

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

Annual Summary Report for Year 2019 and Plan for Year 2020

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 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
<p>I. CEPA 1.1 Ensure that countries in the region are implementing Ramsar Strategic Plan</p>	<p>1.1 Regional Capacity building workshop on Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024</p>	<p>Increased appropriate implementation of Ramsar Convention in the region</p>	<p>Delayed. Activity moved to our 2020 work plan.</p>
<p>1. 2 To provide guidance on the Ramsar WWD programs</p>	<p>1.2 WWD 2019 Side Event</p>	<p>- Increased capacity Celebration of World Wetlands Day on the Persian Gulf Coast with Presidents of department of environment, Governor of Hormozgan province, Local Communities, Members of Parliament, NGOs, JICA Representatives in Iran. - World Wetlands Day in all Provinces of Wetlands in Iran with Citizens, Governors, Universities, NGOs, Students, Local Media and Others</p>	<p>- 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)</p>

<p>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</p>	<p>2.1 Regional Workshop on Development of a program for transboundary wetland conservation</p>	<p>Improved management capacity of “Transboundary Wetland Sites”</p>	<p>Delayed. Activity moved to our 2020 work plan.</p>
<p>2.2 Ensure that major stakeholders involved in flyway management have the knowledge, skills, and ability to effectively conserve wetlands and waterbirds</p>	<p>2.2 Training workshop on the flyway approach in the CWA region.</p>	<p>Partnerships formed, information shared, and collaborative actions taken by countries along the flyway.</p>	<p>Delayed. Activity moved to our 2020 work plan.</p>
<p>2.3 Ramsar Advisory Mission No. 88</p>	<p>1.1 Cooperation between Republic of Iraq and Islamic Republic of Iran for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of the Mesopotamian marshes</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Completed Mission 16 – 23 December 2017, and Report of the Ramsar Advisory Mission No. 88, under preparation</p>
<p>2.4 Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on “Local Community Participation in Lake Urmia Restoration”.</p>	<p>* Reconnection and strengthening of the RRC-CWA Network; * Exchange of lessons learned and best practices with regard to wetlands restoration by involving different beneficiaries including local Communities;</p>	<p>* Build human capacity and engage in outreach; * Promote scientific and technical cooperation and exchange of Knowledge, including traditional Knowledge;</p>	<p>The workshop was held on October 14-16th, in Urmia, Azerbaijan I.R as: Environmental Protection Agency, Ramsar Regional Center Board Director, eight experts from Ramsar Regional Center (Iraq, Syria,</p>

	* Provide an opportunity for government representatives to exchange of views on the establishing sustainable agriculture and online monitoring in wetland pilot sites basins.	* Promote wise use of wetlands through research and sustainable management;	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Oman, Uzbekistan), field visit Compatible with Sustainable Development Axis in Koani Barazan Wetland, Visit Wetland Monitoring Network Online and More
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 2020 work plan, while the preparatory communications have been done in 2019.
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 2019 Targets, Action Plan and Budget	Meeting held by 30 experts during the Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on “Local Community Participation in Lake Urmia Restoration” Moved to our 2019 work plan, on 15 October 2019.
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 drafted and exchanged.
3.4 To Activate Ramsar City MOUs and Sister Affiliated Agreements (The Ramsar Regional Center in Iran and the Ramsar Center in South Korea, which co-operate with the Memorandum of Understanding, require follow-up and review.)	To follow-up Ramsar and Suncheon Agreements	Number of implemented agreements	Work with RRC-EA in 2020
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	Based on the Center's previous actions and follow-up, Afghanistan's accession to the Ramsar

			Convention is under review.
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).	Delayed. Activity moved into 2020 work plan.
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	Apply funds from some governmental and private sectors
5.2 To maintain center's website www.rrc-wca.org	- To update centre's website, post news, preferably once a week if news are available	Number of visitors	Website has been designed and operated on 2019.
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 2020. 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 2020.

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 the CHF**:

Activities	Planned expenditures	Real expenditures (USD)
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Staff Salary		10,000
Website design		10,000
Regional Experience Sharing Workshop on “Local Community Participation in Lake Urmia Restoration”		50,000
Center Expenditure		7,000
Total		77,000 (1.00US\$ = 0.99CHF)

Sources of income (donors)	Income received (USD)
Department of Environment	55,000 \$
Ministry of Energy	27,000 \$
National Wetland Conservation Plan of Iran (by UNDP Representative in Iran)	24000\$
Total	106,000 \$ (1.00\$ = 0.99CHF)

Financial balance on 31 December of Year 2019: amount left to be carried over to Year 2020, or deficit: **Financial balance is 5,000 \$**

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. 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 2020 Side Event	-Information Sharing - Looking for potential national donors (oil and Gas companies, free zone organizations,	-Increased capacity - holding special workshops

		Municipalities, Department of Environment, etc.)	
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 the Collaborative Management Board (CMB) meets annually	To hold 7th annual meeting of the CMB in December 2020	- Improve CMB Membership - Finalize 2021 Targets, Action Plan and Budget	- Improvement on CMB membership and related regulation -To present and assess the progress report for 2020 and draft work plan for 2021
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	Signed agreements / MOUs
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	5 Master Thesis on wetland projects in the country will be supported financially

		money transfer, this activity will be done in the further year/s).	(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-wca.org	- To update centre's website, post news, preferably once a week if news are available	Number of visitors	Stored files and documents in 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	Ramsar Regional Center Predicts Financial Contributions in 2020

5. Financial plan for the year 2020

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 (USD)	Expected Income and Source (USD)
1. CEPA	70,000	70,000 \$ DoE (plus the 5,000\$ 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 \$ (1.00US\$ = 0.99CHF)	335,000 (1.00US\$ = 0.99CHF)