

Annual Report for Year 2017 and Plan for Year 2018

1. Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA)
2. Work and activities undertaken during 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. Participate in the 53 rd meeting of the Standing Committee(SC53) | 1.1. The fund was allocated for making the webpage to load material on wetlands translated into Russian 1.2. The Chair of the Coordination Committee and Technical Secretary participated in SC53 | 1.1. The webpage in Russian and English with information about the Initiative, main documents and information bulletins was created on the website of the Hosting organization or the website of the RRI-CA http://old.carececo.org/activity/-ramsarskaya-regionalnaya-initsiativa-tsentralnoy-azii-rri-tsa/ At the moment the www.carececo.org website is being updated. And the RRI-CA webpage will be updated and supplemented by additional translated materials in Russian. 1.2. The Chair of the Coordination Committee and Technical Secretary participated in SC53. The results of the SC53 were presented in the form of the report and sent to other members of the Coordination Committee. |
| 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) -Regional Meeting of | The relevant organizations, networks, and donors are familiar with RRI-CA and collaborate with it | 2.1. The information about the Initiative as an instrument for regional cooperation for conservation and wise use of wetlands in Central Asia was presented during the following events: - World Wetland Day On February 2, 2017, the workshop on the topic "The role of wetlands in natural disaster reduction" took place in Ashgabat, at the central office of Turkmenohotrybolovsoyuz. On February 8, 2017 RRI-CA technical secretary gave a presentation on "Wetlands: our natural safeguards from natural disasters" at the |

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| <p>information bulletins etc</p> | <p>RRI-CA (May 2017) -53rd meeting of Standing Committee (29 May- 2 June 2017) - Central Asian Environment Forum (Ashgabat, June 2017)</p> <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 -Ramsar Secretariat <p>2.3. Develop and publish communication materials on RRI-CA goals and plans (leaflets)</p> | | <p>scientific seminar on "Water Resources of Kazakhstan and Central Asia" at Kazakh Technical University named after Satpayev (http://www.academic-waters.org/events-ru/xxvii). Meetings with students were also organized in Kostanay oblast.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The First meeting of the RRI-CA Coordination Committee (May, 11, 2017). http://old.carececo.org/en/news/v-almaty-obsudili-voprosy-sokhraneniya-i-ustoychivogo-ispolzovaniya-vodno-bolotnykh-ugodiy-tsentraln/?sphrase_id=1969 - 53rd meeting of Standing Committee and Central Asian Environment Forum facilitated in networking with important stakeholders <p>2.2. RRI-CA and its goals are promoted through various platforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two RRI-CA information bulletins were developed (in June and December). It was decided by the members of the Coordination Committee to produce twice a year. - The introductory information about RRI-CA was presented in IUCN ECARO Newsletter: A Voice for Nature, issue 3 - RRI-CA information sheet and the news about the meeting of the Coordination Committee was downloaded to the Ramsar website <p>2.3. Information bulletins about RRI-CA were developed and published</p> |
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| 3. Development of regional projects, their funding and realization | 3.1. Develop project proposals and get the fund allocation | Two project proposals were developed and one of them got the funding. The first project of RRI-CA is under implementation | As a first project of the RRI-CA, the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention and the Government of Japan is currently supporting the project "Update on the status of wetlands in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan by collection and dissemination of good practices for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands by local communities". More information on the field stage of the project here: http://old.carececo.org/en/news/rabota-s-mestnymi-soobshchestvami-na-otdelnykh-vodno-bolotnykh-ugodyakh-/?sphrase_id=1970 |
| 4. Ensuring an effective, two-way communication between the Contracting Parties in Central Asia and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention | 4.1. Submission of periodic RRI-CA reports to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat 4.2. Identifying the needs of countries with respect to implementation of the Convention | Reports and inquiries | 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 |

3. Financial report for year 2017

| Activities | Planned expenditures (CHF) | Actual expenditures (CHF) |
|--|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Salary to Technical Secretary (February-December 2017) | 7,150 | 7,150 |
| Transport cost for Technical Secretary | 3,000 | 2,450 |
| Regional meeting of the Coordination Committee | 10,000 | 4,056 |
| Participation of the Chair of RRI-CA in the 53rd meeting of Standing Committee | 2,500 | 2,203 |
| Contingency | 3,354 | 1,500 |
| Implementation of the Project on the Update on the status of wetlands in | 33, 600 | 4,535 (Most of the |

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| Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan) by collection and dissemination of good practices for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands by local communities | | expenditures are being processed and will be used by April 2018) |
| Launch of an internet platform for information sharing, promoting regional dialogue and resource mobilization for biodiversity and wetlands conservation in Central Asia | 33,500 | - This project proposal was not funded |
| Total | 93,104 | 21,894 |

| Sources of income | Income received (CHF) |
|---------------------|--|
| Ramsar core budget | 28,400 (2016 transfers)+18,000 (2017 transfer) |
| Government of Japan | 34,554 USD (33,150 CHF) |
| Total | 79,550 |

Financial balance at 15 January 2018: Total balance left to be carried over 2018 is 57,656 CHF.

The 2016 transfers from the Ramsar core budget (28,400 CHF) were received in the end of 2016 and beginning of 2017. The 2017 first transfer in the amount of 18,000 was received in September 2017. The Project on the Update on the status of wetlands in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan) by collection and dissemination of good practices for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands by local communities was supported by the Government of Japan and its voluntary contribution of 34,554 USD. Most of the expenditures are being processed and will be used by the end of the project in April 2018.

4. Work and activities planned for the Year 2018

| Objectives | Activities | Results/outputs | Indicators |
|-------------------|---|---|--|
| 1. Build capacity | 1.1. Undertake efforts on the involvement of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to join the RRI-CA 1.2. Identify the gaps in implementation of Ramsar Convention in the region and the needs in capacity building 1.3. Disseminate the experience of other Ramsar Regional Initiatives | All Central Asian countries are members of the Initiative. Gaps in implementation of Ramsar Convention in the | 1.1. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are members of the Initiative 1.2. The analysis of the gaps in implementation of Ramsar Convention and capacity needs is made based on the results of the survey |

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| | <p>1.4. Initiate the training for the Ramsar National Focal Points and/or the appropriate representatives of the participating countries of RRI-CA</p> | <p>region and needs are identified. Capacity of the Ramsar National Focal Points and/or the appropriate representatives of the participating countries of RRI-CA is improved</p> | <p>1.3. Other Ramsar Regional Initiatives are contacted and their experience is presented in the document of the overview 1.4. The training for Ramsar NFPs or the appropriate representatives is organized</p> |
| <p>2. Promote RRI-CA and its goals and plans using national and regional platforms (conferences, workshops, websites, information bulletins etc)</p> | <p>2.1. Develop a calendar of key events during which RRI-CA and its goals and plans will be promoted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Wetland Day (2 February 2017) - Pre-COP meeting (February 26-March 2) - Regional Meeting of RRI-CA (late April 2017) - Central Asian Environment Forum (Tashkent, June 2018) - Conservation Asia 2018 (Bishkek, August 2018) - COP13 (Dubai, October 21-29, 2018) - 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 webpage at the website of the Hosting organization - RRI-CA newsletter (twice a year) - Information bulletin of IUCN-ECARO - Ramsar Secretariat | <p>The relevant organizations, networks, and donors are familiar with RRI-CA and collaborate with it</p> | <p>2.1. RRI-CA participation and presentation in key events on the national, regional and global levels. Increase in the number of organizations, networks, and donors collaborating with RRI-CA;</p> <p>2.2. Information support of RRI-CA on its webpage and other platforms</p> |

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| | - Social media (such as Facebook) | | |
| 3. Development of regional projects, their funding and realization | <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 wetlands of the region with creation of the regional database and update of the RSIS • Development of the regional and national CEPA plans (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) | Project proposals are developed, financed and realized | Number of project proposals that are developed, being financed and under realization |
| 4. Strengthening the link between water resources, climate change, biodiversity and the conservation of wetlands | To participate in projects aimed at developing regional cooperation on issues related to water resources, climate change adaptation and biodiversity | Participation in the projects dedicated to water resources, climate change, biodiversity and the conservation of wetlands. | Number of joint initiatives and actions within the appropriate projects in the water, climate change adaptation sectors and biodiversity |
| 5. Raising awareness among the decision-makers on different levels on the value of wetlands | <p>5.1. Include the issues of wetlands management and conservation into the national and regional agenda</p> <p>5.2. Raising awareness and understanding of the local communities about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands through workshops and trainings</p> | National targets/indicators on how each country plan to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are presented to the Ramsar Secretariat | <p>5.1. National targets/indicators on how each country plan to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are monitored</p> <p>5.2. Workshops and trainings for various stakeholders: governmental officials, researchers and local communities</p> |
| 6. Ensuring an effective, two-way communication between the Contracting Parties in Central Asia and | <p>8.1. Submission of periodic RRI-CA reports to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat</p> <p>8.2. Identifying the needs of countries with respect to implementation of the Convention</p> | Reports and inquiries | 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 |

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| the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention | | | communicated to the members of the Coordination Committee of RRI-CA, and other stakeholders in Central Asia |
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5. Financial plan for 2018

| Activities | Forecast/budgeted expenditures (CHF) | Expected income and source |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| Salary to Technical Secretary | 9,720 | Ramsar core budget left from 2017 |
| Transport cost for Technical Secretary | 4,000 | Ramsar core budget left from 2017 |
| Regional meeting of the Coordination Committee | 10,000 | Ramsar core budget left from 2017 |
| Participation of the Chair of RRI-CA in the Pre-COP | 2,500 | Ramsar core budget left from 2017 |
| Participation of two RRI-CA members in COP23 | 5,000 | Ramsar core budget 2018 |
| GIS-mapping of the wetlands in Central Asia | 3,000 | Ramsar core budget left from 2017 |
| Organization of the workshops and trainings | 8,000 | Ramsar core budget left from 2017 |
| Administrative costs (PR, assistant, financial audit, printing, translation) | 4,000 | Ramsar core budget left from 2017 |
| 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 | 28,615 | Government of Japan |
| Inventory of the important wetlands of the region with creation of the regional database and update of the RSIS | 30,000 | Possible Donor |
| Development of the regional and national CEPA plans (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness) | 10,000 | Ramsar core budget 2018 |
| Preparation to the events devoted to the World Wetlands Day | 3,000 | Ramsar core budget left from 2017 |
| Facilitation of the monitoring system for the assessment of existing and potential Ramsar sites | 15,000 | Ramsar core budget 2018 |
| Contingency | 2,180 | Ramsar core budget left from 2017 |
| Total | 135,015 | |

