

Annex II

Combined annual reporting and forward planning format

Annual Report for Year 2019 and Plan for Year 2020 (4 pages maximum)

Submission deadline: 20 January 2020

1. Title of your Regional Initiative:

Regional Ramsar Initiative for Central Asia

2. Work and activities undertaken during 2019

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 and update the framework of the RRI-CA.	<p>1.1. Initiate efforts on the involvement of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to join the RRI-CA.</p> <p>1.2. Initiate the training for the Ramsar National Focal Points and/or the appropriate representatives.</p> <p>1.3. Update RRI-CA strategy and action plan.</p>	<p>1.1 Letters with the offer of joining RRI-CA were sent to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were invited to Regional Meeting of Coordinating Committee (June 10, 2019) as observers (Uzbekistan took part).</p> <p>1.2 Trainings was initiated and organized: Training on the wetlands express assessment (June 11-12, 2019) (20 participants).</p> <p>1.3. The RRI-CA strategy and plans were updated at the Regional Meeting of Coordinating Committee (June 10, 2019).</p>	<p>1.1 Uzbekistan now is Member of RRI-CA. Three people (Ramsar, SRRP and CEPA Focal points) are working, they are in Contact with Ramsar Convention Secretariat, with the help of RRI-CA CC.</p> <p>Strategy and action plan are in the process of establishing within the State Committee of ecology in UZ.</p> <p>1.2 One Training provided for Ramsar NFPs or the appropriate representatives is organized.</p> <p>1.3 Main strategical directions and plans for 2019-2020 were included in the Resolution of the Meeting of Coordinating Committee.</p>
2. Promote RRI-CA and its goals and plans using national and regional platforms (conferences, workshops, websites,	<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 2019). - Regional Meeting of RRI-CA (May 2019). 	<p>2.1 Calendar of CAREC was used for promoting RRI-CA events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was the celebration of the World Wetland Day in Turkmenistan, the Meeting of the Working Group for fulfillment of Ramsar Convention in Turkmenistan with Ramsar Wetlands “Turkmenbashi Bay” stakeholders. <p>Presentation of RRI-CA was also held in on the Round Table on Wetlands Day at Kostanai</p>	<p>2.1 Calendar is developed using CAREC platform. Information support of RRI-CA on its webpage and other platforms.</p> <p>2.2 RRI-CA participation and presentation in key events on the national, regional levels. Focal points of RRI-CA took part in different event and promote RRI-CA project on various platforms trough presentation tools and reports.</p> <p>Events provided: 3, for 20 participants (including NGO representatives, focal points, local community, local authorities).</p>

<p>information bulletins etc.).</p>	<p>- Participation in national conferences, round tables and meetings on water and wetland problems.</p> <p>2.2. Promote and disseminate RRI-CA and its goals through various platforms.</p>	<p>Pedagogical University (2.02.2019) and during the expedition in China to the state of populations and the protection of cranes at the Forest University of Beijing.</p> <p>2.2 The relevant organizations, networks, and donors are familiar with RRI- CA and collaborate with it. 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: A small report was made on the work carried out to assess waterfowl - as a food supply for birds of prey (at the final report on the study of the Saker Falcon in northern Kyrgyzstan in August 2019) by focal point in Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>- International Scientific Conference devoted to 100 years jubilee of Astrakanskiy State Protected Area (Russia) (2-5 September 2019). Prof. Eldar Rustamov presented the oral report in the Symposium for biodiversity conservation in wetlands. Report was about RRI-CA aims and achievements. There were 80 people from Russia, Denmark, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan.</p> <p>Workshop on Local Community Participation for Wetlands Restoration (October 14-16, 2019, Urmia, Iran).</p> <p>Annual Institute Report on Cooperation RRI-CA (Institute of Biology NAS KR December 2019).</p>	
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		<p>Presentation on the meaning of Lake Issyk-Kul for waterfowl of the West Siberian and Central Asian region in preparation for an international conference on the importance of Lake Issyk-Kul November 2019.</p> <p>Nexus Closing Conference (90 participants) – November 28, 2019.</p> <p>Epidemiological monitoring, waterfowl virus circulation in nature and biological hazard in the Kyrgyz Republic (bird flu virus was detected in the Ramsar lands of Issyk-Kul Lake, Son-Kul and Chatyr-Kul) 2012-2019.</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">- International Conference on Wetlands and Migratory Waterbirds in the Asian Flyway (18-22.11.2019) https://cwamwaf.in/conference/rustamov-eldar-anverovich-phd/. <p>Prof. Eldar Rustamov was a keynote speaker presented report “Governance in securing wetlands in Central Asian countries and the Ramsar Convention” https://docs.google.com/document/d/1A_XsxdIqple10z4c49kGKShU3cKyG01KxIla0i9vVAg/edit#heading=h.88ccx0q6139a</p> <p>The number of Symposium participants were 50 people.</p> <p>Information about RRI-CA was also presented in the Sixth National Report on the Implementation of the</p>	
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Convention on Biodiversity in Turkmenistan <https://www.cbd.int> –.

Information support of RRI-CA on its webpage and other platforms:

[CAREC Website](#)

[CAREC Facebook profile](#)

[CAREC Twitter profile](#)

Events provided:

- a) Training on the wetlands express assessment (June 11-12, 2019) The required methods and techniques for express wetlands assessments in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan were determined.
- b) Workshop on the best practices of wetland management in Kyrgyzstan (June 14-15, 2019, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan)
During the Workshop the actual questions and problems of Issyk-Kul Lake management were discussed and proposal for management improvement were summarized at the Resolution.
- c) [Workshop on the best practices](#) of wetland management in Kazakhstan (August 21-22, 2019) Korgalzhino)
During the Workshop the actual questions and problems of water management and development of tourism were discussed and proposal for

		management improvement were summarized at the Resolution.	
3. Development of regional projects, their funding and realization.	<p>3. Development of the following project proposals together with the Coordination Committee members and other partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project developed in collaboration with AEWA. • Methodological assistance to countries on the inventory of important wetlands and application of the rapid assessment. 	<p>3. The draft project proposal for assessments of services and climate changes mitigations of Central Asia wetlands developed in collaboration with AEWA is under development in result of the meeting with Nagy Szabolcs, was held in December 18, 2019. The project proposals will be prepared at 2020.</p> <p>Project proposals for the NWF project was sent also in 2019 (not accepted because of not enough involvement of countries officials).</p> <p>The rapid assessments were provided using residual funding.</p> <p>Four experts in each country-member of RRI-CA were hired for providing express evaluation of potential RAMSAR sites. Regional Report will be the final in the beginning of February, that will be translated in English, published on the CAREC website and sent to RAMSAR Convention Secretariat. National Focal Points and RRI-CA Coordinating Committee members will work on adding those potential Ramsar sites in Ramsar sites list.</p>	3. One project proposal for the NWF project had been sent in 2019 was failed because of not enough involvement of countries officials. Next year it's planned to discuss this at the Regional Meeting and Coordinating meeting and develop a strategy of project proposals and developing a document that summarizes the results of rapid assessment will be produced in February.
4. Raising awareness among the	4.1. Identification of the national plans for the implementation of the	4.1. National targets/indicators on how each country plans to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-	4.1. One of the main targets/indicators for all three countries are the nomination of new Ramsar sites. The aim of the express assessments is provided rapid survey of potential Ramsar sites for nomination. The

<p>decision-makers on different levels on the value of wetlands.</p>	<p>Ramsar Strategy for 2016-2024. 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>2024 were discussed and summarized at the following Meetings: - Workshop on the best practices of wetland management in Kyrgyzstan (June 14-15, 2019, Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan) – for Kyrgyzstan. The targets and indicators were presented at the Resolution of the Workshop. - Workshop on the best practices of wetland management in Kazakhstan (August 21-22, 2019, Korgaldzhino) – for Kazakhstan. The targets and indicators were presented at the Resolution of the Workshop. - The targets/indicators on how each country plan to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 for Turkmenistan is postponed to October 2020. These issues will be discussed during the Workshop dedicated for the best practices of wetlands managements. 4.2. Local stakeholders (rangers, hunters, farmers, tourism stakeholders) were invited to the sessions of workshops were held in Kyrgyzstan (June 14-15, 2019, Issyk-Kul) and in Kazakhstan (August 21-22, 2019, Korgaldzhino).</p>	<p>rapid assessments were started in 2019 and will be finished at February 2020. In results – new Ramsar sites will be ready for nominations in all 4 countries. 4.2. Local communities were actively involved in the Workshops on the best practices of wetland management in Kyrgyzstan (June 14-15, 2019, Issyk-Kul) and the best practices of wetland management in Kazakhstan (August 21-22, 2019, Korgaldzhino).</p>
<p>5. Ensuring an effective, two-way communication between the Contracting Parties in Central Asia and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention.</p>	<p>5.1. Submission of periodic RRI-CA reports to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. 5.2. Identifying the needs of countries with respect to implementation of the Convention.</p>	<p>Reports and inquiries. 5.1 Report is sent on the regular basis. 5.2 The needs of the RRI-CA countries were discussed at a meeting of the Coordination Committee on June 10, 2019 and during the rapid assessment workshop on June 11-12, 2019. As the results:</p>	<p>5.1 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. 5.2 The needs of the countries are included in the RRI-CA Action Plan for 2019. The requirements are provided in the Terms of Reference for the expert assessment of the Ramsar wetlands and potential Ramsar sites in each country. Country needs are outlined in Resolutions of Best Practices Seminars held in Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan.</p>

		<p>- Updated Terms of Reference for Express Assessments for each country.</p> <p>The needs of Kyrgyzstan were discussed in detail during the workshop in Issykkol region June 13-14, 2019.</p> <p>-Results were included in the Resolution of the Workshop and transferred to the relevant organizations of the country.</p> <p>The needs of Kazakhstan were considered at a workshop on August 23-24, 2019 in Korgaldzhino.</p> <p>Results were included to Resolution and sent to the State Committee of Kazakhstan. Turkmenistan's needs will be discussed at a similar workshop in Turkmenbashy.</p>	
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Workshops on the best practices of wetland management in Kyrgyzstan (June 14-15, 2019, Issyk-Kul) and the best practices of wetland management in Kazakhstan (August 21-22, 2019, Korgaldzhino) contributed the most. These events were attended by local authorities, Focal Points, representatives of the executive authorities (health), higher education institutions, scientists, representatives of travel companies, inspectors and employees of protected areas, NGOs in the field of nature protection. Among the participants were many young people. Very serious questions were raised to improve management and solve other acute problems. The reports were actively discussed and caused the widest response among the participants. Resolutions were prepared, which were sent to interested executive bodies.

3. Financial report for Year 2019

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: **385,32 KZT** (Kazakhstani tenge)(According to the official information from National Bank of Kazakhstan)

	Activities	Planned expenditures	Actual expenditures
1	Salary to Technical Secretary	12540	12540
2	Transport cost for the Chair of the Coordinated Committee of RRI-CA technical secretary	5000	2083
3	Participation in the 56th Meeting of Standing Committee	3000	3019
4	Methodological assistance to countries on the inventory of important wetlands and application of the rapid assessment	4000	4000
5	Regional meeting	5000	5595
6	Training for the application of the rapid assessment	9000	9662
7	Workshops with training activity devoted to the best practice of the Ramsar sites' management in Issyk-Kul Lake (Kyrgyzstan)	5000	5111
8	Workshops with training activity devoted to the best practice of the Ramsar sites' management in Tengiz-Korgalzhyn Lake system and Karakol Lake (Kazakhstan)	8000	6601
9	Workshops with training activity devoted to the best practice of the Ramsar sites' management in Turkmenbashy Bay (Turkmenistan)	8000	
10	The rapid assessments of Ramsar wetlands in Kazakhstan and finding the gaps in Ramsar wetlands' inventory	2000	2000
11	The rapid assessments of Ramsar wetlands and potential Ramsar wetlands in Kyrgyzstan and finding the gaps in Ramsar wetlands' inventory	2000	2000
12	The rapid assessments of potential Ramsar wetlands in Turkmenistan and finding the gaps in the inventory	2000	2000
13	The rapid assessments of Ramsar wetlands in Uzbekistan and finding the gaps in Ramsar wetlands' inventory	1000	1000
14	The rapid assessments of Ramsar wetlands in Tajikistan and finding the gaps in Ramsar wetlands' inventory		
15	Administration costs	3613	3613
16	Finance management for RRI-CA	3600	3600
17	Unforeseen expenditures	1000	1000
	Total	74 753	63 824

Sources of income	Income received
Ramsar Convention	33 333
Balance left from 2018 (where applicable)	41 420
Total	74 753

Financial balance at 31 December 2019: total unspent and uncommitted balance left to be carried over to 2020, ~~or deficit~~: CHF 10,929

For those initiatives receiving funding from the Convention in 2019, 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:

The plan for 2019 was fully realized, one of the main goals for RRI-CA was to include rest 2 countries, Uzbekistan is already in, which can easier lead Tajikistan to join too.

Only Workshop to the best practice of the Ramsar sites' management in Turkmenbashi Bay (Turkmenistan) was not held, because budget is not enough to make the event Regional (visa for Turkmenistan costs at least 700 USD), so Coordinating Committee decided to postponed it for the next year.

4. Work and activities planned for Year 2020

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	Results/outputs	Indicators
1. Build capacity and update the framework of the RRI-CA.	Initiate efforts on the involvement Tajikistan to join the RRI-CA.	Letters with the offer of joining RRI-CA were sent to Tajikistan.	Tajikistan is Member of RRI-CA.
2. Promote RRI-CA and its goals and plans using national and regional platforms (conferences, workshops, websites, information bulletins etc).	2.1 Initiate PR strategy of RRI-CA. 2.2 Raising awareness using PR strategy. 2.3 Filming movie about RRI-CA in English and Russian as a promotional material. 2.4 Create promo materials (banner, roll ups and one pagers for RRI-CA). 2.5 Use promo materials on the platforms, events of CAREC. 2.6 Make an online questionnaire.	Raising awareness among the decision-makers on different levels on the value of wetlands.	Awareness raising through social networks (polls).
3. Development of regional projects, their funding and realization.	3.1 Develop working process with AEWA, look for fundraising opportunities.	Project proposals are planned to be developed, financed and realized AEWA. Project proposal for the NWF project was sent by countries.	At least 1 project proposal.
4. Raising awareness among the decision-makers on different levels on the value of wetlands.	4.1. Identification of the national plans for the implementation of the Ramsar Strategy for 2016-2024. 4.2 Raising awareness and understanding of the local communities about the importance of conservation and sustainable use of wetlands through workshops and trainings.	National targets/indicators on how each country plan to implement the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 are presented to the Ramsar Secretariat.	New Ramsar sites (1 or more for every 4 countries RRI-CA) are nominated in Ramsar List . The data concerned Ramsar sites conditions are actualized for 1 or more sites for every 4 countries.
5. Ensuring an effective, two-way communication between the Contracting Parties in Central Asia and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention.	5.1. Submission of periodic RRI-CA reports to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. 5.2. 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.
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For those initiatives requesting funding from the Convention for 2020, please provide a financial summary of your 2020 plan. If you use another currency than Swiss Franc (CHF), please provide an average exchange rate to allow conversion into CHF:

	Activities	Forecast/budgeted expenditures (CHF)
1.	Salary to Technical Secretary	12540
2.	Transport cost for the Chair of the Coordinated Committee of RRI-CA technical secretary	2389
3.	Participation in the 58th Meeting of Standing Committee	2000
4.	PR actions (filming video about RRI-CA in eng and rus+articles about wetlands in eng and rus+roll ups and banner for COP14)	2000
5.	Regional meeting	6000
6.	Workshops with training activity devoted to the best practice of the Ramsar sites' management in Turkmenbashi (Turkmenistan)	11000
7.	Administration costs	2000
8.	Finance management for RRI-CA	2000
9.	Unforeseen expenditures	1000
	Total	40929

Sources of Income	Forecast/budgeted amount of income
Ramsar Convention	
Request from Ramsar core budget	30 000
Residuals (from 2019)	10 929
Total	40 929