

## Proposal forms for a new Ramsar Regional Initiative 2016-2018

Administrative Authorities of Contracting Parties aiming for a new initiative (whether a regional network or a regional centre for training and capacity building) to be formally recognized as *operating within the framework of the Convention during the period 2016-2018* should complete the forms below and send by 23 October 2015 to Tobias Salathe, Senior Regional Advisor for Europe, ([salathe@ramsar.org](mailto:salathe@ramsar.org)) with a copy to the respective Senior Regional Advisor at the Secretariat.

Please note: This process concerns only **new** regional initiatives for 2016-2018.

The Heads of Ramsar Administrative Authorities of all Parties concerned by the initiative are invited to send to the Ramsar Secretariat formal letters expressing their support to the regional initiative (see model Form B).

Coordinating bodies of regional initiatives who are requesting start-up funding support from the Ramsar core budget during the period 2016-2018 are required to add to their proposal a **financial plan for the period 2016-2018**, as well as a **detailed financial plan and work plan for 2016**, according to the format provided in Form C below.

Please also note that regional initiatives that are recognized by the Standing Committee as operating within the framework of the Convention will be required to submit annual progress reports and financial reports to the Secretariat, according to a standard format, in time to allow adequate reporting to the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

### See also:

[Resolution XII.8 Regional initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention](#)

[Operational Guidelines 2013-2015 for Regional Initiatives in the framework of the Convention on Wetlands](#)

[Resolution XII.2 The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024](#)

### Annexed:

Form A: Regional Initiative Proposal Form  
Form B: Proposed model for National Letters of Support  
Form C: Financial and Work Plan format

## Form A: Regional Initiative Proposal Form

### A. Aim of the regional initiative

#### 1. Implementation of the Ramsar Approach

Describe briefly how the initiative will promote the objectives of the Convention and implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 through cooperation on wetlands issues of common concern in your region:

The Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI) will support the effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention and coordinated implementation of the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Ramsar Convention by improving engagement, co-operation and knowledge sharing in the countries of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. Establishing IBRRI, as required under Resolution XII.8 of the Ramsar COP12, will provide regional co-ordination to implement the the four goals of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024. It will support a transboundary concerted approach on Ramsar implementation by providing a regionally focused multistakeholder forum for establishing partnerships and improving wetland management in the region and through supporting research and dissemination of scientific information relating to drivers of wetland loss and degradation, improving site management, engaging in advocacy and development of policy, and improving capacity and awareness.

#### 2. Strategic and operational targets

List the main strategic and operational targets of the initiative for 2016-2018 and explain briefly how these targets are aligned with the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024:

The IBRRI Strategic Vision; and IBRRI Strategic Workplan 2016-2018 shall be developed in consultation with Contracting Parties and key stakeholders for review and approval by the Contracting Parties at an inception workshop in early 2016. The strategic vision and strategic workplan would clearly define the role of IBRRI in implementing the agenda of the Ramsar Convention and how proposed objectives are aligned with the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024.

The anticipated objectives of IBRRI are:

- a) To promote and participate in the implementation of the Ramsar objectives and initiatives in the Indo-Burma region.
- b) To develop and reinforce capacities in areas where these are lacking, and especially to develop and ensure adaptive management of Ramsar sites and cooperation between their management bodies.
- c) To transfer and exchange knowledge and expertise to key conservation actors in order to reinforce wetland management throughout the Indo-Burma region.
- d) To coordinate with other international initiatives in the region, and globally.

Operationally, it is envisioned that IBRRI will:

- e) Promote scientific and technical cooperation by supporting joint research on management and wise use of wetlands taking into accounts aspects of biodiversity, livelihoods climate change mitigation and other ecosystem services; identifying wetlands playing key roles in providing ecosystem services for the region, working on ecosystem valuation and supporting hydrology and biodiversity surveys and wetlands inventories;
- f) Ensure the implementation of conservation strategies for all Ramsar Sites in the region by developing or supporting the development of management plans and regulatory/management tools for the wetlands; overseeing and supervise existing

projects on Ramsar and provide advice and guidance; promoting the use of common tools and approaches to assess the effectiveness of management in the sites.

- g) Engage in and support regional dialogues on the development of wetlands conservation policy by jointly reviewing and sharing existing policies and working jointly on improvement;
- h) Support capacity building through the development of training and educational programmes; developing and providing trainings on Ramsar Convention and relevant resolution and guidelines, management planning of Ramsar Sites, transboundary water and wetlands governance.

### **3. Geographical region covered**

Describe the geographical region and list the countries participating in the initiative. Also indicate the countries in the region which are not supporting or not participating in the initiative and the reasons, as appropriate:

The initiative will work throughout the entire territories of the following five Contracting Parties: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam. Significant wetland assets in this region include existing and upcoming Ramsar Sites (26-27 Sites) as well as other freshwater wetlands in the Lower Mekong, Ayeyarwady, Thalween, Chao Phraya and Red River Basin; including large lakes such as the Tonle Sap and Inle Lake and extensive and high value coastal habitats including mangroves, coral reefs, mud flats and sea grass beds. In line with Draft Resolution SC48-24 to “*encourage Contracting Parties, international organizations, regional and subregional multilateral agreements, and international river basin organizations to identify for possible inclusion among regional initiatives transboundary river basins of global importance*”, supporting transboundary co-operation amongst the five Contracting Parties in the Lower Mekong Basin would be a major focus of the Initiative.

Provinces of southern China and Eastern India which form part of the Indo-Burma region or are part of the basins of major rivers within the Indo-Burma region would be included as a region of consideration for IBRRI. Opportunities for technical engagement and collaboration with key stakeholders from those countries/provinces would be considered a priority of the IBRRI, along with identification of the potential for further integration into the activities of IBRRI in the future.

### **4. Stakeholder involvement**

List the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and all other participating stakeholders, such as Ministries other than those responsible for Ramsar implementation, intergovernmental bodies, Ramsar International Organization Partners, local communities, NGOs, economic actors, etc:

Stakeholders to the IBRRI identified include:

- Governments of the five contracting parties, to be represented by the five Ramsar Administrative Authorities, but also including National Mekong Committees and other agencies with planning, policy making and implementation responsibilities in natural resource management, particularly water, and transboundary co-operation;
- Intergovernmental bodies, such as the Mekong River Commission, the United Nations Development Programme, and the Ramsar Convention;
- Ramsar International Organisation Partners working in the region, including WWF International, International Water Management Institute and Birdlife International (IUCN is also within this category, but would also function as the Secretariat);
- Local NGOs and community Civil Society Organisations working on wetland management and community development in wetland areas;
- Academic and government research facilities working on water management, climate

change impacts and resilience in the Indo-Burma Region.

- Ramsar Site management staff;
- The local communities and households in and around the Ramsar Sites;
- Regional government authorities, NGOs and communities in IBRRIs region of consideration i.e. areas of Indo-Burma within India and China; and
- Private sector stakeholders, particularly in water dependent industries such as hydropower, aquaculture/ fisheries and agriculture.

## **B. Coordination mechanisms**

### **5. Coordination of activities**

**Describe briefly how the activities under the initiative are coordinated and by whom. Specify any mechanism established to ensure coordination between the Secretariat, the Contracting Parties and other participants:**

The IBRRI will have two key governance bodies; the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee, and would be co-ordinated by a Regional Secretariat hosted by the IUCN Asia Regional office. A Regional Scientific and Technical review panel would also be created to support the work of the overall IBRRI.

Contracting Parties would be represented by the Ramsar National Focal Points (NFPs) on both the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee, and, where appropriate, the NFPs would take the lead in co-ordinating with other government agencies in each country. The Technical Committee would also include representation from Intergovernmental Organisations, International Organisation Partners (IOPs) of the Ramsar Convention, and other governmental and non-governmental organisations with significant involvement in wetland management.

Co-ordination with the Ramsar Secretariat would be achieved through involvement of a representative of the Ramsar Secretariat on the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee. The IBRRI Secretariat would also work closely with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.

Primary responsibility for co-ordination of activities under IBRRI would be undertaken by the IBRRI Secretariat. The IBRRI Secretariat would support organization and implementation of events and activities, produce regular communication outreach to the IBRRI members, look for funding and ensure timely delivery of work plans. The secretariat will be hosted at IUCN Asia Regional Office in Bangkok with two dedicated staff [pending receipt of appropriate core funding].

The existing role of the Water and Wetlands Programme at the IUCN regional office in leading regional projects supporting improved wetland management, water governance and transboundary co-operation, and the fact that all the Contracting Partner countries have an established working relationship with IUCN, makes the IUCN Asia Regional Office the appropriate organization to coordinate the initiative. This was confirmed during discussions at the Ramsar Regional COP for Asia. IUCN's role should be as a facilitator/secretariat for the IBRRI in close coordination with relevant government counterparts particularly the NFPs. The IBRRI Secretariat would also be responsible for ensuring collaboration with existing Regional Initiatives in Asia; the partnership for the East Asian-Australasian Flyway and the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia.

## 6. Identity of the initiative

Describe how the regional initiative will present its own identity to avoid any confusion between its role and those of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities and the Ramsar Secretariat:

The Indo-Burma Regional Ramsar Initiative will be a transboundary co-operation and facilitation platform for improved implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the target region. During the initiation phase of the IBRRI, partners will jointly develop a communication strategy which will clearly present the IBRRI's identity as a Regional Initiative under Resolution XII.8 distinct from the Ramsar Secretariat, including through the establishment of a clear visual identity and publication of the roles and responsibilities of the IBRRI, and its role in supporting the objectives of the Ramsar Secretariat, on a IBRRI website as discussed in Section 12. Once completed, all members would be trained on the communications strategy, and where appropriate all publications, tools and trainings developed under the initiative would adopt the visual identity defined for the IBRRI.

## 7. Coordinating and supervising regional projects

Describe any regional projects or programmes which are ongoing or will be developed under the initiative, and note if professional staff will be involved in their implementation or supervision:

Through its Water and Wetlands Programme, the IUCN Asia Regional office is implementing a number of projects and programmes currently ongoing or being assessed which relate directly to the management of wetlands and Ramsar sites in the Indo-Burma Region. Projects relating to sustainable management of wetlands and Ramsar sites are being developed ongoing basis by the IUCN Asia Regional office, and by partners throughout the region. Professional staff within the Water and Wetlands Programme currently implementing these projects would provide significant support to the IBRRI. Existing projects and proposals currently under consideration include:

- *“Building Resilience of Wetlands in the Lower Mekong Region, through a Ramsar Regional Initiative”* (BMU funded): IUCN ARO is negotiating details for the final approval for BMU funding commencing in January 2015 which will support the Regional Ramsar initiative on the Mekong river with support from the Ramsar convention secretariat. This project will build Climate Change resilience in selected Ramsar sites in Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam and will work on strengthening capacities of Ramsar Sites managers and Ramsar authorities in the Indo-Burma Region.
- *“Protected Area Solutions for Biodiversity and Climate Change”* (BMU funded): IUCN HQ developed a proposal for the BMU which was selected to go to the full proposal development stage. If successful it will engage government and civil society to assess governance of the national PA system in Viet Nam with a focus on diversifying wetlands governance. A landscape approach to Tram Chim (Mekong) and Xuan Thuy (Red River), freshwater and coastal Ramsar sites respectively, will show how improved governance arrangements can lead to more effective PA management and generate benefits for local stakeholders.
- *“Climate change adaptation in wetlands areas in Lao PDR”* (GEF funded): IUCN Lao PDR and FAO developed a proposal for the GEF on “Climate Adaptation on Wetlands Areas”. The Project Implementation Form has been approved by the GEF and MoNRe Lao PDR, FAO and IUCN submitted a Project Preparation Grant (PPG) to the GEF in April 2015. This project will build the resilience of the Xe Champhone and Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar Sites in Lao PDR.
- *“Sustainable management of the Lower Mekong wetlands”* (KfW funded): IUCN Lao PDR has been chosen as a co-implementing agency by the Lao government for this upcoming project on the sustainable management of the Beung Kiat Ngong Ramsar Site to ensure

the sustainability of the implementation of the management plan (approved by KfW).

- “Community –led coastal management in the Gulf of Mottama, Myanmar” (SDC funded): IUCN ARO was selected, as part of a consortium with Helvetas and NAG (network activity group, local NGO) to implement an SDC funded project in the Gulf of Mottama (Community-led coastal management in the Gulf of Mottama). This 3 years project will work on fisheries management in the Gulf and will support the designation of a Ramsar Site in Mon state as well as building a conservation plan for the site.

## C. Governance

### 8. Governance and advisory mechanisms

Describe briefly how the initiative will be established in your region, what mechanisms exist or will be established to provide governance, coordination and advice (committees, boards, etc), and how all relevant Parties and stakeholders will be able to provide guidance and insight:

The IBRRI will have two main governance bodies, the Steering Committee and the Technical Committee, with specific mandates and roles to be defined in the Terms of Reference. A Regional Scientific and Technical review panel would be created to support the work of the IBRRI. The overall work of the IBRRI would be facilitated by a secretariat hosted by the IUCN Asia Regional office, as outlined in Section 5.

#### The IBRRI Steering Committee

The primary governance mechanism of IBRRI will be the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will be composed of representatives from NFPs of the five Contracting Partners, a representative of the Ramsar Secretariat and the chair of the Regional STRP. The steering committee will be chaired by one of the Ramsar National focal points for a period of three years.

This Steering Committee will be responsible for final approval of status, work plans, resolutions, documents and communication produced by the regional Initiative, and will meet annually. The Committee will liaise and co-ordinate with the Ramsar Secretariat through the representative, ensuring that the IBRRI follows the Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives.

#### The IBRRI Technical Committee

The IBRRI Technical Committee will be established as the primary implementing body and to ensure that key stakeholders working within the IBRRI geographical area, other than the contracting parties, are able to provide guidance to the IBRRI.

The Technical Committee will be composed of the 5 contracting parties, Ramsar secretariat, delegates of the regional STRP, MRCs, representatives of regional International Organisation Partners (IUCN, IWMI, WWF) and other international organizations (UNEP, CI, FFI) and representatives of locals NGOs and academics in the 5 countries working on wetlands and Ramsar.

This committee will lead the development of work plans, case studies and technical interventions and will convene regularly to exchange and propose orientation for the IBRRI. It will report directly to the steering committee, the only decision-making body for the initiative. The participation of local NGOs in the committee will ensure the representation of the civil society. To further improve co-ordination with the Ramsar Secretariat, it is envisaged that the Regional Senior Officer from the Ramsar Secretariat will be part of the technical committee of IBRRI.

#### The Regional Scientific and Technical Review Panel (RSTRP)

The RSTRP will provide regional support for the work of the existing Ramsar STRP, provide scientific and technical support and contribute to the development and implementation of initiatives in the Indo-Burma region. It will be composed of current STRP Focal Points in the relevant countries and additional relevant governmental and non-governmental members

identified by the Steering Committee members.

The RSTRP would ensure appropriate peer review of draft materials, including consideration of how best to present the material in order to ensure its effective communication and uptake, review and approve all scientific and technical materials prior to any transmittal of them to Parties, and leverage their own networks of wetland experts nationally and internationally to contribute to the work of the Panel. The RSTRP would play a key role in improving the accessibility of Ramsar resources to wetland managers in the Indo-Burma region.

## **9. Regulations for the governance and coordination bodies of the initiative**

List any terms of reference, rules of procedure, or other written regulations which the initiative has established or is planning:

The following documents shall be developed in consultation with Contracting Parties and key stakeholders for review and approval by the Contracting Parties at an inception workshop in early 2016:

- Terms of Reference of the Indo-Burma Regional Ramsar Initiative;
- IBRRI Strategic Vision; and
- IBRRI Strategic Workplan 2016-2018.

The Terms of Reference of the Indo-Burma Regional Ramsar Initiative would be the key document to establish the governance and co-ordination mechanisms outlined in Sections 5 and 8 and to ensure equitable and transparent governance and co-ordination structures. These Terms of Reference must be developed in consultation with contracting parties and key stakeholders, to ensure that they are commonly accepted by the relevant parties.

Following the inception workshop, IBRRI shall inform the Ramsar Secretariat of the status of the establishment, and the composition, of the governance bodies described in Section 8, and provide the terms of reference or any other written regulations relating to the governance and coordination of the Initiative.

All minutes and proceedings of governance bodies will be provided to the Ramsar Secretariat, as specified in the Operational Guidelines for Regional Initiatives. Similarly, the Ramsar Secretariat will be provided with reports on the activities of IBRRI for presentation to Conference of the Parties and the Standing Committee.

## **D. Substantive elements**

### **10. Effective regional collaboration**

Describe briefly how the initiative will create an enabling environment in the region, provide a framework for the development of collaborative networks, and seek collaboration with other intergovernmental or regional and international agencies, local NGOs, and partners including Ramsar IOPs operating in the region:

Currently, discussions on water and wetlands policy and management are being undertaken in a variety of forums, such as through the MRC or through individual projects and organisations, often with limited co-ordination between them. IBRRI would provide an overarching framework for the linking and strategic integration of all Ramsar-related water and wetlands policies, programmes and projects throughout the 5 target countries.

IBRRI will deliver better strategic co-ordination of programmes throughout the region through adoption of the IBRRI Strategic Vision and Workplans. The governance mechanisms proposed in Section 8 are highly inclusive, and provide opportunities for

stakeholders to regularly share information and conduct joint planning. In particular, the technical committee would have broad membership and would act as a knowledge hub for wetland management in the region.

The IUCN Water and Wetlands Programme, a Ramsar IOP and the organisation where the proposed IBRRI Secretariat would be located, has existing working relationships with other Ramsar IOPs including WWF, Birdlife International and IWMI which operate in the region and also with national Ramsar Administrative Bodies and . IBRRI would formalise and expand these relationships and ensure that co-operation is strengthened by shifting from project based collaboration to ongoing collaboration.

Following the establishment of IBRRI, Memoranda of Cooperation would be sought with key stakeholders working in the Indo-Burma Region, and also with the other Regional Ramsar Initiatives in Asia, the Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia and the Partnership for the East Asian – Australasian Flyway.

### **11. Optimal use of Ramsar tools**

**Describe briefly how the initiative will make best use of the Ramsar tools (frameworks, guidelines, guidance, methodologies, handbooks, etc.) published in the Ramsar Handbooks, Technical Reports and Briefing Notes of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel:**

The IBRRI will facilitate and improve use of the Ramsar tools by improving accessibility, promotion and integration into regional projects. Many Ramsar tools currently of limited accessibility to many stakeholders in the region as they are not available in local languages. A key role of IBRRI would be co-ordinating the translation of the most relevant tools, particularly the guidelines and handbooks, into local languages. The use of these tools would also be promoted through the increased training opportunities in the Indo-Burma region that the IBRRI would deliver (e.g on R-METT), and through creation of a regional knowledge platform in the form of a website where translated and regionally focussed Ramsar tools would be made available along with other information resources.

IBRRI will also develop promotion materials based on relevant experience and materials from around the Indo-Burma region.

The Regional Scientific and Technical Review Panel of IBRRI would be responsible for identifying opportunities to apply the Ramsar tools, developing local resources based on the Ramsar tools, and supporting the upscaling of regionally developed tools to the global level in co-operation with the Ramsar STRP.

### **12. Increased visibility for Ramsar**

**Describe briefly how the initiative will raise the visibility of the Ramsar Convention and awareness of Ramsar objectives. Mention specific activities in the fields of communication, education and participatory processes with relevant stakeholders:**

As introduced in Section 6, a communications strategy would be developed for the IBRRI by the partners as part of the inception phase. This communications strategy will define how the Ramsar Convention and Ramsar Secretariat are to be presented, in line with Resolution XII.8. All tools and publications of the IBRRI would adhere to this communications strategy, ensuring that the distinct identity of the IBRRI is maintained and the profile of the Ramsar Convention and awareness of its objectives are increased.

Involvement of key stakeholders in the IBRRI Technical Committee will contribute to

engaging with these stakeholders to achieve the Ramsar Convention objectives. Translation of Ramsar materials including handbooks and other tools, will greatly increase visibility of the Ramsar Convention and its objectives to government officials and local NGOs working on wetlands in the region who have previously had limited access to Ramsar materials due to the absence of publications in local languages.

It is envisaged that IBRRI would form a key hub for the organisation of workshops and co-ordination of Ramsar related projects, actively facilitating co-operation and capacity building for best practice and wise use management of Ramsar Sites, the Ramsar. Through association with the IUCN Water and Wetland Programme, and greater exposure to other stakeholders working on Ramsar sites, the IBRRI will ensure that the Ramsar Convention is clearly associated with projects relating to Ramsar Site management in the Region.

In addition, the IBRRI will maintain a website to provide information on the objectives of Ramsar in the region; to facilitate the dissemination of Ramsar tools and handbooks, particularly those translated into local languages; provide regularly updated information on the initiatives and activities being promoted in the region.

## **E. Financial and other support**

### **13. Financial support for the initiative**

Summarize here the information in Form C on the planned expenditure and requirements for the period 2016-2018, and the providers of financial support. Specify the amounts which they have firmly pledged and the requirements not yet covered. Also describe the planned expenditure and the sources and amounts of secured income for the year 2016:

The overall financial support of the IBRRI during 2016-2018 will be achieved through a range of means, including:

- **Financial support from the IUCN Asia Regional office through its Water and Wetlands programme in the region and dedicated projects.** These projects, described in Section 7, would enable support to both regional activities (e.g Steering Committees meetings) and country/site based activities. The funding of the secretariat would be ensured through those projects. The estimated amount allocated by IUCN to the initiative for this period is USD 410 000 with 60 000 secured from SDC.
- **Financial support from one or more contracting parties as available and decided/voted by the Steering Committee;**
- **Support from the Ramsar Convention Secretariat.** An initial request for start up funding of USD 60,000 per year over three years will be requested by the IBRRI to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to support the inception meetings, completion of Terms of Reference, development of a strategic vision and regional work plan, and to assist with establishing momentum for the implementation of initiatives between 2016 and 2018.

For 2016, the budget needed is estimated at 125 000 and IUCN has already secured 30 000 USD from SDC and BMU.

### **14. Political support for the initiative**

Mention any bodies providing political support in addition to those which have submitted a National Letter of Support (Form B):

In addition of the Ramsar NFPs, IUCN relationships with various Ministries developed through other projects will be activated to ensure a wider political support to the IBRRI. In particular, the hydro-diplomacy programme of IUCN which aims to strengthen

transboundary water cooperation has developed strong linkages with the MRC and National Mekong Committees (NMCs) in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The idea of the IBRRI was discussed with key individuals from NMCs and their active support would be sought during the inception phase to ensure the integration of MRC with IBRRI. The hydro-diplomacy programme of IUCN also built connections with various Ministries of Foreign affairs which will be useful for the implementation of Ramsar at transboundary level.

Finally in Myanmar, recent connection built with the National Water Resources Committee will be useful to ensure that Ramsar is integrated within their strategy and their participation to the IBRRI will be sought.

#### **15. Request of Ramsar core budget financial support**

If you will request start-up funding from the Ramsar core budget for the initial operation of the initiative during the period 2016-2018, ensure you provide a detailed and complete financial plan in Form C and at point 13 above, and also explain how the initiative will generate its own resources and become financially self-sufficient after the start-up phase and in the long term:

An initial request for start up funding of USD 60,000 every year for three years will be requested by the IBRRI to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to support the inception meetings and developing a Ramsar Regional strategy based on the new Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 – 2021 (see 'Workplan 2015-2016' below), and all day to day management of the IBRRI.

## Form B: Proposed model for National Letters of Support

The Ramsar Administrative Authority *is invited to use the model text below to provide a letter of support to a proposal, expanding as appropriate on the issues highlighted in **bold**.*

Letterhead of the national Ramsar Administrative Authority  
Country XXX

*Original to be sent to:*  
The Secretary General  
Ramsar Convention Secretariat  
Rue Mauverney 28  
CH-1196 Gland  
Switzerland

*Electronic copies to:* [salathe@ramsar.org](mailto:salathe@ramsar.org) with a copy to your respective Senior Regional Advisor at the Secretariat.

Re: Formal support for Ramsar regional initiative XXX

Dear Secretary General

Our region XXX harbours a rich and important variety of wetland **ecosystem types**, such as XXX. They provide a number of **wetland services** to our society, such as XXX. We therefore strongly support the regional initiative XXX as a concerted, long-term operational means to provide effective support for the improved implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Wetlands and its Strategic Plan in our region.

We are prepared to provide this regional initiative with substantial **political** and **financial support**, and in-kind support through the provision of expert and staff time, according to the needs and operational procedures to be defined by the governing bodies of the initiative. We believe that the regional initiative XXX corresponds to the Operational Guidelines 2013-2015 which COP12 approved for continued use through Resolution XII.8, and remain available to report on its development as required by Standing Committee decisions and avail ourselves for the needed coordination between our Ministry and the Ramsar Secretariat.

Therefore, we invite the Standing Committee to favourably evaluate the proposal for the regional initiative XXX and to endorse it as operating in the framework of the Ramsar Convention for the period 2016-2018.

Sincerely yours

*signed by:*  
Head of the Ramsar Administrative Authority

## Form C: Financial and Work Plan format

### 1. Title of the regional initiative

Write the title of your initiative as spelled out in Form A:

### 2. Financial planning for the period 2016-2018 (3 years)

Provide a summary table according to the format below:

Sources of income (donors)	Income confirmed	Income anticipated
donor name	confirmed amount (currency)	amount expected (currency)
BMU <i>“Building Resilience of Wetlands in the Lower Mekong Region, through a Ramsar Regional Initiative”</i>		200 000 USD
GEF <i>“Climate change adaptation in wetlands areas in Lao PDR”</i>		60 000 USD
SDC <i>“Community –led coastal management n the Gulf of Mottama, Myanmar”</i>	60 000 USD	
KfW <i>“Sustainable management of the Lower Mekong wetlands”</i>		60 000 USD
Sida-SEI <i>“Asia Conference Strategic Fund”</i>		30 000 USD
Ramsar core budget		requested amount (currency)
<b>Total</b>		180 000 USD

### 3. Work plan for the year 2016

Provide a simple logical framework table according to the format below:

objectives	Activities	results/outputs	indicators
1. Create the governance mechanisms for IBRRI	1.1 Inception workshop	Endorsement of IBRRI status and ToRs	Status and ToRs of the IBRRI governance committees
2. Define the 2016=2018 workplan for the IBRRI	2.1 Two days consultation workshop on IBRRI workplan	Preliminary workplan defined	Draft workplan approved by IBRRI members
	2.2 Draft IBRRI workplan 2016-2018	Final workplan	Final workplan approved by IBRRI members

3. Disseminate Ramsar tools and guidelines in local language	3.1 Translation and dissemination of 5 key Ramsar documents in local language and dissemination through 5 National workshops	5 key documents translated in the 5 local languages and disseminated through 5 National workshops in local language	Improved understanding of the Ramsar convention at local level
	3.2 Organise 5 National trainings and 1 Regional training on R-METT	6 trainings (1 regional training and 5 national trainings)	Improved understanding of R-METT at local level
4. Provide a dialogue platform for the improvement of	4.1 Organise a training on the compatibility between the International water law (with a focus on the UNWC) and the Ramsar convention	Draft resolution on the UNWC and the Ramsar convention	Improved transboundary water cooperation

## 5. Financial plan for the year 2016

Provide a detailed forecast of income and expenditure:

Activities	Forecast/budgeted expenditure
Activity	amount (USD)
1.1 Inception workshop	10 000
2.1 Two days consultation workshop on IBRRI workplan	10 000
2.2 Draft IBRRI workplan 2016-2018	10000
3.1 Translation and dissemination of 5 key Ramsar documents in local language and dissemination through 5 National workshops	40 000
3.2 Organise 5 National trainings and 1 Regional training on R-METT	35 000
4.1 Organise a training on the compatibility between the International water law (with a focus on the UNWC) and the Ramsar convention	15 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>120 000</b>

Sources of income (donors)	Budgeted income
donor name	amount (currency)
BMU	25 000 USD (secured)
KfW	15 000 USD (not secured)
SDC	5000 USD (secured)
SIDA	20 000 USD (not secured)
requested from Ramsar core budget	amount (currency)
	60 000 USD (not secured)
<b>Total</b>	<b>125 000 USD</b>

