWF and CEPF, were executed at the Tigrovaya Balka wetland reserve and the Kairakum reservoir	1	Project documents	Goal №2.5 The ecological character of Ramsar sites is maintained or restored, through effective planning and integrated management.
6. Capacity building	6.1 Learning, enhancement of skills, and collaboration among professionals	Completed Two conferences took place in TJ, bringing together 70 scientists and experts specializing in water conservation, wetlands, and the impact of climate change	1	Minutes of meeting	Goal №4.16 Wetlands conservation and wise use are mainstreamed through communication, capacity development, education, participation and awareness.
7. Monitoring	7.1 Waterfowl census and wetland condition assessment	Completed CA counties (KZ, TKM) monitor and document biodiversity at Ramsar and potential Ramsar sites	2	Project documents	Goal №3.11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated.

3. Key achievements / results during 2023

- a. Please describe briefly the two or three main achievements / results during 2023 (max. 200 words).

1. Lake Sudochoye has been included in the list of Wetlands of International Importance of the Ramsar Convention.
<https://carececo.org/en/main/news/news/ozero-sudoche-voshlo-v-ramsarskuyu-konventsiyu/>

2. A New Project for RRI-CA network “Innovative approach for sustainable and wise use of Ramsar /potentially Ramsar sites in Central Asia through partnership and collaboration” is prepared and preliminary agreed with donor/

- b. For those RRI-CA receiving funding from the Convention in 2023, if there were changes to the work plan for 2023, including postponement or delay, please indicate the reasons (max. 200 words).

Not applicable for RRI-CA

- c. Please describe briefly the two or three main challenges and lessons learned and planned measures to overcome or apply those (max. 200 words).

1. Regional collaboration on wetlands is not funded from national budgets. Only development partners may finance RRI-CA collaboration and activities.

2. Staff of national designated authorities are not always capable to prepare the dossiers and promote the wetland to Ramsar designation. Regular capacity building is needed. Inclusion of relevant course to the Academies for enhancing the potential of civil servants.

3. Economic approach to protect the ecosystems of wetlands is the only way to have resources for needed activities on local level. CAREC started explanation of this approach and, hopefully, will have a relevant project with GIZ.

4. Financial report for 2023

Provide financial information on income and expenditure. If a currency other than Swiss francs (CHF) is used, please write each income or expenditure in the currency used and use the current exchange rate to convert the total sum to CHF.

For those RRI-CA receiving funding from the Convention in 2023, please provide the necessary information in the table below.

Total planned budget for year 2023: 49 650 (CHF) (as submitted in last year's plan)

Details of sources of income and amounts:

Sources of income	Income received
CAREC	5 000

WWF and CEPF	172 715
Total (CHF)	178 715

Detailed expenditure:

Budget Items	Planned expenditure	Actual expenditure (CHF)
1. RRI-CA support and promotion (CAREC)	-	2000
2. Protecting the most important Wetlands in CA (CAREC)	-	1000
3. Convention on Wetlands is visible in Central Asia (CAREC)	-	2000
4. Innovative approach application for protecting ecosystems of wetlands (GIZ)	49 650	-
5. Rejuvenation of tugai ecosystems of the Tigrovaya Balka wetland reserve and the Kairakum reservoir, TJ	-	172 715
Total (CHF)	49 650	178 715

5. Work and activities planned for 2024

Objectives	Activities	Expected Results/ outcomes	Verifiable indicators	Means of verification / source of information	Relevant Ramsar Strategic Plan Goals
1. RRI-CA members networking	1.1 Meeting of regional steering committee	Meeting of regional steering committee	1	Minutes of meeting	Goal №4.15 Reinforce RRI-CA
2. Protecting the most important Wetlands in CA	2.1 Promotion of new wetland area under Ramsar designation	1. To complete the application of Lake Karakol to the Ramsar list, Kazakhstan 2. Nominate Lake Zhyltyrbas to the Ramsar list, Uzbekistan 3. Nominate Lake Altyn Kol to the Ramsar list, Turkmenistan	1	RRI-CA web-page	Goal №2.6 Increase wetland area under Ramsar designation
3. Convention on Wetlands is visible in Central Asia	3.1 Updating RRI-CA web-page with relevant news and materials	At least 6 news related Ramsar Convention and activities in Central Asia are placed on RRI-CA web-page	6	RRI-CA web-page	Goal № 3.11 Wetland functions, services and benefits are widely demonstrated, documented and disseminated

4. Innovative approach application for protecting ecosystems of wetlands	4.1 Starting implementation of a new project	Elaboration of economic based collaboration on pilot wetlands in CA started	1	RRI-CA web-page	Goal №1.3 The public and private sectors have increased their efforts to apply good practices for the wise use of wetlands Goal №4.15 and 4.17 Reinforce RRI CA and Mobilise resources
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6. Financial plan for 2024

Provide financial information on forecasted/budgeted expenditure and income. If a currency other than Swiss francs (CHF) is used, please write each income or expenditure in the currency used and use the current exchange rate to convert the total sum to CHF.

Important! RRI-CA is not receiving funding from the Convention since 2022

Total planned budget for 2024 is 55 000 (CHF)

Details of planned income sources and amount:

Sources of income	Forecast / budgeted income
GIZ "Green Central Asia Programme"	50 000
CAREC	5000
Total (CHF)	55 000

Details of planned expenditure:

Activities	Planned expenditure	Sources of Income
1. RRI-CA support and promotion	2000	CAREC
2. Protecting the most important Wetlands in CA	1000	CAREC
3. Convention on Wetlands is visible in Central Asia	2000	CAREC
4. Innovative approach application for protecting ecosystems of wetlands	50000	GIZ
Total (CHF)	55000	

This report is certified by Ludmilla Kiktenko, CAREC programme manager on 20.01.2024
Maxim Mitropolsky, RRI-CA Chairman on 20.01.2024

Explanatory notes

1. Terms of reference of RRIs

Following [Resolution XIV.7 paragraph 12](#), RRIs must develop terms of reference, which cover their own rules of procedure, structure, governance, membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat's participation in the RRI, and which should be consistent with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of Parties. Equivalent documents must cover the same items.

2. Eligible for core funding from the Secretariat

Following the Operational Guidelines, financial assistance to an RRI from the core budget is provided for a limited period of time, in principle only for a period corresponding to [Resolution XIV.7 paragraph 17](#)).

3. Items in activity tables

To fill out the table for undertaken activities and planned activities, please make sure that "Objectives", "Activities", "Results/outcomes", "Verifiable indicators" and "Means of verification / source of information" are consistent with the submitted plan for the year.

- Objectives: Please indicate a specific statement narrating a desired accomplishment or outcome (e.g. to improve capacity of the RRI members in the management of wetlands).
- Results/outcomes: Please indicate whether planned activities are completed or not. If you organized a workshop/seminar/training course, please specify the number of attendees including gender information (e.g. XX trainings were organized, XX people attended (XX women, XX men)). This information will enable assessment of achievements and results.
- Verifiable indicators: Indicators are to measure progress and achievement. Please include indicators to verify to what extent progress is being made towards results/outcomes and how those results/outcomes are achieved (e.g. the number of training courses, the number of publications).
- Means of verification / source of information: Please add means of verification, which show how the information about the indicator can be obtained (e.g. training reports, modules).
- Relevance to the Ramsar Strategic Plan: Please indicate which of the goals of the Ramsar Strategic Plan each of the objectives most contributes to.