



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS

(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Ramsar small grants project assistance programmes

Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use

The Small Grants Fund for Wetland Conservation and Wise Use (SGF) was established by the Conference of the Contracting Parties in 1990, and it provides financial assistance in the form of small grants (maximum Swiss francs 40,000, ca. € 25,000, per project) for projects in developing countries and countries with economies in transition. At present, funding is provided for activities related to the implementation of the Convention's Strategic Plan 2003-2008, including requests for emergency assistance.



From 1990 through 2006, some 198 projects have been funded in about 87 countries, for a total amount of about 7.5 million Swiss francs.

The Fund relies entirely upon voluntary contributions for its operations. In recent years, voluntary financial contributions have been made to the SGF by the governments of Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Monaco, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the UK, and the USA, as well as from WWF International. In addition, in some cases projects submitted to the Ramsar Small Grants Fund have been taken over for direct funding support by such organizations as Wetlands International, as part of its agreement with the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (DGIS), and the World Wide Fund for Nature's Global Freshwater Programme.

Normally, completed applications in English, French or Spanish must be received by the Ramsar Secretariat by 30 June of each year, but Secretariat staff can advise on project proposals submitted prior to 30 April. ***Applications have to be endorsed by the Administrative Authority of the Convention in each country.*** After an evaluation carried out by the technical staff of the Ramsar Secretariat, with advice from other experts as required, recommendations for approval are submitted for the consideration of the Standing Committee. Only very infrequently are two project proposals from the same country awarded grants in the same annual cycle, and proposals are not usually funded in countries that have not satisfactorily completed their previous SGF projects.

The Small Grants Fund Operational Guidelines and application form can be obtained in English, French, or Spanish from the Ramsar Secretariat or on the Ramsar Web site (www.ramsar.org/sgf/key_sgf_index.htm).

List of projects funded by the Ramsar SGF in 2006

Antigua and Barbuda. Inventory of wetlands in Antigua & Barbuda.

Armenia. Development, formulation of implementation strategy, and launch of a National Wetland Policy in Armenia

Benin and Togo. Projet transfrontière d'appui à la gestion participative des ressources de mangrove du Chenal Gbaga au sud-est du Togo et au sud-ouest du Bénin (Transboundary project of support for participatory resources management of the Chenal Gbaga mangroves of southeast Togo and southwest Benin).

Burkina Faso. Projet pilote d'atténuation de la pression sur les ressources de la mare d'Oursi par des activités de gestion rationnelle et de réduction de la pauvreté autour de la Mare

Ecuador. Programa de monitoreo, vigilancia y estado de salud del complejo de humedales "Ñucanchi-Turopamba" propuesto como sitio Ramsar (Monitoring program, protection and health of the "Ñucanchi-Turopamba" wetland complex as a proposed Ramsar site).

Kenya. Developing awareness of and educational materials about Ramsar sites in Kenya.

Kiribati. National preparatory activities for accession to the Ramsar Convention in Kiribati.

Kyrgyz Republic. Development of the National Wetland Conservation Strategy of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Madagascar. Wetland ecological assessment in the southeastern region of Madagascar between Andringitra National Park and Andohahela Park.

Nepal. Sustainable wetland management for wildlife and people at Jagdishpur Reservoir, central Nepal.

Republic of Moldova. Management scenario development for the Unguri-Holosnita new Ramsar site and awareness raising of the Ramsar Convention's wise use policy.

Vietnam. Community-based wise use of the local wetland at Xuan Thuy Ramsar site, north of Vietnam.

Wetlands for the Future

Since 1995, the Ramsar Secretariat, the United States State Department, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service have collaborated on a special initiative, the Wetlands for the Future Fund (WFF) training programme, to benefit Latin American and Caribbean institutions and individuals through capacity building and training in the conservation and wise use of wetlands. This initiative promotes the implementation of the concept of "wise use" of wetlands through strengthening the capacity of countries to manage their wetland resources in perpetuity and contributing to integrate wetland conservation and management with the development process. All proposed activities must be in line with the principles, recommendations and guidelines of the Ramsar Convention. Following proposal evaluations by Ramsar Secretariat staff, projects are chosen by the Secretariat and US Fish and Wildlife jointly and administered by the Secretariat.

Since its inception, the WFF has assisted approximately 225 projects in 22 countries for a total of almost US\$ 3 million in grants ranging from several hundred dollars to a maximum



of US\$ 20,000, which required counterpart funding representing at least 50 per cent of the total cost of the project.

The sponsors of Wetlands for the Future wish to establish partnerships with training institutions, catalyze wetland training activities currently underway or planned within the region, or complement existing training and education initiatives with wetland-related instruction. Further information can be found at www.ramsar.org/wff/key_wff_index.htm.

List of projects funded by the Wetlands for the Future initiative in 2005

Argentina. Evaluación de patrones de diversidad de la ictiofauna y desarrollo de pautas para la sustentabilidad y conservación de los recursos pesqueros del sitio Ramsar Río Pilcomayo y Parque Nacional Río Pilcomayo.

Argentina. Proyecto para la conservación, protección y evolución continua de la biodiversidad en la Reserva Natural 'Vaquerías', Cuenca del Lago San Roque.

Argentina. Una propuesta estratégica para humedales del Chaco Salteño.

Argentina. Propuesta de trabajo sobre humedales patagónicos (Mallines).

Argentina. Humedales de la Argentina. Un documental que descubre los secretos más valiosos de los humedales, sus problemas y sus soluciones.

Bolivia. Recuperación el Humedal Palmar de las Islas.

Colombia. Conservación de Humedales Altoandinos en el Departamento de Caldas.

Bolivia. Recuperación el Humedal Palmar de las Islas.

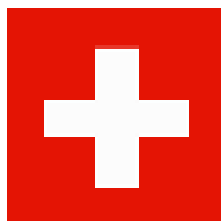
Ecuador. Primer Simposio Nacional sobre Humedales, Loja-Ecuador.

Mexico. Rescate y conservación de la biodiversidad en los humedales de San Crisanto.

Peru. Generando capacidades para la gestión de los humedales en la costa peruana.

Peru. Valoración y mantenimiento del manglar de San Pedro, en Vice, Sechura, departamento de Piura, Perú.

The Swiss Grant for Africa



The Swiss Grant Fund for Africa administered by the Ramsar Secretariat is a generous contribution offered by the Federal Government of Switzerland over and above the annual dues provided to the Convention's core budget, in order to support wetland conservation and wise use and the implementation of the Convention in Africa. This annual contribution dates back to 1989 following the establishment of the Convention secretariat in Switzerland in 1988. The Swiss Grant is extremely useful in financing suitable emergency action or specific activities in needy areas of wetland conservation and wise use. This contribution, amounting to 130-150,000 Swiss francs per year, is also particularly helpful in promoting the Convention in the region. It is administered under the supervision of the Senior Advisor for Africa (africa@ramsar.org) in the Ramsar Secretariat, in collaboration with the Swiss authorities, and there is no formal application process for this initiative.

List of projects funded by the Swiss Grant for Africa in 2006

Assistance for Zimbabwe's accession to the Convention;

Elaboration of a handbook to develop the capacities of the Administrative Authorities in their daily role in the implementation of the Convention in Africa;

Increasing agricultural and food production using wetland resources of the Senegal River (Mandéry) to alleviate poverty among the surrounding rural community;

Promotion of Typha grass briquettes as a fuel wood alternative and income generation opportunity in the Typha-affected Hadijia-Nguru wetlands in Nigeria;

Establishing a network of Ramsar sites along the Congo River (CongoWet).

Project support and external support agencies

The Ramsar Secretariat has a mandate to initiate and maintain contacts with external support agencies, both in order to sensitize them to the need for wetland conservation and wise use as an integral part of their projects, and to solicit from them greater support for projects aimed at the environmentally sound management of wetlands.

The Secretariat places a high priority on working with donor agencies to assist in wetlands work in developing countries. Presently, for example, in Africa alone, Ramsar staff is working with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) on multinational wetland projects involving the Lake Chad Basin Commission's five member states, the Niger Basin Authority's nine states, and the range states of the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). In addition, Ramsar is involved in wetland projects in Africa which are benefiting from bilateral assistance from agencies in Belgium, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and the European Union. At the same time, Ramsar is also working with African projects receiving financial and in-kind assistance from the Convention's International Organization Partners (BirdLife International, IUCN, the International Water Management Institute, Wetlands International, and WWF International), as well as from Oiseaux Migrateurs du Paléarctique Occidental (OMPO), the Macarthur Foundation, the MAVA Foundation, the Fondation internationale du Banc d'Arguin (FIBA), and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. Private-sector financial assistance for Ramsar-related projects in Africa has also come from the Danone Group, Banrock Station Wines, and Point Afrique, a French air transport company that donates low-cost transportation and accommodation to assist in African development.

For further information, please contact:

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