

Proposals for new Ramsar Regional Initiatives November 2015

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A. Regional cooperation among the countries in the Senegal river basin (SenegalWet)

**Formulaire de proposition pour une
nouvelle Initiative régionale Ramsar des Pays du Bassin du Fleuve Sénégal
(SENEGAL WET)
2016-2018**

Formulaire A : Formulaire de proposition pour une initiative régionale

A. Objectif de l'initiative régionale

1. Mise en œuvre de l'approche Ramsar

Décrire brièvement comment l'initiative soutiendra les objectifs de la Convention et la mise en œuvre du Plan stratégique Ramsar 2016-2024, par la coopération à des questions relatives aux zones humides, d'intérêt commun dans votre région :

Le bassin du Fleuve Sénégal concerne les quatre pays, toutes Parties à la Convention Ramsar suivantes : Mauritanie, Sénégal, Mali et République de Guinée. A l'image d'autres bassins en Afrique, l'Initiative régionale Ramsar des pays du Bassin du Fleuve Sénégal (SENEGALWET) prendra en charge à côté de l'OMVS la gestion des zones humides et des ressources associées suivant les orientations du Plan stratégique Ramsar 2016-2024 et le Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement et de Gestion des Eaux (SDAGE) du fleuve Sénégal à l'horizon 2025.

En effet, le bassin supérieur dans sa partie guinéenne, « château d'eau » du bassin, apparaît comme le secteur le plus préservé sur un plan environnemental mais, paradoxalement, celui sur lequel pèsent le plus d'incertitudes sur les prochaines décennies : en effet, riche de ses formations forestières, de son potentiel minier, ce secteur souffre pourtant d'un enclavement important, de menaces diffuses mais croissantes sur ses ressources naturelles. La protection des têtes du bassin, la gestion des usages, la protection des zones humides sont des priorités. Autour du barrage de Manantali au Mali, et jusqu'à Bakel au Sénégal, se pose de manière prégnante la question liée aux aménagements de retenues d'eau ou de centrales au fil de l'eau, existants ou à venir. Ces aménagements ne sont pas sans impact, positif comme négatif, sur le milieu, le développement économique, la présence de maladies et bien entendu la gestion de la ressource en eau et sa répartition à l'aval. L'extension de périmètres agricoles, la construction d'infrastructures de transport, la destruction de forêts, le surpâturage, les conflits d'usage du sol, les différentes sources de pollution sont autant de menaces potentielles qui pèsent sur cette zone où se retrouvent les trois principaux bras du Sénégal que sont la Falémé, le Bafing et le Bakoye.

Sur ce secteur se dessine déjà, en filigrane, la possibilité d'imaginer sur chacun de ces affluents des schémas d'aménagement spécifiques.

Plus en aval, la vallée se caractérise par une dépendance totale aux apports en provenance de l'amont, qui ne sont qu'en partie régularisés. C'est sur ce territoire que les conséquences du déséquilibre hydrologique observé depuis une quarantaine d'années (baisse de l'hydraulicité couplée à une artificialisation du milieu) sont les plus flagrantes. Ce déséquilibre a en effet conduit à une perte de biodiversité, un assèchement de zones humides, sur un secteur en cours de désertification rendu encore plus vulnérable par l'accroissement de populations et les conflits d'usage du sol. Le cas du lac de Guiers est à ce titre emblématique, puisqu'il concentre dans un espace limité, et de manière contradictoire parfois, tous les espoirs de développement mais aussi tous les écueils environnementaux.

C'est sur ce territoire que l'un des objectifs de la Charte des Eaux, à savoir l'intégration des besoins en eau écologiques dans les politiques de gestion et d'aménagement, prend le plus de sens. La réflexion sur la crue artificielle, de nature à satisfaire les besoins en eau des défluent du fleuve et des nappes souterraines entre autres, sera capitale pour la reconquête des milieux et la satisfaction des usages privés, agricoles et industriels de façon durable.

Le delta situé entre la partie Nord Sénégal et le sud de la Mauritanie est, quant à lui, une zone tout à fait exemplaire et ce à double titre : secteur écologique de toute première importance à l'échelle de l'Afrique, le delta fait l'objet d'une attention particulière en vue d'en protéger les richesses naturelles, et ce avec succès. La gestion des aires protégées peut servir d'exemple sur d'autres

parties du bassin-versant sur lesquels la biodiversité est en danger. Mais, en parallèle, le delta subit aussi, de manière flagrante, les conséquences des aménagements en amont que sont les barrages de Diama et Manantali. Le développement du typha, les difficultés à alimenter les défluent et réseaux, l'impact des digues de protection et la restriction du lit majeur qu'elles induisent, la question du foncier urbain comme agricole sont autant de problématiques qui animent les débats des décideurs locaux.

C'est à l'échelle du bassin tout entier que les questions de la gestion des zones humides, des plantes envahissantes et des maladies liées à l'eau se posent.

2. Objectifs stratégiques et opérationnels

Énumérer les principaux objectifs stratégiques et opérationnels de l'initiative pour 2016-2018 et expliquer brièvement comment ces objectifs sont alignés sur le Plan stratégique Ramsar 2016-2024 :

L'Initiative SénégalWet ambitionne d'être une plateforme de partenariat entre les acteurs institutionnels national et sous régional, les ONI de conservations, les organisations faitières par la conservation et la gestion rationnelle des écosystèmes humides de la zone côtière du bassin du Fleuve Sénégal de la Mauritanie à la République de Guinée.

Sous l'égide de la Convention Ramsar et sous la tutelle du Secrétariat, elle opère de la Convention. L'initiative WacoWet s'assigne la mission de contribuer à la réduction de la pauvreté par la promotion des objectifs de la Convention Ramsar notamment le renforcement de la coopération entre les Etats en vue d'une gestion rationnelle des zones humides du basin du Fleuve Sénégal à travers la valorisation et une meilleure gestion des ressources partagées.

Il s'agit plus spécifiquement participer à la mise en œuvre par les Parties et les acteurs clé des buts et objectifs du PS 2016-2024 et du SDAGE à l'horizon 2025 en partenariat avec l'OMVS :

1. Développer un plaidoyer fort et dynamique en direction des décideurs nationaux et des acteurs institutionnels de la sous – région pour l'élaboration, l'adoption et la mise en œuvre à l'échelle du Bassin du Plan stratégique de SENEGAL WET et des Politiques nationales sur les zones humides à l'échelle des pays et / ou l'intégration des principes et objectifs de gestion durable de ces zones dans les documents de politique/stratégie des institutions régionales ;
2. Développer et impulser des actions pour une meilleure connaissance et une meilleure diffusion de l'information scientifique et technique sur les valeurs et fonctions des écosystèmes des zones humides à travers une plateforme des centres de recherche et de formation, afin de faciliter la prise de décision et de contribuer à l'atteinte des ODD en particulier l'ODD 6 ;
3. Contribuer à la réhabilitation des sites Ramsar dégradés ou en voie de dégradation et en protégeant les écosystèmes particuliers ;
4. Renforcer les capacités des acteurs dans la mise en œuvre efficiente des Politiques Nationales sur les zones humides notamment à travers la fourniture de connaissances et de méthodes pour la gestion durable des zones humides et l'atteinte des ODD ;
5. Contribuer au renforcement des cadres juridiques appropriés pour une protection des écosystèmes humides des pays du bassin ;
6. Intensifier la coopération régionale et internationale autour des problématiques relatives aux

changements climatiques, à l'évaluation des biens et services des zones humides, à la Gestion Intégrée des Ressources en Eau et des bassins hydrographiques transfrontières et à la protection des espèces migratrices en vue de la pérennisation des moyens de subsistance des populations des zones humides des pays du Bassin ;

7. Renforcer la synergie et les échanges pour une meilleure coordination des interventions à tous les niveaux et promouvoir les échanges d'informations par le jumelage et la création de réseaux de sites Ramsar transfrontaliers, d'aires protégées ou sites particuliers.

3. Région géographique couverte

Décrire la région géographique et énumérer les pays participant à l'initiative. Indiquer également les pays de la région qui ne soutiennent pas l'initiative ou qui n'y participent pas et les raisons, le cas échéant :

Les pays qui portent l'Initiative sont les pays couverts par le Bassin du Fleuve Sénégal à savoir la Mauritanie, le Sénégal, le Mali et la République de Guinée d'où il prend sa source.

Ensuite ce sont ces quatre pays à travers l'OMVS qui mène une coopération à la gestion des ressources à travers l'organisation pour la mise en valeur du Fleuve Sénégal.

Enfin, l'Initiative pourra être un bon cadre au-delà de l'élaboration de la Charte de gestion des zones humides, du règlement intérieur, du manuel de procédure comptable et financière, de négocier et faire porter par les instances décisionnels de l'OMVS (la Conférence des chefs d'État et de gouvernement, Conseil des ministres) pour assurer une durabilité institutionnelle et une autonomie financière au sein du Haut Commissariat, avec tutelle technique du Secrétariat de la Convention Ramsar, après la période de 6 ans de financement, pour assurer un mécanisme de financement adéquat à partir des ressources de l'OMVS.

4. Participation des parties prenantes

Faire une liste des Autorités administratives Ramsar et de toutes les autres parties prenantes participantes, comme les Ministères autres que ceux qui sont responsables de l'application de Ramsar, les organismes intergouvernementaux, les Organisations internationales partenaires de Ramsar, les communautés locales, les ONG, les acteurs économiques, etc. :

- Mauritanie
- Sénégal
- Mali
- République de Guinée
- OMVS
- WIA
- IUCN
- UGB
- Cellule nationales OMVS
- Universités et centres de recherche et de formation

B. Mécanismes de coordination

5. Coordination des activités

Décrire brièvement comment les activités de l'initiative sont coordonnées et par qui. Préciser les mécanismes établis pour garantir la coordination entre le Secrétariat, les Parties contractantes et

autres participants :

A l'instar du Haut-Commissariat de l'OMVS, la coordination de l'Initiative après la mise en place des organes et outils de gouvernance, se fera sur une base rotative afin que la gestion des ressources en eau et celle des zones humides puisse être portée et animée par le Coordonnateur de l'Initiative et le Haut Commissaire de l'OMVS.

Pour la période indicative de mise en place des outils et cadres de gouvernance, le Sénégal va assurer la coordination de l'Initiative à travers la Direction des Parcs Nationaux de concert avec la Direction de la gestion et de la planification des ressources en eau.

6. Identité de l'initiative

Décrire comment l'initiative régionale présentera sa propre identité pour éviter toute confusion entre son rôle et les rôles des Autorités administratives Ramsar et du Secrétariat Ramsar :

L'Initiative régionale des pays du Bassin du Fleuve Sénégal aura une personnalité juridique conforme à la résolution sur les Initiatives régionales pour 2013-2015 et aux textes de l'OMVS avec un logo que le Secrétariat de la Convention Ramsar va valider.

7. Coordonner et superviser des projets régionaux

Décrire tous les projets ou programmes régionaux en cours ou qui seront élaborés dans le cadre de l'initiative et mentionner si le personnel d'encadrement participera à l'application ou à la supervision :

Les dispositions du Manuel de procédure va servir de cadre de gestion.

C. Gouvernance

8. Mécanismes de gouvernance et consultatifs

Décrire brièvement comment l'initiative sera établie dans votre région, quels mécanismes existent ou seront mis en place pour assurer la gouvernance, la coordination et les avis (comités, conseils, etc.) et comment toutes les Parties et acteurs pertinents pourront fournir des orientations et des perspectives :

Voir point 7

9. Règlements pour les organes de gouvernance et de coordination de l'initiative

Énumérer tous les cahiers des charges, règlements intérieurs ou autres règlements écrits que l'initiative a établis ou se propose d'établir :

- Charte de gestion des zones humides
- Règlement intérieur
- Manuel de procédure comptable, administrative et financière
- Commission (cadre de concertation des pays)
- Coordination de l'Initiative

D. Éléments de fond

10. Collaboration régionale effective

Décrire brièvement comment l'initiative créera un milieu porteur dans la région, fournira un cadre pour l'élaboration de réseaux de collaboration et cherchera à collaborer avec d'autres organismes intergouvernementaux ou régionaux et internationaux, avec des ONG locales et avec des partenaires, y compris les OIP Ramsar présentes dans la région :

11. Utilisation optimale des outils Ramsar

Décrire brièvement comment l'initiative utilisera au mieux les outils Ramsar (cadres, lignes directrices, orientations, méthodologies, manuels, etc.) publiés dans les Manuels Ramsar, les Rapports techniques Ramsar et les Notes d'information du Groupe d'évaluation scientifique et technique :

Tous les outils y compris les manuels seront vulgarisés.

12. Visibilité accrue pour Ramsar

Décrire brièvement comment l'initiative améliorera la visibilité de la Convention de Ramsar et sensibilisera aux objectifs de Ramsar. Mentionner des activités précises dans les domaines de la communication, de l'éducation et des processus participatifs avec les acteurs pertinents :

Le cadre de référence pour les activités CEPA sera le Plan stratégique CEPA 2016-2024 adopté en juin 2015 à Punta del Este. A cet effet un programme CEPA spécifique aux réalités environnementales et socio-économiques du Bassin sera élaboré et mis en œuvre avec les OIP actifs dans ces quatre pays.

E. Appui financier et autre

13. Appui financier pour l'initiative

Résumer ici l'information contenue dans le formulaire C sur les dépenses prévues et les besoins pour la période 2016-2018 ainsi que les fournisseurs de l'appui financier. Préciser les montants promis et confirmés et les besoins qui ne sont pas encore couverts. Décrire aussi les dépenses prévues et les sources et montants du revenu obtenu pour l'année 2016 :

Voir notes bas de page du Formulaire C

14. Appui politique pour l'initiative

Mentionner tous les organismes qui apportent un appui politique, outre ceux qui ont soumis une Lettre nationale d'appui (formulaire B) :

OMVS

WIA¹

15. Demande d'appui financier du budget administratif Ramsar

Si vous avez besoin de fonds de départ du budget administratif Ramsar pour la mise en route de l'initiative durant la période 2016-2018, veuillez fournir un plan de financement précis et complet dans le formulaire C et au point 13 ci-dessus, et expliquez aussi comment l'initiative générera ses propres ressources et deviendra financièrement autosuffisante après la phase de départ et à long terme :

Le SENEGAL WET ne dispose pas encore de fonds de départ mais peut compter sur l'expertise du personnel des AAR des quatre pays et du réseau de partenaires potentiels.

¹ Les contacts ont été pris mais les calendriers chargés des responsables de part et d'autres n'ont pas permis de finaliser mais les lettres d'appui de ces organisations pourront si déterminant être fournis

Formulaire C : Présentation du plan de financement et du plan de travail

1. Titre de l'initiative régionale

Initiative régionale Ramsar des pays du Bassin du Fleuve Sénégal (SENEGAL WET)

2. Plan de financement pour la période 2016-2018 (3 ans)

Fournir un tableau résumé selon la présentation ci-dessous :

Sources de revenus (donateurs)	Revenu confirmé	Revenu prévu
nom du donateur	montant confirmé (monnaie)	montant attendu (monnaie)
WI		22.500 CHF ²
OMVS		80.000 CHF ³
Budget administratif Ramsar		180.000 CHF

3. Plan de travail pour l'année 2016

Faire un tableau simple et logique selon la présentation ci-dessous :

Objectifs	Activités	Résultats/produits	Indicateurs
1. Doter SENEGAL WET d'un statut et d'organes de gouvernance	1.1 Elaboration des organes et outils de gouvernance (Statut et règlement intérieur, Manuel de procédure comptable et financière)	Les organes de gouvernance de SENEGAL WET sont élaborés et conformes aux orientations de Ramsar et de l'OMVS	Disponibilité des 3 outils de gouvernance de SENEGAL WET (Statut, Règlement Intérieur, Manuel de procédure comptable et financière)
	1.2 Validation des organes de gouvernance	Les organes de gouvernance de SENEGAL WET sont adoptés	Rapport Atelier de validation
	1.3 Elaboration Charte de gestion des zones Humides	Document de la charte validé	1 Document portant Charte de gestion des zones humides disponible
	1.4 Atelier de validation et de mise en place des organes	Validation des organes (missions, rôles et statut)	Organes fonctionnels
2. Adopter un plan d'action triennal d'opérationnalisation	2.1 Signer des MoU avec OMVS et WIA	MoU signés	Partenariat dynamique entre SENEGAL WET, OMVS et WIA
	2.2 Elaborer le Plan stratégique de l'Initiative	Plan stratégique SENEGAL WET adopté	1 Document portant Plan stratégique disponible
	2.3 Réunion d'information avec les	Appropriation des missions et objectifs	4 CR réunions d'information

² À négocier

³ A négocier

	CNR Ramsar pays	de l'Initiative par les CNR ou organes similaires	
	2.4 Confection Logo et Page Web	Outils de communication de l'Initiative adopté	Visibilité accrue de l'Initiative
	2.5 Organisation session de formation sur la GIRE&SDAGE	Rapports de formation	- Nombre de sessions tenues - Liste des participants
	2.6 Elaboration Programme CEPA de l'Initiative	Programme CEPA de l'Initiative adopté	1 Document CEPA de l'initiative disponible

4. Plan de financement pour l'année 2016

Décrire en détail le revenu et les dépenses prévus :

Activités	Dépenses prévues/budgétées
1.1 Elaboration des organes et outils de gouvernance (Statut et règlement intérieur, Manuel de procédure comptable et financière)	10.500
1.2 Validation des organes de gouvernance	5.000
1.3 Elaboration Charte de gestion des zones Humides	10.000
1.4 Atelier de validation et de mise en place des organes	10.500
2.1 Signature des MoU avec OMVS et WIA	-
2.2 Elaborer le Plan stratégique de l'Initiative	10.000
2.3 Réunion d'information avec les CNR Ramsar pays	8.000
12.4 Confection Logo et Page Web	4.000
2.5 Organisation session de formation sur la GIRE&SDAGE	12.000
2.6 Elaboration Programme CEPA de l'Initiative	5.000
2.7 Fonctionnement initiative (secrétariat, communication etc....)	10.000
Total	85.000 CHF⁴

Sources de revenu (donateurs)	Revenu budgété ⁵
nom du donateur	montant (monnaie)
requis du budget administratif Ramsar	montant (monnaie)
Total	

⁴ Le Plan de travail 2016 fera l'objet d'un travail de planification prioritaire avec les Parties que la Coordination soumettra au Secrétariat selon un format approprié.

⁵ idem

B. Regional cooperation for conservation and wise use of wetlands in the Amazon basin

Formularios para propuestas de nuevas Iniciativas Regionales Ramsar 2016-2018

Las Autoridades Administrativas de las Partes Contratantes que deseen que su nueva iniciativa (ya sea una red regional o un centro regional de formación y capacitación) sea formalmente reconocida como *operacional dentro del marco de la Convención durante el periodo 2016-2018*, deben completar los formularios siguientes y enviarlos hasta el 23 de Octubre de 2015 a Tobias Salathe, Consejero para Europa (salathe@ramsar.org) con copia al Consejero Regional correspondiente en la Secretaría.

Tenga en cuenta que: Este proceso concierne únicamente a **nuevas** iniciativas regionales para el periodo 2016-2018.

Los Jefes de las Autoridades Administrativas de Ramsar de todas las Partes involucradas en la iniciativa están invitados a enviar a la Secretaría de Ramsar cartas formales expresando su apoyo a la iniciativa regional (ver formulario B).

Los coordinadores de las iniciativas regionales que solicitan apoyo para fondos iniciales del presupuesto central de Ramsar durante el periodo 2016-2018 deben adjuntar a su propuesta un **plan financiero para el periodo 2016-2018**, además de un **plan detallado de trabajo y financiero para 2016**, siguiendo el formato provisto en el formulario C.

Por favor tenga en cuenta además que las iniciativas regionales que son reconocidas ante el Comité Permanente como operacionales en el marco de la Convención, deberán presentar anualmente informes de avances y financieros a la Secretaría, siguiendo un formato estándar, con tiempo suficiente para permitir que se reporte adecuadamente en la siguiente reunión del Comité Permanente.

Vea también:

[Resolución XII.8 Iniciativas regionales para 2016-2018 en el marco de la Convención de Ramsar](#)

[Lineamientos Operativos 2013-2015 para iniciativas regionales en el marco de la Convención sobre los Humedales](#)

[Resolución XII.2 El plan estratégico de Ramsar para 2016-2024](#)

Anexos:

Formulario A:	Formulario para Propuestas de Iniciativas Regionales
Formulario B:	Propuesta de modelo para Cartas Nacionales de Apoyo
Formulario C:	Formato de Plan Financiero y de Trabajo

Formulario A: Formulario para Propuestas de Iniciativas Regionales.

A. Objetivo de la Iniciativa Regional Conservación y uso sostenible de humedales en la Cuenca Amazónica

1. Implementación del enfoque de Ramsar

Describa brevemente cómo la iniciativa promoverá efectivamente los objetivos de la Convención y cómo implementará el Plan Estratégico de Ramsar para 2016-2024 a través de la cooperación sobre asuntos de interés común sobre los humedales en su región:

Esta Iniciativa Regional tiene como objetivo contribuir a la efectiva administración y manejo de los sistemas de áreas protegidas, al manejo sostenible de los ecosistemas estratégicos, al mantenimiento de bienes y servicios ambientales, la integridad, funcionalidad y resiliencia del Bioma Amazonas. De esta forma, esta iniciativa implementará los objetivos 1 (Meta 1); 2 (Meta 6); 3 (Meta 12) y 4 (Meta 13) del Plan Estratégico de Ramsar 2016-2024:

Objetivo 1: Hacer frente a los factores que impulsan la pérdida y degradación de los humedales especialmente los descritos en la Meta 1 (la energía, la minería, la agricultura, el turismo, las infraestructuras y la pesca a escala nacional y local).

Objetivo 2: Llevar a cabo una conservación y un manejo eficaces de la red de sitios Ramsar, en la cuenca Amazonas se han designado hasta el momento 18 sitios Ramsar y esta Iniciativa busca incrementar la participación de los pueblos indígenas y las comunidades locales en su manejo. Se busca alcanzar la Meta 6 (se produce un aumento considerable de la superficie, la cantidad y conectividad ecológica de la red de sitios Ramsar, particularmente en tipos de humedales insuficientemente representados o ecorregiones insuficientemente representadas y sitios transfronterizos).

Objetivo 3: Adelantar procesos de restauración en los humedales que presentan degradación se busca aportar al cumplimiento de la Meta 12 con la restauración de los humedales degradados que aportarán a la reducción del riesgo de desastres y/o la mitigación del cambio climático y la adaptación a este.

Objetivo 4: Realizar un uso racional de todos los humedales, especialmente los de la Meta 13 (mayor sostenibilidad de sectores clave como el turismo, las infraestructuras y la pesca cuando estos afectan a los humedales, contribuyendo a la conservación de la biodiversidad y a los medios de vida de las personas).

2. Metas estratégicas y operativas de la iniciativa

Liste las principales metas estratégicas y operativas de la iniciativa para 2016-2018 y explique brevemente cómo estas metas se alinean con el Plan Estratégico de la Convención para 2016-2024:

Para lograr los objetivos de esta Iniciativa se deben alcanzar las siguientes Metas:

Meta 1: Fortalecer una visión regional de conservación en la Amazonia basada en los actuales esfuerzos de conservación a nivel nacional, binacional y regional. Esta meta se articula con la Meta 6 del Objetivo 2 del Plan Estratégico 2016-2024.

Meta 2: Generar alianzas y compromisos con los países que han suscrito acuerdos para controlar las presiones que surgen en la región. Esta meta se articula con la Meta 1 del Objetivo 1 y Meta 12 y 13 del Objetivo 3 del Plan Estratégico 2016-2024.

Meta 3: Llevar a cabo pilotos de manejo sostenible y restauración participativa de los humedales.

- **Región geográfica**

Describa la región geográfica y liste los países que participan en la iniciativa. Asimismo, mencione los países de la región que no apoyan o no participan en la iniciativa, y las razones para esto, como sea apropiado:

La cuenca del río Amazonas es la mayor de América y es el hogar de más de 34 millones de personas incluyendo representantes de 386 pueblos indígenas. Este inmenso territorio, más grande que Europa, almacena el 10% de las reservas de carbono del mundo y representa el 20% del total de descargas de agua de los ríos en los Océanos del mundo con un promedio de 220.000 m³/s. Abarca la selva tropical más grande e integra del mundo y genera y sostiene una megadiversidad de especies con más de 40.000 especies de plantas (75% endémicas), 3000 peces dulceacuícolas, 427 anfibios, 378 reptiles, 1.300 aves, 427 mamíferos y cerca de 50.000 especies de insectos.

Toda esta riqueza cultural, hidrológica y biológica enfrenta grandes amenazas como la deforestación, agricultura (soya), inapropiados modelos de ocupación de tierra, minería e infraestructura, pérdida de biodiversidad y contaminación de fuentes de agua.

Esta Iniciativa fue inicialmente propuesta por los ministerios de ambiente de Colombia, Ecuador, Perú y Brasil en COP 11 de Ramsar y en la Reunión Regional Panamericana (octubre 2014). En el Evento Paralelo realizado en el marco de la COP 12 Ramsar invitamos a Bolivia a ser parte de esta Iniciativa.

3. Participación de actores interesados

Liste las Autoridades Administrativas de Ramsar y todos los otros actores que participan, como son otros Ministerios no responsables de la implementación de Ramsar, entes intergubernamentales, Organizaciones Internacionales Asociadas a Ramsar (OIA), comunidades locales, ONGs, actores económicos, etc.:

Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible de Colombia (carta anexa)

Ministerio de Ambiente de Ecuador

Ministerio del Ambiente de Perú

Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Agua de Bolivia.

En proceso de vinculación Ministerio de Ambiente de Brasil, proceso que se viene adelantando desde la realización de la COP 12.

WWF (Colombia, Perú, Ecuador, Bolivia).
Instituto de Investigaciones Amazónica SINCHI (Colombia)

B. Mecanismos de coordinación

4. Coordinación de actividades

Describa brevemente cómo y por quién son coordinadas las actividades de la iniciativa. Especifique cualquier mecanismo establecido para garantizar la coordinación entre la Secretaria, las Partes Contratantes y otros participantes:

Se busca establecer una secretaría técnica que sea la instancia que facilite la implementación de la estrategia y que inicialmente esté en cabeza de Colombia como país postulante y que luego rote cada dos años por cada uno de los países de la estrategia.

5. Identidad de la Iniciativa

Describa cómo la iniciativa regional presentará su identidad propia, para evitar cualquier confusión de roles entre ésta y los de las Autoridades Administrativas de Ramsar y la Secretaría de Ramsar:

Será una estrategia que se consolide como una instancia facilitadora para generar acuerdos, alianzas y acciones que aporten en el cumplimiento de las metas trazadas en el plan estratégico 2016 – 2024.

6. Coordinación y supervisión de proyectos regionales

Describa si hay proyectos o programas regionales en curso o en proceso de preparación por la iniciativa, y mencione si hay personal profesional involucrado en su implementación o supervisión:

Esta Iniciativa Regional estará apoyada por iniciativas actuales, tales como la iniciativa de conservación del corredor trinacional de áreas protegidas PNN La Paya (Colombia) – RPF Cuyabeno (Ecuador) y PN Güeppí Sekime (Perú) el cual busca conservar la biodiversidad y promover el desarrollo sustentable de la Cuenca media del río Putumayo entre otras. Igualmente, se espera que la Iniciativa apoye el incremento de sitios Ramsar en Ecuador (río Lagartococha), Colombia (Lagos de Tarapoto) y mejore el manejo de los sitios Ramsar en Bolivia, Perú y Brasil.

Adicionalmente, se espera articular con el Programa de Paisajes Sostenibles de la Amazonia, una iniciativa regional que abarca a Brasil, Colombia y Perú en el marco del GEF 6.

C. Gobernanza

7. Mecanismos de gobernanza y asesoría

Describa brevemente cómo será establecida la iniciativa en su región, qué mecanismos existen o serán establecidos para proporcionar gobernanza, coordinación y asesoría (comités, juntas, etc.) y cómo las Partes relevantes y actores involucrados podrán proporcionar orientación y puntos de vista.

Se espera utilizar las plataformas existentes de articulación de los países de manera bilateral y multilateral para iniciativas en curso o en ejecución. Igualmente otras instancias como la Red Parques para el caso de las Areas Protegidas.

Específicamente para la Iniciativa, se espera tener una instancia de dialogo y definición de acciones donde los países puedan además de discutir sus particularidades, identificar las acciones de carácter regional que beneficien a la región. Colombia ofrece ejercer la Secretaria de esta instancia en el primer ciclo y luego rotarla a los otros países. Este mecanismo deberá ser discutido y aprobado por los países que se unan a la Iniciativa.

8. Regulaciones para los órganos de gobernanza y coordinación de la iniciativa

Liste los términos de referencia, reglas de procedimientos u otras regulaciones que la iniciativa ha establecido o planea establecer:

D. Elementos sustantivos

9. Colaboración regional efectiva

Describa brevemente cómo la iniciativa generará condiciones propicias en la región y proporcionará un marco para el desarrollo de redes de colaboración y buscará colaboración con otras agencias intergubernamentales, regionales o internacionales, ONGs locales y otros asociados, incluyendo a las OIAs de Ramsar que operan en la región:

Se espera incentivar las acciones regionales que permitirán trabajar entre los países, especialmente, en cooperación sur-sur, transferencia de tecnología, intercambio de experiencias, fortalecimiento de capacidades para el mejor manejo y conservación de los humedales amazónicos. Se espera contar con el apoyo técnico de las OIAs que trabajan diferentes temas relacionados en la Amazonia.

10. Uso óptimo de las herramientas de Ramsar

Describa brevemente cómo su iniciativa hará uso de manera óptima de las herramientas de Ramsar (marcos, directrices, asesoría, metodologías, manuales, etc.) publicados en los Manuales Ramsar, los Reportes Técnicos y las Notas Informativas del Grupo de Examen Científico y Técnico:

Para alcanzar nuestras metas alineadas con las Metas del Plan Estratégico 2016-2024, usaremos las siguientes herramientas del Plan:

Meta 1: Para fortalecer una visión regional de conservación en el Amazonas basada en los actuales esfuerzos de conservación a nivel nacional, binacional y regional; actualizaremos la lista de sitios Ramsar con tipos de humedales insuficientemente representados o sitios transfronterizos del Amazonas e incrementaremos los Inventarios de humedales nacionales e internacionales relevantes.

Meta 2: Para generar alianzas y compromisos con los países que han suscrito acuerdos para controlar las presiones que surgen en la región, trabajaremos con usuarios de las cuencas hidrográficas del Amazonas por lo cual usaremos las siguientes herramientas del Plan Estratégico 2016-2024 Políticas nacionales de humedales del Manual Ramsar 2 (<http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/hbk4-02sp.pdf>) y el Manual Ramsar 7 de Aptitudes de participación (<http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/lib/hbk4-07sp.pdf>).

11. Mayor visibilidad para Ramsar

Describa brevemente cómo su iniciativa incrementará la visibilidad de la Convención de Ramsar y el conocimiento sobre los objetivos de Ramsar. Mencione sus actividades específicas en los campos de comunicación, educación y procesos participativos con actores relevantes:

- Divulgación de la importancia ecosistémica y económica de los humedales
- Concienciación sobre la importancia de los humedales en la adaptación al cambio climático y gestión del riesgo
- Vinculación de las poblaciones que dependen económicamente de los humedales
- Articulación con las estrategias de participación y educación nacionales.

E. Apoyo financiero y de otros tipos

12. Apoyo financiero para la iniciativa

Resuma aquí la información del formulario C sobre los gastos planeados y las necesidades financieras para el periodo 2016-2018, así como sus fuentes de apoyo financiero. Especifique los montos que éstas han comprometido y las necesidades que aún no han sido cubiertas. Describa también los gastos planeados y las fuentes y montos de ingresos asegurados para el año 2016:

Costo total: USD 1,795,500

Presupuesto 2016: USD 452,294

(en gestión por diferentes fuentes)

13. Apoyo político para la iniciativa

Mencione cualquier ente que proporcione apoyo político a la iniciativa además de aquellos que han presentado una Carta Nacional de Apoyo (formulario B):

Instituto de investigaciones amazónicas – SINCHI

WWF (Colombia, Perú, Ecuador, Bolivia).

14. Solicitud de apoyo financiero del presupuesto central de Ramsar

Si usted solicita fondos iniciales del presupuesto central de Ramsar para la operación inicial de la iniciativa durante el periodo 2016-2018, asegúrese de presentar un plan financiero completo y detallado en el Formulario C y previamente en el punto 13, asimismo, explique cómo la iniciativa generará recursos propios y cómo logrará autosuficiencia financiera posterior a la fase inicial y en el largo plazo:

Se espera incorporar en las prioridades de gestión de recursos de cooperación internacional y en el presupuesto nacional asociado a las acciones de prevención del riesgo.

Formulario C: Formato de Plan Financiero y de Trabajo (ver archivo de Excel adjunto)

a. Título de la iniciativa regional

Escriba el nombre de su iniciativa como fue escrito en el formulario A:

Iniciativa Regional Conservación y uso sostenible de humedales en la Cuenca Amazonica

b. Planeación financiera para el periodo 2016-2018 (3 años)

Proporcione una tabla de resumen de acuerdo con el formato a continuación:

Fuentes de ingresos (donantes)	Ingreso asegurado	Ingreso anticipado
Nombre del donante	Monto asegurado (moneda)	Monto esperado (moneda)
Presupuesto básico de Ramsar		Monto solicitado (moneda)

3. Plan de trabajo para el año 2016

Presente una matriz de marco lógico simple de acuerdo con el formato a continuación:

Objetivos	Actividades	Resultados/productos	Indicadores
1. objetivo uno	1.1 actividad		
	1.2 actividad		
2. objetivo dos			

4. Plan financiero para el año 2016

Presente un resumen detallado de los ingresos y gastos previstos:

Actividades	Gastos previstos/presupuestados
1.1 actividad	Monto (moneda)
1.2 actividad	
Total	

Fuentes de ingresos (donantes)	Monto del ingreso presupuestado
Nombre del donante	Monto (moneda)
Solicitado del presupuesto básico de Ramsar	Monto (moneda)
Total	

C. Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI)

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) 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 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

5. Title of the regional initiative

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

6. 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)
Total		180 000 USD

7. 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
8. 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

9. 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
Total	120 000

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)
Total	125 000 USD

D. Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA)

Unofficial English translation: the [original version](#) of this proposal was drafted in Russian.

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) 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

Notes:

* Membership to the RRI-CA will be open to the countries of Central Asia.

** The RRI-CA does not restrict the involvement of the countries of Central Asia in national and regional projects, developed under the Initiative.

*** The RRI-CA does not restrict the rights of the countries of Central Asia to implement the provisions of the Ramsar Convention at the national level or to implement projects within the framework of the Ramsar Convention outside of the mentioned Initiative.

F. Aim of the regional initiative

16. 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 Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA) will promote stronger cooperation and synergies between the members to the RRI-CA (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan; the proposal is under consideration in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) to effectively implement the Ramsar Convention and its Strategic Plan 2016-2024 at the national and regional levels.

The Initiative will:

- Allow the members of the RRI-CA to effectively present themselves as one region in regional and international dialogues on the conservation of environment and wetlands;
- Strengthen synergies in joint activities of the members of the RRI-CA with other national, regional and international bodies that work on the conservation of environment and wetlands;
- Serve as a bridge and intermediary between the members of the RRI-CA as well as between the members and the Ramsar Secretariat.

17. 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 strategic target of the RRI-CA will be the effective implementation of the Ramsar Convention and its Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in Central Asia by promoting stronger cooperation and synergies between the members of the RRI-CA.

Operational targets of the RRI-CA will be:

a. Coordination and communication:

- Support the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in Central Asia;
- Carry out scientific and technical monitoring of the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 in Central Asia;
- Facilitate feedback and information flow between the members as well as between the

members and the Ramsar Secretariat;

- Ensure synergy and coordination of the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Central Asia with other regional and international mechanisms related to water resources, biodiversity, and sustainable development including multilateral environmental agreements;
- Create and maintain a platform for the regular and effective sharing of information related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Central Asia;
- Engage in regional dialogues to promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands.

b. Designation and management of Ramsar Sites, and the conservation of other important wetlands:

- Promote the effective conservation and wise use of existing and future Ramsar Sites in the region;
- Make inventories of important wetlands in the region and to establish a regional wetland database;
- Develop and apply common monitoring mechanisms for evaluating the status of existing and future Ramsar Sites;
- Develop and apply a common methodology for evaluating ecosystem services generated by wetlands, and assessing their economic values.

c. Communication, education, participation and awareness (CEPA), and capacity building:

- Identify technical capacity building needs in the region and provide trainings and workshops as required;
- Raise awareness and knowledge of the general public on the importance of wetland ecosystems and the steps needed for their conservation and wise use;
- Raise awareness of decision makers at all levels on the importance of wetland ecosystems and ensure that wetland issues are included in national and regional dialogues on environment;
- Promote continuous transfer of knowledge and experience sharing within Central Asia and with other regions of the world.

d. Project development and management:

- Initiate and raise funds for projects and programmes in the area of the conservation and wise use of wetlands in Central Asia;
- Provide support in the management of projects and programmes.

18. 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:

Geographically, the activities of the RRI-CA will cover the territories of the countries participating/interested in the Initiative with particular focus on the existing and potential Ramsar Sites. Presently in the region, twenty one wetlands have been included into the List of Wetlands of International Importance. These Ramsar Sites contribute to the conservation of regional and global biodiversity by, for example, supporting habitats for globally threatened migratory waterbirds. In addition, a number of these wetlands play a critical role in regional hydrological processes. For instance, there are seven Ramsar Sites in the basins of Amu Darya and Syr Darya – the two major transboundary rivers of Central Asia. The Ramsar Sites in the region generate a number of important ecosystem services.

19. 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:

All the Ramsar Contracting Parties in Central Asia have expressed their interest in developing a Ramsar regional initiative for Central Asia and up to now, the Ramsar Secretariat has received letters of support for the RRI-CA from the following Ramsar Administrative Authorities:

- Kazakhstan – the Ministry of Agriculture
- Kyrgyzstan – the State Agency on Environment Protection and Forestry
- Turkmenistan – the Ministry of Nature Protection

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will inform the other countries of the region and the Ramsar Secretariat of their official positions on the establishment of the RRI-CA.

Regional and international organizations that have expressed their support for the establishment of the RRI-CA include:

- The Regional Environmental Center for Central Asia (CAREC): They are ready to provide support in the role of a partner organization if all five countries of Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) join the Initiative and decide to involve CAREC in the implementation of the RRI-CA.
- Worldwide Fund for Nature of Russia (WWF Russia): They are ready to provide technical support in developing and implementing joint projects.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature – Eastern Europe and Central Asia (IUCN-EECA): They are ready to cooperate in all the areas, identified as priority for the RRI-CA for the next three years (2016-2018).
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): They have expressed an interest to provide training in Japan for stakeholders in the initiative.

It is also very important to inform the regional and international organizations mentioned below about the establishment of the RRI-CA and seek partnership with them:

- UNEP Sub-regional office for Central Asia
- Fauna and Flora International (FFI)
- Interstate Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD) through its Scientific-Information Center (SIC)
- International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea (IFAS)
- Interstate Commission for Water Coordination for Central Asia (ICWC)
- Birdlife International and its partners such as Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, who is active in Central Asia
- UNDP country offices
- Other interested organizations

G. Coordination mechanisms

20. 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:

A Technical Secretary of the RRI-CA will be responsible for facilitating the coordination of day to day activities of the Initiative in accordance with the terms of reference, drafted by the Ramsar Secretariat and agreed upon by the Ramsar National Focal Points of the member countries during the initiation phase of RRI-CA.

21. 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:

During the initiation phase of the RRI-CA, the member countries and partners will jointly develop a concept communication plan. It is expected that the plan will clearly define and promote the Initiative's identity as a Ramsar Regional Initiative, including through the establishment of a clear visual identity (logo) and the establishment of a platform for the promotion and dissemination of the identity (web page, information bulletin). Also, it is expected that the plan will be developed in line with the existing relevant national plans and priorities as well as the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

22. Coordinating and supervising regional projects

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

The RRI-CA is proposing to develop and implement regional projects along the following priorities in the next triennium (2016-2018).

First priority area: Important wetlands of the region, including the future Ramsar Sites, are identified and documented (contribute to the targets 8, 11, 12 and 15 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024). The activities are:

- Identify, conduct inventories, and map the important wetlands in the region;
- Evaluate the current status of the wetlands, the ecosystem services they provide, threats, and opportunities for improved conservation and wise use;
- Set up and maintain a regional inventory of the important wetlands.

Second priority area: Important wetlands of the region, including the existing and future Ramsar Sites are effectively managed so they are conserved and wisely used and continue to contribute to the improved quality of the life of people in the region (contribute to the targets 5, 11, 12, 13 and 15 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024). The activities are:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the management practices;
- Develop and apply effective and sustainable management plans;
- Carry out valuation of ecosystem services with focus on their contribution to sustainable livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation;
- Carry out restoration of the important wetlands as necessary;
- Plan and implement projects focused on creating sustainable livelihoods, and building disaster and climate resilient communities.

Third priority area: Awareness and knowledge of the importance of wetlands are improved at all levels (contribute to the targets 15 and 16 of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024). The activities are:

- Develop and implement regional and national plans of CEPA (communication, education, participation and awareness);
- Develop and implement awareness-raising programmes for local communities on the conservation and wise use of wetlands;
- Document and demonstrate services and benefits of wetlands to the general public;
- Deliver training to decision makers at all levels;
- Set up wetland information and education centers.

Central Asia Programme of WWF Russia is implementing a number of projects that aim at improving status of Ramsar Sites in the region and is planning to develop more projects in the above mentioned field. In the future, WWF Russia will provide technical support to the countries in developing projects on reducing the impacts of climate change on Ramsar Sites and raising the required funds from the relevant sources.

Many of the activities, listed under the three priorities, are in line with the IUCN-EECA's plan for 2017-2020 for Central Asia presenting a range of opportunities for integration and implementation of joint projects.

JICA offered a capacity building training in Japan in the field, related to wetland management to build the capacity for the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the region.

H. Governance

23. 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:

A. At the regional level

The main decision making body of the RRI-CA will be a Coordination Committee that will comprise the Ramsar National Focal Points of the countries participating in the Initiative or their appointed representatives. The Coordination Committee will have a Chair that will be elected from one of the country representatives that make up the Coordination Committee, on a three-year rotation basis.

The Technical Secretary (paid staff position) will be hired for ensuring the effective functioning of the RRI-CA, such as in organizing and executing the day to day activities and the decisions, made by the Coordination Committee. The Technical Secretary will report to the Coordination Committee on a regular basis.

The Ramsar Secretariat will continue its role as an interim facilitator of the Initiative until the Technical Secretary is hired.

The Ramsar National Focal Points of the countries participating in the Initiative (or their appointed representatives) will revise and approve the terms of reference of the Coordination Committee, the Chair of the Coordination Committee, and the Technical Secretary that will be developed by the Ramsar Secretariat.

International and regional organizations that will partner with the RRI-CA to carry out projects along the priority areas will be appointed as observers in the Coordination Committee.

B. At the national level

At the national level, the decisions for the RRI-CA will be made through the existing structure of the Ramsar Administrative Authority in each country participating in the Initiative.

24. 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 terms of reference will serve as a key document to establish the governance, consultation and coordination mechanism outlined in Sections 5 and 8 and to ensure equitable, effective and transparent mechanism of governance, consultation and coordination.

The core functions of the Technical Secretary will be:

- Facilitate flow of information between the countries participating in the Initiative and the Ramsar Secretariat so that the enhanced accessibility to information from and decisions by the Ramsar Convention assists in consultation process between the countries;
- Help the participating countries in communicating with the Ramsar Secretariat on the problems and solutions common to the region;
- Promote experience sharing among the countries, facilitate the decision making at the regional level, and implement the relevant decisions at the regional level;
- Carry out the work plan of the RRI-CA, agreed upon annually by the Coordination Committee of the Initiative;
- Collaborate with partner organizations to initiate and develop projects and raise funds.

Annexed (Picture 1) please see a flow diagram that explains visually the relationship between the Coordination Committee, Chair of the Coordination Committee, Technical Secretary, hosting organization, Ramsar Secretariat, and observer organizations.

I. Substantive elements

25. 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:

The RRI-CA will:

- Facilitate effective communication between the different actors involved in the study of wetlands and wetland services as well as use of the resources of the existing and potential Ramsar Sites and the important wetlands on the territory of Central Asia;
- Provide an opportunity for information exchange on the local, regional and international levels;
- Help focus the efforts on the issues affecting wetlands that require immediate attention on the local, regional and international levels;
- Help in avoiding duplication of activities of different actors in individual countries and at the international level, and therefore in avoiding inefficient resource allocation;
- Promote the adoption of decisions on the effective management of Ramsar Sites by

applying the best available approaches and technologies.

26. 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 RRI-CA will facilitate and improve use of the Ramsar tools by enhancing accessibility, promotion and integration of them into regional projects. Many Ramsar tools are currently of limited accessibility to many stakeholders in the region as they are not available in Russian. The RRI-CA will coordinate the translation of the most relevant tools, particularly the guidelines and handbooks, into Russian. The RRI-CA will facilitate dissemination and wider use of the tools, translated into Russian through a range of platform, including:

- Information bulletin of IUCN-EECA;
- Examine the possibility of using the website of ICSD.

The Coordination Committee of the RRI-CA together with the Technical Secretary will be responsible for effectively applying the Ramsar tools in regional and national projects, adapting these tools to regional conditions, and developing local tools and resources. Also, regional resources and experiences will be documented and up-scaled to the global level in cooperation with the Ramsar Scientific and Technical Review Panel.

27. 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 concept communications strategy will be developed for the RRI-CA during the inception phase. This communications strategy will define how the Ramsar Convention and the Ramsar Secretariat are to be presented in all activities, projects, and publications of the RRI-CA. One of the key aims of the communications strategy will be how to ensure that the distinct identity of the RRI-CA is promoted and the profile of the Ramsar Convention is increased at the same time.

Translation into Russian and promotion of the Ramsar tools will greatly increase visibility of the Ramsar Convention and its objectives to government and non-government organizations working on wetlands in the region who have previously had limited access to Ramsar materials.

In the long run and if adequate financial resource is made available, it is envisaged that the RRI-CA would form a key hub for carrying out workshops and coordination of projects related to wetlands in the region, and would actively facilitate cooperation and capacity building in the fields of the conservation and wise use of wetlands. That way, not only the organizations that partner with the Initiative but also other stakeholders working on wetlands in the region will have a greater understanding and knowledge of the Ramsar Convention and its objectives.

In addition, in the long run and if adequate financial resource is made available, the RRI-CA will launch and maintain a website to present and promote information about the Ramsar activities in the region, to facilitate the dissemination of Ramsar tools and handbooks, particularly those

translated into Russian, and to provide regularly updated information on the activities and initiatives carried out in the region.

J. Financial and other support

28. 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 planned expenditure for the implementation of projects in the priority areas in 2016-2018 is estimated at around USD 7,240,000. The RRI-CA will raise funds from various sources, including:

- The Ramsar Secretariat: USD 90,000 for three years (2016-2018)
- The countries participating in the Initiative
- GEF
- The World Bank
- ADB
- EBRD
- EU
- USAID

Also, RRI-CA will seek to carry out joint projects with the following organizations in the period 2016-2018:

- IUCN
- Wetlands International
- UNDP
- UNEP
- Birdlife International
- WWF
- GIZ

In 2016, the projected expenditure is estimated at around USD 35,000. RRI-CA will apply for USD 30,000 from the Ramsar Convention's core budget. This amount is planned for hiring a Technical Secretary (16,000), for attending key regional meetings and promoting the RRI-CA (10,000), and the translation of key Ramsar materials into Russian (8000).

29. 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):

The RRI-CA will seek political support from the relevant governmental organizations, and international and regional organizations as described in Section 4.

30. 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:

The RRI-CA will apply for USD 30,000 from the Ramsar Convention's core budget for 2016. RRI-CA will seek to raise funds from various sources, including key donor organizations as well as through joint projects with partner organizations as described in Section 13.

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 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

10. Title of the regional initiative: Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia

11. Financial planning for the period 2016-2018 (3 years):

Sources of income (donors)	Income confirmed	Income anticipated
IUCN, Wetlands International UNDP, UNEP, Birdlife International, WWF, GIZ, GEF, The World Bank, ADB, EBRD, EU, USAID, the countries participating in the Initiative		USD 800,000 for the set of activities in the first priority area; USD 5,000,000 for the set of activities in the second priority area; USD 1,350,000 USD for the set of activities in the third priority area.
Ramsar core budget		USD 90,000

12. Work plan for the year 2016

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

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Establish a desk of the Initiative (Technical Secretary) hosted by an existing body	1.1 Select an existing body to host the desk of the Initiative (to develop selection criteria) 1.2 Sign an agreement between the host and RRI-CA on the legal and technical support (agree on the procedure) 1.3 Develop the terms of reference for the Technical Secretary 1.4 Hire the Technical Secretary	The desk of the Initiative (Technical Secretary) is established and functions	Agreement between the host and RRI-CA; Terms of Reference for the Technical Secretary; Qualified staff
2. Establish a Coordination Committee	2.1 Develop *provisions for the operations of the Coordinating Committee 2.2 Approve the members of the Coordination Committee 2.3 Elect the Chair of the Coordination Committee * An internal working paper	The Coordination Committee is formed and functions	The Coordination Committee; Terms of reference for the Coordination Committee and the Chair of the Coordination Committee

<p>3. Develop a work plan, budget, and put in place reporting, monitoring and evaluation mechanism</p>	<p>3.1 Develop work plan 3.2 Prepare budget 3.3 Prepare reports 3.4 Carry out monitoring and evaluation</p>	<p>The work plan is approved; The budget agreed upon; Reporting – feedback from the country; Monitoring and evaluation - agreed with the governments</p>	<p>Availability of: - working plan - budget - reports</p>
<p>4. Promote RRI-CA and its goals and plans using national and regional platforms (conferences, workshops, websites, information bulletins etc.)</p>	<p>4.1 Develop and agree upon a logo for RRI-CA 4.2 Develop a concept of the communication plan 4.3 Develop a calendar of key events during which RRI-CA and its goals and plans will be promoted - IUCN Regional Conservation Forum (December 2015) - World Wetlands Day events (2 February 2016) - ICSD meeting (March 2016) - Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee (April 2015) - Global Congress IUCN (a side event in conjunction with the IUCN-EECA) - Other relevant national and regional events 4.4 Promote and disseminate RRI-CA and its goals and plans through various regional platforms - Information bulletin of IUCN - EECA - ICSD website 4.5 Develop and publish communication materials on RRI-CA its goals and plans</p>	<p>The relevant organizations, networks, and donors are familiar with RRI-CA and collaborate with it</p>	<p>Number of organizations, networks, and donors collaborating with RRI-CA; Number of joint initiatives and actions with the relevant organizations, networks, and donors</p>
<p>5. Build capacity</p>	<p>5.1 Translate and disseminate the key documents of the Ramsar Convention</p>	<p>Capacity of the Ramsar National Focal Points</p>	<p>Technical support provided to the implementation of the work plan</p>

	5.2 Disseminate the experience of other Ramsar Regional Initiatives 5.3 Training in Japan for the Ramsar National Focal Points and/or the appropriate representatives of the participating countries of RRI-CA (to be sponsored by JICA)	and the relevant representatives of the participating countries of RRI-CA is improved	of RRI-CA and the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in the region
6. Develop, raise fund for, and implement regional projects along the priority areas	6.1 The Technical Secretary develops project proposals along the priority areas together with the Coordination Committee, the participating countries and other partners	Project proposals are developed, funded and implemented	Number of project proposals that were developed, funded and implemented

13. Financial plan for the year 2016

Provide a detailed forecast of income and expenditure:

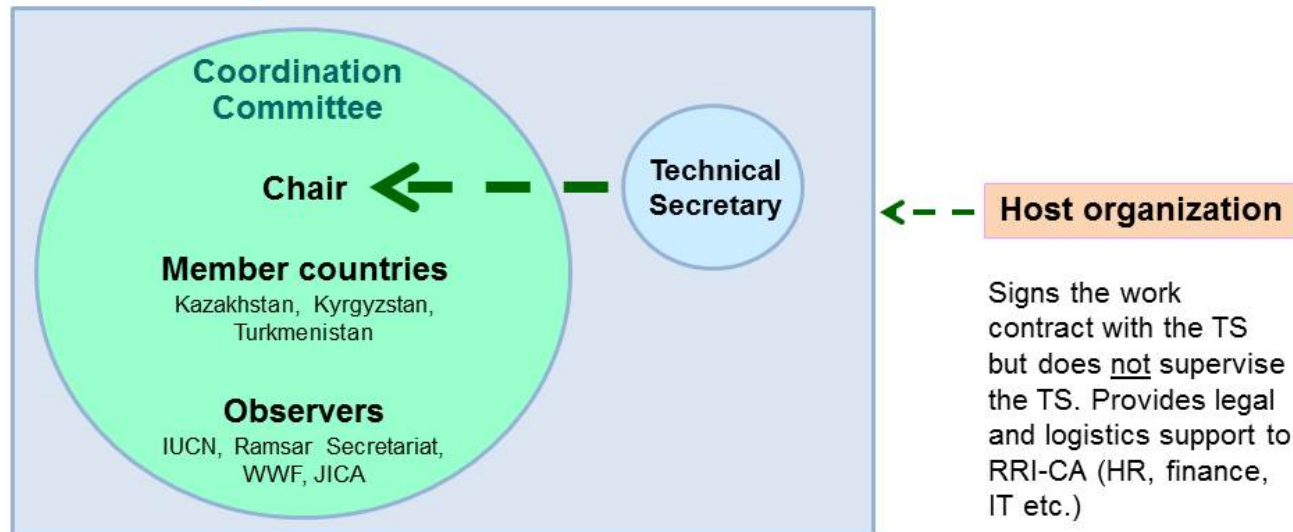
Activities	Forecast/budgeted expenditure
1.1 Select an existing body to host the desk of the Initiative (to develop selection criteria)	
1.2 Sign an agreement between the host and RRI-CA on the legal and technical support (agree on the procedural steps)	
1.3 Develop the terms of reference for the Technical Secretary	
1.4 Hire the Technical Secretary	USD 12,000 for salary and USD 4,000 for travel costs
2.1 Develop provisions for the operations of the Coordinating Committee	
2.2 Approve the members of the Coordination Committee	
2.3 Elect the Chair of the Coordination Committee	
3.1 Develop work plan	
3.2 Prepare budget	
3.3 Prepare reports	
3.4 Carry out monitoring and evaluation	
4.1 Develop and agree upon a logo for RRI-CA	
4.2 Develop a concept of the communication plan	
4.3 Develop a calendar of key events during which RRI-CA and its goals and plans will be promoted	USD 10,000 for the members of the initiative to

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IUCN Regional Conservation Forum (December 2015) - World Wetlands Day events (2 February 2016) - ICSD meeting (March 2016) - Meeting of the Ramsar Standing Committee (April 2015) - Global Congress IUCN (a side event in conjunction with the IUCN-EECA) - Other relevant national and regional events 	<p>attend key meetings relating to wetland conservation and which will also act a meeting of the members of the initiative.</p> <p>(USD 5,000 to be covered by the participating countries of RRI-CA)</p>
<p>4.4 Promote and disseminate RRI-CA and its goals and plans through various regional platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Information bulletin of IUCN – EECA - ICSD website 	
<p>4.5 Develop and publish communication materials on RRI-CA its goals and plans</p>	
<p>5.1 Translate and disseminate the key documents of the Ramsar Convention</p>	USD 8,000
<p>5.2 Disseminate the experience of other Ramsar Regional Initiatives</p>	
<p>5.3 Training in Japan for the Ramsar National Focal Points and/or the appropriate representatives of the participating countries of RRI-CA (to be sponsored by JICA)</p>	
<p>6.1 The Technical Secretary develops project proposals along the priority areas together with the Coordination Committee, the participating countries and other partners</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operational costs 	USD 1,000
<p>Total</p>	USD 35,000

Sources of income (donors)	Budgeted income
Participating countries of RRI-CA	USD 5,000
Requested from Ramsar core budget	USD 30,000
Total	USD 35,000

Annex (Picture 1):

Ramsar Regional Initiative – Central Asia



Chair: Is elected from one of the Ramsar National Focal Points of the member countries. Supervises the TS to ensure that his/her work follows the annual work plan set out by the Coordination Committee. The Chair rotates every 3 years after each Ramsar COP.

Members: Meets annually to review the report from the previous year, and to decide the work plan for the coming year.

Observers: Provides technical advice to the Chair and members. Does not have any decision making powers.

Signs the work contract with the TS but does not supervise the TS. Provides legal and logistics support to RRI-CA (HR, finance, IT etc.)