

Combined annual reporting and forward planning format
(Adopted by Standing Committee through Decision SC41-21, April 2010)

Annual Summary Report for Year 2018 and Plan for Year 2019

1. Title of your Regional Initiative:

Ramsar Regional Center for Training and Research in Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA)

2. Work and activities undertaken during Year 2018

Provide a simple summary on your work undertaken by listing your activities, the results achieved and your indicators of success according to the format below:

Objectives	Activities	Indicators	Results / Outputs
1. CEPA 1.1 Ensure that countries in the region are implementing Ramsar Strategic Plan	1.1 Regional Capacity building workshop on Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024	Increased appropriate implementation of Ramsar Convention in the region	Delayed. Activity moved to our 2019 work plan.
1.2 To provide guidance on the Ramsar WWD programs	1.2 WWD 2018 Side Event	Increased capacity	- Preparations on organizing WWD-2019 national ceremony in Ramsar, including cooperation with DoE on organization of WWD at national level in Ramsar City, e.g.: the SG's statement has been presented for the audience (in local language)
2. Conservation & Wise Use 2.1 Ensure that major stakeholders involved in transboundary wetlands management have the knowledge, skills, and ability to effectively conserve this type of wetlands and their resources	2.1 Regional Workshop on Development of a program for transboundary wetland conservation	Improved management capacity of "Transboundary Wetland Sites"	Delayed. Activity moved to our 2019 work plan.
2.2 Ensure that major stakeholders involved in flyway management have the knowledge, skills, and ability to effectively conserve wetlands and waterbirds	2.2 Training workshop on the flyway approach in the CWA region.	Partnerships formed, information shared, and collaborative actions taken by countries along the flyway.	Delayed. Activity moved to our 2019 work plan.

2.3 Ramsar Advisory Mission No. 88	1.1 Cooperation between Republic of Iraq and Islamic Republic of Iran for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Mesopotamian marshes	Biodiversity Protection, Wetland management, Combating land degradation and desertification, Water Resources Management, Water Quality, Public education and awareness Livelihoods, and reduction of Dust and Sand Storm	Completed Mission 16 – 23 December 2017, and Report of the Ramsar Advisory Mission No. 88, under preparation
3. Networking			
3.1 To expand membership within the region	To hold a study tour for Qatari experts to visit Iranian project sites and attend to scientific workshop on various issues	Increase number of contracting parties in the region	The activity moved to our 2019 work plan, while the preparatory communications have been done in 2018.
3.2 To ensure of the Collaborative Management Board meets annually	To hold 6th annual meeting of the CMB in December 2018	- Improve CMB Membership - Finalize 2019 Targets, Action Plan and Budget	Meeting moved to our 2019 work plan.
3.3 Expand Collaboration and cooperation with other international and regional organizations.	To discuss and draft bilateral agreements / MOUs with institutes like: UNDP, CEP ...	Strengthen joint international and regional cooperation	Discussed the issue with RRC-EA to renew the current signed MoU between two centers. New version needs to be draft and exchange.
3.4 To Activate Ramsar City MOUs and Sister Affiliated Agreements	To follow-up Ramsar and Suncheon Agreements	Number of implemented agreements	Work with RRC-EA to organize two joint visits by officials from the Suncheon and also Ramsar cities in relation with the signed MoU.
3.5 Accession of Afghanistan to the Ramsar Convention	Follow up process of accession through direct and diplomatic channels	Communications by emails and official letters	Progress on country membership
4. Research & Grant Programs			
4.1 To implement grant programs	To award RRC-CWA Wetland Conservation Research Fund	Progress / Final Report. (Due to difficulties on international money transfer, this activity	Delayed. Activity moved into 2019 work plan.

		will be done in the further year/s).	
4.2 Cooperate with NABU (Crane Conservation Germany) and Birdlife Turkey	Survey of the Anatolian Crane Habitats in West Azerbaijan Province	The aim of survey was not to prepare a massive management plan but, this is part of a regional survey on population, and hopefully result of this survey will help to preparation of any further species management plan and also could help to improve current habitat management and conservation.	Completed Survey and Final Report. Actually, this activity has not been included in 2018 work plan, but unexpectedly discussed and added June 2018 and done on July 2018. The final report is about to be finalized.
5. Operation, Staffing & Funding	- To develop Fund Raising Strategy for RRC-CWA	Amount of obtained fund	Apply funds from some private sectors
5.1 Fundraising to cover both core costs and project costs from businesses and foundations	- Follow up fund raising activities through (DoE, JICA, Oil companies, etc.)		
5.2 To maintain center's website www.rrc-cwa.org	- To update centre's website, post news, preferably once a week if news are available	Number of visitors	Delayed. Activity moved to our 2019 work plan.
5.3 Ongoing administration	-Operating costs for RRC-CWA secretariat, -Pay staff salaries, -Prepare office facilities & equipments - maintenance of center's new building	RRC-CWA secretariat is functional	New administrative staff hired (Totally 3 staff)
5.4 Travel	- Attention to the international meetings/ conferences, (regional and SC meetings)	Number of attendance to the meetings	None

If felt useful, you may add narrative text to specify further your achievements, improvement of Ramsar implementation in the region, etc.

Due to financial difficulties, considerable planned activities delayed and transferred to 2019. However, a permanent budget line requested from the National Management and Planning Organization by the host (DoE). [In fact this problem is mostly related to the center's legal status and identity. The main supporter (DoE) has the required fund, but, legally it's not possible to transfer fund into the center's bank account. By this reason, an independent budget line has been requested from the National Management and Planning Organization for 2019.]

3. Financial report for Year 2018

Provide a summary of income and expenditures. If you use another currency than Swiss Franc (CHF), please provide an average **exchange rate to the CHF**:

Activities	Planned expenditures	Real expenditures
Staff Salary		10,000 \$
RAM in Mesopotamian (Khuzestan expenditures)		20,000 \$
Survey of the Anatolian Crane in w. Azerbaijan		2,500 \$
Center Expenditure		7,000 \$
Total		39,500 \$ (1.00\$ = 0.99CHF)

Sources of income (donors)	Income received
Department of Environment	20,000 \$
Ministry of Energy	10,000 \$
Ramsar core budget (for RAM)	10,000 \$
Total	40,000 \$ (1.00\$ = 0.99CHF)

Financial balance on 31 December of Year 2018: *amount left to be carried over to Year 2019, or deficit: Financial balance is 500 \$*

4. Work and activities planned for Year 2019

Provide a simple summary of your planned work, by listing your activities, their anticipated results and your indicators of success according to the format below:

Objectives	Activities	Indicators	Results / Outputs
1. CEPA 1.1 Ensure that countries in the region are implementing Ramsar Strategic Plan	1.1 Regional Capacity building workshop on Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024	Increased appropriate implementation of Ramsar Convention in the region	To Develop regional Capacity on implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan
1.2 To provide guidance on the Ramsar WWD programs	1.2 WWD 2019 Side Event	Increased capacity	- Information Sharing - Looking for potential national donors
2. Conservation & Wise Use 2.1 Ensure that major stakeholders involved in transboundary wetlands management have the knowledge, skills, and ability to effectively conserve this type of wetlands and their resources	2.1 Regional Workshop on Development of a program for transboundary wetland conservation	Improved management capacity of “Transboundary Wetland Sites”	Important transboundary wetlands between territories are protected and well managed.
2.2 Ensure that major stakeholders involved in flyway management have the knowledge, skills, and ability to effectively conserve wetlands and waterbirds	2.2 Training workshop on the flyway approach in the CWA region.	Partnerships formed, information shared, and collaborative actions taken by countries along the flyway.	Important wetlands along the flyway are protected and well managed.
3. Networking 3.1 To expand membership within the region	To hold a study tour for afghan experts to visit Iranian project sites and attend to scientific workshop on various issues	Increase number of contracting parties in the region	Accession of Qatar to the Ramsar Convention
3.2 To ensure of the Collaborative Management Board meets annually	To hold 6th annual meeting of the CMB in December 2019	- Improve CMB Membership - Finalize 2020 Targets, Action Plan and Budget	- Improvement on CMB membership and related regulation -To present and assess the progress report for 2019 and draft work plan for 2020
3.3 Expand Collaboration and	To discuss and draft bilateral agreements	Strengthen joint international	Signed agreements / MOUs

cooperation with other international and regional organizations.	/ MOUs with institutes like: UNDP, CEP, ...	and regional cooperation	
3.4 To Activate Ramsar City Sister Affiliated Agreements	To follow-up Ramsar City Sister Affiliated Agreements	Number of implemented agreements	To strength cooperation between Ramsar, Suncheon and probably other cities
4. Research & Grant Programs 4.1 To implement grant programs	To award RRC-CWA Wetland Conservation Research Fund	Progress / Final Report. (Due to difficulties on international money transfer, this activity will be done in the further year/s).	5 Master Thesis on wetland projects in the country will be supported financially (maximum 10 cases, USD 1,500 per thesis)
5. Operation, Staffing & Funding 5.1 Fundraising to cover both core costs and project costs from businesses and foundations	- To develop Fund Raising Strategy for RRC-CWA - Follow up fund raising activities through (DoE, JICA, Oil companies, etc.)	Amount of obtained fund	To increase amount of the Center's Trust Fund
5.2 To maintain center's website www.rrc-cwa.org	- To update centre's website, post news, preferably once a week if news are available	Number of visitors	Stored files and documents on the web site
5.3 Ongoing administration	-Operating costs for RRC-CWA secretariat, -Pay staff salaries, -Prepare office facilities & equipments - maintenance of center's new building	RRC-CWA secretariat is functional	New RRC-CWA Secretariat staff hired and offices will be equipped
5.4 Travel	- Attention to the international meetings/ conferences, (regional and SC meetings)	Number of attendance to the meetings	Active involvement to the international / regional events and meetings

5. Financial plan for the year 2019

Provide a summary of expected income and budgeted/planned expenditures. If you use another currency than Swiss Franc (CHF), please provide an average **exchange rate to the CHF**:

Activities	Planned Expenditures	Expected Income and Source
1. CEPA	70,000 \$	70,000 \$ DoE (plus the 500\$ unused budget from 2018)
2. Conservation & Wise Use	85,000 \$	85,000 \$ DoE
3. Networking	80,000 \$	10,000 \$ JICA (Tehran Office) 70,000 \$ DoE
4. Research & Grant Programs	25,000 \$	25,000 \$ DoE
5. Operation, Staffing & Funding	75,000 \$	75,000 \$ DoE
Total	335,000 \$ (1.00\$ = 0.99CHF)	335,000 \$ (1.00\$ = 0.99CHF)