

DOC. SC42-08

Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2009-2012



42nd Meeting of the Standing Committee
Gland, Switzerland, 16-20 May 2011

developments since COP10

COP10

- adopted “**operational guidelines**” to select, evaluate and support regional initiatives
- earmarked an amount for **financial support** in the core budget
- tasked **Standing Committee** to evaluate the initiatives and to determine individual annual financial support, and
- requested SC and the Secretariat to review the success of the initiatives and to submit a **summary report** to COP11

SC40 (2009)

- adopted **evaluation criteria** and a format for **annual reporting**, welcomed a model letter of support for initiatives by governments and NGOs
- **endorsed 12 initiatives** as fully meeting the operational guidelines and operating under Ramsar in 2009-2012
- endorsed **3 initiatives provisionally** for one year
- recognized **2 initiatives** as being **under development**
- allocated annual **funds** to 10 initiatives for 2009

Standing Committee

SC41 (2010)

- **endorsed 3** additional **initiatives**
(i.e. those only provisionally endorsed for one year in 2009)
- adopted the combined **format** for annual reporting and forward planning
- welcomed the model **contract** used by the Secretariat to disburse annual core budget allocations
- allocated annual **funds** to 10 initiatives for activities in 2010
- approved the **accrual** of unallocated funds in 2010 for allocation in 2011 under the same budget line by SC42

first lessons learnt SC41 (2010)

- setting up a regional initiative takes **time**
- it is important to establish robust **governance** structures and procedures
- short and long term **planning** is crucial
- **annual work plans** and **evaluation** of results
- minimal **reporting** is required



synopsis (table on page 3)

Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2009-2012 overview	☺ = endorsement by SC40 in 2009	☺ = additional endorsement by SC41 in 2010 ¹	☺ = progress report 2010 and work plan 2011 submitted	Ramsar funding request for 2011
Regional centres for:				
Eastern Africa (Kampala)	☺	operating	☺	yes
Western Hemisphere (Panama)	☺	operating	<i>no information</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Central and Western Asia (Ramsar)	☺	operating	☺	yes
Eastern Asia (Changwon)	☺	operating	☺	no
Regional networks for the:				
Nile River Basin	☺	operating	<i>no information</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Lake Chad Basin	<i>no information</i>	<i>no information</i>	<i>no information</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
West African Coast	<i>under development</i>	<i>under development</i>	☺	yes
Niger River Basin	<i>no information</i>	<i>no information</i>	☺	yes
High Andean	☺	operating	☺	yes
La Plata River Basin	☺	operating	☺	no
Caribbean	<i>provisionally</i>	☺ operating	☺	yes
American Mangroves	<i>provisionally</i>	☺ operating	☺	yes
East-Asian Australasian Flyway	☺	operating	☺	no
Himalayan	☺ <i>conditionally</i>	<i>under development</i>	<i>no information</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Pacific Islands	<i>under development</i>	<i>on hold</i>	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>n.a.</i>
Mediterranean	☺	operating	☺	no
Carpathian	☺	operating	☺	yes
Nordic-Baltic	☺	operating	☺	no
Black Sea Coast	<i>provisionally</i>	☺ operating	☺	yes

summary 2009-2011 – *assets*:

- **9 initiatives** are operating since COP10 (2008)
centres for Eastern Africa, Central and Western Asia, Eastern Asia
networks for the High Andean, La Plata River Basin, East-Asian Australasian Flyway, Mediterranean, Carpathian, Nordic-Baltic
- **3 additional initiatives** are operating since 2010
networks for the Caribbean, American Mangroves, Black Sea Coast
- **2 additional initiatives** are operating since 2011
networks for the West African Coast, Niger River Basin

continued – but limited – support by the Secretariat proved to be essential

summary 2009-2011 – *challenges:*

- **3 initiatives** not to be considered any longer
networks for the Pacific Islands, Himalayan, Lake Chad Basin
did not evolve beyond the concept stage
- **2 initiatives** need to **report to SC43 (August 2011)**
centre for the Western Hemisphere - currently undergoing major structural changes with reduced activities
network for the Nile River Basin - no information since SC41
require further support by the Secretariat – within our limited capacities

these initiatives could be re-considered operating under the Ramsar Convention
during the period 2013-2015 - by SC46 after COP11

some more lessons ...

- developing lasting initiatives needs **time**
- initiatives need transparent and effective **governance structures**
- regular contact and timely reporting to the **Secretariat** is crucial
- professional structures (centres, secretariats) need to operate with a **regional focus**, under a regional (not national) governance structure
- **all** relevant stakeholders need to become active partners
(not only Administrative Authorities)
- **annual** funds contributed by the Ramsar budget need to be spent during the corresponding year
- initiatives need to become **self-sustained**
(normally after one interval between two meetings of the COP)

contributions by Regional Initiatives to Ramsar implementation

Resolution X.6 requests

*“the Standing Committee and the Secretariat,
particularly in relation to those initiatives funded by the core budget,
to review their success and submit a summary report for consideration at COP11”*

Secretariat to prepare background document for COP11 draft

Resolution on Regional Initiatives 2013-2015 :

- > analysis and evaluation of the work and **performance** of Ramsar Regional Centres and Networks 2009-2012
- > showing **added value** for Convention implementation
- > clarifying those issues missing in the “**Operational Guidelines**” or needing adjustment

Ramsar core budget funding 2011

available funds for regional initiative activities in 2011 (Budget Res.X.2):

- core budget line C.i. for regional **networks**: **179,190 CHF**
- core budget line C.ii. for regional **centres**: **100,000 CHF**
- voluntary donations for **African initiatives**: **14,000 CHF**

available total funds for activities in 2011: **293,190 CHF**

requested Ramsar funding by 9 initiatives: **318,070 CHF**

(shortfall of 24,880 CHF)

Proposed allocation for activities in 2011:

- > slightly reduced contributions to those initiatives which have not yet fully used all of their Ramsar funding obtained for activities in 2010
- > all initiatives are able to apply for further funds in 2012, even to recover potentially remaining small funding shortfalls in early 2012

funding 2011 (table on pages 4-5)

regional initiative (all amounts in CHF)	left over from 2010	total budget 2011	Ramsar request for 2011	allocation proposal for 2011	total Ramsar funding in the past
regional centres for					
Eastern Africa	28,500	265,000	40,000	35,000	116,357
Western Hemisphere	23,643	unknown	none	nil	207,286
Central and West Asia	90,450	400,500	72,000	65,000	220,000
<i>total for centres</i>			<i>112,000</i>	<i>100,000</i>	
regional networks for					
West African Coast	6,800	52,863	26,913	20,000	137,700
Niger River Basin	nil	32,000	20,000	20,000	nil
High Andean	nil	172,640	25,000	25,000	108,000
La Plata River Basin	40,700	40,700	none	nil	20,000
Caribbean	nil	467,550	28,800	28,800	57,000
American Mangroves	nil	45,500	32,000	32,000	50,000
Carpathian	41,000	161,460	32,500	29,000	75,000
Black Sea Coast	14,143	55,000	40,857	38,390	44,690
<i>total for networks</i>			<i>206,070</i>	<i>193,190</i>	

outlook for 2012

- regional initiatives will **report** on progress with their work 2011 and submit a work plan for 2012 by **29 February 2012**
- they include a financial budget for activities in 2012 with a **possible funding request** for an annual Ramsar core budget contribution
- the Secretariat will provide an update and funding proposal for 2012 to **SC44** (meeting on 17 June 2012) – *or SC could decide on the funding allocation via e-mail already in April 2012?*



SC42 is invited to

- **take note** of the update on progress with the work of the regional initiatives and make possible **recommendations**
- **withdraw** consideration from three inactive initiatives (Pacific Islands, Himalayan, Lake Chad Basin) as operating under the Convention 2009-2012
- **allocate** annual Ramsar core budget funds for activities in 2011
- **instruct the Secretariat** to report to SC43 on possible funds (to be allocated to cover costs of regional meetings prior to COP11) of initiatives unable to contract for their allocation in 2011
- **instruct the Secretariat** to prepare for SC43 a performance analysis of regional initiatives 2009-2012 and a draft Resolution for COP11 on Ramsar regional initiatives 2013-2015