

Annual Report for Year 2016 and Plan for Year 2017

1. Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA)
2. Work and activities undertaken during 2016

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
<p>1. Establish a desk of the Initiative (Technical Secretary) hosted by an existing body</p>	<p>1.1 The Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC) was selected to host the desk of the Initiative 1.2 The Hosting Agreement between the RRI-CA and CAREC was developed and signed in November 2016 1.3 The terms of reference for the Technical Secretary was developed and the Technical Secretary was hired by CAREC on November 1, 2016</p>	<p>The desk of the Initiative (Technical Secretary) is established and functions from November 2016</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hosting agreement between the hosting organization (CAREC) and RRI-CA was signed and entered into force. 2. The procedure for selection of the Technical Secretary was conducted by CAREC and Ramsar Secretariat representatives. As a result, Ms. Zhanel Karina was selected. 3. The contract and Terms of Reference for the Technical Secretary was developed and signed. 4. Technical Secretary started to fulfill her duties and responsibilities from November 1, 2016 at the CAREC's office.
<p>2. Establish a Coordination Committee</p>	<p>2.1 The internal document, including the Terms of Reference for Coordination Committee for its operations, was developed 2.2 The key and alternative members of the Coordination Committee were approved</p>	<p>The Coordination Committee is formed and functions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Coordination Committee, including 3 key members and 6 alternative members from Contracting Countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan), was formed. 2. Terms of reference for the

	2.3 The Chair of the Coordination Committee and Vice-Chair were elected		Coordination Committee, underlying its activities and functions, was developed. 3. Prof. Eldar Rustamov was elected as the Chair of the Coordination Committee and Askar Davletbakov was elected as a Vice-Chair.
3. Develop a work plan, budget, and put in place the reporting mechanism	3.1 The work plan for 2017 was developed and approved 3.2 The budget for 2017 was developed and approved 3.3 The annual report 2016 was prepared 3.4 Bimonthly reports of the Technical Secretary are being presented to the Chair of the Coordination Committee on the regular basis	The annual report 2016 with the approved work plan and budget for 2017 is presented to the Ramsar Secretariat	Working plan and budget for 2017 are available. The reporting system including annual report to the Ramsar Secretariat and bimonthly reports of the Technical Secretary to the Chair of the Coordination is put in place
4. Promote RRI-CA and its goals and plans using national and regional platforms (conferences, workshops, websites, information bulletins etc.)	4.1 The logo for RRI-CA was developed and agreed upon 4.2 RRI-CA and its goals and plans were promoted at the following events: - World Wetlands Day events (2 February 2016) - ICSD meeting (May 2016) - Meeting of the Ramsar 52 nd Standing Committee (June 2016) - World Conservation Congress IUCN (September 2016 a side event in conjunction with the IUCN-EECA) 4.3 The first information bulletin for RRI-CA was developed in November and	RRI-CA has its own logo The information bulletin for RRI-CA was prepared. Preparation of the information bulletin each quarter is being discussed and agreed. Emails including the information on the launch of the RRI-CA were sent to Wetlands International and JICA. The meetings with the representatives of IUCN, Zoi Environment and Japan Mission	The relevant organizations, networks, and donors are familiar with RRI-CA

	<p>distributed among the Coordination Committee members. The next information bulletin will be distributed within broader audience including officials, NGOs and other stakeholders.</p> <p>4.4 Information on the RRI-CA was disseminated among partners and possible donors</p>	were organized.	
5. Build capacity	<p>5.1 The key documents of the Ramsar Convention are translated into Russian</p> <p>5.2 Technical Secretary visited the Ramsar Secretariat in Gland for the Induction course on the technical work of the Secretariat (December 2016)</p>	Capacity of the Technical Secretary of RRI-CA is improved	Technical support was provided to the Technical Secretary for development of the work plan of RRI-CA
6. Develop, raise fund for, and implement regional projects along the priority areas	<p>6.1 The project proposal for the Nagao Wetland Fund was developed by RRI-CA</p> <p>6.2. The draft project proposal for the MoFA of Japan</p>	<p>Project proposal on Launching the Platform for information, regional dialogue and resource mobilization for biodiversity and wetlands conservation in Central Asia</p> <p>The draft project proposal on Update on the status of wetlands in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan), including collection and dissemination of good practices for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands by local communities</p>	<p>One project proposal was developed and submitted to the Nagao Wetland Fund</p> <p>Draft project proposal was developed and sent to the representative of the MoFA of Japan</p>

3. Financial report for year 2016

Activities	Planned expenditures (CHF)	Actual expenditures (CHF)
Contract for Solongo Khurelbaatar, Assistant Advisor for Asia-Oceania Secretariat, for assistance to RRI-CA	1,600	1,600
Salary to Technical Secretary Zhanel Karina for 3 months (November, December and January)	1,950	1,950
Visit by Zhanel Karina to the Ramsar Secretariat (flight)	Covered by Star Alliance	Covered by Star Alliance
Visit by Zhanel Karina to the Ramsar Secretariat (hotel)	774 (Covered by Government of Norway)	774 (Covered by Government of Norway)
Visit by Zhanel Karina to the Ramsar Secretariat (visa support, per diems and transfer)	446	446
Total	4,770	4,770

Sources of income	Income received (CHF)
Star Alliance	600 (approx. covered by Star Alliance)
Government of Norway	774 (Hotel cost in Nyon for the visit of Zhanel Karina)
Ramsar core budget	First transfer - 16,400 out of 30,000
Total	30,774

Financial balance at 31 January 2017: Total balance left to be carried over 2017 is 26,004 CHF.

The first transfer from the Ramsar core budget (30,000 CHF) in the amount of 16,400 CHF was received in the end of 2016. The second transfer will be received after the submission of the following report. Technical Secretary was hired on November 1, therefore the actual expenditures for 3 month salary are less than planned. The main categories of expenditures in 2016 included payment to Solongo Khurelbaatar, Assistant Advisor for Asia-Oceania Secretariat, for assistance to RRI-CA, salary for the Technical Secretary (November, December, January) and expenditures on the visit of Technical Secretary for the Induction course at the Ramsar Secretariat.

4. Work and activities planned for the Year 2017

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Build capacity	1.1. Raise funds for the translation and dissemination of the key documents of the Ramsar Convention 1.2. Disseminate the experience of other Ramsar Regional Initiatives 1.3. Participate in the 53 rd meeting of the Standing Committee(SC53) 1.4. Identify the gaps in implementation of Ramsar Convention in the region and the needs in capacity building 1.5. Initiate the 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)	Capacity of the Ramsar National Focal Points and/or the appropriate representatives of the participating countries of RRI-CA is improved	1. Funds raised to translate key documents of the Ramsar Convention into Russian and national languages and downloaded on the website of the Hosting organization or the website of the RRI-CA 2. Other Ramsar Regional Initiatives are contacted and their experience is presented in the document of the overview 3. The Chair of the Coordination Committee and Technical Secretary participates in SC53 and presents the results of the Initiative 4. The analysis of the gaps in implementation of Ramsar Convention and capacity needs is made based on the results of the survey 5. JICA is contacted and the training in Japan for Ramsar NFPs or the appropriate representatives is initiated for this or the next year
2. Promote RRI-CA and its goals and plans using national and regional platforms (conferences, workshops, websites,	2.1 Develop a calendar of key events during which RRI-CA and its goals and plans will be promoted: - World Wetland Day (2 February 2017)	The relevant organizations, networks, and donors are familiar with RRI-CA and collaborate with it	Number of organizations, networks, and donors collaborating with RRI-CA; Number of joint initiatives and actions with the relevant organizations,

<p>information bulletins etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regional Meeting of RRI-CA (late April 2017) -53rd meeting of Standing Committee (29 May- 2 June 2017) - Central Asian Environment Forum (Ashgabat, June 2017) -Participation in national conferences, round tables and meetings on water and wetland problems <p>2.2.Promote and disseminate RRI-CA and its goals through various platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -RRI-CA newsletter quarterly -Information bulletin of IUCN-EECA -ICSD website -Ramsar Secretariat -Social media (such asFacebook and twitter) <p>2.3. Develop and publish communication materials on RRI-CA goals and plans (leaflets)</p> <p>2.4. Launching the platform (website) for information, regional dialogue and resource mobilization for biodiversity and wetlands conservation</p>		<p>networks, and donors</p> <p>The platform for information, regional dialogue and resource mobilization for biodiversity and wetlands conservation is launched</p>
<p>3. Development of regional projects, their funding and realization</p>	<p>Development of the following project proposals together with the Coordination Committee members and other partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of the important 	<p>Project proposals are developed, financed and realized</p> <p>The scientific community is aware of the changes that occur in the</p>	<p>Number of project proposals that are developed, being financed and under realization, e.g. Nagao Wetland Fund, Keidanren etc</p>

	<p>wetlands of the region with creation of the regional database and update of the RSIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate monitoring system for the assessment of existing and potential Ramsar sites • Development and implementation of the regional and national CEPA plans (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness); • Launching the platform for information, regional dialogue and resource mobilization for biodiversity and wetlands conservation 	wetlands. Stakeholders have lessons learnt and take appropriate action on wetlands to neutralize negative processes, or the greater good amplification and extraction of ecosystem services, while maintaining positive trends.	
4. Strengthening the link between water resources, climate change, biodiversity and the conservation of wetlands	<p>4.1. To strengthen cooperation with major national and regional players in the water, climate change adaptation sector and biodiversity (relevant ministries and organizations on the national level)</p> <p>4.2. To participate in projects aimed at developing regional cooperation on issues related to water resources, climate change adaptation and biodiversity</p> <p>4.3 To analyze international and regional environmental agreements, find the synergies and make a publication</p>	The major national and regional players in the water, climate change adaptation sectors and biodiversity are identified and contacted	Number of joint initiatives and actions within the appropriate projects in the water, climate change adaptation sectors and biodiversity
6. Raising awareness	6.1. Include the issues of wetlands	National targets/indicators on how	National Reports including national

among the decision-makers on different levels on the value of wetlands	management and conservation into the national and regional agenda 6.2. Raising awareness and understanding of the local communities about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands through the Ramsar educational centers and local environmental NGO	each country plan to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are presented to the Ramsar Secretariat	priorities and targets are presented to the Ramsar Secretariat In case of necessary funding - Implementation of the Project on the Update on the status of wetlands in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan), including collection and dissemination of good practices for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands by local communities
7. Initiate the creation of the regional database on wetlands on the launched platform RRI-CA	7.1. Identify the difficulties connected with the creation of the regional database	First steps are made for the creation of the regional database Wetlands International IWC receive information on the number and distribution of waterbirds wintering	National Focal Points make their inputs into the creation of the regional wetlands database
8. Ensuring an effective, two-way communication between the Contracting Parties in Central Asia and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention	8.1. Submission of periodic RRI-CA reports to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat 8.2. Identifying the needs of countries with respect to implementation of the Convention	Reports are presented on an ongoing basis. The views, experiences and needs of countries with respect to implementation of the Convention are communicated to the Secretariat. Requests from the Secretariat are communicated to the members of the Coordination Committee of RRI-CA, and other stakeholders in Central Asia	Reports

5. Financial plan for 2017

Activities	Forecast/budgeted expenditures (CHF)
Salary to Technical Secretary (February-December 2017)	7,150
Transport cost for Technical Secretary	3,000
Regional meeting of the Coordination Committee	10,000
Participation of the Chair of RRI-CA in the 53rd meeting of Standing Committee	2,500
Contingency	3,354
Implementation of the Project on the Update on the status of wetlands in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan), including collection and dissemination of good practices for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands by local communities	33,600
Launch of an internet platform for information sharing, promoting regional dialogue and resource mobilization for biodiversity and wetlands conservation in Central Asia	33,500
Total	93,104

Sources of income	Forecast/budgeted amount of income (CHF)
Ramsar core budget left from 2016	26,004
Ramsar core budget 2017	30,000
Possible donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan	33,500
Total	89,504