

## Combined Annual Report for Year 2018 and Plan for Year 2019 for the RRI-CA

**Annual Report for Year 2018 and Plan for Year 2019** (4 pages maximum)

Submission deadline: 15 January 2019

### 1. Title of your Regional Initiative:

Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA)

### 2. Work and activities undertaken during 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	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Build capacity	<p>1.1. Undertake efforts on the involvement of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to join the RRI-CA</p> <p>1.2. Identify the gaps in implementation of Ramsar Convention in the region and the needs in capacity building</p> <p>1.3. Disseminate the experience of other Ramsar Regional Initiatives</p> <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>1.1. Efforts were undertaken; however, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are still not members of the Initiative. At the moment NFP in Uzbekistan has changed and the process should be reinitiated.</p> <p>1.2. The gaps in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention were specified during the regional meeting of the Standing Committee and presented and discussed the regional meeting</p>	<p>1.1. The official representative of Uzbekistan took part in the regional meeting of the Coordination Committee in Bishkek (September 2018). Uzbekistan and Tajikistan representatives declared their activities for persuade their Administrations to join the RRI-CA.</p> <p>1.2. The gaps were discussed and the priority gaps for filling in the nearest future were agreed during the regional meeting of the Coordination Committee in Bishkek (September 2018)..</p> <p>1.3. The experience of the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia was included for preparation of the projects.</p>

		<p>of the Coordination Committee that was organized in Bishkek (September 2018)</p> <p>1.3. The experience of the Ramsar Regional Center - East Asia was analyzed and the contact was built with the Ramsar Regional Centre West and Central Asia for possible collaboration.</p> <p>1.4. The training for Ramsar NFPs has not been initiated as new NFP in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan have not been nominated yet.</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"> <li>- World Wetland Day (2 February 2018)</li> <li>- Pre-COP meeting (February 26-March 2)</li> <li>- Regional Meeting of RRI-CA (late April 2017)</li> </ul>	<p>The relevant organizations, networks, and donors are familiar with RRI-CA and collaborate with it. The meeting with Wetlands International and AEWA was held for organization of winter waterbirds survey in Ramsar Wetland "Turkmenbashy Bay"</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Events organized for the World Wetland Day</li> </ul> <p>In Kazakhstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The meeting devoted to the World Wetland Day on February 2 in the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Kazakhstan (<a href="http://carececo.org/en/main/news/news/vsemirnyy-den-vodno-bolotnykh-ugodiy-v-kazakhstane/?sphrase_id=1590084">http://carececo.org/en/main/news/news/vsemirnyy-den-vodno-bolotnykh-ugodiy-v-kazakhstane/?sphrase_id=1590084</a>)</li> <li>- The event, dedicated to the World Wetland Day, on the theme "We will save wetlands of our native land!" on the basis of the Korgalzhyn nature reserve with involvement of local people</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Central Asian Environment Forum (Tashkent, June 2018)</li> <li>- Conservation Asia 2018 (Bishkek, August 2018)</li> <li>- COP13 (Dubai, October 21-29, 2018)</li> <li>- Participation in national conferences, round tables and meetings on water and wetland problems</li> </ul> <p>2.2. Promote and disseminate RRI-CA and its goals through various platforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RRI-CA webpage at the website of the Hosting organization</li> <li>- RRI-CA newsletter (twice a year)</li> <li>- Information bulletin of IUCN-ECARO</li> <li>- Ramsar Secretariat</li> <li>- Social media (such as Facebook)</li> </ul>	<p>and potential Ramsar wetlands in Turkmenistan. The winter counts were carried out in December – January in Ramsar wetlands and potential wetlands in December 2018 - January 2019.</p>	<p><a href="http://carececo.org/en/main/news/news/meropriyatie-rri-tsa-dlya-povysheniya-osvedomlennosti-mestnogo-naseleniya-na-ramsarskom-ugode-v-kaza/?sphrase_id=1590084">http://carececo.org/en/main/news/news/meropriyatie-rri-tsa-dlya-povysheniya-osvedomlennosti-mestnogo-naseleniya-na-ramsarskom-ugode-v-kaza/?sphrase_id=1590084</a></p> <p>In Kyrgyzstan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The meeting devoted to the World Wetland Day on the biosphere territory "Issyk-Kul".</li> <li>- Lectures for students of secondary schools in Naryn and secondary schools of At-Bashinsky, Kochkorsky and Naryn districts bordering on protected areas, as well as for Pamir kyrgyz students in Naryn lyceum A roundtable in the Karatal-Japyryk state nature reserve</li> <li>- An open lesson for students of 9th grade of secondary school named after Naamatbek Usonaliiev of Kazybek village of At-Bashinsky district (February 7)</li> <li>- Clean-ups of solid waste and fishing nets in the coastal zone of the lakes Issyk-Kul and Chatyr-Kul</li> <li>- Final workshop in Bishkek to discuss the second phase of the action plan for the conservation of wetlands for 2018-2020</li> </ul> <p>In Turkmenistan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- World Wetland Day in the city of Turkmenbashi with the participation of employees of the reserve, the city administration and interested users of the resources of the wetland</li> <li>- Round table devoted to the World Wetland Day, organized on February 1 at the National Institute of Deserts, Flora and Fauna of Turkmenistan</li> <li>- Workshop at Hazar nature reserve</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRI-CA took part at the Pre-COP meeting <a href="http://carececo.org/en/main/news/news/podgotovitelnaya-vstrecha-pered-13-oy-konferentsiyey-storon-ramsarskoy-konventsii-o-vodno-bolotnykhu/?sphrase_id=1590087">http://carececo.org/en/main/news/news/podgotovitelnaya-vstrecha-pered-13-oy-konferentsiyey-storon-ramsarskoy-konventsii-o-vodno-bolotnykhu/?sphrase_id=1590087</a></li> <li>• The results of 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" and RRI-CA goals were presented at Conservation Asia 2018</li> </ul>
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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"> <li>Inventory of the important wetlands of the region with creation of the regional database and update of the RSIS</li> <li>Development of the regional and national CEPA plans (Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness)</li> </ul>	Project proposals are developed, financed and realized	The collaboration is being built with AEWA. 4 modules of possible projects were developed and distributed within Central Asian states for discussion.
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.	The projects dedicated to water resources, climate change, biodiversity in Central Asia were analyzed. However, their focus differs from wetland conservation.
5. Raising awareness among the decision-makers on different levels	5.1. Include the issues of wetlands management and conservation into the national and regional agenda	National targets/indicators on how each country plan to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan	Within the framework of the RRI-CA the meetings with local communities were organized. A survey of the local population was carried out at selected wetlands. A total of 505 people was interviewed, of which 77 on the wetlands in Kazakhstan, 240 in Kyrgyzstan, and 188 in Turkmenistan. Representatives of local communities were provided with information on

on the value of wetlands	5.2. Raising awareness and understanding of the local communities about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands through workshops and trainings	2016-2024 are presented to the Ramsar Secretariat	wetlands in the country, on current problems and threats, on implemented and ongoing international projects on aquatic ecosystems and their biodiversity
6. Ensuring an effective, two-way communication between the Contracting Parties in Central Asia and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention	6.1. Submission of periodic RRI-CA reports to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat 6.2. 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 2018

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

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Planned expenditures</b>	<b>Actual expenditures (CHF)</b>
1.Salary to Technical Secretary	9,720	11,623
2.Transport cost for Technical Secretary	4,000	2,439
3.Regional meeting of the Coordination Committee	10,000	1,399
4. Participation of two RRI-CA members in COP23	5,000	4,415
5.Contingency	1,280	3,5
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>19,879.5</b>

<b>Sources of income</b>	<b>Income received</b>
Ramsar Secretariat	30,000 CHF
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,000 CHF</b>

**Based on the report for 2017,**

**28,400 (2016 Transfer) +18,000 (2017 transfer) + 12,000 (2017 Transfer) + 33,150 (G of Japan) = 91,550 CHF**

**(NOTE: The amount of 12,000 as 2017 transfer was not included in the report. However, I am assuming that the total amount from the Ramsar core budget was 30,000).**

**Therefore, the residual amount from 2017 is 34,056 CHF.**

Therefore, the amount of residual at 31 December 2018 is 44,176.5 (10,120.5 from 2018 + 34,056 from 2017).

**Financial balance at 31 December 2018:** total unspent and uncommitted balance left to be carried over to 2019: **10,120.5 CHF**

**For those initiatives receiving funding from the Convention in 2018,** please explain how this funding has been spent or committed, and compare this to the plan on which the funding request was based. Explain any significant scope or timetable changes:

There is a difference in planned and actual expenditures in salary to technical secretary. Initially the salary was planned for 11 months (from February to December). But the actual expenditures were for 13 months including December 2017 and January 2018.

**The residual in the Bank Account is about 40.000 CHF now due to the letter of finance manager. It is in the result of money changes and banking processing.**

### Work and activities planned for Year 2019

Objectives	Activities	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Build capacity and update the framework of the RRI-CA	1.1. Initiate efforts on the involvement of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to join the RRI-CA 1.2. Initiate the training for the Ramsar National Focal Points and/or the appropriate representatives 1.3. Update RRI-CA strategy and action plan	All Central Asian countries are members of the Initiative. Capacity of the Ramsar National Focal Points and/or the appropriate representatives of the participating countries of RRI-CA is improved. Detailed action plan and strategy are developed for the implementation of RRI-CA activities.	1.1. Uzbekistan and Tajikistan are members of the Initiative 1.2. The training for Ramsar NFPs or the appropriate representatives is organized 1.3. Strategy and action plan are introduced

<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"> <li>- World Wetland Day (2 February 2019)</li> <li>- Regional Meeting of RRI-CA (May 2019)</li> <li>- Participation in national conferences, round tables and meetings on water and wetland problems</li> </ul> <p>2.2. Promote and disseminate RRI-CA and its goals through various platforms</p>	<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>
<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"> <li>• Project developed in collaboration with AEWA</li> <li>• Methodological assistance to countries on the inventory of important wetlands and application of the rapid assessment</li> </ul>	<p>Project proposals are developed, financed and realized</p>	<p>Number of project proposals that are developed, being financed and under realization</p>
<p>4. Raising awareness among the decision-makers on different levels on the value of wetlands</p>	<p>4.1. Identification of the national plans for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategy for 2016-2024</p> <p>4.2. Raising awareness and understanding of the local communities about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands through workshops and trainings</p>	<p>National targets/indicators on how each country plan to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are presented to the Ramsar Secretariat</p>	<p>4.1. National targets/indicators on how each country plan to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are monitored</p> <p>4.2. Workshops and trainings for various stakeholders: governmental officials, researchers and local communities</p>
<p>5. Ensuring an effective, two-way communication between the Contracting Parties in Central Asia and the</p>	<p>5.1. Submission of periodic RRI-CA reports to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat</p> <p>5.2. Identifying the needs of countries with respect to implementation of the Convention</p>	<p>Reports and inquiries</p>	<p>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</p>

Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention			Coordination Committee of RRI-CA, and other stakeholders in Central Asia
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**Therefore, the residual amount from 2017 is 34,056 CHF.**

**The residual in the Bank Account is 40.000 now due to the letter of finance manager. It is in the result of money changes and banking processing.**

**For those initiatives requesting funding from the Convention for 2019,** please provide a financial summary of your 2019 plan. If you use another currency than Swiss Franc (CHF), please provide an average exchange rate to allow conversion into CHF:

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Forecast/budgeted expenditures real expenditures</b>
1. Salary to Technical Secretary	12,540
2. Transport cost for the Chair of the Coordinated Committee of RRI-CA technical secretary	5,000
3. Regional meeting	5,000
4. Methodological assistance to countries on the inventory of important wetlands and application of the rapid assessment	4,000
5. Training for the Ramsar Focal Points and appropriate representatives	5,500



6. Workshops with training activity devoted to the best practice of the Ramsar sites' management in Tengiz-Korgalzhyn Lake system and Karakol Lake (Kazakhstan)	6,500
7. Workshops with training activity devoted to the best practice of the Ramsar sites' management in Issyk-Kul Lake (Kyrgyzstan)	5,000
8. Workshops with training activity devoted to the best practice of the Ramsar sites' management in Turkmenbashy Bay (Turkmenistan)	5,000
9. Training for the application of the rapid assessment	3,000
10. The rapid assessments of Ramsar wetlands in Kazakhstan and finding the gaps in Ramsar wetlands' inventory	5,000
11. The rapid assessments of Ramsar wetlands and potential Ramsar wetlands in Kyrgyzstan and finding the gaps in Ramsar wetlands' inventory	3,500
12. The rapid assessments of potential Ramsar wetlands in Turkmenistan and finding the gaps in the inventory	3,500
13. Printing, translation	1,860
14. Finance management for RRI-CA	3,600
15. Unforeseen expenditures	1,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,000</b>

<b>Sources of Income</b>	<b>Forecast/budgeted amount of income</b>
<b>Request from Ramsar core budget</b>	<b>30,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,000</b>