

Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Caribbean Wetlands-Cariwet



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Regulations of the Regional Coordination Committee

Approval and Members

The Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Caribbean Wetlands was approved by the Standing Committee (SC40) in May 2009.

The initiative is formed by the following Contracting Parties: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Surinam, Trinidad and Tobago; the overseas territories of the Netherlands (Caribbean Netherlands, Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao), United Kingdom, and France. The non-Contracting Parties of: Haiti and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Besides, UNEP Caribbean Environmental Program, through the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, and International Organizations Partners of Ramsar Convention, such as BirdLife International and WWF.

The purpose of the Caribbean Regional Initiative of Wetlands is to facilitate the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the Caribbean, through the development of a Regional Strategy that allows the participation of national and local government organizations, local communities, the productive sector, non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, working in coordination with international organizations such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Cartagena Convention, international partner organizations to the Ramsar Convention, and technical networks related to the management and wise use of natural resources that operate in the region.

Governance body of the Initiative

The coordinators of this initiative are the Contracting Parties through a Regional Initiative's Committee chaired by one or two countries with the Ramsar Secretariat support. This committee includes each of the Contracting Parties members of the initiative, the Ramsar Secretariat and the Caribbean Sub-regional representatives under the Standing Committee (past and current). (Note; is important to analyze if the reference to the past regional representatives is realistic)

Functions of the Coordination Committee

The functions of the Coordination Committee are as follows:

1. Prepare and approve the work plan of the Initiative for the triennium.

2. Review and contribute with the necessary information for the preparation of the Initiative's annual reports by the initiative's coordinator, which must be submitted to the Secretariat on time and using the reporting templates as well as any other that is required within the framework of the initiative.
3. Approve the regulations of the Initiative's Coordination Committee.
4. Meet once year in an ordinary session or extraordinary sessions as per the request of the simple majority of the members of the initiative.
5. Oversee and evaluate the implementation of the action plan and the development-consolidation of the initiative.
6. Discuss and agree on mechanisms for the consolidation and implementation of the initiative.
7. Propose and discuss positions, regarding the regional initiatives, which must be submitted to the Standing Committee and/or the COP.
8. Elect the principal and alternate coordinators of the initiative.
9. Promote synergies or collaboration networks that favor the participation of all the directly interested parties, at all levels, in the development of the initiative.

Election of the Coordinator of the Initiative

The coordination of the initiative will be on a rotary basis among the member countries based on the interest expressed by the Parties. The election of the principal and alternate coordinators countries will be done in consensus among Ramsar Focal Points of the member countries of the initiative during their annual meetings.

In case that none of the countries nominates as a volunteer, the coordinator (s) will be chosen in alphabetical order among the Parties.

Duration of the Coordination

The coordination activities will initially last for one year extendable for a maximum term of 6 months.

Functions of the Coordinator

1. Represent the Initiative before the Ramsar Secretariat and third parties.
2. Maintain an effective communication with the Secretariat on issues concerning the initiative.
3. Maintain and promote active communication with the focal points of the member Parties of the Initiative.
4. Prepare and present for the consideration of the Coordination committee the annual reports to be presented to the Secretariat on time and appropriate formats.
5. Monitor the activities of the Initiative's action plan including the execution of the budget.
6. Coordinate the administration and management of the allocated/raised funds for the initiative with the Ramsar Secretariat while mechanisms are implemented for their management directly by the initiative.
7. Keep minutes/reports of the meetings and upload them onto the initiative's website (when it is ready)
8. Convene and chair the meetings of the Coordination Committee and propose the agenda for said meetings with the support of the Secretariat.
9. Coordinate the activities, meetings and workshops as needed with the Focal Points and the Secretariat.

Functions of the Country Members of the Initiative

1. Lead the dissemination and implementation of the initiative at the national, regional and local levels.
2. Promote synergies or collaboration networks that favor the participation of all the directly interested parties, at all levels (national, regional, local) in the development of the initiative.

3. Represent the Contracting Party in the meetings of the Coordination Committee and/or other related meetings.
4. Maintain the political and any other support for the development and consolidation of the initiative.
5. Actively participate in the activities of the Coordination Committee of the initiative.
6. Comply with the reports, deadlines and agreements made by the Coordination Committee.
7. Cooperate and maintain permanent communication with the coordinator of the initiative.

Sessions of the Coordination Committee

Procedures for the sessions of the Coordination Committee of the Initiative will be as follows:

1. The Coordination Committee will meet once a year. The Coordinating country could call for additional or extraordinary sessions if needed and/or according to the simple majority request of the Contracting Parties.
2. The coordinating country of the initiative will convene the meetings with the Secretariat at least two months before the meeting.
3. The agenda for the meeting will be prepared jointly by the coordinator and the Secretariat and submitted for consideration and approval by the Coordination Committee.
4. The organization of the logistical aspects and the administration of the funds for the meeting will be done by the host country and the coordinating country with the support of the Secretariat.
5. The report of the meeting will be prepared by a designated rapporteur in each session with the support of the Secretariat.

Participation of Observers

Other stakeholders such as International Partner Organizations associated to the Ramsar Convention, Intergovernmental Organizations etc. related to the initiative may participate as observers in the session(s) of the Coordination Committee or in workshops of the initiative at the invitation of the Coordination Committee.