

Report of the Secretariat on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives

Actions requested:

The Standing Committee is invited to:

- i. take note of the annual reports submitted by the Ramsar Regional Initiatives for 2021 in accordance with Resolution XIII.9 on *Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2019-2021*;
- ii. review and approve the proposed new format for the report of Ramsar Regional Initiatives, contained in Annex 2 of document SC58 Doc.22.2 which was prepared by the Secretariat in response to Decision SC57-11, following the principles contained in paragraph 8 of Resolution XIII.9 and drawing from inputs from the Working Group on the Ramsar Regional Initiatives;
- iii. consider the proposal for a new Ramsar Regional Initiative in the Southern African Development Community region within the framework of the Convention in line with paragraph 12 of Resolution XIII.9 contained in document SC59 Doc.21.2;
- iv. take note of and approve the review of the Secretariat's legal adviser of existing relevant Resolutions and decisions on Ramsar Regional Initiatives in line with paragraph 30 of Resolution XIII.9 and contained in document SC58 Doc.22.4; and
- v. consider the summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the Ramsar Regional Initiatives operating during the period 2019-2021 in Annex 3 of document SC59 Doc.21.2 prepared by the Secretariat for submission to COP14 in line with paragraph 28 of Resolution XIII.9.

Background

1. The Secretariat prepared documents SC58 Doc.22.2 and SC59 Doc.21.2, the reports of the Secretariat on Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRIs), which were not fully addressed by the Standing Committee at these meetings and are to be considered at the resumed session of SC59 in 2022. These reports include the new reporting template for the RRIs, in response to Decision SC57-11, the assessment of new RRIs and the summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the RRIs operating during the 2019-2021 period.
2. The Secretariat is also reporting on the present document in accordance with paragraph 12 of Resolution XII.8, its review of the annual reports of the 19 RRIs operating in the framework of the Convention until COP14 (2021):

- Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA);
- Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO);
- Ramsar Regional Centre – Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA);
- Ramsar Regional Centre – East Asia (RCC-EA);
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for West African Coastal Zone Wetlands (WACOWet);
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Niger River Basin (NigerWet);
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin (SenegalWet);
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW);
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin;
- Caribbean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (CariWet);
- Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs;
- Regional Initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the Amazon River Basin;
- East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP);
- Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia (RRI-CA);
- Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI);
- Mediterranean Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (MedWet);
- Carpathian Wetland Ramsar Regional Initiative (CWI);
- Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Ramsar Regional Initiative (NorBalWet); and
- Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet).

Progress of the 19 Ramsar Regional Initiatives in 2021

3. At COP12 (Punta del Este, 2015), in paragraph 12 of Resolution XII.8 on *Regional Initiatives 2016-2018 in the framework of the Ramsar Convention*, the Contracting Parties requested “the Standing Committee to assess annually, based on the reports submitted, according to the format adopted through Standing Committee Decision SC41-21, the functioning of Ramsar Regional Initiatives in relation to the Operational Guidelines, the implementation of the Convention and the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, seeking support from the CEPA Oversight Panel as required”.
4. At COP13 (Dubai, 2018), in paragraph 8 of Resolution XIII.9, Contracting Parties decided that RRIs, to maintain their formal recognition, have to be in line with the following principles:
 - a. RRIs must be endorsed by the Conference of the Contracting Parties, or intersessionally by the Standing Committee if they are new;
 - b. RRIs must be subject to review by the Contracting Parties at each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;
 - c. RRIs must develop terms of reference, which cover their own rules of procedure, structure, governance and membership, including the status of the Convention Secretariat’s participation in the RRI, and which should be consistent with the Resolutions and Recommendations of the Conference of the Parties;
 - d. RRIs must be financially accountable;
 - e. RRIs should undertake tasks related to the implementation of the Convention in their region and can speak in their own name only, using their own logo only;
 - f. RRIs must submit to the Secretariat, according to the format approved by the Standing Committee, an annual report of progress on their work and a financial summary at the end of each year, together with a work plan and budget for the following year; and
 - g. RRIs that have been established for fewer than six years and that want to apply for start-up financial support from the Ramsar Convention core budget must request it in their budget submitted for the following year.

5. The Secretariat maintains regular contact with the RRIs to ensure that their objectives and work programmes align with the Convention's Strategic Plan and the RRI Operational Guidelines.
6. The coordinators of RRIs were requested to use the annual reporting format (Document SC41-13 Annex I, available from <https://www.ramsar.org/activity/ramsar-regional-initiatives>) and to send their report of progress of activities undertaken in 2021 and planned activities for 2022, including a financial overview, to the Secretariat by 20 January 2022. These reports are available here: https://www.ramsar.org/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Adocument&f%5B1%5D=field_tag_body_event%3A593&f%5B2%5D=field_sort_date%3A2022&f%5B3%5D=field_document_type%3A573&sort=field_sort_date&order=desc&search_api_views_fulltext=.
7. The Secretariat sent reminders to the RRI Coordinators requesting them to submit annual reports and followed up bilaterally with each of them. Annual reports were received from 15 RRIs by 25 February 2022. The following RRIs did not submit annual reports:
 - Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO);
 - Ramsar Regional Initiative for West African Coastal Zone Wetlands (WACOWet);
 - Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin (SenegalWet);
 - Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW).

The above RRIs are encouraged to submit their annual reports in the next reporting cycle in line with sub-paragraph 8.f) of Resolution XIII.9.

8. The Secretariat reviewed the annual reports submitted by 15 RRIs and prepared a summary based on their ongoing activities and the principles for RRIs outlined in paragraph 8 of Resolution XIII.9. Annex 1 of the present document presents an overview of the reports submitted. According to the reports, the main activities conducted in 2021 include: World Wetlands Day celebrations; capacity building; CEPA activities such as developing or updating websites, producing promotional materials or organizing awareness-raising events; Ramsar Site management activities such as developing plans, Site assessments, Ramsar Site designation or monitoring protocols; and fundraising activities such as writing funding proposals or establishing sustainable financing platforms.
9. Paragraph 8.d) of Resolution XIII.9 indicates that RRIs must be financially accountable. Based on the reports, some of the RRIs did not present any financial information. The financial information provided in the reports enables only a limited understanding of the effectiveness of an RRI's operation, and it is not clear for eight of the RRIs how funds spent on administrative and programmatic activities are used.
10. Commonly recognized challenges identified from the reports were limited financial resources, and COVID-19 restrictions that resulted in delays in implementing activities and changes to work plans in 2021. Paragraph 25 of Resolution XIII.9 encourages the Contracting Parties concerned with the challenge of limited financial resources to take the necessary steps to achieve financial sustainability, preferably through financial support from a variety of sources, and to establish mechanisms and procedures to ensure their sustainability beyond specific project periods and avoid RRIs becoming dependent on a single major donor. Four RRIs have received funding from multiple donors, while five RRIs have indicated their efforts to mobilize new resources with two RRIs reporting success in 2021.

Allocation of Convention core budget funds for activities of new RRI in 2021

11. In paragraph 14 of Resolution XIII.9, the Conference of the Parties notes “that Resolution XIII.2 on *Financial and budgetary matters* includes within the Convention core budget for 2019-2021 a budget line ‘Support to Ramsar Regional Initiatives’, to provide start-up support for the running costs of RRI established for fewer than six years”.
12. Through paragraph 15 of Resolution XIII.9, Contracting Parties decided “that the levels of financial support from the Convention core budget to eligible RRI for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021 will be determined annually by the Standing Committee, based on the most recent annual reports and updated work plans to be submitted in accordance with the required format and timetable, and informed by the specific recommendations made by the Subgroup on Finance and Standing Committee”.
13. During SC59 virtual meetings, the Standing Committee through Decision SC59-33 approved the allocation of CHF 25,000 to each of the four eligible RRI for their activities in 2021 from the core budget line D “Support to Regional Initiatives”, provided that the receiving RRI conform to subparagraph 8.d) of Resolution XIII.9. Furthermore, through Decision SC59-35, the Standing Committee approved the remaining budgeted allocation of CHF 10K each to two RRI in the context of Decision SC58-28, for their activities planned in 2020 but delayed to 2021 and for disbursement in 2021. The summary of 2021 approved allocation and expenditure is shown in Table 1 below.
14. For 2022, there are no requests for core budget support as the four eligible RRI have been received financial support for six years in line with paragraph 14 of Resolution XIII.2. In 2022, the Secretariat will disburse the final payment instalments to the RRI.

Table 1: Summary of allocation and expenditure of eligible Ramsar Regional Initiatives in 2021

Ramsar Regional Initiative	Ramsar approved allocation in 2021 (CHF)	Reported expenditure in 2021 ¹ (CHF)	Balance carried forward 2021 ³ (CHF)
Senegal Basin ²	35,000	No Information	14,000
Amazon Basin	35,000	35,000	76,000 ⁴
Central Asia	25,000	15,023	10,000
Indo-Burma	25,000	468,850	10,000
Total	120,000	518,873	110,000

¹ Including other resources (e.g. residuals from previous years and/or project funding)

² Had not submitted report when this report was prepared

³ Payments to be disbursed in 2022

⁴ Funds committed in 2021

New reporting template and guidance

15. As noted in document SC59 Doc. 21.2, following Decision SC57-11 through which the Standing Committee “requested the Secretariat to review the reporting format and process and to prepare the summary assessment requested in paragraph 28 of Resolution XIII.9”, a new reporting template has been prepared by the Secretariat incorporating comments from the Working Group for RRI (received from five Contracting Parties and three RRI) and is included in document SC58 Doc.22.2 as Annex 2¹. The template was not discussed by the Standing

¹ See https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/sc58-22.2_secretariat_report_rris_e.pdf

Committee at its 58th meeting in 2020 or its 59th meeting in 2021 and is carried forward to the resumed session of SC59 for consideration. The proposed template provides guidance on how to prepare the report to ensure greater consistency between RRIs and ensure that the work of each RRI is in line with the principles in Resolution XIII.9, paragraph 8. This reporting format will enable the Secretariat to more effectively review and prepare a summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the RRIs operating under the Convention.

16. Furthermore, through Decision SC59-34, the Standing Committee decided that any request for core funds by RRIs should include a rationale about how they support Contracting Parties in implementing the Convention and its Resolutions and guidance, and that requests must be provided in English or with an English translation (with informal “google translate” translations, screened by the country’s National Focal Point, acceptable), to enable the Subgroup of Finance to make informed decisions in a timely manner.

Proposals for new RRIs

17. As noted in document SC59 Doc.21.2, Resolution XIII.9, paragraph 13 instructs the Secretariat to open a call for proposals for new RRIs, to be endorsed by the Conference of the Parties at COP14 or by the Standing Committee at its meetings before COP14.
18. Decision SC58-23 of the 58th meeting of the Standing Committee instructed the Secretariat to open a call for proposals for new RRIs no later than 31 July 2020 in line with paragraph 13 of Resolution XIII.9, and requested that the Secretariat choose a deadline.
19. The Secretariat sent out a diplomatic note (2020/8) inviting proposals for new Ramsar Regional Initiatives for 2021-2024 on 30 July 2020. Two proposals were received by the Secretariat by the deadline of 31 December 2020: (1) Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative (SARRI) and (2) Equatorial Guinea Initiative.
20. The two proposals were evaluated by the Secretariat using criteria in the Operational Guidelines for Ramsar Regional Initiatives 2013-2015 and Resolution XIII.9. Based on the evaluation, only the Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative meets the requirements outlined in the Operational Guidelines. Annex 2 of document SC59 Doc.21.2 presents a summary of the evaluation of the two proposals.
21. The Secretariat requests that Standing Committee at the resumed session of its 59th meeting consider the Southern African Ramsar Regional Initiative for endorsement as operating within the framework of the Convention.

Summary assessment of the operations and achievements of the RRIs operating during the 2019-2021 period

22. In line with Resolution XIII.9, paragraph 28, the Secretariat prepared a summary assessment of the RRIs operating during the 2019-2021 period for consideration by the Standing Committee and submission to COP14. In Annex 3 of document SC59 Doc 21.2 is the summary prepared by the Secretariat according to the principles for RRIs outlined in paragraph 8 of Resolution XIII.9 and the assessment prepared by the consultant as basis to draft the new Operational Guidelines for RRIs. The consultant’s report can be consulted here:
<https://www.ramsar.org/document/consultants-ramsar-regional-initiatives-rris-assessment-2016-2019>

Annex 1
Summary of RRIs Annual Report 2021 and principles from Resolution XIII.9

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Ramsar Centre for Eastern Africa (RAMCEA), 2009	5	Yes	Governing Council is the policy-making body and responsible for all affairs. The RAMCEA Secretariat is responsible for day-to-day activities and report to the Governing Council.	Observer	Responsibility of RAMCEA Secretariat. The Collaborative Management Board reviews annual reports and approves the budget and financial regulations. The Secretariat executes the budget.	110,000	26,533	Government of Uganda, African Voluntary Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the Wetlands Policy and prepared a Wetlands Bill. Developed Regional Wetlands Management Plans, Conservation Investment Plans and others through engagement with the Nile Basin Initiative on the GIZ supported Regional Wetland Project. Collaboration with the Gaborone Secretariat and the World Bank on the Natural Capital Accounts programmes. 	COVID-19 restrictions, limited resources
Ramsar Regional Centre for Training and Research in the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), 1999	30	Yes	Governance Body is the Board of Directors (responsible for all financial, administrative and operational decisions)	Permanent. Member of the Board of Directors	Responsibility of the Board to approve budget and oversee financial management	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Ramsar Regional Centre - Central and West Asia (RRC-CWA), 2002	18 (15 CPs and 3 Non-CPs)	Yes	Administrative bodies are the Collaborative Management Board and the RRC-CWA Secretariat. The Collaborative Management Board provides strategic guidance, approves programmes/activities, and approves budget and financial regulation.	Collaborative Management Board Member	Collaborative Management Board reviews annual reports and approves the budget and financial regulations.	304,850	203,203	Department of Environment (Iran), National Environment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional capacity building workshops, discuss and draft bilateral agreements / MOUs with UNDP and others. Awarding of RRC-CWA Wetland Conservation Research Fund. Communication and outreach. 	
Ramsar Regional Centre - East Asia (RRC-EA), 2009	18	Yes	The Steering Committee provides guidance in the development of policies and programmes. The Executive Director leads the day-to-day operations.	Steering Committee member	Reported to Steering Committee.	1,111,556	539,837	Ministry of Environment (Republic of Korea), Suncheon City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the organization of Ramsar COP14 (Draft Resolutions for Ramsar COP14 (wetland education and Wetland City Accreditation). Organization of various trainings at national, sub-regional, regional levels for wetland managers on RAWES. Applications Guide, R-METT and wetland monitoring. WWD activities in the Republic of Korea. 	COVID-19 restrictions

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEPA activities (website, web magazine, videos). • Networking (WLI-Asia Network, WLI-Asia Conference, 2nd Meeting of Wetland City Network, Eco-Exchange Project, 9th Asian Wetland Symposium (AWS9)). • Projects funding (eight project contracts signed from three funds) contracts signed by the RRC-EA and grantees. • RRC-EA Wetland Fund, WLI-Asia Fund RRC-EA Wetland Fund 2020. 	
West African Coastal Zone Wetlands Network (WACOWet), 2009	13	Yes (draft)	The Supervisory Council is in charge of the overall supervision of the policies of the WACOWet Secretariat, and it monitors and reviews implementation of strategies, annual plan, risk management, and financial situation / management.	Observer	Financial & Accounting Procedure Manual (2013) captures the procedures of planning and budget, accounting policy, financial reports, accounting registers / documents.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Niger River Basin (NigerWet), 2006	9	Yes (draft)	The Supervisory Council is in charge of the overall supervision of the policies of the NigerWet Secretariat, and it monitors and reviews implementation of strategies, annual plan, risk management, and financial situation / management.	Observer	Financial & Accounting Manual (2013) captures the procedures of planning and budget, accounting policy, financial reports, accounting registers / documents.	12,000	12,000	African Voluntary Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translation and publication of statutes and Rules of Procedures of NigerWet in English • Development of new maps of three Ramsar Sites 	No information
Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of High Andean Wetlands (HAW), 2005	8	Yes	The Coordination Committee (National Focal Points from member countries) have annual meetings to follow up the implementation of the strategy and its action plan.	Provides support to the Coordination Committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of the Coordination Committee).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Initiatives for the Conservation and Wise Use of the Plata River Basin, 2009	5	Yes	The Coordination Committee (member countries) as a governance body reviews progress annually.	Provides support to the Coordination Committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of	72,738	42,738	Wetlands for the Future Fund, Member countries contributions (Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased institutional capacity through training (Paraguay/Bolivia) • Regional FAQs prepared for Convention meetings 	Training rescheduled due to COVID19

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
					Coordination Committee).				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual meeting of the Initiative Coordination Committee held virtually 	
Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (CariWet), 2009	14 (11 from Contracting Parties, 3 from overseas territories)	Yes	The Regional Initiative Committee is coordinated by two member countries and includes all Contracting Parties members of the initiative, the Ramsar Secretariat, and the Caribbean sub-regional representatives at the Standing Committee (past, present, and future).	Regional Initiative Committee member providing support	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee)	1,609,000	361,000	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany (IKI), in-kind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement in the Convention of Wetlands processes Participation in the IKI phase II project Virtual meeting of the Coordination Committee 	No information
Regional Initiative for the Integral Management and Wise Use of Mangroves and Coral Reefs, 2009	14	Yes	The coordination committee of the Initiative is led by two member countries and includes all Contracting Parties with Secretariat's support.	Provides support to the regional committee	Coordination Committee (previous Standing Committee allocations were administered by the Secretariat under decisions of Coordination Committee).	46,769	12,000	Wetlands for the Future Fund, Ministry of Environment Ecuador, Equilibrio Azul	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings of the Coordination Committee and preparation of fundraising proposal on blue carbon. 	No information
East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, 2006	18	No (structural info. is available on their website)	The EAAFP Management Committee provides general policy, operational and financial direction to the EAAFP Secretariat. A meeting of the Partnership	Partner	The EAAFP Finance Sub-Committee provides advice the Secretariat and Partners on	768,217	381,814	Incheon Metropolitan City government, EAAFP Partner voluntary		The ongoing prevalence of Covid across the countries of the EAA Flyway, and

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
			is held annually to oversee the implementation of the Partnership.		the overall financial management. Reporting to the Meeting of Partners (MOP).			contributions, Science Unit Operation, Fundraising		the associated travel restrictions, limited face-to-face meeting and workshops.
Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative (MedWet), 1991	27	Yes	The Initiative includes the Mediterranean Wetlands Committee (MedWet/Com); the MedWet Steering Group; the MedWet Scientific and Technical Network; the MedWet Secretariat. The MedWet/Com is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the initiatives, including approval of strategic documents, annual budget and audited financial reports.	Member Permanent observer of the Steering Group	The MedWet Secretariat administrates the approved budgets and submits the annual financial report to the MedWet Steering Group and the MedWet/Com.	494,916 EUR	463,230 EUR	Partner countries of MedWet, MAVA Foundation, European Union, French Biodiversity Agency and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness on the handbook "Governance of Coastal Wetlands in the Mediterranean" was raised and WWD celebrated. • A practical guideline for wetland restoration was completed and three restoration projects supported through the M3 Programme of MAVA. • Six pilot sites to implement nature-based solutions have been identified. • Update content daily/weekly on website and social media. 	COVID-19 restrictions

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
									<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of the MedWet Network of Mediterranean Ramsar Sites Managers (MeRSiM-Net). 	
Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI), 2006	7	Yes	The implementation body of CWI is a Board, which is composed of the focal points from each member. The Board elects a chair to guide the proceedings and meet periodically.	Provide inputs to the Board	Provided by the Board.	52,128 EUR	20,976 EUR	State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR SK), Ministry of Environment (Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Poland), Danube Transnational Programme projects, CE Centralparks project, DUENE DE, Wetlands International, DAPHNE - Institute of Applied Ecology SK, Centre for Ecological Research HU, Masaryk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainstreamed wetlands into the policies of Carpathian Convention Working Groups. Developed the Carpathian Ecosystem Services Toolkit, Participation at meetings including the extraordinary meeting of the CZRC, the CNPA Steering Committee etc. Initiated outlines for various projects and completed a proposal for a training on the RRI's priorities, published news stories and updated the RRI's website. Trainings Committee etc 	COVID-19 restrictions

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
								University CZ, UNE SCC	training on the RRI's priorities, published news stories and updated the RRI's website. Trainings.	
Nordic-Baltic Wetlands Initiatives (NorBalWet), 2005	9	Yes	The Coordination Group is composed of the Ramsar National Focal Points from each participating county and it is the decision-making body.	Permanent observer of the Coordination Group	Host Country provides administrative support	1,190	1,190	Ministry of Environment (Finland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved the organization website. WWD events organized. 	No information
Ramsar Regional Initiative on Black and Azov Seas Coastal Wetlands (BlackSeaWet), 2007	7	Yes	The implementing bodies are: the Management Body and the National Working Groups. The responsibilities of the Management Body include taking strategic decisions, and approving and monitoring annual work plans.	Member of Management Body	Provided by the Government of Ukraine (incomplete information)No detailed information	35,000	00	No information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update of organization website. WWD celebration and other CEPA activities. 	No information
Ramsar Regional Initiative for the Senegal River Basin (SenegalWet), 2016	4	Yes (by-laws and internal regulations)	The governance bodies are: the Commission, the Governing Board, and the Secretariat of the Initiative. The Commission's responsibilities include making decision on directions of the Initiative, approving strategies,	No detailed information	Yes (by-laws and internal regulations)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
			programme and work plan, and controlling financial resources.							
Regional Initiative for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands in the Amazon River Basin, 2016	7	Yes	The Initiatives is coordinated by the Coordination Committee, of which the members are the Ramsar National Focal Points.	The Ramsar Secretariat supports the governance body	Managed by the Ramsar Secretariat under decisions of the coordinator of the Initiative	111,000	58,420	Ramsar Convention's core budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for capacity building for the Initiative. • Develop Regional Programme for GEF-7 Project. 	No information
Ramsar Regional Initiative for Central Asia Initiative (RRI-CA), 2016	5	No	The decision-making body is the Coordination Committee, which is composed of three key members and six alternatives members from member countries.	No information	Technical Secretary of the RRI-CA (based at CAREC)	33,886	15,023	Ramsar core budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigation measures for four Ramsar Sites presented to respective Administrative Authorities • Communication materials developed and WWD celebrated • Submitted RIS for new Ramsar Sites • RRI-CA activities report published in Russian • Ramsar Site database established • Identification of opportunities and development of project proposals. 	No information

Ramsar Regional Initiative (RRI) and year of establishment	Principles from Resolution XIII.9					Planned budget for 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Expenditure in 2021 (CHF unless stated)	Financial resources	Key activities	Challenges
	No. of countries supporting the RRI	TORs (incl. ROPs)	Structure and governance	Status/role of the Convention Secretariat	Financial management					
Indo-Burma Ramsar Regional Initiative (IBRRI), 2016	5	Yes	The Steering Committee, which is composed of the Ramsar Administrative Authorities of member countries, provides oversight of the Initiative's operation.	Observer	Managed by IUCN Asia Regional Office.	466,000	468,850	BMU-IKI Mekong WET Project, Ramsar core budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop comprehensive management plans for two sites • Trainings • Communication outputs for IBRRI published 	Travel restrictions in the Indo-Burma Region made regional activities very difficult for the second year in a row