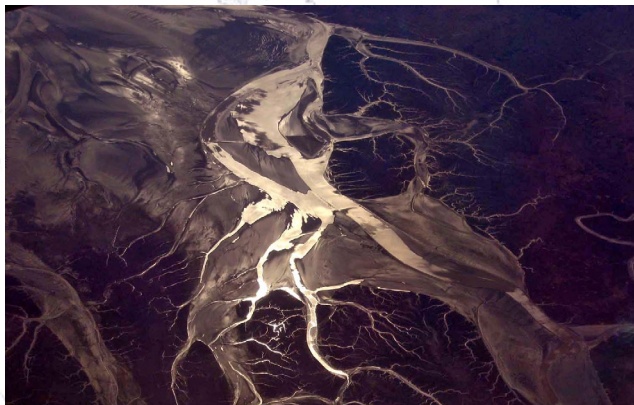




CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

Working for Wetlands - the Ramsar Small Grants Fund

A global funding mechanism supporting the conservation and wise use of wetlands



Project portfolio 2008



Working for Wetlands...

The Small Grants Fund for wetland conservation and wise use - SGF

The Ramsar Small Grants Fund (SGF) was established in 1990 as a mechanism to assist developing countries and those with economies in transition in implementing the Convention and to enable the conservation and wise use of wetland resources. Funds may also be used to provide emergency management assistance for Ramsar sites under threat and to provide 'preparatory assistance' to allow non-Contracting Parties to progress toward accession when such needs arise.

From 1991 to 2007 the Fund has provided a total of 7.3 millions Swiss Francs to 217 projects from 104 countries, providing up to 40,000 Swiss francs (about US\$32,000) per project. Over this same period, 470 feasible projects were not supported due to lack of funds. The Fund relies exclusively upon the voluntary contributions from government agencies and national and international NGOs.

Projects may be proposed and implemented by any agency, NGO or individual. Each year a rigorous evaluation procedure is carried out by the Ramsar Secretariat to assess the project proposals according to the strength of the project design and proposal presentation, their relevance to the objectives of the Fund, and the capacity of the proponents to complete the project successfully. For more information on the Fund, please visit http://www.ramsar.org/sgf/key_sgf_index.htm. The portfolio contains 19 projects favorably evaluated for funding.

19 projects favorably evaluated for funding in the 2008 SGF cycle are briefly described in the following pages.

No funds are currently available for these projects.

**We strongly encourage you to provide financial support to these projects.
If you are able to help, please contact Ms Alexia Dufour
at the Ramsar Secretariat**

Ramsar Convention Secretariat
28 rue Mauverney
1196 - Gland, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 999 0121
Fax: +41 22 999 0169
dufour@ramsar.org
www.ramsar.org



Albania



Funded by Italy

Bringing together all stakeholders of the Lake Shkodra region National conference on the management and wise use of wetlands

Public awareness and capacity building The project aims at raising public awareness and capacity building about the Lake Shkodra and River Buna Ramsar Site in the region through a conference that will bring together different stakeholders including the private sector, government bodies and universities. The site, the largest lake of the Balkan Peninsula, is shared between Albania and Montenegro, and the project will strengthen the cooperation and cross border exchanges between these two countries. Other activities such as a study tour to the Butrint Ramsar Site for exchanges on best lessons learnt and the promotion of a better network between site managers are also planned.

*Project
proposer*

Regional Environmental Centre for Central
and Eastern Europe - REC Albania

Total Budget
42,533.- CHF

Amount requested
37638.- CHF



Argentina



Argentinean wetlands A contribution to the inventory of our wetlands

Elaboration of a technical publication on wetlands There is currently a lack of updated and published information about the main ecosystems of wetlands in Argentina as a source for its identification, conservation and wise use. This project aims to elaborate a technical publication “Wetlands of Argentina”, which will compile and synthesize the available information of their wetlands, to make it accessible and to be used as a tool for wetland management. It will be widely distributed among the key actors dealing with the conservation and wise use of wetlands in this country.

Project proposer | Fundación Humedales Wetlands International

Total Budget
80'130.- CHF

Amount requested
39'979.- CHF



Bangladesh



Funded by Japan

Promoting wise use of wetlands in the southwest coast

People acting through social mobilization

Communication and public awareness The project aims at publishing a booklet, poster, leaflet, etc., to disseminate Ramsar Convention messages among local communities and to promote wetland wise use. The objective is also to design a website describing tools, activities and projects relevant to Sundarban wetlands in Bangla and in English.

Project proposer Coastal Development Partnership
Mr. Syed Jahangir Hasan Masum

Total Budget
45,740.- CHF

Amount requested
40,000.- CHF



Belize



Sarstoon-Temash National Park Sphagnum Bog Ecological assessment of a unique peatland

Inventory, biodiversity assessment and participatory approach This project aims to elaborate a detailed ecological assessment of the Sarstoon Temash National Park (Ramsar site) Sphagnum peatland, a unique ecosystem across all Central America, which will provide information on the extent and condition of the wetland area through floristic and faunal surveys and on the environmental history of this regionally unique ecosystem, highlight its biodiversity and conservation value, and promote participation of local indigenous communities in the conservation of the national park. Information collected during this assessment will highlight the biodiversity and conservation value of this Sphagnum peatland and further promote its conservation nationally and regionally.

Project proposer | Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management
Lynette Gomez

Total Budget
123,329.- CHF

Amount requested
40,000- CHF



Cameroon



Implementation of the Action Plan 2008-2009 of the Ramsar Convention

Funded under the SGF 2008 cycle

Development of management plans, ecotourism Cameroon aims to put in place a management plan for its 3 designated Ramsar sites as well as other newly identified wetlands that are rich in biodiversity, support a multitude of people and industries. The degradation of these wetlands is due to anthropogenic actions and climate change. The purpose of this project is to put into action the Ramsar Strategic Plan of 2009-2014, to ensure participation and coordination of activities in wetlands at the local and national level, to develop ecotourism and to increase the surface area of designated wetlands in Cameroon.

Project proposer

Division des Etudes, des Projets et de la
Coopération (DEPC)
MINEP

Total Budget
76,763.- CHF

Amount requested
40,000.- CHF



Cape Verde



Maio Island Protecting key wetlands

Funded under
the SGF 2008 cycle

Inventory, designation and management of a new Ramsar site Cape Verde is keen to add to its already designated 3 sites. This project proposes to carry out surveys on the wetlands of Maio Island focusing on Salina Porto Ingles. The threats facing this and other wetlands in Cape Verde come from increasing pressure from mass-tourism and changing land use driven by agriculture. The project proposes the use of Salina Porto Ingles as a case study for: biodiversity assessment; setting up a monitoring network; developing a plan for sustainable resource use involving the local community and authorities and continued work of an already existing project to develop a comprehensive wetland-conservation project.

*Project
proposer*

WWF Cape Verde
Mrs Celeste Benchimol

Total Budget
45,532.- CHF

Amount requested
35,692.- CHF



Chile



Funded under
the JGF 2008 cycle

Ramsar site Bahía de Lomas, conservation in austral Patagonia Management plan design

Management plan, participatory approach and conservation in a Ramsar site Development of a management plan to maintain the ecological character of Ramsar Site Bahía Lomas, through participative management, in order to identify, coordinate and implement necessary actions and strategies for the protection and conservation of this site.

Project proposer | Comisión Nacional del Medio Ambiente (CONAMA)

Total Budget
73,588.- CHF

Amount requested
34,557.- CHF



Gabon



Implementation of the National Wetland Policy

Funded under the
SWISS Grant for Africa

Capacity building, identification and designation of new Ramsar sites There are presently six designated Ramsar sites and three proposed sites in Gabon, but there remain numerous unstudied wetlands. The implementation of the Convention at the national level is faced with several problems, e.g., lack of tools and mechanisms with which to effectively implement the Convention. The purpose of this project is to improve this situation by creating a National Ramsar Committee, identifying and designating new sites, educating the individuals and institutions responsible for sustainable use of resources in wetlands, and creating of an on-line national Ramsar site network.

Project proposer | Direction de l'Environnement et de la Nature
Côme Ndjokounda

Total Budget
30,822.- CHF

Amount requested
30,822.- CHF



Georgia



Kolkheti peatlands Ramsar site Atlas and field guide of the site and its flora

Communication The Wetlands of Central Kolkheti are unique peatland ecosystems found on the Black Sea coast that support many endangered and rare plant and animal species. The fast-growing economic pressure and the lack of knowledge of the biological value of this area expose the site to high vulnerability and significant threats. The aim of this project is to fill the gap in knowledge by compiling an exhaustive and compact field guide book with maps and drawings for this site that will be widely distributed, which should assist stakeholders in their decision-making processes and could raise its protection level.

Project proposer | Society for Conservation of Wild Nature
"Tchaobi"

Total Budget
38,815.- CHF

Amount requested
38,815.- CHF



Guatemala



Wise use of the Rio Sarstún

An area for multiple users

Funded under Wetlands for the Future

Environmental monitoring The Tumbes mangroves are being polluted by human activities: wastewater disposal, large-scale use of agrochemicals in the agricultural surroundings, overexploitation of water resources, changes in the land use (especially in the reactivation of lobster breeding pools and wood extraction for construction). The wetland is also affected by natural hazards, such as El Niño, which destroyed many mangrove forests because of excessive sedimentation. The project aims to contribute to the generation of up-to-date information on the changes in main environmental indicators of the wetland Manglar de Tumbes (between 1992 and 2006), in order to establish new policies and strategies of sustainable management and conservation.

Project proposer

Fundación para el Desarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO)
Marco Vinicio Cerezo

Total Budget
58,393.- CHF

Amount requested
38,873.- CHF



Guinea



Tristao Islands Ramsar site Conservation of the West African Manatee

Education and public awareness The Tristao Islands found in the Northwest region of the Guinea Republic are composed of various ecosystems that act as habitats for the endangered West African Manatee (*Trichechus senegalensis*), which is on the IUCN Red List. The purpose of this project is to put in place conservation measures to protect the manatee: increase awareness of the value of the West African Manatee; educate local communities on the impact of their activities on the manatees; put in place management plans to stop destruction of the habitats; and promote alternative livelihood activities to ensure change in the activities of hunters and other manatee exploiters.

Project
proposer

Réseau Guinéen des Zones Humides

Total Budget
53,360.- CHF

Amount requested
38,336.- CHF



Kenya



Development of wetland bio-indicators Towards sustainable utilisation of natural approach resource through community

Monitoring Combating biodiversity loss in the Dunga, Kusa, Koguta and Yala Wetlands, which form part of the Lake Victoria shores, is essential. They are habitats to numerous endemic bird species and have various benefits and values to local communities. They face severe anthropogenic threats, including unsustainable agriculture and over-harvesting of papyrus. This project proposes development of wetland bio-indicators which will also play a role in the effort to: influence the government of Kenya to designate the four wetlands as community conservation areas; develop national wetland policy; allocate a satisfactory budget for environmental activities; and mainstream environmental education.

Project proposer | Lake Victoria Sunset Birders
Birdlife Partner in Kenya
Allai Orimba

Total Budget
46,060.- CHF

Amount requested
39,970.- CHF



Liberia



Management actions at Ramsar sites

Developing training, management plans and a legislative framework

Capacity building and wetlands management Liberia has five Ramsar sites that face threats which affect the flora and fauna species, as well as local communities who depend on the wetlands for their subsistence. This project aims to improve management by involving the wetland technicians, local community members and other stakeholders in: enhancing knowledge and understanding of the ecological processes, values and services of wetlands; training stakeholders on how to manage and use their wetlands; developing an appropriate wetlands legislative framework for Liberia; developing planning and management systems for Liberia's wetlands; and establishing a computerized database on the Ramsar sites in the country.

Project proposer | Environmental Protection Agency
Mrs Cecelia Kollie

Total Budget
44,692.- CHF

Amount requested
39,947.- CHF



Marshall Islands



Funded under
the SGP 2008 cycle

Namdrik Atoll, second Wetland of International Importance Designation and improved management

Site designation and participative management plan The project aims to designate a second Ramsar site in Marshall Islands using a participatory approach with all the stakeholders and a baseline inventory of the biodiversity of the atoll's wetlands. It also plans to develop a management plan for the site.

Project proposer | Marshall Island Environment Protection Authority (RMIEPA)
John Bungitak

Total Budget
53,519.- CHF

Amount requested
37,900.- CHF



Mauritius



Rivulet Terre Rouge Estuary Bird Sanctuary Community empowerment for the wise use of this marine wetland

Communication, education and public awareness Rivulet Terre Rouge Bird Sanctuary is a Ramsar site in Mauritius that contains several species of endemic flora and fauna. It also serves as a refuge and foraging ground for migratory birds. RTEBS faces several threats such as the over-exploitation of resources by the local community, open yard poultry, boat movement, bird flu threat from migratory birds, etc. In order to mitigate the effects of these threats, this project aims to educate and prepare the local community on how to address these problems. The education programme suggested is in line with that of CEPA, Agenda 21 and the MDGs. The main activities include learning workshops and the preparation and implementation of an adaptation strategy plan.

*Project
proposer*

Environmental Protection & Conservation
Organisation- EPCO
Kheswar Beeharry Panray

Total Budget
43,250.- CHF

Amount requested
33,955.- CHF



Funded under
the SGF 2008 cycle

Lake Cluster, Pokhara Valley, West Nepal Designation of a new Ramsar site

Site designation and public awareness The project aims to raise awareness of values and threats to wetlands, to survey the site according to the needs of the Ramsar Information Sheet, and to bring together various stakeholders for consultation for site designation. This site is one of the important clusters of lakes of the country.

Project proposer | National Lake Conservation Development Committee (NLCDC)

Total Budget
36,591.- CHF

Amount requested
27,015.- CHF



Niger



Elaborating a national policy for wetlands

Funded under the
Swiss Grant for Africa

National wetland policy and actions plan The purpose of this project is to prepare for the implementation of the national policy concerning management of the 12 Ramsar designated wetlands in Niger, as directed by Recommendation 6.9 from the 6th meeting of the Ramsar Conference of the Contracting Parties.

*Project
proposer*

Direction de la Faune et de la Chasse
Abdou Malam Issa

Total Budget
20,000.- CHF

Amount requested
20,000.- CHF



Turkey



Funded under
the 5th GEF 2008 cycle

Effective Management of the Turkish Ramsar Sites

Implementing a management plan and stakeholders awareness

In 2003, Turkey adopted the National Wetland Strategy and with that also the management plans for six Ramsar Sites. It has been experienced that, for effective site management, it is necessary to involve local communities through a participatory process. The project aim will be to use Kizilirmak Delta Ramsar site as a pilot site to implement its recently finalized management plan through local monitoring and a local management system. At the same time, leaflets and posters on the wise use of wetlands and Turkish Ramsar sites will be produced for raising environmental awareness amongst stakeholders and communities.

*Project
proposer*

Doga Dernegi -
Bird life partner in Turkey

Total Budget
66,238.- CHF

Amount requested
40,000.- CHF

Bañados del Este y Franja Costera Implementation of the National Strategy

Removing a Ramsar site from the Montreux Record The project aims to remove the Ramsar site Bañados del Este y Franja Costera from the Montreux Record of sites requiring urgent conservation action (included in 1990). This is to be accomplished through an assessment of the current conditions and those that put the site in the Montreux Record, a project on hydrological regulation in the site, and the designation of new Ramsar sites to compensate for the damages caused in Bañados del Este y Franja Costera.

Project proposer | Dirección General de Recursos Naturales
Renovables – MGAP
Ing. Agr. Dra. Angelita Gómez

Total Budget
46,916.- CHF

Amount requested
34,960.- CHF