

**Report on the review of resource mobilization from all sources,
especially as it relates to fundraising**

Actions requested:

Standing Committee is invited:

- to review the report on resource mobilization from all sources;
- to provide comments and further suggestions on fundraising approaches; and
- to recommend the development of a coherent fundraising strategy across the Secretariat, which addresses the existing funding approaches and future possibilities under the categories of: bilateral funds; multilateral funds; Partner organizations and NGOs; private sector funds; and philanthropic foundations.

Introduction

1. In the Interim Arrangements for Secretariat Administration, the Executive Team requested a review of resource mobilization, especially as it related to fundraising (paragraph 1 (f)).
2. The purpose of this report is to ensure the capture of work undertaken, so that an incoming Secretary General is in a position to reinvigorate the programme. The review is undertaken in conjunction with the Resource Mobilization Working Group.
3. This report reviews first of all the non-core budget priorities as defined in Resolution XII.1, Annex 3, and describes the actions undertaken.
4. The report goes on to list other fundraising efforts that are currently being undertaken under various categories of possible funders, including: bilateral funds; multilateral funds; Partner organizations and NGOs; private sector funds; and philanthropic foundations.

Non-core budget priorities

5. In Resolution XII.1 the non-core budget priorities and requirements for the period 2016-18 are outlined in Annex 3. These non-core priorities for 2016-18 are listed below at Table 1, in the order of priority agreed upon by Parties at COP12.

Table 1. Non-core budget priorities identified in Resolution XII.1, Annex 3

No.	Non-core budget priorities 2016-2018	3-year funding requirement (CHF)
1	Ramsar Advisory Missions for Parties requiring assistance	600,000
2	STRP 2016-2018 programme of work support	300,000
3	RSIS, IM/IT (Website) Continuing Development	175,000
4	Pre-COP13 regional meetings (delegates support and meeting costs for preparatory meetings)	650,000
5	COP13 (2018) sponsorship to eligible delegates	600,000
6	Arabic language introduction and translation support	250,000
7	Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands	1,000,000
8	Regional Initiative Networks and Centres support (priority activities)	150,000
9	Ramsar CEPA Programme (2016-2021), exclusion of World Wetlands Day	300,000
10	On-line system for National Reports, reporting and indicators development	175,000
	TOTAL	4,200,000

Item 1. Ramsar Advisory Missions

6. The total amount estimated for the triennium for the cost of Ramsar Advisory Missions (RAMs) is CHF 600,000. Experience has shown that fundraising is best done on a case-by-case basis. The following approaches for fundraising for RAMs can be appropriate:
- Map private sector interests with the specific Ramsar Sites to see whether the RAM could be funded through corporate environmental programmes, as has been done in the past.
 - Extend the Star Alliance agreement to cover the travel of experts taking part in RAMs.
 - Map NGO interests to see whether the RAM could be fully or partially funded (e.g. by WWF or IUCN as has been done in the past).
 - Invite the country to pay for RAMs undertaken in their own country, as Norway did in 2015.
 - Identify those Sites that are threatened by oil and gas exploration, and apply to the Norwegian Oil for Development Programme for support for the RAM.
7. As shown in detail below at Tables 2 and 3, the amount estimated for the RAMs requested by Parties so far in the triennium is CHF 345,000. Of this total amount, CHF 145,000 has been raised from various sources while CHF 200,000 remains to be raised.
8. Table 2 below shows the RAMs requested by African Parties to be arranged in 2016, together with the country contribution where available, the total cost, and the possible funding sources for the balance of the cost.

Table 2. Ramsar Advisory Missions requested by African countries in 2016, with approximate costs

Contracting Party	Ramsar Site	Country contribution (CHF)	Total cost (CHF)	Funding source for the balance of total cost (CHF)
D. R. Congo	Parc National des Mangroves	10,000	40,000	30,000 to be determined
Malawi	Lake Chilwa	0	30,000	30,000 to be determined <i>Desk study available</i>
Senegal	Ndael Ramsar Site <i>(listed in Montreux Record)</i>	5,000	45,000	African Development Bank (Multi-disciplinary mission): 40,000 <i>Ongoing evaluation by African Development Bank</i>
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone River Estuary	10,000	40,000	30,000 to be determined <i>Desk study available</i>
Tanzania	Kilombero floodplains	0	55,000	Belgian Technical Cooperation to provide 47,500 WWF-International: 7,500 <i>ToRs done and consultants selected</i>
Uganda	Lake Albert, Murchison Falls	15,000	45,000	30,000 to be determined (Norwegian Oil for Development Programme possible funder)
Uganda	Lake George <i>(listed in Montreux Record)</i>	10,000	30,000	20,000 to be determined
TOTAL		50,000	285,000	95,000 identified 140,000 to be determined

9. In summary, for the RAMs to take place in Africa, the fundraising support needed is CHF 285,000 in 2016 alone. Of this total, CHF 50,000 has been raised from the countries themselves, while additional funds of CHF 95,000 have been raised from Belgian Technical Cooperation, WWF International and the African Development Bank. Thus CHF 145,000 has already been raised, leaving a total of CHF 140,000 to be raised. The Norwegian Oil for Development Programme will be approached for support for part of the balance.
10. Table 3 below shows the Ramsar Advisory Missions requested by countries in other regions to be arranged in 2016. To date only one RAM has been formally requested by a government in Asia-Oceania, one in the Americas, and none in Europe. A total of CHF 60,000 is to be raised.

Table 3. Ramsar Advisory Missions requested by countries in other regions in 2016, with approximate costs

Contracting Party	Ramsar Site	Country contribution (CHF)	Total cost (CHF)	Funding source for the balance of total cost (CHF)
Colombia	Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta	0	25,000	To be determined as the proposal is still being developed, however the RAM is expected to take place in May 2016
Iraq	Three Ramsar designated marshes on the Iraqi side of the Mesopotamian Marshes	0	35,000	To be determined as the proposal is still being developed together with CRIMW, IUCN-ROWA

Item 2. STRP 2016-2018 programme of work support

10. The STRP work plan for the triennium will be discussed and agreed in June 2016. To date an amount of CHF 122,000 has been mobilized from WWF-International for two specific tasks; however, this funding is subject to some deadlines. In addition, a priority amount of CHF 137,000 needs to be raised to support the flagship product of the *State of the World's Wetlands* report in 2018. The agreed non-core fundraising target of CHF 300,000 may thus rise to CHF 559,000, if it is agreed to include these three tasks within the overall target (see the paper SC552-09 *Costs of actions to be taken to implement COP12 Resolutions in the 2016-2018 triennium*).
11. Discussions held at the Secretariat suggested the following possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:
 - Depending upon the activities that are included within the STRP work plan, it may be possible to identify specific foundations or others for whom those activities offer value.
 - It may be possible to ask Contracting Parties who have supported the STRP in the past to provide support again.
 - These ideas and others could be discussed with the Resource Mobilization Working Group.

Item 3. RSIS, IM/IT (web site) continuing development

12. The RSIS and web development is associated with a fundraising target of CHF 175,000 for this triennium. This is categorized in Table 4 below (costings not received).
13. Discussions held at the Secretariat suggested the following possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:
 - Guidance to be sought from the Working Group on CEPA and the Working Group on Resource Mobilization.

Table 4. Detailed items needing to be improved and upgraded in the RSIS and Ramsar website

4.a. Ramsar website

Website item	Details
Resource section with tools and information from/about IOPs	Monitor and incorporate tools and information from IOPs and others in developing monitoring regime and guidance for Article 3.2 sites
Private sector section	Fundraising; profile RAMs on site; develop a section for private sector showcase
MEAs section	Strengthen partnerships with other MEAs to enhance synergies and sharing of resources through increased collaboration on websites, data sharing and agreed targets
Ramsar Regional Initiatives section	Publicize at the global level RRIs as an operational means to provide support for the implementation of the objectives of the Ramsar Convention through upgrading RRI's websites and linkages with the Ramsar home site and showcasing RRI initiatives, activities and achievements.
Resource section with various tools / training courses	Build capacity on the application of the R-METT tool with Parties, Partners and the Secretariat through web-based training and promotion
Wetlands restoration and rehabilitation section	Case studies and methods disseminated to Contracting Parties and added to Ramsar wetland (including peatlands) restoration pages on the web site; logging of actions and progress made globally in restoration of wetlands.
Wetland City database	Develop and manage a global online network of cities which have obtained the Wetland City accreditation of the Ramsar Convention
Photo library development	Photo gallery of Ramsar Sites linked to Country Profiles and tagged by theme, wetland type and country/region

4.b. Ramsar Sites Information Service (RSIS)

RSIS Item	Details
Data migration completion	Manually transfer the data from text-based information within the old RIS system annexes into the RSIS database following the automatic migration of the data sets from the old RIS. Some data was not captured during the migration, leaving large gaps for many of the existing Ramsar Sites including species lists. Internal funds have now been identified within the Secretariat for this task.
Earth observation	Investigation and analysis into the potential for the inclusion of EO within the RSIS system
Citizen science	Build closer links with the general public by offering e.g. upload of geo-located photos, adding comments
System training	Further development of tools such as videos and live demos to aid CPs in using the new system (3 x videos estimated 4,000 CHF)
Integration into the main Ramsar Site	Better integration and interlinkage between the RSIS and the main Ramsar website
Monitoring and evaluation usage	Analysing how both Parties and others use and access the RSIS and using the information to feed into future development
Downloadable Site summaries	Investigate the potential for development of downloadable PDFs of sites for use by schools, wetland centres, eco-tourism and governments
Enhance Ramsar Site impact	Explore possibilities to integrate supplementary information from external sites: COL, EOL, IUCN, Google, Instagram, Open Street Map

Item 4. Pre-COP13 regional meetings (delegate support and costs for preparatory meetings)

14. The target of CHF 650,000 is based on estimated and assumed travel costs associated with one delegate from each country on the OECD/DAC list of aid recipients. Fundraising will start in early 2017.
15. Discussions held at the Secretariat suggested the following possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:
 - Contracting Parties, International Organisations and airlines (including Star Alliance)

Item 5. COP13 (2018) sponsorship to eligible delegates

16. The target of CHF 600,000 is based on estimated and assumed travel costs associated with one delegate from each country on the OECD/DAC list of aid recipients. Fundraising will start in early 2017.
17. Discussions held at the Secretariat suggested the following possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:
 - Contracting Parties, International Organisations and airlines (including Star Alliance)

Item 6. Arabic and other UN language introduction and translation support

18. A detailed strategy is to be prepared for the introduction of additional languages to the Convention, together with detailed funding amounts (see document SC52-03 *Consultancy support for the development of a strategy outlining the potential phased integration of Arabic or other UN languages into the work of the Convention*). However the non-core prioritization during COP12 identified an amount of CHF 250,000 to be raised in priority non-core funding for the introduction of Arabic. This figure was arrived at through estimating the cost items as set out in Table 5 below.

Table 5. Detailed items needed for funding the introduction of Arabic.

Item	Estimated unit cost (CHF)	2016	2017	2018	Total (CHF)
External translation of ongoing work	27,000/year	27,000	27,000	27,000	81,000
Source or develop a Ramsar glossary (one-off cost)	16,000	16,000	0	0	16,000
Translating and publishing priority web content	27000/yr	27,000	27,000	27,000	81,000
Arabic speaking Regional Officer (at 20%) ¹	24,000/yr	24,000	24,000	24,000	72,000
Total (CHF)		94,000	78,000	78,000	250,000

¹ Options include the officer being a secondment of existing staff in a government department or Ramsar IOP or partners based in the Arab region. This needs further discussion.

19. Discussions held at the Secretariat suggested the following possible approaches for identifying prospective funders:
 - For Arabic language translation, Arabic-speaking countries could be asked to provide support.

- For the possibility of Russian and Chinese translations, the Russian Federation and China could be approached.
20. Specifically for the translation of certain Ramsar documents into Russian, CHF 8,500 has been provided by the Norwegian government and is gratefully acknowledged. This funding is currently being spent upon the translation of the latest edition of the Ramsar Convention Manual into Russian, as well as the off-line version of the Ramsar Information Sheet, in order to assist Russian-speaking countries in designating new Ramsar Sites. Other key documents are being identified according to need.

Item 7. Small Grants Funds for protection and wise use of wetlands

21. In recent years, Contracting Parties have not contributed to the multilateral mechanism of the Small Grants Fund. However the prioritization during COP12 identified an amount of CHF 1,000,000 to be raised in priority non-core funding for the Fund. There has not been any positive response noted by Parties to requests for considering the Small Grants Fund for funding.
22. On the other hand it is interesting to note the continuation and expansion of the bilateral funds which have been set up separately for various regions at different times, but which all use the mechanism of the Small Grants Fund to evaluate projects and to report on expenditures. These bilateral funds are continuing to be very helpful for making small grants, and a new fund, namely the Nagao Wetland Fund, is now proposed for the Asia-Oceania region (see document SC52-16 *Update on formal agreements and joint work plans of the Ramsar Convention and partners*).

Table 6. Existing and new bilateral small grants funds set up for various regions

Qualifying region	Status	Notes	Total funding	Source
Asia/Oceania	New fund	Nagao Wetland Fund for projects concerning the conservation, restoration and wise use of wetlands in Asia-Oceania region.	USD 80,000 per year	Set up by the Nagao Environment Fund (agreement is being drafted and will be submitted to SC52 for approval)
Africa	Since 1989	The Swiss Grant for Africa (SGA) supports projects across Africa.	USD 100,000 per year	Based on Swiss contribution. Renewable annually.
Latin America and the Caribbean	Since 1996	Wetlands for the Future (the WFF fund) supports projects across Latin America and the Caribbean.	Approx. USD 80,000 per year (variable)	Based on USA contribution

23. In another example, a bilateral fund was set up with Norway in 2015 to support small projects relating to wetland restoration and livelihoods sustainability. This fund benefited from a one-off grant which is currently supporting three small projects (two in Nepal and one in Mozambique); it is not yet clear whether the funding will be continued.
24. At the Secretariat level, it was earlier discussed that the Small Grants Fund could possibly be tailored towards the interests of the private sector, for example towards the interests of the

energy industry in building resilience for coastal assets, and towards the interests of the beverage industry in providing source water protection (as has been the case with Danone-Evian). These ideas, and others, could be raised with the Resource Mobilization Working Group.

Item 8. Regional Initiative Networks and Centres (priority activities)

25. At COP12 it was identified that the Ramsar Regional Initiatives would require CHF 150,000 in non-core priority support. The RRI are requesting the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to support them and involve them in various fundraising activities, and one potentially fruitful direction is the development of large multilateral projects involving the RRI together with their respective countries. Table 7 below shows projects which are currently being developed with the RRI.

Table 7. Fundraising efforts for large multilateral projects by RRI in Latin America and the Caribbean and in Central Asia

Regional Initiative	Regional Project Title	Countries Involved	Budget (USD)	Source
Cariwet	Promoting regional cooperation to ensure the conservation and wise use of Caribbean wetlands to maintain ecosystems services and reduce impacts to climate change	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados. Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Caribbean Netherlands, the Overseas territories of France and the Non-Contracting Parties of Guyana and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	7,210,000	IKI/ countries in kind contribution
Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands	Improved protection of High Andean Wetlands for sustainable management of critical watersheds headwater ecosystems, reducing the impacts of climate change and strengthening livelihoods.	Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Chile, Peru and Venezuela. The initiative is supported by Ramsar International Organization Partners (Birdlife International and IUCN) as well as by CMS, Condesan and the High Andean Flamingo Conservation Group	3,189,160	GEF6
Regional Initiative for the Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs	Strengthen the wise of mangroves and coral reefs to maintain their ecosystems services	Brazil, Colombia Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Venezuela	9,700,000	IKI /countries in kind contribution
Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of La Plata River Basin	Improved sustainable management of the Plata wetlands reducing the impacts of climate change and strengthening livelihoods	Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay	7,800,000	IKI/ countries in kind contribution
RRI Central Asia (if approved)	Implementation of Strategic Plan 2016-2024	Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, CAREC, IUCN	935,000 for 2016-2018	Identifying potential donors

26. Each RRI has a specific budget line and a role to play within its project, as a coordinating mechanism, in line with the workplan and financial strategy of the respective RRI. If successful, the projects shown in Table 7 will ensure the financial sustainability of the respective RRIs for the lifetime of the projects. FAO will be the implementing agency of the GEF6 project.
27. There are other large multilateral projects being proposed: for example, a groundwater project is being developed under GEF6 together with UNESCO and IUCN, involving groundwater-dependent ecosystems in Ramsar Sites in several countries. Similarly, in Iran, there is the possibility to develop a project under the GEF-6 STAR funding to work on three transboundary sites with Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan respectively, with the involvement of the RRC-CWA.
28. It is very important to continue to support RRIs and countries to apply for GEF6 and GEF7 funds, and in the future also for funding through the Green Climate Fund. Again it would be extremely helpful to have the input of the Working Group on Resource Mobilization on this issue, and to discuss the best modalities for doing this. IUCN has now been accredited as a GEF implementing agency which potentially enhances Ramsar's ease of involvement in GEF projects.

Item 9. Ramsar CEPA programme (2016-2021), excluding World Wetlands Day

29. The CEPA programme is associated with a non-core fundraising target of CHF 300,000 for this triennium.
30. Discussions held at the Secretariat led to guidance being sought from the Working Group on CEPA and budgets are being developed for the following individual items:
 - i. Database: review, evaluation and development of a more easily managed database system that allows effective communications with Ramsar stakeholders including Administrative Authorities, STRP, CEPA and National Focal Points, National wetland/Ramsar Committees, and other defined groups.
 - ii. Events: identify key international fora throughout the triennium and develop a targeted campaign to present Ramsar within through side events, exhibitions, speaking engagements, press coverage, or social media outreach.
 - iii. Partnership activities: continue to work with IOPs, private sector and other partners to extend Ramsar outreach, for financial support and also access to their existing communications channels. For example Virgin Unite's support for WWD; Charlie Waite's continuing promotion through his extensive network including BBC; incorporating Ramsar as a QR code on Evian bottles.
 - iv. Press engagement: using RAMs and Demonstration Sites as a means of capturing media attention; build press lists and investigate the creation of a Convention/STRP Speakers Bureau as Convention spokespeople.
 - v. Publications might include:
 - wider dissemination of the fourth Strategic Plan (potentially incorporating indicators in line with the Aichi targets 'passport');
 - development of a R-METT booklet (and a linked workshop) giving guidance on the Site Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool and including best practice example; and
 - development and dissemination of a series of case studies to celebrate "Demonstration Sites" which show the wise use principle.

- vi. Ramsar Handbooks: review and update 21 Handbooks with the COP11 and COP12 Resolutions and guidelines. Consult into usage requirements and make Handbooks available in an appropriate range of formats.
31. UNEP is providing USD 25,000 under the InforMEA project to the Ramsar Convention Secretariat in order to carry out three sets of specific CEPA-related activities:
 - Data preparation and management, and technical implementation, to ensure core Ramsar information is accessible through InforMEA;
 - Participation in the development of the InforMEA thesaurus / controlled vocabulary;
 - Development and accessibility on InforMEA of five Ramsar / WHC joint case studies on traditional knowledge.
 32. The joint Ramsar / WHC case studies, which cover most of this funding, will be delivered through the Ramsar Culture Network. This income will also count as matched funding against the MAVA Foundation contribution. The case studies will support Strategic Plan objectives, as described in more detail in SC52-Inf.Doc.06 *The Ramsar Culture Network and its contribution to the implementation of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024*.

Item 10. Online system for National Reports, reporting and indicators development

33. This set of activities is associated with a non-core fundraising target of CHF 175,000 for this triennium.
34. The Secretariat has explored the development of an online system for national reporting by Ramsar Parties to COP13 with WCMC, and will present an update of progress during SC52. Potentially this could be an in-kind contribution to Ramsar, eliminating the need to raise non-core funding for the establishment of the online system.
35. Regarding the indicator for target 6.6 of the Sustainable Development Goals, namely the monitoring of wetlands extent, this methodology continues to develop through a number of avenues. Firstly, this is linked to the National Wetlands Inventories which are monitored and reported to each COP through the National Report Format. (Over 50% of Parties are now reporting on this indicator.) Secondly, there are a number of externally-funded earth observation projects which aim to support Parties with remote sensing tools and products to monitor wetlands extent. These projects include the Global Mangrove Watch (funded by JAXA), the GlobWetlands Africa project supporting six African Parties (ESA), the Satellite-based Wetlands Observation System (SWOS) and the Live Monitoring of Earth Surface (LiMES) platform (UNEP-GRID). The Ramsar Secretariat continues to liaise with these projects to ensure that their tools and products will be of use to the Parties and the broader user community.

Resource mobilization for Asia/Oceania

36. The Asia/Oceania regional team has been active in identifying potential projects and partners to support individual countries as well as activities at a regional or sub-regional level, including the development of a non-core funded position for a Regional Officer to be posted in the region (possibly at the IUCN Regional Office in Bangkok). See Table 8 below for details.

Table 8. Potential projects and partners for Asia/Oceania

No	Target location	Partners	Summary	Funding requested	Submitted to
1	Asia region	IUCN ARO, RRC-EA	Funding support for an out-posted Regional Officer – Asia to be based in the Asia region	85,000 USD /year for 2016-2018	In discussion with IUCN-ARO, RRC-EA, and MOE-Korea
2	DPR Korea	Hanns Seidel Foundation, IUCN, WWF	Support accession of DPRK to Ramsar Convention, capacity building	679,800 USD for 2016-2018	TBC
3	Mongolia	UNEP Regional Office for Asia/Pacific	Restoration of the Ogii Lake Ramsar Site	Proposal is now being reviewed by the Mongolian NFP	UNEP Regional Office for Asia/Pacific
5	Vanuatu	Roger Jaensch (independent consultant)	Support accession of Vanuatu (data collection for accession site and consultation with local communities)	25,000 USD for 2016	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
6	Nepal	Rob Cadmus (consultant)	Restoration of Ramsar Sites (continuation of Global Wetland Restoration Initiative project)	150,000 USD	TBC as the proposal is still being developed
7	Not specified	ISDR and PEDRR network partners	Promoting eco-DRR	Not specified	TBC as the proposal is still being developed
8	Not specified	UNEP and others	MOOC featuring ecosystem-based solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation	Not specified	Sponsored by UNEP (Geneva); on-going
9	China	WWF HK, HK Government	To hold workshops for promoting dialogue between the HK Government, developers, NGOs, fishermen and other stakeholders in and around the Mai Po Inner Deep Bay Ramsar Site in order to develop an integrated land-use plan for conservation/development of the Site.	20,000 USD /year for 2016-2018	TBC as the proposal is still being developed, linked to the Futien National Nature Reserve in Shenzhen Province
10	Afghanistan	National Environmental Protection Agency, Government of Afghanistan	For activities to support the accession of Afghanistan to the Ramsar Convention, e.g. awareness raising workshops, identification of the first Ramsar Site(s), etc	50,000 USD /year for 2016-2018	TBC as the proposal is still being developed

Resource mobilization for the Africa region with philanthropic foundations

37. Two projects have been submitted to the JRS Biodiversity Foundation in Seattle, USA. This could serve as a model for supporting Parties to identify suitable philanthropic foundations.

- Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA)

Proposal Title: Biodiversity Assessment and Conservation of Wetlands Ecosystem in Rwanda (USD 365,280 over 3 years)

- Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA)

Proposal Title: A digital information platform for enhanced wetland conservation and biodiversity monitoring in Uganda (USD 202,300 over 18 months)

1. Establishment of a digital infrastructure for Earth Observation mapping and monitoring of wetlands in support of conservation actions and sustainable decisions
2. Provision of a national dataset of wetland extent to be used for trend analysis, wetland reporting and biodiversity assessments
3. Enhanced capacity of national authorities to use Earth Observation to monitor and report on wetlands and wetland biodiversity.

Resource mobilization for the Americas regions

38. Fundraising efforts have been concentrated on regional initiatives identified by the Contracting Parties as among the main priorities (see item 8 above). For the Ramsar Regional Centre in Panama, the Secretariat has provided financial support to the development of its financial strategy, training courses and staff. A new proposal is in preparation to strengthen the capacities of the Centre.

Resource mobilization with the private sector

39. As reported elsewhere, the agreements with Danone-Evian and with Star Alliance have been renewed. In both cases, there is enthusiasm on the part of the private sector partner to expand the partnership with Ramsar in the future, and this potential should be explored further. In the case of Star Alliance, they have also provided us with direct links to their partner airlines, e.g. Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines etc. Individual agreements with each of these airlines could now be a possibility and could provide valuable in-kind contributions in terms of supporting flights for sponsored delegates to attend COP13, and technical experts to carry out RAMs.