

**14th Meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties
to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands**

**“Wetlands Actions for People and Nature”
Wuhan, China and Geneva, Switzerland, 5-13 November 2022**

Ramsar COP14 Inf.3

**Summary of the assessment of Ramsar Regional Initiatives for 2019-2021
according to the principles from Resolution XIII.9**

Note from the Secretariat:

In line with Resolution XIII.9, paragraph 28, the Secretariat prepared a summary assessment of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives operating during the 2019-2021 period, which was considered by the Standing Committee at its 59th meeting in 2021 and is being submitted to COP14. The summary has been prepared by the Secretariat according to the principles for RRI's outlined in paragraph 8 of Resolution XIII.9 and the assessment prepared by a consultant as the basis to draft the new Operational Guidelines for RRI's. The consultant's report can be consulted here:

<https://www.ramsar.org/document/consultants-ramsar-regional-initiatives-rris-assessment-2016-2019>

Summary of RRIs assessment 2019-2021 on principles from Resolution XIII.9

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Strategic Plan and Work Plan	Successful financial sustainability (Resource mobilization)	Capacity building	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (including ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA), 2009	5	Yes	Governing Council is the supreme policy-making body and responsible for all affairs. The RAMCEA Secretariat is responsible for day-to-day activities and report to the Governing Council.	Observer	RAMCEA Secretariat's responsibility	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Five training events involving 166 participants	- Capacity building (wise use principles capacity needs assessment, establishment of roster for wetland experts) - Wetland assessment in Uganda - Enhancement of knowledge and awareness (update of RAMCEA website, distribution of Earth observation tool box, - Preparation of CEPA action plan - Resource mobilization (drafted resource mobilization strategy).	COVID-19 restrictions, limited resources and inadequate support from states and international institutions to support the implementation of key activities
Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), 1999	30	Yes	Governance Body is the Board of Directors (responsible for all financial, administrative and operational decisions)	Permanent Member of the Board of Directors	Responsibility of the Board to approve budget and oversight financial management	Work plan to be aligned with the Convention Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Five training events involving 85 participants	-National field projects, -Webinars and online meetings: with national and international participation	Lack of funding

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Ramsar Regional Centre - Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA), 2002	15	Yes	Administrative bodies are the Collaborative Management Board and the RRC-CWA Secretariat. The Collaborative Management Board provides strategic guidance, approves programmes/activities, and approves budget and financial regulation.	Collaborative Management Board Member	Collaborative Management Board reviews annual reports and approves the budget and financial regulations.	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Capacity building through the design and delivery of training events or workshops	- CEPA (WWD celebration), celebration - Ramsar Advisory Mission no. 88 (under progress of endorsement of the report) - Promotion of wise use of wetlands through research and sustainable management (organized workshop) - Expand collaboration and corporation with other organizations (UNDP, RRC-EA)	Financial difficulties, mainly caused by the Centre's legal status and identity and COVID-19 restrictions.
Ramsar Regional Centre - East Asia (RRC-EA), 2009	18	No (structural information is available on the website)	The Steering Committee provides guidance in the development of policies and programmes. The Executive Director leads the day-to-day operations.	Steering Committee member	Reported to Steering Committee	Annual work plan and follows the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Four training events	- Regional Training Workshop (wetland manager training, policy dialogue), - Development of training modules (rapid assessment) - Promotion of WWD - Networking with Wetland Link International Asia - Grant programme (4 projects approved for wise use of wetlands, 3 projects approved for WWD) - Meeting of the Independent Advisory Committee for Wetland City Accreditation	Lack of of funding/lack of independence from Host institution

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West African Coastal Zone Wetlands Network (WACOWet), 2009	13	Yes (draft)	The Supervisory Council is in charge of the overall supervision of the policies of the WACOWet Secretariat, and it monitors and reviews implementation of strategies, annual plan, risk management, and financial situation / management.	Observer	Financial & Accounting Procedure Manual (2013) captures the procedures of planning and budget, accounting policy, financial reports, accounting registers / documents.	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	No information	No information	- Partnership development with regional institution (Regional Partnership for Coastal and Marine conservation) - Meeting of the governance board (12 countries participated)	Limited financial resources
Niger River Basin (NigerWet), 2006	9	Yes (draft)	The Supervisory Council is in charge of the overall supervision of the policies of the NigerWet Secretariat, and it monitors and reviews implementation of strategies, annual plan, risk management, and financial situation / management.	Observer	Financial & Accounting Manual (2013) captures the procedures of planning and budget, accounting policy, financial reports, accounting registers / documents.	Annual workplan	Fundraising	Two training events involving 115 participants	- NFPs received training on UNOPS project development - Collected data to update RIS (Niger and Guinea)	Lack of funding, Weak technical capacity
Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean	8	Yes	The Coordination Committee (National Focal Points from member countries) have annual meetings to follow up the implementation of the	Provides support to the Coordination Committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Capacity building through the design and delivery of training	- ERHAA annual regional meeting - Revision and adjustment of regional project proposals and for capacity building	No information

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Wetlands (HAW), 2005			strategy and its action plan.		administered by the Secretariat under decisions of the Coordination Committee).	Strategic Plan		events or workshops		
Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin, 2009	5	Yes	The Coordination Committee (member countries) as a governance body reviews progress annually.	Provides support to the Coordination Committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee).	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Training events involving 90 participants	Capacity building for wetland managers, policy makers and practitioners in the member countries.	No information
Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (CariWet), 2009	14 (11 from Contracting Parties, 3 from overseas territories)	Yes	The Regional Initiative Committee is coordinated by two member countries and includes all Contracting Parties members of the initiative, the Ramsar Secretariat, and the Caribbean sub-regional representatives at the Standing Committee (past, present, and future).	Regional Initiative Committee member providing support	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee)	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	Capacity building through workshops	-IKI Project: Adjustments and designation of personnel and headquarters for the project	Weak engagement from some CPs::

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Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs, 2009	14	Yes	The coordination committee of the Initiative is led by two member countries and includes all Contracting Parties with Secretariat's support.	Provides support to the regional committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee)	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource Mobilization Strategy and fund raising	Capacity building through workshops	- Preparation of portfolio for regional projects in order to find funding sources - Annual meeting - Participation in Ocean Community on Mangroves in Montreal	Lack of funding
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, 2006	18	No (structural information is available on their website)	The EAAFP Management Committee provides general policy, operational and financial direction to the EAAFP Secretariat. A meeting of the Partnership is held annually to oversee the implementation of the Partnership.	Partner	Reporting to the Meeting of Partners (MOP), Financial officer position posted	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy and fundraising	8 training event involving 375 participants from 16 countries	- Development of Flyway Site Network (4 sites designated) - CEPA on migratory waterbirds and their habitats (newsletter, social media, WWD) - Research, monitoring, knowledge generation & capacity building (annual small grant program, 10th anniversary event) - Flyway-wide approaches to conservation (facilitator IUCN Yellow Sea working group) - Drafted a EAAFP Resourcing Plan	COVID-19 restrictions, Weak engagement of CPs

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Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), 1991	27	Yes	The Initiative includes the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com); the MedWet Steering Group; the MedWet Scientific and Technical Network; the MedWet Secretariat. The MedWet/Com is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the initiatives, including approval of strategic documents, annual budget and audited financial reports.	Member of the Steering Group	The MedWet Secretariat administers the approved budgets and submits the annual financial report to the MedWet Steering Group and the MedWet/Com.	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan needs to be updated with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Capacity building through training and workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop/training programme socio-economic valuation of ecosystem services - Establishment of Policy Task Force) - Effectively conserving and managing the Ramsar Site Network (establishment of network of site managers) - Promotion of wise use of wetland (support for Ramsar cities accreditation, for update of national inventory - Enhancing implementation of the Ramsar Convention (coordination and reinforcement of MedWet Scientific Technical Network - Communication through publication of monthly newsletter, WWD, preparation of 3 years capacity building for fundraising). 	COVID 19 restrictions
Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI), 2006	7	Yes	The implementation body of CWI is a Board, which is composed of the focal points from each member. The Board elects a chair to guide the proceedings and meet periodically.	Provide inputs to the Board	No detailed information	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's	Fundraising	Training event involving 11 regional participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainstreaming of wetlands (into sectoral policies, development of proposal for Climate Change) - River basin management (development of projects, facilitation of bilateral consultation) 	Lack of Funding, weak engagement of CPs

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						Strategic Plan			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ecological networks and management of sites (participation in projects related to wetland connectivity issues, designation of Ramsar Sites (7 Sites in Ukraine)) - Prevention of environmental damage (consultations with partners for building of dam on Basca Mare) - Wetlands conservation and restoration (participation in peatland workshop) - Climate change (participation in the meeting of the CC working group, discussion on priorities for projects) Research, monitoring and information system (participation in workshop on systematic exchange and science in decision making, participation in Centralparks project) - CEPA (updated website, promotion of CWI through mass media, presentation on CWI at the meeting of the Slovak Ramsar Committee, consultation on training programme with Czech Ministry of Environment) 	

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Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiatives (NorBalWet), 2005	9	Yes	The Coordination Group is composed of the Ramsar National Focal Points from each participating county and it is the decision-making body.	Member of the Coordination Group	Host Country provides administrative support	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Capacity building through workshops and training	- Coordination of meetings, - Update of website - Communications (public events)	Weak engagement of CPs, lack of common projects
Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet), 2007	7	Yes	The implementing bodies are: the Management Body, the Coordination Unit and the National Working Groups. The responsibilities of the Management Body include taking strategic decisions, and approving and monitoring annual work plans.	Member of Management Body	No detailed information	Annual work plan	No information	Capacity building through workshops and training	- Management and coordination of Unit of BlackSeaWet (6th meeting) - Public awareness raising (dissemination of information, organizing joint events on World Wetlands Day) - Exchange of information on assessment of ecosystem services, restoration of hydrological regime and ecological character of wetlands, invasive alien species - Elaboration and promotion of the project proposals	Lack of Funding, weak HR capacity of focal points or RRI

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Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin (SenegalWet), 2016	4	Yes (by-laws and internal regulations)	The governance bodies are: the Commission, the Governing Board, and the Secretariat of the Initiative. The Commission's responsibilities include making decision on directions of the initiatives, approving strategies, programme and work plan, and controlling financial resources.	No detailed information	Managed by Coordinator	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Resource mobilization strategy	Capacity building through workshops and training	- Revitalization and planning meeting of SenegalWet in Nouakchott (July 2019) - Meeting of the governance board in Dakar (Nov 2019) - Training sessions for R-METT in Mali and Guinea - Training sessions on RSIS	Lack of funding Change of chair of the governing body and coordinator of this RRI.
Regional Initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the Amazon River Basin, 2016	7	Yes	The Initiatives is coordinated by the Coordination Committee, of which the members are the Ramsar National Focal Points.	The Ramsar Secretariat supports the governance body	Managed by the Ramsar Secretariat under decisions of the coordinator of the Initiative	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	Capacity building through workshops	- Preparation for the 4th meeting of the Initiative - Preparation and finalization of the project proposal under the GEF-7 regional program for Sustainable Amazonian countries - Approval of logo	COVID 19 restrictions
Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia Initiative (RRI-CA), 2016	4	No	The decision-making body is the Coordination Committee, which is composed of three key members and six alternatives members from member countries.	No detailed information	Technical Secretary of the RRI-CA (based at CAREC)	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	4 training event involving 375 participants from 15 countries	- Build capacity of different members (wetland rapid assessment, initial engagement to potential member countries) - Promotion of RRI-CA and its goals and plans (producing calendar, WWD events) - Development of regional projects	Limited financial resources, COVID-19 restrictions

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Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI), 2016	5	No (structural information is available on the website)	The Steering Committee, which is composed of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities of member countries, provides oversight of the Initiative's operation.	Observer	Managed by IUCN Asia Regional Office / Senior Programme Officer for IUCN	Annual work plan and Strategic Plan aligned with the Convention's Strategic Plan	Fundraising	10 training event involving 215 participants of which 95 technical and 120 local communities people	- IBRRI strategic plan was launched - Training activities (wetland policy dialogue, participatory assessment for the management effectiveness, citizen journalism training) - CEPA activities (provision of small grant to local governments, publication of web stories) and WWD event	COVID-19 restrictions